

Bell Terms County Planning As 'Order'

Initial work of Douglas County's new planning commission is starting to take shape, and with it come many questions about what the work of the planning commission will be.

J. Haslett Bell of Portland, planning consultant hired on a part-time basis by the county, explains that the word "planning" as applied to guidance of county development means "order." Orderly development applies mainly to those parts of the county where pronounced new growth is taking place.

Fringes Noted
Bell says this new growth and day-by-day changes in land development are mainly in the fringe areas or in the vicinity of incorporated towns or in the new growth of incorporated towns.

The term "county" from a planning standpoint means the county area outside of incorporated towns and outside of federal land, such as national forests.

Initial planning studies will point toward the belts of "built-up" or urbanized land areas outside city limits. Douglas County cities are overflowing to the point that city growth and development is spread far beyond established city limits.

Every now and then, it is pointed out, farmers, ranch owners or timber tract owners ask, "How does this county planning affect me? Are my farm or farm buildings going to be subject to new county regulations?"

The answer to these questions is "no," Bell assures. The Oregon County Planning Law passed in 1947, in the section explaining the work of the county planning commission, says, "No ordinance adopted under this act shall regulate lands used for grazing, agriculture, horticulture or for the growing of timber."

Oregon's adoption of the county planning law came about seven years ago when it became apparent the city growth outside official city limits was developing problems that were giving great concern to several cities within the state.

Unguided Growth
This unguided growth outside the cities was, in some cases, greater than the growth inside the cities. As far back as 1947, new residential developments and new industrial plant locations in the vicinity areas were greater than those within the city. Most cities

are too crowded to afford space for new residential or industrial developments.

Around the larger cities of the state, the city fringe development was so rapid that streets were laid out without proper thought of extending or connecting with the city's street pattern. This makes vehicular circulation very difficult.

In the case of new residential developments in suburban areas, the first needs are for adequate and pure water supply and proper sewage disposal facilities. Rapid growth usually makes it impossible for a city to extend water and sewer lines into the area. The city cannot meet the financial problem, and its facilities usually are not designed to take such an increased load.

The fringe growth went ahead, however, through the formation of local water supply systems hastily built by individuals or by cooperative efforts of a small community or neighborhood. Sewage disposal in the new areas is generally taken care of by cesspools and septic tanks, usually one to each new home.

Because of low-priced, level land, an industry sometimes quickly selects a site and builds a new plant. In some cases, the site is in the midst of a new residential development. This hurts residential values, and often curtails the area needed later for expansion of industry.

Inadequate Lots
New homes, in some cases, have been built upon small lots, the soil of which cannot absorb the effluent from septic tanks or the seepage from cesspools, allowing the sewage to come to the ground surface.

The fringe area problems of several Oregon cities prompted the governor to appoint a committee to study them and report their findings to the 1947 Legislature.

The committee made the statewide study, and in its report recommended the need for county planning and regulation of land use, particularly in fringe areas. The resultant County Planning and Zoning Act gives counties the right to prepare programs for orderly growth.

General county procedure is to prepare a comprehensive county plan, in line with the law. As done in Douglas County, county courts can appoint a commission of willing and capable citizens who

give their time, without charge, to work on planning.

Douglas County is growing fast and has problems in the fringe area of its cities, as reported by the governor's committee. The need for attention to the problems brought the appointment of the County Planning Commission last February.

As to the commission's work, Bell emphasizes that "county planning is a patient process. No planning can be done without de-

tailed and thorough information of the county as a whole and, in particular, each problem in the order of its need for solution."

Since county planning is a cooperative effort of all citizens in every part of the county, local workers say, the first effort of the county government will be to acquaint the citizens, in detail, with the manner in which the program will produce the county plans and zoning necessary to orderly growth.



EGGS FROM HEAVEN—They look like eggs, but they're hailstones. Comparing their size with a cigaret lighter is Jack Lemonds, a Hobbs, N. M., seismograph crew member, who found them 24 hours after they fell four miles east of Lovington, N. M. He kept them in a thermos jug until they could be photographed.

Phony Cat, Mirror Attached, Invented To Rid American Capital Of Starling Hordes

By A. ROBERT SMITH
News-Review Correspondent

WASHINGTON — If you have the slightest traces of Rube Goldberg in your bones and you live in Washington, D.C., chances are you'd now be working on an invention to rid the town of starlings.

And if you succeeded, you'd be the hero of the nation's capital. The screeching of these pesky birds, as they convene in droves on building tops and in trees, goes in both ears of the forlorn residents here and whines around their brains until it reaches a howling crescendo.

Their high pitched cracking accounts for the popularity of ear muffs here well past the outbreak of perspiration in the spring. Their mass flights over town account for the popularity of parasols.

This is the capital of the starling world because it is against the law to harm the little beastie.

So about this time of year some ingenious and frustrated resident comes up with a new anti-starling device, designed not to ruffle a feather — just to scare 'em to death.

This year's invention is a plaster-of-paris cat that is in a crouched position, with its head turned back toward its midsection where a small mirror is mounted. The inventor, Mr. Gaston M. Crisp, says the starlings fear cats to begin with — and if they suspect that his plaster cat isn't really capable of springing on them, then they may bet close enough to see themselves in the mirror. Whereupon, and this is the tricky part, the starlings are supposed to get the notion the cat is ready to gobble up the starling whose reflection they see.

Mr. Crisp has kindly donated two "cats" to city fathers, who have passed them along to workmen of the tree division. They say they will try out the gadget, but they are less than enthusiastic.

Phony Owls Ineffective
They recall the Rube Goldberg efforts of former years, when they were handed aluminum owls, two-faced owls, stuffed owls, mechanical owls — all thought by the designers to be capable of scaring starlings out of town.

The owls worked for a few days. But when the canny birds began taking the same liberties with the phony owls as they are accustomed to taking with pedestrians, the authorities conceded defeat for another season.

A sadistic radio commentator recently reached the point where he determined to turn the starlings' screeching back upon them in an effort to lick them with their own medicine. He recorded one of their three-top meetings, then played it back over his nightly radio show at high volume for listeners who wished to air their radio loudspeakers at the starlings themselves.

One listener immediately reported fine success. But his neighbors complained that they got the birds he had scared away. So the com-

mentator had to repeat it for them, for doubtless they would have demanded equal time from the networks if he hadn't. That, of course, could go on all summer.

The only solution, everyone but the Birdwatchers Society seems to agree, is to put through a law allowing capital punishment to be inflicted on the starlings. This would wipe out the present law which permits the starlings to inflict their noisy punishment upon the capital.

And that's something only Congress can do. Three years ago the members of the House, traditionally closer to grass roots thinking, passed such a bill. But the Senate refused to approve it.

Which is probably why folks here seem to think many senators are for the birds.

Crime Rates Drop In Oregon, Upped In Washington

WASHINGTON — Crime rates appeared on the decrease in Oregon but climbed in neighboring Washington State during 1953, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said Tuesday on the basis of reports it receives from cities in the two states.

Twenty-seven reporting Oregon cities reported 15,286 major crimes last year as compared with 16,035 in 1952. For the same periods, 33 Washington cities reported a total of 29,422 criminal acts, a slight increase from 1952's 29,255.

Washington had increases in three categories. Murder and non-negligent homicide jumped from 28 to 45, burglaries climbed from 5,682 to 6,175 and auto thefts increased from 3,156 to 3,419.

It had decreases in five other categories: Manslaughter by negligence (31-30); rape (173-135); robbery (873-767); aggravated assault (251-201); and larceny (18,881-18,650).

Oregon also showed increases in three categories. It reported 67 rapes in 1953 as against 59 the year before, 301 robberies as compared with 260, and 201 aggravated assaults as against 168 the previous year.

Murders decreased from 1952's 21 to 14, manslaughter from 36 to 28, burglary from 3,705 to 3,350, larceny from 10,481 to 10,094 and auto theft from 1,305 to 1,234.

DRUNKEN DRIVING

Henry Newton Wolf, 62, Winston, was fined \$300 in district court Monday afternoon when he pleaded guilty to a charge of driving while intoxicated, according to acting Judge Elmer G. Baldwin. Wolf was arrested by Oregon state police. Judge Baldwin released Wolf from jail, placing him on probation.

Anchorage, Alaska, has grown from about 4,000 population in 1940 to more than 50,000 today.

Tue. Apr. 20, 1954—The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore. 3

Wenatchee Area Apple Growers Boost Trees

WENATCHEE — Apple growers in the Wenatchee-Okanogan district have planted more new trees this spring than in any of the past 25 years, county extension officials said Monday.

Extension Agents Dick Bartram of Chelan County, Milt Carpenter, Okanogan County and Jim Ballard, Douglas County, estimated more than 200,000 young trees have been planted.



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Attorney General Issues Opinion On Paroles

SALEM — The courts don't have authority to order prisoners to be placed on parole after they have completed their full jail sentences, Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Thornton ruled Monday for the State Parole Board.

H. M. Randall, parole director, cited two cases in which men were sentenced to a year in the county jail, and then ordered under parole supervision for a further period of five years.

This practice, Thornton ruled, is illegal, because the prisoners' maximum sentence by law is one year.

Judges can order men to serve part of a jail sentence in jail and the rest on parole, providing that the combined period doesn't exceed the maximum allowed by law.

The present custom of writing horizontally from left to right seems to have started before 2600 columns that read from right to B.C. when changes were made in cuneiform script which had been written from top to bottom in columns that read from right to left.

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