

Public forum

In our effort to bring you what you want in a paper we hope that you can participate with us in some small way. It is our job every day, but for all of you out there we hope you can throw in a tid-bit now and then. Particularly we want you to call Mary, our office person and collector of gossip if you have anything of interest. Mary Cota is a lifelong resident of Vernonia and familiar to many of you and it would seem that Mary has been in the gossip collecting business long before joining the *Freedom* staff but now she can do so legitimately.

We are particularly interested in "notes on folks" that are pertinent and of interest to many people. We need to know when and who has gone to the hospital or a rest home. We need to know about people who have left and are living elsewhere. We need to know about our young people who have gone off to college, the service or elsewhere. We need to know about significant social functions. And particularly we need to know about engagements, weddings or births. We need to know about anything you might think significant and it will be up to you to call us and not expect that someone else is going to let us know.

I hope that everyone will participate in giving us their news tips although we may not be able to print all items depending on their relative importance, but we will never know until we can get the information in. It is also very important to me that we get our "notes on Folks" from all the social and cultural groups that make up the whole community, because we are trying to represent the whole community.

Ned

Reichhold Energy Co. optimistic about gas pipeline

by Paul Seamons

I had a phone conversation last week with Paul Howe, Senior Vice-President for Operations Northwest Natural Gas Company. Northwest Natural Gas, along with Diamond Shamrock is a partner in the successful gas exploration and drilling operation currently being conducted by Reichhold Energy Company. The gas company is the largest supplier of energy used in Oregon with the exception of the sun. Last year the company delivered an average of around 230 million cubic feet of gas per day to its residential, commercial and industrial customers. The combined flow of Reichholds three successful wells near Mist is about 6 million cubic feet per day.

I asked Mr. Howe for his perspective on the possibility that a gas pipeline would be built from the Mist gas field.

"I am extremely optimistic," said Howe, "each hole that is productive tends to assure that a pipeline will be built."

However the construction of the line is not yet a certainty. Reichhold will begin drilling another exploratory well here this week. Additional drilling is expected to continue throughout the summer. By summer's end the question of whether construction of a pipeline is economically feasible should be answered. But from my discussion with Mr. Howe, it sounded like Northwest Natural Gas is convinced a pipeline will be needed.

"It's too late to start construction this year," said the vice-president, "but we've begun to study the project, examining different routes and so on." I asked the size of the possible pipeline. "Certainly no smaller than 10 inches in diameter, maybe 12 or 16 inches," Howe replied.

According to Howe, the line in all probability would go eight miles over Clatskanie Mountain, following as direct a route as possible, to a point a mile or so west of Clatskanie. Northwest Natural Gas has a distribution line which runs from Portland to Astoria, along the Columbia. This line is 16 inches in diameter to Clatskanie where it reduces to 10 inches on out to Astoria. Howe estimates the cost of the project at \$2 million.

The gas company VP also mentioned that Reichhold is examining the possibility of running a pipeline from the Mist gas field directly to its plant in St. Helens. Reichhold's urea plant near St. Helens is currently served by the N.W.N.G. line from Portland. Reichhold uses some 9 million cubic feet of gas a day as a feedstock for urea and anhydrous ammonia manufacture. The reason Reichhold is looking at the possibility of a line directly from Mist to its plant is that the Mist gas contains about 6% nitrogen. Reichhold now uses the nitrogen in atmospheric air for its ammonia manufacturing process. Reichhold is studying whether it can supply its process nitrogen requirements more economically by piping the Mist gas, with its relatively high nitrogen content directly to its plant some 21 miles distance. The pipeline gas Reichhold now uses does not contain substantial amounts of Nitrogen. The cost of this longer pipeline alternative would clearly be several times higher than that of the 8 mile line over Clatskanie Mountain.

In any case the line would require that a fifty foot wide right-of-way be maintained clear of trees. The pipe would be buried five feet below the ground, by my calculations, the right-of-way for the 8 mile route would take 50 or so acres out of timber production. Additional land would probably be lost to production by the required network of smaller feeder lines extending from each well to the pipeline.

Purchase of the right-of-way would be negotiated by N.W.N.G. with each land owner affected. In any case, N.W.N.G., as a public utility, has condemnation powers if negotiations fail.

I asked Mr. Howe whether his company is considering running the pipeline along Longview Fibre's Clatskanie Mountain haul road which goes from Mist to Clatskanie, and is already cleared. "I can't comment on that except to say that we are considering all alternatives."

Howe said that if a pipeline is to be built it would be designed this winter in time for construction to begin next spring. In all probability the work would be done by a contractor rather than by the gas company's own crews. In that case the welders, pipefitters, operating engineers, laborers and other construction workers required for the job would presumably be called out of Portland and Longview union halls.

Northwest Natural Gas currently gets 100% of the gas it distributes from one supplier, Northwest Pipeline Corporation. 70% of this gas comes from Canada. It appears that the addition of supplies from the Mist field could augment substantially what the gas company describes as an already favorable supply situation.

Vernonia Freedom

Published weekly in Vernonia Oregon, 97064, on Thursdays at 715 Bridge St. Serving The Upper Nehalem Valley. Phone 429-8111. Subscriptions, \$5 per year Second-Class Postage Paid at Vernonia, OR 97064, Publication No. 474-690. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Vernonia Freedom, 715 Bridge St., Vernonia, OR. 97064.

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"NOW HEAR THIS"

by G.G. Connely

President Carter has no trouble staying in the public eye it seems. I am wondering if it will last until election day in 1980.

In reference to the President's outburst toward Senator Kennedy, first it was "bologna," which seems innocent enough, but at a recent breakfast attended by the President and several members of Congress, the phrase used by Carter was uncalled for, even though he is trying to become tough on different issues. And this statement coming from one who has professed, since before his election, to be a "born again Christian." Mr. Carter evidently was looking at the peanut crop report instead of the Bible when he said he was a born again Christian." He should read the Bible more diligently, because it tells you very definitely that a person does not become a "born again Christian" here on this earth. I am not one who likes to dwell on religion, but I just couldn't let this opportunity pass to clear the air on "born again Christians."

In a speech by Senator Kennedy, after the President's tainted statement, he said he knew many people were behind him in Washington, but he didn't know they were that close.

Barring any unforeseen obstacles, by the time you read this, we will have become partners to the signing of the SALT II agreement. What has worried me from the start is how are we possibly going to be sure that Russia will live up to the agreement. They are not going to let any U.S. team perform an on-sight inspection of their missiles, or missile locations, nuclear or otherwise. They never have, so

why should we expect them to be any different this time? The United States, on the other hand, is so soft that they provide any visiting foreign dignitary with the most elaborate tour of our nuclear facilities, missile and missile sites. How naive can this country get? I feel the same way toward Russia, as the late President Truman did. He said he trusted the Russians about as far as he could throw an elephant by the tail, or words to that effect.

We have heard so much about the shortage of gasoline. One authority said on TV that when gasoline at the pump reached \$125 or \$150 per gallon, we will have no shortage of this precious commodity. I reluctantly concur in this statement.

I will admit, that I have mulled the following piece of gossip over and over the past several days, trying to decide whether or not to pass it on, for what it is

worth to my readers. After reading many other reports on gasoline shortages, and listening to different views of individuals on TV, I decided to tell this, and I repeat again, it is strictly hearsay and gossip. Being a reporter, which I am not, I should have followed up the story to see if it was authentic.

This was overheard several days ago by yours truly in a restaurant in Hillsboro. This discourse being told by a very positive gray haired lady to her two lady friends and a gentleman seated at a table directly in front of me. She said this was told to her by her minister who was traveling in Eastern Oregon.

The minister was driving between Bend and Madras, when he came upon a large tank truck sitting along side the highway, the valve on the tank open draining gasoline into the bar-ditch. The minister, thinking that perhaps the driver of the truck might be having trouble, got out of his car, and found the driver of the tanker resting beside the truck. He asked him what the trouble was, the driver said, no trouble, just carrying out orders. The minister went back to his car and got his camera and took several pictures. He asked the driver his name, but he refused to give it. He said he just worked for the company, and was just doing what he was told to do. The minister took the license number of the truck, and what I did gather was, he gave the truck driver his name and telephone number, or address.

After the minister arrived home, he received a telephone call from someone in authority of the trucking firm. He stated that he would pay \$50,000 for the pictures and the negatives of the tank truck that he had taken. The answer was no. The offer was upped to \$75,000, the answer was still no. Finally the company representative asked the minister where the negatives and pictures were, he told them in the hands of "60 Minutes!" This ended the conversation which I overheard. Remember now, I said in the beginning, this must be treated as hearsay and pure gossip, unless proven otherwise at a later date by "60 Minutes."

A humorous parting shot at the President of the United States. Mr. Carter should be defended somewhere along the line, even though the polls show him at the lowest in percentage points since his election in 1976, so I'll try. President Carter couldn't whip himself out of a wet paper bag, leave alone whipping the Senator from Massachusetts but, there is always the possibility that he might "Whupp" Senator Kennedy perhaps not in the same place mentioned at the breakfast, but at the ballot box.

Letter to the Editor:

I would like to thank Dale Martinez of the Columbia County Vector Control District for being responsive to my concern of aerial spraying for mosquito control. I am worried that spraying from an airplane would not contain the spray in a certain area thereby contaminating my garden and pets. Since the field behind my house is accessible Mr. Martinez has agreed to try handspraying first. Also I was told if neighbors surrounding the property agree to not have spray, all they have to do is collect signatures and present them to Mr. Martinez or the Vector Control Board.

According to Dale Martinez there is a non toxic spray available for use but there isn't enough money in their budget for it.

I think everyone should know that Vector Control has Gambusia fish that feed on mosquito larvae. If you want to try to alleviate the problem yourself they are available free of charge.

If you are concerned about the Vector

Control program in your area I think you should contact Mr. Martinez. He does seem to listen.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Hill
St. Helens

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\$5 a year anywhere in the U.S.

Name _____

Address _____

County or City where you work _____

(This information is not necessary, but will help us.)

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

City Police..... 429-5141

Ambulance..... 429-5141

Vernonia Fire Dept.. 429-3131

Col. Co. Sheriff..... 429-5141

(ask for Sheriff's Dept.)