

# Allen School fire is highlight of '63 news here

## Badly mixed weather also among major stories during past year; month-by-month summary given

By Phil F. Brogan  
Bulletin Staff Writer

Highlighting local news in 1963 was the destruction by fire on the early morning of Tuesday, December 17 of the Allen Grade School in Bend at a loss of around half a million dollars — but through the year, historic nationally because of the assassination of President Kennedy, was a great variety of news from the Central Oregon country.

Weather, badly mixed up and record breaking, also made news in this part of the state, and throughout the Pacific Northwest. Following a virtually "snowless winter," the mercury dropped to -11 in January. Then came a period of damp weather and mild months that menaced arid forests — but forests did not burn. Instead, fire loss in federal and state woods was very low.

The "inverted weather" resulted in Bend's chilliest July in 60 years. But the growing season was long, and did not end until mid-October.

As in the past, tragedy was common in the 1963 news, and most of this tragedy occurred on highways, where motorists died in crunching crashes of cars.

Deep in the Deschutes gorge west of Madras, some 1200 men continued work on a giant hydroelectric project, the Round Butte Dam. Highlights of the 1963 news, as recorded in The Bulletin follow:

### January

Jayne Lee Dieffenback first baby born in Bend in 1963. Over 3,000 skiers visit Bachelor Butte in single day. Work plan set by Judge Penhollow for young offenders. Civil Defense marks shelter sites in Bend. Deschutes County births in 1962 more than double deaths. Temperature drops to -15 degrees in Bend. Weatherman reports no moisture measured in Bend in more than month. Deschutes National Forest announces plans to sell two million tons of stumpwood. Five years without traffic fatality ends in Redmond with death of Nancy Jo Robertson, 8, struck by truck. Maurice Shelton and Paul Reynolds named by Jaycees as Bend's top citizens of past year. Dr. Ray Miller named president of Deschutes Pioneers, Rose Gibson choice for queen. Summer fire restrictions may effect Bend as dry weather continues. Lack of snow blocks out skiing at Hoodoo. "Snowless winter" ends with 10 inch fall of snow in Bend. Lunar landing studies planned for Derrick Cave area.

### February

Laddie Jordan named president of Deschutes County Fair Association. Oregon Jaycees holding convention in Bend. Little River forced from banks by ice. Sportsmen organize Fish and Game Council to seek action on deer. Gerald McCann named president. Bend National Guard unit to become tank battalion. Robert Sterling named Deschutes County agriculture agent. Jim McAllister goes to Corvallis. James O'Keefe named St. Charles Memorial Hospital business manager. Vern Prodehl named president of Central Oregon Chamber of Commerce. Bend's Micki Sickles named Winter Carnival queen. Pilot Butte Inn sale blocked by court order.

### March

Bend girl, Su Shaw, sweeps top awards at Mt. Shasta, California, ski festival. Pageant committee decides to hold river fete in 1963. Bend boy, Robert Leiker, 7, drowns in Deschutes. Portland Avenue bridge over Deschutes in Bend opened. Cecil M. Sly retires as Crook County school superintendent. Government agency warns of danger of unusually bad fire season in Oregon in 1963, result of snow lack. Fort Benham on Deschutes surrenders to time and is demolished. Total of 8,335 skiers visit Bachelor Butte in spring vacation. Warm Springs tribal council approves \$1,250,000 for developments. Bulletin publishes 62 page progress issue. Oregon Cascade passes under deep snow. City bus service ends operation. Newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. Henderson R. Allen, both 21, die in crash on U.S. 97 south of Bend.

### April

Multi-million dollar PGE dam taking definite shape in Deschutes gorge west of Madras. J. Ray Hafstad named exalted ruler of Bend Elks. Don Empey resigns as Bend High principal to accept U. of O. position. June Butler, 17, Redmond, named queen of 1963 county fair. Glenn O. Ratcliff named Lions' president. Plows operate over Cascade passes removing heavy

April snow. Wintry conditions greet anglers on opening day of season. Dr. William J. Maier named tri-county medical director. Bend men, Vic Plath and Dean Harris, save two anglers from possible drowning at Crane Prairie. Central Oregonians shift to fast time. Over 1,300 train fans join in trip through Deschutes gorge.

### May

Imperial Mobile Homes turns out first mobile unit. May snow falls over Cascades. Bend telephones switched to dials. Bend voters approve school budget by 511 to 121 vote. Bend Lions hold second annual Home Show. Central Oregon College board accepts building plans. Ray L. Talbert named Bend High School principal. Bend names 1963 Pageant court. "Red flag" warning goes up in Deschutes Forest as fire danger increases. First National Bank opens its \$235,000 building in Bend. High lakes of region open to fishing, with good angling reported. Mardi Gras held at Bachelor Butte. A. H. Haberly named Crook County school superintendent.

### June

Graduating BHS senior receive awards at assembly. The Rev. Robert H. Becker gives up county junior counselling post. Charles H. Cleveland named to Bend Commission post, filling vacancy caused by death of Don Denning. Olive Jameson resigns as Deschutes County public welfare administrator. Historic Haycreek Ranch sold for more than two million dollars. Tumalo area residents seek action against Holgate farm. Bend named headquarters for new P & L division with Howard Arnett as head. Dahl Pine plant in Redmond destroyed by fire. Deschutes county drops Civil Defense program. Pat Metke, Bend, named member of game commission. DeGre Construction Co., Bend, low bidder on Redmond Air Center. Fort Rock Cave dedicated. Bend gets Zip Code No. 97701.

### July

Sisters Man, Lewis Johnson, dies in early morning fire. Richard Wayman named chairman of Bend school board. Wildcat strike briefly halts work at Round Butte Dam. William C. Robinson named chairman of Central Oregon College area education district board. Bend merchants offer downtown parking plan. Sisters boy, Dale Williams, drowns in Scout Lake. Preparation of site for Central Oregon College, on Awbrey Heights, starts. Bend rattled by thunder in pre-dawn hours. Anne Brandis crowned queen of 1963 Mirror Pond Pageant. Thousands view opening of river fete. Newport Industries crew starts harvest of resin-bearing stumps. June Butler rules over 1963 Des-

## Mid-Oregon roads not forgotten

Interstate highway projects received the major attention of the Oregon State Highway Department in 1963, but Central Oregon was not forgotten.

New and important allocations of funds were made for The Dalles - California Highway in Wasco County, to modernize an important feeder into U.S. Highway 97. These included a contract for the grading, oiling and building of structures on the Tygh Grade - Tygh Valley section at a cost of \$1,459,000, with the work completed on October 18. The work eliminated many of the bad, narrow curves on this "road of the pioneers," a route used by early-day settlers in moving into the Central Oregon frontier. Also completed on this route was the Eightmile Creek - Dufur section, 4.93 miles, at a cost of \$751,000, and the Dufur - Gap section, 3.47 miles, at a cost of \$1,102,450.

Nearer home, a \$507,475 contract was let for the grading and paving of a 3.86 mile section of the McKenzie Highway, between Redmond and the Deschutes River. June 1, 1964, will be the completion date.

On November 22, the Highway Commission awarded a \$522,730 contract for work on the first unit in the relocation of U.S. Highway 20 across Horse Ridge, with June 1, 1964, set as the completion date. Length of this section of grade is 2.45 miles.

Now under consideration for reconstruction as soon as possible is the Tumalo - Sisters section of the Bend - Sisters highway, a unit of U.S. Highway 20.

chutes fair as queen.

### August

July, 1963, coolest in 66 years. Mrs. Hugh Lakin rules over Crook County Pioneers as queen at annual reunion in Prineville. Tourist, Miss Marsha Ralston, bitten by rattlesnake at Smith Rocks. Grange youth camp opens on Tumalo Creek. Body of Powell Butte rancher, Phillip Reinhardt, 72, found in North Unit canal. George H. Brewster, Redmond, named U.S. Commissioner. Federal suit filed against Pilot Butte Inn owners. Lunar geologists study Fort Derrick Cave. U.S. Olympic team trains at Bachelor Butte. New Bear Creek Grade School nears completion. First COC building takes shape on Awbrey Heights. Small fires blaze at western edge of Bend, in brushy areas.

### September

Redmond Future Farmers of America, Dave Cook, Bill Jordan and Ron Dowse, win state championship in livestock judging at Salem fair. Three scalded in Warner Valley when dormant geyser erupts. Bear Creek School opens, but too many youngsters show up. Dr. W. J. Maier resigns as Tri-County health officer. Cascade peaks whitened by first snow of autumn. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Carlson, Culver, rule as potato queen and king at Redmond spud festival. Robert W. Chandler of Bulletin cited by Oregon State Bar for best editorial of year on legal matters. Bend man, Lowell A. Jensen, credited with saving life of small girl, near victim of drowning. Colorful Tex James dies in Bend at age of 107. Thousands attend chicken barbecue in downtown Bend, as Fall Opening feature. Deer hunters in rush to pinelands. Historic Cove park area closed for all time.

### October

Oregon State Geology board holds first meeting in Bend. Machine-made snow planned for Pilot Butte ski run. Hunters welcome showers in pine country. Maurice Shelton, Bend, named head of Deschutes chapter of American Red Cross for coming year. Veteran Bulletin staff member, Phil F. Brogan, recipient of University of Oregon distinguished service award. Central Oregon's longest growing season in years icily ends as mercury drops to 15 degrees. Variety of exhibits placed in seven Deschutes County courthouse display cases, with pioneer relics included. Gordon W. McKay resigns as Bend school board director. Central Oregon College notes big enrollment jump. Vicki Wette named for trip to Washington, D.C.

### November

Bend in host role as some 2,000 women register for state bowling tourney. Lord's acre program at Powell Butte nets \$7,650. Oregon Reclamation Congress opens 52nd annual state convention in Bend. Ten-inch snow fall clears way for ski activities at Bachelor Butte. Walter Schrock, Bend, re-elected president of Oregon Cattlemen's Association. New Bend Senior High School wing placed in use. Maurice Shelton named Bend School District director, succeeding Gordon McKay. Frank H. Loggan, long-time Bend resident, honored at surprise dinner. Deschutes United Fund drive goes over top for fourth consecutive year. Central Oregonians stunned by news President Kennedy killed. Eagles of Bend honor Lowell A. Jensen for part in saving life of Bend girl. Bend Silviculture Laboratory completed. Allen school evacuated after backfire ignites sawdust. R. G. McFarland named Bend Chamber of Commerce president.

### December

Dense fog blankets north Central Oregon. John Schmid resigns as Deschutes 4-H agent. Two men charged with theft of 450 Christmas trees. Dr. Orde S. Pinckney named president of Northwest Association of Junior Colleges. All Central Oregon whitened by snow. Kiwanis Club auction nets \$2400. Temperature in Bend drops below zero. Vandals cause damage on high school grounds. Fire destroys Allen Grade School, with loss estimated at half million dollars. Bend city commission approves 10 p.m. curfew in effort to curb vandalism. Santa brings Central Oregon bundle of sunshine, with mercury near 50 degrees. Roof blaze endangers Central Oregon College building. Fire damages Redmond Golf Club quarters. Shriners honor BHS football greats at dinner. Sisters home entered by armed men, couple bound, gagged, teen-aged girl assaulted. Diversion gates will be closed



Firemen fighting Allen School fire, silhouetted against flames

Bulletin Photo by Nate Bull

## Quickened economic pace marks year in Central Oregon area

Central Oregon, on the sunny side of the picturesque Cascades, moved through 1963 with a quickening economic pace as its leaders looked into the future and predicted even brighter years ahead.

This optimism is based primarily on the fact that the interior country, long isolated economically, has finally been "discovered." Outside capital is being invested in industries, big ranches, land, apartments and homes. Timber of the region is being remanufactured locally on a scale greater than ever before. Gas from Canadian oil fields and electric power from the Columbia and the Deschutes are available for new industries.

Timber, now being cut from federal lands on a sustained yield basis, continues to be the area's No. 1 source of wealth, but this important industry is being closely pressed by agriculture and by tourism.

Deschutes County's gross cash farm income for 1963 is estimated at \$5,072,000. Crook and Jefferson agriculture adds millions to this income from fields, gardens and dairy ranches. The year 1963 was one of the region's best in farm production, about 5 per cent higher than the fine Deschutes county yield. However, higher production was in part offset by lower prices, particularly for dairy products and livestock.

Increased interest in land, even in acres which spread across the High Desert, has been noticeable in recent years, and is expected to increase. Hope is held by some that in time deep wells will tap abundant water on the plateau to the east of Bend. Such flows are found, a Bonneville power line, which crosses the High Desert from Redmond to the Harney country and on into southeastern Oregon and Nevada, can be tapped to pump the water from the old earth.

The recreation interest in Central Oregon has intensified in recent years, and will increase — possibly, some say, will double in the coming decade. Part of the great interest in the region as a recreation center is manifest in requests for acreage for sub-division.

Central Oregon towns, Bend, Redmond, Prineville, Madras, Sisters and the smaller communities, felt the surge of the new interest in the Deschutes-Crooked River country. All towns reveal new growth. Building activity in Bend in 1963 reached a record high. Some fear is held that Madras will suffer a let-down on completion this fall of the multimillion dollar Round Butte Dam, but residents of the city point out, that the town "survived" the completion of the Pelton Dam in an earlier year and made fine growth. Some 1200 men were employed on the Round Butte project, now in its final phase. Diversion gates will be closed

at Round Butte on Jan. 1, 1964, and a new, huge lake, Billy Chinook, will start forming, to provide a new recreation center for the thousands of recreationists who seasonally visit the Mid-Oregon country.

Earlier this year, Business Week's national December survey found Oregon's personal income for the year up 5.6 per cent over 1962, with the last quarter income indicating a 9.1 increase, one of the six top gains in the nation. It is believed that income gains for the state are indicative of those for Central Oregon.

In the huge district supervised from the Bend office of the Oregon Employment Service, employment this fall was well above that of the same period last year.

Central Oregon, many believe, in 1964 faces one of its best years, economically, in history.

## 1964 outlook bright, top economists feel

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Johnson's top economic advisers believe that 1964 could be one of the most prosperous periods in U. S. history if Congress approves a tax cut.

Commerce Secretary Luther H. Hodges and Walter W. Heller, chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, made the forecast in separate statements Sunday.

Hodges predicted a 1964 increase of nearly 5 per cent in the rate of the nation's economic growth, even after allowing for a slight rise in the price level.

In 1963, the rate increased by 5.3 per cent, but about 1.5 per cent of this represented higher prices, Hodges said.

Heller said that, given a tax cut, "we can continue to grow in this great economy of ours and to grow even faster than we have before."

He forecast "A better era, both in the state of the economy and in the state of the American spirit" in attacking poverty, disease and discrimination.

Hodges' bullish sentiments were contained in a year-end economic review that tied future growth closely to the fate of the administration backed \$11 billion tax cut measure, approved by the House and awaiting action by the Senate Finance Committee.

### FROZEN FIRE ENGINE

SILVER LAKE, Wis. (UPI) — Silver Lake's volunteer firemen were thawing out their new \$15,000 fire engine today.

While the firemen were pumping water for a public skating rink the engine broke through the ice and fell into the lake.

## Substantial gains noted for city of Bend in report of accomplishments for 1963

By Gerald Drapeau  
Bulletin Staff Writer

Progressive minded Bend city officials racked up a substantial record of achievements during the 1963 year.

They sometimes struck snags and suffered disappointments, but in the overall it was considered a rather successful year.

Perhaps the most heartening achievement was getting the street improvements program started again after two years of idleness. City commissioners voted to resume the program despite the possibility of lawsuits by affected property owners, such as the one brought to Deschutes Circuit Court by Third Street residents in 1962. The court supported the residents' protest against being forced to bear total assessments for a street widening project. The State Supreme Court later reaffirmed that decision.

Nonetheless the city went ahead on the streets, encouraged by an offer from Deschutes County Court officials to share expenses and thereby ease the property owners' burden of costs. Before the year was out, four portions of city roadway totaling seven-tenths of a mile had been paved.

One large bridge went up in 1963, and two smaller ones received repairs which might have saved a life or two, if attended to earlier. The stately Portland Avenue Bridge, approved by voters in a \$90,000 bond issue, was completed and opened in March. Only some paving and rock work on the approaches now remains to be done. The Gilchrist and Drake Park footbridges received strips of protective fencing along their sides as a safety measure. This action was induced by the drowning of a bicycle-riding youth who plunged into the swift waters beneath the Gilchrist bridge.

Money problems presented themselves, too. There was some wrangling over the County Library budget which resulted in shorter library hours for a couple of summer months. City commissioners claimed the city's share of the library budget was too large. County court officials disagreed. When city financial support was withheld the library was forced to close its doors during evening hours. The issue was finally resolved when City Manager Hal Puddy produced library circulation figures showing that city taxpayers were paying substantially more than their fair share of library support. The county then agreed to shell out additional funds.

Bend showed its sense of economy this year when it installed a modern telephone system in city hall, and transferred the switchboard for police headquarters to the main office. One employee's position was eliminated, and assign-

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ments were rearranged at a savings of \$1,440 per year.

A water main to supply the new Central Oregon College campus cost the city \$61,700. To date, 4,722 feet of 12-inch main have been installed. The Water Department also replaced three blocks of 8-inch water main on Bond Street with a 12-inch cast iron main. The old pipe had been there since 1921.

In other water business, the city applied for \$11,300 in loans from the federal government to finance a comprehensive engineering study of Bend's water system. Word that the request has been approved came December 30.

Bend lost the services of its

mayor pro-tem when Donovan Denning died in May at the age of 56 years. He had served his post as a city commissioner only five months. He was replaced on the board by Charles Cleveland, and Leon Devereaux was voted to assume the mayor pro-tem post.

City bus users lost their means of transportation this year when financial difficulties forced the public bus system out of business. The immediate question was whether the city should step in to operate the buses. It received lots of talk, but was finally discarded. Almost no Oregon city has had success in the bus business.

## Meteorological story of 1963: badly mixed up

Badly mixed up weather highlighted the Central Oregon meteorological story in 1963.

A damp spring followed a virtually snowless winter. Then came a summerless July, with the chilliest temperatures in 60 years recorded for the month. The regular summer months were cool — then came September with the highest temperature of the year, 91 degrees.

Lowest temperature was -15, recorded on the morning of January 15.

From January through May, and into June, Central Oregon received considerable moisture. Then came arid months, with July yielding only 0.25 of an inch of rain and August a mere 0.15 of an inch. The area got a bit more moisture in September, 0.65 of an inch, but October was dry, with only 0.10 of an inch measured.

The year ended with near normal moisture, but for the 12 months, the total moisture was only 10.74 inches. This compares with a half-century normal of 12.15 of an inch.

The fact that little snow fell in timbered areas in the 1962-63 winter and that aridity followed spring moisture led to the fear that the region would suffer one of its worst fire seasons on record.

## U.S. to trim force in Japan

TOKYO (UPI)—The United States announced today it will withdraw 3,500 airmen and 2,000 dependents from Japan in the coming year, along with 78 fighter, bomber and troop transport planes.

The withdrawal will mean a cut of less than eight per cent in the U.S. forces assigned to Japan under the United States' defense treaty.

Lt. Gen. Maurice A. Preston, commander of U.S. forces in Japan, pledged that the move will mean no change in the United States' intentions of defending Asia from communism.

"The United States assured the government of Japan that it continues to have every intention of fully meeting its mutual defense commitments in Japan, elsewhere in the Far East, and throughout the world," he said.

### STOCKPILES SHOW DECLINE

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Federal stockpiles, including strategic materials and farm surpluses, were valued at \$14.4 billion in October, a decrease of \$119 million from September.

The stockpile report was issued Monday by the House-Senate committee on reduction of non-essential federal expenditures. The group is headed by Sen. Harry F. Byrd, D-Va.

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