

BOARD OBTAINS GRADE SCHOOL SITE

L. Ghelardi Buys Library Building

Leo Ghelardi of Central Point was the only bidder on the present building housing the Central Point city library at the Monday evening council session.

Members of the council voted to award the bid to Ghelardi. He had submitted a purchase price of \$1575, which was \$75 over the minimum of \$1500 asked by the council.

Earnest money of \$100 was paid down by Ghelardi Monday evening. The balance of the bid price will be paid when the city presents the deed and title insurance.

Possession of the property will be given as soon as possible. The present building and property must be used by the city until new quarters in the combined fire hall-library building are available.

One condition of the sale was that the old frame library building must be torn down.

Ghelardi told council members that he plans to build a pumice block building on the lot in the future.

Council Forms New Committees

One new committee was formed Monday evening within the city council as Mayor-elect Donald E. Faber named members of the new council to positions on committees.

The new council group has been titled "street lighting committee" and is composed of councilmen E. R. Yocom as chairman, Harry Tonn and L. J. Bigham.

Streets—L. J. Bigham, chairman, Harry Tonn and Bob Padgett. Fire—E. R. Yocom, chairman, M. C. Gleason Sr., Bob Padgett.

Parks and buildings—Harry Tonn, chairman, Bob Padgett, J. Bigham. Sewer and water—Bob Padgett, chairman, M. C. Gleason Sr., Roy Kelly.

Finance and ordinance—Roy Kelly, chairman, Bob Padgett, M. C. Gleason Sr. Police—M. C. Gleason Sr., chairman, L. J. Bigham, E. R. Yocom and Harry Tonn.

3 Traffic Collisions Reported In Town During Holiday Week

Three automobile accidents were reported within the city during the past week.

Police Chief Oran Chastain reported accidents on December 29, December 30 and January 1. No injuries resulted from any of the collisions.

On December 29 at 3:45 p.m., cars driven by Mrs. H. E. Cassman of Central Point and John W. Rogers of Butte Falls collided at the intersection of Maple and Sixth streets. The Cassman auto, a 1950 Plymouth, was damaged an estimated \$50. Damages were minor to the Rodgers car, a 1946 Chevrolet.

At 1:10 p.m. on December 30 the 1941 Oldsmobile driven by Dale L. Morgan of Central Point was demolished in a collision with the 1950 Chevrolet pickup driven by Donald W. Damon of Rogue River.

Single Case Heard In Traffic Court

A single traffic violator appeared before Central Point recorder's court during the past week.

On Monday, January 3, Rosa Mae Turner of Central Point paid a \$10 fine for violation of the basic rule.

'54 PO Receipts Total \$29,660 For New Record

Gross receipts at the Central Point postoffice reflected a steady increase during 1954, according to figures just compiled by Postmaster George Evans.

During the past year, a new record was set as gross business amounted to \$29,660.24. As a comparison, the gross receipts during 1953 totaled \$26,683. Ten years ago, in 1944, total receipts for the year amounted to \$11,178.63.

Other statistics prepared by Postmaster Evans showed a total of 1719 families being served through the Central Point post-office.

The breakdown on this figure is as follows: local postoffice boxes 635, families 635; general delivery 60 families; rural route one, 420 boxes and 501 families; rural route two, 402 boxes and 523 families.

EXPERIENCES EARTHQUAKE

Ivan Hale, who spent Christmas with his daughter who lives near Eureka, Calif., experienced one of the heavier after shocks of the earthquake. It happened at night and Hale stated that the bed rocked back and forth. He said the town and vicinity are badly damaged with tumbled chimneys, broken windows and cracked streets in evidence everywhere.

FIELD TRIP

General science class of Crater high school is on a field trip today to inspect the Medford water supply system in connection with classwork. Clarence Miller is class instructor.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Bohnert and son spent Christmas weekend in Seattle visiting with her brother.

New City Dads Open First Meet With Busy Slate

Recently elected officials of the city of Central Point were sworn into office Monday evening at the city hall by outgoing Mayor Donald E. Burelson.

Taking the oath of office were Mayor-elect Donald E. Faber, City Recorder Arden Pinkham and councilmen E. R. Yocom, M. C. Gleason Sr. and Harry Tonn.

Mayor Faber delivered a short statement to the new council as they officially convened. Retiring Mayor Burelson offered his congratulations to the new officers and outgoing councilmen John Wisely and Fred Parkinson spoke briefly. Street Supt. Art Rupp, who is leaving city employ, offered congratulations to the new council.

Mayor Faber reported to the council that he had received a letter from Central Point Grange in which the organization went on record as favoring the installation of a railroad signal at the intersection of Pine street with the Southern Pacific railroad tracks.

City Recorder Arden Pinkham read a communication from the Bureau of the Census which officially listed the city population at 1909 persons as of December 14, 1954. The bureau listed 585 occupied dwellings with a breakdown of 930 male and 979 female residents.

A petition for the installation of curbs and gutters on Bigham Lane was presented to the council. Action was deferred until the next council session.

City Recorder-Coodinator Arden Pinkham was instructed to contact two local residents concerning two city water meters which are being used. The two homes are now served by the Midway water district.

Eight city ordinances were read and adopted by councilmen at this session. The ordinances outlined the property assessments made in connection with the construction of curb, gutter and sidewalk improvement on Third, Fourth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth streets.

Before adjournment, Mayor Faber asked the cooperation of the council on two proposed projects. One is the review and revision of the present city charter and the other was the possibility of making the office of city recorder appointive by the city council.

The session was adjourned to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, January 20, at the city hall.

REPORTED ON MEND

Mrs. P. A. Tracy, who has been confined to bed for the past week, is improving but still unable to be out.



U. S. Weather Bureau				
Dec. 30	49	37		.72
Dec. 31	54	39		.03
Jan. 1	44	33		.24
Jan. 2	45	27		
Jan. 3	43	24		
Jan. 4	33	23		.02
Jan. 5	38	29		.03
Weekend forecast in Rogue Valley calls for fair weather with no rain predicted.				



BETROTHED—

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Padgett, Central Point, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Nola Ruth Padgett, to Melvin Earl Minger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Minger of Central Point. Miss Padgett is employed by the Pacific Telephone company in Medford. Minger is employed by Courtesy Chevrolet in Medford. An early spring wedding is being planned.

Couple Resign Teaching Posts

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Johnson, both teachers at Central Point Grade school, have submitted resignations to the school board of District 6.

Johnson, who taught the sixth grade here, has left the teaching profession to enter business. He is now managing a service station in Medford. His resignation was immediate.

Mrs. Johnson, first grade teacher, will leave her teaching post effective January 31.

Neil Wadley, mid-year graduate at Southern Oregon College of Education, has replaced Johnson in the sixth grade class. He did his practice teaching here recently.

Replacing Mrs. Johnson is Mrs. Grace Cline of Medford. She formerly taught a first grade here.

December Permits Reach \$21,350

Building in Central Point during the month of December jumped to a total of \$21,350, it was reported at the city hall yesterday.

Largest single item during the month was the permit issued to Alton Hart to construct a service station at 119 South Front street for \$13,000.

Other permits issued during the month were as follows: O. L. Williams, 240½ North First, repair fire damage to building, \$150; Medford Neon, erect sign at 239 Front street, \$50.

Hilton Brignall, 248 North Seventh, construct garage, \$1000; Tom Whittle, 540 Bush, addition to house, \$600; Electric Products Corp., Laurel and Front streets, sign, \$250.

Mel's Garage, 48 South Third, addition to building, \$300; V. E. Noel, 735 Hazel, construct house, \$6000.

Fred Patterson Land On East Pine Street Purchased by District

The first step toward construction of a new Central Point elementary school was taken early this week as the school board of School District 6 completed negotiations for the purchase of the Fred Patterson property on east Pine street as a future school site.

The land, all of which lies within the city limits, contains approximately 15 acres. Part of the 15 acre purchase will be sold. It is expected that actual cost to the school district of the land retained as a school site will be about \$1000 per acre.

12-13 Acres

From 12 to 13 acres will be retained as an elementary school site and the remainder, including the Patterson house, will be sold. Conditions of the sale are that all buildings on the property, with the exception of the house, garage and pump house would be torn down and removed. Structures to be torn down include several large frame buildings used by Patterson as a chicken hatchery.

Tentative plans call for access roads to the building site from Pine street, from Manzanita street and probably from Laurel street. A main line of the city sewer runs along the west boundary of the property and city water is available. The contemplated building site has good drainage and will require a minimum of grading.

This property was owned for many years by C. M. Merritt and later by Robert Harnish. It was owned by W. R. Mays previous to the Fred Patterson ownership. Transactions for the purchase of the proposed school site were handled through the Chris Barker Agency.

Long Range Plan

Purchase of this property is a part of the long range planning to provide for the rapidly increasing school population. School Supt. H. F. Jewett reported. At the present time the elementary enrollment in the Central Point school is 955. This is 30 per cent over the state standard for the size of the school grounds now in use, Superintendent Jewett stated.

Threaten State Aid

State ratings and state moneys are being jeopardized by this condition, he said. Five substandard and very unsatisfactory rooms are being used at the present time. Increased enrollment in the primary grades, as shown by the school census, indicate the need of at least seven rooms in addition to these five, within the next two or three years, Jewett explained.

Tentative plans under consideration by the school board call for the immediate construction of a unit of a new elementary building which eventually could be expanded to an 18 to 20 room school.

Gold Hill Study

Increased enrollments at the Gold Hill school are also under study by the board. Large classes in both first and second grades required the addition of another teacher after school opened this year. A basement room has been put into use as a temporary measure for this year until more suitable housing can be provided.

The board has indicated that at least four more rooms will be needed within two years. At the (Continued on page eight)