

Business Notes

Excellent audit report gives WOEC directors reason for smiles

By Jim Buxton

The West Oregon Electric Cooperative Board of Directors heard what must have been the best-ever audit report from representatives of Kenneth Kuhns & Co. at the regular WOEC April board meeting.

The auditors reminded the board that it was only a few years ago that the CO-OP began to operate with a budget. Usually, an audit report contains paragraphs outlining areas in the organization's accounting that require improvement. This year, they could find nothing to comment on. The board accepted the audit report with obvious pleasure, as did Don Amundson, the CO-OP's Chief Financial Officer, who will be retiring soon.

In other business, the board heard the Operations Report from Steve Hursh, who has replaced the recently retired Del-

bert McGinnis as Manager of Engineering and Operations. Hursh reported he is studying the hum problem at the new substation. He also outlined a project to properly size fuses at the substations and on feeder lines to minimize the number of people without electricity when a fault occurs.

Carla Strand was introduced to the board as taking the place of Fran Fletcher, who will also be retiring soon.

Manager Russell Green described in detail repeated attempts by an individual to steal power from the CO-OP. Green asked the board to pursue criminal action and other sanctions against the individual, who also risked his life in a foolhardy manner in the theft.

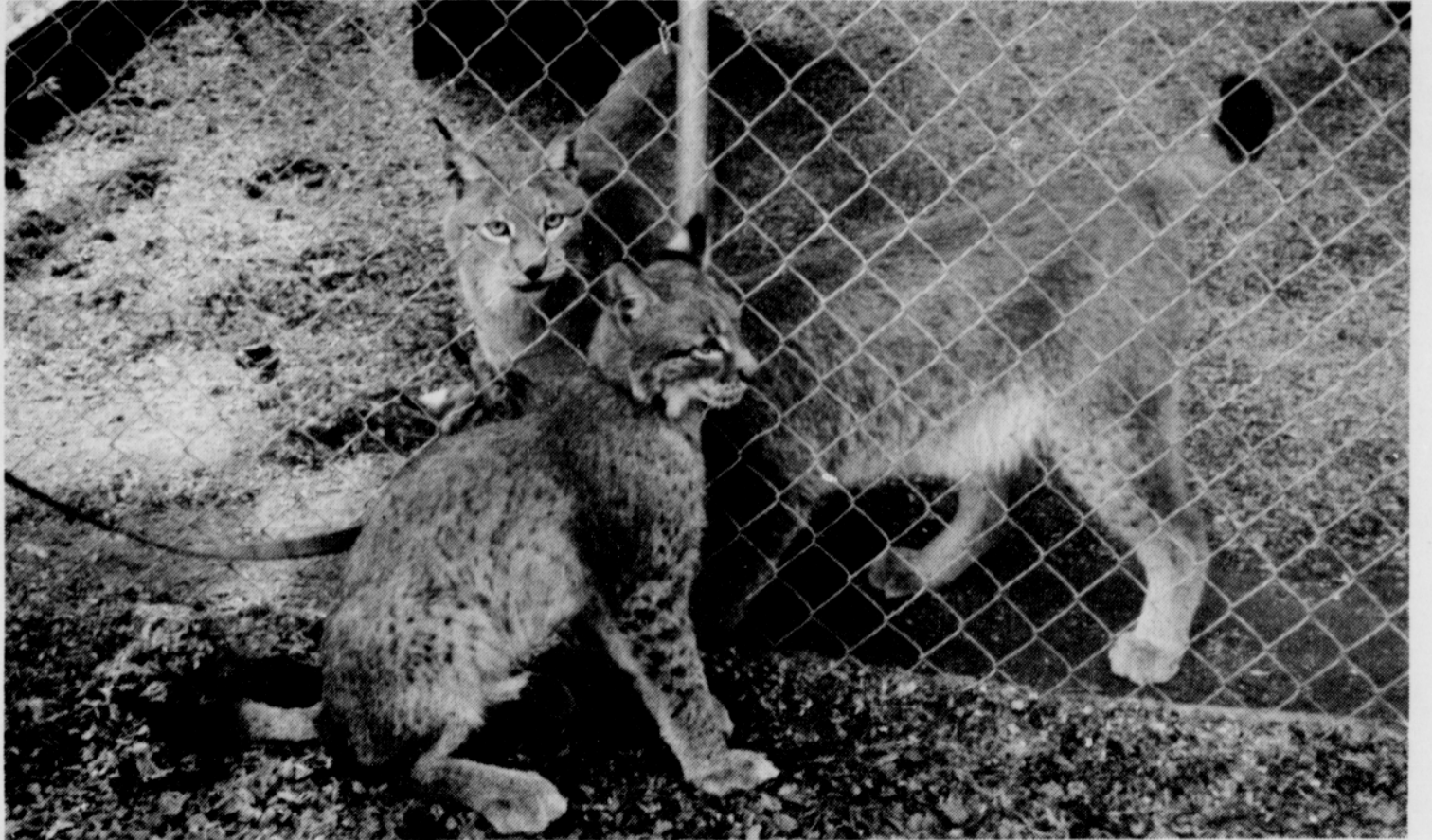
Jetta Gomes of the West Oregon Ratepayers Association asked about expanding voting rights to other members

of a family for a given WOEC membership. She also asked for more information to be published in the *Ruralite*, since board members are given information packets prior to the

meetings, and many items are voted upon without discussion, making it difficult for member-observers at the meetings to know what happened. Green promised to look into these re-

quests. He stated that it might be possible to highlight the agenda and the expected guests for the successive meetings, when known sufficiently in advance.

These aren't ordinary house cats...



A Siberian lynx kitten on a leash stays near his parents in their pen at the Mist Store. Store owners Connie and John Fitch have raised lynxes for eight years and expect two more kittens in June. The Fitches are licensed and insured; visitors are welcome but are reminded that the lynxes, though tame, are not domesticated.

Local EQIP signup time extended

The North Coast Basin (Tillamook, Clatsop and Columbia Counties) has re-opened the sign-up period for the USDA Nehalem River Geographical Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The new sign-up period will be from May 11 through May 23.

Nehalem River agricultural producers interested in participating in the EQIP financial assistance program within the Watershed should contact the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, or the Soil & Water Conservation District in your county before May 23 to file an application with the USDA.

The purpose of the program is to assist producers in complying with environmental laws such as non-point source pollution requirements, provide program assistance to improve environmental conditions and

meet other conservation needs, maximize the environmental benefits per dollar expended, and enhance local and state environmental improvement efforts.

The Nehalem program provides cost-shared dollars based on individual conservation plans that identify practices needed to solve water quality, soil erosion and/or riparian habitat-related problems on private agricultural lands within the Nehalem Watershed.

Interested producers are encouraged to contact one of the following agencies for filing the application:

Farm Service Agency—Tillamook, 842-7672; Hillsboro, 648-3174. Natural Resource Conservation Service—Tillamook, 842-2848; St. Helens, 397-4555. Soil & Water Conservation District—Clatsop, 325-4571; Columbia, 397-4555; Tillamook, 842-2240.

Watershed Council meet in Elsie

The Nehalem Watershed Councils Joint Steering Committee will meet Tuesday, May 12, 6:00 p.m. at Oney's Restaurant in Elsie. Early arrivals may order dinner before the meeting.

Agenda items include updates on PSU contract, water-

shed health, and salmon recovery.

Public attendance and comment is encouraged.

For more information contact Maggie Peyton, Nehalem Watershed Coordinator, 429-2401.

Help Elect

RITA BERNHARD

Columbia County Commissioner

Democrat

"A proven public servant who respects the law and the people it serves."

Paid for by Rita Bernhard, PO Box 564, Scappoose, OR 97056 • (503) 543-7098

An Evening of Jazz with...



Euphoria

A treat is in store for jazz lovers when the Euphoria Vocal Jazz Ensemble explodes in lush harmonies and spirited swing. Whether opening for Mel Tormé, performing at a Portland jazz festival or in Vernonia, their unique sound and style will delight you.

June 6, 1998 - 7 pm

Lew's Place Banquet Room

W/Prime Rib Dinner.....\$25 per person • Without Dinner.....\$12 per person

Dinner reservations required - Call 429-2929 by June 3

934 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064