

Date Set For Hearing on Power District

The preliminary hearing on the Hood River power district will be held Saturday, April 23, according to information received Saturday by the Hood River County Pomona Grange Power Committee, which was instrumental in circulating petitions for the preliminary hearing.

Members of the state Hydro-electric Commission will be in Hood River and discuss with local people the proposed power district at 10 o'clock in the hall above the First National Bank.

Opinions for and against the power district will be heard. Also it is understood the Commission will make a study of the Hood River district before and after the hearing. Some time after the April 23 conference reports will be forthcoming from the commission, after which petitions may be circulated for an election to determine whether or not the people of this region desire a power district.

Petitions for the preliminary hearing were filed in Salem two weeks ago, signed by legal voters in the city and county.

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Red Cross Makes Record

With an increase of around \$200 over last year's returns, the officers of the Hood River county chapter of the Red Cross at their annual meeting Monday night reported a new all-time record had been set for total receipts from last year's subscription campaign.

All officers of the past year were re-elected for the forthcoming year. They are, Ed Steele, President, Hal Nesbit, Vice-President; Mrs. Walter Colby, Secretary; and C. C. Lindley, Treasurer.

Small additions were authorized in the budget for the next year. A considerable increase in the swim school budget was noted.

The campaign committee reported a total of \$1,071.21 taken in on this year's campaign.

In this country the voters have nothing to do with cooking up a presidential candidate, but they have a lot to do with settling his hash.

VARIED INTERESTS

(Continued From Page One)

tricts and private utilities at the same price.

2. Power from Bonneville's first two generators will be available in June, but it probably will be at least a year before first lines can be completed to the Vancouver-Portland though this transmission operation may be speeded by a deal with private companies to transmit it over existing lines.

3. Bonneville welcomes development of power in other areas and will not seek to displace or compete with any other system, but Ross wants eventually interconnection of Bonneville, Grand Coulee, Idaho and other plants to "firm up" Bonneville to 100 per cent, and to provide standby or emergency energy for all of them.

Most Ticklish Problem

4. Fixing of wholesale rates for Bonneville power, for both publicly and privately owned systems, constitutes the most ticklish problem of all due to possible conflicts between

federal and state regulations. To smooth this out, Ross will confer soon with the public utility commissioners of the three states, before he attempts to fix, by contracts with purchasers, a maximum rate at which Bonneville energy may be resold. Rates of municipal systems should be the same as Bonneville rates.

5. The general principle of balanced use of a Bonneville power and widest use and benefit will prevail.

Here are some highlights of statements made by Ross at the various rate hearings:

Salem—You will have a lower rate at your gates than Ontario; possibly seven eighths of the problem of cuttings costs and lowering rates is up to you, as distribution may cost from two to eight times as much as generation-transportation.

Olympia—Public power districts of Washington have asked me to reserve 250,000 kilowatts (first two Bonneville units, 86,400; and 104,000 in two more units asked); private power companies will make definite commitments when rates are fixed; a number of electro-chemical and electro-metallurgical industries are inquiring for power. We expect to move considerable current over existing lines to both public and private companies.

Greatest 'Gold Mine'

Boise—The greatest gold mine on earth, your phosphate beds, is right here in Idaho, some five billion tons. I have one request for power to process phosphates near the dam, but it would be more economical to process it here. Idaho could have its own plants, but they should be connected with Bonneville and Grand Coulee.

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Spokane — Bonneville and Coulee ultimately will be linked together; there should be no rate conflict in the Spokane area where irrigation and mining are vital. We have no idea of destroying private companies or halting any other electrical development. If you want to buy out local companies, pay them a fair price; it will save you both a great deal of money in the end.

Walla Walla—Some want all the power at the dam, some want it all away. The quicker we can load Bonneville, the better it will be for the whole area; we must not neglect industry any more than we neglect the farm or the home. Balanced use, proper division is sought.

Pendleton—Distribution is up to you; we sell power to public and private agencies. The first appropriation will build a line as far as The Dalles; the extension up here is up to the next Congress; we must show a united front. Bonneville and Coulee should be connected, and eventually all plants between the Canadian border and Mexico should be tied together; it's sound for standby purposes and to level out peaks and valleys. Your own Umatilla project will be needed in time.

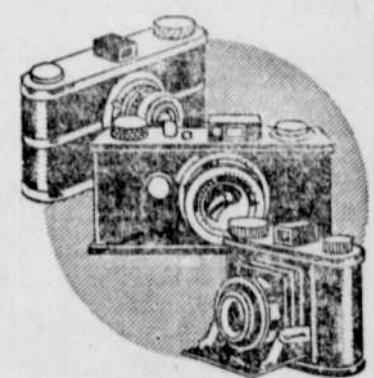
Yakima—Twenty-eight to 30 districts and cities are asking for 250,000 kilowatts; the problem is where best to sell it to benefit the whole Pacific Northwest. Yesterday I picked up 10,000 kilowatts more. If we zone, it would be radially, figuring costs at the dam and mileage of line.

Portland—These hearings have modified our ideas considerably, as we have kept our minds open. The only way we can fix the overall resale rates to be charged by private companies is by contract and they must not conflict with state regulations. We are all interested in how best to coordinate all the power systems, public and private, so as to give the greatest benefit to people of Columbia basin. Private companies pay a proper tax; every business, public or private, should carry its proportion-

ate part of the tax load. Rate payers and taxpayers are not necessarily the same group and one should not be forced to carry the other.

Our guess: A compromise between zoning and postage stamp rates, with a bus-bar rate at the dam and a flat rating along all main transmission lines from Bonneville. The right answer will be ready about April 15.

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