

56TH LEGISLATURE

By Robert F. Smith, Speaker of the House and Sen. Anthony Yturri

Consumers scored a major victory in the Oregon Legislature last week with House passage of a sweeping consumer protection bill which takes direct aim at defective products and deceptive trade practices.

The bill, which was developed after weeks of study by a special committee under the chairmanship of Rep. Robert Stults, R-Roseburg, makes substantial changes in seven different areas of existing law.

The measure, which was guaranteed passage by virtue of its Republican sponsorship, redefines deceptive trade practices, plugs existing legal loopholes, and strengthens and coordinates enforcement efforts.

Under this new legislation, the State Attorney General and

district attorneys would be given greater authority to enforce the strengthened Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

These law enforcement officials would also be provided with broader investigative powers. The Attorney General would also be given the authority to establish by ruling that certain conduct is misleading, and therefore prohibited.

Individual citizens would also be allowed to bring suit for damages against a company arising out of a willful deceptive trade practice.

Citizens prevailing in such suits would have the opportunity to recover their actual damages, plus attorneys fees and costs. Present law does not provide for this.

The courts would also be given broader authority for enforcements against violations

of either written assurances or injunctions against certain deceptive trade practices. This would include the authority to suspend business licenses for willful or repeated violations.

Home solicitation sales come in for special treatment under this legislation. One portion of the bill places restrictions against home solicitation sales of consumer goods and services.

Another portion provides for a three-day "cooling-off" period on home solicitation sales. This would allow a consumer who has been victimized by a high pressure door-to-door salesman three days in which to cancel a contract for goods or services.

The measure also includes a requirement that telephone solicitors identify themselves and the purpose of their call within 30 seconds.

The bill also provides additional protections for buyers who default on their contracts or loans. Under present law, a seller or lender can repossess goods and still collect the amount due regardless of the amount involved.

Under the revision, a buyer who defaults may lose the goods or automobile, but he would not be required to pay the deficiency if the balance due is less than \$500.

Another protection is provided with the provision which would allow a buyer to assert defenses against a bank or lending institution which purchases his installment contract or note which has been secured by consumer goods or motor vehicles.

House passage of this legislation--which should be followed by Senate approval--will guarantee that unscrupulous business practices do not pay in Oregon.

Enactment of this bill will give a clear message to fast-buck operators that they are not welcome in Oregon--and that legal machinery will be provided to prosecute any violations of the Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

Vale Girl Wins UP Scholarship

Leah Moore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Moore of Vale, has been chosen to receive a Union Pacific scholarship.

Miss Moore was among the outstanding 4-H club members in 14 Oregon counties served by Union Pacific Railroad that were selected as recipients of \$400 college scholarships given by the company, reports Lois Redman, Oregon State University extension 4-H and youth specialist.

This is the 50th anniversary of the scholarships which are given to deserving members of 4-H and Future Farmers of America in 198 counties in the Western United States. The scholarships are for use next fall at a land grant university for study in home economics or agriculture.



Miss Moore is a senior at Vale Union High School. She has been active in 4-H for nine years, carrying home economics projects, livestock and horse projects, and she has been a member of Empire Builders for four years.

Miss Redman also announced that Mary Jane Hibbard, Imbler, has been chosen to receive the \$250 O.M. Plummer scholarship which is given annually to a 4-H member participating in the Pacific International Livestock Exposition. Miss Hibbard is also a recipient of a Union Pacific scholarship.

Trees Are Pollution Fighters

As listed in a booklet prepared by the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station of Upper Darby, Pa., trees cut noise and dilute pollution.

TREES help supply oxygen we need to breathe. Yearly, each acre of young trees can produce enough oxygen to keep 18 people alive.

TREES help keep our air supply fresh by using up carbon dioxide that we exhale and that factories and engines emit.

TREES use their hairy leaf surfaces to trap and filter out ash, dust and pollen particles carried in the air.

TREES dilute gaseous pollutants in the air as they release oxygen.

TREES can be used to indicate air pollution levels of sulphur dioxide, just as canaries were once used to detect dangerous methane gas in coal mines.

TREES give us a constant supply of products - lumber for buildings and tools, cellulose for paper and fiber; as well as nuts, mulches, oils, gums, syrups and fruits.

TREES slow down forceful winds.

TREES cut noise pollution by acting as barriers to sound.

TREES provide shelter for birds and wildlife and even for us when caught in a shower.

TREES shade us from direct sunlight better than a sombrero.

TREES camouflage harsh scenery and unsightly city dumps, auto graveyards, mine sites, etc.

TREES break the onslaught of pelting raindrops on the soil surface and give the soil a chance to soak up as much water as possible.

TREE leaves decay and replace minerals in the soil and enrich it to support later plant growth.

TREES make great gifts!

Equal Rights!

We believe in equal rights for women. We believe all women should have natural gas hot water. What is best for one person should be best for all. And natural gas hot water is best... by far.



Women, arise! Call your local gas appliance dealer. He can introduce you to a liberation movement that will make you forever free of troublesome hot water problems. He'll show you how gas water heaters restore the supply of hot water faster than you can use it—even if yours is a big family. There's no match for the intense blue flame. Nothing heats water like natural gas. No other fuel can heat your water faster or keep it flowing more consistently at the temperature you want. You'll find your change to gas to be a thrifty move, too; it can help you earn Cascade's money-saving All-Gas Rate. And speaking of liberation movements, your appliance dealer has a plan to give you dependable gas hot water at a saving that is very liberal indeed!



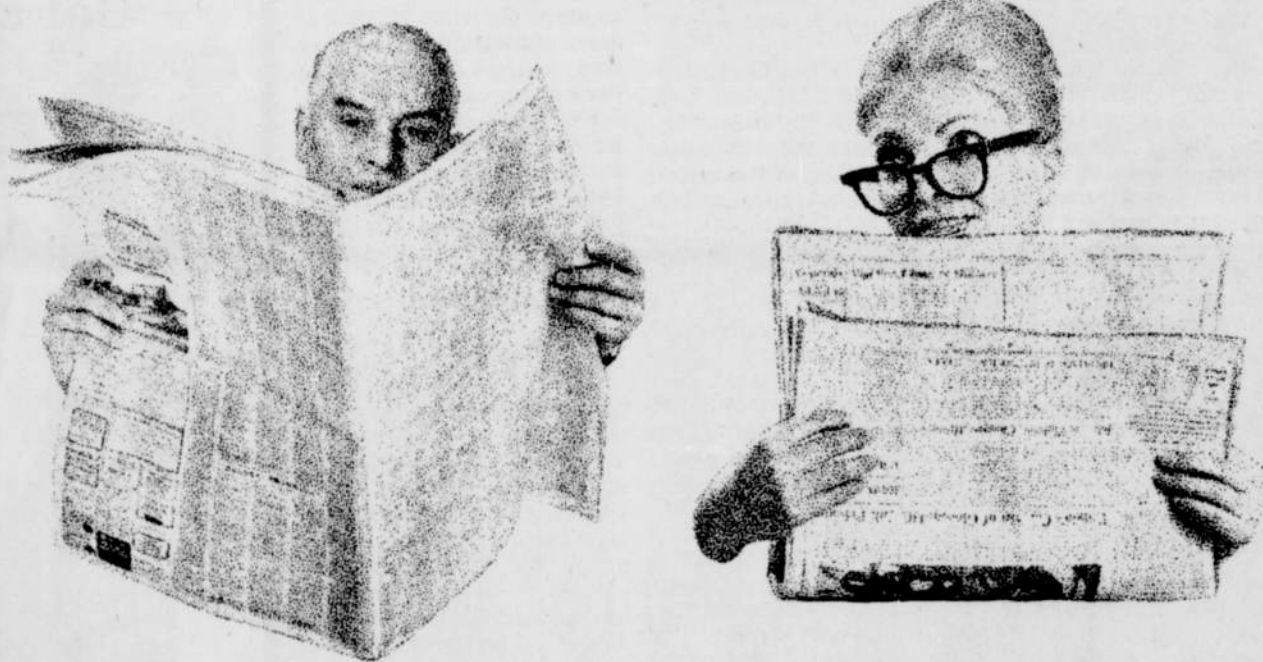
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation
Distributors of Naturalgasatisfaction

Special

THREE MONTHS FREE

When you purchase either a new or a re-newal subscription to The Gate City Journal during Nyssa's "Mystery Days" Sale

Keep Up with the News about Shopping and Savings, Too...



You'll see by the paper what's new, what's going on, what's to do.

What's more, *The Gate City Journal* is your marketplace, where advertising competition thrives, and you discover how to get best values from your shopping dollars.

15 MONTHS FOR THE PRICE OF 12

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Malheur, Payette and Canyon Counties \$4.00
Elsewhere \$5.00

OFFER GOOD THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY

Mail orders must be postmarked by May 15, 1971

Nyssa Gate City Journal