

**YE OLDE ROSEBURG DAYS**  
**Era Of Bond Issues Put**  
**Growing Municipality On**  
**Road To Modern Status**

(Ed. Note: This is the fourth in a series of articles on early Roseburg history as compiled from city records by City Manager M. W. Slankard.)

By M. W. SLANKARD  
 The year 1905 showed considerable activity in the administering on the public affairs of the City of Roseburg as well as of other cities of Oregon. People all over the United States were getting to know about "That beautiful state of Oregon, where everything was green." Oregon was rugged. Lumbering had been going on in Washington for many years, but Oregon had been untouched. The interior of Oregon remained unknown due to the rugged hills and poor roads, until a very few years ago.

Douglas county right around Roseburg is still the outstanding timber area of the world. We can truthfully say that we are the "Timber Capital of the World." In October 1905 a bond issue of \$200,000 was passed by the citizens of Roseburg to purchase the local water and electric utilities. There was considerable discussion regarding the purchase, and on Oct. 1, 1906, an ordinance was adopted, granting a 50-year franchise to Mr. A. Welch to maintain water, electric and power service. Under the franchise no money would be received by the city for the option and the city would be under this contract until the expiration in 1956. The California Oregon Power Co., the holder of the franchise, had expressed willingness to enter into a new contract with the present city council.

On many occasions the city charter was changed by the votes of the citizens. Three new city charters were voted on. The last of its entire form was adopted and printed in May 1907. Other than changes to chapters and sections, it is still in effect.

**Narrow Streets Noted**  
 The years 1908 and 1920 saw a major plan started to sewer and pave the streets of Roseburg. Most of the streets were paved 18-20-24 feet wide, which was considered wide enough. Today with the present travel these narrow streets are causing the city council no end of worry. Numerous bills were passed, paying part of the paving costs and building of bridges. 1909 saw the first bond of \$35,000 and 1910 saw the second bond of \$10,000; there were many others from time to time in amounts of \$25,000 to \$50,000.

In 1911, Carl Wimberly, now circuit judge, was elected city recorder, he held the office until 1915. Then another well known citizen was chosen recorder—E. L. Whipple, a local attorney. He held the position until 1926, shortly after this A. J. Geddes was appointed city recorder and he held the office until 1947. Geddes is now justice of the peace.

Numerous improvement bonds were issued during the years up to 1920 for re-financing delinquent property that defaulted in paying sewer and street improvements. The council meetings of these years must have lasted late into the night as considerable work was connected with the improvements, such as ordinances, hearings, awarding of contracts to cover improvements made. There were as high as 14 jobs going at the same time in 1914.

**Heavy Bond Issues**  
 Ordinance No. 610 was passed and presented to the qualified voters of the city on Jun 3, 1915, calling a special election to bond the city for \$300,000 to construct a railroad to Rock creek; above Idley.

At about this same time another election was held to construct a railroad to Cook Bay; this was to cost \$500,000.

The proposition to Rock Creek failed as there were no bids to sell the bonds. There were 721 votes cast of which 643 voted yes

and 78 voted no. The plan was for the city to finance the project and lease the line to a company known as the Eastern and Roseburg Railroad company. Plans were drawn and right-of-way secured to construct the railroad.

On the proposed railroad to Cook Bay, which was voted by the citizens of Roseburg in the amount of \$500,000, the city was to form a commission to handle the affairs and operate the line. This was also repealed later as bonds could not be sold.

It is well to note that the citizens in 1914 and 1915 were anxious to improve and advance Roseburg. The citizens voted two bond issues, one for \$300,000 and the other for \$500,000, while having a bonded indebtedness for other city improvements of over \$125,000, making a total bonded indebtedness of \$925,000 or 45 percent of the total assessed valuation of the city. It seems that regardless of the amount of the issue the electors were in favor of it.

If the city of Roseburg today issued bonds in the amount of 45 percent of the total value of the city's present assessed valuation of \$7,323,000, the bonded indebtedness would be over \$3,395,500. This would be impossible to do as the bonds could not be sold.

On April 20, 1920, another bond issue was approved for \$500,000 to purchase the Light, Power and Water companies. The proposal passed with a total vote of 1007-yes 590 - no 417. The bonds to expire at the end of 30 years.

On the same ballot was a proposal to purchase property for an airport and public park in the amount of \$7,000, to be located south of the city. Bonds were not sold.

The total budget requirements for the year 1925 were \$11,412.94. This was for maintenance only.

A referendum was voted upon to stop the airport purchase measure which voted yes to build an airport 648 - no 709.

**Street Lights Installed**  
 The street lighting system, recently replaced with the new system of mercury vapor luminaires, was installed in 1923 at a total cost of \$10,799.50. There were 53 light standards.

The city in February 1934 issued \$80,000 in refunding bonds for city improvements and on Sept. 1, issued \$35,000 more. Still later another for \$15,000 was issued. Years prior to 1935 saw a grand spending spree to provide necessary facilities. The city is fortunate today because of the spending of money years ago for sewers and streets. We are not in debt today and have the facilities even though they are in bad shape.

**Library Building Bought**  
 March 24, 1924, saw another bond issue of \$18,000 to provide library facilities. The issue passed 2 to 1. The present library building was purchased for \$12,000.

July, 1924 saw still another bond of \$15,000 sold for fire equipment. The present truck

was bought from Howard Cooper corporation for \$14,444.

Ordinance No. 929 was for the issuance of \$50,000 for general improvement bonds to refund improvements on street-sewers.

**Airport Site Bought**  
 A general obligation bond in the amount of \$25,000 was held

to acquire the present airport property. Since the first property was bought considerable more was spent for added improvements.

It can be assumed that with the amount spent by W.P.A. and special funds from the general fund, the total cost has been near \$100,000.

A charter election was held on Nov. 4, 1930, to vote on two measures. One was a proposal to purchase the present Soldiers home property. A bond issue was approved for \$125,000. The vote in favor was 1362 yes and 66 no. The property was bought and presented to the federal government. The city of Roseburg is still paying off this bond. At the end of July next there will still be \$11,000 left to pay. Some property was purchased outright and some was condemned to provide the property as needed for the Soldiers home.

On Jan. 28, 1932, refunding

bonds were sold to refinance the city hall bonds. Remember the City Hall was built in 1892 for \$7,020.00.

A general obligation bond in the amount of \$100,000 was approved in August of 1933 to provide a sewage disposal plant. The vote was yes 612, no 92. The present sewage plant was constructed and is in perfect condition today. Roseburg is one of the few cities in Oregon that does have adequate sewage disposal facilities.

More refunding bonds of \$94,114 were sold in 1935 to refinance outstanding amounts for improvements.

It might seem that Roseburg councils had spent considerable money in past years, but it takes a lot of money over the years to improve and install facilities. A city to improve must spend money. We today are almost out of debt, because existing facilities are paid for.

SECTION  
TWO

# The News-Review

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## Flower Show Features Many Attractions



**FALL FLOWER SHOW**—The Roseburg Women's club's annual fall flower show, conducted Tuesday and Wednesday at the Methodist church, attracted considerable interest among local townspeople. The above pictures are representatives of the many displays. Top picture shows the seed and plant sales table, a feature of the show, attended by Mrs. W. H. Carter. The middle picture shows Miss Clementine Armon, Mrs. Sturgill Walker and Mrs. Leona Reed viewing the display of Mrs. Horace Berg. The lower picture includes Mrs. H. C. Pargeter, left, and Mrs. Glenn Wimberly standing before one of the many displays. (Pictures by Paul Jenkins)

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## School And Scout Activities Told At Canyonville

By MRS. H. M. ANDERSON  
 News-Review Correspondent  
 Need for a permanent meeting place for the school band and the need for more trombones, saxophones, and drums were told to the Canyonville Parent-Teachers association Thursday, by Curtis Winders, music instructor.

Instruments, with the exception of drums, may be purchased by pupils on the rental plan, Winders told the P.T. A. at its first regular meeting of the school year. Persons interested may see O. J. Monger, superintendent of schools.

Winders said a Band Parents' association might be organized here to "get behind the band."

Monger reported on school activities, stating a school play had been ordered and would be presented in about six weeks. It is to be directed by Mrs. Lela Wimberly and Mr. Dowd. He announced Nov. 18 as the date for the school carnival.

**Den Mother Needed**  
 The local cub pack, which is sponsored by the P.T. A. is in need of a den mother and two committeemen. In order to get the charter renewed it is necessary to have a full committee of three and one institutional representative who makes contacts between the pack, the P.T. A. and the district council. The representative may also be one of the committeemen.

Mrs. Ruth Parker, who has very successfully been a den mother for the past two years, would like someone to take her place. Anyone interested may contact her or the P.T. A. president. The den meetings are held one afternoon a week.

Scrapbooks made by the cub scouts, under the direction of Mrs. Parker, were judged by a committee with the first prize awarded to Larry Fuller, whose theme was flags. Honorable mention went to Eddie Parker, whose book was on Indians, and Leon Oaks who had chosen airplanes. Bud Phillips was named as being a new member of the cub pack. Boys in the age group 8, 9 and 10 are eligible to join.

Mrs. Parker was in charge of the program. The participants were students from the Canyonville Bible academy, as follows: Accordion solo, Gloria Simpkins; reading, "Lena at the Baseball game," Naomi Hixson; trumpet duet, Jerry Parker and Don Inks; a jerry trio, Dolly Parker, Betty Smith and Esther Cleavinger, accompanied on the piano by Carol Ruseck; and a piano solo, Ruth Andrews.

A social hour followed the program, with refreshments in keeping with the approaching Halloween season, served by the Tania Camp Fire Girls.

## Houston School Board Bans Use Of Textbook Written By O. S. C. Professor Magruder

HOUSTON, Oct. 26.—(AP)—The text book "American Government," used for senior high school civics classes, has been banned in Houston schools.

Only one member of the school board Monday voted against the ban after a paragraph in the book was cited.

The book, written by Dr. Frank Magruder, contains this passage: "The United States is called a capitalistic country, but it does not have pure capitalism. It has capitalism subject to increasing government control as our manner of living becomes more complex. The country is capitalistic with strong socialist and even communistic trends. The postal system, power projects, and progressive taxes are bits of socialism; and public free education and old age assistance are examples of communism. . . to each according to his need."

Magruder is with Oregon State college.

Magruder was not available here for comment.

The book has been on the State Textbook commission's approved list since 1944.

**Members Express Views**  
 Ewing Werlein, member of the Houston independent school district board, told the board the paragraph on page 37 had been called to his attention and he thought the book should not be used.

Werlein said he had always thought that free public education was one of the bulwarks of democracy. He said the effect on a child's mind would be bad when he read the book.

"When he reads about the post-office, free education and such things, he'll think they're good and he might think socialism and communism are good," he said.

Voting against the ban was Mrs. Olson Rogers. She said her vote did not mean she approved the paragraph but that she thought the board should at least read the rest of the chapter before taking action to throw the book out of the schools.

Jake Waters, a member of the State Textbook commission when the book was adopted by Houston schools in 1944, said the book is the most popular text used by American schools.

It is unfortunate for the paragraph to be in the book, which he described as "otherwise excellent," he said.

Waters said he does not know how the paragraph got by the commission.

SALEM, Oct. 26.—(AP)—The textbook, "American Government," which was banned in Houston, Tex., schools, has been a standard textbook in Oregon schools for about 30 years, the State Department of Education said today.

The book is used by junior

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class civics classes in high schools.

Officials of the department, when told of the paragraph which caused the banning of the book in Houston, said they think the paragraph is the truth.

The disputed paragraph, to which the Houston school officials objected, was from Magruder's 1946 edition. The book is republished and changed every year.

Oregon schools use his 1948 edition, which has the paragraph phrased differently.

Here's how it appears in the 1948 edition, as used in Oregon schools:

"The United States is called a capitalistic country, but it does not have pure capitalism. It has capitalism subject to increasing governmental control as our manner of living becomes more complex. The country is capitalistic, modified by certain socialistic trends. Among them may be mentioned the postal system, public power projects, progressive income taxes, old age pensions, and free public education. Some of these are so old and so well established that we seldom think of them as socialistic."

It will be noted that between 1946 and 1948, Magruder dropped the reference to some American institutions as being Communistic.

## Polio Victim Transfers With Aid Of Army Truck

ABERDEEN, Oct. 27.—(AP)—A specially rigged Army truck Tuesday took a polio victim from a hospital here to the Veterans' hospital at Vancouver.

James Beck of Elma was transported in the same iron lung which has kept him alive for two months. Power for the "lung" was provided by a generating unit in a trailer. Another generator was carried for emergency use.

The state patrol provided an escort. Miss Ann O'Connor of Tacoma, a special polio nurse, attended the ex-paratrooper. His wife drove behind the truck.

It is the second time the truck has been used to carry a stricken veteran to the Vancouver hospital. The other patient was carried from Bellingham.

A fence made out of shrubbery of any sort is known as a "living fence." One of the oldest is the hedge, whose sharp barbs keep animals in as well as out.

## Vandalism Rampant As Police Plan "Guidance"

TACOMA, Oct. 27.—(AP)—The Tacoma police department's youth guidance division staged a party here Friday night for Tacoma teenagers to "keep the kids off the streets."

Monday they totaled up the damage done by the youngsters on their way home as:

- A number of broken light globes
- Several blocks of tipped over garbage cans with contents strewn along downtown streets
- A false fire alarm calling out five trucks and two battalion chiefs
- A false call to police reporting an accident

Police Capt. A. E. FARRER, head of the division, didn't come to work Monday. He reported "ill, with a headache."

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