

# Lots Of 'Paperwork' But Little Groundwork On New Sewage Plant

(Editor's Note: The Observer newspaper is presenting a series of articles relative to the coming bond election—Oct. 2—on a new-type sewage disposal plant. The second of this public service series deals with the present sewage facility.)

BY GRADY PANNELL  
Observer Staff Writer

More work apparently has been carried on through the Post Office department between the city of LaGrande, Oregon state health officials and consulting engineers

over the proposed new sewage treatment plant than actual groundwork over the matter.

Beginning back in 1953, concern was shown by the then city administrator over the present sewage treatment plant about two miles east of La Grande.

Following a July, 1953 inspection of the present facility by J. R. Boydston, and Harold M. Patterson, association sanitary engineers for the state of Oregon, paperwork began here.

The state sanitarians collected sewage samples for laboratory analysis and checked closely the

step-by-step process of the entire plant and filtration system.

They recommended modernizing the system and the city conducting an engineering study as well as some corrective construction.

In August of 1957 correspondence was received from Kenneth H. Spies, assistant chief engineer for the state of Oregon, in which it was pointed out that the sewage treatment plant was not working properly as required by state law and that some type of construction be geared to remedy the deficiency.

Initial work was done to remedy the problem but the system was plagued from time to time with breakdowns.

**Progress Needed**

In September of 1956 another survey was made by the district sanitary engineer and in his report to city officials it was pointed out that more progress must be shown at the sewage plant on existing problems or the State Sanitary Authority would move into the picture.

Prior to this date, however, city officials had taken steps to have the entire sewage problem sur-

veyed by an engineering firm, Cornell, Howland, Hayes and Merryfield of Oregon and Idaho.

Following their initial survey, the firm contacted Fred Young, city manager, and stated that the existing treatment plant for La Grande is completely inadequate for this task. "From our study thus far," the letter stated, "it is obvious that a substantial construction project will be necessary to accomplish the desired results, which fact would indicate the desirability of careful planning of the entire improvement project required."

The city manager had earlier informed the consulting engineers that during a period of heavy rains, water had flooded out of manholes dumping sewage on streets in the low-lying areas.

**Sewage Seepage**

The engineers said that sewage seepage during flooding could be eliminated with stop-gap construction of a sort, but this would be expensive and the firm recommended an overall program that could be financed by a single bond issue that would satisfy both the needs of the collection system and the sewage treatment.

Deputy State Sanitary Engineer Spies told the consulting engineers and city officials in December of 1957 that the possible use of a raw sewage lagoon or oxidation pond in place of conventional secondary treatment would depend upon the availability of a suitable site of adequate area and proper location.

However, he questioned a lagoon-type treatment facility in that climatic conditions prevailing in this area might cause such a pond to become frozen over during the winter and create septic conditions.

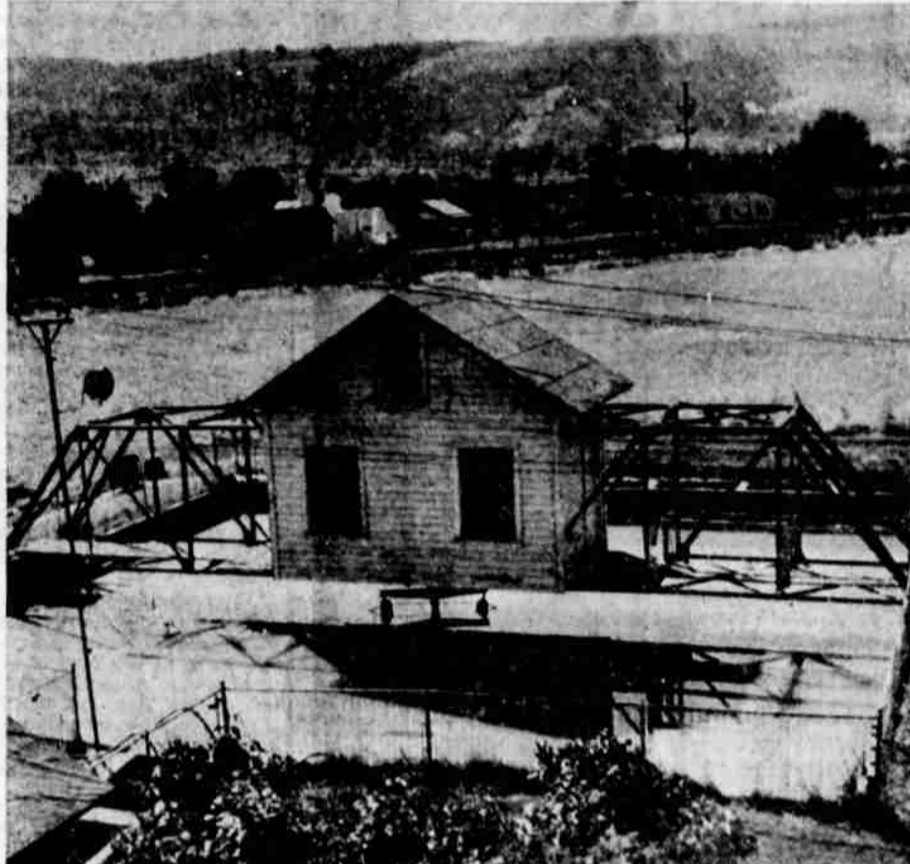
Spies urged La Grande officials to file an application with the state authority for possible federal financing of such a project when the city determined the type and extent of its sewage project.

**Handles Everything**

The present sewage facility is handling everything despite some breakdowns, but the plant is not working properly, according to George Udy who supervises the entire phase of operation.

One of the first units the raw sewage enters is the screen house where paper and bulky objects

See PAPERWORK On Page 8



**CITY SEWAGE 'CLARIFIER' HOUSE**

This is the first main building at the La Grande sewage treatment plant located two miles east of the city. All sludge matter forms in deep pool beneath this structure from where it is "digested" in clarifier and forced into sludge pumps for further treatment.

# LA GRANDE OBSERVER

3rd Issue 64th Year LA GRANDE, ORE., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1959 8 Pages Five Cents

## Enterprise Man Hurt Critically

UPPER PERRY (Special)—Two men were injured, one critically in a head-on collision early this morning between a station wagon driven by Lantz Wayne Trump of Enterprise and a Consolidated Freightways truck.

Oregon State Police out of La Grande investigated at the accident scene. Their complete report had not been filed by Observer presstime, with no citation issued or name of the truck driver immediately available.

Trump and a passenger, James Victor, were rushed to the Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande where Trump's condition was listed as "very critical."

Attending physician for the "critical" victim said the top part of Trump's head was practically torn off from being pierced by the steering wheel of the station wagon. Victor was only slightly injured in the mishap.

The accident occurred near the Upper Perry bridge before 5 a.m.

## Ike Gains Win By Slim Edge On Works Bill

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The House refused by one vote today to override President Eisenhower's veto of the \$1,206,748,549 public works bill to give him a stunning legislative victory.

The vote upset all advance predictions and kept intact Eisenhower's record of never having lost a veto showdown with Congress.

In a setback to Democratic leaders, the House voted 174-138 to override. This was one vote short of the required two-thirds margin.

The narrow margin was achieved when several Republicans who had voted to override the veto changed their votes after the roll call had been completed.

The premier has already expressed his opposition to a U.N. debate on Tibet, but the huge crowd which turned out to welcome the refugee god-king appeared to indicate wide popular support for his plea.

As the Lama left his special air-conditioned railway car, the crowd surged forward shouting "Long live the Dalai!" "Down with Chinese imperialism!" and "Chinese, get out of Tibet!"

**Form Flying Wedge**

Police had to form a flying wedge to force a way through the cheering crowd to the car waiting for the Dalai.

The Communist conquest of Tibet set the stage for the reported Red invasions of India and the protectorates of Bhutan and Sikkim which have caused considerable concern here.

Pakistan's President Mohammed Ayub, who talked with Nehru during a stopover here Tuesday, urged settlement of seething differences between India and Pakistan so the two nations could present a united front to the Red threat.

## No Salvage Try Due On Freighter

CHARLEVOIX, Mich. (UPI)—Owners of the freighter Carl D. Bradley, which sank in a violent storm Nov. 18 with a loss of 33 lives, said today no attempt will be made to salvage the ship.

An underwater television camera Tuesday confirmed that a sunken ship located off Gull Island in Lake Michigan is the ill-fated Bradley.

There was no trace of the bodies of 15 men still missing in the disaster, officials said.

# Strong Red North Vietnamese Force Menacing City In Laos



**LOOKS INTERESTING**—Mrs. Katherine Gregory, new librarian at the La Grande Public Library, is looking over one of the books in the new department entitled "Teen-Age Books," made available to the youth in this area.

## MRS. KATHERINE GREGORY TAKES OVER LIBRARY JOB

BY MAXINE NURMI  
Observer Staff Writer

Mrs. Katherine Gregory is taking up her duties as Librarian at the La Grande Public Library, this week. She replaces Mabel Doty who retired recently.

Mrs. Gregory has lived in La Grande for a number of years, with her husband, G. L. Gregory. Before coming to La Grande she worked in the reference department of the Spokane Public Library.

After making their home here she was assistant librarian at Eastern Oregon College for four and a half years. Mrs. Gregory then became a member of the La Grande Public Library Staff working in the children's department, where she has been for some time.

Library users will find some changes. Book shelves have been rearranged to make more space for new shelves, donated by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. This makes space available for more books to be on display.

A new division entitled Teen-Age Books has been added to the

## 80 VILLAGES CAPTURED ACROSS 35-MILE FRONT

VIENTIANE, Laos (UPI)—A strong force of Communist North Vietnamese regular troops struck across the border Sunday into Laos and are menacing the city of Samneua, Gen. Ouane Rathikone, Laos army commander, said today.

The general returned Thursday from an inspection tour of Samneua, capital of the province of the same name in northern Laos bordering on Communist North Viet Nam.

He said the Communist forces captured or occupied about 80 villages along the Namwa River across a 35-mile front. He said the attacking forces was 13 miles from Samneua late Tuesday. Reports received Tuesday night said the 3,500-strong Red force was still advancing.

"They are not Pathet Lao rebels, they are Viet Minh and some black Thai (tribesmen)," Rathikone said.

The general said the Communist Viet Nam in the past two months was kicked off last Sunday at dawn in coordinated attacks on six villages.

Laotian army troops withdrew into the jungle toward Samneua, apparently without putting up much resistance.

"There is little or no fighting right now, that I know of," Rathikone said.

Asked if the government intended to keep pulling back its troops, the general replied with an emphatic: "No, we stop now."

He said royal troops would defend strategic Samneua against the Communist invaders.

The government is believed to have strong army forces in Samneua City which are capable of blunting the Communist offensive. Indications are that at least six battalions of the Royal Laotian Army have been concentrated there.

Military planes shuttled between Vientiane and Samneua today air-dropping supplies to the Laotian forces.

## De Gaulle, Ike Happy At Talks

PARIS (UPI)—President Eisenhower arrived in gaily decorated Paris today and received a new triumphal welcome. He promptly plunged into cold war talks with President Charles de Gaulle. Their first session was described as "good and encouraging."

Presidential Press Secretary James C. Hagerty said the two leaders were so pleased with their initial meeting that they decided to extend their talks by at least one hour Thursday.

Hagerty announced that Eisenhower and De Gaulle will leave an hour earlier than planned for Rambouillet, the French President's official country residence, where they will spend Thursday night. They may drive in the same car to Rambouillet—presumably to give them further time to talk.

The President stepped from his plane at Le Bourget Airport on a brilliantly colorful welcome. Paris was bathed in warm clear sunshine that brought tens of thousands into the streets to cheer him.

**Welcome More Restraint**

The welcome was cordial and friendly, but more restrained than those in Bonn and London where the crowds almost mobbed the President's car in their enthusiasm.

However, the Paris phase of the Eisenhower international peace crusade before his talks with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev is apt to prove the toughest of any on his tour.

## Nehru Heaps Praise On Menon; Armed Forces Chiefs Give In

NEW DELHI (UPI)—Premier Jawaharlal Nehru told a tense capacity crowd in Parliament today that India's defense crisis had been eased by the withdrawal of Lt. Gen. K.S. Thimayya's resignation as army chief of staff.

Nehru heaped praise on Defense Minister V.K. Krishna Menon, making no mention of the fact that he too had offered to resign in the crisis touched off by his alleged playing politics with the armed forces.

The Premier also had nothing to say about the nation's other chiefs of staff, Vice Adm. R.D. Katari and Air Marshal S. Mukerjee, who handed in their resignations along with Thimayya's. It appeared likely, however, that they would follow the general's

## Family Of Four Killed As Flames Sweep Home

SOUTH GATE, Calif. (UPI)—A family of four perished today when flames swept their small frame home only three hours after the husband and wife returned from a party celebrating their 12th wedding anniversary.

A baby sitter said David Sprinkle, 35, and his wife, Beryl, 27, returned home shortly after 1 a.m. after attending the party. Thelma George, 15, said she had been sitting with the Sprinkle children, David Jr., 6, and Star, 5.

A neighbor called the fire department when he saw flames and smoke pouring from the modest home southeast of Los Angeles.

Young David's body was found on the floor of the kitchen. He apparently had been overcome by smoke. The elder Sprinkle and his daughter were found on a bed in a rear bedroom where they had suffocated from smoke, and Mrs. Sprinkle was lying on the floor of the front bedroom near a window.

Assistant Fire Chief Q.M. Powell said it appeared Sprinkle

may have carried the boy into the kitchen and then returned to the rear bedroom for the girl when he was overcome and fell onto the bed.

Harry M. Fretz, 55, the neighbor, said he was awakened by the smoke.

"I could see the shadows of flames dancing on the wall of my bedroom and when I looked out I saw the fire burning out of the roof of the house," Fretz told fire investigators.

"I slipped on my clothes and ran outside, but there was nothing I could do. The whole place was on fire. I ran back into the house and called the fire department."

Fretz said he ran to the burning house and smashed a window. "The heat almost knocked me down," he recalled. "The smoke was terrible, and it was too hot to try to get in."

He said he fought the blaze with a garden hose until firemen arrived.

## CRIMES OF VIOLENCE INCREASE AT DRAMATIC PACE IN NATION

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Murder, rape or assault with intent to kill was committed every four minutes in the United States last year, the FBI reported today.

The FBI's statistical crime clock expressed in graphic terms the 9.3 per cent rise in crime last year over 1957.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said an estimated 1,553,922 very serious offenses occurred in 1958—an increase of 131,637 over 1957.

The figures were reached under a new uniform crime reporting system set up a year ago. They were drawn from the records of police departments representing 97 per cent of the nation's population.

The FBI used seven major crimes as the basis for measuring the overall 9.3 per cent boost. Under the new system, it no longer considers minor larcenies, negligent manslaughter and statutory rape as part of the crime index.

Forcible rape led the way last year with a jump of 13 per cent. Robbery and burglary followed closely with increases of 12.7 per cent and 12.6 per cent respectively.

Larceny over \$50 rose 10.3 per cent while the remaining offenses showed a smaller climb, namely: Aggravated assault, up 2.6 per cent; auto theft, 2.2 per cent and murder, 1.9 per cent, the lowest rate of increase.

The FBI's crime clock also indicated that a major offense was committed every 20.3 seconds last year and a murder occurred every 64.2 minutes. Forcible rape was committed every 36.1 minutes; robbery every seven minutes.

Each day during 1958, the FBI estimated that 22 people were feloniously slain. Also daily were 40 forcible rapes and 311 other felonious assaults; 1073 larcenies over \$50; 742 stolen cars; 296 robberies and 1,862 burglaries.

Of 2,340,004 persons arrested—248,439 of them females—in 1958, slightly over 12 per cent were under the age of 18, almost 20 per cent were under 21 and about 29 per cent were under 25 years of age.

The arrest of juveniles under 18 years of age last year rose 2.1 per cent over 1957, while adult arrests went up 1.8 per cent.

## Bulletins

GENESSE, Idaho (UPI)—Mrs. Mildred Reeves, 34, Imbler, Ore., was injured fatally when a station wagon she was driving overturned on Highway 95 about two miles south of here last night.

Her husband, Clifford, and their two small sons were not hurt seriously. The family appeared to be en route home after a fishing trip in Canada.

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (UPI)—A Wein Airlines plane with eight persons aboard, including six young women, crashed near McGrath, Alaska Tuesday night. The wreckage, with no sign of life, was sighted today.

## Rosellini Wants Custody Of Kids

ROME (UPI)—Roberto Rosellini is holding Ingrid Bergman's three children while he tries to persuade the Italian courts to grant him their permanent custody, it was reported today.

The children spent the summer at the Italian director's seaside villa under the terms of a temporary custody agreement requiring Rosellini to return them to their mother at the end of August.

Instead of returning them, Rosellini has petitioned the courts to vacate the temporary agreement because of the marriage to Swedish millionaire Lars Schmidt, which has been described as bigamous under Italian law.

**WEATHER**

Fair through Thursday; high Thursday 80-85; low tonight 35-40.

**Grand Ole Opry**

Featuring

SH

HIGH

SAT. SEPT. 5, 7:30

**GRAND TIME AT GRAND OLE OPry**

Frank Cook, right, sells a ticket to the Grand Ole Opry to Hans Snodgrass of the Chamber of Commerce. Tickets for the event scheduled for Saturday night are sale in stores in downtown La Grande.

(Observer Photo)