

Round the State

# Insulating Board Plant Purchased

KLAMATH FALLS (AP)—Boise Cascade Corp.—a Boise, Idaho, forest products firm—has announced purchase of the Johns-Manville insulating board plant near Klamath Falls.

The price was not disclosed. The insulating board plant, 22 miles north of Klamath Falls, was put into operation in 1959. At that time, the 290-acre site with its six groups of buildings and nearby timber holdings was valued at \$12 million.

It was hoped that the plant would be able to utilize lodgepole pine which grows in the area. However, Johns-Manville officials reported that market conditions changed in the insulating board field and the plant never did reach full operation.

The plant sharply curtailed operations in 1951 and was shut down in May, 1962.

A spokesman for Boise Cascade said there were no plans for putting the plant back in operation. He said some of the equipment in the plant probably would be used by the Idaho firm in some of its other operations.

# Bond Sale Authorized

MEDFORD (AP)—Sale of \$12 million of Oregon State highway bonds was authorized here Thursday at a meeting of the State Highway Commission.

The \$12 million is part of \$24 million par value bonds authorized by the legislature, and known as Series 1963 highway bonds.

The commission set Jan. 22, 1963, as the date for receiving bids for the sale of the bonds.

A department spokesman said the bond sale would speed work on the Astoria bridge project.

The state highway commission awarded contracts for 13 projects totaling \$3,131,234. The amount was 4.4 per cent under what the Highway Commission had estimated the projects would cost.

With one exception, the contracts were awarded to those who were apparent low bidders Tuesday when the bids were opened.

The only exception was the contract for the Fort Stevens State Park bath house. That went to Albert J. Mittet, Astoria, for \$20,374. Walter Mathre, also Astoria, was the apparent low bidder Tuesday, but a mistake in computation gave the contract to Mittet.

# Woman Drowns

KLAMATH FALLS (AP)—A Bakersfield, Calif., woman drowned when her car plunged into an irrigation ditch off U.S. Highway 97 some 10 miles south of here Thursday.

The victim was Mrs. Blanche Annabelle McCullen, 48. She was driving the car. Her son, Thomas, 16, who was a passenger in the vehicle, escaped by climbing out a door.

State police said the car went into the water-filled canal during heavy fog. Police said the woman's body was found in the back seat of the car.

# Reshuffle Planned

PORTLAND (AP)—Multnomah County Sheriff-elect Donald Clark Wednesday night outlined plans for reorganization of the sheriff's office.

In an appearance before the Civil Service Commission, Clark said the reorganization would break down all departments into three operations—tax, civil and police.

Included in his plans were proposals to abolish ranks higher than captain.

# Best Christmas

CALGARY, Alta., (AP)—A young Hungarian immigrant couple, George Szekely and wife, had to leave their daughters Marianna and Margit with relatives when they escaped in the 1956 Hungarian uprising. The girls, now aged 11 and 10, arrived here by plane this week to rejoin their parents. "It's the best Christmas we've ever had," George said, speaking for all four.

# No Evidence of Collusion Found in Probe of Identical Bidding

SALEM (AP)—Marion County Dist. Atty. Hattie Bratzel Kremen said Thursday an investigation into accusations of identical bidding by suppliers of goods to the state of Oregon and other public agencies has produced no evidence of collusion.

She said the investigation

brought forth nothing that would warrant filing of criminal charges against any suppliers. She said also there was nothing to justify calling of an investigation by the Marion County grand jury.

Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Thornton last summer said he had turned over evidence of identical bidding by suppliers of goods to public agencies over to one of Oregon's district attorneys for investigation.

That district attorney later was determined to be Mrs. Kremen. Most of the state purchasing is done from Salem offices.

At that time Thornton said identical bidding had been discovered in several dozen instances. The statement was based on results of surveys taken by the attorney general's office from cities, counties and school districts throughout the state.

Mrs. Kremen said she con-

ferred with state officials last week on the matter.

She said that both state and county purchasing officials told her that with the exception of asphalt products there have been few instances of identical bidding the past year.

She said that even with identical bidding for the asphalt products there was no actual evidence of collusion and no indication that the bids were anything but reasonable.

She said, however, the investigation, which has extended over a period of several months,

was continuing.

Mrs. Kremen said that purchasing officers told her that the instances of identical bidding had decreased somewhat since the state and federal departments of justice began investigations into possible collusion in public bidding.

Lee Quiring, administrator of the services division of the Oregon Department of Finance and Administration, said identical bidding often could be explained because suppliers purchase their goods from the same jobber and have the same mark-

up for resale.

Thornton said that Mrs. Kremen's statement does not mean an end to the investigation.

He said, "This whole business is very much alive and has been the subject of recent conferences... as recent as yesterday."

"There will be something more on this thing shortly."

Under law, the attorney general can initiate criminal investigations only if requested to by a district attorney or the governor.

# Meeting Calls Five UO Men

Several members of the University of Oregon faculty will participate in the meeting of the Modern Language Assn. of America and its various subdivisions in Washington, D.C., Dec. 27 to 29.

Kester Svendsen, head of the English department, will preside as president at the annual dinner of the Milton Society of America on Dec. 28.

Waldo F. McNair, professor of English, will participate in the activities of the newly formed Renaissance Text Society.

Robert W. Hartle, associate professor of Romance languages, will preside as chairman of the 17th century French section of the association.

David M. Dougherty, on leave of absence as head of the foreign languages department, will participate as a member of the council of the association and will attend sessions of the American Assn. of Teachers of French.

Chandler B. Beall, acting head of the foreign language department, will meet with the editorial board of Comparative Literature, a quarterly journal published at the University in cooperation with the association. Beall is editor of the journal.

# Plane Dives Into House

NAHA, Okinawa (AP)—A U.S. Air Force KB50 tanker plane crashed shortly after it had been waved away from an earlier landing attempt.

As the plane approached the field, one engine failed, the aircraft dipped, sliced off a 35-foot power pole, and hurtled into the home of farmer Chojin Fukuhara in nearby Yara village.

The house was demolished. Wreckage of the house, which caught on fire, and plane were spread over a wide area.

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# A Christmas Prayer

Let us pray that strength and courage abundant be given to all who work for a world of reason and understanding ☩ that the good that lies in every man's heart may day by day be magnified ☩ that men will come to see more clearly not that which divides them, but that which unites them ☩ that each hour may bring us closer to a final victory, not of nation over nation, but of man over his own evils and weaknesses ☩ that the true spirit of this Christmas Season—its joy, its beauty, its hope, and above all its abiding faith—may live among us ☩ that the blessings of peace be ours—the peace to build and grow, to live in harmony and sympathy with others, and to plan for the future with confidence.

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