

STATE CAPITOL NEWS

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State Capitol News Bureau

SALEM, ORE.—Bonneville may be just a huge \$40,000,000 power plant to the average citizen. But to the politically minded it represents a gigantic ammunition factory upon which to draw for material in the forthcoming campaign.

This was clearly indicated this week when Howard Latourette, Democratic national committeeman, opened his campaign for the governorship with a blast at Governor Martin's stand on President Roosevelt's power policy. A statement by the governor that he saw eye to

eye with the president in the matter of rates and distribution of Bonneville power drew from Latourette the charge that the governor had executed a political somersault and about-faced completely from his previously declared stand on Bonneville rates. To which the governor facetiously remarked that "there will be Bonneville power for all candidates by election time and at rates within the reach of all politicians."

President Roosevelt's visit to Bonneville not only touched off the

gubernatorial campaign here in Oregon. It brought a lot of other candidates out of hiding to flutter for the time being in the reflected glory of the nation's chief executive. E. J. Griffith, WPA administrator and chairman of the committee on arrangements, found it necessary to deny rumors that he was laying his political lines as a candidate for United States senator, but no such denial was forthcoming from either Carl Donagh or Elton Watkins, both Portland, and both regarded as ambitious to contest Willis Mahoney for the right to represent the Democratic party in the senatorial campaign to unseat Frederick Steiwer who was unable to attend the Bonneville gathering because of a convenient hunting trip in eastern Oregon.

A total of 1488 motorists arrested during July for various infractions of the state's traffic laws contributed nearly \$11,600 in fines to the public purse, according to a report by Chas. P. Pray, superintendent of state police. Fifty-nine drivers charged with drunkenness were fined an aggregate of \$4688.

Present indications are that there will be no state tax levy against property next year, thanks to increased collection of income taxes. Revenues from this source to date exceed \$5,000,000, topping tax commission estimates by nearly \$1,000,000. A mopping up campaign to be carried on by the commission to catch the laggards and dodgers is confidently expected to produce another \$200,000. If 1938 collections base on 1937 incomes, can be depended on to continue at the 1937 level it will be possible not only to wipe out the property levy within and without the constitutional six percent limit but to pile up a small surplus for support of the common schools if and when the legislature sets up the machinery for apportioning this surplus among the several counties.

Pin ball machines and slot machines are gambling devices designed to attract the patronage of the ignorant and the simple, Attorney General Van Winkle declared in a brief filed with the supreme court this week in support of the state's appeal from the decree of Judge Walker of Polk county who had dismissed two suits brought against C. C. Coats. The appeal puts the legality of these devices squarely up to the supreme court for the first time since the drive was launched to outlaw these machines more than a year ago.

Uncle Sam stands ready to construct the transmission line for distribution of Bonneville power, in the opinion of Governor Martin. The governor said that he gathered this impression in his conversation with President Roosevelt on his visit to Oregon last week.

SALEM, ORE.—Thirty-one persons lost their lives in fires in Oregon during the first six months of 1937. It was reported this week by Hugh H. Earle, state insurance commissioner. Eighty-eight other persons were injured in fires during the same period.

There were a total of 2184 insured fire losses during the six month period with losses totalling \$1,200,215, reports compiled by Earle show. Approximately two-thirds of the 2184 blazes were in dwellings although these losses represented only one-sixth of the total.

Careless smokers accounted for 482 of the 2184 fires to head the list of causes. Other major causes include overheated and defective chimneys and stoves, sparks and open fires.

Oregon's bonded debt was reduced this week to \$46,585,010 when State Treasurer Holman sent \$2,568,699 back to New York City to pay principal and interest due on this debt load. The total debt is nearly \$20,000,000 under the peak, reached on January 1, 1928 since which time it was gradually reduced year after year.

State officials refuse to "view with alarm" reports from the national capital to the effect that Oregon is one of 18 states which failed to comply with the requirements of the Wagner slum-clearance and low cost housing program. Oregon has two measures on its statute books

covering the subject. Both are enabling measures. They were included in a gist of "New Deal" legislation sent out from Washington by Secretary Ickes last January. They provide that if and when the need might arise the counties and cities of the state may set up housing commissions to cooperate with the federal government. The fact that no county or city has set up such a commission is taken here as indicative of the fact that no need for slum-clearance or low cost of housing has arisen.

Oregon is taking a flier in oil. The State Land Board this week authorized Lewis Lilly, Boise oil operator, to drill on a half section of school land in Malheur county, one mile south of Vale. If oil is found in paying quantities the state will receive one-eighth of the output but even Lilly admits that the venture is one of the "wildest of wildcat schemes."

Peace once more reigns in the State Land Board where differences of opinion over the blocking of school lands recently threatened to disrupt the wonted harmony of that organization. At a meeting this week with only Governor Martin and State Treasurer Holman present it was tentatively agreed to adopt the compromise plan on blocking submitted by W. B. Snider and R. N. Stanfield. The compromise plan provides for blocking state school lands into compact bodies of not less than ten sections in each block. If enough stockmen indicate an interest in the proposal negotiations will be started for exchange of the state lands for federally owned grazing lands.

Governor Martin who celebrated his 74th birthday Friday is the next to the oldest governor in the United States. Governor Wilbur L. Cross of Connecticut was 75 on April 10, last. Governor Martin spent his birthday in his office receiving scores of congratulations and well wishes by letter, telegram and in person.

A 40-acre tract on the John Day highway 15 miles north of Dayville is to be preserved as a state park. The tract which contains a large deposit of fossil belongs to James Moore, Dayville stockman, who has agreed to trade it to the highway department for another tract of equal acreage.

OREGON POLICE SCHOOL COMMENDED BY EXPERTS

University of Oregon, Eugene, October 6.—The police training program, carried on in 11 Oregon cities last spring under the direction of the bureau of municipal research of the University of Oregon and a number of cooperating agencies, has been warmly commended by August Vollmer, professor of police administration at the University of California and one of the world's foremost authorities in this field.

In a letter just received by Herman Kehrl, director of the bureau, Mr. Vollmer expresses keen interest in the work in Oregon, and offers to cooperate in any way he can.

4-H CLUB WINNERS ENJOY PORTLAND TRIP

Lucille Thrasher and James Nichols, Nyssa, winners of the Malheur county division of the 4-H Club Achievement and Leadership contest, were in Portland this week with 72 other outstanding 4-H members as guests of The First National Bank of Portland during the Pacific International Exposition on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

The two arrived in Portland in time for the opening of the official schedule Monday noon with a special luncheon at the Chamber of Commerce. A remote control address of welcome by Mayor Carson was a highlight of the program, followed by the first visit to the Livestock Exposition grounds.

All were guests at a 4-H Club banquet in Penney Hall that evening, later taking part in a great 4-H parade preceding the horse show, which they attended as guests of the host bank.

Tuesday was filled with visits to The First National Bank building, Swan Island airport, the Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother a local industrial plant and to the Exposition again where many had entries in 4-H and open divisions. A banquet and dance was arranged Tuesday evening with bank officials and members of the judging committees present to honor the winners.

Following a final visit to the Pacific International Wednesday for the 4-H Club auction of fat stock and a luncheon planned in their honor, the group was scheduled to return home. Rooms were reserved for the entire party of visitors during their stay in a leading Portland hotel, where headquarters were also maintained.

Miss Thrasher, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Thrasher, built up fine 4-H record which includes outstanding work in clothing, cooking, canning and homemaking projects. At Malheur county fairs she has taken a number of prizes and has held two 4-H summer school scholarships, as well as the 1936 Union Pacific scholarship.

Jim Nichols expected to have a corn exhibit at the Exposition this week in the land products division. He has been declared corn raising champion of Malheur county, and

previously won second and fourth ships to 4-H summer school and with his corn at the Pacific International. He too has had honorable mention for the Union Pacific award.

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