

Area service station hit by gas crunch limit hours; supply local customers

By Jim Baldwin
Feature Writer

Despite some decline in tourist traffic to Mt. Hood, Sandy service stations are finding that the demand for gasoline still exceeds their supply.

Many local gasoline dealers are responding to the West Coast gas crunch by opening later and closing when their daily quota has been exhausted. This, they explain, is an effort to assure a gasoline supply for local people.

Major oil companies and gasoline distributors have limited station purchases to a percentage of last year's levels. Each month's quota is announced at the beginning of that month.

Fred Truesdale's Sandy Shell Service is particularly hard hit by the shortage. The station took a 25 per cent cut in gas sales for May, forcing closure the last two days of the month. Truesdale's quota this month is down even more. As a result, the station has laid off one employee and reduced two others to part time hours.

Truesdale opens every day to satisfy the requirements of his contract with Shell, but closes when he sells the quota or a bit more. One Sunday, he opened the station, pumped two tanks of gas and closed again. "I'll see my regular customers have gas, even if I have to sell it by appointment only," says Truesdale.

The cutback has eaten into the Shell station's tire, fishing worm and ice business also. Truesdale cannot keep the station open for these sidelines, because, he says, "people get plum nasty when we lock up the pumps."

More typical of the local stations is Bill Granstrom's Arco dealership. Granstrom pumps 1500 gallons a day, 96 per cent of last year's purchases, but says he could do twice that if he had the gas. The station pumps gas while the day's quota lasts, then closes.

The shorter hours, according to Granstrom, put the local customer ahead of the transient. Limiting the amount of purchase would penalize everyone equally. The Arco station is now closed Sundays, despite lease requirements.

Granstrom has laid off "a man and a half" since the shortage, in spite of his emphasis on tire sales.

The Sandy Rocket Station is getting an allotment of 86 to 90 per cent of last June's gallonage, according to Mrs. Terry Erickson. No limits have been set on the amount of purchase, because, says Mrs. Erickson, "we have too many good customers to do that."

The Rocket station operates about thirty hours a week less, and may have to close one day a week in July. Noting a slight decline in vacation traffic, Mrs. Erickson added, "It's too bad the gas shortage had to come in the summer when everyone

wants to travel."

Some stations notice the restrictions less. The Ernie Beers Texaco station is supplied with 100 per cent of what they sold last year. The station is closing at seven o'clock, earlier than usual, but Jerry New says "so far we just close

down to make sure we don't run out of gas. If a customer wants five drums, we'll fill them up."

The R. S. Smith Chevron Station is not experiencing any difficulties, according to Don Smith. Smith gets a 95 per cent quota, but maintains his 24 hour, seven day a week

operation.

"We only enforce our ten gallon limit sign when we get low," says Smith, who sometimes has to close down for an hour or two waiting for the Chevron truck to arrive. "Our traffic is down because people are staying home," he

adds.

Smith lays the blame for the shortage on the ecology movement, pointing out that ecologists blocked construction of four new Standard catalytic plants a few years back. Increased gas consumption caused by pollution control devices adds to the problem. "We've got to have a little smog once in a while," said Smith.

All the stations have one thing in common; they don't know what the future will bring. President Nixon's price freeze will hold gas prices at June first through eighth levels, but the supply if fluctuating. Many station owners fear it will only go down.



CARS JAM the R.S. Smith Motor Co. Chevron Station trying to fill up with scarce gasoline. Don Smith reports "no real difficulties" in keeping the station open 24 hours

a day, seven days a week, but he has had to put out his "out of gas" sign recently while waiting for a shipment from Chevron. (Post photo)

Traffic volume increases

Traffic volume on most of Oregon's highways showed an increase in vehicular traffic in March, 1973 compared to March of 1972, according to the monthly report compiled by the Oregon State Highway Division.

A summary of traffic recorder data for rural and urban state highways showed an increase of 9.1 per cent in vehicular traffic in March, 1973 compared to March, 1972.

The first three months of 1973 showed an increase of 10.2 per cent in vehicular traffic compared to the first three months of 1972.

1973-74 Budget Hoodland Rural Protection Dist. No. 74

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

Hoodland Rural
The budget for Fire Protection Dist. #74 for the fiscal year 1973-74 Beginning July 1, 1973 as detailed and summarized in the accompanying schedules was prepared on an accounting basis consistent with that used in prior years. Major changes, if any, and their effects on this budget are set forth in an accompanying statement. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. at Hoodland Lumber & Hardware, Wemme, Ore. meeting of the Board of Directors will be held July 2, 1973 at 8:00 p.m. at Zig Zag Fire Station for the purpose of holding a public hearing on this budget. Any person may appear to discuss the budget, or any part of it.

Milton M. Fox
(Chairman of Governing Body)

Clackamas
(County)

Brightwood
(City)

Total Tax Levy to be Certified to the Assessor on Form LB-50			
	Last Year	This Year	Next Year
Levy Within 6% Limitation	22,628	23,985	25,424
Levy Outside 6% Limitation	none	none	none
Levy Outside 6% Limitation (Serial Levy)	none	none	none
Not Subject to Limitation	none	none	none
Total Proposed Levy	22,628	23,985	25,424
Total Budget All Funds	28,250	29,960	33,000

TYPE OF INDEBTEDNESS	Outstanding July 1		Authorized, Not Incurred, July 1	
	This Year (Actual)	Next Year (Est.)	This Year (Actual)	Next Year (Est.)
Bonds				
Interest Bearing Warrants				
Short Term Notes				
Total Indebtedness	none	none	none	none

FUNDS REQUIRING THE LEVY OF AN AD VALOREM TAX TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

	General FUND OR PROGRAM		
	Last Year	This Year	Next Year
Total Personnel Services (Includes all Payroll Costs)			
Total Materials and Services	12,250	13,037	15,850
Total Capital Outlay	7,455	6,923	8,890
Total All Other Requirements	3,239	7,625	8,260
Total Requirements (Including Transfers)	22,944	27,635	33,000
Total Resources Except Tax to be Levied	2,200	5,925	8,600
Ad Valorem Tax Required to Balance	20,744	21,660	24,400
Estimated Tax Not to be Received	1,884	2,325	1,024
Total Ad Valorem Tax to be Levied	22,628	23,985	25,424
Levy Within 6% Limitation	22,628	23,985	25,424
Levy Outside 6% Limitation			
Levy Outside 6% Limitation (Serial Levy)			
Not Subject to Limitation			

FUNDS NOT REQUIRING AN AD VALOREM TAX TO BE LEVIED

	Fire Station Building FUND OR PROGRAM		
	Last Year	This Year	Next Year
Total Personnel Services (Includes all Payroll Costs)			
Total Materials and Services			
Total Capital Outlay			
Total All Other Requirements			
Total Budget Requirements	5,545	10,000	12,500
Total Budget Resources		See General Fund	



DON SMITH ignores the ten gallon limit at his Chevron station until reserves run low. Here a gas eater waits to be fed. (Post photo)



SUMMER TRAVELLERS gas up at Truesdale's Sandy Shell Service. Fear of the gas shortage has slowed traffic, but Sandy service stations still pump all the gas they can get. (Post photo)

County moves budget hearing

The public hearing on the proposed Clackamas County budget for 1973-1974 has been delayed until July 2 at 10 a.m., according to a spokesman for the Clackamas County Commissioners.

Last week the Post reported the meeting would be held on June 29, but the commissioners moved the meeting date back to enable the county to meet the legal publication requirements.

The board of commissioners and the county budget committee last week released a proposed budget for the new fiscal year of \$6,960,087 for general fund categories. The figure, which is within the six per cent limitation, will not require a vote of the people.

The budget also includes approximately \$200,000 in federal revenue sharing funds for balancing.

The commissioners have indicated the possibility of the county going for a tax base increase election this next year because of limitations now being faced in attempting to balance demands for services and available revenues.

Taxes to be levied from the proposed budget are estimated at \$2,018,675, with the remainder expected to come from other revenue sources, including charges for services provided.

The start of the fiscal year is July 1.

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