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JOHN H. TRAVIS, Editor

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Grand Jury To Hold Record Term

For the first time in all the years that John Baker has been District Attorney for Hood River County, the grand jury can look forward to a three-day session. The March term opens with the jury being impaneled on Monday, March 6. On Tuesday a long list of witnesses have been subpoenaed for Tuesday morning when the investigation into the purchase of the county's rock crusher will be the main subject for the day.

District Attorney Baker wishes that anyone who feels that he has something to offer on Tuesday and has not been called would please appear on that date. An audience with the grand jury will be arranged.

More cases are ready for investigation this time than ever before in the history of Baker's regime. In past years the grand jury has been called for two-day sessions but this is the first time for three days.

Increased Population Results In Burden on Schools and Taxpayers

Teachers of Hood River County are being paid 20 per cent less for instructing 28 per cent more children than in 1929-30, L. B. Gibson, superintendent of Hood River County schools, announced this week. A statement made by Gibson to this paper told of an increase in school census to 3737 in

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Hood River

1938, as compared to 2915 in 1929. His account follows:

"Tax statements for the current year are being sent out. To many tax-payers—especially to those dependent on the farms for resources—these statements are part of a cumulative load which often is too heavy.

"Since the schools of Oregon are almost wholly maintained by property taxes, some features of the Hood River County schools should be of vital interest:

"1—The school population of Hood River County has been and is increasing. Our school census in 1929 was 2915 and in 1938 was 3737. This is an increase of a shade more than 28%. Nearly all of this swelling has come in the last four years. This increase gives evidence of being permanent. Each of the last four years has shown an increase over the preceding year. Many small houses are being built in all parts of the County. These are generally occupied as soon as the roof is on. The children are here in increasing numbers.

"This year each of the four high schools in Hood River County has an all time high enrollment. A few of the grade schools have been larger in past years, but the combined attendance at all grade schools is an all time high.

"Increased attendance brings enlarged obligations both financial and social.

"2—Standards of education have been raised. The school has demanded expansion of courses and enlargement of equipment. A high school that was standard five years ago would be off the list today. The County District was on the verge of losing all rating for its high schools. Improvements were mandatory. School patrons urge progress, and the State Board of Education imposes added obligations.

"3—The Oregon Legislature of 1937 enacted legislation placing school transportation under the Public Utility Commissioner and formulating specific objectives. Under rules set up by the PUC all school busses by September, 1939, must have all-steel bodies, shatter-proof glass, and many other provisions of safety. The time limit might be extended for one year. The aims are good. The cost is heavy. Of eight busses being operated in Hood River only one meets the specification set forth.

"4—The school cost for Hood River County for 1929-1930 was at an all-time high. The school cost for 1933-1934 was the lowest in 20 years. The school cost for 1938-1939 will be higher than those of 1933-1934 and substantially lower than for 1929-1930.

"The school cost for 1938-1939 will fall about \$22,000.00 under high of 1929-1930. This saving is largely on teachers' salaries. Teachers are being paid 20% less for instructing 28% more children.

"The whole question merits

thoughtful, sympathetic consideration. The difficulties besetting young people are more serious than in former years. Life is more intense and complex. The school and the home and kindred youth agencies have a heavier load than in past years. American institutions will survive. The school is one of the best of these institutions."

Districts Reserve 215,542 Kilowatts

Public utility districts and cities in the Northwest have called upon Administrator J. D. Ross for reservation of 215,542 kilowatts of Bonneville power—considerably more electricity than will be available from the Columbia River dam in the next two years. Under the federal law, half of Bonneville's hydroelectric power must be reserved for such public agencies until January 1, 1941.

Delivery This Year

Twenty-two of Washington's 25 county-wide districts hurried to avail themselves of the preference when the Bonneville chief disclosed he was accepting reservations for delivery of power over the broad transmission network planned for the area. A total of 202,431 of the 215,542 kilowatts were asked by Washington districts for use by the end of 1940. Nearly all of the district commissioners called for delivery of power during the present year, as soon as transmission lines are constructed and negotiations to acquire private distribution systems are completed.

Oregon public authorities have asked for 13,011 kilowatts, which is slightly more than 6% of the total reservations of non-profit agencies entitled to priority in the sale of Bonneville power. Tillamook and Wickiup—two of Oregon's four districts—requested 3,576 kilowatts. Seven cities in the State asked for a total of 9,535 kilowatts.

1944 Needs Given

Reservations to date do not include a number of public power systems which have previously indicated their desire for Bonneville energy. McMinnville, Forest Grove and other municipal and co-operative systems have yet to submit their requests. Announcement of projected lines to extend from the initial Bonneville network led to reservations by outlying districts. Estimates of the districts in Washington revealed a contemplated usage of 321,540 kilowatts by 1944, while Oregon public agencies fixed 21,578 as their probable requirements.

Requests for power allotments came from numerous counties which contemplate formation of public districts. Included among these were Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Walla Walla and Yakima counties in Washington; Linn, Polk, Yamhill, Benton, Marion, Lincoln, Clatsop, Washington and Wasco counties in Oregon. Their requests, which are not included in the 215,542 kilowatts mentioned above, total 35,785 for Washington public agencies and 24,950 for the proposed districts in Oregon.

Engineers on the Administrator's staff pointed out that the dam's present capacity of 86,400 kilowatts will not be enlarged for nearly two years. By the latter part of 1940 two new generators will raise the total output of the Bonneville plant to 180,400 kilowatts. Power not required for the immediate use of public districts may be disposed of temporarily to other agencies.

Revenue Bonds Essential

The predominance of power reservations from Washington is attributed to the present law which permits quick negotiation with private companies for purchasing their systems through issuance of revenue bonds. Two Southwest Washington districts already have reached agreements with the local power companies on nearly all details for acquiring the properties. Ten other systems in that State are in the process of negotiation with probability of completing arrangements for most of the lines by the time the Bonneville network is constructed.

Administrator Ross has declared that such a revenue bond law is essential if public districts are to purchase private utility properties at a fair price, and without plac-

ing any legal obligation upon taxpayers. A revenue bond amendment to the Oregon district law was introduced in the legislature at Salem last week.

U. P. INAUGURATES NEW FREIGHT SCHEDULE

A new, fast, overnight merchandise train will be put into regular service March 1 by the Union Pacific, operating from Portland to Arlington, Pendleton, La Grande and Baker and into Idaho, providing early morning delivery of less than carload or package merchandise throughout eastern Oregon and to points as far east as Boise, Idaho.

Notice of inauguration of this service, with store-door pickup of merchandise at Portland and store-door delivery at destinations, was received here today from F. W. Robinson, vice president in charge of traffic.

The Union Pacific's new merchandising train will leave Portland at 6:45 p. m., permitting late afternoon loading.

The new train is scheduled to provide over-night service for eastern Oregon. Over-night freight service to Hood River has been the custom of the railroad for some time.

To take care of this new service along the line, a position of superintendent of stations has been created and L. V. Vermillion has been appointed for Oregon.

J. F. Blake, Hood River Union Pacific agent, recently returned from a trip to Omaha, where he was one of a committee to survey the business and traffic conditions of the railroads. The new fast freight service, which is faster than passenger trains, is a part of the new program recommended by the committee on which the local man served.

Silo Silas Sez . . .

One thing especially nice about public libraries. Nobody is permitted to read aloud an article that doesn't interest you anyway.

There are some men whose wives tell them what good providers they are, and other men whose wives tell them what poor drivers they are.

When a local girl tells a boy she dreamed about him the night before, he had better start looking at furniture ads the night after.

All the concern and solicitations for the forgotten man! You never heard of a forgotten woman, did you?

The secret of most wealthy men's success still remains a secret.

15,000 MAN YEARS

Distributing Bonneville power to January 1, 1940, will provide 15,000 man years of labor, 325 miles of clearing, construction of 1900 great steel towers, suspension of 271,508 insulators, construction of 14 substations, erection of 8500 wood poles, placing of 10,000,000 pounds of conductors or 640 miles of transmission lines as well as a great deal of other work.

The great transmission project will provide 1,000,000 man days of work for those who provide the materials in factories and mines, and as many of employment on the project itself.

It will utilize 35,000,000 pounds of steel, 5,000,000 pounds of copper, 5,000,000 pounds of aluminum, 4,000,000 pounds of insulators.

—The Oregonian.

Household Hints

Use a solution of washing soda to remove foods that have been burned onto enamel cooking utensils.

Cook corn, beans and peas and add to white sauce and pour over toast, making a good luncheon dish.

Add flavoring to foods when they are cool. If the food is hot, much of the flavoring will vanish in steam. This does not apply to baked goods, however.

Nearly 125,000 acres in Sweden were planted to sugar beets last year.

Cascadian

NOW PLAYING—

The most talked-of motion picture of this season bring you Mr. Charles Laughton in "THE BEACHCOMBER" With Elsa Lancaster

Opens Monday March 6

"FAST AND LOOSE"

Rosalind Russell, Robert Montgomery, Reginald Owen, Ralph Morgan, and Alan Dinehart

Class entertainment all the way—in the manner of the "Thin Man" classics.

On the same program a thrilling "Crime Doesn't Pay," and an "Our Gang" comedy.

Rialto

Friday Only March 3

Return Showing

"WELLS FARGO"

Joel McCrea, Frances Dee, Bob Burns, Johnny Mack Brown and a cast of thousands in this roaring drama of the founding of the west.

Saturday Only March 4

Humphrey Bogart and Kay

Francis in "KING OF THE UNDERWORLD"

Sunday Only March 5

Wm. Boyd, Chas Haydon, and Rochelle Hudson in

"SUNSET TRAIL"

— plus —
Lynn Overman and J. Carrol Naish in "PERSONS IN HIDING"

Mon., Tues., Wed. March 6, 7, 8

MICKEY ROONEY in

"HUCKLEBERRY FINN"

Supported by Rex Ingram as Jim, Walter Connolly as the "King," William Frawley as the "Duke," Lynn Carver as Mary Jane, Jo Ann Sayers as Susan, Irving Bacon as Tad, and Victor William as "Pap" Finn.

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