

Elder's Compromise

Plan For University Use of Cemetery Land Causes Comment

By DON ROBINSON

State Rep. Ed Elder has yet to know whether his idea will be buried in a cemetery for the brilliant or a junkyard for the absurd.

The idea is something he considers a compromise solution to a problem that really began with newsmaking events in 1873.

The events of that year: Purchase by the Odd Fellows Lodge of 10 acres of land for a cemetery; and the beginning of construction on Deady Hall, first building at the University of Oregon.

Much Response

The problem today: The university wants the cemetery, now 16 acres, for academic buildings—but cemetery sympathizers want no headstone overturned for such a purpose.

Elder's idea: Retain the cemetery, keeping the graves where they are, but erect university buildings over them supported above the ground on columns.

Since Elder publicly broached his buildings-on-stilts suggestion at a service club luncheon last month public response has ranged from encouraging to less encouraging. One anonymous citizen remarked, "As an architect Elder would make a good sheriff."

The mild-mannered state representative, who was Lane County's sheriff before he got into the Legislature and had to tussle with such problems as land acquisition for public colleges, is by now accustomed to side-long looks when he first tells people about his idea.

He does not intend, "as the saying goes in the Legislature, to die for it."

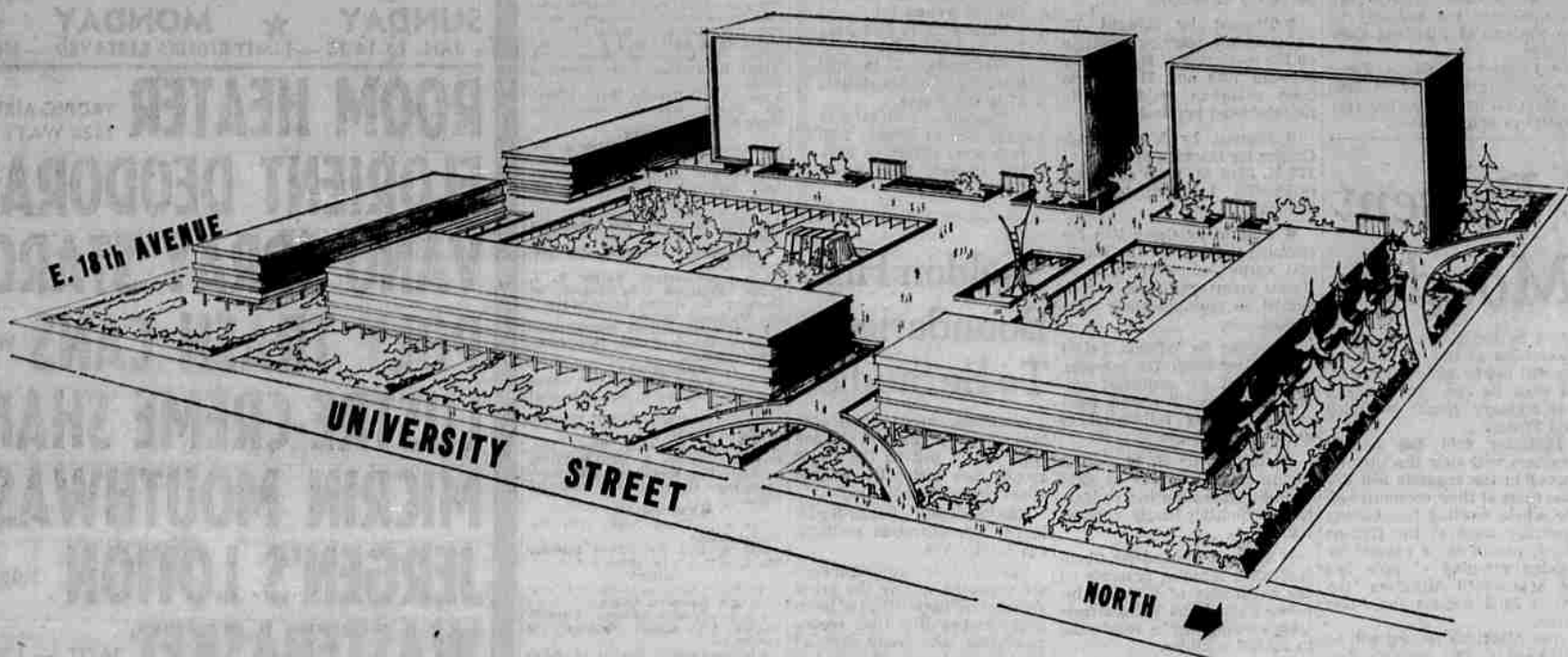
But he explains, "A lot of people tell me at first, 'Ed, that's crazy.' Then they think it over a while and they begin to say maybe it has some merit after all. I intend to keep proposing it until someone shows me they have a better plan. That stops all arguments so far."

This, more or less, is the way Eugene architect King Martin described the evolution of his thinking about Elder's idea. At the legislator's request Martin drew some sketches of how elevated buildings might look in the cemetery.

Has Possibilities

Martin said the idea has possibilities if you assume 1) that the cemetery people and the university can't get together on moving the graves and building ground-level structures, and 2) that the university must put buildings there. The advantage, Martin explained, is that Elder's plan provides for both uses.

He acknowledged that there would be problems, but claimed none are insurmountable.



Dual Use

The solution to the Pioneer cemetery problem proposed by State Rep. Ed Elder is represented in this architect's sketch. Done by Eugene architect King Martin the picture shows a number of buildings resting on columns above the graves. This sketch also shows elevated walkways to show that this, too, is possible—not necessarily essential. Elder claims his idea would give the university the buildings it wants and still preserve the cemetery as those oppos-

ing removal of the graves desire. The buildings in this sketch happen not to have windows. That is another issue in modern school construction, and their absence here is coincidental. Those who like windows should imagine them there. The Elder idea has stirred imaginations and raised a variety of questions which, with some people's answers, are elaborated in the accompanying article.

He said a plot map of grave locations indicates that structural supports could be placed logically with no disturbance of graves.

He said the movements of heavy machinery during construction could be managed by planking-over the graves.

He said the cost would be greater than ground-level buildings but not excessively so. "Many times this type of construction has been done deliberately on open ground for better flow of traffic," Martin stated.

He suggested that the graves could be marked discreetly, perhaps by flat markers. If necessary walkways between buildings could be elevated (as shown in the accompanying sketch).

All in all, Martin asserted, "It could be a place of beauty and serve two purposes."

Bill Wilson, Eugene structural engineer, said he could not offer a specific opinion without seeing a specific proposal. He noted in general that there would be problems of designing a building with column and footing locations to miss the graves and that "working on the site and avoiding the graves with equipment would be an extremely difficult thing."

But Wilson, too, said these practical obstacles probably could be surmounted.

If the buildings were multi-story structures there would be a cost differential compared with ground-level buildings but one "not too great," Wilson estimated.

The center of opposition to the university using the cemetery is the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery Assn., many of whose 400 members have relatives buried there.

Non-Committal

Three of the seven members of that organization's board of directors—Chairman Oden Monjay, Mrs. Louis Koppe, and Edwin Hansen—were contacted about Elder's idea.

All three clung to a non-committal attitude. They said, as they told Elder when he talked to them, that before passing judgment they want to see a specific proposal from the university. They did not sound enthusiastic about the concept of buildings on stilts above graves, but neither would they reject it at this point.

On the other hand, two men connected with the Pioneer Memorial Park Assn., the organization that holds legal title to the cemetery and is generally friendly to the university's desires, were unimpressed.

"I can't conceive of it being taken seriously," said John Luvaas, attorney for the association.

Prohibitive cost, the impossibility of landscaping under the buildings, and the fact that the university would still have to acquire the cemetery land were cited by Luvaas as major flaws in the idea.

(On the landscaping point Martin mentioned the possible use of ground cover, perhaps "handsome textures of gravel or sands, or even interesting pavings to act as circulation ways.")

(Elder argues, too, that the extra cost of elevating the buildings would be at least partially offset by saving what he estimated as a cost of \$1.5 million for moving the graves.

University officials have previously quoted this cost at about \$750,000.)

Sidney Claypool, board member of the Pioneer Memorial Park Assn., said, "I think Elder means well and that the idea merits some consideration—but not very much." He pointed out the loss of first floors and basements.

'Expensive'

"It would be expensive; I don't think you could do a good job of it; and you would be losing 16 acres of good building space on that lower floor and basement. That's my feeling," Claypool summarized.

Another individual, George Svarverud of Eugene, quickly dismissed the proposal. "No one I know of takes it at all seriously. It's almost like some comical suggestion it is so far-fetched from anything practical," Svarverud remarked.

Svarverud's father was a member of the original cemetery board. Svarverud himself

has expressed his own interest through frequent letters to the editor of the Register-Guard.

He said the university would still have to obtain power to condemn the cemetery and this, in his view, is "the real crux of the matter."

(The Pioneer Memorial Park Assn. owns all the land in the cemetery. Plot owners possess perpetual easements—rights to use the graves. In order to build there the university would have to acquire both title to the land from the Pioneer Memorial Park Assn. and easement rights from individual plot owners—whether this be by purchase, gift or condemnation.)

(Since the Elder proposal has not yet reached the office of the State Board of Higher Education, that board's attorney, Wolf vonOtterstedt, said he has not had an opportunity to determine whether it would alter

the necessity of the state acquiring the land and the easement rights.)

Svarverud noted, and several others confirmed, that the idea of elevated buildings was discussed several years ago. Elder agreed, although he said he didn't learn of the previous discussions until he had already conceived the idea independently and talked it over with a number of people.

Wallace Hayden, head of the University of Oregon's architecture department, strongly opposes Elder's suggestion. He said the two uses—university buildings and a burial grounds—are incompatible.

"To build buildings on stilts would desecrate the cemetery. It would be a travesty," Hayden declared. He argued that the chief characteristic of the cemetery is that graves are marked with monuments, and these cannot be laid on their sides.

Rejected Claims

Hayden rejected as not parallel Elder's reference to Westminster Abbey and some Vatican buildings being erected over graves. "A church built over a graveyard is quite a different thing from a woman's gym or a science lab," Hayden said. "If we were pushed to the

point that this is the only place left we should simply forego any cemetery," Hayden said, meaning it would be better to build ordinary buildings and forget about combined use.

His own preference, assuming that it is not absolutely essential for the university to build on this land, is to leave the cemetery as it is and to erect structures around it, not on it.

The Elder proposal caught William Walsh, president of the State Board of Higher Education, by surprise. When contacted by telephone last week the Coos Bay attorney said he hadn't heard of the idea. He declined any comment, saying, "I'm too ignorant of the plan to judge the matter right now."

University of Oregon President Arthur Flemming, with whom Elder talked about his plan last October, said this suggestion is being studied by an "internal" administration group as one aspect of the entire cemetery problem. He offered no personal opinion in the meantime.

This group's report will guide Flemming in advising the chancellor's office and the State Board of Higher Education on the cemetery problem in all its aspects. As of now permission to acquire the cemetery land is expected to be part of the state board's submission to the 1963 legislature.

Such permission was denied by the 1959 and 1961 Legislatures. Elder said he could not vote for it in 1963 and doubts that it would get past the Legislature.

Not Part of Any Bill

Elder said he does not intend to make his idea part of any legislation. "The next move is up to the State Board of Higher Education," he said.

He said the way things would move if the idea were accepted would be for the State Board of Higher Education and the university to present to the members of the Eugene Cemetery Assn. a plan incorporating the use of elevated buildings.

If these people approve the plan and drop their opposition to the university's acquiring the land, the university could come to the Legislature with its request for permission to acquire the land, while committed to retaining the cemetery and using elevated buildings.

That is where the Elder idea stands now. The opinions about it are hardly uniform, but few would disagree with the musing of architect Martin: "It is intriguing."



JOE DANIEL
President

Camera Club Members Pick Officers

The Eugene Camera Club has elected Joe Daniel, of 2195 Riverview St., as its president for 1963.

Other new officers are Frank Hickenbottom, vice president; Herbert Ezell, secretary; and Leo R. T. Burton, treasurer.

The officers will take over when the club meets Monday, at 8 p.m., in the basement of the Eugene Water & Electric Board Bldg., at 500 E. Fourth Ave.

Visitors are always welcome at the meetings, held the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

Monday night's program will feature a demonstration by Howard Lewis of darkroom techniques, tricks in projection printing and copying.

For further information about the club call DI 4-8881 or DI 4-5597.

Consulates to Close

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States will close a number of smaller consulates around the world in an effort to streamline consular service, authoritative sources report. By last count the United States had 180 consular offices; 68 consulates general, 96 consulates and 16 consular agencies.

12th Annual Conference Set at UO

The University of Oregon School of Music is making preparations for the 12th Annual Conference on Music Education, to be held in the Erb Memorial Student Union, Thursday through Saturday.

Clinics and lectures, reading sessions, concerts and exhibits have been arranged for the conference in addition to a banquet.

Max Rinsinger, assistant dean of the School of Music, will be toastmaster. Louis Arnold Reid, professor of philosophy at the University of London who is now a visiting professor at the University of Oregon, will be principal speaker.

Other conference speakers will be William Billingsley, member of the Spokane Symphony Orchestra and professor of brass instruments at the University of Idaho; Richard Ferrin who directs the Opera Orchestra at the University of Washington where he is a faculty member; and Fred Hempke, music instructor at Northwestern University, and noted soloist and lecturer.

Also scheduled to speak are Irwin Hoffman, conductor of the Vancouver, B.C. Symphony Orchestra; Ann Kern, a former elementary music specialist in Colorado, now employed as a clinician for a music publishing house; and Lynn Sjolund, choral director at Medford High School and former Oregon Music Educators Assn. choral chairman.

Registration will take place at 8 a.m. Friday and Saturday in the student union. Advance registration may be made by mail.

The three-day meeting will include conference sessions divided into four categories: choral, general music education, Oregon String Teachers Assn. and band-wind instrument. Chairmen for these sessions are Rinsinger, Dorothy Wilson, Robert Hladky, and Robert Vagner, all faculty members in the U of O School of Music.

Following the banquet Friday night, the School of Music faculty will present a public concert at 8 p.m. in the School of Music auditorium.



IRWIN HOFFMAN
Conductor

600 to Play In Concert For Strings

Irwin Hoffman, conductor of the Vancouver Symphony in British Columbia, will be in Eugene Saturday to conduct a string concert featuring Eugene and Springfield public school students.

The concert will be held at McArthur Court at 4 p.m. It will be a part of the Annual Conference on Music Education sponsored by the University of Oregon.

String players in Springfield junior and senior high schools and in all levels of Eugene schools will participate. The number has been estimated at 600.

The concert will be open to the public without charge. Byron Miller, music consultant for Eugene schools, and Floyd Ellefson of Springfield schools are in charge of the program. The university's representative aiding the effort is James Hladky, associate professor of violin-cello.

Tagus Bridge

LISBON (AP)—The first concrete and steel pillar base was installed this week for a 6,400-foot, \$60 million bridge over the Tagus River in suburban Alcantara.

Expressway Amendment

Civic Affairs Committee To Hear Report Tuesday

Eugene's Committee on Neighborhood and Community Affairs will hear a report Tuesday night on the expressway charter amendment passed by voters last year.

The speaker will be Vince Farina, member of the Eugene Planning Commission. His topic: "Limitation of the Expressway Charter Amendment and Its Effect on Future Arterial Planning."

The planning commission and

some city council members contend the amendment has made it impossible for the city to plan and carry out an arterial street program.

The neighborhood committee, a citizen's advisory group, will meet at 7:30 p.m., in the council chambers at the city hall. The public is welcome to attend.

One matter on the agenda is a report from the group's steering committee on a request by the Eugene Homebuilders Assn. that the Eugene Planning Commission membership include a building subdivision. The mayor of the city appoints the seven-member planning commission.

Bethel Water Dist. To Give EWEB Expansion Plans

Representatives of the Bethel Water District will explain their expansion plans and ask permission to enlarge their boundaries at the Eugene Water & Electric Board's first regular meeting of 1963 Monday night. EWEB supplies water to the district.

The board will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the EWEB office at 500 E. Fourth Ave.

In other business, the board will elect its officers, appoint its staff and study several project proposals, including one to extend the steam heat system to provide service to Sacred Heart Hospital.

State Man, 79, Dies in Flames

OREGON CITY (AP)—Samuel Franklin Robinson, 79, died in a fire in his trailer house near the community of Barton on the Clackamas River early Saturday.

The Clackamas County sheriff's office reported Robinson's body was found about eight feet outside the trailer. His clothes had been burned off. Sheriff's deputies surmised he got out of bed about 2 a.m. to replenish the fire in a stove and the stove became overheated.

WNF Allocated \$50,000 'Relief'

The Willamette National Forest was given \$50,000 "relief money" this week in a special allocation of funds by Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman.

According to the forest supervisor, David Gibney, the money will be spent on projects in Linn County, which has been designated an area of unusual unemployment.

Freeman allocated \$10 million to national forest projects in 32 states. In October, he dispensed \$15 million on such projects under the program enacted by Congress last year to provide jobs in labor surplus areas.

Gibney said about \$30,000 of the special funds will be spent on building a new ranger station at Sweethome.

'Cleopatra' Commands New Admission Top

NEW YORK (AP)—The film "Cleopatra" will have the highest box office scale ever set for a movie—a \$5.50 top.

The movie—starring Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton and Rex Harrison—will have a simultaneous premiere in 70 cities in the United States and Canada starting June 12. 20th Century Fox announced Friday.

Newberrys

SALE STARTS 9:30 A.M.

MONDAY MORNING DOOR BUSTERS

UPHOLSTERY CLEARANCE SALE

Nylon Frieze in new rich colors of browns—greens—golds—grays—plus many more. All 54" wide—Amount limited, so be early for your choice selection. Door opens 9:30. If on Full Bolts 2.99 to 10.95 Yard

\$1.97 Yd.

Fabric Sale COTTONS

INVENTORY CLEARANCE

of assorted cottons in prints—solids. Hundreds of uses.

Door open 9:30.

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A large assortment of attractive new prints in the new '63 fashion colors—over 2,000 Yard Selection.

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Fancy Style Seersucker

Reg. 79c - 98c Yd.

New for spring—Seersucker drip drys—all first quality fabrics in stripes and something new too. Novelty finishes. Sale begins at 9:30.

67c Yd.

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