

Grange Endorses the Inland Highway

CRITICAL SITUATION IN HIGHWAY CONGESTION

Work Must Start Now to Relieve the Dangerous Condition, Travel is Fast Making on Columbia River Highway

The Nation, State and Counties traveled through are vitally interested in the rapidly increasing travel from Astoria to Portland over the Columbia River Highway—in three years at present rate it will be "Suicide Avenue" to any reckless tourist with nerve enough to attempt it. When more machines come up to Roosevelt Highway to Astoria, then take the Columbia the wayside will resemble a battle field with the advancing army taking everything in the path. In case of war, how would Uncle Sam move troops from Portland over this Columbia River Highway, with the enemies' boats shelling from the mouth of the river. The one all important remedy that should be speeded up is the immediate building of an Inland Highway hard surfaced from Portland to Astoria through Vernonia. The new highway would be a short cut and its scenic beauty would be different and as great as any in the west. It would pass through the largest timber belts in the state; it would touch, in its short route, a dozen thriving communities and towns; it would be an actual God-send and necessity to hundreds of farmers anxious to secure a way out; it would relieve the present congestion and ware of the Columbia Highway and if the Inland Highway is not started as the very next item on Highway program, Oregon will find itself in a mighty embarrassing road condition in a very few years. The Inland Highway can be built over either of two splendid routes: By Forest Grove, Gales Creek, Vernonia, Mist and Jewel, or out of Portland by Cedar Mills, North Plains, Banks, Beaver Pass to Vernonia, Mist, Jewel and Astoria. The latter route would probably be shorter and accommodate more communities, while the first named route could be built quicker and probably cheaper as there is now pavement as far as Forest Grove. The entire "Inland Empire" should form an "Inland Highway Association". The Highway must be built as soon as possible. Something has to be done.

VERNONIA WANTS PAPER MILL

About as important a work that the Chamber of Commerce could take up at this time is an investigation into the probability of securing a paper mill for Vernonia. We have the site, the location, the timber and mill cutting or waste that might be used; we have hemlock, white fir, and other varieties of timber; we have the sentiment and the desire but we don't have the mill. Something to think about; something to work on; something should be done.

AN IDEAL OLCATION

One of the propositions to be voted on June 16 at Grade school house, is to buy the Cass Bergerson acre tract for a modern 4-room school house. Cass is offering this for a needed school building very reasonable; but Mr. Bergerson is interested in Vernonia and Vernonia schools. The acre is ideal. It is located about two blocks west of Rose avenue. It is perfectly drained, healthy, on main water pipes and electric line and on the main street with good road. It isn't a good idea to bunch all the little tots in one big frame building on account of fire hazard. The Bergerson acre is ideal; it overlooks the city—the business district and a little safer as it is out of the main traffic section. A four room building there at present will accommodate the children at least for a few years we believe, and we also believe the question can be agreeably settled to all concern—as the first question in the "call" refers to. There has been \$40,000 already voted for the proposition although it may not take that much for two 4-room buildings.

Dr. Sears was in Portland the first of this week.

WANTED: 1000 members of the Inland Highway Association. Your name and address and one dollar for a year's dues. Every one from Portland to Astoria must join. Are you with us?

FIRES DESTROY MILLIONS IN GREAT NORTHWEST

Smoking in National Forest is Prohibited

"All signs point to an extremely serious forest fire season in Oregon and Washington," is the statement of A. O. Waha, assistant district forester, of the Portland office. "The precipitation is away below normal and the relatively high temperatures that have prevailed since the latter part of April, together with periods of low humidity, have thoroughly dried out the forest cover. The situation now, especially at the lower altitudes, present conditions not unlike those during August our worst month for fires."

The Forest Service asks for the support and cooperation of the public in preventing man-caused fires. "Even with such restrictive measures as may be adopted, the cooperation of all people who travel in the forests is essential. With limited fire protection forces, and the forest swarming with travelers, it is impracticable to caution personally all of these travelers about care with their camp fires and in smoking."

Mr. Waha announced that camp fire permits will be required on all of the National Forests in Oregon and Washington during this season. This requirement has been effective in restricting the number of fires caused by campers, forest officers report.

"When fires caused by smokers represent approximately 25 per cent of the total number of forest fires that occurred in Oregon and Washington in 1923, it is time not only to urge the people who go into the woods to be careful with their cigarettes, cigars, matches and pipe ashes, but to prohibit absolutely smoking in areas of the greatest danger. In the Olympic blowdown areas, smoking has been prohibited for the past three years. The fire laws of Washington prohibit smoking in areas where timber is being cut. Oregon has no such law. The Forest Service however under its regulations may prohibit smoking during periods of fire danger upon such areas as may be designated by the District Forester except that this prohibition shall not exclude improved places of habitation."

Already certain areas covered by government timber sales within the Santiam Forest have been closed to smoking and in the Cascade National Forest, the area embraced in the large timber sale to the Western Lumber Company and in the timber sale to the Davis-Webber Lumber Company will be closed to smoking. Salt Creek watershed through which the Natron cut-off is now being constructed will also be closed to smoking except at the railroad construction camps and at McCredie Springs Mr. Waha stated.

As the season advances and if conditions remain unchanged, the necessity for not allowing smoking on other areas may arise, Mr. Waha said. It may even be necessary to keep people out of particularly dangerous areas by closing roads and trails to travel. If restrictions of this kind seem drastic, it should be remembered that they would never have been initiated if all people who travel in the woods were careful with their camp fires, and in smoking."

THEY ARE MARRIED

Last Thursday as we went to press we heard that Mr. Roy Nance and Miss Lola Cline had left for Portland to get married. This popular and well known couple pulled a surprise on their friends, who have been congratulating them all week. The newlyweds are now at home in Vernonia.

Mrs. Ray Emmott has gone to Hillsboro to get her little daughter, who has been with her mother while she was moving in her new home.

VERNONIA CHAUTAUQUA BEGINS WEDNESDAY

A Program Every Day That is Worth More Than The Admission Price

Next Wednesday the 18th begins the big four day Chautauqua in Vernonia. Probably the best way to handle it is to get a season ticket as we are sure you will not want to miss any number of the splendid program. The program this year is better than it was last year and some notable characters are represented. Remember the dates and be there. It will pay you to attend. There is instruction every day and evening and splendid entertainment.

A KLAN KARNIVAL

It is announced by hand bills that the Vernonia lodge of the K. K. K. will have a big time in Vernonia all day and all night on Friday the 27th of this month. The programs as printed assure a day and night of unusual mirth, entertainment, learning and good cheer. We hear that over two hundred of the Vernonia members will take part in the public Naturalization ceremonies, and that they will be assisted by 1000 from adjoining lodges.

It is reported that 3000 Klansmen will be here and that probably half of them will take part in the parade to the ball grounds where the evenings program is to take place. The public is invited to witness the ceremonies and to take part in the dances, ball games, cats, and sports. More particulars later, if we get them.

ALBERT WOOD HOME FROM THE EAST

Since last October Albert Wood has been in the East. He visited in Missouri and other states but most of the time he spent in Washington, D. C. Mr. Wood has had a case before the P. O. Department that he took up direct through different Senators and Congressmen. It is for damages on account of the change of the old Star Mail Route from Buxton to Timber ending seven years ago. He has been successful, and on Monday received a telegram from Senator McNary that his case had been passed favorably by the Senate. We are glad to learn of his success. Mr. Wood says Washington is a great city, but that the Negroes and Foreigners are so thick that one would not know whether he was in America or some distant land.

MR. CROPPER'S SUCCESS

The membership campaign for the Chamber of Commerce is coming to a head. Arrangements for the Banquet will be made Tuesday night. Mr. Cropper and Mr. Detrow were Captains of the two teams, Mr. Cropper's team winning with 75 new paid up members to Mr. Detrow's 45. The funny part of it is that the 75 new members were all secured by Mr. Cropper himself. Cropper is the best yet, and we would like to have him as new subscription solicitor for the Eagle.

ALVIN PARKER TO GO TO CAMP LEWIS, WASH.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, June 12—Alvin Parker of Vernonia will go to the R. O. T. C. summer camp at Camp Lewis, Wash., this summer. The men will report on June 13 to receive uniforms and assignments.

Training will continue until July 25, when the men will break camp. The first part of the six weeks infantry drill and basic training will be emphasized while the later part of the time in camp will be devoted to practical applications of the principles learned. A practice trip is in the program. Sports of all kinds will be encouraged at the camp. Parker is a member of the engineering unit.

Mrs. Frank Mills of the I. P. camp was in town Tuesday and Wednesday shopping and calling on friends.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MET TUESDAY NIGHT

Road Matters Occupied The Evening And Inland Highway Boosted

The Chamber of Commerce is working for the Inland Highway, an important National, State and county hard surfaced road from Portland to Astoria via Vernonia and the Nehalem valley. At the meeting Tuesday night the entire County Court was in attendance. Pres. Dudley of the State Chamber of Commerce was the principal speaker of the evening and his theme coincided with the prevailing thought drift to the extent that his speech turned out to be a boost for the needed and important highway. Mr. Dudley is a splendid talker and greatly interested in his work. We are sorry that every citizen of Vernonia didn't hear him. The Council meeting kept some away, as did the lodges and other entertainments. Judge Philip is another road booster. The Judge is ready to go and he advocates starting the ball rolling by paving a nine foot strip from Vernonia to Mist. Various speakers Tuesday night brought out many good points.

Shortly after the opening by President Galloway it developed that the subject that occupied the main interest of the body was the Inland Loop Highway which subject held the interest of those present to such an extent as to almost exclude other discussions. The principal speakers of the evening were A. S. Dudley, manager of the State Chamber of Commerce, of which the Vernonia body is a member, and Judge Philip, County Judge of Columbia county.

Their addresses covered largely the matter of benefits to be derived through construction of permanent roads as well as the major importance of the Inland Loop Highway, which is arousing wide interest in Multnomah, Washington, Clatsop, Tillamook and Columbia counties and which was unanimously endorsed at a meeting of the State Grange recently at which 800 delegates were present. This Highway is not a pure local affair to serve Vernonia but is a desperately needed link to relieve the present congestion on the Columbia Highway which will, as the tourist travel increases, become crowded beyond the safety point. An Inland Loop would permit tourists and others to make trips from Portland to Astoria and Seaside via Columbia Highway and return by the Inland Loop and vice versa and provide a continuous scenic route which would bring all the tourists through Nehalem valley to Forest Grove and thence to Portland, where under the present system thousands of these cars make the trip to the coast and return via Columbia Highway and do not get to see the beautiful productive valleys direct west and north west of Portland. Lester Sheeley advanced a number of reasons for the Vernonia Commerce body, going after this highway, and suggested that an Inland Loop Highway Association be organized and Chartered and solicit memberships along the route of the proposed highway and it was suggested that the home of the Association be located at Vernonia for the reason that Vernonia being centrally located on this Highway would doubtless have less opportunities for local jealousies as the towns on both ends of the highway would benefit as much or more than Vernonia.

President Galloway will appoint a committee to start this movement and it is hoped to continually keep behind this proposition locally, as well as make representations to the state Highway Commission and the Federal Government for State and Federal aid. By unified action of the towns on the much needed highway it is confidently believed that the state and nation will be glad to help.

The Committee on Publicity reported the proposition of the booklet advertising Vernonia was well along and it is expected that 5000 booklets will be well along the line of distribution by July 1st. The State Chamber of Commerce offer to distribute as many of these as can be made available to them as they have distribution channels that reach ev-

ery tourist as well as thousands of other people. Tuesday's meeting thoughtfully demonstrated the value of getting together meetings and every business man who was not present missed something of importance to himself and his community and should resolve to see that no more Chamber of Commerce meetings find his chair vacant. Secretary Nash has adopted the postal card method of notifying members and no one can now make the excuse that he was not aware that a meeting was to be held.

REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN COLUMBIA COUNTY ORGANIZES

Last Saturday, on call of former Chairman Chas. Graham, the newly elected Committeemen of various precincts met at the Court House for organization. Dr. Edwin Ross, of St. Helens was elected County Chairman for two years, and Paul Robinson, of Vernonia, was elected County Secretary for two years. Mr. E. M. Wharton of Columbia City, is the new Treasurer. State Committeeman from this County is T. C. Watt, an old Republican War Horse of St. Helens and for Congressional Committeeman is N. M. Blumenstat of Clatskanie. Chairman Ross will appoint his advisory Committee this week.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Services of the Christian church will be held next Sunday in the auditorium of the high school. The session of the Bible school will begin at 10 a. m. Preaching services at 11, the subject being: "Our Deepest Need and How to Meet It." Evening services at 8:00 o'clock. The sermon subject at this time will be: "The Authority of the Church." A cordial welcome awaits you. W. A. Gressman, Minister.

F. NELSON SMITH VISITS ODD FELLOW LODGE HERE

F. Nelson Smith, known internally in the World of Athletics as "Spark-plug" Smith, is a Vernonia visitor this week. He carries an autograph book containing friendly expressions and signatures from several of the world's greatest track athletes, past and present holders of world's records on the cinder path. It was Mr. Smith who induced Alfred Shrubbs, present holder of numerous amateur world's records to come to America from England in 1907, and in 1919. Smith took the great runner back to England to compete in several races on English tracks. His autograph book contains several pictures of great wrestlers, including Ira Dern, boxers and other types from within the fascinating domain of out-standing physical and mental accomplishments. Mr. Smith was a visitor at the regular meeting on June 3, of Vernonia Lodge No. 246, I. O. O. F., and delivered short talk of a historical nature pertaining to Odd Fellowship in Canada.

Un-official Paper For Inland Highway Association

800 In Attendance at State Grange; Inland Route is Only One Endorsed

A. L. Morris is a hard worker for the Grange. Mr. Morris was a delegate to the State Convention at The Dalles and it was Mr. Morris that presented the Resolution that the Grange approve and endorse the building of the Inland Highway from Portland to Astoria via Vernonia and the Nehalem Valley. It carried unanimously. Every delegate there knew the present congested condition of the Columbia River Highway between Portland and Astoria and every delegate knows the great need for an Inland Highway through the Vernonia country, the best timber country in the state as well as the best dairy country in Oregon. Clatsop county, Washington county and Columbia county were all there and all voted for the Inland Loop. Columbia county was the only county at the convention that was represented by every Grange in the state. Mrs. M. J. Mills was elected Pomona.

FOURTH OF JULY PICNIC

Granges of the county are all uniting to hold one big Fourth of July celebration and picnic, in the Yankton Grove on the 4th day of July, all day. No town in Columbia is going to celebrate and the Grange will have a tremendous crowd out.

A STIFF JOLT AT HILLSBORO

Fines totaling \$9500 with added penalties of three years and six months in the county jail were imposed by Judge Bagley Monday upon M. E. Thurton, who pleaded guilty to four indictments charging violation of the prohibition law. The punishment was further increased by the fact that added imprisonment of one day for each \$2 of the fines is the alternative, or 4750 days, and this added to the sentence of three and a half years, or 1277 1-2 days means a total jail life of 6027 1-2 days in case the fine is unpaid. However, the county may be saved the expense and trouble of a permanent boarder for years to come, for the judge extended parole upon condition that \$800 of the fine on indictment No 1 be paid. The fines were \$3000 on each of the first three indictments and \$500 on the fourth and one year's imprisonment on each of the first three and six months on the last. The sentence also provided that the jail sentences do not run concurrently, as is often the case, but each shall begin upon the expiration of its predecessor. Thurton will take advantage of the parole by paying the \$800, but it is probably that he has perhaps the strongest inducements of any man in Oregon to tread the straight and narrow path, for if he makes a slip and is caught violating any law the balance of the sentence automatically becomes effective.—Hillsboro Independent.

SUGGESTIONS FOR BOY SCOUTS

Seaside, April 19—The local American Legion post's tin can day here today proved a tremendous success. In an effort to clean up the city, Legion officials offered a dime for every well filled sack of the tin cans delivered to them, with the result that at 9 this morning the \$30 appropriation for the campaign was exhausted.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass and Sermon on the third Sunday of each month, at 11:30 a. m. Week day communion Mass to be announced. Jos. P. Clancy, Pastor.

VERNONIA A THEATRE TOWN

Occasionally Vernonia gets some bum shows, and often we get good shows. Last Monday and Tuesday nights at the Majestic the Lancaster & Bairds played "Fair and Warmer" and "Pecks Bad Boy", two old plays, but two good ones.

This company went direct from Vernonia to Portland where they play a week's stand. They are exceptionally good and best striking Vernonia. They were entitled to a bigger house. On Sunday night we are promised a treat at the Rose Theatre. Then we see the well known Milo's Minstrels, band and orchestra. This troupe is also a big city company that have just finished an engagement at one of Portland's best houses. Yes, Vernonia is getting some first class entertainments. And as to the two picture shows here every night, they put on the latest and best pictures obtainable.