

County News

CONTRACT AWARDED BY HIGHWAY GROUP

ST. HELENS — A number of road contracts were awarded at a meeting of the state highway commission in Portland Tues.

Among them was one affecting Columbia county roads, awarded to McEwen and Wilson, Seaside, for approximately 12,000 yards of crushed rock in stock piles for use on the Elsie-Sunset and Camp Vernonia roads, portions of which are in Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook counties. The contract amounted to \$30,355.

CITY NOW OVER E BOND QUOTA

CLATSKANIE — The city can proudly boast the fact that it is the first town in Columbia county to reach its quota in the Sixth War Loan Drive.

Clatskanie has reached a total sale of around \$120,000 at the latest reports, Mr. Rau, county chairman, reports, and that would be an incomplete statement since several days have not been accounted for up to this time. The local E bond quota was set at \$68,000 and better than \$82,000 has been purchased.

DRILLING FOR OIL TO START IN SPRING

ST. HELENS — The county court last week was in conference with representatives of the Texaco oil company, who have been seeking leases on certain of the county-owned land in various localities for oil drilling purposes.

The oil men stated, it was learned, that their concern is now ready to really drill for oil after having sunk a number of test holes in several locations. The presence of oil in this county was strongly indicated in some of the test holes, it was said, and the company is preparing to bring in the larger drills and equipment in the spring which will determine whether or not there is oil here. "We will be ready to drill until we reach China, if necessary," one of the men is reported to have said.

January Tire Quota Reduced

Sharp reduction in January quota of smaller truck tires for the Portland OPA district as well as nationally is the direct result of large army replacement needs on the western borders of Germany, with a drop of 739 tires noted for January.

In the large truck tires there are 657 fewer for January, a reduction sufficient to cause concern as replacement demands remain at a high level.

In grade 1 passenger car tires, a cut of 800 was made in January. Production of these was reduced to free manpower to build more truck tires. Careful screening of all applications will be necessary it was pointed out.

Tractor Still Working

The tractor which is being used for land clearing on the Elmer Bergerson farm is still working there Mr. Bergerson stated this week and will continue for some time. From there it will be taken to the Joe Baker and Charles Jensen places. Anyone interested may see the tractor in operation at one of these places.

Seal Returns Gain

Up-to-the-minute figures on returns from the sale of Christmas Seals brings the total to \$565 as of Wednesday of this week, Mrs. C. L. Anderson, local chairman, states. Some returns are still anticipated from those who have either forgotten the matter due to the Christmas rush or have neglected to make the remittance.

PAPERS DELAYED

Mrs. B.W. Borton urged Journal subscribers not to blame carrier boys this week due to the late arrival of papers on Christmas night. That edition was not delivered here so carriers could not distribute them, hence were not to blame.

PUBLICATION DELAYED

The Vernonia Eagle will be a day later next week owing to the falling of New Year on Monday.

Vernonia Eagle

Volume 22, Number 52

Vernonia, Columbia County, Oregon

Thursday, December 28, 1944

Ration Stamp Changes Made Effective Tuesday

Effective at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday of this week were a number of changes in food rationing which were announced only a short time before by OPA officials. The local war price and rationing board was notified of the changes by a telegram sent Monday. The telegram stated: "Effective midnight December 25th (1) Point values will be restored on asparagus, beans, corn, spinach and peas. (2) Sugar stamps 30, 31, 32, 33 in book 4 cancelled and sugar stamps 40 in book 4 cancelled. All unused outstanding home canning sugar certificates cancelled. (3) Butter will be increased to 24 points per pound. (4) All red stamps A-8 through Z-8 and A-5 through P-5 are cancelled. (5) All blue stamps A-8 through Z-8 and A-5 through W-5 are cancelled. (6) Jams and jellies are not returned to points yet. (7) Practically all meats will be back on points as of midnight Dec. 31st."

Also, notice was received by ration officials here this week from Miss Cecelia Gallagher, enforcement attorney of the Portland district office warning consumers and retail merchants that use of all red and blue stamps issued prior to December 1, 1944, is now illegal.

The stamps—red stamps A-8 through Z-8 and A-5 through P-5, and blue stamps A-8 through Z-8 and A-5 through W-5—were invalidated as of 12:01 a. m. Tuesday, as the OPA moved to tighten rationing of meats and processed vegetables because of war-induced shortages.

Miss Gallagher declared—"Use of such points by either consumer or retailer is now illegal and all such points in the possession of housewives or others must be immediately destroyed. They are not redeemable for any food purchases and attempted use of the stamps is illegal."

Business Sale Authenticated

Receiving of the license permitting operation of the Vernonia Billiards makes possible announcement this week of the business change. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Emmons are the new owners, having signed papers for the purchase late in November from Mr. and Mrs. Orvel Edwards. However, official announcement was not warranted until the license was received this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwards have retained ownership of the building and plan to make their home here for the remainder of the winter. They have not announced plans for the future.

Mrs. R. D. Eby, local war fund drive chairman, reported Wed. that the local quota of \$68,000 is within \$2,000 of attainment. She urges anyone who is considering the purchase of bonds soon, to do so before the end of the month if at all possible for the purchase will count towards the quota.

Annual Meeting of Stock Men Due

The annual meeting of the Western Oregon Livestock association is scheduled for February 15 and 16 at Coquille, according to a preliminary announcement issued by H. A. Lindgren, Corvallis, secretary-treasurer and extension livestock specialist.

R. C. Burkhart of Lebanon, president of the association, and Fred Knox, Eugene, vice-president, are working with other members of the executive committee in preparing a program to be announced later. The meeting will be conducted on the usual committee basis, with each group considering certain problems confronting the western Oregon livestock producer at this time.

Record Books for Farms Available

That better farm accounts may be kept of the sales and expenses on farms, cash farm record books are available at the county agent's office according to word received from George A. Nelson, county agent.

These books are set up in as simple a manner as possible so that the maximum amount of information can be kept with a minimum amount of recording. The book is so designed that there is a cash account kept of the farm items and at the same time this can be summarized under the different farm enterprise headings; by checking the totals at the end of each month and the end of the year, it is possible to get a complete account of the farm business for each farm enterprise.

These books are available at the county agent's office in St. Helens at the cost of the printing.

First Lieutenant Donald F. Morris, 25-year-old pilot on an eighth air force B-17 flying fortress has been decorated with an oak leaf cluster to the air medal.

The decoration was conferred for "meritorious achievement while participating in heavy bombardment missions in the air offensive against the enemy over continental Europe."

Lt. Morris has seen action in bombing attacks on German targets in the Ruhr Valley, and has participated in attacks on enemy military installations along the western front. His veteran fortress group, the 390th, a unit of the third bombardment division, has been cited by the president for its daring and skillful assault on key ballbearing factories at Schweinfurt, Germany, in October, 1943. Before he entered the air forces, Lt. Morris was a logger for the O.A.

In a V-mail letter to George W. Johnson, Pvt. Chas. (Chuck) McDonald tells about a peculiar accident which put him in the hospital in Paris. He says, "I got banged up a bit, but I'm doing fine now. I was under a tree, a shell lands in the tree and breaks off the top, the top lands on me and breaks a bone or two in my neck, and I land in the hospital. I'll be back giving the Germans heck before long. They call our outfit 'The Supermen' so I'll have to go back and keep up the good name." He says to tell everyone hello, and he hopes it won't be too long before all the boys can come home to stay.

A later letter tells that he has been sent to a hospital in England and mentions that civilians have nothing to complain about after the hell the boys are going through over there.

Major W. F. McDonald was a visitor at the Masonic installation which was held on Thursday night, December 21. In the future he will be stationed at Portland Air Base but for now he will be located for approximately two months at Redmond Air Base. His family will accompany him to Redmond.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Lindsley have received word that Pvt. Lee Lindsley is now stationed in Hawaii.

George E. Noyer, Vernonia, is now in training at the San Antonio, Texas aviation cadet training center where potential pilots, bombardiers and navigators are receiving preflight training to prepare them for aerial instruction and duties as aircrew members in the air forces. The future fliers are subjected to a rigorous 10-week program of instruction covering physical, academic and military training.

George Turner, who was expected home shortly before Christmas, was transferred to Baxter General hospital at Spokane where he underwent a medical examination and was pronounced O. K. He will next be sent to the Ft. Lewis reception center after which he hopes to receive a 21-day furlough in order to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Turner.

THOSE WHO ARE IN IT

KILLED IN ACTION According to word received from the Adjutant General's office, Pfc. Gerald Turner was killed in action, in Germany, on December 4th.

GETS TRAINING

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SCHOOL COMPLETED

St. Robert Turner and Mrs. Turner, after spending Christmas with relatives here and in Portland, left Wednesday for Shoemaker, Cal., his next station. He has completed gunners mate school at Farragut, Ida.

NOT HOME YET

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GETS CLUSTER

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LANDS IN HOSPITAL

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MCDONALD VISITS

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IN HAWAII

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REA Provides Leading News Interest of Year

In keeping with a policy of listing the leading news events of the past year, a search of files at the Eagle office for 1944 brings out the fact that electricity was the basis for the most important stories of that period.

In March, the REA was proposed at a mass meeting which was attended by citizens representing nearly every part of the proposed district which was suggested by REA representatives. At this first meeting, directors were chosen to carry on the cooperative in its early stages of formation.

Progress Revealed

Other stories during the year regarding the cooperative told the progress made in setting up the district and preparing it to engage in the business of selling electricity. In August, the public utilities commission conducted a hearing regarding the sale of the Oregon Gas and Electric property and after the hearing gave its consent to the sale and in September the REA resolved to purchase that part of the Clatskanie PUD which serves residents on this side of the Clatskanie mountain. The last important step of the year was the signing of a mortgage for \$171,150 by local directors, the money to be used for purchasing the OG&E and for building distribution lines to customers not now served by electricity.

Youngsters Considered

Of importance to younger residents of the community was the proposal made the city council

BADGE AWARDED

Pfc. Elmer L. Brady, son of Mrs. R. L. Brady of Vernonia, has been cited by the 6th armored infantry battalion of the first armored division and awarded the combat infantryman badge for actual participation in combat against the enemy with Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark's fifth army in Italy.

Standards for the badge are high. The decoration is awarded to the infantry soldier who has proved his fighting ability in combat.

The handsome badge consists of a silver rifle set against a background of infantry blue, enclosed in a silver wreath.

THANKS RECEIVED

The Vernonia Service Club is still receiving many letters of thanks from those in the service who have received Christmas remembrances from club members. Recent letters have been received from E. H. Washburn, Astoria; Harvey H. Johnson, San Diego; Cpl. Ralph Ohler, India; Sgt. Harold Brimmer, Camp Buckner, N. C.; Lt. H. G. Caton, Alamogordo, N. Mex.; Pvt. Edward Bellingham, Salina, Kansas; Sgt. E. V. Robertson, France; Mildred Weed, Treasure Island, Cal.; Clara Benson, San Francisco; Cpl. Maude Ramsley, Ft. Lewis; and Lt. R. R. Acord, APO N.Y.

MAKINSTER PROMOTED

Marshall C. Makinster, 23, pilot of a B-17 flying fortress operating in the Mediterranean theatre of operations, has recently been promoted to the rank of second lieutenant. Lt. Makinster is a veteran of more than 35 combat missions over enemy-held territory and has been awarded the air medal with an oak leaf cluster for "meritorious achievement in aerial flight." Presentation of the award was made by Lt. Col. Willard S. Sperry, deputy group commander.

Lt. Makinster enlisted in the army signal corps, July 17, 1942 and later entered cadet training. He was graduated from pilot training at Blythville, Ark., Jan. 7, 1944, where he won his wings and was appointed flight officer.

He completed his phases at Hendricks Field, Fla., prior to his overseas assignment.

(More "Those Who" page six)

in March that a city park supervisor be hired for the summer months. The idea embraced a larger field of activity for the park, in that athletic games were arranged and facilities for entertainment were increased. A swimming pool lifeguard was the only provision of former years. The proposal was carried out successfully.

The condition of city finances received favorable mention in January when a report by City Treasurer C. F. Hieber revealed that the city was in excellent financial condition and that a surplus was being built after all expenses were paid even though no property tax was levied during the previous year. Only sources of revenue were water rentals, licenses and fines.

A final report in February of the "March of Dimes" campaign for financing treatment and research for infantile paralysis was \$394.47. This amount was much greater than a similar fund of \$65.20 the preceding year.

Red Cross Helped

The Red Cross membership drive report was \$4,459.52 of which members of IWA Local 5-37 contributed \$2,665.83. The total amount exceeded the quota of \$4,000.

An interview of the meat markets in this locality was conducted in August to determine the results of the waste fat collection here. After figures were checked, it was determined that during an average month, 1250 pounds of fat was turned in for the making of munitions of war. The amount exceeded considerably several guesses which were made of the possible turn-in previous to the actual check. Housewives were doing their part towards furthering the war effort the survey showed.

Sport fans were highly elated at the close of the football season with the Loggers' showing this year. The home team bested all comers and rose to the district 3 playoffs, meeting Columbia Prep here and losing to the visitors by a small margin. The county championship was won by the Loggers for the first time since 1941.

Many Give Blood

A news article in July mentioned that 23 local people journeyed to Hillsboro to give blood to the Red Cross blood plasma bank. That number was the largest to make the trip from here.

Other items worthy of short mention include stories dealing with paper drives, one conducted in February and the other in December, the formation of a forestry club at the high school, this club being the first such group in any school of the county and a survey of business firms in January which resulted in revealing that business conditions during the previous year were better than at any time since the beginning of the war.

SIXTH WAR LOAN

