

The Weather

(Courtesy Cottage Grove Lake Weather Station)

	High	Low	Pre
May 15	57	39	.07
May 16	65	40	.00
May 17	80	43	.00
May 18	85	47	.00
May 19	80	51	.00
May 20	73	50	.21
May 21	63	40	.03

THE COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Serving the Heart of the Nation's Greatest Lumber Region Since 1889

Poppy Day

May 23-24

VOLUME LXIII

COTTAGE GROVE, LAKE COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1952

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NUMBER 41

Sewer Plans Reach Impasse As City Postpones Bond Sale

Plans for the city's new sewer system reached an impasse Monday night when city council opened only one \$300,000 bond bid at 3 1/2 per cent interest from the First National Bank of Cottage Grove.

Decision to accept or reject the bid or re-advertise for bids was postponed until a special session Thursday night.

May 22 Council was more pleased with the 12 bids for construction of the system, including the sewage disposal plant. Complete tabulation of these bids is being made, with preliminary figures indicating the low probably will be under the city's estimate. Acceptance of a construction bid was postponed until the bond sale problem is decided.

Book Not Sent

Councilmen put partial blame for lack of bond bids on the fact that the bond prospectus was not sent out to the 26 banking and loan firms contacted for bids. The prospectus, containing statistics on the future water program as well as the sewer plans, was prepared at a cost to the city of \$3,000 by the Corvallis engineering firm of Cornell, Howland, Hayes & Merryfield. The cost included studies leading up to preparation of the thick booklet.

Some dissension arose in the meeting over the advisability of submitting a combined prospectus to bond bidders, but Councilman Richard Thwing was instructed by the council to present it to the local bank for study in case it would make any difference in the bid. Some discussion was held on re-advertising for bond bids, but no action taken.

Forget About Water

In discussion of the future water system the mayor said, "We better forget about the \$275,000 water bonds."

In answer, Councilman Joe Bricher said, "We can't do things half way. I am in favor of all or nothing."

He also indicated that he believed the water system was probably more important than the sewer system, as leaks in the present system were a heavy cost and waste to the city.

City Engineer L. W. Colner inserted the remark that after all the people would have to vote the bond issue, anyway.

According to present plans the issue may be put to a vote of the people in July.

Water Contract

In other action the water committee made a report on the proposed contract with W. A. Woodard Lumber Co. to furnish water to the firm. This would replace an old contract recently cancelled.

Councilman Richard Thwing read a letter from a field consultant of the League of Oregon Cities indicating that the city had a right to enter into such an agreement but that it should not extend past the time of the duration of term of the present council. Also it indicated that rates should be those in effect and not be set to run for any period.

Thwing also read a sample agreement the city of Eugene uses with such customers as mills, etc. The committee will study this further.

Elderly Man Here Pickpocket Victim

An elderly Cottage Grove man living on old-age assistance was the victim of a pickpocket near his home on North River Road last Friday afternoon. About \$30 was stolen by a strange woman as she talked to him near his home.

Charles O. Hosman, 87, told the Sentinel that he was splitting wood near the road when a car drove up and stopped. He said a man and woman were in the car and called him.

"When I walked up to the car, the woman reached out her hand to shake hands, which I did, and she began feeling of my arms."

The old man said he left and went back to his work and that he motioned them to drive on.

"She then alighted from the car and came up to where I was. I told her to go on. About that time she left and ran to the car and lost no time in pulling out."

"When I reached to my hip pocket later for my billfold it was not there. It contained \$30, the amount left of my old age assistance check, money I needed very badly."

State police have been given the woman's description, but so far have not been able to locate her.

AUTO DEALERS TO CLOSE FOR HOLIDAY MAY 30-31

Cottage Grove automobile dealers have announced their agencies and garages will be closed for Decoration Day May 30 and all day Saturday, May 31.

Ramon Fuller Named Legion Commander

Ramon Fuller, former post vice commander of the American Legion at a meeting held last Thursday at the Armory.

Other officers chosen were Robert Frye, first vice commander; Ray Denham, second vice commander; Dan Olsen, finance officer, and Wilbur Workman Jr., adjutant.

Vinyl Randall Jr. was named to represent the Legion in the Cottage Grove Children's Recreation program this year. It was also announced that there would be no Junior Legion baseball program this summer, but concentration would be made on the Midgets, boys aged 9 to 14.

Announcement was made that benches at the IOOF-Masonic cemetery have been repaired by the Legion in preparation for Decoration Day. South Fork Lumber Co. furnished the material.

IWA Strikers Back On Job This Week

Several hundred International Woodworkers of America (CIO) in the Cottage Grove area went back to their jobs this week ending a three-week strike.

Operations which resumed included Bohemia Lumber Co., Cottage Grove Plywood, Booth-Kelly, Lillegren Logging and Charles Morris & Son Logging. Local union members accepted union action to go back to work following a settlement reached between the negotiating committee of the IWA and the Willamette Valley Lumber Operators Association.

The new agreement calls for a health and welfare program financed by deductions from workers' pay. The union had previously demanded that the employer foot the welfare bill.

Deductions for the health program will be 7 1/2 cents an hour for straight time; 11 1/2 cents for each overtime hour, and 7 1/2 cents for each compensable hour on paid holidays not worked or paid vacations not worked.

According to one local company official the insurance rates thus have actually been raised, as men now have to pay for holidays and vacation time. He said computations made for one employee in a fairly low bracket showed the welfare program would cost him about \$10 more per year.

Other items granted in the settlement were:

(Continued on page 5)

Mayor Speaks on City Government, Project Before Baxter Fellowship

Mayor F. H. Doleman spoke on city government and current projects before the Baxter Fellowship group of young adults at the Methodist church Sunday evening.

Among topics he covered were the sewer and water system projects, increased water rates, city elections, and city streets.

The mayor spoke on the project to clean up the streams that dated back to a 1939 referendum measure passed by the voters of the state. He explained that nothing was done in Cottage Grove until 1945 when a five year levy was voted to create a sinking fund for sewage disposal. The sewer service charge was added later, he said.

He explained how in 1949 the Sanitary Authority put pressure on the city to do something, and that the problem because the old council resigned in a body after the citizens voted to get rid of the manager system.

Major Issue

"Sewage disposal has been the major issue," he explained. "We purchased the site for the plant and built 27-inch trunk line sewers from the site to the city limits."

The mayor spoke of the bonds that would be opened for bid on the 19th to build the plant.

Mayor Doleman also spoke of work already done to improve drainage and get rid of surface water. He mentioned ditch work done in the summer of 1951 and drain tile laid on 12th and 10th streets.

The mayor decried lack of interest in city budget elections, and in an amusing note admitted that several years ago "if my wife and I had gone to vote, it would have passed." The vote turnout was only a little over a hundred, he admitted, and said the paper then even forgot to put in an announcement just before election day.

"Opposition to anything is more energetic than support," he stated. He mentioned attending a Tavern Association meeting recently when leaders warned the group concerning a possible prohibition measure on the November ballot saying

(Continued on Page 5.)

Elmer Belcher Convicted of First Degree Murder, Gets Life



Pictured above are some of the Camp White Domiciliary Home veterans who assembled VFW Buddy Poppies this year. Reading from left to right, front row: John Levine, Charles Newton and Ernest Collier; second row: Carl Krogstad, William Tedford and Hans Sorenson. (The Oregon VFW photo)

The following story was filed by University of Oregon journalism students covering the trial for the Sentinel.

EUGENE—Elmer Belcher was convicted of first degree murder with a recommendation for life imprisonment by the jury in Lane county circuit court Tuesday evening after it had deliberated about four hours.

Sentencing will be Friday, May 23, for the 15-year-old convicted killer of Mary Ellen Campbell, 18. She was shot in the back near her home on April 4.

Upsets Scored in Lane Co. Primary

The vote in Lane county on national issues did not differ from other sections of Oregon. Dwight Eisenhower was given a big vote for president on the republican ballot, along with Estes Kefauver on the democratic ballot.

Other noteworthy developments were the defeat of Tom Swarts, Lane county sheriff for the past 20 years, the defeat of the county manager system for the second time by a bigger majority than in 1948 and the defeat of Fred Bartels, former Cottage Grove resident as county commissioner on the republican ballot, after a close race.

Here are the official returns on some of the most important issues and candidates in the primary May 16th. These returns were secured from the Lane county election department Wednesday morning.

Republican Ballot
Congressman 4th district: Barbara Draper, 3,926
Harris Ellsworth, 16,351
State treasurer: Jack Lynch, 4,420
Fred E. Robinson, 4,533
Sig Unander, 10,977
Attorney general: E. O. Stadter, 4,592
Alex G. Barry, 3,146
Leonard Lindas, 6,694
John B. McCourt, 3,938
County commissioner: Ralph E. Rogers, 4,341
Fred Bartels, 5,377
Ralph Fosnough, 2,527
Ralph Petersen, 6,281
For sheriff: Edgar Middaugh, 1,961
Clell Pryor, 7,377
Carl Arney, 3,631
Non-Partisan Ballot
6.10 mill garbage levy: Yes, 21,358
No, 12,534
To create livestock district: Yes, 27,345
No, 6,305
County manager: Yes, 11,182
No, 24,400
Local Highlights
Five precincts in South Lane county went with the rest of Lane county with exception of three issues. Fred Bartels, former resident now of Springfield was given a substantial vote in the four Cottage Grove and in the Latham precinct in the race for county commissioner. Totals of the five voting places show that he gained 150 votes over his nearest opponent, Ralph Petersen. Swarts, present sheriff, managed to carry all five precincts, notwithstanding the fact that he was beaten in the county. The county manager issue was snowed under in this district by better than a three to one vote, considerably higher than the county average of two to one. (See Ballot Tabulations page 2)

Democratic Ballot
National committee: Monroe Sweetland, 9,424
Mike DeCicco, 4,453
State treasurer: Francis Lambert, 7,220
L. W. Blakeslee, 5,174
County commissioner: Edw. Hathaway, 3,584
Chas. Rickabaugh, 1,887
Omer E. Vrooman, 1,574
Jos. Ayers, 2,265
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