

Long-Range Program to Meter City Water Users Reaches Mid-way Point

Medford's water department is near midstream now in a long-range program to place all city water users on metered rates.

The program's purpose, according to City Water Superintendent Robert L. Lee, is two-fold:

1. To conserve water, by reducing waste;
2. To render charges fair and equitable, by basing them on actual individual use.

The metering program has been under way about five years, Lee reports. Customers still on flat rates, who number about 4,100 at present, can expect metering within the next four years.

New Construction
Some 500 commercial, industrial, institutional and multi-family customers were metered from 1954 to 1957, according to Lee. Since 1958, he reports, all new structures of any type requiring water have been metered.

The department is now concerned with metering residential customers, of whom only about 30 per cent have been affected so far.

Lee stresses the importance of metering to water conservation.

"If we went back to flat rates, we would be out of water in a very few years," he states. Thanks to a policy of metering customers outside the city limits, Lee explains, the annexations of such areas as Kenwood-Grandview and Berrydale brought about 600 metered customers into the city.

Having some customers inside the city on flat rates and others on metered rates obviously is not proper. As Lee puts it, "We can't ride the fence indefinitely."

Sufficient Water
Placing everyone on flat rates, according to Lee, would hasten the day when new water sources would have to be tapped. With total metering, he explains, the city can expect sufficient water from Big Butte Springs until about 1972. Thereafter, additional water would have to be taken from the Rogue river.

Lee describes metering as "one of the most effective and reasonable means of water conservation."

"Our water is much too valuable and limited in quantity," the Medford water commission states in an informational booklet, "to be distributed at flat rate charges which inherently encourage waste and indiscriminate use."

Other Oregon cities with metered rates, according to the commission, are Ashland, Grants Pass, Roseburg, Corvallis, Eugene, Salem and Portland. The majority of cities across the nation, it reports, already have meters.

Not Raise Cost
Lee emphasizes that shifting from flat to metered rates is not an attempt to raise the cost of water to individual consumers.

"Meters in themselves don't set the rate," he says. Meters simply measure the amount of water used, while the rate schedule for this water is a "separate consideration," he explains.

Lee reports that a customer's monthly charge for metered water is generally lower in winter months, and higher in summer months, than the flat rate charge. The yearly rate for average customers, is about the same.

One basis for the belief that metering means higher water bills, Lee explains, is the higher costs to metered customers outside the city, many of them in special water districts. These customers, he emphasizes, are paying not only for the water itself but for retirement of district bond issues. In addition, he points out, the city seeks a return on its investment from outside customers while selling water approximately at cost to those inside the city.

General Fund
The meters, costing about \$28 each, are being financed from the water department's general fund, Lee reports. Most residences, he says, have a meter box or other installation facility near the street in the parking strip out front. He adds that the city has been preparing for metering for some 20 years.

Reading and maintaining meters and preparing bills mean more complicated and more costly procedures than those for the flat rate method. "But," Lee says, "the initial cost and operating cost are more than offset by the savings in water. Water isn't free."

Another factor he cites is

that metering costs are well below the costs of new supply facilities that would be required sooner, and on a larger scale, if the waste inherent in flat-rate service were to continue.

Water Saved

Water saved through the use of meters becomes available to other customers, so that Medford can expand that much further before the Big Butte Springs source must be supplemented by more expensive water from the Rogue. The commission's leaflet states that under metering, "each customer pays for his water service on the basis of the amount of water he uses as an individual customer."

"With flat rates," it continues, "the charges for water service are based on the average amount of water used per customer by a large group of customers."

"In other words, if you use less water than the average flat rate customer, you are paying too much for water service and on the other hand, if you use more water than the average customer, your water bill is lower than it should be at the expense of others."

Two Fronts
The metering program, Lee

Rogue Valley to Increase Interest

Interest on savings deposits at Rogue Valley State bank, Medford, will be increased to 3 per cent effective July 1, Clarence Young, president, has announced.

The board of directors voted to increase the interest rate, which is paid semi-annually, because of higher interest rates prevailing on government bonds. A high percentage of savings deposits is invested in government securities to keep funds immediately available for depositors' needs, he said.

Young also announced that work on the branch office building on East Jackson st. near the Medford Shopping Center, is in progress. He said directors hope the branch will be open in August or early September.

He said that accounts open in the present bank may be transferred to the East Medford branch on request.

reports, is currently progressing on two fronts. On the one hand, a conversion for all customers in the Pierce Heights area is now under way. This east side neighborhood bounded roughly by Valley View dr. and Windsor ave. on the west, Oakwood dr. and Acorn way on the south, and the city limits on the north and east was chosen, according to Lee, because the water must be pumped into the area at higher cost and because many customers have expensive lawns and large service connections.

Meter installation for Pierce Heights residents is currently in progress, Lee reports. He says these customers can expect to be billed on a metered basis starting in November.

Changed Account
The other approach involves requiring establishment of metered service whenever a flat rate account is changed. Lee points out that over 1,000 account changes are recorded in the city each year.

Account changes, he explains, are marked by turn-ins of water at a new or existing residence. While occasionally these turn-ins follow temporary discontinuance by an absent family, most represent the arrival of a new occupant.

"We believe," Lee says, "that the change-of-the-account basis for metering will distribute the installation load over a three-year period." At

Brownie Troop Visits Mail Tribune Plant

Members of the St. Mary's Brownie Troop 76 toured the Mail Tribune plant last week. Accompanying the group were Mrs. Al Carrara, Mrs. Earl Igo, Mrs. Martin Spielbusch, and Mrs. Margaret Eakin.

Making the tour were Janeen Payant, Susan Randolph, Carla Dibble, Patricia Evans, Bernadette Becker, Karen Swindler, Tina Carrara, Mary Burich, Karen Teutsch, Lynett Stinson, Bobbi Swindler, Leta Norris, Rita Spielbusch, Tresa Lucas, Rena Spielbusch, Carolyn Shasky, Barbara Doody, Thresa Hanley, Linda Bédreau, Ronly St. George, Patti Doyle, Joan Littlefield, Monica Dunn, Judy Holtzinger, Gloria Igo, and Mary Taft.

Installation will be held in conjunction with the Eagle Point Lady Lions auxiliary. Officers were elected at a meeting at the Teenage club recently.

the end of that period, he adds, all remaining flat rate services would be changed over.

The metering program came under fire at a recently city budget committee meeting.

Councilman Ed Hall, Ward I, who said he was "very much opposed to meters," asked if public cooperation in rationing water at critical periods would be a better conservation method. He cited one period about 10 years ago when residents were asked to water their lawns on alternate days based on their address numbers.

Prefer Meters
"People as a whole," Lee replied, "much prefer to be metered than to be required to irrigate only at certain times."

A committee member asked Lee about "promises" in the past that Medford customers would never have meters.

"Such statements may have been made in all sincerity by some individuals," Lee said. However, he added, such a guarantee "was never an actual provision of any bond issue. He remarked that Medford's remarkable growth today could not have been predicted years ago."

Officer Installation Set by EP Lions

Eagle Point - Installation of new officers for the Eagle Point Lions club will be held at the Rogue River Lodge in Shady Cove June 6, with Deputy District Governor Leonard Carlson of Phoenix serving as installing officer.

New officers are Glenn Clymer, president; Charles Martin, first vice president; Ernie Gregg, second vice president; Clarence Davis, third vice president; Stewart Hopper, secretary-treasurer; G. Lee Hayes, tall twister; Hoyle Jordan, Lion tamer; Darrel Copeland, director, two years; John Ousterhout, director, two years; and Robert Cocks, director, one year.

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Alaska was purchased from Russia for \$7,200,000.

Officers Installed, Awards Presented At Southern Oregon

Ashland - Robert Mead, Southern Oregon college junior from Klamath Falls, was installed by retiring president Richard Clark, Medford, as president of the student body during the spring special awards assembly in Churchill hall.

Serving with Mead will be Ron Leggett, Bonanza, second vice-president; Janet Meyer, Klamath Falls, secretary; Maureen McCurdy, Medford, treasurer; Larry Hall, Ashland, yell king; George Olson, Klamath Falls, first vice-president; Ona Lille, Roseburg, Larry Barloen, Klamath Falls, Ron Fader, Ashland, Alvin Born, Klamath Falls, representatives-at-large; Sue Main, Ashland, parliamentarian; Larry Hoover, Lebanon, convocations; Jack Henry, Klamath Falls, publicity; Jim Ochs, Klamath Falls, council editor.

Presidential awards were presented by Clark to Dick Simonson, Medford; Lois May Ashland; and Claudia Pierce, Coos Bay; for outstanding service to the college.

Presented Plaque
Dr. Alvin Fellers, director of student affairs, and Toby Kay Deller, retiring social chairman, presented Clark with a plaque for his outstanding service as president.

James Boyd, Medford, was honored as the first SOC student to receive a National Merit Scholarship bonus award. Richard Clark was announced as the recipient of the \$100 for the coming year.

Mrs. Mabel W. Winston, dean of women, announced the dormitory citizen award winners: Pat Urie, Reedsport, and Larry Wait, Roseburg. Claudia Pierce and Vernon Arnold received the Victor P. Mills award of \$50 each.

James McDonald, Medford, was named Phi Delta Kappa's "Man of the Year in Education." McDonald served as president of the Student National Education association last year.

Outstanding students in chemistry and mathematics were presented handbooks by Dr. Elliott B. MacCracken, chairman of the science-mathematics division. Linda Wright, Ashland, chemistry; Patrick McCabe, Gold Hill, mathematics; and Norman Pawlowski, Jacksonville, physics, were those honored.

For the best poetry written during the year, Dr. Arthur Kreisman, chairman of the humanities division, gave recognition to William Black, Medford, who also received honorable mention in a statewide Centennial poetry contest.

Charlotte Riley, Medford, president of Tri Zeta, women's service honorary, presented a \$25 award to Judy Johnson, Ashland; and Judy Paulsen, Ashland, president of Sigma Epsilon Pi, women's scholastic honorary, gave an award to Sue Main, Ashland, secretary of the organization.

Britt scholarships for students from Jacksonville were named by Dr. Arthur S. Taylor, chairman of the social science division. They are: Vickie Tweedy, Edna Welch, Sonja Smith, Edgar Walker, Norman Pawlowski, Clyde Smith, Ron Muir, and John Winningham.

Dr. Fellers gave recognition to the nearly 200 students awarded State scholarships throughout the year.

Youths Invited to Join Air Patrol

Jackson county boys and girls 14 through 17 years old have been invited to join the Medford squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, Commander Lt. John Keener, has announced.

He said the cadet training program offers classes in aviation education, photography, radio and communications, meteorology, search and rescue procedure. Additional classes are planned in mechanics, gasoline model airplane building as well as formation of a marching band.

The cadet staff is under the command of Lt. James Reaneu and Lt. Viva Ann MacManama. Cadets earn a certificate of proficiency and can receive the rating of airman third class on joining the Air Force.

Meetings are held each Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Civil Air Patrol building at the Medford airport.

ROAD OPEN
The north entrance road to Crater Lake National park was opened to two-way traffic Friday morning, the park service announced.

Grange News

Upper Applegate Grange

June 7 will be Church Sunday for Upper Applegate Grange members who will attend the 11 a.m. worship service of Ruch Community church. Later they will meet at the Grange hall for a pot luck dinner. All Grange members are urged to reserve this date and be present. Plans for the event were completed at the regular session of the Grange on May 22 at which Master Kathleen Scovell presided.

According to the report of the relief committee, Edwin Rutter, who sustained a spinal injury, is in Rogue Valley hospital. Clara Flesher is convalescing following surgery, and Floyd McKee who has been ill at his home, is improving.

Agriculture Chairman
George Redhead stated good feeder steers from California were bringing from 28 to 32 cents in the local livestock auctions. Broilers in some areas have been selling for 14 cents per pound, and eggs likewise are bringing low prices, he stated.

Ways and Means Chairman
Ethel West announced the schedule for square dances continues unchanged with workshop sessions the second and fourth Monday evenings and square dances every fourth Saturday night. A sum of \$4.40 was turned into the treasury from this source. Contributions were also received from the Upper Applegate Extension Unit and from the Little Applegate Sewing club for use of the hall.

A community bridal shower for Nancy Lou Redhead whose wedding to Anthony Mitschke of Medford is scheduled June 5, is being planned for Saturday evening, June 13, it was announced. This event will be held in the Grange hall and everyone is invited to attend. Entertainment and refreshments are being arranged by Anna Scott, who is general chairman.

Thanks to all who assisted with the Mother's Day dinner May 10, was expressed by the Grange Master.

Members were reminded to bring sack lunches to Ruch school Monday, June 8, to assist in giving the 4-H Covered Wagon Train a send-off when they lunch there en route to Corvallis for their summer school session.

Phoenix Grange
Memorial services were held May 26 at the Phoenix Grange. In memoriam were Andrew Chapman and Gertrude Luvin.
Chaplain Mona Ferns was

Forest Service Accepts Project

Rogue River National forest officials last week accepted conditionally the construction of new buildings at the Prospect ranger station and is now occupying them, according to Carroll Brown, forest supervisor.

The buildings constructed by E. J. Fordyce and associates, local building contractors, include four residences, an office, gas and oil shed and water pressure tank and building.

Construction has been started on the Star Ranger station new residence south of Jacksonville. Two barracks will be started at the Union creek station 11 miles north of Prospect, Brown said.

The French paint and varnish industry increased production by 55 per cent in the last five years, reaching an output of nearly \$200 million in 1957.

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