

County News

STRAWBERRY GROWERS HOLD MEETING

RAINIER—A strawberry growers meeting held in the Rainier City hall Friday, March 3, at 1:15 p. m.

Robert Rieder of the Oregon State college extension service will discuss insect control problems and the situation in regard to obtaining insecticides under war conditions. John Becker of the Gresham Berry Growers association, who has just returned from Washington, D. C., where he was conferring in regard to war demands and prices to be paid for strawberries, will be present to discuss the strawberry situation. All strawberry growers and others interested are invited to be present.

SERVICEMEN'S CENTER PLANNED

ST. HELENS—A servicemen's center, to be operated at a downtown location, is being planned by the St. Helens Junior Women's club, which has funds available to finance the project. For the present, the unit will not be affiliated with the USO or any other organized movement.

Club members will act as a supervisory group and will need the cooperation of all organizations. Nature of the help needed is not financial, but people of the churches, lodges and other organized groups will be called upon to give their time and ability to maintain the center. No date has been announced for the opening of the center.

COUNTY RED CROSS GOAL \$19,600

ST. HELENS—Columbia Co. people will be asked to give more money to the Red Cross this year than they have ever contributed before, because the month-long drive which gets under way next Wednesday has a quota of \$19,600 to raise—more than 60 per cent higher than the then record goal of \$12,000 set for the 1943 campaign. Incidentally, in '43 the county topped its quota by a wide margin, raising more than \$15,000 in the campaign.

Local Chapter Gets Share

A generous share of the money the county raises during March will go towards financing the Columbia Red Cross chapter, which has had many duties added to its load by the war. The chapter now devotes much of its activity toward care for servicemen's relatives here—an unpublicized job, for details of the help offered are never released.

CEMETARY DEAL HITS SNAG

ST. HELENS—After extensive exploration of the Hoffman farm near Columbia Heights school, the site has been practically eliminated as the place to establish a city-owned cemetery, it was revealed this week. City Engineer Slaughter's exploration uncovered too much water in the subsoil, indicating the presence of several underground springs. These springs make the site unsuitable for the intended purpose unless the premises were tiled for drainage. To tile the site would entail a great amount of expense, and it is believed the project will be abandoned by the city for the present. The depth of the soil was sufficient, it was found during the explorations, and in every other respect the site was ideal.

Death Calls Mrs. Dora Reynolds

Funeral services were held for Mrs. Dora Hattie Reynolds at the Bush funeral home on February 27. Mrs. Reynolds was born June 20th 1878 in Mist, Oregon and died at her home in Vernonia on the 24th of February. She is survived by her husband, Edward A. Reynolds, of Portland; one son George, of Portland; two daughters, Mrs. Hattie Buckley, Wheeler, Oregon, and Mrs. Ida Habemand, Banks, Oregon; seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Three brothers, George Jones, Mist, Oregon; Jim Jones, Vernonia; and Lonzo Jones, Eugene, Oregon. Three sisters, Mrs. J. O. Libel, Mist; Lizzy McCauley, Seaside; Mrs. Emma Aldridge, Mist.

Rev. Livingstone officiated at the services and interment was made at Mist, Oregon.

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Muster Out Help Due

Mrs. Estella Harris, Executive secretary for the Columbia County Red Cross has mustering out forms for discharged veterans of the armed forces.

Mrs. Harris will be at the Vernonia Auto Company every Monday from 10:30 to 12:30 a. m. to assist in making out these forms. The discharged veterans are eligible for mustering out pay varying from \$100 to \$300. Veterans interested may contact Mrs. Harris or may write to St. Helens.

Six Give Blood At Hillsboro Monday

Mrs. Frank Hartwick, chairman of the blood donors committee, took six Vernonia women to the Hillsboro blood donating center Monday, February 28. Those giving blood were Mrs. Louise George, Mrs. Mona Gordon, Mrs. Ira Baucom, Mrs. Roy Zimmerdahl, Mrs. Milton Lamping and Mrs. Harry Kerns.

Mrs. Hartwick plans two trips a month to the Hillsboro center and urges those who are donating to continue. If possible, those in charge of the work would like to increase the number of one-time donors.

A period of ten weeks must pass between donations.

New Gas Coupons Due

New B-3, C-3, E-1, R-1 and T-2 QTR gasoline ration coupons will be issued on March 1. The T coupons bear the designation of "2nd QTR". These are to be used exclusively for the second quarter in issuing transport ration coupons.

Those Who Are in It

JOINS THE MARINES

Recently enlisted in the marine corps women's reserve is Mrs. Elizabeth Carrol Irvin, daughter of Mr. A. F. Schalock. Private Irvin will be transferred in the near future to Camp Lejeune, N. C., for six weeks indoctrination training.

A Vernonia high school graduate, Mrs. Irvin attended the University of Oregon for three years. She is currently employed at Boeing's Aircraft Company in Seattle.

SOMEWHERE IN NEW GUINEA

Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Harlan of Wilark have recently received two letters from their son, M Sgt. G. B. Harlan who has recently been stationed somewhere in New Guinea. He mentions looking down on the Owen Stanley Mts. from the window of their plane. These mountains are very rough and he says it is no wonder they had such a hard time getting the Japs out of them. He writes, "You ought to see my cute fox hole. I'll lay odds that the Good Housekeeping would gladly put their seal of approval on it."

In a letter received a few days later than the above, he mentions that he has been in the hospital, and that he has been losing weight. He says he had his first drink of cold water since leaving San Francisco. He mentions seeing the strangest looking and acting fish he has ever seen. It was shaped like a bullhead and would go skipping across the water and then climb up on a stick. It had two legs also. There are some amazing looking creatures around there. There are bats as big as chickens, crabs that climb trees, and grasshoppers six or seven inches long.

HOME ON LEAVE

Richard Robbins, Coxswain, arrived home on leave last Monday, February 21. He has served overseas for 23 months and has

Board Again Names McCrae School Head

All of Teaching Staff Renamed for Coming Year's Work

A meeting of the school board was held Saturday evening, February 26 at which time Wallace McCrae was appointed to serve his eighth year as principal of Vernonia high school. Mr. McCrae served as coach for the high school in 1934, '35 and '36 before being appointed principal. Prior to that time he was coach at the Washington grade school for two years.

Mr. McCrae is a graduate of Oregon College of Education and of the University of Oregon and has also done graduate work at the University of Oregon.

All of the present teaching staff was rehired which includes Miss Freda Beck, Mrs. Margaret Dement, Harold McEntire, Ray Mills, Mrs. Orile Robbins, Orile Robbins and Miss Esther Willers. One vacancy remains on the high school staff which was previously filled by Mrs. Sam Hearing. Mrs. Robert Martin, who is finishing Mrs. Hearing's term is not a candidate for re-election.

R. L. Spencer has been rehired for another year as custodian of the building.

Funeral Gas Permitted

Gasoline may be issued to immediate blood relatives for funeral purposes where the traveling doesn't exceed 500 miles round trip. This gasoline will be drawn from the quota of "hardship gasoline," and is available to mother, father, son or daughter of the deceased.

Local R.C. Drive Rolls

The committees working in the Red Cross drive doing canvass work started yesterday in their house-to-house and business district canvass in an effort to gain the quota of \$4,000 for the Nehalem Valley.

The Oregon State Guard turned over \$50 to the drive last week. This was the first money received in this drive with the exception of the large fund turned over by the IWA members recently.

Mrs. Harry Culbertson, chairman of this drive, announced that two dances will be given in the near future with funds from them going towards the drive goal.

Guy R. Mills Called By Death

Guy Robert Mills of Garibaldi and a former resident of Vernonia, passed away at the Tillamook general hospital on February 19 after a long illness. He was born on January 6, 1878 at New Hampton, Iowa. He had operated a service station at Garibaldi for some time before he was taken ill. He was a member of the I.O.O.F. He is survived by three brothers, Emery J. Mills of Chico, California; Thomas B. and Clive of Vernonia.

Funeral services in charge of Lundberg's was held at the Bush Funeral Home Sunday, February 27 with Rev. W. O. Livingstone officiating. He was taken to the Riverview Abby in Portland for interment in the Mausoleum.

Loggers Slated For Tournament

The ninth annual district championship basketball tournament for district five, Oregon High School Athletic association will be held at Astoria Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 2, 3 and 4. This will be a 14-game double elimination tournament between the eight best teams of Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook counties for the purpose of selecting a team for the state tournament.

Thurs-Jay's games will be played in the Astoria high school gymnasium. The remaining games are to be played in the USO building.

Eight teams are needed for the tournament. Therefore the host school which is Astoria, will play their second team, making the required number.

The opening game will be played at three o'clock with Scappoose playing Astoria's second team. At four, St. Helens plays Tillamook, 7:30 p.m., Rainier and Seaside play and the final game of the day will be Vernonia and Astoria.

The Loggers are working hard in preparation for the tournament under the coaching of Orile Robbins. The team will be minus an alternate due to the fact that Max Millis is ill with the flu.

The squad that has been chosen to attend this tournament is as follows: Jack Nance, Fred Larsen, Dan Rollins, Duke Byers, Gerald Riley, Ralph Sturdevant, Dickie Colson and Jack Riley which makes an eight-man team which is allowed by tournament rules. The alternates to be used in the event of sickness or injury of the above eight are Marvin Turner and Max Millis. The referees are Chase and Lenchitsky of Portland.

Speeding Brings Arrests

Five local people were arrested for speeding the past week and were penalized, some having to surrender gasoline coupons. One person was reported to have been going 80 miles per hour.

Electricity Users May See Change Here; REA Is Proposed Thurs. Night

Users of electricity in the Upper Nehalem Valley will see new developments in this region if plans of the organization formed here last Thursday evening develop as intended. Meeting with representatives of the rural electrification administration were farmers and business men from this vicinity, from Jewell and Elsie and from Washington county to hear a plan proposed by REA to form a cooperative which would embrace all this area. In setting up the organization, a board of seven was named including Lee Wooden of Jewell, Noble Dunlap of Mist, Charles Uhlén of Timber, Frank Genzer of Buxton, Fred Knox of Gaston, Paul Gordon of Vernonia and Harry King of Riverview.

Organization Procedure Explained by Lewis

The organization of an REA cooperative was explained by G. A. Lewis, who represents the applications and loans division of REA in this region. He told steps necessary in organizing and advantages to be gained from the cooperative. He brought out the fact that if the cooperative was formed here it would have about 1800 users which would include 927 present users of Oregon Gas and Electric electricity, members of the Jewell REA, 93 from Timber, approximately 412 users in Washington county and 100 from Yamhill county. When this REA, should it be formed, would be able to obtain materials for line construction, it was pointed out that many new users could be obtained in sections not now served by electricity. Likewise, by setting up the district now and making all necessary plans, it will be possible to obtain materials for construction as soon as manufacture is started following the war.

REA Members Not Responsible for Debts

Mr. Lewis also explained that a fee of \$5.00 is charged for membership in the cooperative, that the coop members elect their own directors, name its place of business, that members are not responsible for the debts of the coop and that the government takes a mortgage on the line and a lien on the revenue of the system for repayment of money used to build the system. In other words, the cooperative operates at cost with possibly a little additional revenue to set up a reserve for emergencies.

After the group elected last Thursday night has made arrangements for the organization with REA headquarters in St. Louis, Mo., and negotiations have been made attempting to purchase the Oregon Gas and Electric property, mass meetings will be held throughout the territory proposed as part of the district and all residents will have the opportunity to decide the merits of the cooperative.

Negotiating Committee Named by Board

In the meantime, Harry King, Charles Uhlén and Noble Dunlap were named to negotiate with the Oregon Gas and Electric company for purchase of its property. Negotiations will be carried on under the legal advice of R. M. Burley, attorney for the Nehalem Basin Peoples' Utility district and also elected attorney for the proposed REA by the newly formed board Thursday night.

Representing the REA here in addition to Mr. Lewis were E. G. Keffer, field representative of the applications and loans division of REA and W. B. Bigelow, regional construction engineer of this region of REA.

In taking preliminary steps toward obtaining a charter, the new board chose the name of West Oregon Electric cooperative. The meeting was held at the Bush Funeral Home.

Spare Stamp 4 Valid for Pork

The pork bonus announced this week by OPA is applied by validation of spare stamp No. 4 in war ration book No. 4 for five points. Three stamps had been validated for the same amount previously. This extra allowance is good from Wednesday through Saturday of this week.

Meat animals, particularly hogs, have continued to reach the markets in unexpectedly large numbers and cold storage space must be cleared for the flush production season of eggs and dairy products in the spring.

Columbia Co. Tops 4th War Loan Goal

Columbia county at the last minute went over their over-all quota of \$1,198,800 as well as the quota set for the E bonds.

Irving T. Rau, Columbia county chairman of War Savings Bond Committee, wishes to thank every one who had a part in this fourth war loan drive for the splendid work they accomplished. In a letter received by Mrs. R. D. Eby from Mr. Rau he states that Columbia county went over its quota 103.5 per cent.