

# Vernonia Eagle

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1940

VERNONIA, COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 19

## Pal Shop to Open Doors to Business Saturday, May 11

H. L. Hatchard, Owner, Announces Date in Wednesday Release

The opening of the newest business to be added to the firms of Vernonia will be that of the Pal Shop, slated to be ready for customers Saturday of this week, according to an announcement by H. L. Hatchard, owner.

Mr. Hatchard has been occupied for the past several weeks in preparing the store space in the Oregon Gas and Electric building for the opening. Earlier plans were intended to make the store ready for business May 1 or shortly after.

The shop will feature ice cream and confections.

## Officials Get League Invite

Mayor Ed M. Bollinger and the city officials of Vernonia have been invited by Mayor Theodore Dichter of Seaside to attend the 15th annual convention of the League of Oregon Cities May 23 and 24 in Seaside.

Invitations to attend the Oregon Finance Officers' Association conference to be held May 22 in conjunction with the League meeting have been mailed to all local government finance officers by city recorder, Gault Patton, of Seaside.

According to an announcement today by William Hall, acting executive secretary of the League, participation by Oregon city officials in open forum sessions on problems of rural fire protection, municipal finance, city planning, zoning, public employees retirement, municipal insurance, recreation, traffic control and public health will feature the annual meeting.

New sections are being organized this year for special groups in the League including city attorneys, municipally owned utility managers, civil service commissioners and airport managers.

## April Showers Total 3.13 Inches

An examination of the cooperative weather station records this week revealed the total rainfall of April showers to be 3.13 inches. The daily recordings have been kept for the past month and will be maintained in the future by Ed Seseman. Mr. Seseman, replaces Harry Culbertson, former cooperative weather observer, for Vernonia. Greatest precipitation for the month occurred on the 30th day when 1.01 inches was the recording.

Maximum temperature for the month was 78 degrees on the 12th. The minimum recording of 29 degrees occurred on two dates, the 16th and 21st, a light frost resulting both times.

Incidental recordings during the month mentioned a light thunder storm on the 3rd, morning fog on the 8th, thunder storm on the 23rd and a light hail storm on the 28th. Strong winds were mentioned several times.

## Choir Well Received Here Sunday Evening

A crowded house greeted the Cappella Choir of Pacific University at Forest Grove, on last Sunday evening at the First Christian church and heard one of the finest evenings of music presented in this city for some time.

## Rare Peonies Now in Bloom

Howard Reher, owner of Reher's Grocery, gave word this week of the blooming of his Japanese Tree peonies. The blooms are unusually large in size and very rare, being grown in very few other places in the United States, it was stated.

## Pomona Grange Talks of Timber

Clatskanie was the scene of the 147th session of Columbia County Pomona Grange on Saturday, May 4th, the session being held in the I. O. O. F. hall, all Granges of the county except S. Scappoose being represented in attendance.

Guests from other counties included members from Multnomah, Clackamas, Clatsop, Benton and Washington. State Grange Master Ray W. Gill attended in the afternoon and spoke at length on various farm problems. A growing tendency toward corporation farming was deplored, small farms being eliminated and great tracts being farmed by corporations, leading to mass production and virtual serfdom of farm laborers. Mr. Gill pointed out that this is sure to lead to serious consequences for the whole country.

The speaker for the evening was Mr. Ralph Beck of Corvallis, who spoke on land use planning, which is especially important in this county since our timber has been cut. Mr. Beck stated that our timber in this county has decreased in value in the last ten years from 5 million to 1 million. We now have 3 million acres of stump land in Oregon, our county having a large share of it. We must decide the best use of this stump land either agriculture, grazing, or reforestation. For reforestation, the safe guarding from fire has to be practiced, being one of our main problems. Increase of population is essential to provide markets for our farm products, this to be brought about by migration, immigration, or increased birth rate. At present, the census shows less in population in many communities.

Discussion of the food stamp plan as adopted by many cities and counties led to the recommendation that this plan be adopted here. The plan was explained by Mr. Scott of Portland, who reported that surplus farm commodities will be taken care of in this way, and a better standard of living will be provided for those in need.

Mineral resources of the county were discussed, the work of Mr. A. L. Morris in developing and prospecting our minerals being commended. Mr. Morris reported that a contract has been formed to provide for the shipping out of 15,000 tons of ore per month beginning with June 1. Many other minerals are present also, including vanadium, which is used in hardening and toughening steel.

It was further reported that the State Legislature made an appropriation for development of mineral resources in our state and Columbia county should be given a share of this. The Pomona secretary was instructed to write the Governor asking that this be done.

A contribution of \$5.00 was voted for the Children's Farm Home at Corvallis.

The annual Grange picnic was scheduled for the last Sunday in July, at the Grange Park at Big Eddy on the Nehalem. The committee consists of Mrs. Inez Langdon, Pomona Lecturer, assisted by Mr. George Nelson and Ray Tarbell, who have charge of sports, and W. F. Sheets and Noble Dunlap who will provide the program.

Eleven candidates were initiated in the 5th Degree.

The next meeting of Pomona Grange will be at Beaver Homes in August.

## Credit Union Opens Office

The Vernonia Federal Credit Union, through the courtesy of Bert Mills, has opened an office in Mills' Real Estate office and will be open for business every Saturday between the hours of 10:00 a. m. and 12:00 noon.

## Timberline Rates Honor Mention

Vernonia Paper Only One in Oregon to Receive Rating by Press Club

As a result of the 15th annual Northwest high school newspaper contest sponsored by the Whitman College Press Club, Vernonia high school's publication, "The Timberline", won honorable mention in class C, mimeographed papers. Vernonia was the only class C Oregon school mentioned. Wa-Hi Booster, Wallace, Idaho, won first place in that class which is made up of schools with an enrollment of 200.

Comments by the judges of the contest read: "Congratulations to Miss Beck, Joanne Nichols and the staff of 'The Timberline' for a paper far above average. There is little room for improvement."

## PUD Committee Makes Reply

There was recently distributed among the people of this community a bulletin against the proposed "People's Utility District". This bulletin was so full of false and misleading information, of abuse and vilification of those who are sincerely endeavoring to advance the best interests of this community, that we cannot let it go unchallenged.

This bulletin is a part of the power company propaganda which diligently publicizes alleged facts in underscored headlines in display type depicting the PUD as a 'big bad wolf ready to devour us' if we don't watch out and denouncing everybody and everything having to do with the PUD. In order that the people of this district may not be entirely misled and misinformed, we are compelled to defend ourselves and give the people the real facts:

WHAT IS A PUD? Now, first of all what is a PUD or Peoples Utility District? It is a public agency like a city, town, village, or school district, only in this case it is organized so that the community can take advantage of the low cost electric power bought from the Bonneville Project and sold to the people here at cost. Is there anything terrible about that? Now, let us examine some of the false statements of this bulletin:

1. They say that the State Hydroelectric Commission tells us that the PUD cannot reduce rates. As a matter of fact, the Commission's report says no such thing. If you will read it carefully, you will find that the report indicates that an initial rate reduction is possible and that larger reductions may follow later.

2. They say that if a PUD is formed, it will mean millions of dollars of debt. Wrong again. The Hydroelectric Commission's report says that "The system could be operated at a profit." This would amount to a total net profit of \$90,012 for the thirty years. And besides, the Commission says that the project will pay for itself out of earnings, set up a depreciation reserve of \$88,700 and pay taxes to the amount of \$150,000. So that by the end of 30 years the people of this district will be ahead a total of \$295,742. So you see all this hullabaloo about heavy debts, bond issues and other disastrous results is without foundation. On the contrary, the facts show that a PUD for this community would be a mighty good investment.

These are the facts, friends and neighbors, as found and published by a thoroughly dependable authority making independent and disinterested investigations and reports. They are not the ravings of misguided and uninformed persons who are taking the word of the private power company propagandists.

3. WILL GET US OUT OF DEBT: The bulletin referred to is constantly insisting that the forma-

(Continued on page 8)

## GRADUATION SLATED

### Chamber To Seek Project

E. H. Condit Named Head of Committee to Attempt Park Improvement

The Vernonia Chamber of Commerce meeting Tuesday noon at the Terminal Cafe heard the proposal that the group's sponsorship be lent to the seeking of a project for improvement of the city park, the project to include improvement to the swimming pool by providing dressing rooms and general work to the park playground so that it would be more serviceable to those wishing to use it. The suggestion was heard that the Camp Fire Girls' cabin be moved from its present location to provide more playing field for athletic games. To carry the suggestion on E. H. Condit was named chairman of a committee to seek information as to the possibility of a WPA project. He named Wallace McCrae and Marvin Kamholz to assist him in seeking the project.

In anticipation of the Rainier-Apiary road meeting here May 21, Tom Crawford was named chairman to learn all details possible regarding the road and have available at the meeting.

### PUDs Exempt Attorney Rules

Salem—That the 1939 legislative act compelling People's Utility districts to pay taxes, is unconstitutional and as a result PUDs will be tax exempt, is the opinion of Attorney General Van Winkle according to a letter he has just forwarded to J. N. Jacobsen, dairy rancher and chairman of the Pomona grange tax league of Coos county.

The attorney forwarded his opinion to Jacobsen who asked for the ruling for the benefit of grangers and farmers who must vote on a PUD proposal May 17 along with six other districts.

The attorney general's opinion, it is believed, will clear up much confusion among people that has resulted from persistent propaganda from both local PUD advocates and the Bonneville Administration which have insisted that the PUDs will pay taxes. This type of propaganda has been widely circulated to overcome fears of citizens that Oregon PUDs will shift utility taxes off themselves and onto the people, as has been universally done by Washington PUDs and is being done by Cascade Locks, Oregon, next year.

Exemption of PUDs from taxes in Oregon, said Van Winkle is based upon the state's constitution which declares that taxes must be uniform and not discriminate between those in the same taxing classes. Since PUDs are municipal corporations under the law, and municipal lighting systems are tax exempt the attorney general says the legislative act is unconstitutional and PUD taxes cannot be levied. "Clearly," writes Van Winkle in his official opinion, "the development and distribution of electric energy etc. by any municipality which is an incorporated city or town is no different than such a development and distribution by a municipality which is a people's utility district. The latter is a municipality as well as the former."

### Friday Evening Date of Banquet

The annual Mother and Daughter Banquet will be at the First Christian church on Friday evening of this week at 6 o'clock. The committee has been fortunate in securing the services of Mrs. Muriel Jordan of Silverton, Oregon, as guest speaker. The affair will be held in the newly enlarged dining rooms of the church.

### Extension Of Lines Slated

Timber Power Company to Connect with Oregon Gas, Electric Service

President Gildner of the Timber Light and Power Company confirmed reports yesterday that negotiations are going forward that will give Timber residents electric rate reductions of 46 1/2% for small consumers, and will also provide electric service to now unserved farmers between Vernonia and Timber. Average reductions for all classes of service will approximate 34%.

"We didn't want to make any public statement until all negotiations were completed," said Gildner, "but since it has become known I will admit that our company is working on an interconnection agreement with the Oregon Gas and Electric Company and has been for a long time. Under the pending agreement the Timber Light and Power Company will build its line to the Columbia County line a distance of about 4 1/2 miles. The Oregon Gas will extend its present line out of Vernonia another mile and one half to connect with us."

"We plan to buy all our power thereafter from the Oregon Gas and Electric Company. Upon completion of the lines the company will be able to immediately reduce rates 46 1/2% for small users and an average of 34% for all classes of residential users, based upon a permanent load."

Asked when the two companies would be ready to start construction, Gildner said crews would be in the field before the end of May, barring unforeseen conditions, and that it would require only a short time to build the anticipated line.

The Timber Light and Power Company serves 92 customers in the Timber district.

It is understood that the State Utility Commissioner has already agreed to permit Timber's rate reductions as soon as the deal goes through.

### Peppy Sale Due Soon

The sale of poppies, funds from which will benefit disabled war veterans, is due to begin in Vernonia on May 24th. The sale will continue for that day and the following day. The sale has been announced by Mrs. A. J. Schuitz, president of the Vernonia unit of the Legion Auxiliary.

Continuing the press release the following statement was made: "We feel that Poppy Day will have increased meaning to America this year because renewed warfare in Europe has renewed the memory of those boys of ours who gave their lives over there 22 years ago. It is for them that we put on the poppy sale each year to show that we still remember and honor their sacrifices. It is the flower which grew where they fell and which now blooms on the coats of Americans who appreciate their services. Wearing their flower over our hearts means that within our hearts their love of America still lives."

### Pin Ball Machines Discussed

City councilmen at the Monday evening meeting gave official oke to the first-of-the-month bills and heard a discussion of the pin ball machine. The machines, declared illegal some time ago due to the element of chance involved in their use, have been changed, it was stated, so that they involve no law infraction as long as no opportunity of winning money on the play is possible. No action was taken to allow machines in the city again.

### 41 Seniors Complete Work

May 12, Date of Baccalaureate at Evangelical Church

This coming week marks the most exciting and certainly the most remembered events in the lives of 41 boys and girls who will graduate from high school Friday night, May 17. Skip day, last Monday, is a past event, with the forecoming activities looming up in the near future when the young man and woman begins to wonder whether or not he or she is really about grown or is it all a beautiful dream—this attention?

#### SENIOR CALENDAR

Baccalaureate—Sunday, May 12, 8 p. m. Evangelical church. Reverend H. R. Scheuerman delivering the address.

Class Day—Wednesday, May 15, 2:30 p. m. High school auditorium. Senior Banquet—Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 p. m. American Legion hall.

Commencement—Friday, May 17, 8:00 p. m. Washington grade school auditorium.

Baccalaureate services with Reverend H. R. Scheuerman delivering the address will be observed this Sunday evening at 8 o'clock at the Evangelical church.

Class Day will be the time when the class valedictorian and the class historian will be heard. The class will and prophecy will provide the audience with enlightening and amusing predications. Special music and the presentation of the senior key to the ever-seeking juniors will round out the afternoon's program which begins at 2:30 next Wednesday afternoon, at the high school.

On the evening of Wednesday members of the American Legion Auxiliary with the financial aid of civic organizations will give a banquet for the graduating class. The affair is slated for 6:30 p. m. at the American Legion hall.

Commencement exercises with Dr. O. R. Chambers, head of the Oregon State College Psychology Department, delivering the address, will be held Friday evening, May 17, at eight o'clock in the Washington grade school auditorium.

### Library Gets New Books

Mrs. Edna Engen, city librarian, announced Tuesday the addition of 11 new adult fiction books to the City Library. The books were placed on shelves in readiness for use Tuesday.

The new books are: The Tree of Liberty, Elizabeth Page; Bethel Mernday, Sinclair Lewis; Conversation, Conrad Aiken; How Green Was My Valley, Richard Llewellyn; Lonesome Road, Patricia Wentworth; Last Sunrise, Kathleen Norris; Daphne Deane, Grace L. Hill; The Mulberry Bush, Helen Topping Miller; Secret Valley, Jackson Gregory; Twenty-Four Hours A Day, Faith Baldwin; Self-Made Woman, Faith Baldwin; Murder Up My Sleeve, Erle Stanley Gardner; and The Case of the Lame Canary, Erle Stanley Gardner.

### Shrubbery Planted At Cemetery

Through authorization by the park committee of the city council, \$300.00 worth of shrubs have been planted at the Memorial Cemetery. Planting was done by J. C. Kaphammer of Portland. Of the total cost of the shrubs, \$32.50 was donated by various city organizations and the balance paid by the council. The planting adds greatly to the cemetery appearance.