

Utility Property Deal Closure Expected Soon

REA Directors, Co. Officials to Meet for Final Decisions

Since the organization of the rural electrification district here a short time ago, detailed work of arranging for the purchase of Oregon Gas and Electric property has been carried on until it is now thought possible that the deal will be completed sometime this month. Considerable work has been necessary to get the REA property organized, to get financial aid in the form of a loan from the government and to complete negotiations with the company before the purchase move planned within a few days could be completed.

The final moves necessary between REA directors and company officials is the settling of property descriptions so it is hoped that these matters may be done before the first of July.

A loan of a sufficient amount to purchase the local company and that portion of the Clatskanie PUD situated in the Nehalem Valley has been obtained by the REA, it was stated.

County News

GERMAN PRISONER TAKEN IN RAINIER

RAINIER — Hans Koerber of Coblenz, a German prisoner of war and an escapee from Fort Lewis, was taken into custody here last Friday by state police and a deputy sheriff after he had entered the Interstate cafe to seek a meal.

Waitresses unable to understand his limited English, and thinking the man was crazy called the proprietress, Cora Newell. The German was taken into a back room and a local man who came in to dine later was also called in to talk to the man. This resident knew enough German to understand the prisoner and the latter in turn could understand more English than he could speak. After establishing the prisoner's identity his local interrogator called the sheriff's office, which came quickly to seize the prisoner.

He was headed for Mexico but was footsore and starving, after having worked his way from Ft. Lewis since the preceding Wednesday via the Longview bridge.

CRAWFISH ARE SHY CATCH TO BE LIGHT

ST. HELENS — The succulent crawfish (proper word is crayfish) do not succumb to the well-baited traps, according to Orville Adkins, veteran crawfish man on the Willamette slough. The catch has been small and cash returns disappointing, Adkins said. From his long experience in trapping the crawfish he is of the opinion that a good catch will not be made until the water in the slough rises to an appreciable extent. The Columbia river is raising slowly but steadily and that means a similar raise in the Willamette slough.

FISHERMAN'S UNION PLANT READY FOR JUNE WORK

RAINIER — The Fisherman's union plant being constructed here was ready to hoist boats when the commercial season opened June 10.

Recent work has been the installation of the boat hoist and the roofing of the building.

Some six weeks work on interior fitting of the building remains to be done.

SUPPORT GIVEN RED CROSS IS COMMENDED

ST. HELENS — Complementing Columbia county on the splendid response to the War Fund drive which finally totalled \$27,900 against the quota of \$19,600, Mrs. Emma May Erickson, general field representative for western Oregon, told the Columbia county chapter board last Monday evening that Red Cross work and responsibility would continue to increase as the war advances.

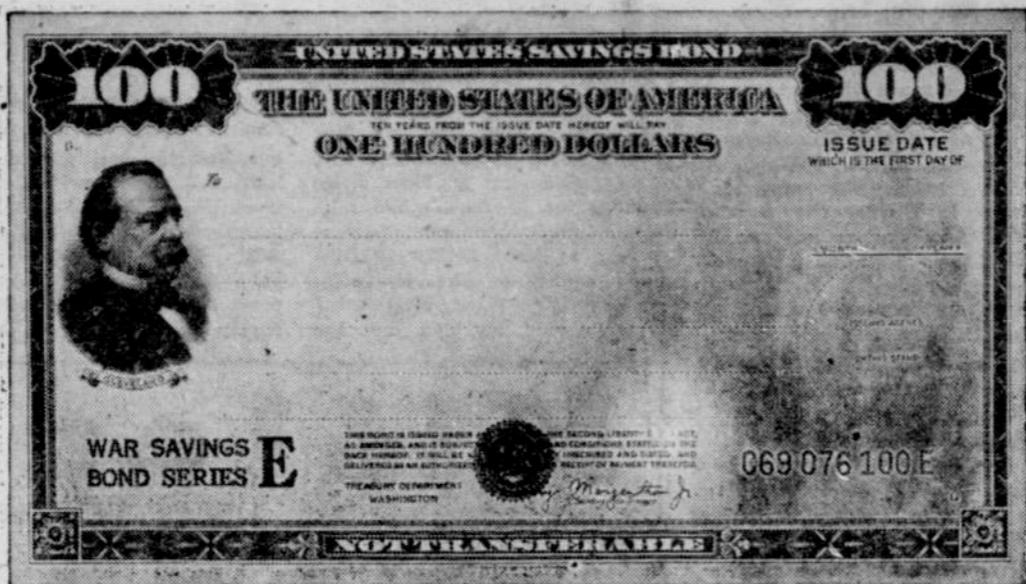
The American Red Cross, on the job 24 hours every day, is present in every part of the world occupied by invasion troops she said. It has direct contact with, and the direct responsibility for each one of the over 11 mil-

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MONDAY, JUNE 12 marked the opening of the 5th war loan drive in Oregon. Quota has been increased from 123 million to 125 million. This is the least amount every man, woman and child in Columbia county can afford to invest.

May Records Weather Extremes

Month of May weather recordings, as released a few days ago by Mrs. Helen Spofford, local weather observer, brought out the fact that high and low temperatures for May were more extreme than for May in any year since 1938.

Maximum temperature for last month was 83 degrees and minimum was 28. In 1943, May maximum was 81 degrees and minimum was 30 and other years showed less variation until May, 1939, at which time the high was 95 degrees and the low 29.

A further summary for the state, as given by the climatological department for April, the last month for which the report is available, shows 2.45 inches as the average monthly precipitation as recorded by 193 stations. Greatest amount was 9.92 inches at Tide-water and the lowest was 0.19 inches at Harper. Greatest amount in 24 hours was 1.88 inches at Wicopee.

The monthly mean temperature for the state was 45.6 degrees. The maximum temperature observed was 86 degrees at McKenzie Bridge and the lowest, 9 degrees at Lake, Olive Lake and Fremont. Over the state there was an average of six days clear, 9 partly cloudy and 15 cloudy.

Men and women in the service, both in camp and regarding their problems at home. Increasing in direct proportion as the troops increase, one Red Cross man functions for each 5000 service men.

RED CROSS CHAPTER ELECTS DIRECTORS

ST. HELENS — Thirteen of the members of Columbia county chapter, American Red Cross, were elected last Tuesday evening to serve on the chapter board of directors as representatives from St. Helens. These were Glenn A. Leemon, Mrs. C. A. Ramsey, Dewey Hannon, Paul Paulson, Merle Wilson, Mrs. N. F. Swarthout, Mrs. Anna Martin, Mrs. C. E. Throne, Mrs. L. H. Duncan, Luther Cole, Archie Newbold, Mrs. L.G. Ross and C. H. Vaughn. Miss Nellie Burcham, who was a retiring member, received a tie vote with Mrs. Ross and Mr. Vaughn, but withdrew her name.

Names of directors from the other 17 districts of the county have not yet been turned in to the chapter office. In case elections have not been held in any districts, appointments will be made by the executive committee.

First regular meeting of the board of directors will be held Monday evening, June 26 at which time an executive committee for the new year will be elected from the membership of the chapter.

Elmer Loyd is chairman of a nominations committee which also includes Mrs. A. R. Dorris of Seapooose, Mrs. Harriet Bailey of Clatskanie, W. A. Wood of Rainier, Cass Fowler of Goble, and Mrs. A. J. Hughes of Vernonia.



Those Who Are in It



JOINS WAVES

Newest WAVE from Vernonia is Miss Mildred Elizabeth Weed, who has just completed her enlistment in this women's service of the U. S. navy, it was announced this week by WAVE headquarters in Portland.

Miss Weed graduated from Scappoose high school, where she was a member of the Honor society. She attended Oregon College of Education, majoring in education. Since 1938, she has been a teacher at school district No. 47 Jt., Vernonia. Miss Weed is a member of Vernonia Business and Professional Women and has been active as a Red Cross first aid volunteer.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar G. Weed.

RETURNS TO CAMP

Pfc. Gerald Turner returned to Camp Shelby, Texas this week after spending a 15 day furlough here. He has been cooking at Camp Shelby.

HOME ON LEAVE

MIST—Howard Jones of the U. S. navy came down from Farragut, Idaho during the week end.

ENROLLED AS CADET

Walter A. Buckner, of Mist Route, Vernonia, is now enrolled as an aviation cadet in the pre-flight school at Maxwell Field, Alabama, an installation of the army air forces training command. Here the cadets are receiving nine weeks of intensive military, physical and academic training.

HAS 30-DAY FURLOUGH

Leslie McMullen, nephew of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Divine, was an over night guest of theirs last Wednesday. He has been in the South Pacific for three years and 55 days. He left Friday for Canada to spend his 30-day furlough, after which he will return to Hamilton Field, California.

FLYING FORTRESS CO-PILOT

Clifford C. Bergerson* is serving as a co-pilot of a flying fortress crew of the Eighth air force now carrying out operational missions over Germany and enemy-occupied Europe.

The air medal and three oak leaf clusters to the air medal were recently awarded to the lieutenant for exceptional meritorious achievement while participating in 20 separate combat missions over continental Europe. He was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in June, 1943 after successfully completing primary basic and advanced training. He was assigned to his fortress crew at the Great Falls, Montana army air base for training preparatory to overseas combat duty.

HAVE 4-DAY VISIT

James and Jean Calhoun, who are both stationed in the South Pacific, had a 4-day visit together recently. James boarded a transport plane and found Jean on another island.

GIVES PROPOSITION

In a letter received by the Eagle this week from Pfc L. O. Gillham, Jr., he writes, "I just read in the stars and stripes that most of the lumber men in Oregon and Washington have gone on strike.

"Before I came in the army I worked at the O-A Lumber Co. I would like you to publish my proposition to the people on strike. I would trade any one of them jobs if they could arrange it and they could have all the pay I receive over the \$64.80 a month I am getting now.

"I would like to have all the people that have or will go on a strike to hear the whine of shells or the roar of diving airplanes. Then they may not go on strike.

"I will try to take care of my part of this war, I hope they will take care of their part of it. "Let's all get together and end this war."

HOME FROM COLORADO

Tom Parker, Bos'n Mate 1c, has been here visiting friends and relatives during a 30-day leave granted from Glenwood Springs, Colorado, where he has been stationed in the hospital for the past three months. Previous to that time he saw action in the South Pacific in the Seabees. He will return to Colorado at the completion of his leave.

GETS PROMOTION

In a list of army promotions made at Camp Crowder, Missouri recently was the name of John A. Anderson, Vernonia, who was named sergeant.

HOME FROM BREMERTON

Robert Bodell, S 2c, was home over the week end from his station at Bremerton.

Store Enlargement Planned by Graves

Announcement was made this week by Oliver Graves that he plans the enlargement of his grocery store and meat market on the O-A hill within a short time so that additional stock can be added to that now carried. The change is made possible, Mr. Graves said, due to the recent sale of his ownership in the Pebble Creek Dairy to Albert Stager.

The sale of the dairy was completed and the new owner began milk deliveries the first of this month. He is building a modern milk house and has his own herd of cows at his farm near the airport.

BANK TRIP DUE

Another trip to the Hillsboro blood donating center is planned for Friday of this week, Mrs. Frank Hartwick announces. Those who plan to go are urged to be careful of their diet previous to making the trip so that they will not be rejected at the bank.

Bond Sale Begins With Canvass

The fifth war loan drive started here Monday morning, June 12, with the following committee members soliciting the town by making a house-to-house canvass. Those serving on the committee are: Mesdames J. A. Davis, H. Junken, Walter Kent, Blaine Cobat, O. G. McEntire, E. E. Gwin, E. Steen, Harry Culbertson, A. Niemanen, U. J. Bittner, Ben Brickel, Delbert Dow, C. A. Anderson, A. J. Hughes, Merle Ruhl, Ernest East, Marvin Kamholz, Gene Shipman, Joe Lindsley and Robert Helcomb.

With the purchase of every \$150 in bonds, for which the cash price is \$112.50, a ticket will be given on a drawing to be held at the close of the drive. There will be three bond prizes drawn for Columbia county.

The quota for Vernonia is \$76,500. During the 4th bond drive it was proposed to sell \$100 in bonds to each individual but during the present drive the goal is \$150 to each individual.

2 Boys Chosen For Crop Corps

Two Vernonia boys, Albert Huntley and Russell Snook, have been chosen by George A. Nelson and are now getting a week's training at Corvallis in tractor driving, dairy work and general farm chores. Transportation both to Corvallis and to the farms and living expenses during the training period are provided.

Fourteen boys from this county are receiving the training to become full-fledged full-time members of the crops corps as farmer workers this summer on jobs paying \$75 a month or more plus board and room.

The two Vernonia boys receiving the instruction left here Sunday for Corvallis.

Adams Donates Lumber to Park

Archie Adams donated lumber to the city park for the new dam and for the building in which the park equipment is housed.

Walter Kent and Hank King put the dam in Friday afternoon and it took the water about six hours to fill it up completely. When it was finally full, the water was backed up Rock Creek for a distance of about three fourths of a mile.



Over the top in Italy! One more ridge, one more mile on the road to Berlin.

As in victorious military campaigns, people on the home front must sacrifice to provide all the sinews of war. One of these is the regular purchase of War Bonds. U. S. Treasury Department

Auto Tax Stamp Now On Sale

J. W. Maloney, collector of internal revenue, Portland, announces that the federal auto use tax stamps in the denomination of \$5 were placed on sale in all post offices in the state and in his office at Portland on Saturday, June 10, 1944. The stamp will evidence payment of the tax for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1944, and must be purchased on or before that date.

The use on the public highway of an automobile, truck, motorcycle, or bus makes it subject to the tax. The tax stamp is transferable with the motor vehicle. If the vehicle is in storage or out of use in July, it will become subject to tax as of the month in which it is placed in use on the public highway.

Collector Maloney stated that, to guard against loss or theft, it was advisable to dampen the windshield rather than the adhesive side of the stamp when affixing the stamp. Another effective method is to brush clear varnish over the stamp after it has been affixed.

The various post offices will sell the stamps over the counter for cash only and no mail order business with respect thereto will be conducted by the post offices.

Post offices have discontinued the sale of auto use tax stamps of less than \$5 denomination. These offices will stock the \$5 denomination stamp only. Motor vehicle owners who are liable for payment of the tax for a period less than a full year must obtain the stamps from the collector's office in Portland.

File Applications, Urges Board

About 65 per cent of the fuel oil applications sent out a few weeks ago by the local ration board have been filled out with the necessary information and returned, it was stated this week, but those remaining out must be returned before the new rations for the coming year can be issued.

The board is busy this week with the issuing of truck rations for the next period, the old rations being due to expire June 30. Applications for canning sugar are also being issued this week and will continue to be issued as application is made. However, those who can are urged to apply on Wednesdays as volunteer aid has been obtained to issue the rations on that day.

Dog Wins Honors

The distinction of being judged "best dog" in two Boston Terrier shows held a short time ago at Fort Wayne, Indiana, was won by a Boston recently purchased in Seattle by Mr. and Mrs. Jewett A. Bush. The dog, Pavers Little Bit 'O Hagerty, is being shown by a friend of the Bushes, who will take him next to the Morris Essex show at Madison Square Garden in New York. It is hoped to make the dog a champion at that time.

ROOF CREW HERE

A roofing crew from Portland began work here the forepart of this week repairing roofs at the Oregon-American mill. Members of the crew estimated the repairs would require about two weeks time to complete.