

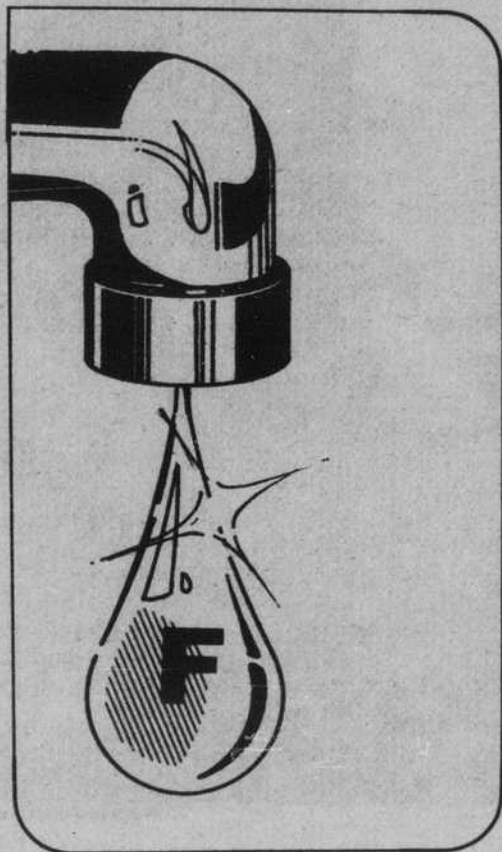
To accommodate petitioners, opposition

City opts for retrial of fluoride in dual vote

By LORRAINE NELSON
Of the Emerald

Fluoridation will be before city voters at least twice more before 1979.

The Eugene City Council decided at its regular Monday night meeting to put the fluoride issue back on the ballot June 28 and regardless of the outcome of that election, the issue will appear again on the general election ballot in November, 1978.



City council action won't be official until Council Bills for each election are approved later this month.

A petition with 6,498 authenticated signatures was presented to the council March 29 by Citizens for Pure Water. Discussion of the fluoride issue at the council's Committee-of-the-Whole meeting April 6 revealed that some people in the community had said they would work against the city budget, scheduled for the June 28 ballot, if the fluoride issue was not on that ballot.

R.J. Martin from Citizens for Pure Water said he felt local media had implied organized action existed to defeat the budget. He denied any such action against the budget from his group but said there were individuals who had said they would work against the budget if the fluoride issue was not on the June 28 ballot.

Steve Brown, fundraising chairman of the Citizens Committee for Better Dental Health, testified against the June 28 election date saying that putting the issue on the ballot for a special election would be the "kiss of death" for fluoride.

Brown said that more than 40,000 votes were cast on the fluoride issue alone in November 1976 and never more than 20,000 votes had been cast during a special election. He felt 20,000 votes was not representative of the majority.

He said after fluoridation had passed in the general election in 1964 it was put on the ballot again in September 1965. Eleven-thousand people voted during that special election with barely half of them voting against fluoride. Brown said he felt that the issue should wait until the general election "to find out what the majority opinion is. 'There is no emergency,' he said,

"people are getting by."

Jeanne Fox, a dental hygienist, also spoke against the June 28 election date. As a member of the Dental Task Force, Fox was involved in a project a couple of years ago to assess the health needs of Eugene. The task force came with two priorities. The first was to improve mental health and the second was to improve dental health.

Fox said in order to cut down dental problems in Eugene, the city needed a fluoride supply to counteract its "lacking in the water and in the foods we eat."

Richard Green spoke in support of the June 28 election date saying it was important to vote as soon as possible. Green said after the meeting that he felt fluoride would be voted out June 28 because "There are enough citizens in Eugene who don't want medicine in their water."

Council member Eric Haws was responsible for the motion to have both elections. Haws noted during the April 6 Committee-of-the-Whole meeting that his reason for two elections was to satisfy both anti and pro-fluoridation philosophies — one being for an immediate vote on the fluoride issue and the second being the concern for having the issue on a general ballot with more people voting.

In other action the council approved three changes in the annual update of the Eugene Bikeway Master Plan, adopted by the city in 1975.

They are:

The addition of a path to give bikers easier access to Lane Community College on 30th Avenue; the completion of a path on Summit Avenue through Hendricks Park to give bikers and pedestrians access over the hill; and an improvement in the bike path

for Interstate-105. The original plan hadn't left enough room for bikes on a section of the freeway. Bike traffic would have to be diverted from the interstate at Harlow Road and travel along Harlow to Coburg Road where it would join with Interstate-105 again.

The original master plan was drawn up in 1974 by Lane Council of Government's Metropolitan Bicycle Committee and an Engineering and Planning Company from San Francisco. The plan is intended to serve as a general guide for coordinating bikeway system development.

According to Diane Bishop, bicycle coordinator for the City Parks and Recreation Department, memos are sent out annually around November to neighborhood groups and citizens groups asking for additions or changes to the plan. Suggestions are considered and put before the council each year for an annual update of the plan.

Forty-seven of the 125 miles of bikeways drawn up in the plan have been completed. Bishop says the plan was constructed with no specific completion dates but he estimates most of the paths will be finished by 1980.

Estimated cost of completing the plan is \$5.8 million. The plan states the city's share would not exceed 50 per cent of that total because some paths outside the city jurisdiction are included with anticipation of state and federal funding agencies.

Most of the funds for city bikeways are taken from the city general fund. Others come from one per cent of the gas tax, from the Oregon State Bicycle Committee and from the Federal Recreation Program.

EWEB views energy proposal draft from secret power pooling conference

A discussion draft of a federal bill authorizing the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to purchase the output of future Northwest energy facilities was unfurled to the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) Monday night.

Rockne Gill, a Portland attorney for EWEB, and Herb Hunt, EWEB's operation and engineering director, presented the draft outlining its 20 sections and emphasizing its energy conservation features.

The draft is a result of months of negotiations among executives from regional utilities, industries and the BPA. These executives have been meeting in private and now are unveiling glimpses of their plans for regional power pooling in the form of this discussion draft.

The executives, collectively called the Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee, hope to

hammer out a final draft of the plan, label it the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Supply and Conservation Act and send it to Congress by May 15.

Gill admitted, however, that this target date is too close for any realistic hope of legislative action.

The main thrust of the proposed bill gives BPA power to purchase the region's power supply, combine the cost of hydroelectric power with future thermal power, then sell this combined power to the region's utilities at "melded" prices, Gill said.

Another key feature of the legislation is the establishment of an energy conservation program that would encourage individual power consumers to conserve energy through direct interest-free loans, amounting to \$300 million.

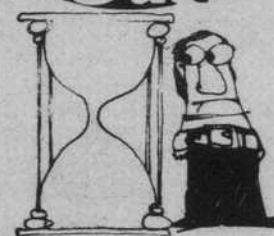
The bill also proposes the establishment of a Pacific Northwest Utilities Organization to enforce its

provisions.

The board members had little discussion on the legislative draft. Most of them only aired concern over the fact that EWEB's rates would probably increase if the bill was enacted. John Tiffany, president of the EWEB board, simply said, "With the diverse interests, it's remarkable we got this far."

In other business, the board unanimously awarded a \$315,000 purchase bid from Rexius Fuel and Growing Center of Eugene for Hogged waste wood which will be burned by EWEB for steam heat and electricity.

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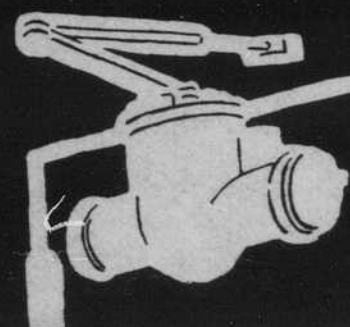
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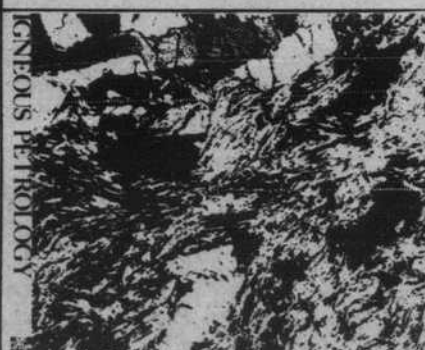
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