

SOUTHERN OREGON NEWS REVIEW

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WENDELL LAWRENCE, Editor

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City of Ashland

Last week Mayor Thornton Wiley reported on the state of the City of Ashland at the annual Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

Mayor Wiley pointed out that despite the war, and the post war lack of materials, the city had been making definite strides forward. The average citizen feels possibly that not enough changes are being made for the better in the community, but as indicated by the Mayor's report, daily changes are being made and these are definite improvements.

In the face of a steady rise in population, both during and after the war, shortage of labor, inflated prices, maintenance of overloaded and outmoded public utilities, demands for new service and facilities, the city has still been able to continue with a steady program of community development.

During the past year two miles of new water mains were laid. The city plans to renew 12 miles of water main as soon as pipe is available, at present six miles of pipe are on order, but the Mayor pointed out that from the time of order on pipe until the time of delivery is 380 days.

Ten miles of sewer will be installed during the next year and this will give 98% of the city, sewer service. During 1946 six and one half miles of sewer were laid.

The city is presently expecting delivery of a ditch digger which will relieve the present condition whereby it is necessary for the city to rent a ditch digger from Medford. This digger is a combination shovel which can be used for many city projects.

During 1946 there were 200 new electric connections made by the city electric department and 100 new water connections. At present there are 643 electric ranges in use in Ashland, this is almost double the number in use two years ago.

There are presently in the city 2200 electric light customers, and 1700 domestic electrical users. This means a large number of homes utilize city electricity and that this number is mounting rapidly. In order to serve this group of additional users \$25,000 has been allocated to the electrical department for new transformers and equipment.

Five thousand dollars has been spent in hospital renovation during the past two months. A \$4000 X-ray machine has been ordered for the hospital and delivery is expected to take place in five months.

Sometime in the next 45 days a new fire truck will be received here, cost is \$5000.

Expected long before this, the new street signs are still en route; as soon as they arrive installation will take place.

Investigating potential water supplies has taken \$2000. Funds are presently being collected for a covered reservoir at the head of the park. This will aid in solving the water problem but the Mayor pointed out that to assure the community of adequate water a dam should be erected in the West Fork of Ashland creek, that a water filtration plant was needed, and that Crowson reservoir should be covered.

Blue prints have been drawn for a new fire station. Five steel arches are being placed at various crossings of Ashland creek.

As soon as weather permits next spring a sidewalk, curb, gutter, and street oiling program will begin.

Millage in Ashland is 14.5. This is one of the lowest tax rates in the Pacific northwest.

Today the invested wealth of the city is \$298,474, and bonds outstanding total \$216,500. As of June 30 the unexpended balance of city monies was \$436,622.23.

That Ashland needs many things is known to the Mayor and the city council. They are working toward those things as rapidly as money and equipment becomes available.

Mayor Wiley, who has been head of the municipality for several years, has a thankless job. There are very few things which a man in public office can do which will meet with the approval of every individual. No matter what is done, there will be those who criticize and condemn. Nevertheless, throughout the years, the city has advanced, in one direction or another.

Men who give up their time to serve their fellow men are few and far between. Men who will spend as much time as the majority of the members of the present city council on city business, at as small a return as those men receive, deserve much more credit, and much less criticism than they usually get.

"Let George do it," is a favorite way of running a municipality, but if George does it, he can be sure of one thing, that the majority of individuals who were so willing to let him do it, are out to tack his hide to the wall because he did it.

Men who are willing to put up with the whims and fancies of the public and who continue to serve their fickle constituency are few and far between. Ashland is lucky to have men of that caliber in public office.

Because Ashland does have men on the city council who are interested in the advancement of the community that advancement is taking place.

★ ★ ★

Al Simpson

"Stars and Stripes," European theater edition carried a story in the November 10 edition about Southern Oregon college's football team and their coach Al Simpson, the story was an Associated Press story concerning Al's potentialities as a coach to replace Tex Oliver. We're glad Al has a winning football team. But we'd sure hate to see him leave Southern Oregon college. We'd like to see some more winning ball clubs come out of SOC, and with Al and the same ball club back on the campus next year the possibilities that the SONs will continue to be one of the nations leading ball clubs are very, very good.

Chief Bos'n's Mate C. W. Marquess Gets Griffin's Union Jack



Lt. Commander S. J. Schoenfeld (left) of Bradford, Mass., presents the USS Griffin's Union Jack to C. W. Marquess, chief boatswain's mate, (right) of Ashland, Oregon, upon the conclusion of the decommissioning ceremony of the ship at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California. Lt. J. W. Dochnahl, (left center) of Vallejo, California, holds the commissioning pennant while Lt. M. D. Williams, (right center) holds the ship's ensign which he received. (Official U. S. Navy photo).

The Old Timer Says

Thanksgiving Day was first established in the United States by the Pilgrims at Plymouth in 1621. It became a recognized holiday in New England, replacing Christmas as the great family festival. Congress recommended days of Thanksgiving annually during the Revolution, and Washington in 1789, after the adoption of the constitution. Lincoln, in 1863, proclaimed the last Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day and a national holiday.

Football gladiators used to "graduate" on Thanksgiving Day - the close of the football season. But with the advent of "hole up" games they are able to "hole up" until the weather gets warm.

Here's a bromide credited to Chauncey M. De Pew: "When the Pilgrims landed in this country they fell on their knees and later on the aboriginals". Quite true.

We read that the State liquor commission has bought ten million dollars worth of bonded whiskey which is being distributed to state dispensaries to sell at \$6.50 a fifth. Rather stiff price for throat varnish!

Colledge told Gompers in the Boston police strike (1931): "There is no right to strike against the public safety by anybody, anywhere, any time." Labor leaders should take heed.

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EAST SIDE PHARMACY

Mrs. Maxson Dies Monday in Medford

Funeral services were held at the Litwiler funeral chapel Wednesday, November 27, for Lydia

Rebecca Maxson who has made her home for the past 17 months in Ashland and Medford. She died Monday, November 25, in Medford.

Mrs. Maxson was born May 17, 1859 in New York and was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist church. She had a stroke in 1943 and has been an invalid much of the time since.

She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Lottie Belle Taylor of Ashland and Mrs. Esther Dukes of Alexandria, Virginia, also two grandchildren.

Miss Eliason Pres. of Methodist Group

Barbara Eliason was elected president of the Methodist Youth Fellowship group, last Sunday evening at a business session of the group held at the home of

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Dr. and Mrs. G. W. Bruce. Other officers elected were Don Linn, vice president; first commissioner, Gaylord Vestal; second commissioner, Jeanette Kinney; third commissioner, Leila Fay Linn; fourth commissioner, Charles Eliason with Ruth Sitz as his assistant; and secretary and treasurer, Dorothy Bunker.

After the business session refreshments were served to the group by Mrs. G. W. Bruce.

Monuments and markers. See Burns Memorials. On the Plaza.



Toys

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