

NEWS FROM BIG BEND

BY GOLDIE ROBERTS

BIG BEND - Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gates of Independence, Mo., visited on the evening of July 15 with her cousin, Mrs. Ernest Seuell and family, and her aunt, Mrs. Beatrice Coons. Mrs. Verl Bishop and Steve, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Stoker and family attended July 18-20 Major Little League playoff games in Fruitland. Steve Bishop and Donald Stoker played for the Adrian team.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Smith of Caldwell were July 15 luncheon guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Higgins.

Mrs. Mary Oschm of Hoquiam, Wash., arrived recently to visit her sister, Mrs. Horace Chaney. The Chaney family, their guest, Mrs. Aschm; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gifford of Nyssa, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Gifford of Boise attended a July 21 family dinner at the home of another sister, Mrs. Bill Brownfield in Boise. It was the first time all five of the Giffords had been together in 15 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Clucas and family, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Slippy and family of Owyhee Corners picnicked on the evening of July 19 at Owyhee state park.

Mrs. Boyce Van deWater and Mrs. Varner Hopkins attended a recent fellowship tea at the Notus Baptist church.

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Mann of Caldwell were July 21 guests of Mr. and Mrs. Chet Smith.

William Search and daughters, Mrs. Raymond Cartwright and Mrs. Myrtle Baldwin left July 18 for Montana to visit his brother who is gravely ill.

Ted Avery's sister, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Keep and her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Pruitt and family of Salem were July 19 overnight guests of the Averys. They were enroute to Denver.

Miss Lorraine Cartwright is visiting this week with Mr. and Mrs. Barbee in Boise.

Steve Hall of Payette spent July 20 helping his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Higgins with their hay.

Mr. and Mrs. Verl Bishop received a telephone call on the evening of July 21 from their son, LeRoy of Spokane telling them that their granddaughter, Lori had undergone a tonsillectomy on the previous Tuesday. She is reported to be recovering nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cartwright were July 20 overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Lawler in Meridian. Raymond and Bruce Cartwright went after them July 21 and they all visited Mrs. Naomi Wright in Nampa.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Jones and Mrs. Burt Search at the House Mountain lookout in the Boise national forest near Anderson dam. While they were there a fire broke out and they got to watch planes fly over and drop fire-fighters by parachute.

Steve Bishop, Marshall Witty, Deanna Chaney, G. G. Holly and Sam Chaney participated in the recent FFA - 4-H judging session at Ontario.

Bud Walker of Weiser was a recent guest of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Avery.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Davis and Steve and Mrs. James McGinnis attended the July 21 Babe Ruth All-Star games in Baker. Steve was playing with the Ontario Vandals. Jay and Missy McGinnis of Joseph came home with them for a visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Wood and Roger, Donald and Tim Glaze and Mike Douglas were July 21 guests of Mrs. Mary Wood.

Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Wood and family, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Wood of Marsing, Mrs. Nina Forath and Sandy of Fresno, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Reed and Larinda of Boise, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Van deWater of Fruitland, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Bauman and boys of Nyssa were July 21 guests of Mr. and Mrs. Boyce Van deWater, in honor of Mrs. Van deWater's birthday anniversary.

Larinda stayed for a longer visit. Lauri Reed returned with her parents after spending most of last week with the Van deWaters.

Eleanor English was a recent overnight guest of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Clary at Caldwell.

Raymond Cartwright and sons recently took Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cartwright on a trip to Burns and the North Fork of the Malheur where they fished and picnicked in honor of Mrs. Cart-

wright's birthday anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Darrell English, Ross and Eleanor took a drive to the Succor Creek area July 21 and returned on the ION road. They report that country is very dry.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Bishop of Caldwell were July 21 evening visitors in the Verl Bishop home.

News About SERVICEMEN

EDWARD B. KELLEY

Petty Officer 1/c Edward B. Kelley, formerly of Godding, Idaho, is spending two weeks with an uncle, Lee Strickland in the Owyhee area. He is on leave after taking boot camp training at the San Diego Naval station.

Kelley is a graduate of Gooding High school and was a student for two years at the University of Idaho in Moscow. Upon completing boot camp training he received an ability and leadership award.

STEVEN J. HANEY

Fireman Apprentice Steven J. Haney, USN, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin C. Haney of 415 E. Bower Ave., Nyssa, is serving aboard the attack aircraft carrier USS Constellation in the Western Pacific.

As a crew member, he will help provide aviation support for U. S. and Allied ground forces in Vietnam.

PERSONALS

Cp. Allen Wilson and his wife, Linda were July 14 visitors at the home of his mother, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Seburn. His wife is the former Linda Williams, of Marsing. Wilson was home on an emergency leave, and returned July 18 to Ft. Benning, Ga.

Mrs. Inez Seburn of Phoenix, Ariz., arrived July 5 at the home of her son, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Seburn. She left July 17 for Washington to visit friends before returning to her home.



Salem Scene

By Everett E. Cutter

Property Tax Limit: What It Could Do!

It's now official: the initiative proposal to limit local property taxes to 1 1/2 percent of market value will appear as Ballot Measure No. 7 in Oregon's November election.

Proponents of the Constitutional amendment filed more than enough certified petition signatures with the secretary of state before the July 4 deadline. Their measure differs in some respects from the ill-fated limitation proposal of two years ago, but its passage still could mean revenue losses of up to 50 percent for some local government districts.

The decision rests now with Oregon voters. Many, considering what has come to be known as the "taxpayers' revolt" and the inability of last year's legislature to come to grips with tax reform problems, believe the limitation measure will be passed.

What is the measure? And what will happen if it is approved?

It would place a limitation of 1 1/2 percent of market value on the total of local levies. It would exempt levies for payments on existing bonded indebtedness.

It would repeal the present Constitutional restriction that limits local government tax levies to an annual increase of 6 percent. Tax experts point out that the 6 percent figure is a restriction on the total amount of money in dollars that a district can levy. In contrast, the 1 1/2 percent limitation would be tied to the total market value of all property in the district.

Because market value is increasing at a rate faster than 6 percent annually, they reason that property taxes would climb faster under the proposed system -- automatically. Using the 1957-1967 period, they can show that property taxes have grown 91 percent; under the 1 1/2 percent limit they would have increased 141 percent without any vote of the people.

Another provision of the amendment would give the legislature, instead of the State Tax Commission, the task of allocating revenues levied within the limitation to the hundreds of local taxing units in the state.

It also would allow one annual election to exceed the limit, on the traditional November election Tuesday. Even this safety valve, however, contains risks: a favorable vote of at least 20 percent of all registered voters is required by the amendment; property tax bills normally are

received just before November; the election date came eight long months before fiscal year budgets must be finalized.

The loss of revenue to local government units imposed by such a limitation would be an estimated \$100 million, or a cut of nearly 30 percent on a statewide average. This is money which goes mostly to pay for schools, and also supports such local services as fire and police protection, libraries, sewers, lights, parks, etc.

Virtually no one believes such a cutback could be tolerated. Sources of replacement revenue, probably from the state, already are being discussed. Many Oregonians, to be sure, voice support of such severe property tax cutbacks purely as a means of forcing the legislature to do something.

It is possible that legislative action could take one of several forms, or a combination of them. According to State Tax Commission estimates, an amount to offset \$100 million in local revenue losses could be raised by the state through (a) a 3 percent sales tax, exempting food and drugs, (b) increasing the state income tax rates to range from 5 to 15 percent, up from the present 3 to 9.5 percent range, or (c) a net receipts tax of 2 percent on gross income in addition to present income tax rates.

The 1969 legislature, however, faces two distinct handicaps if it has to propose new revenue sources. For one thing, the effects of the limitation would not be felt by localities or the public until the next fiscal year -- just after normal legislative adjournment.

Second, Oregon's legislature is Constitutionally prohibited from attaching the emergency clause to revenue measures and thus make them immediately effective. Any revenue measure passed by the legislature, then, is subject to popular referendum before it can be given fair trial.

For these reasons many observers here are pessimistic. Foreseeing little or no popular support for new revenue sources before the limitation's effects would be felt, they fear the legislature cannot act effectively on behalf of the people it represents. Or, that any legislative action would be futile because it could well be reversed -- possibly along with the fortunes of individual legislators -- by referendum.

Then Oregon could be faced with inadequate local revenue to support local services, and with no alternate way for the state to raise money to give to localities. Such a situation could force another special session of the legislature in the fall of 1969, when the pinch is felt.

Some people call this a dangerous game. Some may term it a vicious circle, to demand answers from a legislative body which ultimately must give all voters the final word on revenue measures. Many others express satisfaction in having the final say, and in the slowness of the democratic process.

In any case, sufficient petition signers have made the initiative proposal official. And it is safe to predict a lot of heated discussion on Ballot Measure No. 7 between now and November.

IN APPRECIATION

We take this opportunity to thank our friends for the many kindnesses expressed in thought and deed following the death of our loved one. Those many kind acts will never be forgotten. - The family of William T. Lowe.



NEW SU GRADING SYSTEM SLATED FOR OSU FALL TERM

A chance for exploration -- and thereby, some say, a chance for "real" learning -- will be afforded Oregon State university students this fall with the inauguration of a "Satisfactory-Unsatisfactory" grading system.

The real learning comes about, according to some experts, when the pressure of grades for a given course is eliminated. Under the new OSU system, an undergraduate student may each term elect any single course for which he wishes to receive an S or U, rather than the traditional A, B, C, D, or F. His other courses that term will be graded in the traditional way.

"Without the pressure of the grades," a university spokesman suggests, "the freshman, for example, feels better about exploring a subject area before he commits himself to a major. Also, students can go outside their narrow fields for the course they'd like to take to broaden their education."

With the approval of his academic advisor, a student also may elect, on the S-U basis, any course required in his major field.

The new system provides tabulation of the hours credit received in these courses -- if he receives an S (Satisfactory) -- but the grade will not be included in the computation of his grade point average. A grade of S is the equivalent of A, B, or

C. The grade U (Unsatisfactory) is the equivalent of D.

Also, the instructor of the course is not made aware of the election the student has made. At the end of the term, the professor assigns the traditional letter grade which the student has earned and it in turn is converted to S (from A, B, or C) or U (from D or F) by the registrar's office.

Oregon State also has a number of courses graded completely on the S-U basis. These include, in addition to specific orientation courses in agriculture and home economics, Student Teaching, Marriage Preparation, Family Living, Personality and Development, Group Dynamics, and Data Processing.

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