

COUNCIL BOOSTS WAGE FIGURES AT MEET

Who makes a Town? A City? Always the Businessmen The Residents. Without Either Vernonia Would Not Be. Keep Vernonia, Build Vernonia by Taling Vernonia!



VOLUME 15, NUMBER 5

VERNONIA, COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1938

12.34 Per Cent. up, Average

Emergency Ordinance Passed Monday Night; Deputy Is Biggest Benefactor

An emergency ordinance, fixing and establishing the compensation to be paid salaried city officials, was passed Monday night which gave the employees a substantial raise, the figures show.

The city recorder was raised to \$125 a month, a 4.16 per cent. boost over the prior monthly figure; the city treasurer, formerly receiving \$30 monthly, was given \$35.

The city marshal was given a 4.16 per cent. raise, allowing \$125 monthly. The deputy was raised from \$100 to \$125; the water superintendent from \$120 to \$125; or 4.16 per cent; the city librarian from \$25 to \$30, with the city attorney remaining at \$25 monthly.

A recapitulation of the figures shows that the average boost for the six employees benefiting was 12.34 per cent.

The ordinance is effective as of January 1, 1938.

Portland Delegation to Come Here

Noted Sportswoman, Others to Aid in Local Club's Steelhead Fight

Having heard of the Nehalem Hunters and Anglers action of Monday night to initiate a state-wide movement to have voters declare the steelhead trout a game fish, thereby eliminating commercialism of the meat, a delegation of Portland sportsmen is expected here Wednesday evening to attend the big meeting billed for the high school study hall, it was learned yesterday afternoon.

Included in the delegation will be Mrs. May Nordstrom, prominent Portland sportswoman, and others. The president of the Portland Wild Life Protection Association is also expected here. Arrangements for the Portland folk's appearance here were made through Ross Duncan, past president of the local club.

Snow Gains Depth in Area Surrounding

Rain Here Mantles Mountains with Snow, Reports from Outlying Areas Say

Though Vernonia, for the most part, has enjoyed rainfall the past week, the rain has turned to snow in the upper regions of the district and reports reaching here state that the soil is covered to a depth of from 28 to 34 inches in several points close by.

Some difficulty was experienced the fort part of the week in reaching Camp McGregor after the railroad track was covered with a heavy blanket of snow. Speeders finally plied through the distance and connections were restored, The Eagle learned.

Bob Reed Killed by Bull Tues.

Grim Incident Takes Life Of St. Helens Hill Rancher; Is Crushed

Robert (Bob) Reed, well known St. Helens hill rancher, was crushed to death Tuesday, sometime after noon, by an enraged bull which he met in a field not far from his ranch home. The Reed farm is located 15 miles from Vernonia.

According to reports reaching here, Reed had been busy during the morning segregating stock in his fields. Evidently returning to the house for dinner at noon, he met his bull in a pathway in the 2-foot deep snow. While there were no witnesses to the tragic incident, his sons reconstructed the killing by tracks in the deep snow.

Spotting a stump and fallen log not far distant, Reed probably leaped from the path and ran toward them with a view to getting out of the enraged animal's range. His bruised body was found later in the day by his sons at the base of the stump where the animal evidently caught up with him and crushed him against the stump and log.

It was believed, after an investigation, that Reed was instantly killed, at least instantly rendered unconscious due to the crushed condition of his upper body.

The remains were taken to St. Helens. He is survived by three children, Robert Jr., Frank and Frances, aside from his widow.

Boy Scouts Honored at Court Monday

Legion Hall Scene of Activities; Forest Grove Well Represented at Session

Approximately 80 Boy Scouts, parents, friends, Legionnaires, Auxiliary ladies and visitors from Forest Grove and Portland gathered at the Legion hall Monday evening to witness a district Court of Honor which conferred increased rank on 10 scouts.

Paul Yearout, scout executive from Portland, acted as interrogator during the evening. C. H. Hieber of Vernonia acted as one of the judges during the evening.

The event was one of the most attractive and impressive held here in scouting circles and was adjudged one of enjoyment for the youths honored during the evening.

The Court of Honor was one of several events due this week in commemoration of Boy Scout Week which is being observed over the entire nation.

CITY FATHERS FIND GRIEF IN OWNING HOMES FOR RENT

Being a city councilman has its troubles and trials but with the city owning certain pieces of rentable property here, the tribulations are heaped all the higher on the heads of the city fathers, it developed Monday evening at the council meeting. A feminine voice had called Loel Roberts, recorder, during the week, and asked if the city intended to put blinds up in a city-owned residence here. At the council meeting Monday evening the councilmen were reminded by the recorder that landlords are expected to furnish blinds in a rent home. "We know very little about those things," said Councilman Roy Raymond, "I guess we should have a woman on the council."

Dads, Sons to Banquet Next Wednesday

Evangelical Social Hall to Be Scene of Annual Affair; Nichols Toastmaster

The annual Fathers and Sons banquet will be held in Vernonia Wednesday evening, starting at 6:30. The scene of the event will be the Evangelical social hall. Ladies of the church will serve the banquet, reported as a turkey dinner.

J. W. Nichols, Oregon Gas and Electric manager, will serve as toastmaster during the evening.

Chief among the well-arranged program numbers will be the appearance here of George Koehn, Portland, national committeeman for the American Legion, recent head of Reed College and present leader of the Royal Rosiarians, well known Portland booster group. Koehn will present the main address during the evening.

Preceding the feature address, however, several interesting numbers have been contacted. An orchestra will furnish incidental music for the occasion. Mrs. L. H. Dewey and Mrs. J. W. Nichols will present a vocal duet, Mrs. L. Jones a reading, Mrs. Sehorn a vocal solo, C. Hyatt a solo and two numbers by a male octette.

In making the announcement this week, it was said that wives or mothers of the men attending may also attend the speaking portion of the program. They will be admitted at 7:30. A charge of 10 cents for ladies will be made.

Power Official Here

T. E. Roach, general manager of the Washington and Oregon operations of the local power company, spent a few hours in the territory Wednesday conferring here with Manager J. W. Nichols. The official was accompanied by two more company officials. The men inspected local facilities while here.

Farmer Meeting Next Week

Large Crowd Expected to Consider The Problems Of Farmers

With all advance preparation completed for the one-day Columbia county farm outlook conference in St. Helens, February 16, a general invitation has been extended to farmers and their wives, as well as to any businessmen interested, to attend the conference, which will open at 10:00 a. m. in the Methodist church.

If advance interest is any indication, a large crowd will be on hand during the day to assist in the consideration of important questions facing the agricultural industry of Columbia county, says County Agent Geo. A. Nelson.

In the light of recent developments—national, state, and county—the farmers and their wives, with the assistance of specialists from the Oregon State college extension service, will seek the answers to such questions as: What is the outlook for agriculture in 1938 and over the next few years? In view of the outlook, what crops, numbers and kinds of livestock should be produced in the county? What kind of land-use program will conserve soil fertility and prevent erosion? What is the relationship between the farm home and the farm business?

The conference will be open

Church Group Meets

The Christian church Missionary society was held at the home of Mrs. R. A. Simmons Friday night. A large number was present. Refreshments were served after the meeting was over.

Columbia County Ranks Well Up In State Accident Toll

Columbia county ranked second among Oregon's ten group I counties from the standpoint of excellence in traffic safety last year, according to 1937 statistics completed this week by Secretary of State Earl Snell.

The grouping and ranking of the counties was done this year to enable every citizen of Oregon to learn just where his county stands in the statewide campaign against accidents, and to stimulate local efforts to improve traffic conditions.

"Accurate ranking of the counties is naturally difficult, because of differences in highways, traffic and weather," Snell pointed out. "For this reason we based our ranking partly on the improvement each county made over its 1936 record for accidents and injuries. The

VERNONIA TO BE WELL SIGNED, MEET MONDAY SHOWS

That Vernonia will be well signed was indicated Monday night when Marshal Henry King announced that 102 signs would be required to place the city intersections in "readable" shape within the next few weeks. The council decided to follow the suggestion of the Grange Home Economics ladies and place attractive, stenciled street signs at each intersection in the city. The marshal had worked out a chart which plainly indicated the number needed. City-owned property which is up for sale will also bear "For Sale by City of Vernonia" signs, the councilmen decided.

All Teachers Rehired by School Board

Coach Asks to Be Relieved Of Coaching Duties for Next Year, Reported

All of the Union High School teaching staff was rehired Tuesday evening by the Union High directors during a meeting held at the school.

The vote of the officials displayed confidence in the existing staff, all of whom will be offered contracts for the 1938-39 school year, the minutes show.

A surprise move came during the meeting when Coach W. F. MacDonald asked to be relieved of his coaching duties during the coming year. He was retained, however, in his capacity as industrial arts and physical education instructor. A new coach will probably be signed sometime this week or early next, Superintendent Wallace Mc-

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Invite Ross Here To Speak

Bonneville Dam Power Administrator May Come to Vernonia; Group Appears

At the instance of a delegation, headed by Chas. Worth, Vernonia district representative of the Peoples' Power League, the city council decided Monday evening to extend an invitation to Bonneville Dam Administrator Ross to come here and speak.

Administrator Ross has spoken before many civic bodies of the state in recent weeks. In all probability, the official's appearance here would be before the council at a regular meeting, presumably the next one.

The delegation which met with the council Monday evening indicated that it was desirous of seeing the city gain all possible information concerning the availability of Bonneville power in Vernonia before the councilmen proceeded too far with their proposal to vote bonds and install a diesel operated unit, or units, here. The official responded by ordering the invitation to the administrator extended. No answer is expected before tomorrow.

50 Turn out For Evening Chamber Meet

Program, Objectives Heard at Civic Group Session; Agriculture Theme

An attendance of 50 Vernonia business men and women, their wives and lady friends, marked the first evening meeting of the year, for the Chamber of Commerce and the first which saw the recently named president, Lyman Hawken, wielding the gavel.

At the outset of the session, the president pointed out his objectives for the year and sought the cooperation of the members in preparing the way for an agricultural future for Vernonia and district.

President Hawken plans the addition of a "high-powered promoting" committee of local chamber members whose objectives will be to pave the way for added agricultural activity on cut-over land. Wallace McCrae, program chairman, presented an appreciated hour of entertainment following the president's talk. Paul Gordon's Washington grade school tumbling class presented a series of stunts and tumbling tricks followed by three tap dancing and song numbers by Mrs. E. D. Eby's dancing class. The latter were accompanied by Mrs. J. W. Nichols.

The Tuesday evening meal was served by the Eastern Star ladies.

Survey Shows Interesting Figures Concerning Municipal Power Proposal

The first concrete evidence to be produced in the eventual power discussion brewing here, and which would place the city in competition with the existing power company, was in evidence Monday evening when William J. H. Vossbrink, Seattle, representative of the Chicago Pneumatic Tool Co., spoke before the city council. In conjunction with his talk, he presented a letter allegedly showing the advantage of a diesel power production plant here over the existing service.

The Eagle procured a copy of his letter and herewith presents it for the perusal by local readers: City of Vernonia, Vernonia, Oregon

Attention: Mr. Loel Roberts, Recorder

Gentlemen: At the request of your Mr. Roy Raymond, Chairman of the Finance Committee, the writer has undertaken to conduct a power survey of your city, results of which are outlined in the following pages.

According to a personal canvas made of the users of electricity in the City of Vernonia covering the month of November, 1937, there were 369 customers. Total consumption was 42,116 K. W. H. at a cost of \$1,932. These figures are very conservative since, for the year of 1936 according to the Utilities Commissioner of Oregon covering the Oregon Gas and Electric Co., there were 729 customers

who consumed 704,490 K. W. H. at a cost of \$30,502. However, since the Oregon Gas and Electric Co. serves customers outside the City of Vernonia also, there is actually not as great a difference in the above figures as would seem apparent.

Any owner of a modern Diesel Electric Power Plant can put power into the switchboard at a cost of from 7 mills to 1c per K. W. H. This average cost includes the cost of fuel oil, lubricating oil, the salary of an attendant, and interest on the investment. Therefore, had the City of Vernonia furnished power during November, 1937 to these 369 customers they would have made a minimum profit of 3.6c for each K. W. H. consumed

or a total of \$1,516, operating under the present rate schedule. If this output continued year round a single year's savings would amount to over \$18,000. However, I understand that the month of November was heavier than usual in the amount of power consumed, so that a conservative figure for the year round savings would probably be \$15,000.

Considering the load characteristics of the City of Vernonia, an economical diesel engine installation and one that would take care of the load variations properly (keeping in mind future expansion resulting from lower rates) would be a two-unit plant consisting of one 100 K. W. unit and one 200

K. W. unit. The writer has no figures at hand as to the cost of a suitable power house. Nor do I know exactly how much a new transmission system would cost. However, the power plant machinery including diesel engines, generators, exciters, switchboards, and all accessory equipment necessary to the proper operation of the power plant would cost the City of Vernonia approximately \$35,000.

Under the present system of purchasing power from the Oregon Gas and Electric Co., the various customers merely get electric service for the bills they pay and there the benefit ends. They pay their bills from month to month and derive no further good from

the money thus spent. However, a municipally owned diesel power plant, properly managed, can be of infinite good to a community.

As outlined above, the City of Vernonia would be able to pay for a diesel electric installation in less than 2 1/2 years, provided the present rate schedule was maintained. The entire power house and transmission line should be paid for in about 5 years. Having their own municipal diesel plant, for every 5c a citizen pays for power he would go for operating and maintenance costs and the remaining 4c would be used to pay for the power plant and transmission lines. At the end of the 5 year period

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