

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
Published Every Evening and Sunday
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MANAGING EDITOR: William M. Turman
NEWS SERVICE: Associated Press, United Press

Suburban Blight

Proof that unplanned developments, either in cities or suburban areas, are expensive in the end, is contained in the news that Montclair, N. J., a suburb of Newark, is planning a big program of redevelopment.

Blight generally is thought of as a big city problem and a major reason why people move to the suburbs, but eventually it attacks the suburbs themselves.

White Plains and Rye, N. Y. are other communities launching programs to eliminate and prevent blight. All three are composed mainly of commuters and their families. They work in the cities but prefer to live in the suburbs, just as thousands who work in Eugene and Springfield prefer to live outside in an attempt to escape city problems.

Of the \$7 million to be spent at Montclair, \$4 million would be devoted exclusively to blocking blight by urban redevelopment. This would be coupled with planning education carried on through neighborhood associations, organized to protect and improve local property.

To further stabilize property values, Montclair planning board recommends increased capital investment in schools, recreation facilities and off-street parking lots. More stringent zoning regulations also are proposed.

Increased capital investment in schools is an effective means of helping to assure a high type development in new areas. Such schools as the Eugene district's new Colin Kelly Junior High School always attract a high type of residents to their neighborhoods. But a good school itself is no guarantee that developments which cause blight will not move in, too.

Taxpayers of Eugene have a considerable investment in the Kelly school—an investment which needs protection from developments of the type which destroy values. Thus Eugene taxpayers have a financial interest in the orderly development of the region around this fine new school, even though it is outside the city.

Now that the State Legislature has adopted the county zoning bill, residents of rural areas can set up machinery for zoning to protect their property values and investments. Fortunately this measure was enacted before blight had bitten very deeply into such fringe regions as the one around the Kelly school. But it is not difficult to find spots in the Eugene-Springfield area where blight already has attacked, with consequent destruction of values.

By prompt action, suburban areas of Lane

County can insure themselves against such financial loss as has occurred in communities like Montclair, where they are planning to spend \$7 million to restore values which might have been preserved by proper planning and more stringent zoning.

A dietitian says breakfast should be eaten in silence. Meaning before the kids get up?

WASHINGTON LETTER

By PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

How Much Should Prices Be Cut?

WASHINGTON, April 21 — (NEA) — Revived White House concern over high prices is something of a paradox. Six months later you may find people worrying because prices are too low.

Economic prophets are a dime a dozen now. They are about the only thing on the market which is cheap. Their predictions run all the way from continuing boom, through varying stages of temporary recession, to inevitable bust. The reader can take his pick. Probable truth of the matter is that nobody really knows what's ahead and there isn't much that anybody could do about it if he did.

Even the President has admitted that all he can do to help force prices down is moral suasion. It's never very effective.

Right after price controls were taken off last June, there was a lot of loose chatter about how the good housewife would force prices down by her moral suasion. The theory was that if housewives refused to pay high prices, sellers would be forced to cut prices. As every customer and his cats and dogs well know, it hasn't worked that way. Prices kept going right on up.

Today's real problem is to keep prices from going any higher. The higher prices go the greater the danger because price changes always tend to overshoot themselves. When rising, they go too high. When falling, they go through the bottom.

Wanted: Magic Wand With Instructions
The trick that business must perform today in avoiding disaster is to reduce prices so gradually that the country can absorb a little deflation without a crash. As the president said, they've got free enterprise—now let's see if they can make it work.

If someone around the White House had a magic wand to wave over prices and force them down, he would be hard put to know just how much waving to do.

There is no one price index that takes in all farm, factory, and business activity in the U. S. Based on 1939 prices as being 100, the consumers' price index today stands at 153. Wholesale prices are 178. Industrial production is 188. Construction activity is 254. Cash farm income is 266. Factory payrolls are 320. Freight car loadings are 150, and department store sales are 280. Averaging them doesn't mean a thing, even when the figures are "weighted" to give each its proper proportion in the economy.

But take the Bureau of Labor Statistics consumers' price index as the most familiar figure of the lot. It shows prices of consumers' cost of living items for moderate income families in the larger cities to be 53 per cent higher than they were in 1939.

There is general agreement that the prices making up this index aren't going to come down until there is more than enough of everything—food, furniture, housing, clothing, and so on—to go around.

Job Ahead for Free Enterprise
If maximum employment and production are maintained, there can be an increase of supplies for consumers, and there will be enough purchasing power to soak it up. Say that a 10 per cent increase in production would do this trick.

The question then would become: How much should prices be dropped so as to absorb this extra production and still maintain a stable economy, without a crash and without even a recession?

A few economists who have worked on this problem have come up with an answer of from 7 to 8 per cent. In other words, if the consumers' price index could be dropped from 10 to 13 points—down to 140 or 143, it would be a healthy thing for the whole economy.

This was where the index stood last July. That was just after the first round of postwar strikes and wage increases was over. Wage adjustments made up to that time were supposed to cover the increases in the cost of living up to that time. Things were supposed to be on an even keel.

If the country hadn't been so anxious to get out from under price controls and if Congress hadn't killed them off, the index might have stayed around 140.

The job still ahead of the free enterprise system is to get prices back to that level with a minimum of disturbance. If it doesn't, well—as Harry Truman says—another round of wage increases would be justified.

SOCIETY, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS
By ANN CONNELL



MISS SILLIMAN
The engagement of Miss Joanna Marie Silliman to Frank S. Lesiak, Jr., has been told. Their wedding is to take place in June.

Operatic Program To Be Presented By Music Students

Selections from "La Traviata" and "Der Rosenkavalier" will be included in a program of vocal music to be presented Thursday evening in the University of Oregon's music school auditorium under the direction of German Gelhausen, associate professor of voice.

A scene from act two of Verdi's popular opera, "La Traviata," will be offered by Clair Lewis, Camas, Wash., in the role of Violetta, and William Putnam, Albany, as Germont. They will be accompanied by Johnette King of North Bend.

The trio and duet from Richard Strauss' "Der Rosenkavalier" will be sung by Virginia Walker, Portland, as Marschallin; Ann Reeve Whitaker, Seattle, as Sophie; and Mary Louise Stone, Creswell, as Octavian. Mary Margaret Dundore, Portland, will be accompanist.

Bach's "The Coffee Cantata" will be presented by Helen Tims, Portland as Lieschen; James McMullen, Junction City, as Schlemmli; and Lowell Chase, Eugene, as the Narrator. The university a-cappella chorus, under the direction of Donald W. Alton, assistant professor in the music school, will assist, and Patricia Metcalf Chase, Eugene, will be accompanist.

Six love songs, by Johannes Brahms, will be sung by Helen Thorburn and Phillip Green, both of Portland; Eleanor Culver, Margaret McAdams, Lowell Chase, and Jack Naff, all of Eugene. Elizabeth Nelson, Salem; and William O'Leary, Grants Pass. Accompanists will be Mrs. Chase and Mary Nash, Dash Point, Wash.



MR. MRS. WALKER
A wedding of late March in Portland was that of Mr. and Mrs. Elden G. Walker of Portland, the bride (Doris Craig) formerly of Drain.

Garden Club Plans Meeting

District meeting of the Oregon Federation of Garden Club will be held in Eugene, Tuesday, April 22 with Eugene Garden Club entertaining clubs of the Willamette vice-president of this district, announces that registration will take place at the Osburn Hotel meeting room, at ten o'clock. The all day session will be held at this hotel with a no-host luncheon also served there.

Mrs. C. A. Wilhelm, state president of the Oregon federation will be the featured speaker for the program. State officers from Portland, Corvallis and Albany are also expected to be present. Mrs. Dudley Holland and Mrs. John

VFW Auxiliary Installs Officers

More than two hundred members of Willamette Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Auxiliary and guests from Drain, Cottage Grove, Creswell, Marcola, Springfield and Junction City, Mrs. Elton Olin was installed as president of the local auxiliary for the coming year, Thursday evening. Serving with her will be senior vice-president, Mrs. Bess Harnden; junior vice-president, Mrs. Leonard Jensen; secretary, Mrs. Charles Humphrey, treasurer, Mrs. Walter Burkhardt; chaplain, Mrs. William Wise; conductress, Mrs. Robert Hill; assistant conductress, Mrs. W. L. Cameron; guard, Mrs. L. L. Overton; three-year trustee, Mrs. William White; color bearers, Mrs. Allen D. Jensen, Mrs. Thomas W. Keiss, Mrs. Robert E. Wiltshire and Mrs. F. D. Witbeck, flag bearer, Mrs. Maxine Walls; banner bearer, Mrs. George Hedding; historian, Mrs. Thomas Williams; patriotic instructor, Mrs. Thomas E. Morarity, and musician, Mrs. William D. Elkins.

Club Calendar

Graduate Regents of Women of the Moose, with Mrs. Claud Allumbaugh, 8 p. m.
Willamette Women's Post of American Legion, Armory, evening.
Circles of Women's Society of Christian Service, First Methodist Church, 1:15 p. m.
American Legion Auxiliary, River Road Women's clubhouse, evening.
Eagles Auxiliary, Eagles Hall, 8 p. m.
First Division of St. Mary's Catholic Altar Society, with Mrs. Sam Watson, 2 p. m.
Letter Carriers' Auxiliary, with Mrs. Wayne Lewis, 7:30 p. m.
McKenzie River Masons and Blue River Chapter, OES, joint potluck, 6:30 p. m.
Y's Wives, Community Center, 2:30 p. m.
Credit Women's Breakfast Club's Intra-City club breakfast, Osburn Hotel, 7:30 a. m.

AAUW CONVENTION IN 1949 AT SEATTLE

Seattle will be host to the American Association of University Women at their next biennial convention in 1949.

Selection of the Pacific Northwest city featured closing sessions of this year's convention at Dallas, Texas last week. Dr. Althea Kratz Hotel of Philadelphia was named association president and Mrs. Eric Allen Johnston of Spokane, Wash., North Pacific regional vice president.

SOCIAL CLUB OF Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans will meet Friday afternoon with Mrs. Minnie Furman, 248 Fifth Avenue West, at two o'clock. Mrs. Myra Coombs will be assistant hostess.

HELMETTA CLUB of Pythian Sisters will meet Wednesday at the home of Mrs. J. M. Spurgin, 305 Seventeenth Avenue West, for a six-thirty potluck dinner. The committee in charge is Mrs. Spurgin, Mrs. Ralph Ward, Mrs. Francis Shrode, Mrs. R. M. Bedortha, Mrs. David Ward and Mrs. T. T. Parker. The evening will be spent playing games.

FRIENDLY BIBLE CLASS will meet with Mrs. R. P. Sutton, 745 Nineteenth Avenue East, Friday afternoon at twelve-thirty o'clock. The monthly Sunday School party is planned.

WOMEN'S UNION of Fairmount Presbyterian Church will meet at the church Thursday afternoon at two o'clock. Mrs. H. S. Wingard and Mrs. Ralph Patterson are hostesses.

NEEDLE CLUB of the Women's Relief Corps is to meet with Mrs. Howard Finner, 1091 Eleventh Avenue West, Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock.

AUXILIARY to Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen will meet for its social afternoon meeting Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Max Powers for a one o'clock dessert. Assisting the hostess will be Mrs. Joe Nicholson and Mrs. Frank Porter.

GETCHELL CLUB of Royal Neighbors of America will meet Thursday afternoon at one-thirty o'clock for dessert with Mrs. C. E. Smith, 445 Nineteenth Avenue West. Mrs. W. E. Barker will assist.

COLLEGE CREST CLUB FLANS PARTY
College Crest Community party will be held Thursday evening, at the clubhouse. This is to be a covered dish dinner, for entire families, and will be served at seven o'clock. A program will follow the dinner, and games will be played later. All families in the community are welcome.

MEETING POSTPONED
Annual meeting of the Ellen Hawkins Club, scheduled for Wednesday afternoon has been postponed until April 30. Meeting place will be announced later.

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MARINE WOMEN PLAN MEETING
The new women's auxiliary to Gerald Dwain Harbert detachment, U. S. Marine Corps, will meet Monday evening at eight o'clock at the Armory. Mrs. Helen Strong is president.

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