

CZ supports log export bill

Crown Zellerbach representatives told the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on May 15 that passage of HB 2993, which would prohibit log exporters from bidding for or purchasing logs from state forestlands, would result in the loss of more than a thousand jobs in either Columbia or Clatsop county, the loss of more than a million tax dollars to local governments and disrupt the complex raw material supply system which has developed over many years to meet the requirements of sawmills, plywood plants and pulp and paper mills in Oregon and the region.

Jack R. Brown, Crown Zellerbach regional director for public affairs, told the committee that if Crown Zellerbach decided not to export logs in order to keep buying state timber, over 1700 jobs would be lost in Clatsop County. Consequently, unemployment there would rise from 9.4 percent to 21.2 percent, with a subsequent loss of payroll and taxes paid.

The other choice left for CZ, Brown said, would be to quit buying State of

Oregon timber and continue to export, but that would result in a loss of over 1000 jobs in Columbia County, where CZ would have to shut down a sawmill in Columbia City which largely depends on state timber sales for its log supply. The unemployment rate there would rise to 16.2 percent from 10 percent.

"In Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, the forest products marketplace is a complex flow of raw materials and products which require flexibility," Brown said. "Virtually all mills must buy and exchange logs to obtain the particular species, grades and sizes which they are equipped to handle. Crown Zellerbach is not exception. In many cases, mills owned by Crown Zellerbach and other log exporting firms are the facilities that can most economically utilize public timber within a given market area," he emphasized. "To immediately block access to a long-established raw material supply network means community disruption and displacement of people employed in facilities built, in part, to utilize state timber."

47J school budget

continued from page 1

The total budget expenditures approved for the 1981-82 school year by the budget committee are \$2,213,211 which is only \$22,352 over the previous year. This however, will result in an increase of nearly \$600,000 in local property taxes levied almost totally due to the decreases in state and federal support of education. Of the total levy of \$1,633,827, \$1,250,000 will be within the tax base authorized the district by the local voters last November. An additional \$456,195 above the tax base will be submitted to the voters for approval at a special election on June 30, 1981. This amount is needed to continue to operate the schools at a minimum of the current level of programs. Lack of approval by the voters would leave the district operating at about 3/4 of the present

level. Just as an example, budget cuts removing all supplies including pencils, paper, heat, lights, water, all equipment items, and all bus transportation would fall \$100,000 short of meeting this deficit. Two alternatives would remain, drastic reductions in school programs and staff or reduction of the school year by several months.

Although increases in local property taxes are expected, the taxpayers of the Vernonia School District are still in an enviable comparative position. The 1980-81 school district levies in Columbia County were:

Scappoose District 1J - \$12.31
Clatskanie District 5J - \$7.25
Rainier District 13 - \$11.04
Vernonia District 47J - \$6.37
St. Helens District 502 - \$14.88

Women's softball team warms up for new season

by Dolly Keenon

The Vernonia Mets women's slowpitch team, played a practice game with Fries of Forest Grove, Thursday May 7 in Forest Grove. The Mets will host another game with them at the Vernonia High School field Sunday, May 31. The score on that May 7 game was 14-5. Maybe the Mets will play better with the home field advantage. (We had a nice workout and saw what our mistakes were.)

Thursday May 21 there will be a

practice game with Scott Farms at the Forest Grove High School field at 7 pm. All interested observers and fans are welcome to come cheer them on.

Our uniforms are here and look very sharp. Thanks again to our sponsors,

who made it possible. We will be taking team pictures soon, to present to our sponsors. Last year's trophies are on display in the front window of Vernonia Auto Parts. A special thanks to our coaches Pete Forgey and Virgil Hively.

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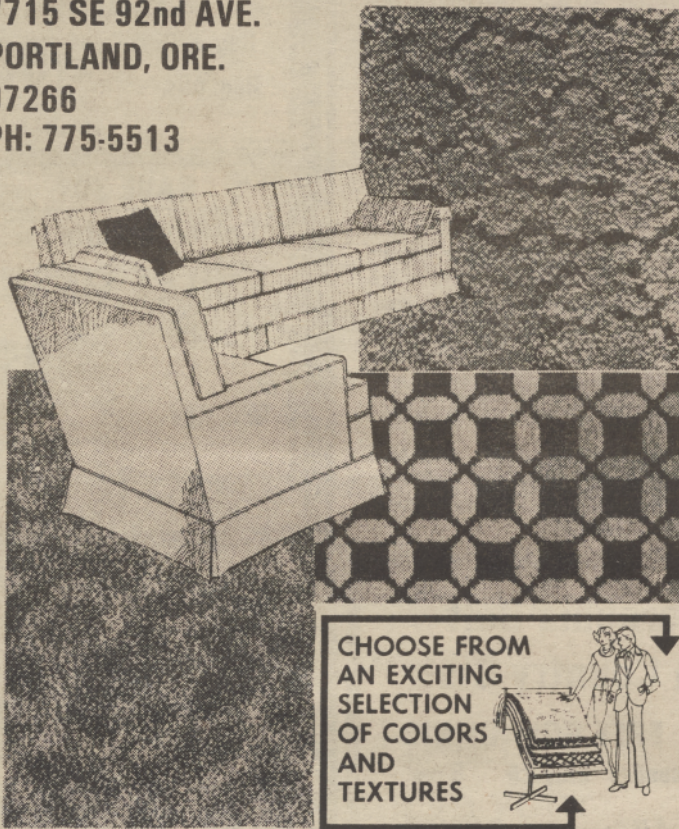
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