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Fifty-Fifth Year—No. 108

More Antelope Valley People Read The Valley Press Than Any Other Newspaper

Palmdale C of C Backs AVEK's Bond Election

The Palmdale Chamber of Commerce is on record favoring approval of the \$49 million Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency bond elec-

tion to be held Feb. 16. A two-thirds majority will be required for passage.

The endorsement came following a talk by AVEK General Manager Wally Spinarski at the chamber's luncheon meeting held yesterday at the Oasis Bowl. Spinarski was introduced by newly-elected President A.S. Harry Alfeo who was conducting his first chamber session. Approximately 30 attended.

Motion to endorse the water election was made by Larry Granger, the second by Steve Chaudet, with no dissenting votes.

Spinarski told the group the Valley faces a serious water problem since the

ground supply is diminishing on an average throughout the area of between 5 and 6 feet annually.

And it follows, he said, that it's becoming more expensive each year to pump the ground water supply.

He estimated that, the supplemental water supply, which would become available with the bond passage, would mean a savings of \$10 million pumping expenses alone, from 1972-1990.

Spinarski traced the history of AVEK noting that it was originated in 1959, the agency contracted for state water in 1963 and delivery is scheduled to start next year.

He reported the AVEK contract calls for a maximum of 138,000 acre feet per year by 1990 which would be sufficient to supply a population of 700,000, and there'd be nine delivery points along the aqueduct,

extending from one end of the Valley to the other.

It's been projected, Spinarski said, of the \$49 million dollars, labor would account for \$19,600,000 of the total and the remainder of \$29,400,000 for materials and supplies.

Major construction cost would be \$12,300,000 for pipeline hooking into the aqueduct.

If the bond issue gains approval, Spinarski said construction would begin immediately with approximately \$20 million being expended the first year.

Plan is that from 1971-76, 100 miles of feeders, or pipes, would be installed, plus seven water treatment plants and reservoirs constructed.

Economically, Spinarski said the project would create employment in the area, his estimate of 450 jobs for a continuing five-year period.

A question and answer session followed his talk.

Prior to the program, President Alfeo announced that the "Woman of the Month" is Barbara Turner, long active in chamber activities particularly in the lilac festival, parades and other community service functions.

Banquet Tickets Now Available

Tickets for the Chris Sherri testimonial banquet, to be held Saturday evening, Feb. 6 in the Fair Center Hall at the AV Fairgrounds, went on sale this week and may be purchased at numerous locations in the Antelope Valley, according to Chairmen Wes Fredeen and Jumbo Reynolds.

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Talk Given

Stolen Items Hearing Postponed

A preliminary hearing in Municipal Court in Bakersfield for two Antelope Valley men charged with receiving and concealing stolen goods has been postponed until next month.

Milton D. Ogden, Mojave, and Harry I. Mertz, Rosamond, are now scheduled to appear for a preliminary hearing at 10 a.m. Feb. 23.

Municipal Court officials said the continuation was granted Tuesday morning on motions by defense attorney for the two men, taken into custody Jan. 9 after Los Angeles and Kern County law officers raided their home simultaneously and recovered more than \$150,000 in goods suspected of being stolen.

Kern County Sheriff's officials said the figure could go as high as \$500,000 once everything is inventoried.

Mertz is being represented in the case by Walter Hatfield of Lancaster, while Ogden

Armed Robbers Hold Up Two More Stores

Armed robbers held up two more stores in Antelope Valley this week and escaped with more than \$600.

Whereas recent robberies have been occurring mainly on the Eastside, latest victims are Pete's Liquor Store at 3160 W. Ave. L in Quartz Hill and the Leona Valley Superette, 8856 Elizabeth Lake Rd.

A lone gunman Monday night held up Pete Muratore, owner of the Quartz Hill liquor store, and escaped with \$445. However, officers reported he dropped \$26 as he

different nights occurred about 9:30 p.m.

The bandit, armed with what's believed a .22 cal. automatic pistol, who held up Pete's Liquor Store was partially described as being in his late teens, 5 feet 10 inches, 160 pounds and blonde. His attire included a green stocking cap, black jacket and blue jeans.

He fled on foot south on 32nd St. West.

Robbers who held up the Leona Valley Superette are thought to be between the

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—valley press photo

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