

Copco Power Rate Charges Highest of 'In Between' Utility Systems



SAFEST DRIVER—Minnesota highway patrolman Alex J. Keilen, center, selected as the nation's "outstanding safe driver," is presented with his prize, a 1961 Dodge Lancer, the first new car he has ever owned. Joseph Doherty, right, Dodge midwest sales manager, presents the keys to the new car to Keilen as Mrs. Keilen looks on. (UPI Telephoto)

Ashland Highest Among Publicly Owned Systems

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Washington Correspondent

Washington (Special) — The highest electric power rates being paid by Oregon consumers are charged by Idaho Power Co., and the lowest by the Eugene Water and Electric Board, the Federal Power Commission reports.

The privately owned Idaho utility charges \$6.98 for the same amount of energy that the municipally-owned Eugene system charges \$3 for. The energy in both instances is 250 kilowatt-hours for lighting, small appliances, refrigeration and cooking.

Between these extremes of high and low cost power are the rates of the other utility systems which serve Oregon's many cities. Of these California Oregon Power Co. charges the highest rates for its services to such southern Oregon cities as Medford, Klamath Falls, Roseburg and Grants Pass. The Copco rate for this same amount of energy is \$6.90, just eight cents below the rate Idaho Power charges its customers in the eastern Oregon towns of Ontario and Nyssa.

Halfway Between

The private utility which consistently charges the cheapest rates in Oregon is Portland General Electric Co. It charges \$5.25 or roughly half way between the low cost power at Eugene and the high cost power of Idaho Power.

Pacific Power and Light Co. charges the same as Portland General Electric in the Portland area. But in other areas its rate is more or less, apparently depending on whether it has competition, the FPC report showed.

In Pendleton, for example, PP&L charges \$5.82, and in Corvallis it charges \$5.88, in both instances more than its \$5.25 Portland rate. Other cities which have the \$5.82 rate are Astoria, Bend, Coos Bay, Coquille, Empire, Hermiston, Hood River, North Bend, Prineville, Redmond, Seaside and Tillamook. Other cities which PP&L charges \$5.88 are Albany, Cottage Grove, Dallas, Lebanon and Sweet Home.

On the other hand, PP&L has lower rates in several other communities where it has competition. In Springfield, just adjacent to Eugene, PP&L charges \$5. The Springfield Utility Board charges the same rate.

Meets Competition

At The Dalles, Northern Wasco County Public Utility District charges \$4.50. PP&L meets this competition by charging the same low rate to its customers in The Dalles.

Portland General Electric charges the same rate to its customers in Salem or Newberg or Silverton or Beaverton as to those in Portland, \$5.25.

Next to Eugene, the cheapest rate in the state is at Forest Grove where the city-owned system charges \$3.75. Then comes two more publicly owned systems each charging \$4. They are the McMinnville Water and Light Department and Milton Free-water Utilities.

Ashland Cost Highest

The highest cost power from a publicly-owned system is \$8.60 charged at Ashland by the Ashland Electric Department. Next highest is Central Lincoln Peoples Utility, which charges \$5.13 at Toledo, Reedsport and Newport.

The Tillamook Peoples Utility District charges \$5.

In eastern Oregon, a small private utility, California Pacific Utility Co., charges \$6.83 at Burns, and \$6.36 at Baker and La Grande.

Power rates in Washington state, by comparison, are slightly lower from the private power companies and somewhat higher from the public power agencies. Tacoma's city owned - system charges the lowest rate, \$3.20. The city of Seattle, at \$4.40, charges almost as high a rate as Spokane residents pay to Washington Water Power Co., \$4.66. Pacific Power & Light rates in Washington range from \$5.53 in Yakima and Walla Walla to \$5.82 elsewhere.

Fewer employees lost their lives as a result of railway accidents in 1959 than any year since the Interstate Commerce Commission began compiling records in 1888.

Oregon Supreme Court Decisions

Salem—UPB—Following are decisions of the Oregon Supreme Court, which met here Wednesday:

Lois F. Jaeger, appellant vs. Herbert Paul Jaeger Jr.; appeal from Multnomah county; opinion by Justice George Rossman; Judge Virgil Langtry affirmed; divorce decree giving the wife a divorce but awarding custody of two small children to the father affirmed.

State vs. Warren Schell, appellant; appeal from Linn county; opinion by Justice George Rossman; Judge Victor Olliver affirmed; conviction of contributing to the delinquency of a minor daughter affirmed.

State ex rel Jensen vs. William A. Standridge; appeal from Jackson county; opinion by Justice Harold Warner; Judge Edward C.

Kelly affirmed; appeal by the Oregon Real Estate Commissioner from an order dismissing an injunction suit against a realtor affirmed.

Mathilda Shepard, appellant vs. Kienow's Food Stores; appeal from Multnomah county; opinion by Justice Keith O'Connell; Judge James R. Bain reversed; suit for damages claimed from a fall in the store, reversal of a finding for the store and new trial ordered.

Clackamas Judge Affirmed

Valley Motor Co., appellant vs. W. J. Ralls; appeal from Clackamas county; opinion by Justice Alfred T. Goodwin; Judge Ralph M. Holman affirmed; judgment favoring Ralls in an action for conversion of a car affirmed.

State vs. Jerry Libbey, appellant; appeal from Multnomah county; opinion by Justice pro tem Dal King; Judge James R. Bain affirmed; conviction on a charge of receiving stolen property and a three-year sentence affirmed.

George Maser, appellant vs. Henry Klein; appeal from Multnomah county; opinion by Justice pro tem Dal King; Judge Frank J. Lonergan affirmed; verdict for Klein in a

car-pedestrian case affirmed.

Polk Case Upheld

State vs. Eual Alfred Hedrick, appellant; appeal from Polk county; opinion by Justice pro tem E. H. Howell; Judge Arlie G. Walker affirmed; conviction on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon affirmed.

Emma B. Lantis vs. Billy Osborn Bishop, appellant; appeal from Polk county; opinion per curiam; Judge Fred McHenry affirmed; \$13,884 judgment recovered by the Lantis woman who was hit by the Bishop car in West Salem affirmed.

The number of persons protected against the cost of doctor and hospital bills by health insurance increased during 1959 to 127 million, a rise of 4 million over 1958.

State Employees To Oppose Appeal

Portland—UPB—Leo Butts, business representative for the Oregon State Employees Council, said today attorneys for the organization would appear before the State Supreme Court today to oppose an appeal filed by the City of Astoria to a civil service measure for the November ballot.

Butts said attorneys Sam Wilderman of Portland and Wendell Wyatt of Astoria would seek an immediate disposition of the case so the bill could appear on the November ballot. He said the Astoria City Council refused to place the civil service measure on the ballot because it also contained a collective bargaining clause.

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