

State Has No Lease Power Over Off-Shore Oil Lands

SALEM (AP)—Atty. Gen. Robert V. Thornton today said the state of Oregon now has no power to lease off-shore lands for oil and gas drilling.

In an opinion for the Oregon Land Board, Thornton held that the board has no power to grant exclusive rights to Shell Oil Co. for exploration on 600,000 acres of state-owned tidelands.

But Thornton's opinion went farther than that by saying "specific enabling legislation is needed before the board would be authorized to enter into any oil and gas lease covering the submerged lands along the Oregon coast."

Thornton said today the laws on the subject of tidelands drilling are "confused and uncertain."

He added that if the board has authority to lease submerged lands, "then why was it necessary some years back for the Legislature to pass a special law authorizing the board to lease these lands for harvesting kelp and seaweed?"

"The conclusion is inescapable that these submerged lands are in a separate and distinct class and that special legislation is required before they can be sold or leased for any purpose."

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Harlo



KUHS Girl Is Treasurer Of State GAA Meeting

Aida Zurita, 17, a junior at Klamath Union High School, was elected treasurer of the state Girls Athletic Association during a state GAA conference at Wy-East High School near Hood River Saturday.

Mrs. Shirley Routh, GAA adviser and girls physical education instructor at KUHS, was named president-elect of the GAA advisers' organization. She will thus serve as president during the 1961-62 school year.

Girls who attended from Klamath County were, besides Miss Zurita, Sharon Burnett, president of the local chapter; Joyce Johnson, Velma Springer and Nancy LaClair. Ella Redkey, a GAA adviser and physical education instructor, also attended.

The group drove to Medford and boarded a bus Friday with other delegates from GAA District 9, including Ashland, Medford, Eagle Point, Rogue River, Lakeview and Klamath Union High schools.

They returned Saturday evening.



AIDA ZURITA

WAYNE LEFT SHOTGUN

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—Actor John Wayne was bequeathed the late Ward Bond's favorite shotgun, it was revealed under instructions of his will admitted to probate Wednesday.

Wayne was a close friend of Bond, former star of the TV series "Wagon Train," who died Nov. 5.

Bond's wife receives the bulk of his estate according to the will.

Highest peak in the Catskills Mountains is Slide Mountain, 4,204 feet high.

FPC Hearing On Dams Is Recessed

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Federal Power Commission hearing into competing applications for hydroelectric projects on the Snake River between Idaho and Oregon recessed Wednesday until Jan. 4.

Since the hearing opened Nov. 4, seven witnesses for the Pacific Northwest Power Co. (PNP) were heard.

When the hearing resumes in January, the first of eight technical witnesses for the other applicant, Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS), will be called.

The final PNP witness Wednesday was Frederick C. Tonetti, assistant research director for Ebasco Services. He has made studies of costs of thermo power production compared to those of the high Mountain Sheep dam proposed by PNP.

Tonetti testified the annual cost of alternative thermo power would range up to \$7 million more than the energy from high Mountain Sheep.

WPPSS seeks a license for a production compared to those of the high Mountain Sheep dam proposed by PNP.

Examiner William C. Levy has under consideration a request that the portion of the hearing involving problems of migratory fish passage be held in Portland, Ore. More than 20 witnesses are expected to be heard in that part of the proceeding.

Oil Leasing To Be Resumed

PORTLAND (AP)—The Department of Interior announced today the Bureau of Land Management has been authorized to resume issuance of noncompetitive oil and gas leases.

The announcement here said the authorization was contained in a notice signed by Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton.

"Leasing has been temporarily suspended since Sept. 2 pending completion of new regulations resulting from changes in the Mineral Leasing Act passed in the last session of Congress," the release said.

"The notice specifies that the new rental for noncompetitive oil and gas leases will be 50 cents an acre per year for the 10-year term of a lease. The rental rate for lands in a producing oil and gas field will be \$2 an acre per year."

RUNS IN FAMILY.
TRENTON, N.J. (UPI)—At a recent surprise road-check of cars, authorities arrested a man for drunken driving at a Hoboken checkpoint. He telephoned his brother for bail money.

On the way, the brother passed through the same checkpoint and was arrested for drunken driving—and operating a car while his license was revoked.



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