

THE BONNEVILLE DAM CHRONICLE

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CASCADE LOCKS

BONNEVILLE

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1938

Air Mail Week Will Advertise Cascade Locks

The National Air Mail week campaign is well under way toward putting Cascade Locks on the map as an up and coming air mail minded city. The Cascade Locks Chamber of Commerce has completed the plans for the cachet which is to be stamped on all Air Mail letters mailed out of this office. It is the ambition of the Cascade Locks Postmaster that every patron of the office mail at least one Air Mail letter between May 15 and 21.

The students of the high school have prepared some very fine essays to be entered in the National Air Mail Essay Contest. The subject is to be "Wings Across America" and to consist of not more than 250 words. In conjunction with the prizes offered by the State and National Air Mail Committees the Cascade Locks Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring cash prizes totaling \$7.00 to be awarded to students submitting the best essay in this school. The first prize is \$3.00 and the next two are \$2.00 each. The winners of the local contest will be announced next week.

Students in the high school and grade school are also working on posters to be entered in the National Air Mail Poster Contest. The posters are not to be more than 20-in. x 25-in. and must be postmarked no later than May 1, 1938.

Postmaster Mrs. Calendine has received word that a special air-craft will be chartered to make pick-ups of Air Mail on May 19 from Ontario, Baker, La Grande, Pendleton, Arlington, and The Dalles to Portland. Stamp collectors should be particularly interested in dispatching letters from this office to the points of pick-up to be carried by plane to their destination.

BONNEVILLE P. T. A.

The Annual Meeting of the Bonneville P. T. A. will be next Wednesday, May 4th. Election and installation of new officers will be the main feature of the business session which convenes at 2:30 p. m. Chairmen of the various standing committees will summarize the work they have been doing for the year.

At noon will be a pot-luck lunch which has been planned by the Room Mothers. Everyone is asked to meet at the school at 11:30 sharp.

Bonneville Postmaster Displays Trophy

'Tis a proud woman this week that handles the mail at Bonneville and rightfully she has a reason to be proud. This week Mrs. Blanch North, Postmaster of the Bonneville office received through the mail a 16-inch silver cup and a blue ribbon, the awards for first prize in the recent Air Mail Flower show at St. Louis. The class in which she took first prize was a bouquet of primroses in the unclassified bouquet group.

The cup was donated by the Postal Employees Building, Loan and Savings Association. The blue ribbon has an embossed view of the new St. Louis Post Office on it.

Mrs. North also has a potted plant of the primrose which was developed locally to show all inquirers.

Ross Urges Tax on P.U.D. Revenues

The Bonneville administration favors a fair local tax on the gross revenues of districts and municipalities which will purchase power from the government project and is not in favor of the property tax on utilities now in vogue in Oregon.

Administrator J. D. Ross made that plan this week to a group of about 40 Oregon and Washington men who represented people's power districts, municipal power plants and Granges. The conference was held throughout the day in Bonneville offices in the Failing building.

Tax Views Aired—

"Personally, I would like to see the power companies also assessed on a gross revenue basis," said Mr. Ross.

"Bonneville doesn't want to interfere in saying what the people in districts should tax themselves, but it does want to say, in the interests of the people, that taxation shall not rise above a certain amount."

The Bonneville administration will guard against the "unfairness" evident in 95 so-called "tax-free" cities of the east, where all the functions of government are financed by high charges for power, said Mr. Ross.

Contract to Limit Levy—

The contract under which a district

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Portland Man Urges Gorge Awakening

One interested party is ready to spend \$2,500,000 for an ore conversion factory near Bonneville if the power rate is low enough, President Leslie M. Scott of the Portland chamber of commerce stated Monday as he pleaded for industrial reawakening of the Columbia gorge area.

Industrial use of a portion of Bonneville electric power was point No. 1 in Scott's program. He asked for such power "at lowest possible rates, whenever the use may be available, to Bonneville the lower the potential rate will be, but without desire to exclude other uses or to deprive other localities."

"We do not ask that all Bonneville power be used for industry," Scott told the forum. "The public agencies have first call upon the power. Since the dam was built with tax moneys, which were advanced for a 400-year period, it is proper that the public should have preference in use of the power."

Would Create Livelihood—

"However, that power which can be used for industry is low cost power and, unless it is sold as such, we, as a chamber of commerce, and the people of this region will be obliged to fight for lowest cost rates. Bonneville can supply the many consumers of cities and farm communities, and at the same time provide factory power near the dam at low rates."

He pointed out that "an industrial plant which employs directly 100 persons creates the means of livelihood for 1000 individuals in family life and in the many connecting business activities. The direct purchasing power of the 100 persons aggregate at least \$156,000 a year."

Scott said the chamber will need to perform two duties: Demand lowest cost rates by appearing before the federal power commission and perhaps the president after Administrator Ross has submitted his proposed rate structure, and solicit industrialists to use the energy.

"The chamber of commerce will be asked in due time to raise \$20,000 to promote the industrial ramifications of Bonneville power use," he added.

Backs Valley Project—

The "typical inquirer" mentioned was here last Saturday, Scott said. His \$2,500,000 is "in his bank awaiting investment in new plant facilities."

Scott's full program included: Development of the Willamette

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Old Lock Gates Break Loose

Ninety-five tons of steel lies in the bottom of the Cascade locks as a result of the river's current loosening the upper north gate from its moorings. It closed with such force as to tear it loose from its hinges and drag it for 30 feet down the side of the locks before it sank. This occurred a week ago Sunday morning.

The gate measured approximately 45 feet by 55 feet and had been placed in operation about 1896. The current boils through the old locks so fast that it is advisable for all parties that have no business near the locks to stay away. It is perhaps the most dangerous condition left by the Army engineers in all of the work on the dam. Just why those gates could not have been closed and left closed even if the sand did pile up behind them is a question in many minds. If the public wants to make use of the beautiful locks island they will have to fly across this fast current filled with whirlpools.

Retail Control Urged for Power Sale

By a three-to-one ratio, Oregon residents favor a uniform rate for power from the federal hydroelectric projects on the Columbia River, states J. D. Ross in a bulletin released today.

In response to thousands of questionnaires circulated in the State, 76% of the replies from Oregon citizens asked J. D. Ross to adopt an equal price for electricity from Bonneville Dam—the same rate everywhere on the transmission line. Only a small minority wanted zones, with higher rates at a distance from the dam. The returns substantiated the requests for uniform rates made at the public hearings held last month in Portland and Salem.

Retail Control Urged—

The people of the Northwest also want Administrator Ross to fix the fair price of electricity in their homes. The heaviest demand for controlled resale rates came from Oregon, where 76% of the replies advocated such regulation. Under the Act authorizing the Bonneville Project, the administrator can sell electricity.

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Softball League Getting Under Way

The Mid-Columbia Softball league is getting under way in great style and before long a meeting of the managers will be called to lay out the schedule and rules of play.

Six teams have signified their intention of joining the engineers in a season of fast, exciting ball. Wyeth, White Salmon, Stevenson, Cascade Locks, Hood River, and Bonneville are lined up at present.

It has been decided to work on the new field more than twice a week so that it will be ready when the season starts. A great deal of labor has already been put into what will probably be one of the finest softball fields in the country.

The dance sponsored by the softball boys was a financial success so that a little money is on hand to obtain equipment.

TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING

For the purpose of discussing the expansion of the city limits of Cascade Locks, a public meeting will be held at the Odd Fellows Hall in Cascade Locks Friday night at 8:00 p. m. The meeting is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Manchester of Cascade Locks states that if it becomes necessary to insure the future of Cascade Locks to the extent of moving the Columbia northward, it shall be done and probably under the sponsorship of the Chamber. Mayor Knopp of Herman Creek states that he will lay before the meeting plans for dock facilities and a huge swimming and recreational park at Lake Weeman.

To Build New Phone Lines Through Gorge

A \$650,000 construction project, calling for the placing of a buried long distance telephone cable from Troutdale to Wyeth in the Columbia gorge, was announced late yesterday by E. D. Wise, vice-president and general manager for Oregon for the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company. The announcement was made coincident with the awarding of a contract to J. A. Lyons, Portland contractor, for the digging of a trench between Troutdale and Wyeth. Telephone engineers say this trench will average 30 inches in depth and will extend approximately 30 miles.

The contracting firm expects to get work started within the next week or ten days and immediately thereafter telephone crews will start placing and splicing the cable.

The Columbia gorge long distance line carries circuits to eastern Oregon and Washington and to points east, as well as carrying a substantial portion of circuits, by way of The Dalles-Klamath Falls line, from the northwest to California. When the work on the new buried long distance cable is finished, it will replace the present telephone pole line which carries five cross-arms with an average of 50 wires.

The long distance line, for the most part, parallels the Columbia river highway. The new underground cable is one especially designed for the Columbia gorge district, and the installation will be the first of its kind in the United States. The cable is armored with steel tape and contains 144 wires, approximately 115 reels of cable, each weighing 9000 pounds, will be required for the Columbia gorge job.

The cable will be spliced and balanced every 1500 feet, and special loading coils will be placed every 3000 feet, with man-holes every 6000 feet. In addition, three new unattended repeater stations, where the voice currents are renewed, will be placed at Troutdale, at a point beyond Horsetail Falls, and a point three and one-half miles east of Cascade Locks.

The route of the new buried long distance cable largely will be on private right-of-way, and the task of digging the trench—which will go through fields, rocks, forests, under creeks and highways—obviously is a difficult one. The cable will be run through conduit already laid on the several bridges over the larger streams entering the Columbia along the route, and also will be above the ground on a pole line at Ruckel slide, just east of Bonneville. Engineers have decided that this slide, which covers only a short section, would be too dangerous for a buried cable.

Only a relatively few telephone poles will remain in the Columbia gorge upon completion of this job, these being in some of the smaller

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New Natural Harbor Used by Boats

A few months ago it was a pasture and this week it was a sheltered harbor for the United States Light-house Tender, "Rhododendron" and several fishing boats.

This new bay of the famous Lake Bonneville we will call Lake Weeman for it is located out near the Columbia Gorge Ranger station and entire surrounds the air beacon rock at the west end of the deserted emergency landing field.

Fishermen and government men alike say that it is the most protected arm of the new lake. It is rumored that Mayor Bill Knopp of Herman Creek will shortly announce the construction of a dock on this new body.

The "Rhododendron" is still at work placing channel markers and buoys for navigation on the river. The crew has been doing a considerable amount of work around Mema-loose Island.

The Columbia Gorge Station has been able to keep in constant contact with this boat by means of short wave radio.

Old Document on Early Locks Recently Discovered

With the tearing away of one of the lock gates in the old Cascade locks recently, facts and figures on this structure, which was an engineering masterpiece at the time it was built, have been mentioned quite freely. Vic Wigren, present lock operator at Bonneville, and for years night operator at Cascade locks, found among his papers the following letter which was sort of a form letter put out by the U. S. Inspector to the various river boats that were plying the river at the time telling of the locks.

The various elevations mentioned are not to be considered in the present sense as above sea level. Apparently many years ago the engineers took an arbitrary number and decided to start all elevation from that point. On this scale "dry bottom" of the upper locks was 88 foot elevation. According to present elevations, based on height above sea level, the elevation of this same point is 35.58 feet. Low water on the old way of recording was 96 feet. It is on this old scale that figures in the following letter are based.

U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE
Cascade Locks, Oregon,
July 25, 1916.

Dear Sirs:—

The following data in connection with the Cascades Canal and Locks, constructed and operated by the UNITED STATES, is furnished for your information. The public, and especially you visitors from other parts of the United States, are interested in all construction work under

the direction of the Government, and from personal experience the following data will cover many of the questions asked by our visitors in connection with this great engineering work:

Construction—Started October 21, 1878; Canal opened to navigation, November 5, 1896.

Location—45 miles from Portland by railway; 56 miles from confluence of Willamette and Columbia rivers; 155 miles from mouth of Columbia river; Priest Rapids, Columbia, 397 miles from mouth, Pillsbury Island, Snake, 540 miles from the mouth.

Dimensions. Upper Lock chamber, 521 feet long, 90 feet wide, 40 feet deep (floor to coping.)

Lower Lock chamber: 514 feet long, 90 feet wide, 46 feet deep (floor to coping.) Total length, 3000 feet.

Lift: 24 feet at low water; 8 feet depth of water on mitre sills.

Lock Gates: Upper Gate, height 55 feet. Middle Gate, 41 feet. Lower Lock Gate, 47 feet. Lower Guard Gate, 37 feet. Gates are of steel and were constructed by Maryland Steel Co., Sparrows Point, Md.

Culverts—The lock chambers are filled and emptied through a culvert running through the bottom of the lock walls. There are eleven (11) ports (3-ft. x 5-ft.) leading from the culverts on each side of the chamber. The water passes from the culverts through these 22 ports into the chamber. The water for filling the lock chambers enters the culverts at the bottom of the masonry walls (gate

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CASCADE LOCKS P. T. A.

TO SPONSOR CARD PARTY

The Cascade Locks P. T. A. will sponsor a card party Friday evening April 29th at the High School. Bridge, Pinochle and "500" will be played. Besides having a good time and spending an enjoyable evening you will be helping a worthy cause for all money is to be used to send a deserving boy or girl to the 4-H summer school at Corvallis. So let's have a large attendance.

Mrs. Kelsay, Mrs. Aebischer and Mrs. Langton attended a pot-luck dinner and meeting of all 4-H Club leaders in this county at Dee, Monday evening. Mrs. Chas. Weber of Portland showed movies of the 4-H Convention in Chicago. 4-H work is very active in the community surrounding Dee and a large number of parents and teachers were present. Our next P. T. A. meeting is to be our 4-H exhibit and we hope all you parents will attend so you will see what your boys and girls are doing and how 4-H work benefits all taking part. It is necessary to raise funds now for our summer school scholarship. The girls taking sewing are piecing a quilt which is to be raffled as their donation.

DANCE RECITAL SCHEDULED

Mrs. Marshall Russell will present for the enjoyment of the residents of the community a free dance recital at the Civic Auditorium at Bonneville on Friday night, May 6, at 7:45.

Mrs. Russell plans on having about 40 local children in the recital.