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The endeavor of the Union Press-Courier is to sincerely represent Organized Labor in all efforts to obtain economic freedom. Material for publication must be signed by the writer as an evidence of good faith. The Union Press-Courier gives its advertisers the advantage of combined circulations of two largely-circulated weeklies and has a reader coverage that blankets Patton and all major mining towns in Northern Cambria County.

**Real Estate Values And Revenue**

The second annual report of the new State Equalization Board hearing on the assessed figures and the actual market valuations of Cambria County real estate has been released. This report has to do with the amounts a great many of our school districts will receive in state aid in the future and, strangely enough, there are many of our school directors who pay little or no attention to the "fund famine" that may descend upon them in 1951-52, and a lot of local assessors seem to care even less.

Fact of the matter is that the work of the State Equalization Board in this matter, and its conclusions as shown in a table elsewhere in this paper, will have no effect on tax rates and county, state and municipal taxes will continue to be levied on the basis of assessment figures. The work of the state in establishing market values, however, will have a bearing on the amount of state financial aid to the various school districts. Market values are to be used instead of assessed values in determining how much each school district will receive. In the past, the assessed valuation has governed payments.

Reciting all these warnings again in this column may be a bit tiresome to some of our readers. Maybe the optimistic school officials feel that the next session of the legislature again will cause a postponement that will take the teeth out of the act. No one knows whether that will happen or not. But if it does happen, there are going to be a lot of officials with red faces and a lot of real estate assessors who will be given wholesale "hades" far above that of individual property owners who have had their property assessments boosted to a proper assessment value.

The assessment values in Cambria County in comparison with market values range all the way from a high of 53.89 percent to a low of 30.62. It isn't strange, therefore, that many of the communities where the figures are low are the very districts, aside from school purposes, that have been seeking here, there and everywhere for funds to meet borough and township requirements such as improved streets, highways, etc. While most of the officials who have these problems facing them admit that the properties in their ballwicks are very low in assessment, none seem to be able to have their own people work with them in an intelligent manner in just and equitable tax assessments with their neighbors.

Northern Cambria communities, as a whole, have mighty low assessed valuations as compared to the market value of taxable real property. Keeping in mind that perhaps a 50 percent assessed valuation on market value would be something in line of equalization thought, let's take a look at some of the local area figures: The percentage of market value in Arville is listed at 29.12; that of Barnesboro at 26.04; Carrolltown, 25.96; Chest Township, 46.90 (and they should be proud of that). Dean Township is listed at 27.30; East Carroll isn't too bad at 37.58; Elder Township, 32.36.

Gallitzin and Gallitzin Township are examples of wide assessment, the borough being listed at 48.48, the township at 51.67. Hastings is low at 28.09, and our own Borough of Patton lands even lower at 21.49. The Prince Gallitzin School District is pegged at 34.78; Besse Township at 33.39, and Spangler is rated at only a 28.86 figure. Susquehanna Township is listed at 26.22, White Township at an even 26, and West Carroll Township, second highest in the North Cambria area, is rated 47.60.

Just forgetting all about the State Equalization Board's thoughts for a moment, some of these figures will disclose that in paying of county taxes at least, it all depends in what district in which you live how much you pay to the county. Folks in West Carroll Township, for instance, must surely be taxed much higher than the taxpayers of Carrolltown, Barnesboro, Patton, Spangler, Hastings and a lot of the townships. Yet folks in every section of the county benefit equally and alike on benefits of the county's governmental functions—in cost of the courts, care of the indigent, and so on.

We don't expect that any of our "favored" taxpayers are going to look with favor on this subject. However, the spirit of good American citizenship seemingly isn't a failure in requiring one citizen to pay more than another in taxation for the common good. It is not our intention to ask anyone to pay more taxes than his just share, but all should pay on an equalized basis. Even the writer by virtue of holding property in both Carrolltown and Patton is among the "favored" when it comes to payment of his just share of county taxes.

The gist of the entire matter seems to eventually hinge on the action of the State Legislature. Cambria County is a fourth-class unit. Third, second and first-class counties all have centralized county assessment set-ups. Troubles that exist with us aren't happening in those counties. While the chief thought against centralized assessment is taking additional home rule away from the people—when local folks refuse to seriously assume their just responsibilities, something must be done, and something will certainly happen sooner or later.

The irony of it all is that there are mighty few school districts in the county that are not facing very difficult financial problems. Bond issues are being resorted to, but these bond issues will have to be paid off. There are few school districts that do not have to view their affairs in better than a hand-to-mouth procedure. Until we have tax equalization, based on honesty, there will be no success. It might be interesting to note that the City of Johnstown is listed in the state report at 46.47 percent. It might also be interesting to realize that the City of Johnstown is paying nearly one-half of all the Cambria County tax revenue.

**Knocking Your Competitor**

The day has long gone by when the prosperous and respected businessman resorted to personal abuse and "knocking" of a competitor. Patrons of such businessmen care little, indeed, what criticism such a man or business firm may give another. The average customer is interested in buying the merchandise or service he wants to fill his requirements and not exactly from whom he purchases it. The chap who goes to sell to a competitor to his customer not only creates a secret "disgrunt" of his actions to the disinterested customer, but likely loses that patron's business, in some instances, as well.

In this modern day and age it is surprising that we still have a few of the "throwbacks" to the gay nineties with us. Invariably when these few methodologies of a by-gone era, who still remain with us and who resort to the personal abuse commonly against competitors, they have to wait only an amazingly short time until the competitor so unkindly learns about the tactics. Running down a competitor draws you business only in reverse.

The good old American way is to sell your goods or your services on their own merits. If you have something your patron actually needs, you won't make the sale by running down your competitor's business. If your competitor has something the patron desires, he's going to sell that commodity. Usually you, the knocking businessman is telling the public of his own shortcomings even though he tries to pass it off on his neighbor. That we have some few men of this type in all walks of business is just too bad for them. Make a better mousetrap than your neighbor and the public will beat a path to your door. That even goes in the weekly newspaper business as well as in any business.

**Keeping The Record Straight**

While the national emergency quickly has woven a well-knit bi-partisan movement in the halls of Congress, nevertheless Senator Robert Taft and Senator Joseph McCarthy have found fault with the administration, even after their Republican colleagues dropped such issues as a mighty "hot potato." On Monday, June 26, after the Korean incident developed, Republican senators had a caucus denouncing everything, but practically all of them darn quickly reversed their attitudes when they sensed public opinion.

Just to keep the record straight—the G.O.P. will have trouble making use of the Korean issue in their fall election campaign. This is their voting record on Korean aid: On Jan. 18, when the House rejected the aid bill, the Republicans voted 190 against it for the bill. Rep. John Vorys of Ohio, who led the G.O.P. opposition, dubbed it "Operation Haddock." On Feb. 8, when the amended bill including aid to Formosa as well as Korea, passed, they voted 51 against, 43 in favor of the measure.

**MARSTELLER**  
 By Mrs. Fred Schrock  
 Phone Barnesboro 29-R-2

Mrs. Wm. Gilmore and son, Eddie, of Alameda, Calif., have returned to their home after spending the past few weeks here with the lady's sister, Mrs. Nattie Good, and mother, Mrs. Anna Lawrence.

Mrs. Zella Long and brother, Nattie Good, spent the week end in Akron, Ohio. They were accompanied on their return trip by their mother, Mrs. Catherine Good and nephew, Robert Good.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Richardson were Monday visitors in Altoona.

Carol Ann Good returned home after spending a week camping at Paradise Furnace near Trough Creek State Park, as a guest of the Colver Presbyterian Church group.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Richardson and family and niece, Rose Jasper, visited in Madera recently.

Wesley Snow of Pittsburgh, is spending a vacation here with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hoak.

Mr. and Mrs. Mario Creni of Paulsboro, N. J., and John Demonic of Harrisburg, visited here over the Fourth of July week end at the John Demonic home.

**VAN ORMER**  
 By Mrs. Elmer Keith

Mr. and Mrs. James Stine and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hartman and family have returned home after a week's vacation in Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Weld and son, Larry, and Mrs. Minnie Fride have returned after spending a week in Orangeburg, S. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Keith and daughters, Maxine and Irene, Eugene Van Scoy and Body Keith spent a week's vacation with the lady's sister, Mrs. Linda Capien of Akron, O.

Mr. Ellen Beers has gone to Akron to spend some time with her daughter, Mrs. Linda Capien.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lovell and sons, Lynn and Gary, spent the 4th with Mr. and Mrs. Sam Stewart of Punxsutawney.

Mr. and Mrs. Willis Stine of Altoona were Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Stine.

**St. Benedict**  
 By Miss Mary Hram

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Bradford and Clyde Bradford spent a few days on a fishing trip near York.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Holmes and son, Jeffrey Lynn, of Girard, O., spent the week end at the Gust Lee home here.

A wiener roast was held in honor of Eddie Carroll's ninth birthday. Those attending were Tommy Ager, Bobby Lindington, Henry Saylor, Ronald Bogus, Morgan Stickler, Mary Stoltz, Judy Stoltz and Barbara Carroll.

James Carvan is spending a short time in Baltimore, Md., at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Carvan.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Berringer and son, Phil, are vacationing in New York at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Kost.

Mr. and Mrs. Orville McKee and family visited recently with relatives in Ashabula, O.

Sunday visitors at the Howard Bowersox home were Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Shaffer and Mr. and Mrs. Norman Culver of Kylerstown.

James Stratton is spending a vacation in Seattle, Wash., at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Basil Stratton.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Anderson Sr. are vacationing in Camden, N. J., at the home of their son, Robert Anderson, and family.

Mrs. T. B. Saylor spent a few few days in Johnstown at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hornick.

Clair Caldwell and son, Bucky, were "Donatelli Day" visitors in Pittsburgh on Saturday.

Miss Emily Everett was a recent guest at the Saylor home.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Justice-wicz of Chester, Pa., visited among friends in town recently.

Clyde Bradford has returned as a patient to the Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia.

Cherie Stickler has returned to White Plains, N. Y., after a brief vacation here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stickler Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Verlo Berringer and sons vacationed in Northeast, Pa., recently at the home of Mrs.

Elizabeth Rummel, also with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McAdoo of Sligo and at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rummel. They then visited in Niagara Falls and Canada.

Vivian Symons, Shirley Bradford, ames Dillon and Don Brubaker, motored to Maryland this past week.

**BAKERTON**  
 By M. A. Panzear

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Maslonik returned to their home in Dayton, Ohio, after a visit here at the home of the former's father, Mike Maslonik.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wagner and Mr. and Mrs. Zora Wagner and children have returned from a visit with relatives in Spring Valley, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Altman and children of Pittsburgh were guests at the home of the lady's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Sample.

Mrs. Silvio Farina and children of Bridgeport, Conn., are visiting Mrs. Farina's mother, Mrs. Michael Columbus.

Mrs. Curt Hoover and children of McIntyre were recent visitors at the Wm. Patterson home.

Robert A. Callahan and Edwin Fitch have returned to their employment in Dayton, Ohio, after a visit here at their respective homes.

Misses Theresa and Jo Controchick, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Levinsky of New Brunswick, N. J., and Mrs. John Charners and daughter of Conneaut Lake are guests at the Val Controchick residence.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Blum and daughter, Joan, of Niagara Falls, N. Y., are visiting at the Fred Klegg Sr., home.

Winfield Green R. N., of the Mercy Hospital, Pittsburgh, is spending a vacation here with her mother, Mrs. Scott Green.

Mr. and Mrs. John Shonaky of Canton, Ohio, visited relatives in town over the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Cruba and family spent the week visiting among relatives in Pittsburgh.

Mr. and Mrs. Val Panek have returned home from a visit with relatives in Chicago, Ill.

Holiday visitors at the A. E. Farabaugh home were Mr. and Mrs. Chick Robinson of Detroit, Mich., Mrs. Pat McDermott and son, Clarence of Hastings, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Leonard and daughter, Joanne, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Amodeo of Pittsburgh, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Lees and children of Akron, O., and Mrs. Lees of Patton.

Mr. and Mrs. Val Controchick and daughters have returned from a visit with relatives in Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mercurio and daughter, Frances, and Mrs. Mary Mitchell spent the holiday visiting relatives in Blairsville.

Irene Polites visited in Altoona last week.

Joe Farabaugh and Paul Fiora spent a few days recently visiting in New York City.

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