

### Water Department Serving A Rapidly Growing City

This week commences the first of a series of weekly articles on the city government and its various departments in Coquille. The resume of the progress and activity of these respective units will be told. This week the story of the city water department is given.

When S. V. "Sam" Epperson took over the duties of water superintendent for the city twenty-six years ago, little did he realize that his post would grow and expand until his hundred or more water users would number more than 800 in 1839 and would consist of a business enterprise that is today valued between \$350,000 to \$380,000.

Back in 1813-14 there was just a stop dam across Rink creek that was used to turn the water into the wooden mills that extended to the city, but the source of our water has always been at Rink creek. Practically all the city mains were made of wooden pipe that caused considerable trouble to the water department in trying to keep everyone supplied with water with greatest efficiency. There were all flat rates in those days—no meters and one could use as much as needed except in the dry seasons when even the creek used to get pretty slim.

Consistent growth of Coquille from 1913 to 1922 made the need for a greater supply of water, so in 1922 the city built the Rink creek dam, which impounded about 40,000,000 gallons of water and thoroughly handled the needs of a thriving city of 1,800. Several hundred new water users had been added to the list of customers. Superintendent Epperson was serving with his department by then and new mains had been built into the residential districts of the city to care for a growing community. In order to finance the building of the dam and extending the lines, it was necessary to float bonds which were paid off by revenue from the

department. The Rink creek dam was built for a total cost of \$30,000, which has long since been paid.

In 1929 with a city of 2600 people, it was found necessary to commence conserving on the water supply again and selling it on a more technical basis. To meet this, the city bought and installed 800 water meters at a cost of about \$12,000 and every user was then charged on the basis of consumption. This plan increased the revenue of the water department and was paid for in a short time by this increased income.

Another improvement that has made the operation of the department more stable was the chlorination of the source so that it was purified before entering the city mains. This method has made the possibility of disease spreading extinct.

In 1937 the need for still more water supply was really apparent with a city nearing 4,000 population served by the department. Several plans were discussed and it was finally decided to raise the dam of Rink creek and impound the water. By federal WPA aid in labor, the city is now furnishing the material for increasing the height of the dam fourteen feet and which will give an additional 40,000,000 gallons of water to carry the city over during the dry season. The city has put up \$10,000 as its share of this expense and the dam will be completed this spring. Water users will have advantage of this new supply this summer.

Instead of the old wood pipe that used to carry water to consumers, nearly every foot of pipe is cast iron today. Nine thousand feet of cast iron pipe have been laid from the dam down to the city limits. In the last two years 1200 feet of 10-inch pipe have been laid on Second street, another 1000 feet of 4-inch pipe in the near vicinity and a 4-inch pipe up the Marshfield highway to the edge of the city limits.

At the present time the water department is one of the major sources of revenue for the city. It grosses about \$30,000 a year. Of this amount, the city nets about \$18,000. It employs one full time superintendent, two helpers part time and takes about half of the time of the city recorder and city treasurer to care for it.

In the pinches and in the most quiet times of the depression, the water department kept the credit of the city good and kept the government solvent. It has consistently retired its obligations and at the present time has only \$52,000 bonded indebtedness and has never had any warrant debts.

The largest single user is the Smith Wood-Products plant which is supplied by water from an eight-inch pipe extending from the edge of the city to the plant.

Should the city ever require more water than it now has with the new dam, it may be that it will have to be pumped over the hill from the North Fork of the Coquille river and stored in the reservoir at Rink creek.

### Safety Sonnet

While double-parking of automobiles is sometimes resorted to as a time-saving expedient, the resulting confusion and slowing up of traffic make it doubtful whether any time is actually saved in the long run, in the opinion of Secretary of State Earl Snell.

One car which is double-parked in a narrow street for five minutes may cause inconvenience and delay to several dozen drivers, since it completely shuts off the use of the lane nearest the parking lane. If there is no one in the car, it may also block two or three other cars whose drivers wish to leave the curb.

Double-parking is dangerous not only because it sometimes forces drivers to use the wrong side of the street, if they wish to pass the double-parked car, but also because it has a psychologically upsetting effect on approaching drivers. Snell pointed out. The average driver becomes angry when he sees someone else grabbing a privilege which the law denies him, and in such a state of irritation is much more apt to act recklessly than under normal circumstances.

### NEW LIBRARY BOOKS ADDED TO SHELVES

Also included in the new list are the books:

"Return to Malya," a novel by Bruce Lockhart, who is also the author of "A British Agent."

"Across Spoon River," an autobiography by Edgar Lee Masters. This book should be of interest to people who would like to discover what kind of a person Mr. Masters is.

"Disputed Passage," a novel by Lloyd Douglas. Readers place it on par with "Magnificent Obsession."

"The Land is Bright," a novel by Archie Binns, telling of the greatest migration in history since the Children of Israel went to the Promised Land—the journey to the new Pacific coast territory in the 1850's over the Oregon Trail.

"Song of Years," a novel by Bess Streeter Aldrich, telling of the events occurring between the years of 1854 and 1885, of the emergencies which the sturdy pioneers faced and conquered in the turbulent days of the Civil War, of the stirring times when the tiny prairie communities were moulding themselves into a great state. Mrs. Aldrich is also the author of "A Lantern in Her Hand," and others.

The library is the owner of a 1937 edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, covering an enormous list of subjects, and which is annexed yearly with a year book until the next issue. It contains material on such subjects as the New Deal, its supporters, its foes, and on all other current events to date.

The library is very fortunate in having the services of Marjorie Marney, who is working under the WPA as book mender. To date she has repaired approximately 200 books, and through her aid all books will be put in good condition, and many will be salvaged that otherwise would have to be discarded.

At present the library facilities are

### Oregon Leader In Gasoline Tax

The tax on gasoline, first tried by Oregon, has yielded more than \$7,000,000,000 throughout the nation at the close of its 20th year, February 25th, according to the Oregon State Motor association.

In February, 1919, the Oregon state legislature, hard pressed for highway funds, adopted a bill placing a one-cent tax on every gallon of gasoline sold in the state. Within ten years every state in the Union had adopted similar legislation, and today the yield amounts to more than 25 per cent of the total tax income of all states.

The first Oregon statute was drafted by W. B. Dennis, of Carlton, and Loyal M. Graham, of Forest Grove. Among other sponsors were C. C. Chapman, of Portland, and James S. Stewart, of Fossil. It created little attention then, but today it is one of the most important sources of revenue.

The federal government tapped the gas pumps in 1932, and now it gets about \$200,000,000 each year. Oregon's tax, now five cents, has provided about \$84,087,000 in its 20 years of existence. Last year its income from gasoline sales amounted to \$11,298,218.

### CURRY COUNTY WOULD CLEAN UP THE ROGUE

The Rogue river mining mud suit is due for a sudden and vigorous revival about the day after the legislature adjourns if legislation to protect the recreational assets of the stream is not passed, it was announced by County Judge Boice this week.

Judge Boice returned from Salem Sunday night following a conference held there with representatives of the miners. He reported that the conference failed to get very far and that it appeared that the miners were in force to prevent any legislation that would conform to the understanding reached when the previous mud suit was withdrawn. Since the legislative session had already run past the regular time allowed and no agreement had been reached, he believed it to be unlikely that laws satisfactory to Curry county would be passed.

What Curry county wanted was only that the river be kept as clean all the way down as it is at Grants Pass.—Curry County Reporter.

being used to capacity; more books are being loaned than in years past. For 1938, 4,936 more books were loaned than in 1937. In January, 1939, 2,655 volumes were loaned.

The magazine circulation is very large, 412 being loaned in January alone. The library appreciates donations in the form of magazines as wear and tear on them is much more than on books. The state library also supplies a large number of books.

### Riverton School

#### Basketball

Seven boys—Miles Hartwell, Max Mullen, James Staten, Theron Miller, Keith Young, James Childers, and Winston Gibson—and Mr. Robinson returned from Ashland basketball tournament Saturday afternoon. Thirty-seven teams participated there in what was the largest basketball tournament ever held in the West. Two of the seven boys played their last high school game at Ashland when Riverton played its final game with the Langlois boys. Max Mullen and Miles Hartwell, who were the outstanding men on the Riverton squad, will be graduated this spring, leaving places that will be very hard to fill in next year's line-up. All other men on the team were freshmen and sophomores. There were no juniors on this year's squad. The underclassmen who played most of the time this year were James Staten, Tom Minor and Keith Young.

Cook county schools which took part in the tournament were Cook River (played as runner-up for the championship), Powers, and Riverton. Bandon and Arago (the latter was last year's president's cup winner) did not play in the tournament this year.

#### Riverton vs. Bridge

The Riverton grade school basketball and volleyball teams will play the teams from Bridge in the Riverton gym tomorrow night, March 10. This will be Riverton's first chance to see the grade volleyball team in action.

#### Honor Roll

The following students had grades sufficiently high (none below a "2") to be listed on the Honor Roll for the first six weeks of the second semester: Pauline Westley, Glenys Gilbert, Hazel Heffley, Muriel Herman, Doris Morgan, Mabel Westley, Orville Young, Keith Young, Alice Church, Margarette Carlson, and Erwin Flaep.

#### Perfect Attendance

The following students have not been tardy nor absent during the last six weeks period: Lucille Danielson, Carolyn Fetch, Clifton Guerin, Orville Young, Helen Haga, Geraldine Guerin, Margie Rogers, Tom Minor, Keith Young, Alice Church and Margarette Carlson.

#### Class Tournament

As a grand finale to the dying basketball season, the boys are organizing class teams to play off the supremacy of the classes in basketball.

#### School Boards Meet

The Riverton high school and grade school boards held their regular monthly meeting in Mr. Robinson's office Tuesday, March 7. Refreshments were served to the boards by Miss Nye's home economics class.

#### "Skin Deep"

Mr. Robinson has just finished reading the most interesting sections of "100,000,000 Guinea Pigs" to his orientation class and has now started "Skin Deep," which not only exposes

harmful drugs and cosmetics but also suggests brands that have been shown pure by chemical analysis.

#### Readers Digest

Miss Nye's English II class has been enjoying regular class work in the "Readers Digest," a magazine that summarizes the best articles from other American magazines.

#### Humorous Prose

The English IV class has been lately studying the writings of some of the most famous humorists.

#### Home Economics

The home economics class is making new clothing out of old. They are remodeling old garments into the modern styles.

#### Typing Class

Miss Gilman reports that Margarette Carlson has made the most satisfactory rate in typing recently, with a speed of 34 words per minute. The rates are computed on "International Rules," which subtract ten gross words as a penalty for each mistake.

### 40 NEW LOCOMOTIVES FOR SOUTHERN PACIFIC CO.

The Southern Pacific Company has just placed orders for 40 new locomotives, at a cost of approximately \$7,250,000. All are for use in freight and passenger service on the company's Pacific Lines, at was stated.

The purchase is part of Southern Pacific's improvement program for 1939. Recently, the company ordered 40,000 gross tons of steel rail and 12,400 gross tons of rail fastenings, at a total cost of approximately \$2,500,000.

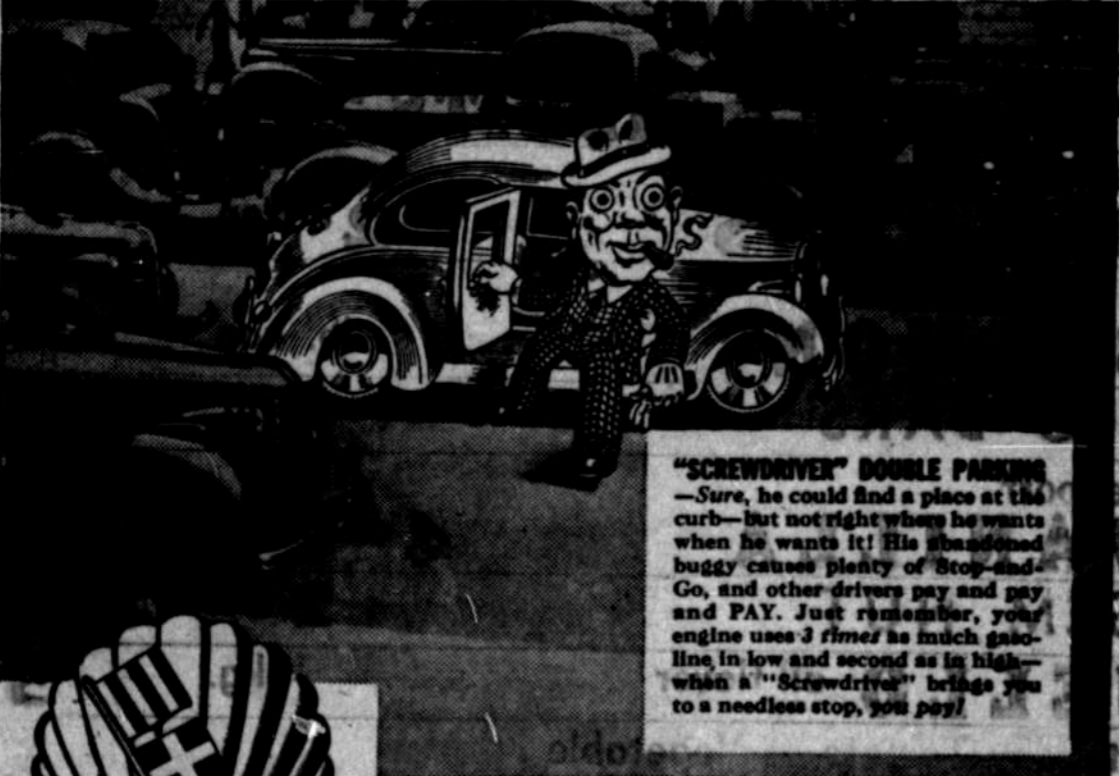
Follow the "Spirit of Carnival" dancer in "The Bandwagon," Mar. 9.

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## THE RECORD... Facts That Concern You

### BEER TAXES HELP SUPPORT THEM!



THE STATE OF OREGON COLLECTED \$623,483.67 IN BEER REVENUE FOR 1938 (SOURCE OF DATA: LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION)

THROUGH FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES, A SHARE OF THE NATION'S HUGE \$400 MILLION YEARLY BEER REVENUE COMES BACK TO BENEFIT THIS COMMUNITY



PUBLIC EDUCATION

BEER'S nation-wide taxes of a million dollars a day make it possible for the government to provide many things that would otherwise increase everybody's taxes. In preserving this revenue for the nation, the brewers recognize that the retailing of beer must give no offense to anyone. It is not, of course, the brewers' responsibility



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