

CASCADE LOCKS CHRONICLE

and The Bonneville Dam Chronicle

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CASCADE LOCKS

BONNEVILLE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1939

Court Action Started To Declare PUD Void

New Wage Scale For WPA Workers

The new WPA resident engineer, Nelson E. Likins, has this past week set up offices in the balcony of the courthouse. He also announced that a new monthly wage scale goes into effect this coming Friday, September 1, for WPA work in the county.

The new scale compared with the old is as follows:

Unskilled inside labor, New, \$44.20; Old, \$40.30. Unskilled outside labor—New, \$49.40; Old, \$40.30. Intermediate—New, \$59.80; Old, \$45.50. Skilled—New, \$76.70; Old, \$55.90. Technical, New, \$78.00; Old, \$61.10.

GRAYS HARBOR P.U.D. VICTIM OF INJUNCTION

Ruling that a public vote is required when purchase by a P.U.D. of a private power firm is contemplated, Judge Charles W. Hall issued a permanent injunction against the purchase of the Grays Harbor Railway and Light company by the harbor P.U.D. The power commissioners did not follow the law, said the Judge Hall, when they failed to pass a plan and system resolution, outlining the purchase, before signing the purchase contract.

The injunction followed trial this summer of a suit by an Aberdeen taxpayer against the P.U.D. to stop purchase of the local light firm for \$2,842,000 and issuance of \$3,350,000 in revenue bonds to finance it. The city of Aberdeen was intervenor in the suit.

Judge Hall denied the city's claim it had pre-empted the power field here through its Wynooche river development, and declared the city neither owns nor operates a utility system. On all other points, the ruling was in favor of the commissioners.

Big Program Planned for Festival

A Pacific Northwest Championship Apple Packing Contest will feature the Hood River Valley Harvest Days to be held in Hood River this year on September 28, 29, 30 and October 1.

Already invitations are on their way to other apple centers of the northwest inviting representation in the local affair. The local contests preliminary to the Harvest Days will be announced within the next few days.

The carnival will be here again with the booths of the various clubs as usual. This year it will be located on the vacant lot across the street from the Hood River Hotel and in back of the Mt. Hood Hotel.

A full program is being planned with the grand finale of the affair to be held at Koberg Beach Sunday afternoon and evening. Here the fireworks that were not used on the Mt. Hood Climb this year will be displayed from a suitable point in the river. The finals of the apple packing contest will be held and later a huge dance will be given. Speed boat races will also be held during the day out from the Beach.

More Fish in River Since Netters Quit

With the closing of the commercial salmon fishing on August 25 the number of chinook salmon and steelheads passing through the Bonneville fish ladders has increased greatly.

Date	Chinook	Steelhead	Blueback	Silver	Total
Aug. 21	427	864	3		1294
Aug. 22	475	1049	9		1536
Aug. 23	684	1043	1	5	1733
Aug. 24	667	692	6	11	1376
Aug. 25	659	633		9	1301
Aug. 26	811	816		12	1639
Aug. 27	1784	1123	1	31	2939
Aug. 28	2034	655	1	75	2765
Aug. 29	2298	604		312	3214

Total for the week 17,797

A complaint was filed this past week in the circuit court against the Hood River Public Utility District and the different directors of the District.

The suit was filed by five qualified voters of the district, namely C. N. Ravlin, H. C. Pitblado, S. L. Banks, Frank Fenwick and Martin Dragseth. E. B. London, not proposed to be a qualified voter of the area, was also listed among those filing the complaint. Of the six, Ravlin, London, Banks, Dragseth and Fenwick are represented as owning property in the District. Those bring suit asked for judgment and decree of the court as follows:

- (1) That the Hood River Public Utility District be declared illegal and void.
 - (2) That the election on July 19 be declared illegal and void.
 - (3) That the proclamation of Hydroelectric Commission be declared illegal in creating a Public Utility District for Hood River County.
 - (4) That the certification of Johnson and Shurtliff as directors be declared illegal and decree no board of directors elected and enjoin these directors from undertaking any action as directors.
 - (5) That the provisions of the Public Utility law as construed to vest in the Hydroelectric Commission with the power to create a district bounds in any manner different from the proposed district as voted on by the people therein, be decreed unlawful, unconstitutional and void.
- The complaint is rather a lengthy affair bringing up many points which the plaintiffs feel are grounds for their action.

Cascade Locks

(By Gerry Woodward)

Miss Boisselier, County Librarian, has sent the Locks library a small collection of books which are for seven days only. We will have these till the first of November. Those wishing to read any of these books may do so: "Black Automatic," William B. Mowery; "She Knew Three Brothers," Margaret Widdemer; "Trail Boss," Walter Gann; "Envoy Extraordinary," E. P. Openheim; "Skin Deep," C. B. Kelland; "Enchanted Oasis," Faith Baldwin; "Land For My Son," Cormack and Alexander; "Hasty Wedding," Mignon Eberhart; "Marriage Is Possible," Margaret Widdemer; "With Spurs," E. B. Mann; "Phantom on Skis," Helen Girvan; "Powder Smoke," Jackson Gregory.

Chuck Bennett left Friday for the San Francisco Exposition for a few days' stay there.

Mrs. Sue Woodward spent Monday afternoon in Stevenson on business and visited over night with Mr. and Mrs. Orin McKinnon.

Miss Eilene Ducklee and Doyle Harvey visited Miss Ducklee's relatives at Corbett Friday and spent the evening at the Multnomah County Fair.

Art Brathord visited his family at Yakima over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Artie Sundsten and Harry Cramblett enjoyed the softball game at Salem Friday night which the Engineers won.

Miss Eleanor Ducklee of Corbett visited her sister, Miss Eilene Ducklee, last Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Nels Hesgard and son, Ralph, and Junior Sipes spent Sunday in Portland and the children enjoyed a visit to the zoo.

Petition for Rate Reduction

Seeking a 25% reduction in light bills, Stevenson citizens have petitioned the city council to take action for the following reasons:

"We, the undersigned energy users, do hereby petition your honorable body to ask the state public service commission, to make a general reduction of not less than 25% in electric rates. We ask this for the reason, power can now be bought at Bonneville at such a rate that the present company or its successors can well afford to make such a new rate and as a city council we ask that you intervene to have this fact accomplished."

The city council voted to take the matter up in September, while in the meantime a special committee will make a survey of the situation and report at that time.

Names on the petition were secured in less than two hours, with few refusing to sign. Officials of the West Coast Power Co. expressed surprise at such a movement at this time.

City Light Holds Open House

Residents of the Cascade Locks Bonneville area turned out in great style for the City Light Open House at the new City Light offices in the former Merrill Tavern property in Cascade Locks last Saturday afternoon and evening.

The office was resplendent in flowers given by well wishing parties and electrical appliances. Councilmen, manager Chess Brazil, and employees were introduced and gave short speeches at the ceremony in the evening. In the afternoon many dropped into the office to meet the management and inspect the new location.

Miss Frances Kortke and George Patterson of The Dalles were guests of Mrs. Fred Snider last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Stowell and children of Odell visited Mr. and Mrs. Preston Bassart Sunday.

Transmission Line Work Progressing

Close on the heels of successful campaigns for public utility districts in Hood River and Wasco counties, Bonneville engineers announced this week that plans for the Hood River power substation are in their final form and that clearing operations for the 110,000-volt transmission line to The Dalles are 37 per cent complete.

Final work on the hundreds of detail maps and drawings necessary for line construction is being speeded so that the two new Oregon P.U.D.s will have Bonneville power by next summer.

Power transformers will be delivered to the substation site at Hood River about November 1. Already delivered are quantities of cable, disconnecting switches, oil circuit breakers, insulators, conduit and steel for the substation structure. A temporary construction office also has been established.

The substation's control house will be similar to that now nearly completed at Eugene and will require about 75 days to build, say Bonneville engineers. The entire substation job will fill a six-month construction period. Tentative date for completion has been set at some time in April.

Crews totaling 160 men have been employed by the works progress administration in clearing the right-of-way between Bonneville and Hood River. Work is now proceeding over an 11-mile front. Most of the workers are stationed at the WPA camp at Bonneville and present plans do not include moving the camp. As the line clearing operations extend eastward, additional workers may be needed up in the Hood River and Wasco county areas.

Two crews, one working out of Bonneville and one out of Hood River, are at work on final details of the line survey. Specifications for line construction will await the completion of these surveys.

The federal government has taken title to 29.85 miles of the total right-of-way and action is pending on the remaining portion.

Auxiliary Sponsors Junior Activities

Activities of Junior members are receiving increased attention in the American Legion Auxiliary throughout the country this summer, according to Harriette Johnson, Junior activities chairman of the Bonneville Unit of the Auxiliary. Approximately 50,000 girls under the age of eighteen, the daughters of American Legion members, are now enrolled in the Auxiliary and are taking an active part in its work.

With school vacation giving these girls more time for Auxiliary activities, the Juniors of a majority of Units have a busy summer program. Picnics, camping trips, visits to historical spots and educational tours to state capitals are among the activities of Junior groups. Juniors are aiding the Auxiliary in its work for the disabled World War veterans in government hospitals, helping provide comforts and entertainment to brighten the hospital hours.

The Auxiliary's safety program is being emphasized in Junior groups this summer to reduce the vacation accident toll. Work for underprivileged children is being carried out by the Juniors of many Units, contributions and help being given to health camps, ice funds, playgrounds and similar projects to make summer happier and safer for children of needy families.

Americanism continues to be the subject of major interest to the girls of the Auxiliary. Harriette Johnson said. In their summer activities they are putting into practice the principles of good citizenship which they have learned in Americanism studies at winter meetings.

A public hearing on proposed formation of a people's utility district in Portland has been set by the state hydroelectric commission for 3 p. m., Friday, September 29, in Benson Tech auditorium.

Suit May Cause New Tax Levy

A hint that "the financial burden of defending the suit against the Skamania County Public Utility District may necessitate the levy of a general tax this fall," was contained in a statement issued by District Attorney Clyde M. Linville, Jr. "If the deal had gone through as scheduled it would have been concluded with a minimum of expense. It had not been the intention of the board to levy taxes this fall, but the financial burden of defending the case will, in all probability, make necessary the levy of a general tax. This will be considered at the regular time this fall."

"The friends of public power naturally question the good faith of the series of law suits being filed all over the state. In our case, where the matter was given full publicity, the protesting parties waited for almost two months and without ever communicating with or appearing before the board, and then commenced the action just 48 hours before the date set for the closing. We feel that it is nothing but an organized campaign of hindrance and delay, seeking to destroy the public power movement."

Stimulus to rural purchases of electrical appliances is expected this fall as a result of REA plans to expand its financing program which has been tried experimentally in three states. The program, first tried in North Carolina, Virginia, and Delaware, covered appliances used in farming, but it is now planned to include household appliances. Sales are to be made through regular distributing channels and firm co-ops where no other channel is available.

Oregon Gets 32 Million From Congress Past Year

Casting up the record of Oregon appropriations during the congressional session soon to close, it is found that the grand total is \$32,483,500. Under general headings it is divided this way:

Rivers and harbors, \$2,202,000; Bonneville, \$20,400,000; Willamette Basin flood control, \$5,795,250; other flood control, \$1,916,250; Tongue Point naval aviation base, \$1,500,000; reclamation projects, \$670,000.

Excluded from this are funds provided for usual government activities, authorizations for the future and maintenance appropriations, except that allusion will be found to the sizeable sum to maintain river and harbor work. Substantial sums will be extended also on the construction of public buildings, but the amount to be spent this year is not available.

Tongue Point may be placed first in achievements of the Oregon delegation as an actual start and full authorization for something that Oregon has sought longer than 20 years. It is the one distinctly new project. Its full growth in the development of Pacific Coast defense likely will be more apparent as years go by.

New river and harbor work is listed for \$2,202,000, more than half going to the 27-foot Columbia river channel between Vancouver and Bonneville. For that work, \$1,124,000 has been allocated. The other items are:

Extension of the north jetty at Yaquina bay, \$367,000; Umpqua river, dredging from mouth to Reedsport, \$273,000; Columbia river at Bonneville, completion of navigation features, \$363,000; rebuilding of Chinook breakwater, \$45,000; turning basin at St. Helens, \$20,000.

These figures exclude all maintenance work, which amounts to \$1,580,000 in the Portland district alone, and to \$428,000 at Coos bay. They are exclusive also of authorizations in the new rivers and harbors bill. The principal item for Oregon thus deferred is the \$23,700,000 proposed for Umatilla dam.

Under the heading of flood control, the Willamette Basin project has an allocation of \$5,795,250 for the Cottage Grove, Dorena and Fern Ridge reservoirs, revetment and channel work on the Willamette, Tualatin and Santiam, and for highway relocation at the Detroit reservoir.

It is stated at the office of the chief of engineers that the published report of an allocation of \$100,000 for the current year toward reconstruction of the Oregon City locks, beginning a \$2,500,000 job, is a mistake. Money for that will not be available before the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, 1940.

Amounts allocated by army engineers for Oregon flood control projects, other than the work included within the Willamette Basin project, sum up to \$1,916,250 and are not all accounted for, as amounts to be expended in some instances are yet to be announced. Subject to the qualification stated, the allocations to projects are:

Multnomah drainage district No. 1, \$398,000; Sauves island, \$655,000; Deer Island area in Columbia county, \$153,000; Scappoose district, \$207,000; Tualatin river, \$200,250; Willamette river, \$150,000; Walluski river in Clatsop county, \$89,000; Yamhill river dikes, \$27,000; Santiam river, \$37,000.

Appropriations for Bonneville power aggregate \$20,400,000, divided as follows, \$13,000,000 for transmission lines, \$400,000 for administrative expense and \$7,000,000 for two new power units. Money for Bonneville is partly spent in the state of Washington. The amounts spent in each state are not easily segregated.

Construction work on reclamation projects covered by the appropriations for the current year calls for \$270,000 on the Owyhee project and \$400,000 on Deschutes, the latter project also receiving the benefit of labor performed by the CCC. The nearby Roza division of the Yakima project receives \$900,000.

The Chronicle

Takes This Opportunity to Wish its Readers a Very Pleasant and Enjoyable Vacation Over the Labor Day Week-End