

Controversial Highway 42 Remains Hot Topic



HIGHWAY 42 VIEWS — Shown at left are two views of Highway 42 as it winds through rugged terrain between Myrtle Point and Camas Valley. It stretches such as this that Housewives for 42 and other southern Oregon groups are seeking to have straightened and widened. Above is pictured the east end of a two-mile stretch east of Coquille. The four-lane strip is one of the few stretches of the roadway considered adequate by pro-improvement groups. (Paul Jenkins)



Southwest Oregon Groups Continue To Press For Work On East-West Artery; Coos Bay Group In Support

By BOB CLARK
News-Review Staff Writer
Led by residents of southern Douglas, Coos and other Southwest Oregon counties, the campaign to improve Highway 42 rolls through its 11th year with the recent addition of an influential Coos Bay group furnishing extra steam.

Latest endorsement of the scenic east-west route was the Coos Bay Port Commission, which previously had given priority to Highway 38.

The commission, said to be the most influential governmental body in Coos County, threw its weight behind the Winston-Coquille route after deeming sought-after Highway 38 improvements "a certainty." Work on the latter route has been under way for some time.

Recent leaders in the fight to obtain improvements of the narrow, winding highway have been the Housewives for 42, a group of women which has carried the campaign directly and tenaciously to the Oregon Highway Commission.

Reports from the coastal county indicate the move by the Port Commission creates unanimous endorsement by Coos County agencies.

In announcing the endorsement, Port Commission President Charles W. Mahaffy said Coos residents should unite behind the campaign "so that a first-class highway will be built in as short a time as possible."

Mahaffy said the vote for endorsement by the five-man commission was unanimous.

Another Coos agency, the Coos County Highway Council, was first to seek Highway 42 improvements. It listed the project as one of seven proposals it submitted to the Legislative Interim Highway Committee in January of 1948.

Since then, the proposal has gained considerable backing from other quarters. Included among current endorsers are the Southern Douglas County Highway Assn., the Coos County Chamber of Commerce and the Coos County Civil Defense Agency.

Others who have shown active interest in completion of a wider, straighter route are businessmen's groups in Jackson and Josephine Counties. They are aiming for future completion of a modern route capable of transporting their goods to the Coos port.

in Coos County. Contractor for the project is F. L. Somers, Medford, who submitted a low bid of \$831,055.

In calling for re-construction of the highway, such groups as the Southern Douglas Highway Assn. and the Housewives for 42 have cited varied reasons why they endorse such a project.

Among the reasons set forth are the facts that Highway 42 would be vital in a national defense situation because it is the first cross route north of the California border. Another is that the highway provides the shortest western extension of the North Umpqua Highway to the coast.

Accident Rate High
The highway group noted that the number of accidents on Highway 42 is "extremely high in proportion to the volume of traffic" and said that as traffic increases and more logging develops the existing roadway "will become more hazardous."

Termining Southern Oregon "the under-privileged child of the State of Oregon," the housewives' group said the area "is isolated and has been kept isolated by inadequate and tortuous Highway 42."

A report by that organization claimed the region potentially is "one of the richest in the state," but added that the area has a history of "unending struggle against isolation" and "enforced, continuing existence under near-frontier conditions."

Improvement of Highway 42 is the only answer, said the report, to the problems of the 50,000 residents of the area who are "fighting for their livelihood" by striving to end their position of being "completely cut off from the rest of the state."

Port Access Seen
The Housewives said an improved highway would give mills and forest products plants of Southern Oregon access to export markets at Coos Bay and would attract industries to locate in the region, particularly in southern Coos County — which the report noted has no industry at present.

Another point stressed in the report was that concerning transportation of children to and from school over the highway. The report said 2,276 children were carried twice daily over sections of the highway in the 1957-58 school year.

The Housewives' report said the roadway — except for "a couple of miles east of Coquille, blacktop and a few new bridges" — is in its "original state."

"This road was built to adequately carry the traffic of its day but it is totally inadequate for present day conditions," continued the Housewives. The report noted that the highway was constructed some 60 years ago.

The report also noted that the highway currently winds at a high number of curves per mile between Myrtle Point and Camas Valley.

In summation, Highway 42 remains as a hot point of contention between groups in Southern Oregon — particularly in southern Douglas and Coos counties — and state authorities.

Although hardly as large-scale as a job as requested, the one-mile construction project slated for the Myrtle Point area certainly has encouraged the pro-improvement camp. And the recent endorsement by the Coos Bay Port Commission undoubtedly will lend considerable steam to improvement arguments.

The continuing fight for re-construction of the controversial strip will resume with full intensity come the next session of the state Legislature.

So, once again, Highway 42 undoubtedly will rate its share of the headlines in the months to come.

Curtin Sets School Days

By MRS. RUBY MEACHAM
Curtin school will open Sept. 8 instead of the 2nd as had been planned. Robert Green will be principal and teach the upper grades, Ernest Magill will teach the middle room, and Mrs. Louise Wickendoll will instruct the primary room.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Sowles returned recently from a two-month trip spent traveling as far as Niagara Falls. They visited relatives in Michigan and also their granddaughters in Texas. They were present when their first grandchild was born, a girl, to Mr. and Mrs. Cleo Daily of Amarillo, Tex. Mrs. Daily will be re-enrolled as Fay Thompson when she resided at Curtin and went to school there.

Weekend At Brookings
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Marvick spent last weekend at Brookings with their daughter, Mrs. Dale Chapman.

Miss Nancy Suter of Brookings visited the past week at the Norman Suter residence. She returned home with her brother and sister, Norman Ray and Peggy Suter, and a friend also from Brookings. They also visited relatives at Loran and their grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Suter of Cottage Grove.

Larry Lyman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Lyman, was brought home Monday from Sacred Heart Hospital in Eugene where he has been since last Friday with spinal meningitis.

Otis Snyder came home last week from the Sacred Heart Hospital where he spent several days for treatment.

Garden Valley Family Goes With Minister To School

By ADDIE SCHNEIDER
George Arola, Linda Carter and Teddy Lorenzen accompanied the Rev. Lester Olson and children to Parkland, Wash., to attend the leadership school at the Pacific Lutheran College. The young people were elected as delegates from the Faith Lutheran Church of Roseburg.

Mrs. O. F. Michel went to Portland on business on Monday. Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Tinker and two children of Idlewild Route have moved into the home they purchased from William H. Hoppe early this summer.

Mrs. S. M. Glass of Pomona, Calif., is visiting her nieces Mrs. Ray Young and family and Mrs. Charles Bigbee and husband.

Al Williams of Springfield visited Bob Claypool over the weekend. Claypool returned Monday to his work at Eugene with the Central Heating Co.

Mrs. Kittie Winniford was taken by her sister, Mrs. Eva Ash, of Lebanon and her son, Joseph Ash, and family, of Springfield, and Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Burgoyne of Eugene, all former residents of Ridge, to an old-timers picnic put on by Myrtle Creek people with Ridge and Canyonville residents invited. It was held at the Roseburg Rod and Gun Club picnic grounds Sunday. Mrs. Winniford was among former teachers of Myrtle Creek who were honored.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Fleetwood and Susan of Seattle have been here visiting Mrs. Fleetwood's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hebard. Other family members who came while they were here were Mr. and Mrs. John Hodson and family and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Byrd and family, all of Grants Pass.

John H. Miller threw an axe 21 feet and chopped an 11 inch log in one minute and six tenths seconds Saturday to win first place in the two events at the Redwood Region Logging Championship contests held in combination with the Humboldt County Fair at Ferndale, Calif. Miller also placed third in a hand bucking contest. He was accompanied to California by his wife and five children.

Another Douglas County winner was Jack Culver of Sutherlin who placed second in a log rolling contest. Mr. and Mrs. Culver accompanied the Millers.

The winners were presented ribbons Saturday evening as the gold trophies had been stolen. Trophies will be presented as soon as they can be replaced.

Green Peter Dam Job Knocked Out
WASHINGTON (AP)—A \$1,330,000 appropriation for construction of Green Peter Dam on the Middle Santiam River in Oregon was knocked out of the public works appropriation bill here by a Senate-House conference committee.

The conferees also cut the appropriation for a John Day dam from 10 to 8 million dollars and dropped from the bill planning funds for Lower Goose Dam and Lower Greenwich Dam on the Snake River.

The House had approved no funds for Green Peter Dam but the Senate had inserted an appropriation for it. The Senate had also added the House's John Day funds from 8 to 10 million dollars. The original Eisenhower budget for John Day was 8 million.

Planning appropriations of \$310,000 for Green Peter and \$550,000 for Lower Monumental Dam on the Lower Snake were left in the bill.

Family Royalty Welcomed Home From Vacation
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Mr. and Mrs. Philip J. Connealy and family returned from vacation this week and what a hubbub. They'd been gone only two weeks visiting his parents and her mother up at Decatur, Neb., but almost everyone along the first block of Concord Ave. west of Main St. turned out to welcome them home.

By latest and most reliable count there are 60 kids along this block. All of them except babies in arms kept a noisy, mobile lookout all day for the Connealy clan. Many mothers and a few fathers watched too.

At 5:12 p.m. the station wagon of accountant Connealy appeared and was quickly engulfed by 40 to 50 kids, all screaming.

Gets the Idea
Connealy finally got the idea. He was to drive around the block and come in the other way, the way they'd been expected, so they could see the banner flung across the street saying, "We Missed You All."

Hanging from the house was another: "Welcome Home Happy Honey-moosers."

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FANNING THE BREEZE—Evidently in a breezy mood, Soviet Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev (right) toys with a fan while chatting with Red China's leader Mao Tse-tung, during Khrushchev's recent visit to Peiping.

Meningitis Hits Seattle

SEATTLE (AP)—An outbreak of aseptic meningitis, described by a health official as being of epidemic proportions, has swept the King County and Seattle area this year.

Dr. R. T. Ravenholt, director of the communicable disease section of the King County Health Department, urged residents in the area to take polo shots. The disease is similar to polio, Dr. Ravenholt said, but does not usually result in paralysis.

Total cases reported so far this year is 81 compared with 18 during all of 1957, the doctor said. There have been 28 cases reported for August.

A virus has been isolated, the health official said, but has not been identified as to type.

Both young and old have been stricken with the disease which indicates, Dr. Ravenholt said, that it is caused by an infectious agent new in the area or, at least, more widespread.

Congress Backs Away From Tunnel Project

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress backed away today from construction of a tunnel at Waldo Lake in the Willamette National Forest in Oregon.

The Senate passed and sent to the White House a bill to cancel authorization given in 1950 for the project.

Costs for the proposed tunnel have increased and the project is no longer considered economically feasible, a committee report said.

The tunnel had been proposed for supplying additional water for the Lookout Point and Dexter hydroelectric power plants of the middle fork of the Willamette River.

The estimated cost increased from \$757,000 in 1948 to \$1,010,000 in 1957.

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COLLEGES GET GRANTS
WASHINGTON (AP)—Three Oregon colleges have been awarded 11 grants totaling more than \$150,000 by the National Science Foundation.

Six grants totaling \$100,450 will go to Oregon State College. The University of Oregon will receive three grants totaling \$34,250, and Reed College will receive \$18,100 from two grants.

The estimated cost increased from \$757,000 in 1948 to \$1,010,000 in 1957.

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