

Lamplighter... Survey shows \$806 million in delinquent taxes owed

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he seemed a little more interested, and noted that there were times that the AG's office did get involved in questions like this. He said a lot of other things also, including a philosophical discourse on travelling through the Rocky Mountains. (We would see a lot of pretty sights and have a good time, but there would be some bad times too. That would be the down side of the trip, he said. And the danger of being sued was just one of the "downsides" of being an incorporated city, despite the fact that the city was doing exactly what the state government told it to do.) After some hesitation he even defended the situation as being "fair". "Just like that trip through the mountains I was talking about."

Our state Representative Foster Whaley was a good bit more sympathetic, and perhaps he can impress upon Mr. Mattox the importance of at least examining this situation. I must confess, however, unless the AG's office was just putting on an act, I don't think we would be much ahead if we did have them involved.

The Texas State Property Tax Board has indicated the results as of December 11, 1984 of a preliminary survey, mailed in August 1984 to over 3,100 taxing units, to determine the statewide total amount of delinquent local property taxes. With 81 percent of Texas counties, 89 percent of Texas school

districts, 71 percent of Texas cities, and 55 percent of Texas special districts reporting, the total recorded amount of delinquent local property taxes for all tax years is over \$806 million. This figure is roughly equal to about 14 percent of 1983 taxes levied by the 2,169 units which reported an actual amount of delinquent taxes.

The first Texas Highway Department tourist bureaus were established in 1936 to aid travelers planning to attend Centennial events and to stimulate additional travel within the state. Today the department operates ten tourist bureaus at key entry points along State highways, the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center at Langtry, and the State Capitol Visitor Center in Austin.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Mrs. Redding:

We want to say a great big "THANK YOU" to Consumers Fuel Association for providing heaters for our classrooms.

Our boiler is not working correctly and it will be a few days before it can be repaired.

So, Mr. Larry Barbee and Consumers Fuel, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

Sincerely,
B.L. Copeland, Principal
The school personnel and students

Arts association plans auction and sale

Members of the Floyd County Arts Association met in South Plains on January 31 despite adverse weather conditions to work on decorations for their White Elephant Sale and Art



PREPARING DECORATIONS—Members of the Floyd County Arts Association are shown working on the decorations for the White Elephant Sale and Art Auction to be held on February 23. Assisting with the duties were (l-r) Carolyn Marble, Sara Probasco, and Sue Givens.

Auction. The fund raising event is scheduled to take place at 7 p.m. on February 23 at Massie Activity Center. It will feature a buffet style dinner, professional entertainment and auction

events throughout the evening.

The theme for the evening will be The Year of the White Elephant and decorations will be in a Chinese New Year motif. Planned to set the scene in the center are a variety of colorful chinese lanterns and oriental fans as well as many branches adorned with handmade cherry blossoms.

Items for sale and auction with many unusual and surprising items are being donated by area residents and merchants. Tickets, costing \$7.50 per person, are available from any association member. Jackie Walls of Floydada and Gleyenn Earle Cummings of Lockney may be contacted for ticket information.

Letter to the Editor

Let's take a closer look at the latest "can of worms" recently opened by our governing bodies from our local school, city, county, hospital and water boards called "Seizure of Property for Personal Property Taxes."

Personal property tax is nothing more than a figure that the tax office, with expert guidance from the appraisal

board, pulls out of the air to tax you on your cars, pickups, trailers and boats. Another tax on a vehicle that you have already paid sales tax, title, transfer, registration, road and bridge tax and gasoline tax. Based on these taxes alone if you drive a vehicle for 5 years you will pay approximately \$2,085 in taxes not including personal property tax! It is a terribly unfair tax that the tax attorneys will collect only from the people who are easy to find, the same people who are pumping dollars into the local economy, the homeowner. How many of us really believe that they will go to south Texas and collect from the transient worker who bought a car in Floyd county but failed to pay his personal property taxes? We all know better than that. I believe the attorneys call that selective docket.

I have been told by several individuals on these local boards (mostly farmers) that it is not fair for them to

pay their personal property taxes and me not pay my fair share. Lets examine what is fair. I own a business where I use a specially equip truck to make a living. I paid all of the above taxes on this truck. How much tax do you pay on your tractor? Not one red cent! I pay tax on equipment and inventory. How much tax do you pay on farm equipment and cattle? Zero! But still in one sense these men are right. If our local governments and school really do need additional funds we should all pay our fair share. In my opinion a sales tax on everything we buy is the only equitable means of taxation and is far superior to an inflated and inaccurate appraisal of our cars and pickups.

Now, lets look at need. In a recent discussion with a high ranking county official he admitted to over 1 million dollars in the county bank account of which over \$200,000 is surplus! He also admitted that over-taxing the people is against the law. Wouldn't a \$200,000 surplus be over-taxing? Well I suppose we need to save up to buy the 10 or 12 road graders that we purchase annually?

I guess my school taxes go to keep our teachers and children warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Have you been to Duncan Elementary lately?

My hat is off to the city who recently dropped personal property as a means of taxation. They obviously realized that they were taxing an already grossly overtaxed area and made the change.

Good job Leroy Burns. I challenge the county and school to have the guts and sense of fairness to follow suit.


If we as citizens work together and keep a tighter rein on our governing bodies we can eliminate excessive spending and waste. When this is accomplished we can cure this cancer called "Personal Property Tax."

/s/ Paul Harmon

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Adults:
\$4.00

Students:
\$2.00

Sponsored by the local Rotary Club

Mexican Supper

to be held at

St. Mary Magdalen
Catholic Church
Friday, Feb. 8
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Menu consists of
1 taco, 1 enchilada,
beans, rice, home made
flour tortillas,
tea and coffee.

Orders will be taken
for meals there, to go,
or to be delivered.
Tickets will be available
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15 Oz. Box **\$1.79**

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3 1/2 Lb. Bag **\$2.49**

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Gal. **\$2.08**

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6 Pack **69¢**

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24 Oz. **\$1.39**

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Lb. **\$1.15**

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Lb. **\$1.29**

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