

REA Program Bring Electricity To Two Millionth Consumer

The 2,000,000 consumer will be connected to power lines financed by the Rural Electrification Administration sometime this week, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced earlier this month.

The first consumer received service during the latter part of 1935, and REA-financed power systems passed the 1,000,000 consumer mark during August, 1942. To reach the 2,000,000th consumer this week REA borrowers added one consumer every 21 seconds during every work-week so far this fiscal year.

As the REA construction program is spread over 46 states, Alaska and the Virgin Islands, it is not possible for REA to single out the 2,000,000th consumer. He may be one of several thousand. The odds are three to one that he will be a farmer, as approximately 75% of the consumers served by the REA borrowers are farm, REA said, and the other 25% comprise stores, schools, churches, small rural industries and rural homes.

When REA was created in 1935, about 750,000 farms had central station electric service, which was a little more than 10% of the total number of farms in the country. Now almost 3,500,000, more than 60%, are served by REA borrowers and commercial utility companies.

With more than 4,000,000 rural establishments, including approximately 2,280,000 farms, still are awaiting central station service, the rate of REA-financed construction is expected to show a still further gain next year if the materials situation continues to improve during the next few months. Commenting on the progress of the program to date, REA Administrator Claude R. Wickard said:

"Passing of so conspicuous a milestone on the path of our ultimate goal of adequate low-cost power for every possible farm in this country is a mark of progress for rural America. We commemorate this milestone knowing that there are many others who still want and need electric power for modern living.

"The fact that we have applications being received at the rate of 20 million dollars a month speaks for the desire of the remaining unserved farmers for service and the great amount of unfinished work still ahead of us.

"In reaching 2,000,000 consumers, no grants or subsidies have been used. REA does not own or

operate any power lines. We have made loans to more than 1,000 independent local business groups, mostly co-operatives. They have built their own facilities with money borrowed from the government. So far the total payments of all our borrowers have amounted to \$143,372,769."

REA loans to date total \$1,152,507,489, of which \$788,845,218 has been advanced to the borrowers. Almost 95% of the money advanced has been used to finance power lines, a little less than 4% for generating facilities, and about 1% for wiring, plumbing and appliance installation loans.

Smith River News

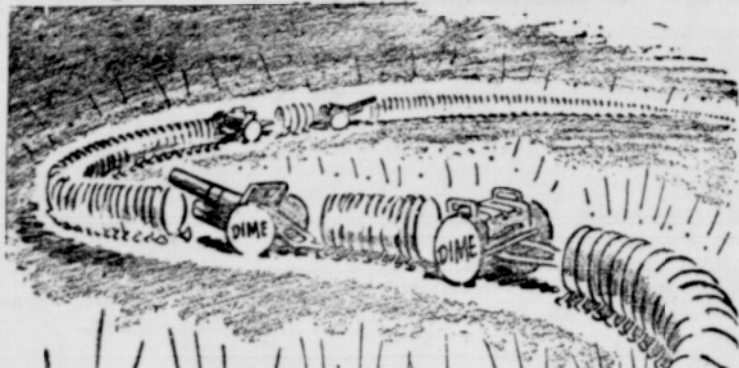
The wind and heavy rain storm with a steady downpour of rain has filled all creeks and small streams to overflowing, with the water running over the road in many places. The Smith River, this time has risen out of its banks. All low lands and ranches along the river are covered with water. The Tryon corner on 101, south of River Bridge has several feet of water running over the road. The north bank road is closed by a small slide. The highwaymen are busy keeping the road open to Crescent City.

The Annual New Year's Eve Dance at the Community hall was a great success, with a large crowd in attendance from all over the country. Continuous music by Chub Howe's orchestra was enjoyed. Noisemakers and paper hats were given out to usher in the new year. The hall committee wishes to thank all who helped make the dance a success. Proceeds will go toward the upkeep of the hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Marland Rice and little son of Albany, Oregon, spent several days visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Morrison, who are the parents of Mrs. Rice, the former Cora Morrison. The Rices took delivery of a 5 passenger coupe, a 1947 model purchased through Buckner Chevrolet agency. They drove home in their new car. They were accompanied home by Mrs. Rice's brother, Freddie, who spent a week's vacation up north.

The Smith River Ladies Aid Society will hold their first meeting of the new year on Thursday afternoon, January 15, at 2 p.m. in the club room at the Community Hall. New officers for the coming year will preside. Mrs. Betty McClish, new president invites all members and friends to the meeting.

Keep The Caissons Rolling Along



Mrs. Mary A. Powers who is making her home with Mary Anthony, returned here on the bus, Tuesday from Gold Beach, where she has spent the holidays with friends.

Oscar Kamberg, son of Mrs. and Mrs. E. A. Kamberg, who underwent an appendectomy at the Seaside hospital, has been released from the hospital, and is convalescing satisfactorily at his home.

Mrs. Lucy Martin of Eugene, Oregon, arrived here, to spend and family. Mr. and Mrs. Carl the holidays with her daughter Thomas and daughter, Miss Evelyn. She plans to make an indefinite stay with her daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Eennie Ham and son Loren Ham of Loma Linda, motored to Coos Bay where they spent several days visiting the former's brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Ham.

Local News Items

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Storset of Astoria are here for a month looking after business affairs. They formerly operated the dry cleaning establishment here, now

the Cur-Del Cleaners.

The many friends of Otto Blankenhorn will be glad to know that he is able to leave the house now, and has been seen in town a few times lately. He still has to be careful in what he does but is past the danger point.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Carson

arrived home Sunday from two weeks vacation which spent in San Francisco with son and daughter-in-law, and Mrs. Don Carson.

Cub Scout Doing

Den 1 met Monday at Widney home when bingo played. Prizes of model airplane and gum were given.

Mr. Widney, Cubmaster, is not with us, but is expected in about ten days. Mrs. Widney tells us. —Ronald Akers, Chief.

SPORTOONS BY PAT & BEN



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BROOKINGS, OREGON

INCOME TAX SERVICE

Starting January 3, at Hugh Gearin's Law office, Central Building, I will do Income Tax work on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 to 5. Tuesdays and Thursdays I will be at my home, 2 miles south of Harbor on 101.

Ray Guerrettaz

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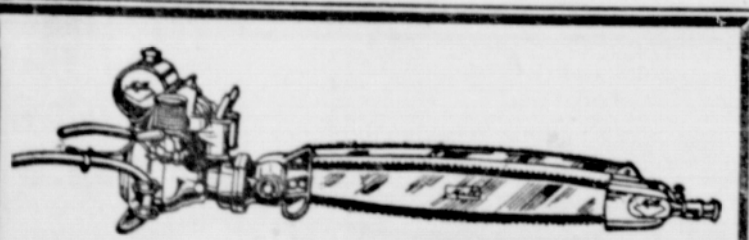
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