

YESTERYEAR

Deschutes County to install computers in 1971

Compiled by the Deschutes County Historical Society from the archived copies of *The Bulletin at the Deschutes Historical Museum*

100 YEARS AGO

For the week ending
April 24, 1921

Recorder gets petition for city election

For the second time this month, T.H. Foley, manager of the Bend Water, Light & Power Co., today submitted to City Recorder Ross Farnham for filing, a referendum petition asking for an election at which the people of Bend may have the opportunity of passing on the water works franchise recently presented to Mayor E.D. Gilson by the city council. The first petition, submitted to the recorder on April 4 was later rejected because a date for the election was specified, Mr. Farnham contending that this was a point which should be left entirely in the council's hands, according to the law.

As a result, the signed request for an election which was turned in today names no date. Although the time for circulating was short, it contains practically the same number of signatures as the first petition, in the neighborhood of 600, or four times as many as are required to issue a referendum being taken.

"In filing this petition, I feel that I have done my duty as a taxpayer in giving the people the chance that the council had refused them, of protecting their interests," Mr. Foley said after submitting the second referendum petition to Recorder Farnham.

"Now that it is filed I shall take no further interest in it. I shall leave to the people to decide whether it is the duty of a mayor to protect their interests or to further some petty scheme of his own at their expense — whether it is the duty of the council to protect their interests or assist the mayor in a questionable deal."

Needles call leaves firemen without thrill

Members of the fire department feel a little thrill of pride when they are called upon to perform all sorts of difficult services for the civic good, but sometimes

After observing the eclipse of last night until about midnight, the house crew of the department turned out the lights and were sleeping soundly when, about 2 o'clock: Z-z-zing! One long ring! Lights on, feet thrust into turnout boots, down the brass pole, and then —

"No fire," coolly said the engineer. "The automatic fire bell down at Brooks-Scanlon has been ringing for an hour and somebody wants us to stop it."

The firemen returned the sheets, secure in the knowledge that one of the three watchmen at the mill plant would eventually wake up and stop the bell, which was disturbing the slumber of all in the south part of town.

\$500 dog case comes to end

With the dissenting opinion, the state Supreme Court has sustained in full the findings of the circuit court in the famous Deschutes county dog case, heard here at the November term in 1919. R.E. Eaton, of La Pine, owner of the dog, which was beaten to death by Jerry Murphy and

Roy Lake, sheepherders, was awarded \$500 damages and approximately \$200 cost by the trial jury.

W.P. Myers represented Eaton, and R.S. Hamilton and E.O. Stadter were attorneys for Lake and Murphy. The opinion, which was received this morning by Mr. Myers, was written by Justice Johns, Justices McBride and Harris concurring and Justice Burnett dissenting. The high value set upon the dog was because of the animal's training in driving cattle. It was while cutting out a cow from a band of sheep that the dog was killed by Murphy and Lake.

The law on which the appeal of the defense was based was passed in 1860 and, according to Justice Johns, has never before been construed by the Supreme Court. It provides "if any person shall discover a dog in the act of killing, wounding, or chasing any sheep or other domestic animals," that the penalty of death may be legally visited upon the dog in question.

75 YEARS AGO

For the week ending
April 24, 1946

Dodgers to train here, owner W.D. Cox reveals

The Brooklyn Dodgers, all-American professional football conference team, will spend their July-August training period in Bend, it was announced here today by owner William D. Cox and chamber of commerce officials. Final details for the agreement were concluded last night following the arrival of Cox and team manager Burton W. Warren yesterday afternoon.

Tentative arrangements call for the arrival of approximately 60 players, coaches and trainers by July 15, but Cox said this figure may be pared down a bit before that date. Two inter squad games, to be played on the high school field the nights of Aug. 2 and 9, are scheduled, with chamber of commerce officials underwriting for the public appearance of the teams on these dates.

The Dodgers led by all-Americans Glen Dobbs, Bill Daley and Martin Ruby, open the 1946 season Aug. 16 in Portland against the Chicago Rockets, and will make the round trip from Bend by bus for that engagement. At the close of their summer training period on Aug. 20, the eastern professionals leave Bend for Spokane, where they meet the New York Yankees on Aug. 23.

Hosts make night visit to rockery

Under April stars, Bend tourist hosts joined in a field trip last night in connection with their school and visited the far-famed Petersen rock gardens, where miniature castles, tiny bridges, little lakes and extensive rookeries were viewed under colored lights. Making the trip to the gardens were tourist hosts who filled one Pacific Trailways bus to capacity. Others went in private cars.

At the gardens, north of Bend, the visitors were met by Rasmussen Petersen, operator, and from him the group learned that the present development represents 11 years of work. Each year thousands of people, from every state in America, visit the gardens.

After visiting the rookeries, and learning from their

guide, Phil F. Brogan, something of the story of the rocks represented there, the tourist hosts visited the museum, where Lee Sigfrit operates a mineral shop. As a side attraction, the visitors were shown a collection of fluorescent rocks, which glow with the impressive colors when activated by an ultra violet light.

Petersen invited the large group into his home, where coffee and doughnuts were served. The trip concluded the 1946 host school, and early in May Governor Earl Snell will come here to present diplomas.

Aurora lights trace pattern in north sky

A brief, but brilliant display of northern lights was visible in Central Oregon last night, with luminous fingers, like diverging searchlights, reaching to the zenith shortly before 9 p.m. Observers in charge of the Bend weather station said the most impressive display of the aurora lasted only a few minutes, with white rays reaching from the northern horizon to the Great Dipper. The observers added that the aurora, as viewed from Pilot Butte, gave the appearance of dawn breaking in the northern sky, directly over the Redmond city lights. The aurora glow remained visible through most of the night.

50 YEARS AGO

For the week ending
April 24, 1971

County to install computers

Deschutes County Commissioners today announced plans to put all of the county's clerical tasks on a computer within the next three years.

Commissioners said they signed an agreement yesterday with the International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) to proceed with arrangements for installation of an IBM System 3-10 computer.

The new machine will be installed in a room on the third floor of the courthouse by July 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year, if the proposal is approved in next month's budget hearing. "If the budget isn't approved the whole plan doesn't mean a darned thing," Commission Chairman W.F. "Bill" Schindler said today.

The new installation will cost the county an estimated \$16,000 for the first year. The cost will total \$24,000 by the time the entire installation is in, at the end of three years. Most of the computer machinery will be leased, according to Commissioner G.W. McCann. Some smaller components will be purchased.

According to the commissioners' proposal, the computer will be used in almost all areas of the county's recordkeeping and clerical operation. Payroll, bill-paying, budget-keeping, and treasurer's records will be the first converted to the computer, with records in the tax collection and county assessor's office converted last, sometime in 1973.

Other uses for the computer are in the clerk's and sheriff's offices.

The county now pays for computerized record-keeping in the road department, leasing computer time from a local private firm. Payroll is paid through the computers of a local bank, and other functions are also performed

by private computers.

The county computer, as proposed, will perform all of these functions, saving the county an estimated \$7,500 per year.

Commissioners said the new installation will cost no county employ his job, but some employees will have to be trained to change over the county's systems to accommodate the computer. In charge of programming and operating the computer will be Ralph Meeker, who now supervises computer usage by the road department.

For the first year's budget, the commissioners propose to ask \$6,000 from county road funds for this computer. The remaining \$10,000 will be requested from the tax-supported general fund under a new account set up especially for the computer.

Commissioners said the IBM agreement had been signed after negotiations with several computer firms, and after consideration several systems and proposals.

Headlines: Authorities take Charles Manson to San Quentin — Vietnam veterans stage D.C. — Hatfield undecided, leaves door open for possible presidential nomination — Queen Elizabeth observes 45th birthday

25 YEARS AGO

For the week ending
April 24, 1996

Buildings in parkway path up for auction

Sometime they sell for a single dollar; other times they sell for \$20,000 or more. Buildings auctioned off by the Oregon Department of Transportation sell for whatever the people interested in buying them are willing to pay. The auctioned buildings are those acquired to make room for new roads, road improvements or relocate a displaced home or business. Wednesday the state will hold another auction, this time selling buildings they've acquired to make room for the \$90 million Bend Parkway. The transportation department has already sold 24 buildings purchased to make room for the parkway, and now hope to sell seven more, said Nicki Barrett of the state's right-of-way office in Bend.

On the auction block Wednesday are buildings from three locations — Nels Anderson Road, Railroad Street and Division Street. Most of the buildings are warehouses or storage buildings. Before the buildings are auctioned, the property owners are allowed to salvage whatever they want. Once the state has a collection of

five or six buildings to sell, it holds an auction. The longer a building sits empty, the more susceptible it is to vandalism and the more attractive it is to transients, said Barrett.

"We try to always take care of a structure as quickly as we can," she said. "It's a public safety issue."

Persons who buy the buildings may do so to salvage whatever is inside, like antique claw foot bathtubs or expensive wood paneling. Or, they may want the buildings themselves, which often can be purchased at a lower price during the auctions.

But anyone thinking of making a purchase at a state auction should remember that removal or demolition costs go with the building. Once you buy it, you have to get rid of it, and generally in a timely fashion, said Barrett.

That's one of the reasons the state auctions the buildings. It saves demolition costs, and helps generate funds, too.

The money earned from the auctions are placed in the transportation department's general fund, but not earmarked for specific projects. So just because a house was on the parkway route when you bought it, it doesn't mean the money you paid is necessarily going to pay for the parkway.



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