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THE MILL CITY ENTERPRISE

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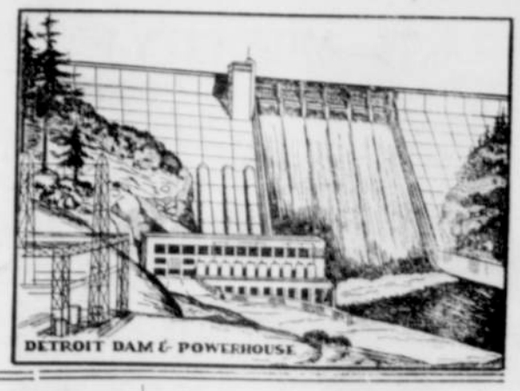

DETROIT DAM & POWERHOUSE

Elkhorn To Consolidate With Mill City

By GEORGE HOPKINS

Consolidation of the Elkhorn school district with the Mill City school system became a reality last Friday when voters accepted the issue in Mill City by a vote of 8 to 0 and Elkhorn accepted 15 to 11.

Only eight voters turned out in the Mill City election at the high school while 26 of the 28 eligible registrants voted in Elkhorn.

Action to bring the eight students in the outlying district into schools here will not be carried out until the start of the next school year. The Elkhorn district has hired a teacher for the present school year.

Proposed routing of a school bus to pick up the youngsters in the Elkhorn district and transport them here led to much controversy between the district's school board members and the citizens in the community. One route would carry the students over the Gates-Elkhorn road, while the other would bring them in on the river road via Taylor Grove.

County School Supt. Agnes Booth declared the road over the mountainous slopes via Gates was inadequate for bus transportation. The road, however, was reported to be ready for travel after a county road crew straightened out many of the difficult turns. Gravel has been purchased for the road, to be applied when the weather clears.

Donald Sheythe, local president of the Mill City district school board, said today further action on the matter would be way-layed until allocation of funds for the coming year are made at the next meeting of the boadr.

Total taxes from the addition of the school to the local district would give Mill City's school system $65,000 more to work with for the coming year. This will be used for additional teachers and building equipment badly needed here.

A decision for routing of the bus will be left until the time of the meeting, Sheythe said.

Soil Officials Will Discuss Conservation

Soil conservation district formation for Linn county will be discussed at a special meetingat the new Lyons school Thursday evening at 8:00 o'clock.

Petitions for formation of the district are being circulated throughout the local area to gain approval of a district in this immediate area.

Anyone owning ten acres or more of land are urged to be present at the special meeting Thursday evening. Several of the soil conservation staff from Stayton will be there to answer any and all questions pertaining to soil conservation.

Those circulating petitions for the formation are Ike Myers, Steve Dark, Chet Blum, Tony Marnick and Elmer Taylor.

Couple Arrested For Possession Of Stolen Goods

Roy Eaves was bound over to a grand jury and his wife was turned over to juvenile authorities in Salem by the Breitenbush justice of the peace following their arrest December 28 for possession of stolen goods valued at $93.35.

The goods had been stolen from three different stores in Detroit over a period of about a month. The articles included a watch stolen from the home of Mrs. Pike.

The arrest was made by state patrolman Robert Steele who arraigned the couple into the Britenbush justice court in Idanha.

Walter Dozler of Stayton was arraigned before the Albany justice court charged with wanton waste of game on December 13 by Steele. He was fined $154. The Albany court also fined Brice A. Dolzer of Stayton the same amount for killing deer with less than a forked horn and in closed season.

Two Stayton men, Leroy Harold Fehlen and John Edward Mack were charged with hunting ducks after hours December 20 and fined $14 in Stayton justice court.

A charge of possession of venison in closed season was imposed on four Detroit men, Lawrence Newell Trask, Phillip Edward Robinson, George Robert Winters and Charles R. Winters, who were cited into court by state police.

Rate Changes In Electricity Due Here

An explanation of rate changes for electric customers served by Mountain States Power company from its Willamette Valley electric system was made today by Z. E. Merrill, president of the Power company.

Mr. Merrill stated that the changes effective in January, 1950, were designed to simplify rates, and to eliminate dual meters wherever possible. This will conform to the practice of the company on some of its other electric systems and with the practice of a number of other electric service distributors in the Northwest.

The new rates were adopted to achieve simplification. Many residential, commercial and small customers, however, will find it to their advantage to change their electric wiring to receive all of their requirements through one meter. It should be noted that present customers will in no instance have an increased electric bill as a result of the new rates.

The change rates will also apply to practically all new connections made to the Willamette Valley system of the company and will result in savings to the customer because he will in most cases need to provide wiring for only one meter regardless of the types of electric service he may use.

Mr. Merrill pointed out that electric service in this area is one of the few commodities which have not increased in price since pre-war days and that this new step in rate simplication is in accordance with the company's policy of providing a more convenient means for customers to make a greater use of the service.

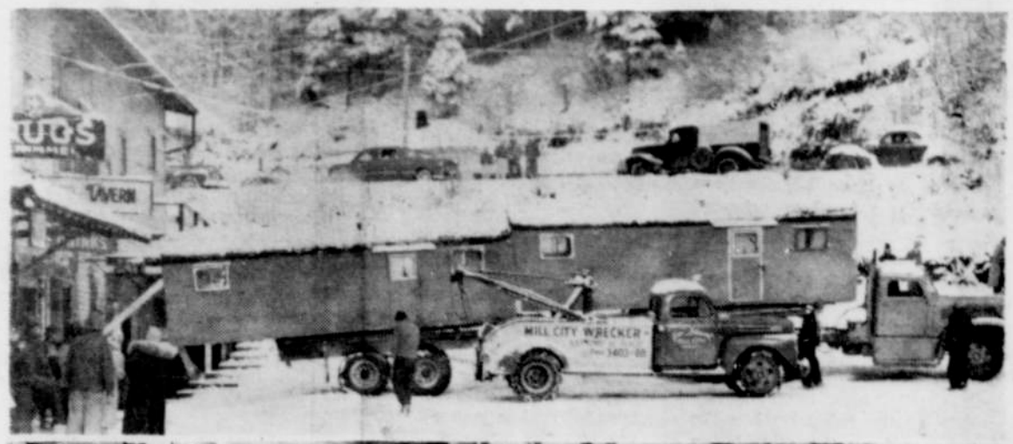
Details as to the application of these rate changes are available at all of the company's Willamette valley offices. Customers are invited to call or write if they should desire further information or advice relative to their electric service, according to C. M. Cline, local manager.

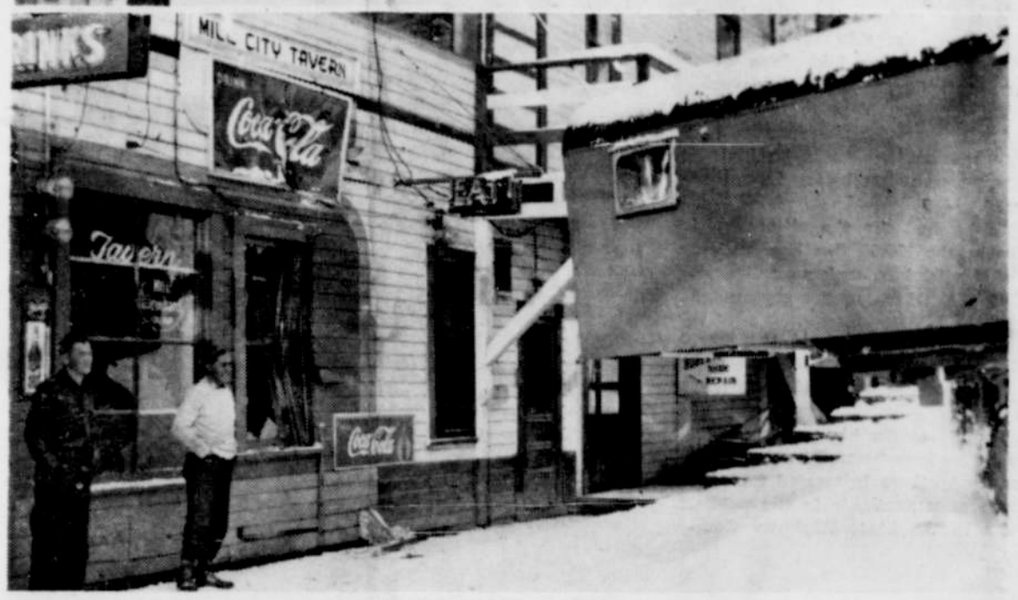
Electric Service Disrupted Here By Failing Tree

Electrical power was put out for three hours and 25 minutes in the Mill City, Lyons, Mehama area Tuesday night when a tree uprooted and fell across a power line between Scio and Lyons, it was reported by the Mountain States Power company officials today.

An emergency power unit carried power to parts of Marion county 45 minutes after the accident, it was reported. Light service in the Stayton area, however, was not disrupted.

The accident occured at 10:35 p.m., company officials said. Many local citizens used left over candles from the holidays and flashlights during the emergency.





Loaded with house trailers for Mongold, the semi-truck and trailer belonging to E. R. Hitchman of Salem, came to grief Monday morning. Though the road had been sanded, the equipment skidded and broke a window in the Dawes building and also damaged the trailer house on the truck. It was an hour before the wreckage was cleared and the hazard to traffic removed. The upper picture shows how the truck and trailer finally stopped and the lower a close-up of the damage. (Photos courtesy of Capital Journal.)

Ice and Snow Cause Wreck In Mill City

Snow, bad visibility, and icy roads combined to make it tough going for R. B. Hitchman, Salem truck owner, who was transporting a heavily ladened semi-truck-trailer load of prefabricated homes from Portland to the Mongold government camp, Monday morning.

About 9 a.m. the truck driver hit the famous Banfields' loop out of Mill City, slid, and lodged against the wall of the Mill City tavern, causing damage to the houses, wall of the tavern, and breaking in the window in the establishment.

Traffic was snaried for more than an hour before the equipment could be turned around. A Hammond stage line bus, as well as travelers through the city were delayed by the accident.

Another truck bound for the same place, and the large semi involved in the wreck, had to return to Salem and wait for better conditions before again attempting the trip.

Two days later, one of the trucks did make it through with a load of houses, it was reported. Stewart's wrecker removed the stalled truck.

Registration of Bicycles With Police Due Here

All bicycle owners are being urged to register their two wheelers with the local police, J. T. King, police chief said today.

Police will register the name, address, number and color of the bicycle for filing. This will facilitate finding of stolen bicycles if such a need should arise.

King said owners can register anytime during the day or evening.

Funeral Service For Gas Victim Held in Stayton

Funeral services for Virgil Johnson asphyxiated victim when his automobile slide into a snowbank recently on the Dalles-California highway between Bend and Klamath Falls, were held at Weddle's Funeral parlor in Stayton Thursday, December 29, with the Reverand Lloyd Whitford of Sutherland officiating.

The body was brougnt from Klamath Falls, where it was previously reported the burial was to take place.

The victim died from fumes of carbon monoxide from the exhaust of his car after the car slide backwards into the snowbank as he was travelling from Crescent Lake to Bend. Also killed in the accident were Jack Virgil Friedley and his wife, Drucilla, of Idanha. The trio had been working the vicinity of Bend.

Johnson was formerly a resident of Mill City and had worked here as a logging truck driver.

He is survived by his wife, Virgie, and four children.

Burial was in the Fox Valley cemetary near Lyons.

Coming Events:

FRIDAY—
I.O.O.F. meeting.
SATURDAY—
Santiam Riders Dance.
SUNDAY—
Folk Dance club 2 p.m.
MONDAY—
Lions club meeting.
Boy Scouts 7:30
TUESDAY—
WEDNESDAY—
Idanha Eagles 8 p.m.
Altar Society meets 2nd Wed.
THURSDAY—
PTA meeting
Conservation meet, Lyons School.

Weather Does Not Hamper Dam Project

The heavy fall of snow throughout this locality has not stopped work on the Detroit and Big Cliff dams, although workmen did remain off the job Wednesday, Jack Murray, CBI official reported today.

He added that work has already begun on construction of the aggregated storage plant as well as placing of a 108 inch steel retaining tunnel. The tunnel will be 370 feet in length when finished.

A few new workers are being put on the pay rolls, replacing those who have left the job, he said, but there is no foresight of adding more workers in the near future.

Meanwhile, Colonel Miles reported work is going ahead of schedule at the dam-sites, but snow has stopped work at the new fish hatchery.

Bids will be opened soon on construction of an information booth, to be located on the highway, he added. Bids will also be open for call in the near future for construction of a storage house for rock core. The core, obtained from drilling in the area of the dams, will be saved for general information and inspection.

Fifteen housing units and utilities originally scheduled to be open to call this month, have been temporarily stymied through army negotia-

(Continued on Page 10)

Truman Appointee To Be Featured At Demo Banquet

Oscar Chapman, President Truman's recent appointee as secretary of interior is expected as principal speaker at the annual Democratic Jackson day dinner January 7 at 6:00 pm. at the Cosmopolitan club, 11th and S. W. Alder streets in Portland, Earl G. Mason, Linn county Democratic chairman, announced recently.

All Linn county democrats interested in attending the $2.00 dinner are asked to make reservations by writing Chairman Mason at route 2, Albany.

This will be Chapman's first public appearance in Oregon since his appointment and he is expected to discuss the program of his department for the development of the resources of Oregon.

Amalgamated Mine Officials May be Isolated again

Mining company officials living at the old Amalgamated mine located on the Little North Fork, 15 miles above Elkhorn, are in danger of being isolated again, as they were from December through March first of last year.

More than two feet of snow covered the ground New Year's day, periously hampering transportation to and from the mine.

Mr. and Mrs. Ercill Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. Myran Fender of Mehama, who were New Year's dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Hewitt, mine superintendent, said it took nearly five hours to make the trip from Mehama to the mine via jeep. The jeep had been equipped with chains on all four wheels.

The visit was well worth the laboring trip, however, because of the lavish entertainment offered them by their hosts. The two couples were sometimes halted by slides and high centers in the one way road, they said.

Residing at the mine this winter are the Hewitts and Mr. and Mrs. Justin Trippett and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Boeman, relatives of the Hewitts.

Last winter the group was marooned for more than two months by high snow banks and bad weather. When provisions ran low, Mr. Trippett snow-shoed out for help. He employed two cats to rescue the party. It took seven days to work into the mine with the equipment.

Although the camp is situated 30 miles from the nearest town, and is accessable only by a narrow rocky ledge for a road, the officials have made the place both comfortable and convenient.

Electricity is generated with small power pumpers from local streams. An unexpected eye catcher is a beautiful grand piano gracing the living room of the Hewitt home.

Snow and Ice Front Hits Local Area

The universal elements combined forces this week over the Canyon area to furnish a taste of summer, winter, spring, and autumn for residents in the vicinity.

More than six inches of snow covered the ground at Detroit while Idanha reported a good foot of the white blanket stopping transportation through that city. Mill City also had its sub-freezing weather, combined with snow Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Old Sol beamed his flicker of rays down on the city Wednesday afternoon for about two hours, but snow again drifted from the sky Wednesday evening and rain Thursday afternoon.

Both city and state police reported few accidents, even with the hazardous driving conditions along the highway. Police still urge drivers to use caution because of the icy pavement.

Most schools again resumed Tuesday, although busses were hampered by traveling conditions. The Parent Teacher meeting at Stayton was called off because of the weather, but Mill City parents will hold their meeting as per usual.

A scheduled basketball game between Mill City and Turner Friday night will be played, it was reported, although a scheduled non-league game between the Wolves and Chemawa was called Tuesday evening because of road conditions.

Throughout the northwest, floods are endangering several communities in British Columbia, ice flows caused blocking of the Yakima reservoir, cutting off the water supply for some time, and icy roads in Portland and Seattle caused many accidents.

Schools were closed in many suburban communities in Washington state. Railway transportation was delayed for several hours by the weather wave.

Here at home, three famiiles at the old Amalgamated mine 15 miles above Elkhorn were in danger of being isolated by the heavy snows. It was just one year ago that heavy equipment was put into action to carry relief supplies through to the same location. The group, last year, were marooned for more than two months.

Electric power service was cut off for more than three hours in the Mill City area when a tree became overloaded with snow and uprooted, severing a power line in its fall.

Sleigh parties, skiing and general winter time partying occupied the time for most of the younger set in and around Mill City. Planned entertainment and work for the oldsters still carried on.

Travel Hampered By Bad Roads

Accidents have hit a low ebb during the week although rain, snow, sleet, and the many elements of the universe have hampered travel through the Canyon area, Chief of Police J. T. King reported today.

Most serious accident was the Monday morning freak on the hill going through Mill City in which a heavily loaded truck slipped on the icy road and lodged against the Mill City tavern.

King warned drivers, however, to use caution while driving and avoid speed.

Meanwhile, Bob Steele, local state police officer, has warned drivers to use chains for all driving. He said they will be needed for all travel over the Santiam Pass highway.

REPTILE CHARMER TO SHOW HERE

Dee Jay Nelson, noted reptile mesmerizer, will be featured on a national program at the Mill City high school auditorium Tuesday, January 10, starting at 2:45 p.m.

Nelson will bring with him a boa constrictor and several other well known varieties of snakes, which he will use for demonstration in his lecture.

Admission will be 25 cents.