

Vernonia Eagle



Pacific Coast Representative
Arthur W. Stypes, Inc.
San Francisco



Member of National Editorial Association and Oregon State Editorial Association.

Issued Every Friday \$2.00 Per Year in Advance

Entered as second class matter August 4, 1922, at the post office at Vernonia, Oregon, under the act of March 3, 1879.

Advertising rates—Foreign, 30c per inch; local, 28c per inch; legal notices, 10c per line first insertion, 5c per line succeeding insertions; classified 1c per word, minimum 25c first insertion, 15c succeeding insertions; readers, 10c a line.

RAY D. FISHER, Editor and Publisher

THE SHORT ROAD TO THE SEA

In commenting upon the article in the Eagle two weeks ago regarding Vernonia's hopes for a short road to the sea, the Tillamook Headlight says:

"Messrs Kerr and McGraw and the Vernonia chamber of commerce are of course only exercising their right to work energetically for the interests of Vernonia, and their friends in Portland may believe they are in close touch with the plans and purposes of the state highway commission, however, it does not seem probable that the commission is conducting experiments in order to find out if there is not some possible way to avoid building the short route from Portland to the Tillamook beaches other than by the 'ridge route' or the Wilson river route, either of which its engineers found will afford a shorter, more feasible route and one over which a road can be constructed at much less cost than via the Vernonia-Hamlet route. The engineers found the length in miles and cost of construction of roads by the three routes to be as follows: 'Ridge route, 72.2 miles, cost \$2,510,102; Wilson River route, 68 miles, cost \$2,793,794; Vernonia-Hamlet route, 84.1 miles, cost \$3,177,500.

"As regards reaching the most popular beaches, the distance from Portland to Rockaway via the Vernonia-Hamlet route is 113.4 miles; via the ridge route the distance is 86.6 miles; via the Wilson river route route, 91.2. To Twin Rocks, the distance via the 'ridge route' and the Wilson river route is practically the same, about 90 miles, while via the Vernonia-Hamlet route it is 113.4. Then, too, it should be remembered that the beaches at Netarts and Oceanside are both populous and popular."

If the main purpose of the proposed short cut is to reach the Tillamook beaches, there can be no question that the Wilson river would be the shortest and best, and the proponents of any rival routes, the Vernonia-Hamlet included, would be wasting time and energy in urging their own projects. No one denies the fact that Rockaway, Twin Rocks and the rest are popular beaches, but they are by no means the only ones that Portlanders wish to reach over some faster and better route than is now available. By far the most populous of the beaches is Seaside, which would not be benefited by the Wilson river road if built. According to distance tables in the reconnaissance report of W. D. Clarke, district engineer, January 14, 1931, Seaside would be 3.2 miles farther by way of the Wilson river route through Hillsboro and Forest Grove than by the present Lower Columbia highway.

On the other hand, the Vernonia-Hamlet route through Hillsboro and Banks would shorten the distance to Seaside 19.5 miles. If the Scappoose cut-off (not estimated in the report) were selected, the saving would be approximately nine miles more, but the populous North Plains district would not be served. The Banks-Vernonia-Hamlet route would be 9.3 miles shorter to Rockaway than is the present McMinnville-Hebo route and 43.4 miles shorter than by way of the Columbia river and Oregon Coast highways.

The Vernonia-Hamlet route, therefore saves mileage to all the beaches along the Oregon Coast highway from Rockaway to Seaside, and not merely to one section only. The somewhat higher expenditure would be justified by the fact that a much greater number of people would be served.

It may be added, by way of correction of some of the figures stated in the Headlight's article quoted above, the total distance from Portland to Tillamook via the Forest Grove-Wilson river route is 76.9 miles, not 68 miles. Construction of the Orenco-Thatcher lake cut-off would lessen the distance to 74.6 miles but increase the cost to \$2,938,706.

WATER RATES NOT REDUCIBLE

Report has it that some of those who signed the petition that the extra help in the city hall be dispensed with and that the city recorder be required to collect water rent did so under the impression that water rates would thereby be reduced. The measure if adopted can not possibly have any effect upon water rates for several years to come.

The reason is that bonds issued at the time of the installation of the water system are due in 1934, and to pay these off the present high rates, including the minimum \$2.00 charge are absolutely essential. The amount saved from the water collector's salary (provided some equally effective method of collection were devised) would have no effect upon the principal due at that time.

No reduction in water rates, therefore, can be expected until after 1934. If they were lowered before then, the city would have to borrow money to pay off the bonds. That would mean more indebtedness, more taxation, and no hope of relief until we can get out from under.

Every little helps, to be sure, but minor economies of themselves will not solve our tax problems, whether city, county or state.

POST OFFICE STAYS HAWLEY DECLARES

The Houlton post office is in no danger of being discontinued Congressman W. C. Hawley advised Leslie B. Frizzell, Houlton postmaster, in a letter received Tuesday.

The letter acknowledged receipt of the petition signed by nearly 300 west side residents and Mr. Hawley declared he was forwarding it to the postmaster general with the recommendation that the post office be continued as in the past.

—St. Helens Mist.

What Other Editors . . . Think . . .

County Chamber of Commerce There is started in this county a movement for a county wide chamber of commerce that is deserving of the fullest support and cooperation of everyone who has any interest in the development of Columbia county. Every big development of any section of the country has always had its beginning in some organization. Whenever a group of local men become sufficiently enthusiastic over the prospects of the community in which they live to devote some real energy and financial aid to the development of that community it is bound to go ahead. The only thing that can possibly hold it back is the lack of any resources to develop—and even that has been overcome in several instances.

The plan of having delegates from each of five sections of the county centering in the incorporated municipalities is sound. Each section will have equal representation in the administration of the affairs of the organization. The only thing that will ever seriously menace the effectiveness of the group will be a possible spirit of jealousy that might arise. So long as there exists a willingness to give and take between the sections of the county the good work of the county chamber of commerce can be continued and the whole county will be benefitted. The men who are on the board now are big enough to realize that and broad enough to insure the success of the undertaking.

We say it is a move in the right direction and deserves the whole-hearted support of every individual, firm and industry in the county.

—St. Helens Mist.

Portland papers report that drunken drivers there, now that public attention has forced the courts and enforcement officials to apply the proper penalties of the law to such offenses, are turning to jury trials, in hopes of escaping by this method. We have had the same experience here, and once in a while the drunken driver profits. It is up to the average man, who is called upon to do jury service to decide whether or not the next time he and his family go for a ride on the highway, they will have to dodge some booze filled idiot who thinks the road is twice as wide

LEGION TO STAGE WRESTLING BOUTS

CORVALLIS, Ore.—Abe Kaplan, 220-pound wrestler, now in Portland, has been signed for the big match headlining a snappy wrestling card to be pulled on Bell Field at Corvallis on Thursday evening of the Legion convention, August 6, 7, and 9. Kaplan took a fall from Gus Sonnenberg in Portland two weeks ago and is considered one of the foremost contenders for the heavyweight wrestling world crown.

Either "Australian" Muir or Strangler Lewis will be Kaplan's opponent in the bout at Corvallis. Negotiations are being carried on with the managers of both men.

Negotiations for the preliminaries and semi-windup are not as yet complete, but real topnotchers are promised by the Corvallis committee, Ed Brands, chairman, which is receiving assistance from sportsmen in Portland in arranging the card.

The wrestling program will begin at 6:30 o'clock Thursday evening in the south circle of Bell field and will be over in time for the big convention ball at the Memorial Union building near the stadium.

EARL HUNT HURT BY LOGGING TRAIN

Earl Hunt, brakeman for the Clark and Wilson company at Wilark, was severely injured Tuesday afternoon when he fell beneath a logging train on which he was working. He managed to save his life by rolling clear of the wheels but sustained severe internal injuries.

He was rushed to a Portland hospital where an operation was performed that night. He rallied well and since been improving. Mr. Hunt is a brother of J. W. Hunt, county clerk, and Mrs. J. G. Thompson. Mr. Hunt and Mr. and Mrs. Thompson drove to Portland Tuesday night to be at his bedside.

—St. Helens Mist.

INVESTMENT IS HEAVY

Last year there were 5,750,000 sheep valued at \$5.40 a head in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, the three northwestern states. This is an investment of \$31,150,000. Add to this sum the cost of housing, feeding, interest and

as it really is, and who doesn't care much anyway.

—Astorian Budget

FOR

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other items necessary to the sheep industry and the amount of outlay justifies strenuous effort to increase the use of wool, mutton and lamb crop.

FILBERT TROUBLE STILL IS MYSTERY

The so-called "brown stain disease" of filberts that threatens to cause severe losses to filbert growers this season has been observed by the Oregon Experiment station for more than 15 years, but thus far neither a cause or cure has been found for it, according to a statement just made by specialists of the entomology and plant pathology departments.

While the trouble has appeared in a limited way for many years, only in certain seasons, like the present, has it ever assumed the proportions of a major problem. This year it is being experienced by growers from the Umpqua valley in Southern Oregon up into Washington and in well cared for as well as neglected orchards, according to hasty survey made by the college.

This trouble is characterized by an exudation of a brown liquid that first appears as small droplets on the side or ends of the nuts which soon show a solid brown stain. The kernel inside fails to develop properly and the nuts affected frequently fall prematurely.

Studies by the college have revealed no evidence whatever that the trouble is caused by an infection of any kind. No fungi or bacteria have been associated with it. It is confined largely to the Barcelona variety, but is general on various soils, elevations and exposures.

It is not known whether un-

usual combinations of weather conditions may affect the trees so as to bring on the brown stain trouble, but this has been suggested as a possible factor.

A more thorough survey of the situation is now being undertaken by C. E. Schuster and P. W. Miller, federal investigators of nut culture and nut diseases at the Oregon experiment station.

Read the Eagle classified ads—there may be something that will save you money.

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Professional and Business Directory

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DOCTORS
TELEPHONE—
Office 672 Res. 673
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Marvin R. Eby, M. D.
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