

Welfare Case Load, Costs Down in March

Factors Cited for Reduction of Program Expense, Participation

For the month of March, old age assistance cost \$16,555.00 for 305 cases, as compared with \$16,564.00 for 332 cases a year ago. Information about the cost of the program in the county for the month was released a few days ago by Louis Fluhrer, chairman of the Columbia County Public Welfare Commission from St. Helens.

Several aspects stand out. The present average is \$54.28, as compared with last year's average of \$49.89. The increased food allowance of October, 1952 brought up the average. At the same time the increased participation (\$5.00 per case) of the federal government, resulted in there being no increased cost to the state and county.

The drop in case load may have resulted from several things: the increased payments from O.A.S.I. (social security accounts), the restrictions on property, the establishment of the liability of relatives, and the increased and often expressed feeling that age 65 does not mean complete inability to face the business of supplying one's own needs.

The ages of the six old age assistance applicants established this month are 67, 68, 71, 73, 80, and 86. Only one of this group had been previously on an assistance program and this man is a victim of cerebral hemorrhage.

Currently 72 aid to dependent children families (184 children) receive \$6,677.00, an average of \$92.73, cases average 3.6 persons. March last year there were 73 cases averaging \$94.53, total \$6,901.00.

The recently publicized support laws are not now reducing Columbia county's A.D.C. program, but the district attorney states that he is planning to submit all cases, wherein it appears probable that the party responsible for support is guilty of criminal failure to support, to the grand jury, (possibly in April) with the hope that the grand jury will return felony indictment.

A conspicuous characteristic of the aid to dependent children program is that the group changes very rapidly. About 2.5 cases go off each month, and 2.5 cases come on.

Blind assistance in Columbia county changes little. Three cases (all single persons) receive \$176.00. The same three were in the program last year.

Aid to disabled cases total 38 at a cost of \$2,298.00. A year ago 32 cases received \$1,858.00. This group was previously the basic group on general assistance and the program has been reduced by the establishment of this new classification.

General assistance for February (March figures incomplete) totaled 135 cases, \$8,463.68, distribution as follows:

Foster Home Care, 13 children, \$600.00; 76 unemployed and/or unemployable families, full or partial support, \$3,817.00.

Second Typing Class Started

Members of the second adult typing class which meets Monday evening of each week are as follows: Mrs. Mary Bell, Mrs. Hazel Bergerson, Mrs. Shirley French, Mrs. Charlotte Helm, E. B. Hibbs, Mrs. Gertrude Hibbs, Mrs. Margaret Kouva, Mrs. Ralph Lais, Mrs. Bess Nichols, Mrs. J. M. Peachey, Miss Lillas Peterson, Mrs. Faith Reynolds, Mrs. Donna Robertson, Mrs. Helene Robertson, Mrs. Norma L. Silver, Mrs. Nell Thomas, Mrs. Frances Thornton, Mrs. C. T. Wildt, Mrs. Irene Wildt, Mrs. June Willis, Mrs. June Ray, and Mrs. Margaret Hartzell.

Including this class and the class which meets on Wednesday evening, 49 adults of the Vernonia area are taking advantage of these classes, which are the first classes in adult education offered by the Vernonia union high school district. The classes meet for 10 sessions, one hour in length, and are receiving basic instructions in typing and the use of the machine. Mrs. Myra Sorensen, commercial instructor at the high school, is teaching both classes.

Vernonia Eagle

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 14

VERNONIA, COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

PHONE 191

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1953



STAFF SERGEANT Roy Frank displayed articles brought back from the Philippines Tuesday evening of last week at the reception at the Legion hall. He stands beside a large mat hand woven from native fiber and similar to mats upon which Filipinos sleep. For the display he pinned six photos, three on each side of the mat, showing scenes of rice harvesting methods employed on the islands. At the extreme right are a bow and arrows like those used by the Negrito tribe and a spear similar to those used by tribes in the Mountain province.

Scout Funds Sought in Drive to Start April 6

Tom Bateman has been named chairman of the annual Boy Scout finance drive which opens Monday, April 6 and continues to April 10. Also serving on the committee are Jim Davies, Connie Anderson, Charlie Wall and Jim Cox.

In accepting this responsibility Bateman said "The Boy Scout program of character building and citizenship training is a distinct asset to the community. Never before has there been a greater need for young people to appreciate fully the American way of life. I am confident that the people of Vernonia will give generously to the Boy Scout movement when the appeal reaches them next week."

He pointed out that scouting in Vernonia is served by Dick Whitney, field scout executive

of the Portland Area Council, and that funds raised will help meet the whole council budget for the year of 1953.

"People sometimes ask why the funds raised are sent to the Portland office," continued Bateman. "The answer is simple: scouting in Vernonia is part of the scouting family in 15 Oregon and Washington counties. By joining with other communities we are able to receive much better service than if we tried to 'go it alone'."

"Membership in the council brings us the use of council camps, training films, other equipments and office records in addition to the services Mr. Whitney brings directly to leaders in this community."

"Of the 325 Cubs and Scouts in Columbia county 45 are in Vernonia."

Blood Unit Arrangements For Stop Made by PTA

Hours will be from 2 to 6 p.m. at the American Legion hall April 6 for the coming visit of the Red Cross Bloodmobile to Vernonia. Arrangements for the stop of the unit are being made under the chairmanship of Mrs. Byron Kirkbride, P.T.A. president.

Donors are urged to come as early as they can so as many as

possible can be accommodated. The Oregon-American management is again cooperating by giving time off to employees who wish to participate. A contact man has been appointed to sign up the men.

Child care will be provided in the upstairs clubroom to make it easier for more mothers to be donors. Many P.T.A. units in the state are sponsoring the blood collection efforts this month in line with the national Red Cross "Special Appeal to Mother." They hope to recruit a number who have never offered to give their pint. Women who cannot be donors are asked to encourage family members or neighbors to do so.

At the last Bloodmobile visit quite a number were rejected because of exposure to yellow jaundice. They will now be accepted if they meet the other qualifications, age 18-59 in normal health. Those who have had T.B. or yellow jaundice are permanently disqualified. Each donor is given a check-up and receives a card within two weeks that gives blood type and Rh factor. In case of an emergency this knowledge would save valuable time or a laboratory fee for the individual.

Examiner Scheduled

A drivers license examiner will be in Vernonia Friday, April 10, at the city hall between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Persons wishing original licenses or permits to drive are asked to file applications then.

THOSE WHO ARE IN IT . . .

Pfc. Ralph Waddell arrived home last Thursday from Portland where his parents met him. He returned to this country earlier last week from Korea.

Master Sergeant George H. Peachey is spending a leave at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Peachey. He will leave the U. S. May 1 to spend two years in Europe.

M. C. Brewer has enlisted in the paratroopers and will report for duty at Fort Lewis April 1.



Seaman Gene Wall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Wall, returned to this country about two weeks ago after being overseas and in Hawaii for the past one and a half years as a member of the crew of the submarine Tilefish. Since returning to the states he has been attending cooking school and is due home for a 30-day leave when he completes the nine-week course.

Secretary to Change

Miss Doris Hahmeyer will begin work Monday as secretary at Vernonia high school to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mrs. Pat McNair. Mrs. McNair will assist Miss Hahmeyer for a day or so early in the week until the latter becomes familiar with the work. Miss Hahmeyer will take the position for the remainder of the present school year.

Negotiations for Change of O-A Ownership Underway By Long-Bell Lumber Co.

Word was released in Portland late last week of a sales agreement by which Long-Bell Lumber company, Longview, is prepared to acquire 79 per cent of the stock of the Oregon-American Lumber corporation through purchases that may amount to \$5,000,000. First public word of the negotiations appeared Sunday in The Oregonian. Word of the deal came from Sigmund Stern, president of Central Coal and Coke corporation of Kansas City, Missouri.

As announced then, Long-Bell is prepared to acquire 79 per cent for now. The 492 minority stockholders will be offered deals for their stock first and Central Coal and Coke then will sell enough holdings to make up the

agreed ratio. The Missouri firm owns 64 per cent of the O-A stock.

Long-Bell, which owns plants at Longview in Washington, Gardiner, Reedsport and Vaughn in this state and at Weed, California, released no details as to how the plant here would be handled along with other operations of the concern. Sunday's story of the transaction stated the Longview firm owns lands in northwest Oregon, but not adjacent to O-A holdings.

The Oregon-American usually cuts over 70,000,000 board feet of lumber yearly and is one of the top 15 mills in Oregon. It owns about 20,000 acres of timberland, of which less than 4500 acres has mature timber, and employees about 600.

The local concern was started by the Delta Land and Lumber company, a subsidiary of Central Coal and Coke, in 1924 and was reorganized in the early 1930s so that Central Coal became owner of 64 per cent of the stock. Shares of stock outstanding are said to be 39,166 and has been quoted at approximately \$100. Last year dividends were \$20 a share and in 1951 the amount paid was \$27.50.

Judd Greenman is president and manager of the O-A. He joined the firm the year after it started business.

Fund Campaign Head Chosen

This area's participation in the Red Cross fund campaign will be conducted under the chairmanship of Mrs. Marie Frazee. Mrs. Frazee was named for the post late last week. Preparation for the undertaking calls for an intensified one-week drive.

The need for a satisfactory response to the Red Cross call for financial aid is emphasized by the increased costs of the blood program and the procurement of gamma globulin to fight polio.

Auxiliary Plans Annual Egg Hunt

The children in the community will again be treated to an Easter egg hunt given by the American Legion Auxiliary in the city park on Saturday, April 4, at 2 p.m. Children up to 10 years of age inclusive are invited to participate. A portion of the park will be reserved for smaller children. The candy eggs will be placed in cellophane bags and hidden about the park. The junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary will assist in hiding the eggs.

Many prizes will be found in the candy bags. Business houses furnishing prizes are: Safeway, Nichols Variety, C & C Cafe, Palace Cafe, Apparel Shop, Nehalem Market, Bush Furniture, Cozy, Kullander, Nance Pharmacy, Thomas Variety, Commercial Bank, Bill and Reatha Horn, Vernonia Eagle, Ma Vike, Sam's Food Store, Vernonia Bakery, Miller's, Nance Beauty Shop, Schaumburg, Hahn Hardware, Western Store, Sundland's, Pal Shop, Brunsmann Hardware and Vernonia Drug.

Past Resident Taken by Death

Funeral arrangements were made Wednesday forenoon for Nancy Elizabeth Carriker, former Vernonia resident for nine years, who had resided at Newport for the past four or five years. Death came at the Clark county hospital at Vancouver, Washington on March 31.

The final rites will take place at the Bush Funeral home Saturday, April 4.

The deceased was born at El Dorado Springs, Missouri. The Bush Funeral home will be in charge of the service.

Mrs. Carriker is survived by: her husband, Earl, of Newport; two daughters, Alice Long of Vernonia and Earline Foster of Mill City; a son, Samuel, now stationed at Chanute air base, Illinois; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Kelly of Empire; two sisters, Beulah Slemmons and Lillian Meyer, Vernonia, and two brothers, Roy Kelly, Alaska, and David Kelly of Newport.

March Weather Shows Variance

This month of March began and ended with high and low temperatures that were almost the same, the report of Mrs. Helen Spofford for the month's recordings indicates. She issued the report Wednesday morning. March began with high and low temperature readings of 46 and 22 and ended with 47 and 29 on the 31st. Highest reading for the month was 72 degrees on the 8th and lowest was 21 on the 2nd.

Weather of about every kind was listed. Some mornings brought a mixture of snow, followed by rain during the early part of the day, sleet in the late forenoon and sunshine in early afternoon. Added to that were three days of high wind and thunder on the 30th.

There were five days of snow totaling about five inches and 17 days in which rain or snow fell. Precipitation totaled 5.54 inches with 1.05 inches being the greatest amount to fall in any one day. That day was the 16th.

Board Members Set Salary Base

The setting of a basic salary pattern for instructors in the union high school district was the purpose of a special meeting which members of the high school board attended last Thursday evening. In past years salaries have been set at figures necessary to obtain teachers needed to fill vacancies.

At the Thursday meeting board members decided upon a minimum salary for new teachers and that increases above that amount would be determined by the experience of each teacher. The minimum pay figure is \$3600 for teachers holding a Bachelor degree; \$3800 for a teacher having a five-year certificate and \$4000 for a teacher with a Masters degree.

Along with the board decision setting the basic scale figures, the members granted a \$100 cost-of-living increase to offset rising prices since last June 1 and also a \$100 annual increment increase for each of the six teachers who will return here next year.