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BONNEVILLE

CASCADE LOCKS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1935

\$255,000 Set up for Road Work

STATE CHECKS VALUATIONS ON LABER'S LAND

Acting at the request of County Assessor George M. Knox the state tax commission at Salem is raising J. B. Laber's property in Cascade Locks for taxation purposes. Arthur A. Selander, the commission's chief appraiser, spent yesterday in the district and probably will return at an early date to pass judgment on valuations. Selander and Knox were in possession of figures at which Laber's lots and parcels of ground to be assessed after the government commenced work on the dam. They have information indicating values at which Cascade Locks properties were valued before President Roosevelt ordered the dam built at Bonneville. Knox declined to make public yesterday the percentage of increases which would be chalked against Laber, but he is reported to have said that it would be "plenty."

This year with the state and Cascade Locks officials interested and Knox determined to get all the facts and there promised to be a lively debate when the county board of equalization meets on August 12 to hear complaints from property owners who feel that their assessments are too high, for Laber is expected to reply to a question yesterday. Knox said that any citizen, or a group of citizens, could appear before the board and discuss the valuations returned against Laber's properties.

Third Teacher Given Contract

Mrs. Ethel MacRae, Portland, graduate of Linfield college, McMinville, has been given a contract to teach in the Cascade Locks high school. Her contract insures the teaching staff up to and insures children in the Bonneville dam area of excellent schooling facilities. This will be MacRae's first year of teaching, but she is said to come highly recommended. She spent two years teaching Reed college before entering the field.

County Superintendent Gibson yesterday that the addition of a third teacher would run the per capita cost of educating students in the Cascade Locks high school to \$150, as compared with \$85 per capita in the River and less than \$100 in Parkdale.

C. (Tuck) Anderson, head of the Central Lumber company, came from Albany, where he called on business the early part of last week.

The People vs. J. B. Laber

August 14 the people of Cascade Locks will go to the polls and choose their first city officials. The men elected to office that day will inaugurate the new municipal government and by their actions determine the future character of the town.

If the people want J. B. Laber to dominate the town and are happy to continue under one-man rule they will vote into power a group of candidates whom his lieutenants have brought out for office under the name of the "Taxpayers League."

But if the people want to take the government of the town into their own hands they will defeat those candidates who must be elected if Mr. Laber is to control the city council.

Six members of the council are to be elected. Mr. Laber does not need all of them, but he does need a majority.

Jack Eimer, G. N. Hesgard and G. E. Miller, three of the 13-candidates on the ballot, have either been employed by Mr. Laber or have enjoyed contracts from him. They are highly sympathetic toward him. They believe in him.

None of these three men should be permitted to sit upon the town council so long as Mr. Laber owns the bulk of the townsite.

And neither should Carl Ruteraskoll be permitted to sit upon the council.

Mr. Ruteraskoll was employed by the power company for 12 years. He left the company's employ some months ago, but only recently has been employed by it.

The power company must come before the city council and ask for a franchise.

Mr. Laber must come before the council, too, from time to time on matters effecting his real estate interests. There will be streets to open and the question of his filling a plat of his townsite with the

county officials is certain to command early attention, so it would not be to the best public interests to permit him to dominate the body of men who are to direct the affairs of the municipality.

Mr. Laber pays taxes on a valuation of only \$19,000 in Cascade Locks. If he paid taxes on the prices which he demands for his property when someone asks to buy a lot he would probably pay on more than \$100,000.

A town council can interest itself in learning what values he has placed on his land and request the county assessor and the county board of equalization to increase valuations.

An action brought against Mr. Laber by a group of long-time residents to obtain a settlement, alleged to be due them, for damages done their property when the state widened the highway, is now pending before the circuit court. A town council might appropriate funds to do some sleuthing with a view to learning more about the contract between Mr. Laber and the state.

Mr. Laber is keenly aware of all the things which might rightly come before a body of independent men sitting upon the council. So it is only human that he would wish to see a friendly council and a friendly mayor chosen to office.

The Chronicle has confidence in the people. It believes they are capable of uncovering the bug under the chip. They understand pretty well what is going on and can act as their judgment dictates. If they want a public utility and the owner of the townsite to rule the community they will vote them into power; and if they want the people to rule, they will vote an independent ticket into power. The facts will be before them and they can act according to their own lights.

BONNEVILLE TO HAVE LOWEST RATE ON POWER

Power from Bonneville dam can be sold in blocks at the powerhouse switch at 1 1/2 to 1.3-4 mills a kilowatt hour, Col. T. M. Robins, U. S. army engineers, told a joint meeting of the Oregon and Washington planning council Saturday.

Power generated at the dam can be carried east 100 miles, south to Eugene and north toward Centralia at a reasonable cost, he declared.

Differentials in rates between the Bonneville dam area and Portland and other communities were not discussed by Colonel Robins.

The army officer declared the power rates at Bonneville would be lowest in United States, and predicted a great industrial development in the Columbia river valley.

Cost of building transmission lines will run around \$35,000 a mile, he told the planning commissions when explaining that \$3,500,000 would be required to carry the power into Portland. The power will be available to all communities within reach of the dam, irrespective of political subdivisions.

Main transmission line west will go down the river on the Washington side. At Camas a line will be carried across the Columbia to Troutdale, and on into Portland. From Camas another line will continue downstream to Vancouver.

Four Teachers at Bonneville

Bonneville children will have no new faces among their teachers when school opens in September.

The school board has given contracts to the four instructors who taught last year, and may possibly employ a fifth teacher, according to Mrs. George Linton, school clerk. The board will make its decision about the middle of August when it knows the approximate number of children who will be going to school this fall.

Principal will be Charles A. Robertson, who will also teach the seventh and eighth grades. Mrs. Peggy O'Keefe will return to teach the fifth and sixth grades. Miss Elize Stevens the third and fourth, and Miss Quyla Galasheff the primary room.

Bonneville school's new auditorium will be completed within a few weeks. The interior is being put in final shape. In the school building itself, S.E.R.A. workmen are completing a basement lunchroom, also to be in use in September.

FIRE SIGNALS SET UP BY LOCKS VOLUNTEERS

Rousing whoops on Cascade Locks' siren and, later, on a shrill air whistle, will make Locks volunteer firemen come 'arunning.

Signals to indicate position of the fire have been adopted by the department. One long blast is the general alarm, to be followed by short blasts to indicate in which of the four districts it is situated.

First district, rating one short toot, extends from the toll bridge to the Odd Fellows hall, under lieutenant of Joe Burt. Second district is from there to Scott's service station, under Lieut. Jim Merrill. Third, under Ben Scott, extends from his place to Dr. Fred Folsom's office. Fourth, runs from "Doc" Folsom's to Carlson's Red & White stre, with Shirley Moore lieutenant in charge. Position of the fire will be shown by short blasts, corresponding to the number of the district, following the long, general alarm toot.

LOCKS REMAINS TORN UP BY HIGHWAY WORK

Main street at Cascade Locks is torn up worse than ever this week by crews widening the highway through town. Gravel has been dumped on top of the old paving to raise the grade and in several places old pavement has been torn up to knock off humps.

Contractor Kernan still has considerable concrete curbing to pour. Fine crushed rock is being dumped on the rough gravel at the east end of the work in preparation for the beginning of paving, expected within the next two weeks. Gravel is being rolled down by a big power roller after being spread around by road scrapers.

When the job will be finished is not known definitely. Original contract time limit of July 31 has been extended 40 days, but the contractor has hopes of completing the work by the middle of August.

STATE TO START BUILDING NEW SUPER-HIGHWAY

The way was opened last Friday for early construction of the section of the super-highway between Eagle creek and Tanner creek when the state highway commission set up a fund of \$255,000 for the two-mile stretch of road.

Included in the \$255,000 was an item of \$95,000 for building the Eagle creek bridge, first pier of which has been finished by the contractor.

Details of the construction program has not been given to the public, but it is expected to include the proposed 800-foot tunnel, immediately west of Eagle creek.

The section to be brought under contract at once begins at the Multnomah county line. The road will parallel the Union Pacific tracks through the deep cut just east of Eagle creek. After crossing Eagle creek on the beautiful concrete and steel bridge it will pass through a tunnel, to be built almost due south of the new railroad tunnel, and continue on an easy grade toward Bonneville. Unless a change is made in the location the road will run between the Bonneville public school and the Hill property.

So far as can be learned a definite grade has not been established past the reservation gate at Bonneville, and some delay may follow, due to the necessity for holding it up the hillside to a point where it will not interfere with ingress and egress to and from the reservation.

Tanner creek will be spanned with a handsome bridge, or the road may be carried across it on a long fill. This piece of work will be included in the second section, funds for which have not been set up yet.

The second section will carry the road from Bonneville, through Bonny Villa and Warrendale, to Dodson, where the super-highway is to cross the Union Pacific tracks on a viaduct. From that point to Troutdale, the road will parallel the river.

Third section of the road will run east from the Multnomah county line to the toll bridge and tie-in with the work which is being carried on in Cascade Locks, where the main street is being widened and resurfaced.

State highway engineers anticipate that the cost of rebuilding the road between the toll bridge and Dodson will exceed \$500,000. Funds for the work is being provided by the federal government, and is being spent by the state highway commission with the aid and consent of the bureau of public roads.

Mr. and Mrs. George Allen have the weekend in Portland.