

ROUND THE STATE

Hydroelectric Commission Rejects Dam Application

SALEM — The State Hydroelectric Commission Tuesday rejected the application of the Coos-Bay Electric Cooperative, Inc., to build a hydroelectric dam on the Illinois River at the Bald Mountain site.

The commission, headed by George W. Joseph, Portland, declared that estimates of the stream flow at the site indicate that the plant would be idle for several months during each year.

The project was estimated to cost \$25,500,000. The commission said that the estimated cost of its power, 4.48 mills per kilowatt hour, would not be competitive with the cost of other power in the region.

The Illinois River would be impaired as a fishing stream by the new dam, the commission added. However, State Engineer Lewis Stanley added, "the effect on the fish was only one of several factors leading to the denial of the application."

Naval Base Bids Slated

HILLSBORO — The Navy plans to call construction bids, probably within the next six months, for the proposed 12 million dollar naval air training center here.

That was the report this week from Rear Adm. A. M. Bledsoe, commandant of the 13th Naval District at Seattle.

Capt. James R. Davis, district public works officer, said negotiations for acquisition of some 800 acres of land, including the present airport and nearby property, will begin next month.

The project has been opposed by some interests in the Hillsboro area. At a public hearing held by the Navy last month, farmers said they objected because of the loss of farming land. Private pilots said they feared they might not be permitted to use the airport.

The Navy has assured pilots that facilities will be available for them.

Davis said that his superiors in Washington had decided to go ahead with the project since "no major facts were brought forth (at the hearing) which would change construction plans."

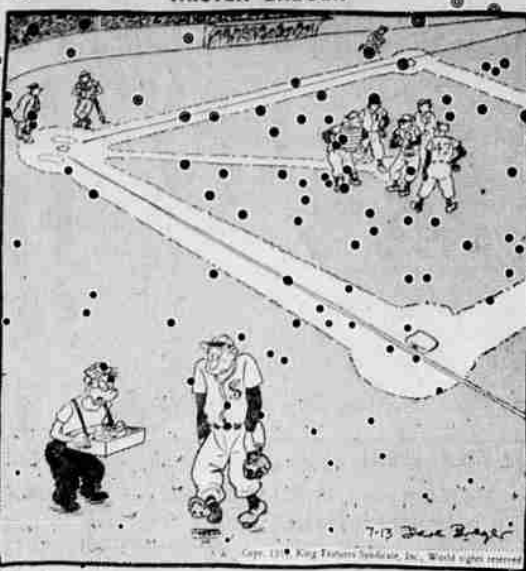
Rogue Valley Pear, Peach Crop Late

MEDFORD — The Rogue River Valley pear crop this year will be average size, about three million boxes, Don Berry, Jackson County agent for horticulture, said Tuesday.

Because of unseasonable weather the harvest will start about two weeks late, about Aug. 22.

Berry added that the peach harvest, expected to be smaller than usual, also will begin about two weeks late.

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Engineers to Widen Railway in Congo

ALBERTVILLE, Belgian Congo — Engineers in September will start widening the 500-mile long railway from the Upper Congo Valley to Lake Tanganyika to standard African gauge. The operation will permit through traffic with the new Kamina-Congo Railway, which links the Tanganyika system with the rail network covering the Union of South Africa, the Rhodesias, Mozambique and Angola.

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Plywood Workers to Vote On Company's Proposal

PORTLAND — Some 1,500 striking AFL plywood workers at five M and M Wood Working Co. plants in Oregon and northern California vote Thursday on a proposal to end a strike that started July 1.

The strike started after the company refused to renew an old contract without certain modifications. The company labeled the walkout "unlawful," declaring it was called without notice.

The agreement which must be ratified by the union vote calls for the company "to operate its plywood plants on identical terms and working conditions as existed as of June 30, 1955, and that negotiations on disputed issues continue for the next 30 days."

The struck plants are located at Eureka, Calif., and Portland, Albany, Lyons and Idanha in Oregon. Federal Mediator Leroy Smith said that should the union ratify the agreement it was possible some employees might return to work Friday to get plants ready for reopening on Monday. He said results of the balloting should be known by Thursday night or early Friday.

Klamath DA's Job Has 3 Candidates

KLAMATH FALLS — Three men, two of them former district attorneys, have been mentioned as possible successors to Dist. Atty. Frank Alderson, whose resignation becomes effective July 25.

The Klamath County Bar Assn. will hold a special meeting soon to recommend a successor. Appointment will be made by Gov. Paul Patterson.

The three mentioned for the recommendation are: District Judge D. E. Van Vactor and attorney Clarence Humbel, both former district attorneys, and Dep. Dist. Atty. Richard Beesley. Gov. Patterson said he has also received an application from outside Klamath County, which he will consider if a proper recommendation does not come from Klamath County.

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Boundary Ruling

SALEM — It is the state engineer's job to find the boundaries of underground lakes or streams so the water will not be allowed to go to waste, Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Thornton ruled Tuesday.

The opinion was asked by state engineer Lewis A. Stanley.

"Your duty to determine sources of underground water cannot be controlled by any presumption nor limited by surface indications," Thornton admonished. "The law compels you to make a reasonable determination by any practicable means, surface or subsurface, in order to conserve the underground water resources of the state."

Tour Continues

PENDLETON — The Oregon State Highway Commission's Eastern Oregon tour continued from here Tuesday after looking into the problem of avoiding a railroad crossing.

At its last meeting the commission gave up plans for an Emigrant Ave. overpass. Monday local officials were told the commission would study an underpass at S. W. 20th Ave. and also the possibility of converting Emigrant Ave. and Frazer Ave. to one-way streets.

Vessels Arrive

PORTLAND — Two Canadian naval vessels, the HMCS Stettler and Sussexvale, arrived here Wednesday. Some 80 cadets are aboard.

They will be entertained for three days by the Portland Chamber of Commerce.

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