

'Small' agencies join for big power voice

The Small Preference Agencies Group organization which was formed last fall, has grown to a membership of 66 publicly owned systems, Dave Harrison, manager of the Columbia Basin Electric Co-op, reports.

The small agencies, generally classed as those under 25 MW average load, became concerned last fall about the regional discussions on forming a regional power supply entity.

In the past, the small public systems: small cooperatives, small municipals, small PUDs and small mutuals, had not generally participated in—or had not been active in—revisions and major discussion involving regional power supply. Many of the small utilities were concerned about a voice in regional discussions.

As a result, a new organization came into being with the SPA or Small Preference Agencies Group.

Dave Harrison, manager of Columbia Basin Electric Co-op, Heppner, was the organizer and became the Secretary-Treasurer of the organization. The President

elect was Larry Burbank, city Superintendent of the City of Heyburn, Ida. Ed Schlander, manager of Elmhurst Mutual Power and Light Company, was named the representative to serve on the "negotiating team" representing the public agencies in regional discussions.

David Hittle, Hittle and Brown, Kennewick Wash., has served as consultant for the group.

The SPA was instrumental in the development of a "pool" concept to meld resource use among the public agencies.

The final "rate concept" of the regional plan now being considered for legislation concerns: an A cost level, a B cost level, and a C cost level, for future wholesale rate cost structure is greatly influenced by the SPA policy position and input to the regional discussions. Under the plan being considered for legislation, the preference power A pool includes hydro plus participation in the WPPSS plants 1, 2, and 3. The "B" power cost would include thermal and hydro and the "C" power cost is related to new thermal only.

Lexington news

• Delpha Jones • 989-8189

Lexington club taps new slate of officers

Lexington TOPS Club, Oregon Chapter 484, met on Monday for the regular meeting and installing of newly elected officers, by the installing officer, Charlene Papineau. Installed for 1977 were Leader, Barbara Paullus; Co-leader, Mary Roberts; Secretary, Jennifer Breden; Treasurer, Debbie Pettie; weight recorder, Florence Green, Lois Woods also.

Awards for Queen of the Month went to Charlene Papineau and Queen of the Quarter, Jennifer Breden. This group meets every Monday at 2 p.m. at the Lexington School. They welcome new members and especially any former TOPS members desiring to reunite with the group.

Mrs. Joe Balfe has been visiting these past few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Palmer, and attended the Ropp-Majeske wedding held Saturday. She left on Tuesday for her home in Alaska.

Alice Majeske (Mrs. Gene) spent a couple of days as a patient in Pioneer Memorial Hospital, returning home Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Marquardt and family recently enjoyed a trip to California and way points, visiting Disneyland and historical spots.

Aaron Klinger was a recent caller at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Klinger.

Charma Marquardt, who is attending school in Portland, and Norita Marquardt, who is employed for the police department in Portland, were

recent visitors with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill B. Marquardt.

Alma Vinson was released Monday from Pioneer Memorial Hospital, where she had been a patient for some time.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Rauch returned home on Tuesday from Ohio, where they took delivery on two school buses for the district, driving them home.

Dates to Remember:
Traveling Food Sale, Saturday, sponsored by Holly Rebekah Lodge.

Holly Rebekah Lodge, Thursday, April 7 and 21.
3 Links Club, April 14, Ruth Robinson home.

Visitation Night, Willows Grange, April 16.

Lexington Grange brings desserts, potluck dinner.

TOPS, Mondays, 2 p.m., Lexington School.

Lexington Grange, April 18, 5 p.m.

Pat Wright, lecturer of Lexington Grange 726, is announcing plans for the April meeting as follows. Slides and a talk on the Wildflowers of the Blue Mountains; their uses and dangers, by Jerry Strickler, plant ecologist employed by the U.S. Forest Service in LaGrande. The meeting will start promptly at 5 p.m. and will last an hour, with a thirty minute question period. There will be special music and a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m., to which all are cordially invited.

Mrs. Wright invites the public to take advantage of this program, enjoy the fellowship with the Grange members, and join in the dinner.

Board, budget vote April 19

Four candidates, three of them from the Pendleton area, will be vying for the lone position up for election on the Blue Mountain Community College Board of Education April 19.

The three Pendleton area

Irrigon airman on duty post

Airman David A. Conboy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie L. Conboy of Rt. 2, Irrigon, Ore., has been assigned to Robins AFB, Ga., for training and duty in the U.S. Air Force communications field.

The airman, who recently completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas, studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special instruction in human relations.

Airman Conboy is a 1976 graduate of Lakes High School in Tacoma, Wash.

candidates are challenging incumbent Harmon Springer, Hermiston.

Names of challengers on the ballot are Bill Grable, Richard L. Schulberg and Barbara Ann Browning Wright.

Also on the ballot April 19 will be the college's operating budget for the 1977-78 school year. The budget to be voted on is \$3,318,707, an increase of 7.77 per cent over the current figure of \$3,079,381.

A graduate of Oregon State University, Grable lives in the Gibbon area, where he farms and raises goats. In addition to Oregon State, he has attended BMCC and Eastern Oregon State College. He is 32 years old.

Schulberg, 27, has a master's degree from Yale and is currently Pendleton's Assistant Planner. A Fulbright Fellow, he is a graduate of Pendleton High School and is working on a Ph. D. from Columbia University, New York.

Springer has served on the college board since 1970, was chairman of the board last year, and is manager of Radio

Station KOHU in Hermiston. He has been active in community affairs, and is now president of Hermiston Rotary club.

Ms. Wright, a 26-year-old graduate of Pendleton High School, studied Communications at Linfield College for three years and attended Blue Mountain Community College for two years.

BOARDMAN—Union Pacific Railroad announced that signal crews will start Monday, April 11, installing automatic signals and gates at the Paterson Ferry Road crossing near Boardman. Work is expected to be done by May 1.

Proposed budget \$3.3 million

Voters will be asked to approve an increase of 7.77 per cent in the Blue Mountain Community College operating budget when they go to the polls April 19.

The new budget figure for

the 1977-78 school year is \$3,318,707, up from the current budget figure of \$3,079,381. The tax load is spread over the two-county district of Morrow and Umatilla counties.

If approved by the voters, the new operating levy would be about \$1.79 per \$1,000 true cash value, an increase of 26 cents over this year's. The bond redemption levy is estimated to be 23 cents per thousand dollars of evaluation, a decrease of two cents.

Total amount to be collected by taxes is \$1,858,367. The balance of funds to operate the college comes from state and federal sources and from student tuition and fees. About 31.2 per cent comes from the state, 10.2 per cent from tuition and fees, 50 per cent from district taxes, and the balance from federal and other sources.

The total evaluation of the college two-county district is not yet known, and President Ron Daniels said he fully expects the \$1.79 and 23-cent

figures to be lower when the final true cash value of Umatilla and Morrow counties is known.

Projected income from the state and students is reduced in the new budget because of a drop in enrollment. Tuition will go up \$5 per term next year in an effort to have students pay a greater share of their education.

Deleted from the budget this year for the first time are all athletic talent grants.

Visit

Sean and Sherrie Harnett, from Issaquah, Wash., were in Heppner last week with their grandmother, Rachel Harnett. They had a later school spring vacation in the state north of here.

Mrs. Harnett says her oldest grandchild, Dawn, will come for a longer visit during next summer. The three children's parents are the Melvin Harnetts.

Kinzua news

• Barbara Pike • 768-2861

Snowmobile fans enjoy winter sport

The wonderful weather of the last couple days had me convinced it is spring; however, after talking to the snowmobile fans around town, I'm not so sure. A large group went to the Notch Sunday to enjoy the winter sport. Among those present were Vic and Marty Wallis, Cissi and Clark, Nina Castles and Tara, Chuck and Melba Mitchell, Cindi and Windi, and the Mitchells' house guests, Bill and Kerry McConnell, Richland, Wash., and Melba's father, Robert Reid, of Hermiston.

Lauri Hire, Deena Reid, Pat McMinn, Sandra Williamson and Dinah Jackson went to Condon Saturday, where they joined a group of Condon and Arlington women for a bus trip to Portland, where they toured Old Town. The tour, sponsored by the Home Extension Clubs, included a trip to the theater at Reed College, where the ladies were treated to a live performance of "The Children's Hour."

Lorraine and Floyd Wilson, Umatilla, arrived Saturday to spend the weekend with the Steve Conlee family.

Frank and Patti Burres and children Jackie, Richard, Patti and Shayne went to Bend to visit Patti's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Powers, and to keep medical appointments.

Steve and Roberta Conlee went to The Dalles Tuesday to take care of some business and have medical care.

Verlin and Lavina Conner went to Bend Saturday for medical attention for Lavina.

Cindy Bowman spent her spring vacation in Prineville with her sister and brother-in-law, Dave and Sara Riney. They were joined Friday by Ron and Ginger Bowman. Ron and Ginger returned home to Fossil Sunday after returning

Cindy to Kinzua.

Thirteen guests were present at the Steve Conlee home Thursday afternoon when Roberta Conlee gave a Tupperware party. The ladies enjoyed games, refreshments and inspecting the items shown by Mabel Palmer, Condon.

Sunday, Dr. and Mrs. John Radermacher and sons, Pendleton, arrived at the Jiggs Bowman home to visit for several days. Thursday, the Radermachers left to go to the coast to continue their vacation.

Steve and Roberta Conlee and son Scott went to Heppner Wednesday. While Steve took care of some business, Roberta and Scott went to the Heppner Nursing Home to visit with Steve's aunt, Lydia Conlee.

Among those attending the Church Camp at Appleton, Wash., were Reverend and Mrs. Bill Mai, Ray and Carrie Jones, Cheri Bourne, Lori Day, Mark Watts and Norran Watts.

Dave and Sara Riney, Prineville, were in Kinzua for the weekend, visiting her parents, Jiggs and Rita Bowman. Sunday, they all went to The Dalles to meet the Bownmans' son and family, Joe and Robin Bowman and Erika. The younger Bownmans returned to Portland, leaving Erika with her grandparents for a week long visit.

A card from Louie Lorengel says he is busy, but enjoying himself at Libby, Mont. He is instructing the new crew and owners of the Condon, Kinzua and Southern engine in the proper care and maintenance of a train. Louie went to Libby early last week to help the St. Regis Company put the engine into service. He expects to return home sometime this week.

Local utility saves energy

The concern among employees and board members of Columbia Basin Electric Co-op about the drought—and BPA request for 10 per cent conservation has apparently brought about reductions in use, Dave Harrison, manager, reports.

The eleven board members reduced use in March 1977 (as compared to March 1976) by 23.9 per cent.

The 22 employees of the local utility were able to reduce consumption by 18.7 per cent for the March energy billing as compared to that a year ago.

While this comparison is not weather-adjusted, the significance is clear in the cuts in effect by the board and employees.

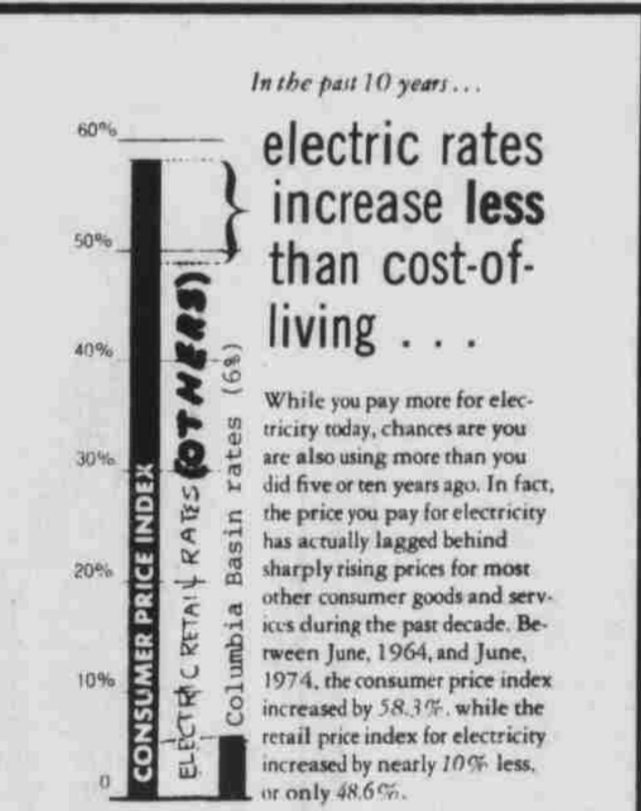
The region is being asked to curtail use by 10 per cent so that reservoirs will be maintained to help toward the future needs of next fall.

Kratzer will speak Easter Sunday here

Dr. Raymond Kratzer, District Superintendent of the Northwest District Church of the Nazarene, will be the special speaker for the morning worship service this Easter morning at 11 a.m. at the Heppner Church of the Nazarene.

"It is a privilege to have Dr. and Mrs. Kratzer with us for this special Easter season. We invite all to worship with us as we recall Christ's suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension at this Easter time," Gordon Blackburn, pastor of the Heppner Nazarene Church, said.

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