

## Copco Files With P. U. C. For Increase In Electric Rates

The California Oregon Power Company, in applications filed with the Public Utilities Commissioner of the State of Oregon and the Public Utility Commission of the State of California, seeks increases in electric rates sufficient to enable the company to meet existing high operating costs and raise the new capital required by its large construction program started immediately following VJ Day. With more than \$30,000,000 spent during the period December 31, 1945 through October 31, 1950, this program—including projects now under way—will require the spending of an estimated additional \$33,000,000 within the period November 1, 1950 through December 31, 1953. These expenditures cover all kinds of essential equipment, including hydro-electric plants, transmission lines, substations and distribution facilities. The Company's obligation to provide adequate and dependable service to meet the growing needs of the expanding economy of its service area makes this program essential.

The Company's move was announced by A. S. Cummins, President of the Company, who said The California Oregon Power Company is squeezed between rates based on pre-war conditions and the need for supplying an ever increasing amount of service at present day inflated costs.

Mr. Cummins pointed out that while in the eleven year period 1940 to 1950, inclusive, electric revenues will have increased 112.28% operating expenses will have increased 165.64%. Coupled with already higher taxes, the wage and price spiral is again in full operation, with indications pointing to a continually rising trend for some time

to come and the promise that today's levels will not again, during the lives of most of us, nearly approach those of September 1945. He said that the operating payroll has increased about 180% and taxes 165% since 1940, and that the cost of everything we buy has risen substantially.

Operating wages paid in 1950 will account for 20.9% of the customer's dollar while taxes will take an additional 22%. Both will assuredly be greater in 1951.

Commenting upon the financial aspect of the Company's program, Mr. Cummins said that unlike government projects—which are financed by appropriations of taxpayers money—The California Oregon Power Company, a strictly regulated private enterprise, must obtain its money in the competitive market. This means that capital will be attracted only of there exists the opportunity for management to produce returns that will adequately recognize the inherent risks. If volume will not provide the needed revenue there is only one other way, namely: rate increase.

He pointed out that a considerable portion of the new money needed to produce added revenues will lag in its effect; that some of the money will not of itself produce proportionately expanded earnings, it being needed to restore normal capacities and load factors; that expenses of operation have been increasing in amount and rigidity; and that although money rates are low the investment dollar is today worth no more than fifty cents for the things required.

It is with extreme regret, Mr. Cummins continued, that the company—forced by conditions over which it has no control—must, for the first time in its history, seek relief and reverse a trend which has stood for many years. The cumulative effect of rate reductions made—the last one in early 1945—has benefited the Company's customers substantially each year in service bills. Mr. Cummins expressed his belief that the Company's customers realize the vital contribution electricity makes to living standards, industry and agriculture, and will share the Company's view that its financial condition must be such as to insure its ability to obtain all new capital necessary to provide full and adequate service.

vice throughout its widespread service area.

Mr. Cummins stated that the Company has petitioned for rate changes calculated to increase its 1951 operating revenues approximately \$1,819,000, which, after deducting the heavy Federal income taxes (45%) to which it is subject, is estimated will provide the minimum relief necessary to compensate for today's high costs and permit additional financing on a sound and economic basis.

## Locals

Girls of the 4-H Garden club are to meet at the home of Mrs. O. T. Wilson, Saturday of this week at 1:00 p.m. Instruction will be given in making winter corsages, with Mrs. Walter Sutherland, Mrs. J. C. Leonard and Mrs. O. T. Wilson as leaders.

The old lantern, kerosene lamps and candles have been much in demand and use of late. If the Central Point people wanted any light and those depending on electricity for cooking "just didn't." A cold sandwich and a glass of milk was a great treat about that time, since the lights go out generally at the dinner hour.

The H.E.C. met at the home of Mrs. Nita Birdseye on Ross Lane last Tuesday, Nov. 22nd. Assisting Mrs. Birdseye was Mrs. John Bohner.

Those attending the annual banquet of the 4-H club leaders of Jackson county were Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Lathrop, Mr. and Mrs. John Bohner and daughters, Marilyn and Doreen, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Freeman, all from Central Point.

Mrs. Bertha Bursell returned home Sunday evening from a three weeks visit with her sister, Mrs. Earl Beal, of Roseburg, and her two sisters, Mrs. Bruce Powell and Mrs. Gilspie, of Eugene, also a brother Roy Corum of Eugene.

A letter was received by Mrs. A. W. Ayres from her daughter, Mrs. William Grimes stating that they had arrived in San Diego safely, and were nicely settled.

Mrs. Adena Benson, of Midway Road has sold her place to California people and will move in with her daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Cleo Young, of Willow Springs district.

Cars driven by Charles Roy Dunn, Route 1, box 585, Central Point, and Roy McThyas Clark, Jr., Old Stage road, Jacksonville, collided at 12th and Riverside, Medford, about 9:15 p.m. Friday. The front end of Clark's car was badly damaged, and the right side of the Dunn Sedan was smashed.

Don't forget the high school play to be put on by the Central Point High students "Nothing But the Truth" Friday, Dec. 8th at 8:15 p.m. Reserved seat tickets on sale at Setness Variety store. General admission will be sold at the door.

Mr. Andrew Glenn has been on sick list, but is able to be up and around.

The Ladies of the Berean Bible class will hold their Christmas Class party Thursday, Dec. 14 at the home of Mrs. Oscar Minnick, 131 Alder Street, Central Point.



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Mr. William Myers, of Grand Island, Nebraska, is visiting at the home of his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Lacy. He is planning an indefinite stay. The brother and sister had not seen each other for 30 years.

Mrs. Henry Kilburn who returned recently from Portland, where she had accompanied her husband to a V.A. hospital, has been confined to her bed for the past week, but is able to be up at this writing.

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