

Destination Eugene: RR may grow

By JUDY PETREE
Of the Emerald

Additional train service could come to Eugene and other areas, depending on conclusions of the Willamette Valley Rail Study Committee.

The committee met in the EMU Tuesday to discuss the feasibility of providing additional rail service between Eugene and Portland. Twenty-five local citizens and officials showed up to present their thoughts on the matter.

The committee was appointed by the state legislature to study the possibility of increasing train service in the Willamette Valley by 1979.

Additional service between Eugene and Portland may be set

up on a trial basis later this year. The committee will work this year on a program to be submitted to the Legislature early in 1979.

During the meeting the committee approved a proposed budget for 1978. The committee also agreed on a work program for the long-range study of rail service in the valley. Both documents will be submitted to the Oregon Emergency Board for approval.

Sen. Keith Burbidge, D-Salem, said the 1973 fuel shortage nearly resulted in disaster. "We were on the verge of being animals again," Burbidge said, citing widespread panic when people were unable to buy enough gas to meet their needs.

One objective of the committee

is to determine whether increased rail service could help avert a transportation crisis should a fuel shortage occur in the future.

Sen. George Wingard, R-Eugene, who is a committee member, said the public tends to view mass transit as an insurance policy. He said many people are reluctant to subsidize mass transit when they are not using it, but they want it to be there when they need it.

Since the long-run objective of mass transit programs is to conserve fuel, committee members agreed the public must be persuaded to use this form of transportation by attractive rates, convenient and frequent transit schedules and a comfortable means of transportation.

The committee will meet again on Jan. 31 and Feb 14. Time and place of the meetings can be obtained from the Public Transit Division of the Oregon Department of Transportation in Portland at 378-8201.



Graphic by Jim Payne

Committee consolidates parks

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

Instead of receiving three small parks, Eugene may look forward to adding one large park to its bevy of recreational areas and a committee looking into the issue will have a hefty \$500,000 with which to plan the new addition.

Discussion on a proposed \$10 million bond issue has been postponed by the Eugene Joint Parks Committee and three planned area parks have been consolidated into one large park because of the high cost of Eugene downtown land.

The committee postponed the discussion on the proposed bond at their regular meeting Wednesday morning and concentrated on the more urgent problem of how to spend \$500,000 set aside for three small parks planned for the central Eugene area.

According to Lee Coleman, a member of the committee, the multi-million dollar bond issue proposed by Ed Smith, director of Eugene's parks and recreation department, won't be discussed

until the committee's next meeting in two weeks.

The proposed bond money would be spent to build a new city swimming pool, four playfields, nearly 20 tennis courts and more city parks.

Three parks that were planned for the downtown area were combined into one large park to be placed somewhere in the west Eugene area because of the high cost of central Eugene land.

The committee decided to use \$500,000 set aside for the construction of the small parks. That sum is part of a \$5 million, 15 year levy approved by Eugene voters in 1976 to acquire park land in and around the city.

Finding that one parcel of land for the proposed small parks could cost as much as \$300,000, the committee consolidated its plans and will purchase land for one large park. The site for the park has yet to be decided, but the committee has set preference for an area west of downtown, bounded by Washington Street and Seventh Avenue, 13th Avenue and Washington Street and 13th Avenue and Pearl Street.



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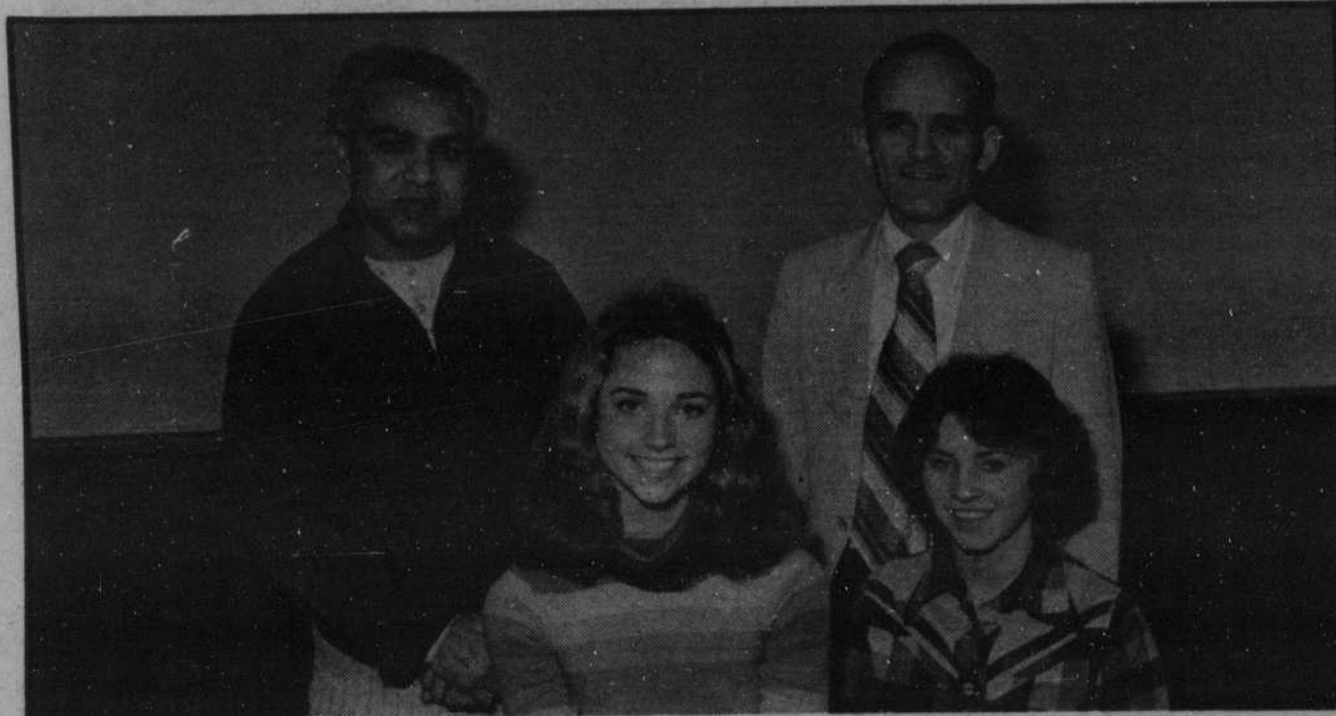
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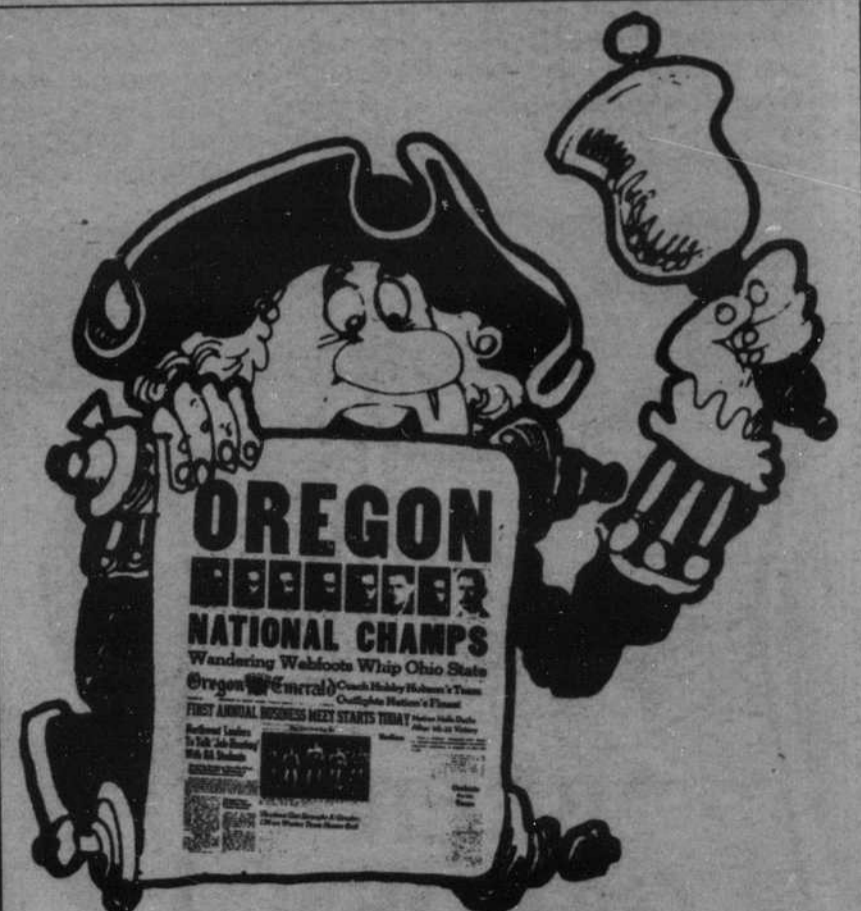
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