

The COOS GUARDIAN

Vox Populi, Vox Dei.

VOL. I No. 17

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1934

PRICE THREE CENTS

Parking Ordinance Passed By Council

An unusual amount of business featured the City Council meeting Tuesday night with a parking ordinance passed after the third reading. This ordinance is to allow only 15 minutes parking on Green Street from the City National Bank to Pleasant Street.

A communication from Mark Taylor, County Treasurer, to the effect that the City's share to the County tax would be \$60,000 was read.

The Boulay Filling Station which claimed a sum of \$55.25 for damages caused by water, was refused any compensation upon a report from the City Solicitor which declared that the city was not liable in this case. This case has been hanging fire for a year. The petition of the Berlin Civic Federation to have the City install an information booth on the Green Square, the State and City defraying each half of the expenses, was denied. The information booth will be in the City Hall as in former years although the committee in charge of this investigation recommended

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Workers Opposed To Present Relief System

By Robert Laliberte

May 22.—This organization went on record tonight as being opposed to the present relief system and instructed its officers to wire legislators representing Berlin at the State House to vote against House bill No. 417.

The bill is one of Governor Winant's pet measures and was passed last year. It took away most of the work of administering relief from the hands of city and county officials and placed it in the hands of the state relief administration.

It is our understanding that the bill will come before the present session of the legislature.

The Coos County Workers Club opposes it because it feels that the present method of relief administration is inhumane and that the present standard of living set by it is detrimental to the unemployed. It has a tendency to reduce wages and causes people to lose their pride and sense of responsibility.

The Coos County Workers Club
(Continued on Page 3)

No Immediate Action on Wage Increase

Mr. Ed. Legassie is the recipient of a letter from Commissioner Davie, which reads as follows: "Mr. Edward J. Legassie, Pres. Coos County Workers Club, Berlin, N. H. Dear Sir: Acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 16th. Since the receipt of your communication have talked with Mr. Paul Brown by telephone. I find that owing to previous business engagements of his and my own it will be impossible to get a conference next week, but I hope to be able to arrange a date during the week of May 28th. May I urge that no definite action be taken by the workers until we have a joint conference before the Labor Commissioner?"

Relative to report from the code authority the N.R.A have been notified. The report is now in process of compilation and copies will be forwarded as soon as it is published. Very truly yours, (signed) John S. B. Davie, Labor Commissioner."

In an interview with the Coos Guardian, President Edward J. Legassie of the Coos County Workers Club, stated that he is entirely dissatisfied with the proceedings.

The Opening of SHELburne INN Pavilion is scheduled for May 30, and boasts JIMMY GALLAGHER'S World Famous Orchestra for this event

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All automobiles operating in New Hampshire must pass the state inspection and have the inspection sticker displayed by June 1st.

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Not To Drop Taxpayers Suit

The action of the directors of the Berlin Taxpayers Association to dismiss Attorney Bergeron will in no way end the proceedings to recover Labrie's shortage for 1931 from the Bonding Company. On the contrary, Bergeron has received more offers for contributions than ever before and more expressions of encouragement. He sees in the action of the directors influenced by the Hon. Eli J. King only another attempt to prevent the getting at the bottom of that matter. The opposition to the suit is dead set on preventing that case from being tried. Their aim is clear. If the case is not heard in the Supreme Court this June it will hang over till Fall and the case will not then be in order for the October Term here in Berlin. That would mean that the case then at best would be tried in April. That it will be noted would be after the spring election in March in which the Democratic machine will make a strenuous attempt to "come back." Trial of the case in October may have considerable bearing on the spring election and most likely unfavorable to the opposing councilmen.

It is also felt that the action of the directors does not in the least represent the will of the members. What individuals have been questioned indicated that they did not approve the directors in their action.

The Berlin Taxpayers Association may drop out if they wish as a party plaintiff, but that does not prevent the proceedings from going ahead, and ahead they are going. The brief was delivered to the printer this week and will be ready in due time for the Supreme Court hearing for which the Bonding Company's appeal is now set.

Attorney Bergeron feels that he owes it to the public and especially the taxpayers of this city to see the matter through and he does not intend to surrender control to the ones who threw the case "out of the window" once.

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The COOS GUARDIAN

PRINTED BY SMITH & TOWN
THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1934

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

THE COOS GUARDIAN PUBLISHING CO. INC.

ARTHUR J. BERGERON, Editor and Business Manager

ADRIEN D. BEAUDOIN, Assistant Editor

EVERETT F. SMITH, Advertising Manager

Office of Publication 49 Main Street, Stahl-Clarke Building, Berlin, N. H.
Telephone 749-W

Subscription prices: \$1.50 per year if paid in advance and \$2.00 per year if not paid in advance to any address in the United States
"Entered as second class matter March 6, 1934, at the Post Office at Berlin, N. H., under the Act of March 3, 1879."

THE WORKING MAN'S CASE

With a wage increase demand pending there is considerable talk about the cost of living, the wages paid, the financial status of the Brown Company, and the coming arbitration. Without going into details it is clear and certain that the cost of living has gone up under the N.R.A. though there may be some dispute as to how much. It is also clear that the individual income of the regularly employed men at the Brown Company has been reduced under the N.R.A. The reason for the decrease in income is that the men were reduced to forty hours a week thus losing a day's pay each week and the raise given on the hourly rate is not enough to balance the loss in hours. Hence the wages have been reduced under the N.R.A. in two ways; one is the loss of hours and the other is the increase in the price of commodities. So much for the regularly employed men whose income in terms of bread and butter went down. The loss to the regularly employed men went to a certain number of unemployed men who were placed on the payroll to work in the place of the regularly employed men when the latter had their working hours reduced to forty hours from forty-eight. It is doubtful if in industry as a whole over the country the number of men so re-employed balances the loss to the regularly employed, and here takes place the much discussed "chiseling." Even if there were no "chiseling" at all, at best this scheme of the N.R.A. is a measure to make labor take care of labor. Those who were working were made to give up part of their time to the unemployed, thus relieving the relief expenditures of the federal government and so relieve the big taxpayers. Thus again the class in society least able to bear the burden is made to lug it. It is clear and apparent that the N.R.A. has not changed that condition in our society, though it poses to that effect.

On this let us turn to authoritative but very conservative information. The Department of Commerce was called upon by the Seventy-Second Congress Senate Resolution, No. 220, to submit a study and estimate of the national income and its distribution in the four years 1929-1932. The official announcement states that the study required over a year of intensive research and was prepared with the active co-operation of the National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc.

The Bulletin referred to was published January 26, 1934. The figures are given in millions of dollars and the percentages are figured on the basis of 1929 as 100. The national income of the United States is reported to the Senate to be for those years as follows:

| | 1929 | 1930 | 1931 | 1932 |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Salaries | 5,702 | 5,660 | 4,738 | 3,382 |
| Wages | 17,180 | 14,209 | 10,541 | 6,839 |
| Dividends | 5,963 | 5,795 | 4,311 | 2,590 |
| Interest | 5,687 | 5,826 | 5,662 | 5,506 |
| Net Rents and Royalties | 3,835 | 3,237 | 2,494 | 1,691 |

These figures translated in percentages of the 1929 incomes show the following decreases and discrepancies.

| | 1929 | 1930 | 1931 | 1932 |
|-------------------------------|------|-------|------|------|
| Salaries | 100 | 99.3 | 83.1 | 59.3 |
| Wages | 100 | 82.7 | 61.4 | 39.8 |
| Dividends | 100 | 97.2 | 72.3 | 43.4 |
| Interest | 100 | 102.4 | 99.6 | 96.8 |
| Net Rents and Royalties | 100 | 84.4 | 65.0 | 44.1 |

The comparison is that wages dropped down in 1932 to 39.8% of what they were in 1929 while dividends dropped down to 43.4%, salaries to 59.3% and interest to only 96.8%.

To sum up let us turn to none other than Walter Lippman, no radical, who was the chief speaker on the 29th of January, 1934, at the dinner of the American Acceptance Council in New York. Mr. Lippman styled the Bureau of Economic Research as "a disinterested and highly reputable organization" and stated that there can be no dissent to these tables which have "tremendous significance." We now quote Mr. Lippman letter for letter:

"From 1929 to 1932 there was a great decline in the total national income. But in the course of this decline salaries and dividend payments fell slowly at first. Interest payments fell very little. Among labor incomes salaried men were favored as against wage-earners, and of course wage-earners as against the unemployed. Relatively speaking property incomes increased . . .

"The figures show that the depression was not like some great accident, say a shipwreck, in which all suffered alike. They show, on the contrary, that the sacrifices were very uneven, and that worst of all, though nearly everybody was poorer, the distribution of wealth became progressively more and more unequal, taking the greatest toll from those who were already the weakest, and far greater toll from the active producers of wealth than from the recipients of fixed or sheltered incomes."

Such is Walter Lippman's analysis of the first three years of the depression. Such was the situation when the N.R.A. went into effect. Let us now examine the workingman's lot under the N.R.A. Again we shall go to authoritative but conservative sources for our figures, such as the Annalist and the New York Times and the Monthly Survey of Business by the American Federation of Labor. None of these authorities are opposed to the N.R.A. but on the contrary worked hand in glove with the New Deal. These authorities report that there has been no appreciable gain in real wages from March, 1933, when the New Deal began, to March, 1934. The average weekly wage in the country increased 9.7% but the cost of living rose 9.3%. Over 10,900,000 workers are still unemployed. In February, 1934, there were more families on relief, either direct or C.W.A., than in February, 1933. Between October and March last, although business was steadily improving, the number of unemployed rose by 780,000. With the disbanding of the C.W.A. crews the number of unemployed increased by at least 3,000,000 to be added to the February total of 10,900,000.

Add to this the Alexander Hamilton Institute report that the value of output per man per hour in manufacturing industry increased considerably. The value in output per man hour warranted a 13.9% increase in wages. This increase in productivity did not go into wages but into dividends.

At this juncture, President Roosevelt is satisfied with allowing his licensing power over industry to expire, when he should start to use it. Industry has not divided the N.R.A. profits with labor to create the mass purchasing power necessary, according to the whole doctrine of the N.R.A., if capitalism is to survive.

One of the above conservative authorities reports on the N.R.A. as follows and we believe justifiably so: "After October . . . there was a change of policy in the N.R.A.: emphasis was placed on assistance to vested interests . . . This spring, with production and business activity rising, profits considerably higher than a year ago, business men were far more able to shorten work hours and put men to work but they are no longer willing to do so."

It appears now that the N.R.A. has failed to cure the depression in its fundamentals. Everybody is dissatisfied with it. Those who were regularly employed when the New Deal started were made to share their time with unemployed thus getting their income cut. The number of unemployed so absorbed has not made a great change. The industrialists are dissatisfied with government interference in business. The unemployed are still dissatisfied. Such is the situation. The New Deal has yet to be made a square one before 1936 when reelection comes around

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**Invitation To
C. C. W. Club**

A delegation consisting of Mr. Ray Temple and Arthur Legassie for the Grafton County Workers Club, Lincoln branch, visited Berlin Tuesday for the purpose of inviting the members of the Coos County Workers Club to an old-time celebration given Wednesday, May 30th.

According to Messrs. Temple and Legassie, in their address, Lincoln has exerted itself to give the North Country what they call a good time for everybody. The first event is scheduled for ten A. M. with something happening every moment until far into the night.

The program includes baseball, jumping, races, etc., in fact entertainment to satisfy old and young. Every member is invited. Everybody come. All roads lead to Lincoln, and you'll have the time of your life. See you there.

ALL QUIET ON POLICE FRONT

Assistant Police Chief Pat Pinette's report on the Police Court for this past few days is very unusual. It seems that besides a few inebriated personages who found shelter at the station over the week end, no one has taken it upon themselves to break the law. This week started off so smoothly and easily that no arrests were made, a fact which is probably hard to believe, as this hasn't been the case since you and I can't remember.

We are left in a query as to whether the lawbreakers are out on a tour or if the police are taking time off.

Altho what seems like traces of Dillinger were seen at the East Side Drug Store last week, investigations by the police have had no results.

**WORKERS OPPOSED TO
PRESENT RELIEF SYSTEM**
(Continued from Page 1)

went on record as favoring the return of relief administration in the hands of the County and City units as in the former years.

Before the adjournment of the meeting Arthur Legassie, organizer of the Grafton County Workers' Club made a short address to the members in regards to the new club which makes its headquarters in Lincoln.

**On and Off
The Main Stem**

With Dr. B. U. L. Connor

Wonder what people see in a steamshovel; judging by the crowds that follow its every move, one would like to think that every sporting event in Berlin is as fully attended.—Lincoln comes to town Sunday with Billy Cantin, Woods, the Boyle boys, and the rest of the gang. They boast a fairly good team and although perhaps not in a class with Berlin, a good game is in the offing. See where Andy got battered off the mound by the Rumford heavy artillery last week end. And they tell me that our catcher was having one of his bad days.—Let's hope these are few and far between this summer. Andy has the makings of a good pitcher and he will, no doubt, develop into a crack-crack as he appears to have settled down to this business this year.

Wonder what became of "Pete" Stafford?—It looks as if Itchy were slowly regaining his old time form.—Dr. Connor can remember way back in his boyhood days when Itchy toed the slab for the Western Tigers, probably the best juvenile nine this city ever developed. Itchy was a pitcher of no mean calibre, then!

Well, let's hope to see you all at the Lincoln game next Sunday afternoon.

The boys and gals traveling to the Owl last Saturday were provided with an unanticipated thrill when Mr. Christiansen's bus suddenly parted with its much needed rear wheel. After a rather long wait for the relief bus to come along, the party wended its way to Cedar Lake where a large gathering were taking in Malou Lavoie's syn-copated rhythm, the city's latest and best dance team.

The Grafton County Workers' Club are laying plans for a monster field day and celebration next Wednesday, Memorial Day. Drive down to the happy Franconia town and meet your fellow workers.

Dr. Connor, between columns, is doing some easy work on Pleasant Street, it's good for the nerves notwithstanding a very bothersome sunburn.

NOTICE!

For the convenience of our customers our

Service Department
will be open evenings for
State Inspection
until June 1st by which time
all cars must be inspected.

**City Garage
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Phone 246
12 Exchange St., Berlin, N.H.

**PARKING ORDINANCE
PASSED BY COUNCIL**

(Continued from Page 1)

signs to direct strangers to the City Hall.

The Glen realty property which has contracted to sell to the City a certain tract of land on the present Northern Automobile property was assessed at 47c a foot by special committee. Whether or not the City will buy this property at present is not known.

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Contents of Pleasant Street Contract Not Disclosed

Mr. Bean, who is an engineer for the State, admits that he has a copy of the contract covering this project, but when interviewed by a representative of the Coos Guardian refused to reveal the nature of this agreement. We assume that the taxpayers of this State have the right to know the contents of any such public documents, and having tried in vain to obtain any information concerning the undertaking, may we quote Mr. Bean as saying that "he didn't feel like it," when approached on the subject.

Mr. Higgins, partner in the Cen-

tral Construction Company of Lawrence, Mass., directing the work here, informs us that the cost of this work amounts to \$65,000 which is furnished by the State and Federal Governments. He will employ 80 men before the work is completed. These men work on two shifts of three days a week, ten hours a day, and are paid forty cents an hour, except key men who will draw fifty cents an hour.

They will excavate the whole length and width of the street, starting at the extreme end of Berlin Mills and going as far as High Street, before they pave the new concrete highway. The material removed is being dumped at the Y.M.C.A. field and at various other points throughout the city. This new highway will end at High Street and not at the Green Square as was formerly believed.

Asst. Attorney Gen. Issues Unofficial Decision

In a letter to Mayor Feindel, Assist. Attorney General Thornton Lorimer stated the illegality of the clauses included in the Burtman-Rondeau Shoe Factory proposition.

Although he refrains from giving his legal decision, he has already expressed his opinion on the subject. State laws are that no City or Town can appropriate taxpayers' money for the purpose of obtaining new concerns. Free rent for any amount of time is also illegal.

The bill which was proposed at the Council Meeting a week ago, dealing on the question, relative to raising the amount of \$50,000 by taxation to finance any such proposition, will be brought up at the special session of the Legislature.

Mr. Charles Levin who is now working for the City in an attempt to bring new industries here, has not yet made any definite progress.

COST OF LIVING

Commissioner Lubin of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor reports an advance in wholesale commodity prices. The advance placed the index for the week at 73.8 per cent of the 1926 average and equaled the level reached on March 10, which was the highest since April, 1931, when the index stood at 74.8 per cent.

As compared with the index of 62.3 for the corresponding week of last year present prices are up by 18½ per cent. They are nearly 14 per cent above the level for the same week of two years ago, when the index was 64.9.

This report supports the contention of the Coos County Workers Club that the cost of living is increasing and that it justifies the Club's demand for an increase in wages.

V. F. W. HOLD MEETING

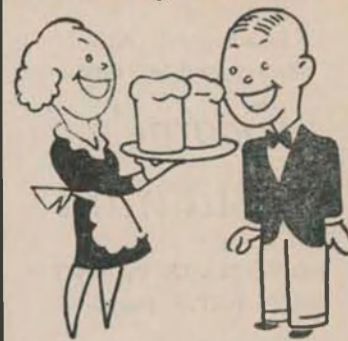
Twenty-five members attended the regular meeting of White Mountain Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, which was held at the post room on Main Street, May 22nd.

The committee in charge of the dance to be held at the Armory on Thursday evening, May 24th, made their report and asked the assembled members to make an effort to be present at this dance and to cooperate with the committee in making the affair a success. The proceeds of the dance are for the benefit of the drum corps.

The Post accepted the invitation of the Dupont-Holmes Post of Gorham to participate in the Memorial Day exercises to be held in that town. This is the anniversary of the death of Past Commander William Blair, the last Civil War veteran in this section of the country, and for that reason the exercises are especially significant.

Memorial Sunday, organizations including the Spanish War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Sons of the Legion, and the Auxiliaries, will meet at various places to march to the Congregational Church where Reverend Harry Stallard will preach

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the Memorial Service.

The Coos County Workers Club voted Tuesday to have a social at every other club meeting. The first of these socials is to take place Tuesday, May 29, after the regular meeting of the club which will be held at 7 P. M., standard, an hour earlier than the usual meetings. The next social will be held two weeks later in the form of a bridge and whist party at which there will be prizes.

The object of these socials, which will be held every two weeks, is to stir up the interest of the women towards the Coos County Workers Club. There will be no admission fees and all members in good standing are invited to bring their wives and sweethearts.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

No. 3 Fire Station, situated at Berlin Mills, is now open for a period of approximately ten weeks. This became necessary when the work on the repaving of Main Street started as the impossibility of the trucks passing by might cause serious damage in case of fire.

A crew of three men are stationed there to handle any fire until the equipment of the Central Fire Station can reach the scene, if necessary.

TENNIS COURTS READY

Tennis courts at the Y.M.C.A. have already been opened to accommodate local "Tildens." Phone 130 to make reservations. Members will be charged a fee of ten cents an hour, while non-members will pay twenty cents.