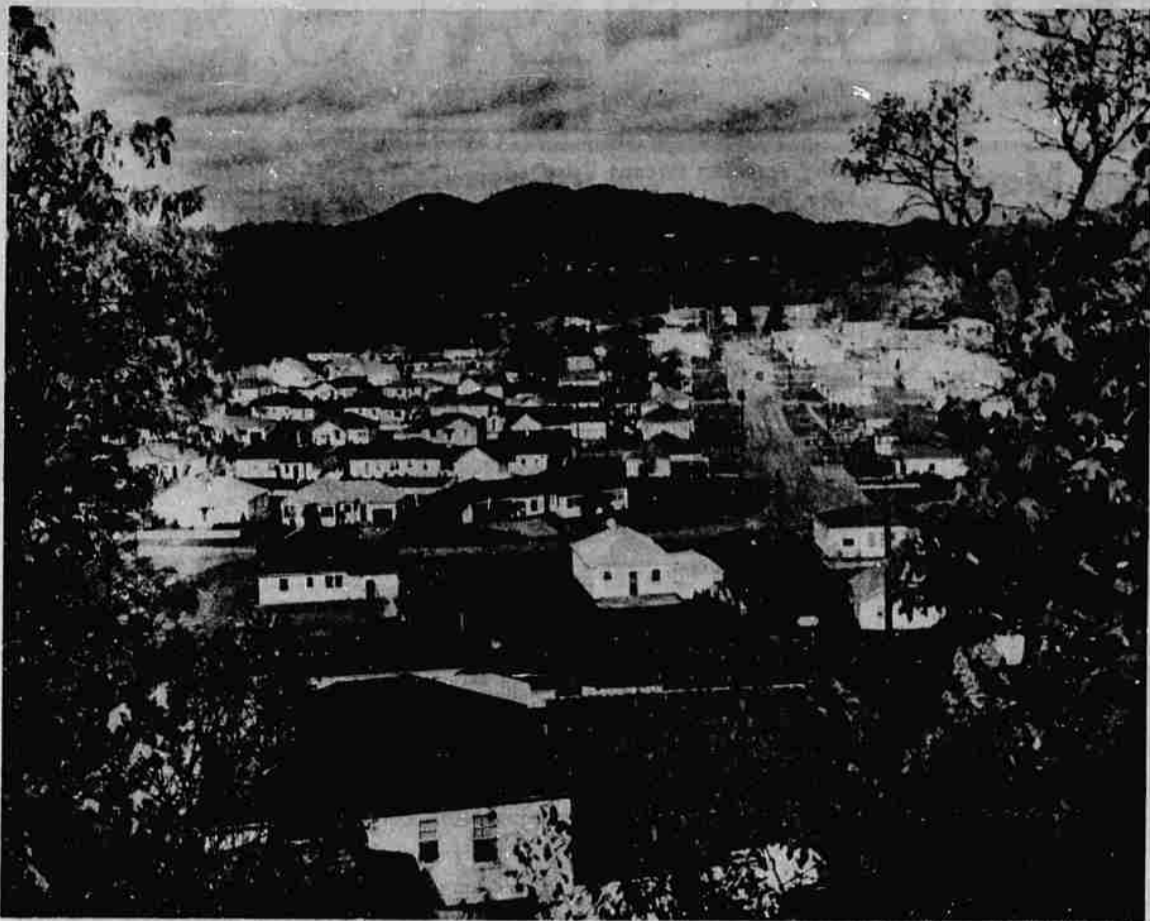


Annexation Vote Nov. 1 May Bring Suburban Areas Into City Limits



ATTRACTIVE HOMES PRIDE OF CITIZENS—As these pictures show, both West Roseburg and Miller's addition are neighborhoods of attractive homes. These areas may be brought within the city proper by extension of municipal boundaries, after Tuesday's annexation election. Picture above shows Nebovita, more commonly known as Coates addition, an area built up largely in the past 3 1/2 years. Another section of West Roseburg is shown at right, above. This area lies between Brown and Harvard avenues. Picture, lower right, shows the north slope of Miller's addition, at the south end of the city, in the valley extending east from S. Main street. See story on Page 1.—(Pictures by Paul Jenkins).

ROSEBURG ERA OF CHANGE

Lumber Industry Spurs City Growth, Prosperity Indebtedness Load Cut

(Ed Note: This is the fifth and final article in a series on early Roseburg history as compiled from city records by City Manager M. W. Slankard.)

By M. W. SLANKARD

During the war years Roseburg was just a "sleepy little city." It had never had much industry or lumbering. The area surrounding Roseburg had many prune orchards and a lot of acreage in soft wheat.

The year 1942 saw the city fast developing the lumber industry. People were starting to move to the Roseburg area. 1947 saw a complete new city in new people and ideas. Stores and business places were changing owners. In the first part of 1946 there remained only 16 merchants who had been in business prior to that time.

A vast change in Roseburg was noted in 1946-47. The city administration was completely changed and the form of government was altered by a vote of the people. At the election for councilmen and mayor, the entire administration was changed, excepting one coun-

cilman. The citizens wanted this change, they wanted improvements, they wanted progress and a progressive council.

The City of Roseburg had paid off almost all of its indebtedness over the years. The only outstanding bonds were on the sewage disposal plant and the property of the Veterans hospital.

During the war years the city had been let drift. No new work had been done and very little maintenance given existing facilities. The city had no equipment to maintain its streets, no police department and limited personnel. Some department heads had reached retiring age or were nearing the age where they would be required to retire soon.

Roseburg was on the move. The areas outside the limits of the city were fast growing. No thought was given to future planning. Plats of ground were being subdivided. No sewers were being installed. The areas were not adapted to septic tanks, but there was nothing to be done, except install sewer disposal systems as best the property owners could.

Considerable interest was shown in 1947 in regards to areas outside becoming part of the city. There were reasons for it, the

main one being that they were wanting sewers. Petitions were presented regarding elections to admit these areas to become part of the city.

True, the city officials held an election and proposed an area too large at the first election. There were other complications, however. Untrue publicity was given out by citizens in these areas, regarding the city tax structure and the bonded indebtedness of the city at that time. The city at the start of 1947 had nothing to offer as it could not maintain the city itself with the equipment it had.

Some Forward Steps

Since 1947 Roseburg has developed to the point where problems pertaining to city improvements and maintenance are being taken care of by the city itself. Consideration is now being given to changing the city charter so that the city may do its own construction work. The swimming pool is a good example of what the city employees can do. The new street lighting system is another project where the city council used good judgment. Material was bought from one electrical contractor and the installation was given to another contractor. The city did the repair work.

There has been considerable talk as to how the city council is going to obligate the city in building an airport and city municipal building. The council must act for the citizens of Roseburg. If in their opinion the citizens feel that there is need of such facilities, a demand was made on the council; they in turn will submit the proposal to the qualified voters of the city; they are the one's to say whether or not the bond issue carries.

We feel sure that in the coming election for admittance to become part of the city by Miller's addition, Sleepy Hollow and West Roseburg, people of those suburbs know that the city officials will do everything possible to provide sewers as cheap as possible, at the earliest possible date after the election.

An investigation has been made of the three areas voting on annexation. It is known that the assessed valuation of the areas are very low for the amount of improvements needed. It is known that it will be almost impossible for these areas to finance their

own facilities due in part to these low assessments.

The city administration feels that with the help of the city employees in securing the sewers and maintaining streets a considerable amount can be saved these outside areas. It is a known fact that some streets in Miller's addition and West Roseburg are almost impassable. The reason is that there is no one to repair or grade them. They are neither county roads nor city streets.

It is possible a survey will show that, with a pressure line and pump, almost all of West Roseburg sewage can be put into the present sewage disposal plant. We know all the elevations of the area and know this is possible. There is a 12-inch sewer line near the site of the Community hospital site that runs directly to the sewage plant. The lowest point on the street in West Roseburg is only 3 feet, 6 inches lower than the top of the manhole. The flow line of the sewage in the manhole is considerably lower than parts of the area to serve with sewage. However, this does not mean that we do not need a sewage plant down near the river.

Our own officials will make a survey and come to a conclusion as to what will be needed, at the lowest possible cost to the area. Miller's addition has a much different problem than West Roseburg, in that there is considerable rock formation to consider.

In submitting the past history of Roseburg, we hope that much knowledge has been gained by the citizens of the problems confronting your city officials, both past and present.

CONTRACTOR KILLED

PORTLAND, Oct. 31. — (AP) — Charles M. Wilson, 50, an excavating contractor, was killed Friday when the shovel of a scoopmobile he was repairing fell on him. Police said Wilson apparently touched a lever releasing the shovel.

Reported Gold Strike On Yukon River Proves Disillusioning; Old Timers Throw "Cold Water" On Prospects

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, Oct. 31.—(AP)—As the first "gold strike" excitement was subsiding, some old Alaska hands threw cold water Thursday on gold prospects of the new mining claim area at Fishwheel.

At the same time, air lines here said reports of plane loads of gold rushers flying in from the States were not substantiated. Pan American Airways, Alaska Airlines and Golden North Airways said there was no increase in passenger traffic from outside. The report of several plane loads arriving came from Washington, D. C., yesterday.

One of the bluntest "cold water" reports came from Tom Wilson, a steamfitter who returned from the Yukon river gold rush scene.

"There is no gold in Fishwheel," he said. He said he had talked to 20 men who staked claims but found no gold.

"It's a shame to get those poor devils up there who don't know anything about this Arctic weather," he declared. "Poor Cheschakos in plain stateside overcoats; no heat, no food, no nothing but hope that apparently has sprung from somebody's dream."

Tony Sanich, who founded the famed Pack Train restaurant in

Skagway in the 1897 rush and later made a fortune in the stampede to Atlin, B. C., added:

"You don't find gold worth stampeding for on the Yukon flats. I hope it's true, but I don't think it can be."

He suggested "you make your money in business, not out on the creeks."

Residents of this city, closest to the Yukon river rush area 160 miles away, were amused at tales of an influx of prostitutes and gamblers. Persons returning from the scene said there was none of either and the existing conditions weren't conducive to them.

In fact, the old-time gold rushers would hardly recognize Fairbanks as the overgrown settlement they once knew. Gambling is under official ban here. Even slot machines and punchboards are inoperative. The only open card games are "pan" indulged in by some of the oldtimers.

Bomber Successful In Test At 83 Sub-Zero

SEATTLE, Oct. 31.—(AP)—The Boeing Airplane company reported Thursday a specially-equipped B-50 bomber has completed successful Arctic tests at temperatures down to 83 below.

The company said the plane went through a two-hour test at the 83-below temperature. It flew for prolonged periods at temperatures ranging upward from 40 degrees (Fahrenheit) below zero. Modifications for the superfortress included a self-contained engine pre-heating system, cold-starting accessories and a special oil dilution system. There were 640 installations to record temperatures in almost every portion of the big plane.

WANT HER ON JOB
SALEM.—(P)—Mrs. Ella Wilson who is retiring after 35 years with the State fair staff, has been asked in a petition to continue as secretary to the fair manager.

Between 250 and 300 livestock exhibitors presented the petition to Gov. Douglas McKay.

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