

Flood Waters Recede

Brookings and Harbor began mopping up yesterday, as flood water which had caused thousands of dollars worth of damage here began to recede.

No lives were reported lost during the storms which had sent the Smith river to its highest point on record, and the Chetco and Winchuck to near-record highs.

Traffic was beginning to move again over highways out of this area, although they still were in bad condition, and 101 was closed near Coquille. Some mail was filtering through in a round about way, but busses were still not travelling, and the area was, up till this morning, still without daily newspapers.

A steady downpour of rain which totalled 9.32 inches over a four day period at Brookings sent the rivers roaring out of their banks, and destroying property abandoned by hastily-moving property owners.

Along the Chetco, most damage was to personal possessions left in houses by fleeing owners. The Max Swanberg family evacuated their home on the Chetco, saving only their dishes and utensils, as flood waters poured chest-high through their home. Mickey Mickolajczyk, who lives in the Shepherd house also had to move as water came in, and Marge Cummings reported an inch of water in her home.

The south bank road up the Chetco was washed out just above the Guy Rice home, and the road was reported to be pretty scarey below that by Mrs. Rice.

John Hewitt at Parker's Anchorage lost a number of boats as well as the big float at the Anchorage. The dam went out at Thompson's sawmill, in Benham gulch, taking an abandoned house with it, although Lake Pleasant Plywood and Hedberg's mill were not affected by the water.

Also on the Chetco, the waters stood higher on the North Bank road than they have for many years, and for a while they covered the road near the North Fork bridge.

Bob Ismert reported Pistol river higher than it had ever been, tearing out a gap above Ken Miller's place that will take a lot of fixing.

On the Winchuck, there were reports that some houses had been washed down the river, although they had not been verified. Some dwellers were cut off at the upper end of the DeMartini place, although they had expected to be.

One feature of the storm was the rapidity with which the rivers rose, which amazed even those who were expecting it. On the Winchuck, the McVays re-

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Truck Damaged In Accident

Arnold Stone of Brookings escaped injury last Friday when the logging truck which he was driving overturned on Tryon Corner, near Ft. Dick.

Stone was trapped in the cab of the truck, but escaped undamaged except for diesel fuel in his eyes. The truck was seriously damaged.

According to Stone, the accident happened when the brakes on the trailer locked, throwing the trailer over, and the truck itself followed it.

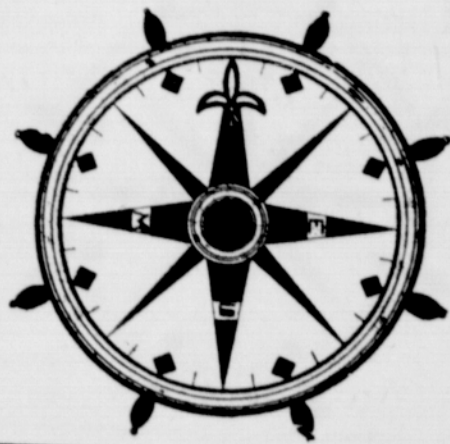
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Nowhere A Finer Climate - Nowhere A Finer Community

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Thursday, November 26, 1953



Committee Opens Charter Hearing

The citizen's committee on a City Charter met last Friday to begin consideration of a charter for Brookings.

The group elected C. Ed Dempsey as chairman, and opened discussion on the document that will be voted on sometime during the coming year.

Members of the committee expressed great satisfaction with the general terms of the charter prepared for their examination by City Attorney Ed Ackley, although they propose some changes in it. Ackley explained the Charter was a trial one only, and that changes were expected.

Only discussion in the initial meeting centered around two points: the appointment of Councilmen for unexpired terms upon the death or resignation of a councilman, and the question of whether a Mayor should be elected or appointed by the council.

Members of the committee voted to continue their discussion over to a meeting to be held on Friday, Dec. 4, at the City Hall. Chairman Dempsey said that additional citizens of the city may be invited by members of the committee to discuss the conditions of the charter.

Five Year Old Girl Violated; Local Man Held

Floyd E. Finley, 22, Brookings, was arrested Saturday on a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a five year old girl. Finley waived preliminary hearing before Justice Charles Schaal, and is lodged in the county jail at Gold Beach, awaiting trial before Circuit Judge Dal King.

Finley was arrested by State Policeman Roy Gardner, upon the complaint of the child's mother. He confessed to District Attorney Sam Hall that he had committed sexual acts upon the little girl, and medical examination verified the confession, although it showed no actual rape.

The child's parents said they had left the child with Finley, who was a friend of theirs, while they were downtown. Upon the mother's return, the child told the mother of Finley's actions.

When arrested, Finley was fully dressed and in bed, with a .30 caliber rifle, fully loaded beside him. He refused to tell Hall whether he had planned to fight it out with the arresting officer, or whether he had contemplated suicide.

Finley told the district attorney that he was on probation from Linn County, after having been convicted of stealing batteries there.

Mr. and Mrs. Perce Evans left Tuesday evening for Klamath Falls to spend Thanksgiving and the weekend with Perc's mother.

Chorus Plans Christmas Tea

The Chetco Choral Club will open the Christmas season with a silver tea on Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Baptist Community Church from 2:30 to 4:30. The public is cordially invited. This will be an opportunity for the community to hear Mrs. Rice's chorus which is gaining such a fine reputation. The chorus will present two groups of songs during the afternoon, at 3 and again at 4.

Heading committees for the event are Mary Fischer, Ruth B. Smith, Alice Rausch, Marie Funk, Bernadine Steele and La Von Wagner.

Members will be assisted in serving by former members who are not able to be active in the group this year.

Fair Weather For Thanksgiving Predicted

There was no danger of immediate future floods in the weather report this morning, according to Minna Akers, weather observer here.

The Weather Bureau at Medford predicts a fair Thanksgiving, with possible showers. No new storms are anticipated over the holidays.

Temperatures will remain mild during the next few days.

Bulb Growers Meet Tuesday

The Pacific Coast Bulb Grower's association will hold a meeting at the Harbor Rod and Gun Club, Tuesday, Dec. 1. The meeting will be opened at 1:30 p.m.

Members of the association reported that bulb brokers are paying off for this year's crops at previously agreed-upon prices, including fifteen cents for 7-8" bulbs. One broker reported that he did not plan to pay, however, until after the first of the year, but would pay at the established price.

BROOKINGS BOYS REPRESENT CURRY AT CONVENTION

The Oregon Highway Lifesaver's Group of Oregon met in Portland last Friday, and Brookings was well represented.

Art Stone and Roy Dirks were present as representatives of the Lucky 7 Club, who will form the Curry County organization of Highway Lifesavers.

The two boys were sent to Portland by the Brookings-Harbor Rotary Club, who are financing the Highway Lifesavers group here. Only catch was that the boys were stranded by slides in Port Orford, and were awaiting a chance to return home there.

Highway Lifesavers heard a long list of speakers, headed by Governor Patterson of Oregon and Governor Langlie of Washington attack the problem of carnage on the public highways. Panels of experts on the subject also debated the problem of specific forms of highway safety.

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THANKSGIVING

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The land lay dark under the gray skys, the seas lashing the rocks sullenly. Behind the mountains rose, covered with the green of trees. And beyond the mountains lay the plains, and then the desert, and other mountains, and the sea again.

It was November, then, and the people paused in their labor. Ahead was winter with its bitter cold, and the blasting gale cutting off one family from another. But behind them was their first harvest, and in their store rooms was food. . . food enough to insure them that they would live until another harvest.

And so they knelt and gave Thanks. Thanks for the meager share they had wrested from this rock-bound wilderness. Thanks that they still lived to struggle again the coming year. And thanks because that which they had won was theirs.

And, perhaps, as they prayed there so long ago, they may have heard him say:

This that you have I have given you, because you were worthy of Me. You have faced danger and were not afraid, because I was with you, and because you had faith in Me.

And, as you continue so, this land of yours will prosper. Your cities will rise, and grow, and the fertile fields will give you back their fruits, many times over. Across the lands your sons will march, and, as long as you remember Me, you shall grow in strength, and wisdom and plenty.

Through the years it shall be so, until you number in millions, and you shall hold this land, from Sea to sea. There will be no one in the world who will match you, in your works, and in your possessions, and in your strength, so long as you still shall remember Me.

The time will come, when, reaping the skills you have earned, you will climb to the highest peaks. One day you will possess knowledge and skills which are greater than you now even dream of . . . knowledge which can destroy the world in which you live, or which can open the door to new hope for all the people of the world.

And when that time comes, My sons . . . will you still remember to turn to Me?