

THE BONNEVILLE DAM CHRONICLE

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CASCADE LOCKS

BONNEVILLE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 1938

Ross Urges City to Buy Power Company

Forest Service Mobile Radio Demonstrated

A mobile short-wave two-way installation, which equips a car with short wave radio, made a successful test Tuesday, when Roy Weeman and Charlie Sigl of the Columbia Gorge Ranger Station drove to Hood River, keeping in constant communication with the station.

The set is the first one to be installed by the Forest Service in the United States, and is the first for this type of work in the world. It will have wide use in the forest work according to Weeman, who described how the truck could run down the highway answering the fire call, and report immediately to the station specifying what equipment would be needed, how many fire fighters would be needed, how many fire fighters would be required, etc.

The radio was constructed in the Forest Service radio laboratory in Portland, by Gail Simpson, in charge of all radio developments of the Forest Service in the United States. It has an output of 10 watts. It is expected that, with the successful proving given the apparatus yesterday that many Forest Service trucks will be equipped with the new sets. Constant communication can be maintained at any speed, it was discovered. The Forest Service truck came down Cascade Street and conversed with the Herman Creek station from a point on the street in front of the Bartol Motor Co.

Sigl, who made the test with District Forest Ranger Weeman, will be the operator of the short wave set.

City to Give Forest Service Gorge Parks

Preliminary agreements for the transfer of city parks in the Columbia Gorge to the United States forest service and the state highway commission were worked out Wednesday at a conference in the office of Acting Mayor R. E. Riley of Portland.

Attending the conference were Mr. Riley, C. J. Buck, regional forester; E. V. Horton, assistant regional forester; Sam H. Boardman, superintendent of state parks; R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer, and C. P. Keyser, city superintendent of parks.

Benson Gives Approval

Under the arrangements, the forest service would take over Multnomah and Wahkeena falls and that part of Benson park south of the railroad tracks, while the property north would go to the state highway commission. The state also would get Shepherd's Dell and Crown Point. The forest service recently acquired from the county Oneonta Gorge and Horsetail falls. The proposed transfer has been approved by the donor, Simon Benson.

Under the plan the state will get 1½ miles of Columbia river frontage and the forest service about 700 acres of park. It also is possible that 80 acres in McLoughlin park, given by the late Sam Gorman, may be given to the forest service if the heirs approve. This is near St. Peter's dome.

Uniform Plan Drawn

The transfers mean that the city will get out of park operation in the Columbia Gorge, but that the properties will be operated and developed in accordance with plans which have been worked out by the state and government for other holdings they have in the area.

Because of other holdings of both the state and the forest service, the city believes the public will get better recreational service and facilities under the new arrangements

SELLS THE WARCO

Karl Rosenback has disposed of his interest in the tug boat, Warco, of which he has been captain for the last ten or eleven years, doing most of the log towing on this part of the Columbia and other work besides. Charley Smith, well known here, as he was owner of the Ferry system between the Locks and Stevenson for years, is the purchaser and expects to do towing between Portland and The Dalles.

Bonneville Power Sale Is Approved

Washington—The federal power commission approved Tuesday the first contract for sale of Bonneville power in the Northwest.

The contract, which the commission described as experimental, was executed between J. D. Ross, administrator for the big government project on the Columbia river, and the Northwestern Electric company of Portland; It will remain in effect until October 31.

It provides for the delivery of a minimum of 2500 kilowatts of prime power and 2500 kilowatts of secondary power at 66,000 volts at North Bonneville, Wash.

The prime power will be sold to the Northwestern company at \$17.50 a kilowatt year and the secondary power at \$11.50 a kilowatt year.

Because of the short duration of the contract, however, it is provided that instead of the kilowatt year basis for billing, the charges will be computed on a kilowatt day basis, or at 1-365 of the specified kilowatt year rate.

The commission said the company has advised it a maximum of 10,000 kilowatts might be taken under the contract.

Army Man From East Visits Dam

Brigadier-General John J. Kingman, D. S. M., assistant chief of staff, army engineers' corps, arrived in Portland Wednesday on the Southern Pacific Oregonian for an inspection tour in the northwest. General Kingman is chief of the military division of the corps of engineers.

"I came to get familiar with the situation here," the visitor said. "I want to see the 29th engineers here, who are doing map work under Major R. M. Herrington. And then I will see the 6th engineers at Fort Lawton and Fort Lewis."

"And I want to take another look at Bonneville dam. On my way east, I will stop and look over the work at Fort Peck."

Dams' Chief Engineer

"No, there is no building aside from the dams out here that will interest me on this trip."

Asked if he would visit the forts at the mouth of the Columbia river, General Kingman smiled faintly. "No, I'm not going down to see those forts. I don't think they change very much," he said. "And I'm not going to Alaska. Colonel John C. H. Lee, who is up there now, can look after it all right."

General Kingman never lingers long in Portland, no matter what his rank. He said Wednesday that this is his fourth visit there; the others in 1909, 1922 and 1936. Each was a brief stay, as the present one will be.

than under its own control. Action of the conference will be reported today to the state highway commission by Mr. Riley at a meeting in the Public Service building at 11:30 a. m.

City Gives Guy C. Myers Authority

The city council of Cascade Locks yesterday notified their fiscal agent, Guy C. Myers, Wall Street investment broker, that they had voted to authorize him to start negotiations for the purchase of the West Coast Power Company, Cascade Locks Division. No price was made public as to just how high the council authorized Mr. Myers to go in the purchase of the property.

In the meantime City Attorney Teunis J. Wyers is preparing for the holding of an election for the voting of a charter amendment for the raising of finances to purchase, and maintain the West Coast system. As soon as Mr. Myers reaches a price with the company, the city council will vote to place the matter before the people. In this manner only the actual figures will be used in the election and not those estimates before the public at the present time.

It is expected that the money will be raised by the sale of revenue certificates—a little known way of handling municipal financing. Under these certificates are sold to be paid only out of the revenues of the enterprise and have no general obligation bond clause whatsoever.

This method was used by the city of Ashland several years back, contested and taken to the Supreme Court of the State of Oregon, declared legal.

Some question has been brought up about the legality of revenue bonds in the state of Oregon. The Ashland case apparently settles this issue. On the other hand it definitely states in the P. U. D. set-up that the financing must be done on general obligation bonds. The system proposed in Cascade Locks has nothing to do with a Public Utility District but will be handled by the city of Cascade Locks going into the power business.

Means Sought To Change P.U.D. Law

Preparation of a bill to be presented to the 1939 session of the legislature for the purpose of enacting a new people's utility district law has been started by the Bonneville Federation of Oregon.

The federation is composed of directors and officials of existing people's utility districts, municipally-owned utilities, co-operatives and bona fide sponsors of people's utility districts. The executive board of the federation has requested J. D. Ross, Bonneville administrator, to have John C. Fischer, general counsel of the Bonneville project, prepare the statute.

Revision Held Necessary

A resolution adopted by the Bonneville Federation declared a new law necessary "to prevent almost all of the power generated at the Bonneville dam being sold and distributed in the state of Washington."

M. H. McQuire, manager of the McMinnville municipal electric plant and president of the Bonneville Federation of Oregon, announced the following committee to assist in drafting the bill:

J. W. McArthur, manager of the Eugene municipal water and light utility, chairman; Ray W. Gill, master of the state Grange; George W. Potts, Jefferson, president of the Farmers' Union; J. L. Steinbach, secretary of the Tillamook People's utility district; Captain George M. Clevenger, Portland; A. C. Hetman, Albany, and H. F. McInturff, Portland, of the Public Ownership League of America.

POT-LUCK SUPPER

Next Thursday evening, August 11th, there will be a pot-luck supper at the Cascade church, Cascade Locks. Everyone is invited!

The object of this meeting is better acquaintance and fellowship and to discuss plans and procedure for improvements, alterations, etc., needed in both church and parsonage in order to be prepared to meet an influx of population and changing conditions which are expected in Cascade Locks in the near future. Members of the Chamber of Commerce and City Council with their wives and families are especially urged to come. We need your advice and cooperation.

Bids Called On Units 3, 4; Parts of 5, 6

The bids were called Wednesday by the United States District Engineer at Bonneville for the installation of turbines No. 3 and No. 4 and the building of a structure to house turbines No. 3 and No. 4 and the proposed No. 5 and No. 6 and also the embedded parts of the proposed turbines No. 5 and No. 6.

The turbines will be on the general plan of those already installed with actual design up to the various contractors. They will be single runner vertical shaft type with automatic adjustable propeller blades. They will rotate in clockwise direction 75 revolutions per minute. 74,000 horse power will be required for each turbine to generate as compared to the turbines now in Units No. 1 and No. 2, which are only required to generate 60,000 horsepower.

At this time bids are called for the construction of a building to house four units No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, and No. 6, even though the actual construction of units No. 6 and No. 6 will not be undertaken at this time. Bids are also asked for the embedded parts of Units No. 5 and No. 6. These bids must be in the Engineers' office at Bonneville by 3 p. m., September 13, 1938.

Promptly after the award of the contract the contractor has to proceed with the design of the turbines proposed and with the construction of a test model of as near sixteen inches in diameter as practicable, exactly on homologous with the turbines to be finished. The model must be of sufficient strength as to test over a head of 69 feet.

The contractor will be required to commence work under the contract within ten calendar days after date received by him of notice to proceed and must have the contract completed within six hundred calendar days.

Lt. Bonesteel Leaves For Fort Belvoir

Time marches on, contracts are let and dams are built, new army officers are assigned to Bonneville and old ones leave.

Tuesday Lt. C. H. Bonesteel will bid good-bye to Bonneville on his way to his new assignment at the army engineering school at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Several former northwest men are going to be there this fall so the Lieutenant will be right at home. Colonel Robins is the big push at the school as also are Capt. "Count" Gorlinski, Colonel Williams and Lt. MacDonnell.

Lt. Bonesteel has been on the Bonneville project since May 26, 1936. On August 16 he will report with Mrs. Bonesteel at San Francisco for a transport trip through the canal to Virginia. Mrs. Bonesteel has already gone south to have a short visit with her folks before sailing.

When Bonneville Administrator J. D. Ross proposed Monday night that the town of Cascade Locks buy out the West Coast Power Co. at a fair price to its investors, he paved the way for inauguration of a significant national policy, observers believed Tuesday.

Before a mass meeting of some 200 citizens of the Cascade Locks area, Ross urged that the little Columbia town abandon any idea of competing with the private utility within the city limits as planned, but instead offer to buy the entire West Coast Power Company property on the Oregon side of the Columbia at a price not to exceed \$50,700. The West Coast Power Company service in the property mentioned, from Multnomah Falls to Lindsay Creek along the Columbia River.

The meeting voted unanimously after discussions of the proposal to instruct the city council to negotiate with the company for purchase of its properties, three-quarters of which lie outside the city limits.

Applied nationally, Ross' "fair price to investors" proposal would mean the end of hostilities brought about by condemnation actions, and the end of wasteful duplication in distribution systems, wherever public power agencies are moving into territory pioneered by private utilities before public ownership gained headway.

"No Comment"

W. C. MacInnes, president of the West Coast Power company, had "no comment" Tuesday on Ross' speech of Monday night. He indicated, however, that his organization believes that a fair price offer by the city involved is the first step in an orderly solution of the problem which has its immediate test at Cascade Locks.

The citizens of Cascade Locks recently voted overwhelmingly to authorize a \$12,000 general obligation bond issue to establish an independent distribution system within the city limits, using power from Bonneville dam.

Ross proposed instead that revenue bonds be used to raise \$85,000 or \$90,000 to buy out the West Coast distribution system, provide working capital and allow for new construction and reconstruction of present installations.

Sees Lower Rates

He declared that purchase of the West Coast properties and operation on this basis would permit rate reductions of 40 per cent in all homes, 25 per cent for commercial power and 75 per cent for street lighting.

The bond issue would be refunded through revenues produced by operation of the system.

Ross pointed out that a fair price to investors takes into consideration the fact that the West Coast system in the Cascade Locks district now produces \$39,000 a year in revenue, and consequently the investors should be paid for more than the wires and poles used to carry electricity.

He compared a power system to a hotel in the desert—worthless unless it is doing business and producing revenue. A fair price is based upon earnings rather than on the value of an empty business.

Agent Says Price Fair

The Bonneville administrator said that paying a fair price to investors in West Coast would win the confidence of private industries and would encourage them to purchase

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Mike Long Moves Shop

Mike Long, the genial Cascade Locks barber has moved into his new quarters across the street from the old one. Jack Flaucher, who recently moved from the house beside his lodge, has remodeled part of this structure so that now Mike has one of the finest shops in the Columbia Gorge.

A kitchen was placed on the house formerly occupied by Frank Moran and the Longs are now moved into this home adjacent to his shop.