

Mystery Fire Trail Gets Cold

MACOMB, Ill. —(UP)—The trail of the person—or thing—that caused the mystery fires on Charlie Willey's farm was growing cold Tuesday.

"There are too many conflicting stories now about what actually happened," said state fire marshal John Craig.

Crowds Gather
Crowds of curiosity seekers invaded the Willey farm Monday, hampering the investigation by Craig and local fire officials. People flocked to the spot where Willey's five-room frame house burned down, after hundreds of small spots appeared on the walls and caught fire.

Craig said the burning of the house "looked like an accident." But he said he thought the fires which burned down Willey's two

barns were "touched off" by an arsonist.

Prof. John Ahern of the Illinois Institute of Technology agreed with the theory that a pyromaniac may have set fire to the barn. Ahern was one of a number of officials who examined the ruins.

Little Insurance
Officials have cleared Willey of suspicion. They said he carried only \$1800 insurance on the three buildings, much less than their value. Craig said he was ready to open a full scale investigation when the crowds quit milling around the farm.

"We hope to nab the firebug as soon as things cool off," he said. But he emphasized that investigators had no definite clues to work on.

WINS BLADE TITLE
NEWARK, N. J.—Dean Centurio, national sabre champion, won 98 straight matches during his collegiate competition.

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Eugene Council Mulls Parking, Takes Action on Varied Matters

'Brass Tacks' Study Ordered

No final action was taken, but Eugene's parking problems got into the limelight again at this week's meeting of the city council.

The council made ready for final action on a proposed parking ban affecting narrow portions of Alder, Hilyard and Patterson Sts. A "brass tacks" study also was ordered on the question of eliminating parking on downtown Willamette St.

The first step came when an ordinance to halt all parking on parts of the three east side streets was taken from the table and put through the parliamentary mill until it needs only one more process to put it in effect.

At Next Meet

Affected would be the section of Alder from Thirteenth South to Nineteenth and the sections of Alder, Hilyard and Patterson between Broadway and Eleventh. The council indicated that final action on this ordinance will be taken at its next meeting, Sept. 13.

Councilman Vern Hawn prompted the Willamette St. parking inquiry when he suggested that a council committee request meetings with a Chamber of Commerce group to delve into the advantages and disadvantages of a move to clear the street of parked cars.

Hawn said recent downtown congestion had indicated that either the street must be widened or parking may need to be eliminated.

The council also ordered a study of the traffic control problem at Nineteenth and Willamette. A petition signed by 189 property owners was tendered to the council urging installation of traffic lights at the busy intersection.

The council, in discussing the problem, noted that funds are not available for such a project this year unless they might be taken from the already lean emergency fund.

Discussion then turned to the advisability of installing four-way stop signs and the matter was referred to the police department to carry out an investigation for the council.

Improvement Job Contracts Okayed

Bids on four city improvement contracts were acted upon at Monday night's council meeting.

In all but one case, the jobs were awarded low bidders. However, for the construction of 733 feet of concrete combination curb and gutter on 23rd Ave. from Kincaid to Harris, a contract was let to Stien Bros., contractors, for \$1302.75 although a \$1217.80 bid was entered by C. M. Kemp.

Property Owners

This action was taken upon recommendation of property owners representing over 50 per cent of the property to be assessed. The property owners favored the Stien Bros. bid because of an earlier completion date.

For the paving of 21st Ave. from Jefferson to Madison a \$2414.99 contract was let to Inter-City Sand & Gravel Co.

The same company entered a low bid on the paving of Kincaid from 28th to 29th and was awarded a \$7204.84 contract for this work. Both jobs will provide for a 2-inch asphalt top on six inches of crushed rock as well as concrete combination curbs and gutters.

The other contract let was for installation of a sidewalk on the east side of Chula Vista between 26th and Reed Ave. C. M. Kemp entered the only bid on this project and was awarded a \$948 contract when City Manager Deane Seeger, one of the property owners to be assessed for the work, reported the bid acceptable to himself and his neighbors.

The council Monday night also authorized a new call for bids on

the construction of a sanitary sewer on the east side of Washington from 24th to 25th. No bids were received on this work when quotations were called earlier this month.

Fire Department Site Approved

The program of expanding Eugene's fire department was given a final go-ahead by the council Monday with approval of a \$2000 expenditure for the purchase of a substation site on the northeast corner of Jackson and First Ave. W.

Further impetus to the completion of the expansion also came with council action to sell a \$120,000 serial bond issue to finance purchase of a new aerial ladder truck now on order, to build two substations as soon as possible and to pay for the downtown automatic alarm box system soon to be installed. The \$120,000 bond issue was approved by the voters in May.

Bids will be opened Sept. 13 on the \$120,000 issue and on another \$30,000 serial issue, a part of \$400,000 authorized for Amazon control work.

Trailer Parking Restrictions Set

In another important action Monday the council passed a bill to regulate the parking of trailer houses in Eugene.

Recommended by the public health committee, the bill will prevent the establishment of any new trailer camps in the city, charge licenses to those now being operated and require that all trailers parked in the city longer than seven days be hooked into the city sewer system.

Effective immediately due to its passage with an emergency clause, the ordinance also will restrict the number of trailers on private lots to one on each lot.

It further requires that all trailers situated in the city longer than seven days be approved by fire, health and building inspectors before being licensed for regular occupancy.

Fewer Rent Increases Seen

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Housing expediter Tighe E. Woods reported Tuesday that fewer increases are being signed between tenants and landlords this year than last year.

For the four months April, May, June and July of this year, a total of 281,855 leases calling for a voluntary increase in rent had been filed with regional offices of the housing expediter.

This compares with 1,548,692 voluntary leases filed during a corresponding four months of 1947.

Under the 1948 housing act, the voluntary leases which permit a maximum rent increase of 15 per cent, can be entered into between April 1, 1948 and December 31, 1948, inclusive.

The leases must run at least through 1949.

Children's Chapel Planned by WCTU

PORTLAND — (AP) — A children's chapel will be erected at the Children's Farm Home at Corvallis as the Women's Christian Temperance Union's 25th anniversary project.

Sunday schools in Oregon will be asked to contribute \$40,000 for the building.

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