

Water Rates To Continue Unchanged

Council Discusses Situation and Confirms Appointments

As the water rates could not be lowered at present without an increase in taxation, no action was taken by the city council Monday evening towards reducing them.

Councilman T. A. Gordon advocated a reduction, stating that in the summer particularly when there is considerable demand for water the average householder cannot afford to use the hose for sprinkling purposes, and that cheaper water would mean better kept lawns and gardens.

J. C. Lindley, city treasurer, upon being called upon for his opinion, explained that the receipts of the water department are just sufficient to cover interest, operation and sinking fund, and if the income were cut down the deficit would have to be made up by a direct tax on property. In the five years that he has been treasurer, he declared, no money has been taken from the water fund nor has any been added to it. As various bond issues are retired and the interest charges cut down, he stated, it is likely that the water system will show a profit if the present rates are maintained, but at the present time the department is merely breaking even.

Mayor J. E. Tapp announced several appointments which were confirmed by the council: E. W. Holtham, president of the council; J. W. Rose, road supervisor; Margaret Shipley, water collector; Jim Monger, deputy marshal; Dr. J. A. Hughes, health officer; Harry G. Phelps, deputy health officer; Marion L. Gaines, water superintendent. Mr. Gaines, however, tendered his resignation, which was accepted after some hesitation on the part of the council. Action on a successor was deferred until the next session.

Members of the park board were appointed as follows: C. F. Hieber (chairman), R. M. Aldrich, Mrs. Judd Greenman, F. E. Malmsten and Matt Gibson.

Several petitions for construction of wooden sidewalks were handed in. These were referred for investigation, and will be considered later.

There was some discussion as to the need for a water collector, the suggestion having been made outside the council that the office be combined with that of recorder. The appointment was made, however, because of the feeling that proper service could not be uniformly given both to taxpayers in the matter of assessments and to water consumers if the details of both jobs were to occupy one man's attention.

Comes Home Early

H. E. McGraw was home from the legislature last Friday for a weekend visit, the two houses have adjourned earlier than usual because of the death of Ben Selling, former state senator.

Feathers And . . . Talons . . .

Here's guaranteeing that it will be fun to be waked up at five in the morning by the blowing of the whistle.

Les Sheeley has gone to practice his long-cultivated art of buttonholing legislators and explaining to them what they ought to vote for.

Is anybody keen about the ridge road?

Anyhow, Vernonia gets honorable mention from the engineers, and as some one put it at the C. of C. meeting Wednesday, we still have two chances out of six.

WILDWOOD UNION CONDUCTS RALLY

Marian Lindley, Frances McNutt, Helen Charlesworth, Virginia Fielding, Verna Ray, George Stanton, Mr. and Mrs. F. Claude Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. Will Lindley and Mrs. Ray attended a C. E. executive rally of the Wildwood Christian Endeavor union in Clatskanie Sunday afternoon.

The session was devoted to business. James Henderson, state president, and Ross Guiler, state field worker, were in attendance.

American Legion Ambulance Here

The American Legion ambulance, a new model A Ford passenger car chassis with steel body, was delivered in Vernonia Saturday.

The ambulance is painted white and J. C. Henderson is adding signs, "Community Ambulance, Vernonia," and insignia of the American Legion. Equipment is complete, and the ambulance is ready for operation.

The committee that purchased the ambulance consists of Percy Hewes, Carl Davidson and M. E. Carkin. They will have charge of the operation throughout the year.

The ambulance was purchased from funds raised by sale of tickets, and the expense of time payments and of operation is underwritten by the local post of the Legion, the Oregon-American Lumber company and the chamber of commerce.

Vernonia Loses

1st Game 31-26

The Vernonia town basketball team in their first game of the season lost to the St. Helens Pulp and Paper Mill team Saturday evening 31 to 26. The two teams were very evenly matched and the lead see-sawed back and forth until late in the last quarter when the visitors gained a three point lead and stalled until the whistle.

The Vernonia team put up a good fight and might have won the game in the first half if more of their shots had found the center of the basket. At half time the score was 11 to 11.

Line-ups: St. Helens (31) Vernonia (26) Hedwall, 8.....F.....Malmsten, 4 Hicks, 9.....F.....Nelson, 6 B. Ross, 6.....C.....Hawkins, 2 Moore, 2.....G.....Roberts, 5 Beal, 2.....G.....McCrae, 6 Substitutes: for St. Helens, M. Ross, 4; for Vernonia, W. Thomas, 2; C. Linn, 1.

TOWN BASKETBALL TEAM PLAYS GROVE

The Vernonia basketball team will play its second game of the season when it tangles with the Forest Grove town team on the floor of the Washington school gymnasium Saturday. The game will be called at 8 p. m.

ATTENDS FIRM CONVENTION

C. G. Whitlock, manager of the J. C. Penney Co., store in this city is leaving Sunday to attend the annual spring convention of that organization to be held at Portland.

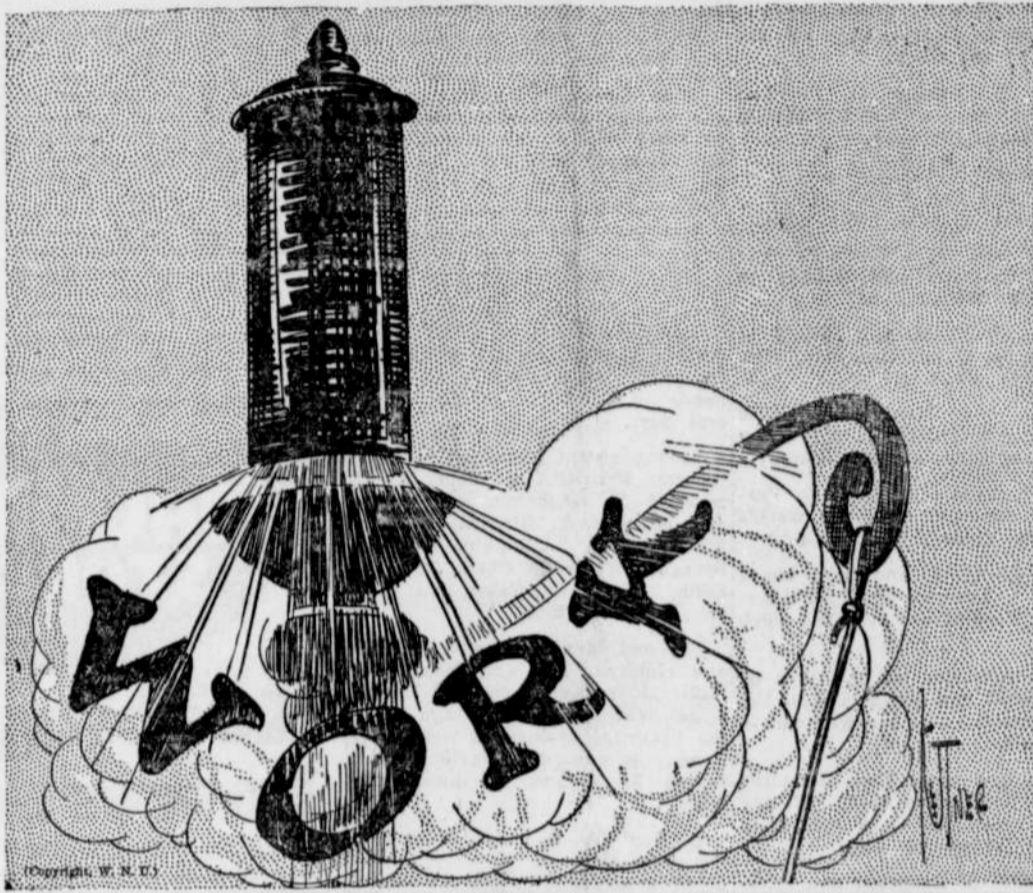
Owing to the new conditions in the department store field which have been brought about by drastic reductions in commodity prices, the convention, which is usually held in April, has been moved ahead to give all J. C. Penney Co. store managers an opportunity to get full advantages of the new merchandising and price policies of the company.

Eight general convention points have been selected for the spring meetings, covering all parts of the country. Nearly fifteen hundred managers will attend the convention sessions, which will cover more than 60 per cent of the retail trade area of the United States.

Former Residents Visit

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Bowman and children Lorraine and June former Vernonia residents who are living in Port Gamble, Washington, spent the weekend with Dr. and Mrs. R. A. Olson.

The Key to Normalcy



APPRECIATION FOR MILLS EXPRESSED

Mayor Tapp and the city council have sent to Guy R. Mills, former mayor, the following letter of appreciation for his services to the city:

"In looking over the records of the city of Vernonia we find that you have served two years as its treasurer, two years as a councilman, and six years as its mayor, a total of ten years in all. We realize that these public offices are positions where no sentiment prevails, but we do feel that good fellowship is available at all times. We are therefore taking this opportunity in the name of the people of Vernonia for having given the time and the thought in the sincere and conscientious way that you did during those ten years. Your record has been one of absolute honesty and fairness."

CIRCULATION OF LIBRARY GROWS

The annual report of the city library for 1930 shows an increase of 917 in book circulation over 1929, the largest daily circulation being 88, and the smallest 8. 317 books were added to the shelves, and 126 new borrowers were registered. From fines and rental collection the library received \$84.83, an increase of \$14.45 over the preceding year.

This increase in every phase of the library is very encouraging, as the more borrowers there are, the more the library will improve.

1,003 New Families Locate During 1930

1,003 new families located on farms in Oregon during 1930, according to "Oregon Business," the organ of the state chamber of commerce. This was an increase of 222 over the number of families who came in 1929, and of 546 over that of 1928. 41,121 inquiries were received during the year, as contrasted with 12,123 in 1928.

Oregon is receiving approximately forty per cent of all new people from California, according to the article. Over 2,000 interested parties call monthly at the Los Angeles office of the Oregon state chamber of commerce.

WILLING WORKERS MEET

The Willing Workers held their regular meeting in the Christian church parlors Wednesday. The new year promises to be an active one as all ladies present took an active part in all plans for a bazaar to be held November 14. Refreshments were served by Mrs. W. L. Van Doren and Mrs. J. Monger. Next meeting is to be held in the church parlors February 4, when hostesses will be Mrs. W. O. Porterfield and Mrs. F. C. Stephens.

Games Scheduled For 1931 Season

The following basketball schedule of county high schools for the remainder of the season has been announced:

January 23—Rainier vs. Vernonia at Vernonia; Scappoose vs. Clatskanie at Scappoose.

January 30—St. Helens vs. Clatskanie at Clatskanie. Rainier vs. Scappoose at Rainier.

February 3—Vernonia vs. Clatskanie at Vernonia. St. Helens vs. Scappoose at St. Helens.

February 6—Rainier vs. Vernonia at Rainier. Scappoose vs. Clatskanie at Clatskanie.

February 13—Scappoose vs. Vernonia at Vernonia. Rainier vs. St. Helens at St. Helens.

February 20—Vernonia vs. Clatskanie at Clatskanie. St. Helens vs. Scappoose at Scappoose.

February 27—St. Helens vs. Vernonia at Vernonia. Rainier vs. Clatskanie at Rainier.

March 6—St. Helens vs. Clatskanie at St. Helens. Rainier vs. Scappoose at Scappoose.

ALL PUPILS MAY ENTER AD CONTEST

The dairy products ad writing contest, which was announced last week, is open to both public and high school children in the county.

Cash prizes of \$6, \$4, \$3 and \$2 are being offered to the winners of this contest.

The size of the ad will be two inches square. This ad should tell in a few words the good qualities of milk, butter, cheese and ice cream, and why the consumer should use more of these products. It also could show how a more prosperous dairy industry helps the farmer as well as the business man.

Literature on the value of dairy products may be obtained through the office of the County agent, St. Helens, Oregon.

Send the ad to Mrs. Maud Mills, St. Helens, Oregon. Be sure to have your name on a separate sheet of paper and not on the same sheet with the ad.

The ads will be judged on: first, selling appeal; second, attractiveness; third, originality. The contest will close on February 5, 1931.

START INDOOR SPORTS

The ladies division of the Vernonia Athletic club have started indoor sports and are playing volleyball and indoor baseball every Tuesday evening in the Legion hall. Mrs. Fred Spring is coach. For information regarding membership in the club see Mrs. E. H. Condit or Mrs. Spring.

All women interested in indoor sports are cordially invited to be at the Legion hall at 7 p. m. next Tuesday.

Mrs. O. H. Drorbaugh is suffering from an attack of grippe.

MEAL PLANNING SERIES ENDED

The last of the series of meetings which have been conducted by Miss Lucy Case, nutrition expert of the Oregon State college, on "Meal Planning," was held in the Evangelical church Tuesday morning. Three time and money saving dishes were prepared by the ladies and enjoyed for their luncheon.

These dishes were scalloped oysters and corn, chili beans, and lamb stew with vegetables. They also prepared and served cabbage and raisin salad, and caramel and plain custard.

Those present were Mesdames Sarah Smith, Judd Greenman, A. C. Knauss, G. W. Plumer, A. J. Hughes, E. S. Thompson, Sarah Spencer, E. M. Bleile, C. Richardson, H. John, C. Malmsten, J. Hair, C. U. Enstom, Miss Louise Malmsten and Miss Ora Rundell.

MRS. HUGHES HEADS RELIEF DRIVE HERE

Mrs. A. J. Hughes has been appointed local representative of the American Red Cross drive for relief of the people in the drought area.

Because of the fact that the Red Cross recently canvassed the town for regular annual contributions, the intention is not to make a house to house appeal in this emergency; any who wish to contribute may pay either to Mrs. Hughes or to Rev. G. W. Plumer.

The county's quota is \$600. Mrs. L. G. Ross and Mrs. H. R. Hudson of St. Helens were in Vernonia Monday in the interest of the drive.

Forest Grove Wins Grade Game 11 to 2

In a very fast and exciting game on the local floor Friday afternoon the Forest Grove team defeated the Vernonia grade school 11 to 2. The score does not indicate the torrid battle which was put up between these two evenly matched teams.

Although the play was chiefly around the invaders' basket the inability to make their numerous shots good caused the defeat of the local team.

Although outplayed on the floor throughout, the Forest Grove boys took advantage of every scoring opportunity. This game was by far the fastest and most exciting played here this year and the fans are looking forward to the return engagement between these two teams. At the half time the score was 4 to 2.

Line-up: Forest Grove 11 Vernonia 2 Bailey, 6.....F.....King Benner.....F.....Plumer McMillan, 3.....C.....Shiel Thurston, 2.....G.....Jepson, 2 Schramel.....G.....Graven

SHEELEY ARRIVES AT STATE CAPITOL

SALEM—Jan. 21 — (Special Correspondence)—Lester Sheeley of Vernonia arrived at the state senate Tuesday, greeting his old time friend Senator Earl E. Fisher with a big smile.

Vernonia-Hamlet highway and re-apportionment of Columbia county is his program.

Senator Fisher invites Vernonia people when in Salem to call upon him. "We are pulling for a greater northwest Oregon," he states.

Golden Rule Is Speaker's Theme

The Golden Rule applied to business was the subject of a talk by Rev. C. P. Gates, presiding elder of the Salem district of the Evangelical church, at the chamber of commerce luncheon Wednesday noon. Rev. G. W. Plumer was program chairman.

Miss Constance Bougher gave two violin solos, accompanied by Miss Louise Malmsten.

Announcement was made of Vernonia day at the Progressive Business Men's club at the Benson hotel, Portland, Thursday noon.

Miss J. L. Longston of the Columbia County Publishing company, St. Helens, spoke in the interest of an advertising booklet for Columbia county, in which she declared Vernonia should have a share. The matter was referred to the board of directors for decision.

In the absence of President Ford, Vice-President Davidson presided.

Next week's program will be in charge of Lloyd Baker.

Local Neighbors of Woodcraft Install

Nehalem Circle 881 Neighbors of Woodcraft held an open installation of officers in the I. O. O. F. hall Thursday, January 15.

The following were installed: Guardian neighbor, Millan Trehaner; past guardian neighbor, Ruth Emma Miller; adviser, Dorothy Tays; magician, Alice Mills; clerk, Erma Johnson; attendant, Hilda Keasey; managers, Fannie Owens, Hilda Keasey and Violet Miller; flag bearer, Ida Johnson; banker, Oza Mae Cameron; correspondent, Edna Armstrong; musician, Silvia Turner; captain of guards, Rilla Schneider; inner sentinel, Nola Brady; outer sentinel, Mike Miller.

The captain of the guards put on two very pretty drills, one a fan drill with 12 members, and the other a letter drill in which 16 members took part.

Songs, recitations, readings and a dance helped to furnish entertainment for the large crowd that was in attendance.

At the close of the evening refreshments consisting of apple pie, whipped cream and coffee were served.

INDOOR BASEBALL GAME SCHEDULED

The Vernonia Athletic club and the local Knights of Pythias will play an indoor baseball game tonight at 6:30 in the Legion hall.

Indoor baseball is one of the winter sports that the club is actively promoting. An interesting game is expected.

Warning Issued Against Promoters

A number of Vernonia people have received alluring circulars from the Standard Oil company of Colorado, offering the sale of common stock of that firm.

According to the Oregon Voter, in an article based on data gathered by the Denver Better Business bureau, 70 per cent, or \$7.00 out of each \$10.00 contributed by investors, is absorbed by selling expense, going to fiscal agents or stock selling promoters, leaving only \$3.00 for productive purpose.

The company is said to have no connection whatever with the Standard Oil company of California or any other of the Rockefeller group of Standard Oil companies, and has no such financial backing as these companies.

Mrs. Hannon Entertains

Mrs. Frank Hannon entertained Tuesday evening with a dinner in honor of Mr. Hannon's birthday, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Carroll and Mrs. Minnie Aspland.

Ridge Route Is Engineers' First Choice

Vernonia-Hamlet Route Ranked After Wilson River

The so-called ridge route, extending from Gales creek to Nehalem bay, is the first choice of the state highway department engineers as a short cut to the sea, according to their report to the commission made public Monday.

Second choice is the Wilson river route and third is the Vernonia-Hamlet route. The three remaining proposed routes, Trask river, Vernonia-Saddle mountain, and Salmonberry, are preferred in the order named but are not recommended because of engineering difficulties.

Unlike the others, the ridge route has not been vigorously promoted by any community or group, and is largely a discovery of the state highway commission. It is also unlike the others in that it follows along a high ridge between the coast range summit and Nehalem bay.

The distance from Portland to the nearest coast outlet on the Roosevelt highway via the ridge route to Wheeler railroad crossing is 78.1 miles, via the Wilson river route to Tillamook, 74.6, and via the Vernonia-Hamlet route to Seaside, 102.5. To reach Seaside, however, the ridge route mileage would be 104.4 and Wilson river 126, as compared with distance via the Lower Columbia highway: 125.1.

The cost of the ridge route is estimated at \$2,510,002; of the Wilson river route, \$2,793,794; of the Vernonia-Hamlet route, \$3,177,500; of the Vernonia-Saddle mountain route, \$3,542,500.

The Oregonian of Saturday says the following concerning the survey:

The survey has been in progress since the middle of last August, and is the most extensive survey of its kind conducted by the state highway commission in recent years. Aerial photographs, utilized for the first time by the department, cost

(Continued on Page 3)

HIGHWAY PLANS DRAW 3 TO SALEM

J. E. Kerr, J. H. Bush and A. L. Kullander left Wednesday morning for Salem to see what could be done to promote the interests of the Vernonia-Hamlet route. Lester Sheeley was already at the capitol, having left Vernonia Tuesday to join the "third house."

"We have the best route of all," declared Mr. Bush before departure. "It is practically free from snow the year around, and is the most direct route to Seaside."

W. R. C. Installs Officers Jan. 15

The W. R. C. held their regular meeting Thursday, January 15, and had installation of officers. Those installed were as follows: President, Laura Sauer; senior vice president, Beulah Basington; junior vice president, Alma Sitts; treasurer, Lena Stanton; secretary, Gladys Morton; guard, Irene Spencer; press correspondent, Nannie B. Hall; chaplain, Dorcas Bays; musician, Alta Johns; conductor, Emma Miller; assistant conductor, May Mellinger; color bearers, No. 1, Violet Miller; No. 2, Eula Stanton; No. 3 and 4 not being present.

Nannie Hall acted as installing officer and Mrs. Minnie Johns as conductor. February 13 the members will meet with Mrs. Minnie Johns and make pillow and cushion covers for the old soldiers' home at Roseburg.

Mrs. Hannon Entertains

Mrs. Frank Hannon entertained Tuesday evening with a dinner in honor of Mr. Hannon's birthday, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Carroll and Mrs. Minnie Aspland.