

Bill to Divide Lane County Under Study

Local Residents Attend Hearing

SALEM (AP)—Widely differing opinions were given Monday at a hearing on a bill to divide Marion, Multnomah and Lane Counties into subdistricts for electing state legislators.

While Lane County residents made a strong plea that their county be subdistricted, three members of that county's legislative delegation asked that the bill leave out their county.

RESIDENTS SPLIT

Residents of Multnomah and Marion Counties split on whether their counties should be included.

Opposition to having Lane County included was expressed by Sen. Truman Chase, Eugene; and Reps. Edwin E. Cone, Eugene, and Ernest H. Schrenk, Creswell.

Democratic witnesses indicated they didn't like the bill's provisions that Multnomah County's Southeast and Northeast districts be divided by East Burnside St. They said they favor making the division according to U. S. census tract boundaries.

LETTERS SUBMITTED

Sen. Robert D. Holmes, Gearhart, submitted several letters from Lane County residents asking that Lane County be included. Two of these letters were from Allison C. Wyson Jr., chairman of the Lane County Democratic Central Committee, and Edward Harms, mayor of Springfield, also a Democrat.

SALEM (AP)—The Oregon Senate will consider whether to have a committee to investigate un-American activities.

Sens. Harry D. Boivin, Klamath Falls, and Pat Lonergan, Portland, announced Monday they would introduce a measure to create a Senate Un-American Activities Committee patterned after the one in California.

Boivin and Lonergan said there now is no state or local body to which subversive activity can be reported. The committee would have the power to subpoena witnesses, and to punish for contempt.

BOOK COMPLAINT

Lonergan said he received a letter from Mrs. Albert H. Powers, state regent of the Oregon Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in which she complained about some books used in the schools.

The proposed committee, Lonergan said, could investigate these books.

The president of the Senate would appoint the five-member committee to hold hearings and to report to the 1957 Legislature. At that time, the Legislature could decide whether to have a permanent committee.

Utility Proposal Topic of Hearing

SALEM (AP)—The Senate Commerce and Utilities Committee will hold a hearing Feb. 2 on a bill by Sen. Monroe Sweetland, Milwaukie Democrat, to let the tax commission determine the base on which public utilities could seek rate increases.

Sweetland says that the present system, under which the public utilities commissioner determines the rate base, lets the private utilities off with lower taxes than they should be assessed.

'ROUND THE STATE

Oregon Blue Book Printed But It Isn't Blue Any More

SALEM (AP)—Oregon's 1955 Blue Book was published Monday, but it isn't blue any more. It's gold. One thousand copies of the manual of Oregon's state government were distributed at the Statehouse. The book will be generally distributed in February.

The front cover carries a picture of the pioneer statue atop the Capitol. The back cover has a picture of the Lewis and Clark expedition arriving in the Northwest.

Under a new law, the book has to be published soon after the Legislature convenes.

Hunter Indicted

THE DALLES (AP)—Joseph Warren Ferguson, 39, Moser rancher accused of killing his brother-in-law, Charles Edwin Eaton, 29, Portland commercial artist, on a hunting venture Dec. 26, was indicted on a manslaughter charge Saturday.

Ferguson is accused of mistaking Eaton for a deer while the two were hunting on Ferguson's ranch, 15 miles southwest of The Dalles.

Circuit Judge Malcolm W. Wilkinson set next Saturday as the time for Ferguson to enter a plea.

Polygamy Charged

MEDFORD (AP)—George Davis of Talent signed a complaint charging his wife with polygamy, posted \$1,000 bail for her and then left the courthouse here with her Saturday.

In the complaint he said his wife, Mrs. Odessa Evelyn Campbell Mires Davis, 35, while still married to him, last month had married L. E. Vielbig, Medford.

Pay Boost Offered

BEND (AP)—The Brooks-Seanlon Co., a major pine lumber operation, has offered a 7½-cent hourly pay increase to CIO Woodworkers, Gen. Mgr. A. J. Glassow reported.

The 7½-cent increase was recommended by the governors-fact-finding committee as a basis for settlement of the wage dispute in the Pacific Northwest fir industry. Pine employers said earlier they would not necessarily follow the recommendation. A number have done so, however.

Wallet Returned

MEDFORD (AP)—Bob Boyer, a Medford attorney, lost his wallet 10 years ago after a high school class.

Last week he got it back in the mail. Originally there had been \$14 in the wallet. The man who returned it said the money was too much of a temptation at the time, but he enclosed a check for \$14 to square things. The matter had been bothering his conscience for 10 years, he said.

Observers Trained

BAKER (AP)—Approximately 240 persons have attended five training periods for USAF ground observer volunteers here, Nell Perry Reed, supervisor of the Baker ground observer post, reported Monday.

She said official opening of observer operations will be Feb. 1. Mayor Fred Young and Anthony Brandenthaler, president of the Chamber of Commerce, have volunteered to stand the first watch at the new post.

15 Year Term

MEDFORD (AP)—Marion F. Piening, 50, was sentenced to 15 years in prison and fined \$100 Saturday. He pleaded guilty Jan. 7 to manslaughter in the 1949 death of Margaret Ann Cornell.

Bill Offered By Schrenk

SALEM (AP)—Ernest Schrenk, freshman Lane County lawmaker in the House Monday introduced a bill that would prohibit the public Utilities Commissioner from setting minimum freight rates on carriers. The PUC's jurisdiction would be limited to maximum rates.

Schrenk said he believed the bill, if passed, would tend to lower freight rates in Oregon and attract new industries which need a special low rate on raw materials.

The Creswell farmer said his bill would uphold the ruling of the state Supreme Court that the PUC does not have authority to fix minimum freight rates for motor carriers and railroads in Oregon.

The intent of Schrenk's measure is summarized in the section which provides that the "power of the Public Utilities Commissioner . . . to suspend any proposed schedule of rates, fares or charges shall extend only to those which would increase existing rates, fares or charges."

Supreme Court Sets Arguments

SALEM (AP)—The Oregon Supreme Court will hear arguments Feb. 2 in a case to determine the validity of the law under which circuit judges are disqualified from hearing cases. The law is being challenged by George H. Proctor, Klamath Falls lawyer. He is attorney for Florin Melvin Coon, indicted for second degree murder, and Andrew Joseph Bushman, indicted for contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

In both cases, Proctor filed motions to dismiss the cases. Dist. Atty. Frank R. Alderson of Klamath County filed motions to disqualify Circuit Judge David R. Vandenberg from hearing the cases.

Proctor also is trying to force Judge Vandenberg to rule on his motion to dismiss the cases.

Property Recovered

HEIDELBERG, Germany (AP)—Thieves robbed the U. S. Army and its personnel in Europe of \$1,390,024 worth of property last year, but the MPs recovered 83 per cent of it, an official report disclosed Monday.

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