

Councilmen Discuss Status of Civic Center

By TOM JAKES
Of The Register-Guard

What's happened to Eugene's part of the civic center plan devised by Architects Collaborative?

Apparently not very much since the city council moved to adopt in principle the plan to put the city hall in the downtown block between 8th and 7th Ave. and Oak and Pearl St.

This is the block set up for the city's part of the governmental center. The complete center would include the land around the present courthouse for county buildings, use of 1 of the park blocks near 8th and Oak for a new city library building, and state and federal buildings in the block between 5th and 6th Ave. and Oak and Pearl.

NO ACTION

The council approved the proposed city hall site on Dec. 28, 1954. But since then there has been little action on the city's part to carry out recommendations for land acquisition or for planning definite moves, if the site is to be used.

Some of the definite moves would require a charter amendment proposal be placed before

the city's voters. Part of the provision would give the council permission to move the city headquarters from 11th and Wilamette St. Another would give the council permission to sell bonds to finance construction of a new city hall.

Monday night, the council spent a half-hour or so discussing the civic center idea, along with the proposed location of the new city library.

DEFINITE STAND

Larry Watson, councilman for the northwest district of Eugene, declared that "maybe we should take a definite stand on the civic center. I think we should bring something to a head."

Carl Koppe, one of the veteran councilmen and chairman of the public works committee, added that "I think we should pin it down eventually and find out what the people want to do."

"There's just been a lot of talk so far," Koppe declared. (The civic center plan) "has some desirable features, but there has never been a price tag put on it," he declared.

Koppe explained that "when you get on the council, you see a lot of things that have to be done." He said projects like new overpasses to the River Rd. district, new fire stations, and annexations will demand money before the city can be in a position to undertake construction of a new city hall.

But Koppe finally declared that "I think sooner or later we should find out what we can do, make a plan and go ahead."

VOTE OF PEOPLE

Jesse Godlove, another member of the public works committee, declared that "I'm not ready to say one way or the other" about the city's part of the civic center plan. "I want to see a vote of the people."

Mayor V. Edwin Johnson told the council that he believes the city will have to undertake a complete program once it moves ahead with plans for acquiring a new site, whether it be in the civic center or some other place. Council President Robert Booth said Thursday he thinks the entire matter should be referred to the Eugene Planning Commission before the council takes any action.

There's been no official action to make it referral, though.

Educational Bill Passed

OLYMPIA — A bill permitting interchange of students with other Western states has been passed the Washington Senate.

The bill, sent to the governor by a 20-12 vote, brings Washington into a higher education compact with most Western states, Alaska and Hawaii. California is excluded.

The compact would make educational facilities in all participating states available to students of other states which do not have adequate facilities. Washington's higher educational institutions would benefit from higher tuition fees than those now charged out-of-state students, sponsors said.

Oregon joined the compact group two years ago. Washington's action will open such things as the Washington State College veterinary medicine courses to Oregon students. They now go to Colorado A & M for those studies.

Educators Would Stop Giving F's

ST. LOUIS — Buck up, Junior! If you got an F on your school report card last month, perhaps it shouldn't be there.

A group of educators here for a regional meeting of the American Assn. of School Administrators say it shouldn't.

But, the group admitted in an interview, it will take time to convince your teacher, your father, and even your school board.

"We don't have to have failures in our classrooms," said Mrs. Newton P. Leonard, of Providence, R. I., president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

With her in the discussion were J. C. Wright, Iowa superintendent of public instruction; Dr. Francis G. Cornell, professor of education at the University of Illinois; Darrell Blodgett, superintendent of schools at Wheaton, Ill.; and Mrs. Irma Detjen, of Webster Groves, head of the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Chief objection to the present day report, said Dr. Cornell, is that it tells only what happened the past semester and gives no indication of what the child can or will do in the future.

Some communities, the educators said, have replaced grade report cards with the following:

- A parent-teacher conference about each child at the end of each semester (more often if necessary).

- A narrative-type report card, on which the teacher discusses each of the child's subjects.

- A group meeting with both parents and children prior to each semester to discuss the goal for that semester.

For greater benefits, the educators said, the child should have the same teacher 2 or 3 consecutive years rather than change each semester or year.

MISTER BREGER



"You'd better make the pants fit my wife!"

Boom in New Television Stations Has Played Out

NEW YORK — The boom in new television stations has played out.

More than 90 per cent of the nation's population already is in range of TV, and locations for profitable new stations are becoming scarce. From here on, applicants for new stations will proceed cautiously, well aware that a station in a community too small or with competition that's too keen is one way to lose a lot of money fast.

There were 109 stations on the air in mid-1952 when the Federal Communications Commission lifted a 3½-year-old freeze on construction permits. The commission at the same time opened 70 new channels (14 through 83) in

the ultra-high frequencies to supplement 12 very high frequency channels (2 through 13). Because of the time required to build and equip stations, only 14 new ones came on the air by the end of 1952. But 220 blossomed in 1953. A net gain of 78 last year brought the total to 421.

So far this year 10 new stations have gone on the air and 6 have called it quits, for a net gain of only 4.

Of new stations starting since the FCC lifted its freeze, 40 have gone off the air. Only 6 of these were VHF, the remainder were on the new UHF channels.

But this doesn't mean the number of TV stations will stop growing by any means—merely that the gain will be slow.

'Sick' Possum Gives Woman A Pet Idea

DALLAS — When the cook found a sick possum in the garbage can last spring, Mrs. Ted Mayborn brought the animal inside and cared for it.

The Mayborns—he's an oil publications executive—live in a big house on Cherokee Trail, a winding street in a wooded and high-priced Dallas neighborhood.

Mrs. Mayborn admits a fondness for animals (her pets include 2 squirrels, a talking crow, a dog and several cats), but possums were a new experience.

She kept the sick animal several days before she found out why it was ill. Then 9 small possums came, kangaroo-style, out of the pouch on mama possum's stomach.

Before they grew up, another sick possum arrived with 7 offspring.

The mothers weren't the devoted kind, however—they ran off shortly and left Mrs. Mayborn with 16 small possums. Then one of the neighbors brought in another hurt possum and she had 17.

One by one she was able to place the young ones with "children who would give them good homes" until she had only 4 left. Two were females she could not place, 1 was the hurt one and the other—his name's Slob—needed an operation.

Slob's getting better, she says, and the hurt possum is improving too, all of which makes for 4 good pets. "They're really very interesting," Mrs. Mayborn said.

Early Risers Have Treat In Glorious Spring Skies

By J. HUGH PRUETT
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This is the month when spring is scheduled to begin. The corner will be turned from winter on March 21 at 1:36 a.m. PST. Over the entire earth the sun will then be above the horizon for practically 12 hours. This date marks the vernal equinox.

Those who enjoy early rising can still see glorious Venus low in the southeast in the dawn. This planet has faded slightly in brilliance since the first of the year.

Mercury is lower, farther east and of much lesser brightness. Yellow, non-twinkling Saturn can be spotted well up in the southwest.

For evening study of bright stars and planets, let us observe at about 8 p.m. Only slightly south of the zenith (overhead point) the planet Jupiter glows in splendor. The planet Mars is still in the evening sky and will be seen as a red object, not unusually bright, fairly well up above the west point of the horizon.

Orion is still the finest star group at our observing hour. This splendid constellation is fairly high in the sky in the south-southwest. It is easily spotted by the short line of 3 equally bright, evenly spaced stars which mark the hero's belt. Above the belt, note the two bright stars in his shoulders. The brighter is Betelgeuse, reddish in color. Below the belt, the bright star is Rigel.

Rising just about now in the east-northeast is the scintillating orange Arcturus. This star is at the base of the Kite, a figure of fainter stars now lying on its side with the top toward the left.



VAUGHN SHOEMAKER
Pulitzer Prize Winner

Guard Adds New Artist

Editorial cartoons by Pulitzer prize-winner Vaughn Shoemaker, in addition to those previously carried, are now appearing regularly in the Register-Guard.

Shoemaker, who is 52, twice won the Pulitzer Prize for the most outstanding cartoon of the year. For 28 years he was chief editorial cartoonist for the Chicago Daily News.

He has traveled extensively abroad and is the author of 6 cartoon books. A noted lecturer, he was principal speaker at the second annual banquet of the Christian Business Men's Committee of Eugene in January.

Shoemaker is one of the founders of CBMC International.

"The work of Vaughn Shoemaker," according to the late John T. McCutcheon, for years the dean of American newspaper cartoonists, "is a happy, quite unusual combination of striking simplicity, excellent ideas, an unmistakable evidence of deep convictions in his more serious subjects, and a delightful humor."

"It is rare that these qualities are all combined in 1 man. He has them to an impressive degree, and to make his work even more exceptional, he is gifted with a brilliant artistic excellence. His drawing is splendid."

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