

Alberta, Canada Area Likely Source of NW Natural Gas

From an engineering standpoint, the only likely source of natural gas for use in the Pacific Northwest is the Alberta, Canada, production area, the chief engineer for Portland Gas & Coke Co. told a Friday night professional engineers' meeting in Eugene.

D. B. Larsen was the featured speaker at a banquet session of the Society of Professional Engineers of Oregon at the Osburn Hotel.

First tracing the history of gas as a fuel, Larsen pointed out that the big "boom" in the natural gas industry has come just since the start of World War II. The Alberta gas fields were only discovered in 1947, he noted.

CONSUMPTION SHORT

The Pacific Northwest is the only major section of the U.S. still without natural gas supplies, Larsen said. He listed two reasons for this: (1) distance from producing fields; (2) the Northwest's present use of gas is not sufficient to, by itself, merit the heavy expenditures required for building transmission lines into this region.

Larsen stated that a 200-million cubic foot per day consumption will be needed to pay off the pipeline costs. Present consumption in the Northwest is only about 70-million cubic feet per day.

Accordingly, it will be necessary for natural gas promoters to offer a cheaper fuel and so attract a larger market immediately when they begin selling their product in this region.

20 PER CENT LESS

Best guesses, Larsen said, are that natural gas will be sold in the Northwest for approximately

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20 per cent less per unit of heat than present supplies of manufactured gas are being marketed.

Larsen pointed out that although the cost of natural gas, to the distributor, will be about twice that of manufactured gas, the natural fuel is twice as potent and gives two times as much heat per unit.

Portland will be the terminus of any line built into the Northwest from Alberta, the P. G. & C. engineer stated. Present P. G. & C. gas lines from Portland to Salem are not transmission lines, he added. Therefore, additional construction

Freshman Class Gets Increase

Highlighted by an unexpected increase in the freshman class that may run as high as 15 per cent, the first week of fall term registration at the University of Oregon closed Saturday noon with more than three-fourths of the anticipated 4,100 students already enrolled for classes. Registration will continue through Oct. 6 with most graduate students and some upper-classmen yet to be signed.

In addition to the freshman increase, fall enrollment also saw the first Korean War veterans returning to complete their education under the new G.I. bill. The exact number is not yet known, but some 100,000 nationally are expected to enroll in institutions of higher education this year, with the majority coming in winter and spring terms.

At noon Saturday, three and a half days after University registration started, 3,683 had completed the enrollment process. This total represents a drop of only 4.41 per cent from the same time last year—much less than the expected 10 per cent drop predicted nationally for colleges and universities.

would be required before natural gas could reach upper Willamette Valley communities.

The speaker also stated that marketing of natural gas will require conversion of all consumers' gas burning units, and this expense will need to be borne by the distributing companies. For P. G. & C., he said, conversion costs will run close to a million dollars.

At present, Larsen said, plans for piping gas in from Canada are being delayed by two factors: the political situation in Alberta and involvement of natural gas questions with public policies in the province; and, the U. S. Federal Power Commission's objections that the Alberta fields may not be of sufficient size to guarantee investments that would be required to market their output in the Northwest.

Speaking of proposals to use natural gas from southwestern areas of the United States, Larsen asserted that these supplies can be utilized most economically in California and other states. The Northwest, he said, will receive its natural gas from Canada if engineering facts decide the issue.

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Eugene School Board Paces Long Agenda

Prospects are for a long meeting for the Eugene School Board Monday night, with several major items on its agenda.

The board will hear a report from Dr. C. L. Huffaker, of the University of Oregon Bureau of Statistical Research, which is expected to predict enrollments for the next few years far exceeding those previously predicted.

In other business, the board will consider room additions if kindergartens are approved by the voters Tuesday, transportation problems, and will hear a report on the latest enrollment figures.

The board meeting starts at 8 p.m. Daylight Time at the School Administration Building on W. 7th Ave.

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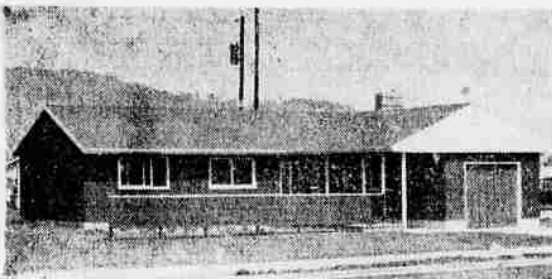
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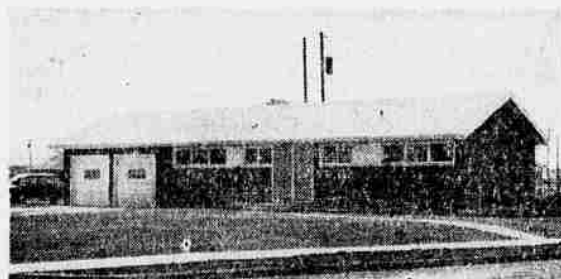
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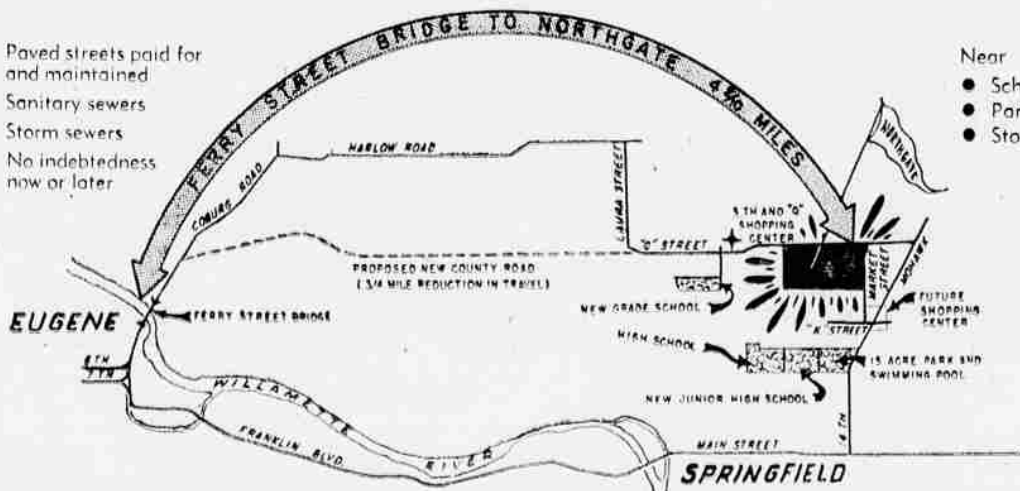
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