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HIGHER POWER, LIGHT RATES FOR HEPPNER

Public Service Commission of Oregon Grants Local Company Privilege to Increase Charges to Meet Increased Operating Costs

Acting under authority of the Public Service Commission of Oregon, the Heppner Light & Power company inaugurated on February first, an advance in their power and light rates in Heppner and its environs.

Application was first made to the commission for permission to make this increase on April 12, 1918—but included in the application was a request to raise the local water rates. Under an opinion given by the attorney general the commission refused the application upon the grounds that the commission had no authority owing to the interest owned in the water system by the municipality Heppner.

According to data submitted to the commission the company has been operating at a loss of nearly \$3000 per year, not including an interest upon the investment.

In the light of facts submitted the commission believes that the rates charged were inadequate and the following schedule has been ordered in effect:

Monthly Meter Rate^s
Residence Lighting
First 7 KWH or less\$1.40
Next 13 KWH, per KWH20
Next 20 KWH, per KWH15
All over 40 KWH, per KWH10
To include small domestic heating and power devices.

Commercial Lighting
First 7 KWH or less,\$1.40
Next 23 KWH, per KWH20
Next 30 KWH, per KWH15
All over 60 KWH, per KWH10
To include fans and other single phase motor driven apparatus under 1 H. P., connected to the lighting circuit.

Power
First 30 hours per KW10
Next 30 hours per KW08
All over 60 hours per KW,06

Monthly Flat Rates
Residence Lighting
First 50 watts or less\$1.25
Next 50 watts, per watt02
Next 100 watts per watt15

Commercial Lighting
First 50 watts, \$1.25
Next 150 watts, per watt02
Next 200 watts, per watt,15

Municipal Lighting
Until Midnight
40 Watt Lamps\$1.25
60 Watt Lamps 1.80
100 Watt Lamps 2.70
200 Watt Lamps 4.00

Municipal Lighting
All Night
40 Watt Lamps\$1.50
60 Watt Lamps 2.15
100 Watt Lamps 3.25
200 Watt Lamps 4.75

Other rates, going fully into detail as to power charges are given in the report of the commission but are not reproduced here as a matter of economy of space. Some rather interesting findings of the commission also appear in the order—a few of which are noted below:

Comparison of revenues and expenses indicated that this electric system under present conditions falls short some \$1922 of meeting actual operating expenses aside from any provision of return on the investment. Contributing chiefly to this unfortunate situation are necessary raises in wages and the heavy increase in cost of fuel, which must be brought from distant points.

Testimony was introduced to show that an abnormal interest rate had been charged to this utility for money loaned to it individually by its owners. This interest is not an operating expense under our uniform classification of accounts, and is in no way reflected in the rates hereinafter ordered. The operating income should provide a fair return only upon a fair value of the property, regardless of the method of financing the utility, over which the commission has no jurisdiction.

The commission believes that a light over-development of the electric system in Heppner has resulted in fixed charges and operating costs somewhat beyond the ability of the community to adequately defray. But to criticize the past zeal or judgment of the management of the com-

THE BOYS COME MARCHING HOME

Paul Gemmill, who still looks about as much of a "kid" as when he enlisted in the navy, April 20, 1917, returned Sunday after having received an honorable discharge which shows good ratings. After serving his time training at Mare Island Paul was sent aboard the battleship, Nevada, and there he remained throughout the war. He was fortunate, however, in being in the harbor at Brest when the George Washington reached the other side and was in the convoy which escorted the president's ship into the harbor. Ter super-dreadnaughts and thirty destroyers, Paul says, went out to meet the president and the spectacle was one he will never forget.

Paul is disposed to minimize the part the big battleships took in the war and says all the credit due the navy should be handed to the boys who manned the destroyers and light cruisers. "Oh, boy," says Paul, "they were the boys who earned their salaries, had fun and got the subs."

Fred Teague, another well known and popular Heppner boy, who went to Camp Lewis last summer, also returned Sunday evening. His regiment also were expecting to start for France within a day or two when the end came and, under the circumstances, is mighty glad to be back in Heppner. Fred has sense enough to be glad the war is over and enough to regret that he didn't get over to France and into the fighting and good judgment enough to be pleased that he will spend the next year or so in Morrow county rather than with the army of occupation in Germany. He will resume his old place on the Robinson wheat farm in the Eightmile country.

Marshall Phelps blew in Saturday for a visit with the home folks after spending six months in France with the aviation corps. Marshall came home from Alaska to enlist in the marine corps and you'll get no argument from him if you tell him the "treat 'em rough" boys comprise the flower of the service. Marshall had a lot of experience in the air at the Florida camp and made a high score as an aerial machine runner. The same busted, however, before he got an opportunity to cross the German lines and get his Fritz.

Herbert Walbridge returned from Camp Lewis where he has been in training since last summer. Herbert says if the scrap had lasted only a few days longer he and his comrades would at least have "been on their way" as they were expecting orders to start east any day when the armistice was signed.

Lieutenant J. C. Osten returned last week to Heppner—having been discharged from the United States Army. He came direct from Camp Hancock, Ga. After a visit of several weeks with friends and relatives here Lieutenant Osten expects to go to San Francisco to locate.

FOR SALE
Good 7-room house and 7 good lots in north Heppner, south of the depot. Enquire of Herbert Walbridge, Heppner, Oregon. 49-48

Herald only \$2.00 a year.

pany or of the requirements of the municipality in this respect will not tend to alleviate the present urgent need for relief which the utility faces.

The commission finds that the municipal lighting rates in Heppner are proportionately lower than those in force in other localities in the state where like conditions prevail, and show a loss under existing conditions. In view of their direct influence on the operations of this utility these rates should be revised to bear their just proportion of production, operating and maintenance costs, and they have been considered along with the other phases of the case under investigation.

In this connection, owing to their not having been brought before the commission in this case, the municipal lighting rates existing in Lexington cannot be reviewed in these determinations. The commission is of the opinion however, that it is manifestly unfair to the utility for municipal lighting rates to prevail in Lexington which are lower than those found fair to be applied in Heppner, with the same level of rates for general service.

COUNTY COURT HOLDS IMPORTANT SESSION

Allows Claims, Buys Real Estate, Appoint Road Master, Fair Director, Telephone Franchise Granted

An adjourned meeting of the county court was held Wednesday and Thursday of last week at which a considerable amount of business of importance was transacted.

W. T. Campbell, county judge, E. L. Padberg and G. A. Bleakman, commissioners, J. A. Waters, clerk and E. M. Shutt, sheriff, were present.

After auditing and allowing bills against the general fund the application of Jeff Jones and O. M. Whittington for a franchise to erect a telephone line from the J. C. Kirk ranch, on Rhea creek to Heppner, was considered and allowed.

Sheriff E. M. Shutt's appointment of George McDuffee as a deputy in the sheriff's office was approved.

F. R. Brown was appointed a member of the Morrow County Fair Board for a term of three years to succeed Jack Hynd who resigned. Appointment of the third member of the board has not yet been announced although it is understood the court has made the selection if the man chosen will accept the appointment.

A parcel of land adjoining the fair grounds was purchased from the McHaley estate the consideration being \$640.00.

Another small parcel of land also adjoining the fair property was purchased from the Penland estate, the consideration being \$15.00.

A portion of this property has been in use by the fair association several years and the purchase was made to afford more room for the fair and also to provide ground upon which permanent quarters for the county road machinery may be erected.

The final, but not least important action of the court was the appointment of W. L. McCaleb, as county road master for the ensuing year. Mr. McCaleb is at present a resident of Arlington. He is highly recommended to the court as a practical road builder and has served Gilliam county in a similar capacity in the past. His salary was fixed at \$200 per month.

RETURNS FROM CAMP FREMONT

Private Gus Williamson has returned to Heppner after doing his bit for Uncle Sam at Camp Fremont, California. Private Williamson was a member of the United States guard—an auxiliary branch of the army to which were assigned men who were considered unfit for duty overseas. Men of this branch were as thoroughly drilled and as efficient fighting men as any sent to France but some minor physical defect kept them out of the big game. Men who during the year previous had contracted pneumonia were usually put in this service. Mr. Williamson was assigned to this particular duty by reason of flat feet. Though not a native of Heppner, Mr. Williamson has been employed in this section for a number of years and says the more he sees of California the better he likes Heppner.

Excavation of the basement formerly intended for the new Gilliam & Bisbee building, but now the probable location of Heppner's new \$50,000 hotel, is rapidly reaching the required depth and will soon be completed.

The Tun-A-Lum Lumber company placed a crew of men at work Thursday tearing away and remodeling the old livery barn, opposite the fair grounds pavilion, for their new headquarters in this city. The work is progressing rapidly and the old corner will soon present a decidedly different appearance.

RECENT DEATHS

SCOTT
Henry C. Scott, a farmer living in the Hermiston district, died Thursday, January 30th, of pneumonia, following an attack of influenza. Deceased was a native of Missouri and was 33 years of age. He was a son of Thomas M. Scott, a former resident of the Lexington district, but now living at Salem. Three sisters, Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Copenhaver and Mrs. ———, living in this city survive him. Funeral services were held at the Masonic cemetery in Heppner Saturday afternoon.

BENTLEY
Mrs. Irene Bentley, of Portland, died last week from complications arising from an attack of influenza. She was 33 years of age and a native of Virginia. Mrs. Bentley was a sister of W. J. Beamer, of this city, and formerly a resident here. About six years ago she moved to Portland, where she has since resided. She is survived by her husband and one small child. Funeral arrangements are indefinite owing to conditions in Portland. Claud Cox, of the Heppner creamery, is a cousin of Mrs. Bentley.

SCHOOL RE-OPENS

School reopened Monday with a good attendance. The school has gone back to the old time of meeting at nine o'clock. Arrangements are being made so that all pupils who have kept up their work during vacation can complete their course this year or next.

ANOTHER HOTEL CO. BEING ORGANIZED

J. W. Beymer, John Vaughn, W. G. McCarty and Jeff Jones Incorporators—Location at Main and Center Streets

According to information given the Herald yesterday by J. W. Beymer, who will head the new concern another first class hotel is assured for Heppner. Articles of incorporation for the new company are now being prepared and will be filed with the Secretary of State at Salem within a few days.

The incorporators of the new company are J. W. Beymer, John Vaughn, W. G. McCarty and Jeff Jones. The capital stock will be fixed at about \$60,000. Something more than one-half of this amount has already been subscribed by 47 different capitalists, business men and stockholders of the town and county.

A deal was closed Saturday with the A. M. Slocum estate for the property now occupied by the Fountain of Sweets and the Morrow County Creamery at the corner of Main and Center streets and also with Arthur Smith for the property now occupied by Haylor the Jeweler. This gives a frontage of 70 feet on Main street and a depth of 132 feet on Center street.

"We have bought the property, are organizing the company and will build a hotel," was the statement made by Mr. Beymer to the Herald reporter.

While complete plans have not been fully matured the present intention is to erect a strictly modern three-story building of pressed brick and concrete covering the lot. The plans provide for 55 sleeping rooms. It is the intention to make the hotel modern and strictly up-to-date in every particular. Work will start on the new structure just as soon as the present tenants can secure other quarters. Mr. Beymer stated or about March first, and arrangements will be made to take care of the present renters so that no one will be forced out of business by the change.

The final deals in the transaction were made through the agency of Roy V. Whiteis. Mr. Whiteis went to Portland to close for the Slocum property and closed with Mr. Smith after his return.

SO THE PESSIMIST MAY KNOW

The new D. C. Gillman building is well under way. Carpenters have the forms for the first floor practically completed and pouring concrete will soon commence. It is the forerunner of an era of building in Heppner.

The concrete work on the new Caza building is now practically completed and carpenters are busy with the rough wood work.

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HEPPNER HOTEL COMPANY WILL BUILD

No change to the plans of the Heppner Hotel company will be made because of the announcement that a new company is being organized and has already bought property and will build a hotel according to a statement made to the Herald this morning by Frank Gilliam who is one of the incorporators of the Heppner Hotel company. Mr. Gilliam says his company's plans are made and a large amount of the stock has been subscribed and that the work will be rushed to completion.

AT THE STAR

After being closed many weeks on account of health conditions the Star theatre will reopen tomorrow evening with one of the greatest bills ever brought to Heppner, "The Love of the Circus." This is a serial number but every show is complete in itself. It will grip YOU, old fellow, or old lady just like the real circus used to grip you when a kid. Bring the children. It's for everyone from 8 to 60.

Worth several times the price of admission is the music rendered by the big, new Fotoplayer Pipe Organ which Manager Sparks has just installed in the Star and which will be heard for the first time tomorrow evening. This instrument is by especially for moving picture houses. It cost the Star management \$4,500. Better buy your ticket early tomorrow evening or you may not get a seat.

CITY SOLONS MEET

The city dads met in regular session Monday evening and after the transaction of routine business dropped into the well-worn channel of discussion of the water question. H. V. Gates was present and for a couple of hours the meeting was entertained by a rapid fire debate between that gentleman and Mayor Vaughan. Mr. Gates argued that the council should take action, get busy—"for God's sake do something," he urged. He also urged the first thing the council should do is to employ a competent hydraulic engineer to go over the whole project and advise them. Mayor Vaughan argued that the council could do nothing on Mr. Gates' proposal of a partnership between himself and the city in securing water and developing power at the head of Willow creek because the people will not stand for it. Gates replied by continuing to urge that they employ an engineer and do something. After cussing and discussing the matter for another hour the mayor stated that the city has already sent for an engineer. The meeting then adjourned. After the meeting the mayor declined to make any statement for publication regarding the engineer but the Herald learns from other sources that negotiations are under way with a prominent hydraulic engineer of Salt Lake.

FOUGHT WITH THE CANADIANS; CAME BACK

Jack Dundass, well known Morrow county boy, who enlisted in the United States Army early last year returned to Heppner Tuesday evening from France.

Dundass after enlisting, wanted to go right over and get into the fuss and soon tired of training camp delay. By some stroke of good fortune he got permission to be transferred to the Canadian Army and was assigned to a regiment that was on the eve of departure. He landed in France last July and had pretty plenty of time to get acquainted with the big thing before the armistice was signed. He brought back his full complement of fighting togs but says they will not be put on exhibition.

Jack is a cousin of John Kilkenny of Hinton creek. He was born and reared in New York City and he admits that Heppner looks pretty good to him, thank you.

COUNTY ROAD MASTER REPORTS POSITION

Discussing the appointment of W. L. McCaleb as county road master for the coming year with a representative of the Herald, County Judge Campbell stated that the closest investigation of Mr. McCaleb's qualifications and past record as a road builder has been made and from all information obtainable the appointment seems to be the right man for the position.

Mr. McCaleb makes no grand stand play in setting forth his fitness for the job. He simply points to his past record and the road work done in Gilliam county a few years ago under his supervision. While making no high-sounding claims as an "expert" he convinced the court that he knows the road-making game as a practical man should. He modestly professes to be able to make reliable estimates on the cost of a given piece of work for the information and guidance of the court and then to be able to go ahead and carry out the construction at a cost that will at least approximate his estimate.

In addition to his ability as an estimator, constructor and general supervisor of road work, Mr. McCaleb was able to convince the court that he possesses a practical and thorough knowledge of machinery including both gas and steam engines and he proposes to spend his time during the winter months, when active work on the roads is halted by bad weather, overhauling and repairing the county road equipment. This item alone will mean a big saving to the county not alone in the cost of repairs but in having everything in first-class working condition when the road building season opens.

BUSINESS MEN'S MEETING

There will be a meeting of the business men of Heppner at the I. O. O. F. hall next Friday evening, February 7th, at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of re-organizing the Heppner Commercial Club. Election of officers, and membership in the Oregon Chamber of Commerce, and the John Day Irrigation project are some of the subjects to come under consideration. This meeting is of great importance and your presence is needed.

C. L. SWEET, President
W. W. SWEAD, Secretary

All the old time sensations of the real circus at the Star tomorrow night.

FOSSIL BOY SURVIVOR FAMOUS LOST BATTALION

Woodson Scoggin Tells Interesting Story of Terrible Ordeal. 1200 Men Enter Trap—Less Than 250 Return

Private Woodson Scoggin, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Scoggin, of Fossil, is one of the few survivors of the fabled "Lost Battalion" of Argonne Forest fame. He recently returned from France and was in Portland last week on his way to Camp Lewis to be mustered out of the service.

To an Oregonian reporter Private Scoggin told a thrilling story of the terrible experience.

He tells of men crazed by six days without food or water who wallowed in the slimy green water that accumulated in shell holes that they might not die of thirst.

Once more he sees aeroplanes trying to toss packages of food to the beleaguered battalion. He describes the men watching the food packages hurtling from the sky—only to fall inside the German lines. And with the horror of it all still marked on him, he pictures the plucky aviators who tried to fly low and make sure of their precious food reaching the starving ones, only to be picked off by the machine gunners in the German lines.

But 300 yards ahead but 800 yards behind, and occupying both flanks, were the Germans.

They hurled ribald threats to surrender at Colonel Whittlesey and his gallant band.

The Huns even found a wounded man. Carefully they bandaged his wounds. "There are your damned Yankees," they said. "Go tell them to surrender."

Painfully the wounded man climbed to the American lines. With many a groan he pulled himself from tree to tree.

"I want Colonel Whittlesey," he yelled.

Thinking that a runner had reached their lines, the men showed themselves. Volleys were fired at the exposed men. The messenger gave the message to Colonel Whittlesey.

"Surrender? Surrender? Hell!" yelled the Colonel, as a lull came in the hail of lead. And five minutes later the messenger was struck by another bullet and died.

There were other Oregon men in the battalion, he knows, but he cannot now remember their names.

"There were 1200 of us when we went in and less than 250 when we came out," he said.

"We were ordered to take the summit of a certain hill as an objective. We never reached the summit. Our support failed. That first night we could have retreated. Someone suggested it to the colonel."

"No," he said, "orders are orders!"

"And we stayed. Four hundred yards to our rear was the road and the spring. Man after man from different companies went there to get water. Man after man died. My pal and I went. We had a wonderful drink. He showed himself. Then he 'went west.' I tried to crawl back over the road. Machine gun bullets cut the stick in two on which I was carrying the canteens."

"I crawled safely back to our lines—but without water."

"In my company there were just 19 men left, when finally a captain from the 307th Infantry led a relieving force as the Germans, flanked, began to retire. A few minutes later, the kitchen came up. Two hundred and fifty men who for six days and six nights had had just one meal, some of them crazed, one of them whose hair had turned white, fell on the food like wolves."

"We went back. We had two days' rest. Once more we went into the lines."

"When the battalion got back to New York—it was the second battalion of the 308th Infantry, there were not more than four or five men in it who were with it when it was 'lost' in the Argonne Forest."

It was each man for himself on the front three-quarters of a mile long. Orders were not given, as exposure meant death.

The New York papers told how Colonel Whittlesey hung his mirror on a brush and shaved every morning.

"Maybe he did," said Private Scoggin. "Maybe he did; but he never hung no mirror on no brush, I'll gamble."

Those who read Colonel Whittlesey's own story of the experience will recall that he said nothing about shaving either with or without a mirror. He no doubt had plenty of other things to think about that week besides the length of his whiskers.

J. H. Cox, carpenter and contractor, who has been working at the Wigloworth ranch on Butter creek, received a badly crushed finger Saturday while engaged in moving a building.

PARKER & BANFIELD

COLUMBIA BUILDING, PORTLAND
Designing, Engineering, Constructing. Ten years experience in reinforced concrete and brick construction.

ROY V. WHITEIS, Local Representative