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Fuel Shortage Grows Worse Throughout Area

With winter barely underway the future—as presented by the news media—doesn't look to cheerful for both heating oil and gasoline. Reports are flooding in from throughout the state of gas shortages resulting in the closing of stations and cars lined up for blocks waiting at those few that do have fuel.

At St. Helens, Rainier and Scappoose, in Columbia County, the gas shortage has ceased to be a myth and become an irritating—if not critical—reality. From Portland, Beaverton and other surrounding areas the word is coming loud and clear—that they are suffering from a lack of gasoline with station after station sporting signs "Out of Gas."

Only the fact that the weather has been relatively mild has prevented heating oil from disappearing in a like manner but if winter should prove severe it to could follow the route gasoline is taking.

Is this situation being shared by the whole nation? Not necessarily.

"When you cross the border into Oregon you might as well say someone pulled the curtain," said one eyewitness to the "gas shortage" in California. "I drove all the way to Los Angeles and out into the suburbs and found no lack of fuel," he stated, adding "on the way home stations were operating in Southern, Central and Northern California as late as 11:30 p.m. with only one showing a limit of \$10—not ten gallons but \$10. From the time I came into Oregon I found only one station open between there and home."

In the heart of the oilfields in Texas the story is a bit different. They are feeling the pinch of a lack of fuel with one man saying, "I drove home from work, ate supper then went down to the station to fill up only to find they were sold out and didn't expect to get more before the end of the month."

Dealers in the Vernonia area have already felt the pinch of the fuel shortage with their supplies cut back from ten to 33 percent of last year's December allotment.

It's not bad yet, commented one independent dealer, "but we just don't know. Things could get a lot worse."

Strangely enough despite protests to the contrary—electricity no longer seems to be in short supply. Winter rains and snows in other areas have nearly filled the reservoirs and left a snow pack that should hold, giving this area, at least, the electrical energy it needs.

"People should start thinking about using electricity instead of burning all of their fuel oil because right now it looks like there may not be a whole lot of oil around unless quotas are raised," stated one local dealer.

"We have no guarantees that we will get the same quota next month. It could be raised and then, again, it could be even less than now. There's no way of telling."

Financially dealers are hurting too. With their normal amount of gasoline cut they just can't sell as much and many have had to improvise their own

brand of rationing with stations—ordinarily open six or seven days a week—cutting back to four or five and some limiting the amount of gasoline they will sell at any one time. By using these stratagems they hope to eke out their quotas and make them last until the end of the month.

"Sorry no gas" but when its gone, it's gone." The older man smiled and shrugged, "What else can I do."

Stations have managed to stagger the days they are closed so that some station can be open not last long if the requirement—presently a suggestion—that stations close on Sunday should be put into official effect.

Suggestions for saving gasoline were readily given by some dealers. Among them was the already prevalent car pool. Others were more novel. One which could find favor with many parents was stopping the use of cars by high schoolers for driving to school and letting them take the bus instead. Also suggested was persuading young people to give up their cars for joy riding up and down the streets of town.

"Some of these kids spent three and four dollars a day on gas and then I see them driving up and back on Bridge Street, nine or ten times in an evening. That's gas that could be used to get someone to work."

While kids may or may not agree with the suggestions the time could be near when it becomes a question of just who will get gas with government rationing imposed; a situation which could be more than inconvenient.

He laughed ruefully as he commented, "and I can practically look out my window and see those pumps working away."

In some areas of Columbia County the worst hasn't happened yet but each day brings the moment closer to when they must cease operating until a new "quota" is delivered. Voluntary gas rationing has worked for "home folks" but those who come from out of town seeking gas they can't find in their own neighborhoods greatly deplete the remaining supply.

"What can I do," one dealer said. "I certainly can't turn them away if they want gas yet I need it for my regular customers. It's a heck of a fix."

Reports from Washington show that most areas there are not yet hard hit by the shortage. "We're getting gas all right but the price keeps climbing. That hurts. If you have the money you don't seem to have any problem."

Is the fuel shortage a myth bred from the fertile mind of some one person or is it being handled so badly by both government and oil companies alike as to threaten some areas with a complete shutdown?

No matter what anyone's personal feelings are on the current fuel crisis it does point up one fact. The year 1974 should prove to be an interesting one.

Alien Address Report Needed

Albert Conversano, Jr., District Director, of the Immigration and Naturalization Service advised this week that the annual alien address report program is again under way.

According to Mr. Conversano, 23,791 aliens reported their addresses last year in the State of Oregon. The number this year is expected to be slightly larger.

The Immigration official pointed out that the address reports are required by law and willful failure to comply with these requirements may lead to serious consequences.

Forms with which to make the reports are available at all Post Offices and Immigration and Naturalization Service Offices. After filling out the card the alien may place a stamp on the card and mail it directly to the address preprinted on the reverse of the form. Aliens who complete the alien card at a Service Office will give the completed card to the service employee. For those unable to personally return the cards may mail them to the address on the card.

Conversano added that trained personnel will be on hand in all offices of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to answer any questions the reporting aliens may have regarding Immigration and Naturalization matters. Sufficient trained personnel are not available to furnish this assistance in all Post Offices.

HELP, Inc. To Assist State During Energy Crisis

HELP, Inc., the Information and Referral Center in Columbia County, has agreed to be the local Information Center for the Oregon State Energy Information Office dealing with the fuel shortage. All persons can get information about Hardship Assistance and what they must do to get such assistance. The official application forms for getting Hardship Assistance will also be at the HELP office, or they can be mailed out to callers. The Program does not cover gasoline at this time. The basic purpose of the Energy Hardship Assistance program is to get heating fuels to those home and business that are without such fuel to heat the home and business, and to operate the business. The State has the authority to re-allocate about 10 percent of existing supplies to hardship cases. They are presently able to act on applications for hardship assistance in about one week. The normal procedure is to call the State Energy Information Center in Salem on the toll free number (1-800-452-0340). The State then would send out to the caller an application form, which the caller would fill out and return to the State Office. The State would then determine whether a hardship did in fact exist, determine how much fuel the applicant should have, and order the fuel delivered. With HELP, Inc. answering questions in person at their St. Helens Center, or by its toll free telephone (Commerce

CZ Newsprint Price Increase Granted

Crown Zellerbach announced that it has received Cost of Living Council approval for a cost-justified price increase for domestically produced newsprint sold in Western U.S. markets.

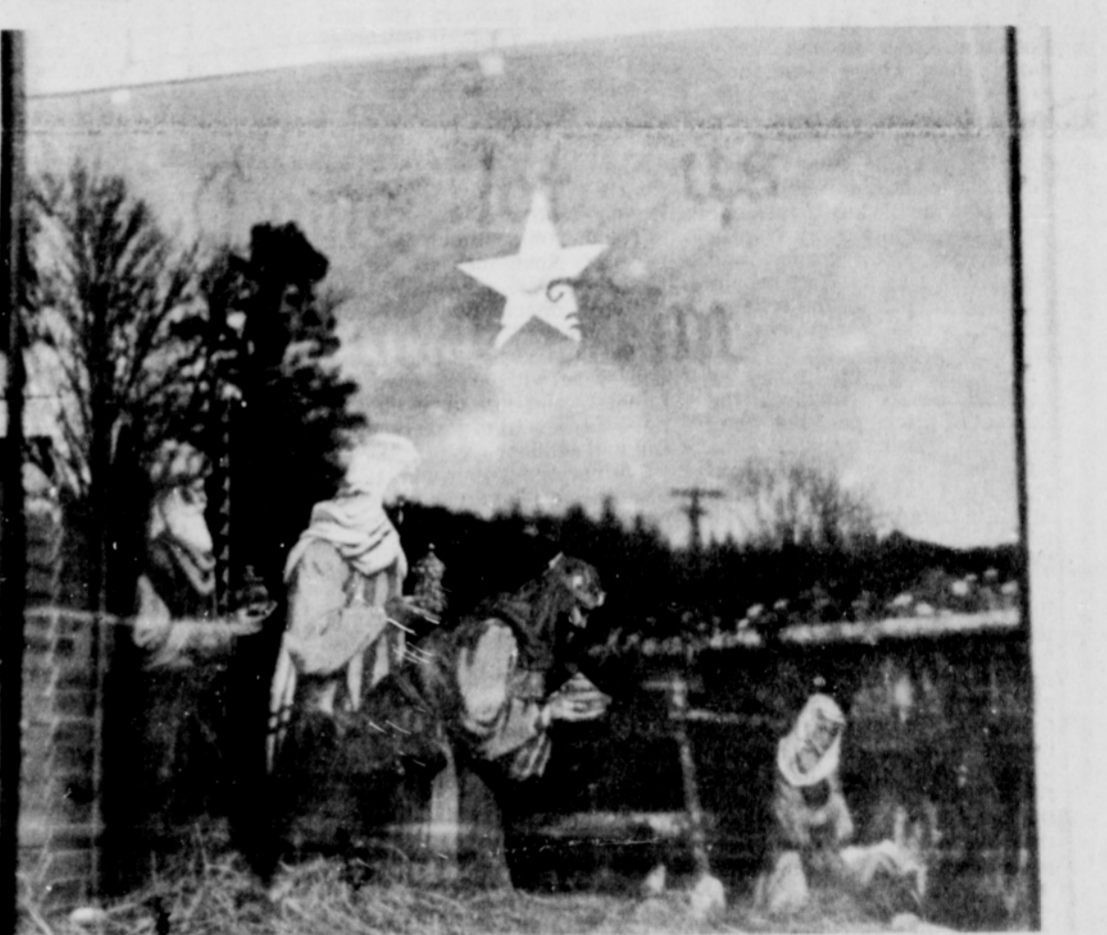
The company said the current price for domestically produced 30 pound standard newsprint is \$183.68 a ton, compared with \$177.50 a ton prior to the Cost of Living Council decision.

Fatalities Hit New Low

Traffic fatalities in Oregon are down about 100 this year as compared to 1972. This has prompted Gil Bellamy, Oregon Traffic Safety Commission Administrator to predict that there will be fewer traffic deaths in 1973 than any year since 1964.

Bellamy points out that during the ten year period from the first day of 1964 through the last day of 1973 it is estimated that the following changes will have occurred: Licensed drivers 36 percent increase; registered vehicles 52 percent increase; and miles traveled 60 percent increase.

Approximately 30 of the 100 reduction in the number of fatalities for the state has been recorded in Portland. Traffic deaths are down 40 percent this year in the city.



WINNERS of the window contest sponsored by the Vernonia Lions Club are from top to bottom: first place, Vernonia Variety, prepared by the Brownsies; second place, Sew Simple Shop; and third, General Telephone Co.

Museum Receives State Allocation

The State Highway Division distributed \$27,500 to 17 counties to cover eligible costs of maintenance and operation of local museums during fiscal year 1972-73. It was announced today by F.B. Klaboe, administrator and state highway engineer.

The appropriation is authorized by statute and goes to the various counties as reimbursement for amounts spent in support of local museums. The amounts ranged from \$126.72 to \$2,534.26.

Columbia County Historical Society at Vernonia received \$953.32 of the allocation.

'A Cantata For Christmas' Scheduled For December 27

A music composition, "A Cantata for Christmas," by Don Wilson, a native Vernonian will be presented in Vernonia tonight, Thursday, Dec. 27, in the L.D.S. Chapel. The performance is open to the public.

The Cantata conducted by Don Wilson, will be sung by a chorus of about thirty-five young adults from the Portland area, where the work was given its first public performance the Sunday before Christmas. It will be accompanied by piano and organ.

The Cantata is divided in three parts, representing the Shepherds, the Wise Men and the Angels, and ends with a Hallelujah Chorus in the classic style. This is the first formal presentation of a musical composition by Don Wilson.

Mr. Wilson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur E. Wilson, of Vernonia. He lived all of his life here until after his graduation from Vernonia High School. He attended Portland State University where he majored in art and then transferred to Brigham Young University from which he graduated after majoring in both art and music composition.

The Cantata is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. There is no admission charge. The L.D.S. Chapel is located at 850 Madison

Mystery Santa Contest Over

Christmas is over and now it is time to reveal the identity of the Mystery Santa Claus who hid behind the mask of that jolly old gentleman as genial Sam Hearing better known to many as "Buck."

First place winner in the contest is Maxine Medges who will receive \$10 for her astute

guess. Runner-up was Mrs. B.P. Westenberg who collects \$5 for her correct identification of the Mystery Santa.

Prizes were donated by the Chamber of Commerce which sponsors the annual contest. Winners may pick up their prizes at the Vernonia Eagle office.

College Sets Scholarships

Reed College will award approximately ten scholarships of \$2,500 each to students entering in fall 1974 from secondary schools in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Each recipient will be granted \$1,000 in the first year and \$500 in each of the succeeding three years, independent of any aid awarded through Reed's regular financial aid program.

Application deadline for the scholarships is March 1, 1974. Awards will be announced in mid-April. The admissions office is administering the program.

Dec. 29 Reunion Date

For those who plan to attend the class of '63 reunion to be held December 29 at Alice's Timber-nook please contact Sue Torger-son, Canby, Oregon.



SANTA'S MASK was removed, following the closing of the Mystery Santa Contest, sponsored by the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce and beneath was found the genial features of Sam "Buck" Hearing.



THE AUDITORIUM echoed to renditions of "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" and "Jingle Bells" as presented by the afternoon kindergarten followed by the audience singing Christmas carols. The morning kindergarten class

then joined together to sing "Christmas Gifts" and "O Come Little Children." The annual Christmas program featured members from each class grades first through eighth with the band and chorus also entertaining the guests.