

Amazon Water Control Plan Underway

New Law Allows Farmers To Initiate Own Remedies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE solution of water control problems.

"Earlier laws," he said, "met the needs of other sections of the state, but did not satisfactorily deal with the particular problems encountered in the Willamette Valley."

Edwards listed two important features of the new law—under which the Amazon district would be created—

1. Apportionment of costs according to benefit—a principle which provides that only the owners of property benefited by improvement projects shall bear any tax resulting from the cost of the projects, and further that such a tax will be apportioned according to the amount of the benefit to each property owner.

2. The provision that every proposed improvement must be approved by the land owners whom it is to benefit, and who therefore will bear the cost.

Snellstrom said some property owners living along the Amazon are opposing formation of the water control district on the basis of an erroneous belief that "exorbitant" sums will be needed in addition to the federal funds allotted for the flood control work.

No Basis Yet
"As yet," he said, "there is no basis for determining what those of us living in the area will need to put up. That is the immediate aim of forming the water control district."

"We have to find out what it will cost for rights-of-way," Snellstrom continued. "The federal funds must all be used for actual construction work."

About Ready
"The Army engineers are about ready to advertise for bids on work to widen the stream bed west of Eugene and to divert it into Fern Ridge Reservoir, but no work will actually be done until we have an organization to obtain rights-of-way and to administer the project after it is finished," he concluded.

Edwards noted at this point that should the county court approve formation of the Amazon district at Wednesday's hearing, opponents of the plan will have at least 30 days in which to sign up owners of more than 20 per cent of the district's acreage and thereby automatically bring about a referendum election on the question.

Board Planned
He continued to explain that if the district is finally approved, with or without a referendum, a board of nine directors will be elected at a meeting of the district's property owners.

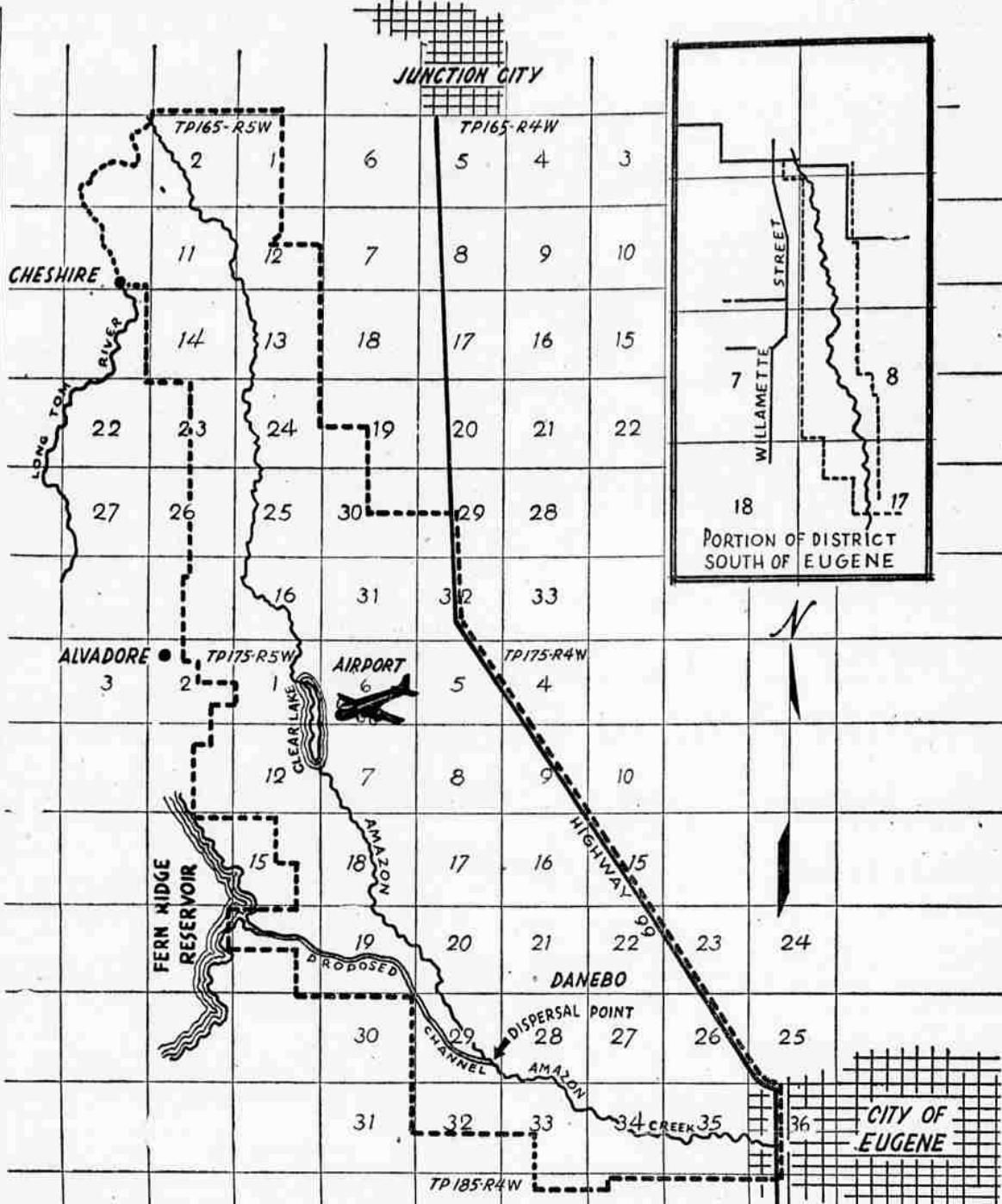
Then, should the land holders decide to go through with the flood control plans prepared by the Army engineers, Edwards said, the benefit principle will determine the portion of the cost each land holder will pay.

He explained the procedure as being somewhat analogous to that of financing city sewer improvements and compared work on the main Amazon channel with building of a trunk sewer line where all property owners share the cost.

Additional drainage work, he said, would be like the construction of sewer laterals where the expense is borne only by those to be served by them.

"The basic difference in the water control district," he continued, "is that costs will be distributed not merely in accordance with the value of the different land holdings—but also with regard to the degree in which each holding is benefited."

An estimated 10,000 desert plants are growing on 306 acres set aside for the Desert Botanical Garden east of Phoenix, Ariz.



DOTTED LINES ON THIS MAP indicate proposed boundaries for the Amazon water control district. The course of the Amazon Creek is shown extending from the west city limits of Eugene (right foreground) almost diagonally across the map to its upper-left hand corner. Numerals and map legends give township and section references. An arrow (center foreground) indicates the dispersal (or diversion) point where the Army's corps of engineers suggests that the creek be diverted and carried through a new channel to empty into the Fern Ridge Reservoir. The engineers estimate that more than 50 per cent of flood waters previously carried through the full length of the Amazon will be diverted into the lake behind Fern Ridge Dam. To provide adequate drainage north of the diversion point, the Army's plans also call for improvement of the Amazon's channel from Clear Lake to where it empties into the Long Tom River. (Wiltshire engraving).

Schools' Health Services Topic of Physicians' Meet

An American Medical Assn. conference on cooperation of physicians in school health and physical education programs recommended that each school have the services of a physician to act as medical advisor and that schools and health departments should budget for school health service programs, Dr. Ralph E. Purvine told the council of the Oregon State Medical Society which met in Eugene Saturday.

In a report on the conference held in Chicago last October, Dr. Purvine, of Salem and a member of the Oregon State Joint Committee on physical fitness, said it was stressed that good school health services are dependent upon school and community planning.

Advices Council
This should be accomplished through a health council which brings together representatives of the school, health department, and the medical professions, he said.

Dr. Purvine said it was recommended that routine examinations be made no more frequently than every third year. Pupils needing special examinations and advice should be carefully selected through teacher-nurse conferences.

Immunization
Immunization during infancy and pre-school periods by the family physician was recommended, he reported. School immunization programs should be limited to children neglected during the pre-school period, Dr. Purvine said.

Dr. Purvine declared the school health service program in Oregon closely follows the conference recommendations.

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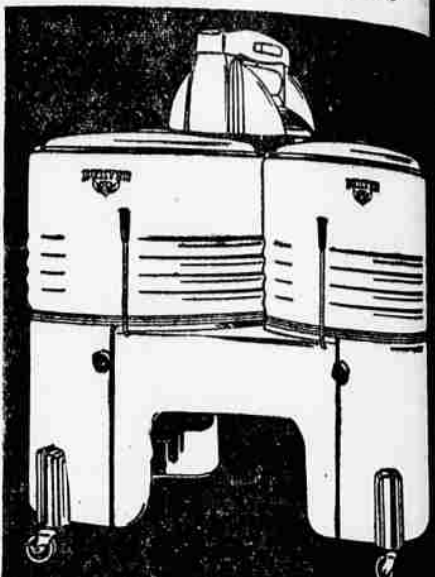
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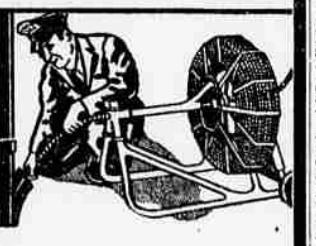
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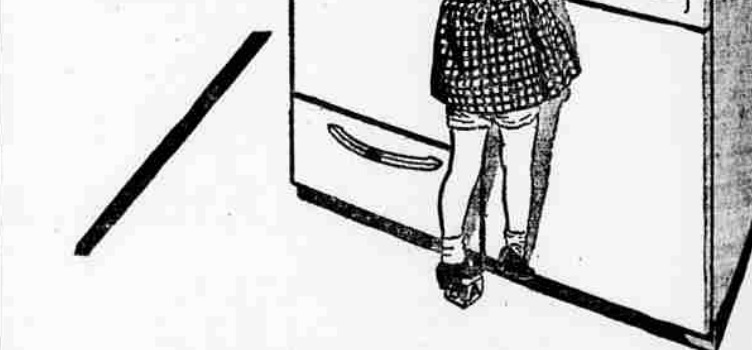
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