

hines

Satus, Feb. 26-Three Indians ~~stood~~ were getting drinks from a water faucet at the side of the sparkling-white Regimbal hop kiln. I asked them where the blacksmith shop was. They didn't know.

A gray coupe in a cloud of dust came toward us from the north.

"There's one of the bosses now," an Indian said. "Ask him."

The coupe was already parked in front of the blacksmith shop by the time I found it. A young man whose name I later discovered to be Allen Regimbal was setting ^{up} a sound-movie projection outfit. He had just purchased it, second-hand, in Yakima. There were half a dozen of us in the

hop as he plugged the projector into an electric outlet, then ran off reel of war scenes, using the aluminum-painted sliding door of the hop for a screen.

When the reel was finished, I introduced myself to the man who looked like the blacksmith. His name is Frank Allen. I said I wanted to find out something about REA. How were its rates?

Well, he really didn't know much about the rates.

How about service?

It couldn't be better, he said. Strength of current was just the same as P. P. & L. lines. He'd never had any trouble with that. There had been power break-downs, just as there were in P. P. & L. lines. When that happened, and it wasn't very often, he called the REA in Prosser,

and they sent someone out right now.

Allen loosened up a little. He said he'd found the REA men a lot easier to get along with than those from the P. P. & L., with whom he'd dealt when working on another place. What was the difference? Well, the P. P. & L. men always seemed to be afraid they were going to do something extra, something they wouldn't get paid for.

Allen Regimbal drifted into the conversation.

"We almost fainted when we got the first REA bill," he said. Sixteen dollars a month. Why, on our Toppenish place the bill's \$300 a month."

We hashed his statement back and forth for a while. I wanted

to be sure I had it right. It boiled down to this--On the Satus ranch, ^{under REA} electricity costs \$16 to \$18 a month. On the Toppenish ranch, ^{under P. P. & L.,} from \$75 to \$300 a month, and the operations are comparable.

Allen and Regimbal estimated that they had 120 horsepower in machinery on the Satus place. They said that P. P. & L. charges were ^(for each) \$3 horsepower, so that \$300 was a conservative estimate. They explained that the P. P. & L. minimum of \$75 a month was a flat rate based on ~~as many as~~ specialized machinery, ~~and~~ hooked up, but not necessarily in use.

"We shut the hop kiln off on the Toppenish place this time of year," Regimbal said. "We can't afford to have the juice on. Here, we can leave it on and use it once in a while if we need it."

Allen Regimbal said that his brother, Loren, who was in

Yakima, could show me the electricity bills on the two places, and would be glad to do so. I told Allen that I would stop again as soon as I could to get that information.

I introduced myself about this time to Regimbal, and told him I worked for the Yakima Morning Herald.

He grinned. "Maybe I'm talking to the wrong man_x"

A little on the defensive, he said maybe there wasn't any reason for public power in Yakima.

"But out here, we wouldn't have any power if it wasn't for the REA. I can remember 1940. All I had then was ~~/~~ kerosene ~~for~~ lights."

Now he has an electric range, electric hot water and refrigeration, everything electric." His bill is \$8 to \$9 a month.

"I've got a home-made water heater that uses lots of juice. And we stay up late. The price goes down fast, the more you use--\$8 to \$9 on my place, and ^{only} \$18 for all the juice we use on the ranch.

"But even if the price was higher than other places, it would be worth it to us, just to have electricity. We couldn't even have a miln here in 1940. Over at the Chief ranch, they had a dynamo, run with a tractor. Imagine what that would cost us! And the hop-picking machines--we sure couldn't run those without electricity."

But wouldn't the P. P. & L. have brought electricity out to them?

Yes, he said, at \$1000 a ranch.

Was that an exact figure, or just approximate?

That was the exact figure, he said. There were just five
 ranches in that area west of Satus, and the P. P. & L. figured it would cost
 each of them just \$1000 for extensions.

"Twenty-five dollars a ~~po~~ pole, the way they figure it,"
 Frank Allen said.

What did it cost to hook up with REA?

"Three dollars. ~~They~~ We pay for line extensions out of
 revenue. And we're already seven years ahead in repayments on the loan."

I asked him how he felt about paying for service ^{through rates,} to some
 rancher way up at the end of Medicine valley.

(Dfa) "He's just as much entitled to electricity as we are," Regimbal
 said. "A man goes out to ^a ~~the~~ place because he can't afford to ^{buy one} ~~live~~ in town, or

because the land is better, he's got just as much right to electricity as have.

"You check over on the Roza. The P. P. & L. has lines crisscrossed everywhere so no other power outfit can get in. But a whole lot of Roza farmers haven't got electricity. At the cost of hooking up, they can't afford it."

I had gone looking for Regimbal's blacksmith at the suggestion of E. C. Helterbrand, proprietor of the Satus store, after I had asked him how residents of the district liked REA. He said they liked it fine.

Well, how did he like it, and how much was his bill?

Helterbrand said his bill was \$8 or \$9 a month. He looked for a copy, but couldn't find it.

"But I've got six ~~new~~ refrigerators, a compressor, and an electric range," he said. "For a long time, I had one of the highest bills anywhere around here."

Did he have electricity before REA came in?

Yep, one of these Delco putt-putts.

What did it cost to run?

Five dollars a night, he said.

But that figure turned out to be a little over-enthusiastic. He based it on five gallons of gasoline a night, burned out light bulbs, and repairs for which he had to send to Yakima.

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Director Charles Prah1

George Zahn, highway commission chairman

State Highway Department
Highways-Licenses Building
Olympia, Wash., 98501

Mrs. Lena Melini, 810 North Third St., Phone 9204,
lived at Fort Simcoe when Mrs. Blanche Miller there.
Might have some recollections.

HDG/

This information from Mrs. Frances Lindsey.

Tuesday

Call 32133 Mrs. Della Livengood, city clerk, after 9 a.m. or, better, call John Hodgkinson mayor, at his home before 7:30 a.m. for news on council meeting that took place Monday night. Mayor is much better source. Call Wapato city hall for results of city council meeting there.

Wednesday

call Toppenish city hall, ask for Mrs. Aleta Bennett. Get results on Toppenish city commission meeting. Ask if anything was done on the sewer problem also. ~~Call~~ Call 3450 Grandview, Harry Ehmer, city clerk. Get results on city council meeting ~~Tues~~ held Tues. night.

Naches Commerical club held strawberry festival on Tues nt--probably not worth story
WEDNESDAY NIGHT IMPORTANT--Meeting on Yakima river pollution, concerns the cities of Yakima, Toppenish and Cle Elum. Story for Thursday paper.

Thursday

Someone will probably phone in results of Community day meeting Wed nt. If not, Glen Miller is chairman, Mrs. M.F. Gossett is sec-tres.

Get story from Jack Hoggatt, at C of C, on tour of the week.

Friday & Sat

Check valley papers for ~~stories~~ stories we might have missed

Weekend events that we should have stories on--Tieton Community day and Naches fish derby, both on Sat., June 23

Thurs. or Fri. get story from police on start of bike licensing Monday June 25.

Thurs Nt. or about 8 a.m. Fri. get fishing roundup from Bob Rennie, 8815, Jack Kirkendall, 31301, & Wallace Kramer.

UNION GAP COUNCIL MEETING MAY BE GOOD.

PETITION FOR ANNEXATION OF 6/10 OF A MILE OF FIRST ST. NORTH OF CITY MIGHT BE PRESENTED.
ALSO PAVING OF STREETS

Click:

Frst. Lt. William C. Johnston

Ft. Lewis Lakewood 3611 Ext 21137 or 21245
Home Lakewood 4505

Lt. Roger Towne

Ft. Lewis Lakewood 3611 Ext. 21245
Home Lakewood 8165

service club list-

andy

Mon. Chamber Commerce-- you know.

Tues. Kiwanis- Pete Moore - fire station - 6143.

Wed. Gyros - Murray Clark or Dick Woods at state highway dept.- 8141

Thurs. Rotary - Jack Larson - (bakery) 7355.

Fri/ - Lions - Meade Elliott, sec.- 4156.

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Mon or Tues. - April report of Yakima Clearing House Assn from E.J.Roy,
secretary-manager, at West Side bank - 7161. He
will give you both debits and clearings for the month and
year ago. Debits usually considered most significant as

Frederick Volney &

Y Valley art assn.

Officers ..President Mrs. James O. May.

VP Volney T. Boaz.

Tres. ~~Roy Nielan~~ Roy A. Neilan =

Sect. Paul B. Allen Jr.

other members of board, holdover, Mrs. ~~Helen Crum~~ H A Crum -

Harry J. Capell

Mrs. ~~(Dr. Capell)~~ and Fred Vel. Newly elected members.

Allen, charge of exhibits rpt. he has obtained full schedule rest of year
for Larson Gallery and Museum, cooperation with Jr. College.

Membership rpt, Neilan, necessity building up new membership
stressed..renewals, now.

2

Building plans.. Volney Boaz..wants to be approved and confirmed

Require cost estimate.plans pract completed. Grom architects..will be in
by next meeting Feb 1. last step prior to building.

next meeting, Feb. 1..Board meeting.....

at Larson bldg. 919..