

Willamette Valley Gas Users Start on Sunday

Portland — (U.P.) — Willamette valley gas users should start burning natural gas in their appliances Sunday, company officials said, with the first Portland areas to be converted slated to start using the new fuel Monday.

Falling Farm Prices Biggest Domestic Headache for Eisenhower and Benson

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington — There is no question but what the problem of falling farm prices has been the biggest and most persistent domestic headache for President Eisenhower and his Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra T. Benson.

Due to problems for which ready solutions have yet to be found, the administration has been unable to achieve thus far the president's twin aims of giving the farmer "full parity in the market place" while cutting back government regulation of the farm economy. Today the average American farmer is still tied up in government controls and has considerably less cash in his pockets.

But the farm problem is not a new one. It has been across the years plagued virtually every president, be he Democrat or Republican, who has sought means of curbing the boom and bust tendencies of this important segment of the economy.

Farm income, to cite some figures, hit \$15.9 billion in 1948, then fell off to \$12.8 billion in 1950 just before the outbreak of the Korean war. It climbed back up to \$14.8 in 1951, dropped slightly to \$14 in the 1952 election year. This see-saw condition existed under the Truman administration.

Income Trailed Off

In Eisenhower's first year, farm income trailed off somewhat to \$13.4 but by last year it had plummeted to \$10.7. Economists predict it will keep falling to about \$10.3 billion this year.

The other index of conditions down on the farm—the parity index which reflects farm income as against the farmers' costs—illustrates the problem in another way. The parity ratio averaged 108 for the 1947-49 period, but fell off to 100 the last year of the Truman administration, 1952. It fell to 92 the first year of the Eisenhower administration and by last year it was down to 84. It reached a low of 81 last March and since then climbed back up to 86—a change that has been hailed by the administration as evidence that the long decline is over and that adjustment of the farm economy from war to peace was finally under way.

Secretary Benson's conservatism and slowness to act have brought him into conflict with the more politically sensitive members of the administration, who at times have forced upon him politically expedient decisions not to his liking. Always he has gone along in the hope that such measures would be temporary and not seriously interfere with his efforts in the long run to get farmers "off the federal dole."

Supports Changed

The administration's main victory for its way of dealing with the farm question was to get Congress to change from rigid 90 per cent price supports to flexible supports at a somewhat lower figure. This was accomplished after Eisenhower vetoed a rigid price support farm bill.

While supports could be dropped to 75 per cent of parity under this bill, the administration has pegged wheat, cotton and corn at 82½ per cent. Benson has opposed a dual-price plan urged by wheat growers.

The amount of money the government is putting into the farm economy to support prices hit about \$1 billion in 1955, and this year it is running close to twice that amount.

Another big farm headache has been the surplus of farm commodities piled up over the years in government warehouses. Benson has worked aggressively to unload them. He has been notably successful in reducing dairy surpluses, but surpluses of corn, wheat, cotton and some other commodities remain—chiefly because of continued high supports, record production on fewer acres, and shrinking world markets. The government has sold or given away nearly \$3 billion in surpluses since the inception in 1954 of a special disposal program. But the government still has about \$8.5 billion invested in price support operations, a figure expected to rise to \$10 billion with this year's harvest.

After hog prices dropped from \$20 to \$11 per 100 pounds last fall, the outcry from the farm belt reached its highest pitch during Benson's tenure. It led to a cabinet division with the more politically minded members trying to stir Benson to a pork buying program. With a firm hand they guided him down a path he was reluctant to follow.

Full Approval Doubtful

It is doubtful even now that he fully approves of the soil bank plan, which is just now going into effect. For it is an extension of an idea from New Deal days of paying farmers for taking land out of production. Benson has viewed it as continued subsidization of agriculture under the guise of conservation.

Benson had thought in terms of a modest soil bank of some \$200 million a year to help farmers retire land unsuited for crops and plant it to grass and trees. But the program adopted amounted to \$1.2 billion, liberally designed to let farmers take advantage of the grants before election.

The soil bank was accompanied by the rise in the price supports on corn, wheat and cotton, so that the full operation of the flexible price support system of the flexible price support system was set aside for another year. These actions have served to placate dissident farm mem-

bers of the Republican party. But, also, they have served to frustrate the president's expressed hope of freeing agriculture from government controls and moving away from what was regarded as far left of center into the middle furrow of conservatism in which the farmer would return to his legendary role as a rugged individualist. (NEXT—The ups and downs of civil rights.)

Largest Rock Crushing Operation To Start

Pendleton — (U.P.) — Houck & Sons, Pendleton, will start what is termed the largest rock crushing operation in the Pacific Northwest next Tuesday.

Machinery has been set up 10 miles south of here. Six large crushers will turn out the rock at about 300 yards an hour. Eleven conveyor lines will carry the rock to waiting trucks.

The rock will come from a 14-acre site from which the operation is expected to crush between 150,000 and 160,000 yards.

It is estimated there are more than 10,000 species of destructive insects in the United States.

Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSSBY
United Press Correspondent

Editor's Note: Aline Mossby is on vacation. Today's guest writer, Richard Widmark, answers the question often put to him—Does the violence in his films harm young fans?

By RICHARD WIDMARK
Written for United Press

Hollywood — (U.P.) — I've been quite a violent fellow in motion pictures. If you counted the notches on my Screen Actors' Guild card you'd find almost a hundred. I've slain good actors and had in quite a variety of ways.

But movie mayhem rests lightly on my conscience. There is a wide divergence of opinion as to whether violence on the stage or screen incites some persons in the audience to violence. I may be rationalizing my point of view, but I think it does not. We're Violent.

We have to face the fact there is a more-or-less suppressed urge to violence in all of us. A good husband and father at times comes pretty close to being a homicidal maniac while driving his car. The housewife who angrily smashes a dish and the rude salesgirl are being violent in their own ways.

The papers are full of examples of less inhibited violence, and of course we all live under a cloud of mass violence, the possibility of war.

I think that persons seeing violence on the screen may work off some of their own more primitive emotions. I would doubt very much that a maniac needs a suggestion from a movie to set him off into some act of atrocity.

It's true that my wife and I haven't let our little daughter see some of my epics because we feel they are too rough. We are pretty selective in the type of entertainment we permit her to see and only recently acquired a television set.

The point I'd like to make is the people who provide entertainment can't be expected to gear it to children. The responsibility for what the child sees rests upon the parents. We think our daughter should discover the ranges and aberrations of human emotion gradually.

First Nonpartisan Candidates Fair Slated Here on October 27

Five Republican and five Democratic candidates for election this fall will appear in Medford at the Nonpartisan Candidates Fair to be held in this area.

Republicans attending the Fair will be Gov. Elmo Smith, incumbent up for reelection, Douglas McKay, candidate for U. S. Senator; Harris Ellsworth, national representative running for reelection; Mark Hatfield, candidate for secretary of state; and Sig Unander, candidate for reelection for state treasurer.

Democratic candidates appearing at the Fair will be Wayne Morse, senator running for reelection; Charles O. Porter, candidate for national representative; Robert D. Holmes, candidate for governor; Monroe Sweetland, candidate for secretary of state; and Robert Y. Thornton, attorney general running for reelection.

Local candidates scheduled to appear at the Fair are Robert A. Boyer and Robert B. Duncan, Democratic candidates for state representative from the 19th district, and E. A. Littrell, Republican incumbent running for reelection as state representative. District Attorney Walter D. Nunley and his opponent, Democrat Thomas J. Reeder, will also be present.

County candidates who will

attend are Republicans L. G. (Shy) Morthland, incumbent of the county court; Allen D. Curry, candidate for county assessor; Anna R. Scott, candidate for county treasurer; and Democrats Ray J. Schumacher, candidate for county assessor, and Karl Janouch, candidate for county treasurer.

Alf B. Mekvold, unopposed county school superintendent on the nonpartisan ballot, Ralph James, Democratic candidate for county commissioner, and Justice of the Peace candidates from the Ashland district.

There will be a meeting of the steering committee planning the Candidates Fair at Medford Senior High school at 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13.

This committee is composed of members of the League of Women Voters Service group and representatives from the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, Jackson County's United Nations organization, County Election's department, Medford Garden club, Southern Oregon Child Guidance clinic, city and county planning commissions and the fruit and lumbering industries.

Party Representatives

Mrs. Kathleen Bash and Mrs. Rosemary Keeney will represent the Republican party, and Mr. and Mrs. Marc Norton and Robert Boyer will represent the Democratic party.

Mrs. I. S. Thomas, general chairman, has explained the purpose of the Fair is to acquaint the public with candidates from both parties, to inform voters of ballot measures and issues, to stimulate interest in voting and participating in government, and to present a cross-section of city and county interests through exhibits and displays.

Service Directory Distribution Starts

A directory of health and social services for Jackson county, compiled by the Jackson county Inter-Agency council and printed through cooperation of the United Medford Crusade, is being distributed among several health and social agencies, ministers, doctors, lawyers, schools, police and other interested groups through the Jackson county Inter-Agency council.

Purpose Told

The directory was prepared to help people find the kind of service they need, according to council officials.

The Inter-Agency council met in the courthouse auditorium on Aug. 28 to complete plans for distributing the directory. The program for the day was a review of camping programs in the county, campsites and ownerships available to children who do not have financial resources.

Charles Jones, president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, was a guest and discussed his group's project of providing a campsite for use by other organized groups during the summer.

Experience Needed

Miss Shirley Hutchinson, child welfare worker, Jackson county public welfare commission, spoke of the paucity of camperships available, stating there are more children needing camping experience than there were camperships available for them.

Miss Mary Aldrich, executive director of the local Girl Scout council, was chairman pro-tem of the meeting. The next meeting will be held Sept. 18 at the Y when a discussion of the women's program offered at the YMCA will be held.

Truman To Stump, Butler Declares

Washington — (U.P.) — Democratic National Chairman Paul M. Butler said Wednesday night former President Truman will take the stump "in his inimitable way" for the Democratic ticket this fall.

Mr. Truman, who originally opposed the presidential aspirations of both Democratic presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson and vice presidential candidate Estes Kefauver, said after Stevenson's nomination he would campaign "if asked."

Butler said he is "sure" Mr. Truman will campaign under the auspices of the Democratic National Committee. He said Mr. Truman would campaign in "some of the larger metropolitan areas where he has very great strength."

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