Montana Power Tax Payments Figure In Hearing on Rate Increase Petition

(Continued from page 1)

company was anticipating an increase in the cost of purchased power because it has signed a contract to buy firm power from the Bureau of Reclamation at a rate almost double the previous rate paid for surplus power.

Atty. Leo Graybill Jr. questioned Donaldson about the company's expenses in connection with its participation in Pacific Northwest Power Co., a four-company group of utilities which proposes to build hydroelectric plants on the Snake River in Idaho. Donaldson replied the sales promotion expense claimed in the rate case does not include any expense in connection with Pacific Northwest Power Co.

The question of the land held for future use again was brought up by P. J. Gilfeather, Great Falls attorney. Donaldson said no such item was included by the company in its rate application support. Gilfeather said he was asking about a flood site near Ulm, and Donaldson said this was not included in any property of the company.

Commission Counsel C. J. Hansen questioned Donaldson at length about allocations of expense between electric and gas operations. The utility officer said these allocations were made on the basis of gross revenues and customers served by each department.

He said the 1956 allocation had been continued into 1958 but that it could change if the proportion of electric business to the total business changed.

Earlier in the day, Frank H. Woy, manager of the company's rates and depreciation department, was excused after 1½ days on the stand. He had testified as to the company's valuation of its electric properties and its relationship to the rates being sought.

The commission hearing opened Sept. 16 with one day of direct testimony by company witnesses and resumed Tuesday for cross-examination.

The statement of one additional intervenor was heard. Mrs. Gordon Olsen of Helena said she was protesting the increase as a housewife concerned with the cost of living.

In a prepared statement outside the hearing, Ernest Salvas, executive board member of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, protested.

Salvas claimed the company, if rates are increased, "will just increase the burden upon all electrical users at a time when the economy of the state is declining. ". . . the lumber and timber industries and the mining industry in the state are undergoing, and have undergone, a considerable decline. The entire economy has been affected and any increase in expense for any family will be an undue burden."

Speech Therapist Screens 251 Students at Lewistown

By Tribune Correspondent

LEWISTOWN — A total of 251 first and second grade school children at Lincoln and Highland Park elementary schools have been screened for speech problems by Elton L. Stewart, speech therapist. Stewart is therapist for the Montana Society for Crippled Children and Adults' mobile unit which visits Lewistown three consecutive days each month.

The unit is one of three mobile speech and hearing units being utilized in the state. They are supported by the Montana State Elks Assn. through its participating lodges throughout Montana. The mobile units provide consultation and therapy for any child or adult with a speech or hearing problem.

The screening was done in Lewistown with the cooperation of local school officials in order to find children with speech problems which might be helped clinically or by home training after closer examination by the therapist at the clinic.

Stewart said he found 53 children with speech problems. This figure includes several children who attend the clinic each month.

None of the children screened are required to attend the speech clinic, but their parents may be notified by the school in order that an appointment might be made for more careful evaluation at the clinic.

Wrong Trial Judge Reported Reversed by Supreme Court

HELENA (AP) — Montana's Supreme Court has ordered a second trial to allow LaRue M. Wolf of Billings to sue for $20,000 personal injury damages he claimed resulted from an automobile accident.

Wolf sued Barry O'Leary Inc., a Billings contracting firm, for damages suffered, Wolf said, when his car hit a street excavation. A Yellowstone County District trial jury found for the O'Leary firm.

Chief Justice James T. Harrison's opinion said the trial judge "misled the jury and failed to soundly define contributory negligence," thereby giving instructions to the jury which the chief justice termed "prejudicial to the plaintiff."

The Associated Press story reporting the court action issued for morning newspapers of Nov. 8 said erroneously that the trial judge was Guy C. Derry, reporting Derry's name from the title page of the Supreme Court opinion. The clerk of the Supreme Court Wednesday corrected the name of the trial judge to read Ben M. Harwood of Billings. Clerk Edna M. Hinman said the error in a 1955 docket entry was made by a member of the clerk's staff under a previous administration and was repeated on the Nov. 7 opinion title page.

Butte Chamber Asks Mining Industry Aid

BUTTE (AP) — Directors of the Butte Chamber of Commerce have asked the U.S. Traffic Commission to take action alleviating the present plight of the lead and zinc mining industry.

The commission is to open a hearing in Washington, D.C., Tuesday on a request for tarriffs on zink and lead imports.

The Butte chamber asks that the commission "grant the highest possible tariff or excise taxes . . . and that consideration be given to the establishment of import quotas on lead and zinc."

"The predicament of the lead and zinc industry is so serious that a solution, in the public interest, is above any political or party interest," the directors said in a letter to the federal commission.

Aero Dept. Plans Teacher Workshops

HELENA (AP) — The Aviation Education Division of the State Aeronautics Dept. plans to conduct teachers' workshops at Eastern and Northern Montana Colleges and Montana State University next summer.

The State Aeronautics Commission said it would sponsor 20 scholarships for teachers for summer training at each of the institutions. Application blanks may be obtained from the schools or the education division of the commission.

Given Citation

By Tribune Correspondent

MALTA—A district citation for efficient operation of the Phillips County Agricultural Stabilization and Conversation office for the 1956-57 year has been awarded Francis Costello, office manager, and his staff by Leo Kolstad, state ASC administrative officer. The district comprises the counties from Hill to the North Dakota line.

Appropriation Cuts Urged By Tax Chief

HELENA (AP) — Montana's top taxation officer, J. F. Reid, says he would "like to see a cutback in all appropriations—at least 10 per cent—when the next Legislature rolls around."

He also said the board feels "the state should get entirely out of this business of taxing property."

Reid spoke of the increasing need for state finances, including the school system, and said, "I don't think that should come from the property owner alone."

"We've earned the right in our own department to preach economy in state government," he said, pointing out that the Board of Equalization has cut its staff to 99 from 144.

Billings Man Escapes Death In Car Mishap

BILLINGS (AP)—Gaylord Murray, 29, Billings, was reported in satisfactory condition at a Billings hospital Wednesday night after the car he was driving left the road and overturned several times south of Laurel.

The investigating patrolman said Murray apparently missed a curve on Highway 310 late Tuesday night. He was alone at the time of the accident.

The attending physician said several small bones in Murry's spine were fractured and that he had suffered multiple scrapes and bruises in the accident.

Billings' Traffic Safety Record Merits National Agency's Third Place Citation

BILLINGS (AP) — Traffic safety records, a perennial "black eyes" for many cities in the United States, are pointed to with pride by Billings residents.

The National Safety Council ranked the Magic City third in the nation in traffic safety for cities with between 25,000 to 50,000 population.

Thus far this year in Billings there have been no fatalities and 1,362 accidents. The number of accidents is a marked decrease from 1956 and 1955 totals despite an increase in the number of automobile registrations.

The National Safety Council, in its Nov. 1 ratings, ranked Las Vegas, Nev., first; Yakima, Wash., second; and Billings third.

The fact that Billings is the possessor of an enviable traffic record did not happen by chance.

Police Chief C. E. (Jack) Maness created an "awareness of the public" to traffic hazards for the fine showing. The awareness, he said, came about through the unified work of law enforcement agencies, courts, school, churches, Boy and Girl scouts, civic groups, city government, social organizations, chamber of commerce, television, radio, newspapers and Mr. and Mrs. John Citizen himself.

Ranking high in traffic safety is nothing new for Billings. Chief Maness is proud of the plaques hanging on the wall in the Police Dept. which represent awards from national organizations for traffic safety achievements in Billings. The plaques date back to 1932.

Maness credited City Engineer Sam Ward with being instrumental in helping Billings solve the traffic problem. He said that Ward has engineered traffic devices such as one-way streets, pedestrian crossings, larger signs and intricate signals which have transformed heavily traveled, accident-prone streets into safe thoroughfares.

Manness also placed heavy emphasis on the record department of the Billings Police Dept. The complete force of 64 officers and four civilian secretarial workers have a hand in keeping the records.

Maness termed the Billings records "the best in the state." He said every citation issued, including all warnings, are filed against the name of the driver involved. These records are kept accurate and up-to-date.

A motorist who shows minor neglect, yet draws three warning tickets within 12 months, is issued a citation and sent to court.

Maness also praised the men who work under him. He termed them "dedicated and sincere."

The training program for new men also is a factor in greater safety. New police officers are given three-weeks classroom training, then placed with veteran officers for on-the-job training.

"Courtesy," said Maness, "is all-important on the part of an officer." He said his men know how to deal with the public and get good enforcement.

Selective enforcement maps are also kept at police headquarters. Every accident is marked with a pin to indicate where it happened, and the color of the pin denotes the type of accident.

Trouble spots are located in this manner and officers are then told to crack down in these areas.

Other times the trouble may be engineering. Then Ward swings into action.

The men of the Billings police force are of high caliber and carefully selected. Four of the officers, including Maness, are graduates of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in Washington, D.C.

Maness said traffic safety is "everyone's job." He said the only way to reduce the carnage on our nation's highways is to "strive by every means possible to make the public safety conscious."

Articles Filed

HELENA (AP) — Articles of incorporation were filed for the Carrie Hilger Ranch Co., Helena, a farm and livestock firm, with the secretary of state's office. A charter was granted to the three directors: J. N. Hilger and George and Mathew Hilger, all of Helena. Capitalization was set forth at $50,000.

Splint Found in Man's Leg

BILLINGS (AP) — Seventeen years of agony has ended for William R. Bandy, 72, Billings, after the removal of a three-inch stick of wood from his thigh.

Bandy injured his leg when he fell in heavy timber in 1940 near the present site of Hungry Horse Dam. He did not know his leg was pierced by the wood and since that time has been bothered by pain. Continued treatments and X-rays failed to show the chunk of wood which was one inch wide and three inches long.

Bandy's travels took him to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., but still no explanation could be given for the pain in the leg.

Finally, the thigh began to swell and Billings hospital authorities decided to operate. The first item they hit was the wood, which at first was thought to be bone. A laboratory test proved to everyone's surprise that the material was wood.

Bandy, retired chief engineer of the Billings regional office of the bureau of land management, is presently recuperating at his home here, the possessor of a well preserved chunk of wood.

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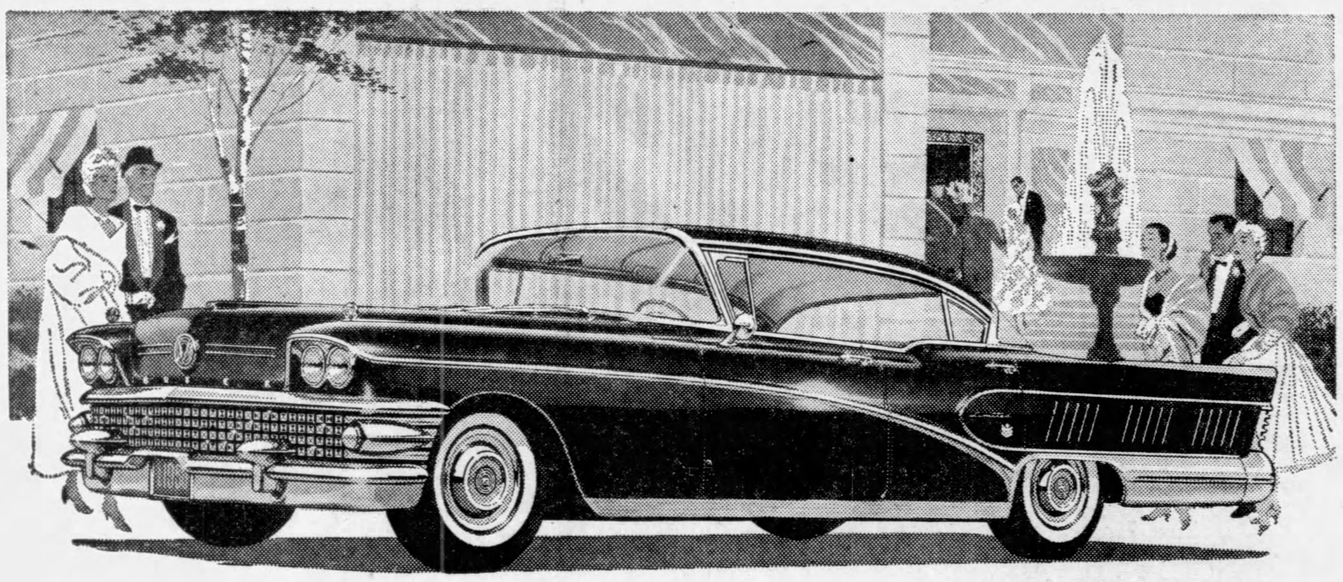

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