

# Council Okehs Timber Sale; Condemns Third Street Fire Station Site

## Council Acts To End Long Discussion When Records Show Deal Was Accepted By '48 Council

Sale of timber in Ashland canyon was apparently cleared up Tuesday night when it was pointed out to council members that the sole obligation of the present council is to clear title on the proposed timber land since sale of the land in question was accepted and formerly confirmed by unanimous council action on Nov. 12, 1948.

Considerable discussion has been had in the present council as to the legality of the sale due to a question of the area being in the city watershed.

A committee of councilmen Sheldon, Homes and Bailey have recently investigated the area and have found that on certain occasions water from two small streams in the area are used in extremely cold weather.

The land was acquired by the city since 1919 for a total sum of approximately \$5,000. Sale price of the land to the federal government is \$32,000.

Councilman Homes, in his report on the committee's investigation said that they had no recommendations to make to Mayor or Williams.

**Homes Gives Report**  
Councilman Sheldon charged that Homes had not "told all" in his report and brought out the

fact that at times water from two small streams in the area was used for city water supply, and that the land should be sold only by a vote of the people.

Homes counter-charged that the present council has taken action on the matter and later rescinded the action and left it remain as unfinished business. He also asked why Mayor Williams and others had not availed themselves of information from local Forester Thomas on the matter.

Homes charged that recently a delegation had gone to the forester's office in Medford to try to stop the sale, which actually was out of the hands of this council since the sale had been accepted by council action of Nov. 12, 1948, and that the only duty of this council was to furnish clear title. He said the former council had checked every detail of the sale but clearing of title.

Abe Neslin suggested to the council that they obtain the services of a good authority to ascertain if the area was actually in the city watershed.

**Briggs Urges Sale**  
Former City Attorney Wm. Briggs called attention that the main question apparently is "the definition of a watershed." He said that at present the federal government owns nearly all land in the area except a small piece in the city reservoir and that at the time the present city charter

was set up it probably held reference to that area within the park, which was then used as a city water supply. He said that, as a taxpayer, he felt it good business for the city to sell a piece of land for \$32,000 that had been acquired for \$5,000.

Briggs said that the city is not equipped with finances to properly care for the land, and that under government ownership it will be "available for parks, roads, or anything else you wish."

When the question came up for a vote to go ahead with the sale and to proceed with clearing title as soon as possible the Mayor asked for a roll call vote. Voting for the sale were Stansbury, Homes, Niell and Kroeger. Bailey and Sheldon voted "no."

**Gerdes Damage Claim Tossed Out**

The city council voted to withdraw an offer of settlement in the Gerdes sewer damage claim when city attorney Skerry read a claim asking for installation of approximately 300 feet of sewer at a cost of approximately \$350. Councilman Homes cast the only dissenting ballot.

Councilman Niell moved that the council's former offer of building 170 feet of a sewer ditch be withdrawn when it was brought out that should the city construct the ditch it still would not be completely clear of future damage charges.

## Committee Reports On Present Water Rates

A report of the committee on water rates showed that a big differential is now in effect between commercial users and farm and orchard users with commercial rates running far above those of farmers. Plans are under way to complete installation of meters at which time all water users will pay on a metered rate and adjustments in rates are planned.

## Biegel Reports Progress On Billing System

Utilities superintendent Elmer Biegel told the council that investigation was going ahead on establishing a monthly billing system for electric bills and that plans were being made to install a canceling machine in the city offices which could be used on all city stationery should the system go into effect. The canceling machine would gain a slight saving to the city on postage.

He said that it would take approximately two months to put the system into effect and that the expense would be about \$750 which could be taken care of through the utility fund.

The matter will again be taken up at the Jan. 3 meeting. Biegel authorized by the council to proceed with plans for installing a sewer line & pumping plant along Oak street which would complete the last major

sewer job in the city. Cost of the project will be approximately \$9000.

## Third Street Site For Fire Station Cancelled

Mayor Tom Williams cast the deciding ballot in Tuesday night's council meeting to hold up any plans of remodeling the Third street building for a fire station after councilmen had deadlocked the vote on the question.

Williams said he would vote "no" on the issue because "I am not satisfied that the location selected and the building purchased for the purpose of a new fire house is either the best location or the best type of building that would lend itself to conversion into a firehouse. . . there is a considerable body of opinion now opposed to continuing on and I have reluctantly concluded there may be some basis for such conclusions."

As the matter now stands the Council will apparently investigate a new site for a new building and place the question before the voters as to whether bonds should be issued for constructing a new modern fire station that will serve the city's needs for many years to come.

The vote came after lengthy discussion as to whether to proceed with previous plans of remodeling. The city at this time has a possible opportunity of selling

the building for the amount originally paid for it.

## Truck Route Aired By Council, Citizens

The city council met with considerable opposition at their Tuesday night's meeting on a proposed truck route from Highway 99 on Church street to B, along B to Mountain avenue, thence along Mountain avenue back to Highway 99. The route was proposed by street superintendent Day after a survey in an effort to take logging trucks off Main street to the industrial area. A letter from Parker Hess with an additional 101 signers was read objecting to the proposed route. Also objecting were Ace Wenker and Ken Miller.

Under present census figures the city is allowed approximately \$15,000 to construct such a route, which would be built at no cost to property owners. The offer may be withdrawn when 1950 census figures are released since the money is available to cities with a population of less than 5,000 under last census figures.

Later in the meeting a compromise route was suggested by Chief of Police Vern Smith which would take the route off Highway 99 down Oak street to Hersey street and from 99 along East Main to the county line. The council votes to submit this route to the state for approval.

## Magnolia Lumber Causeway To Be Lengthened

Street superintendent Day presented to the council plans for lengthening the causeway on East Main at the Magnolia mill pond and rebuilding the street at this point. Cost of the project will approximate \$1800, of which Magnolia Lumber company has tendered the city a check in the amount of \$1468 to help defray the expense.

Construction at the site calls for a back fill and a retaining wall, with a pedestrian walk along the north side of Main street. The council authorized Day to proceed with the construction.

## Chamber Asks Aid In Federal Building Bid

The Chamber of Commerce are taking steps to obtain a new federal building for Ashland and asked the aid of the Council who passed a resolution to contact Representatives, and Senators to allocate funds for its construction because of increase in population here.

## Bellview District Talked

Utilities superintendent Biegel was instructed to contact officials of the California Oregon Power company and start negotiations for obtaining power lines now serving the Bellview district which has become part of the city of Ashland.

The Southern Oregon

# NEWS REVIEW

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## Ralph LeRoy Rost Killed In Auto Crash Sunday

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon from the Litwiller funeral home for Ralph LeRoy Rost, 25, who died early Sunday morning from injuries received in a head-on collision near the junction of the old Pacific highway and Highway 99. Rost is reported to have died instantly.

Rost was riding with Vernon R. Southworth, Ashland, when the Southworth car collided with a late model sedan driven by Witt H. Collins, also of Ashland.

Southworth is reported to be recovering from multiple fractures and severe shock. Collins suffered a lacerated leg and other cuts. Collins was driving alone.

Collins, who was traveling north, apparently started to turn into the old highway cut-off when he met head-on with the Southworth car, which was traveling south toward Ashland. The accident occurred about 3 a.m. Interment was in Mountain View cemetery.

Rost was born on March 10, 1924 in Palo Alto Co., Iowa, and had been a resident of Ashland for 9 years. He was employed by the Bear Creek Orchards.

At the time of his passing he was the Adjutant of Post 3423, V.F.W. of Ashland. He enlisted in the U. S. Navy on March 7, 1943 in Medford, and was discharged August 2, 1946 at Bremerton, Wash., with the rating of M.M.M.C. He received his training at Camp Farragut, Idaho, and served in the Normandy Invasion in Europe. From there he went to the South Pacific, and was in the various conflicts in the Asiatic Pacific, American Area, and European, African and Mediterranean areas. He was awarded the Good Conduct and the Victory medals.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Rost, and brothers Carvil and Robert of Ashland; a brother Elwood of Coos Bay, and his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. William Garren of Ashland.

## MERCURY LIGHTS TO BE INSTALLED THIS WEEK

Utilities superintendent Elmer Biegel said at Tuesday night's council that two mercury lights would be installed the latter part of this week on the Plaza. Installation of the two lights is being made in a survey of the council to determine if the new type lighting system will be put into use along Main street here.

## Fire Chief Baughman Resigns Post Here

Fire Chief Clint Baughman tendered his resignation to Mayor Tom Williams and members of the City Council at their Tuesday night meeting. Baughman, who has gone into business in Oak Ridge, said his resignation would become effective Jan. 3.

Councilmen, in accepting the resignation voted to extend to Baughman thanks and a gift in appreciation of the many years he has efficiently served Ashland as head of its fire department.

A successor to Baughman will be named at the Jan. 3 meeting of the council.

## School Census Gains Little Over Year Ago

The number on the School District 5 census is almost exactly the same as it was a year ago, according to figures released today by the office of Leland P. Linn, superintendent of schools. The count this year shows a total of 2308 of which 1148 are boys and 1160 are girls. Last year it was 1153 boys and 1151 girls for a total of 2304.

The 6 year olds with 190 make up the largest age group and the 164 nine year olds stood second in number. These figures are consistent with the school enrollment as the first grade with 196 and the fourth with 161 are the two classes with the heaviest enrollments in the district.

1949-50 Census										
Age	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Boys	80	77	98	81	80	63	82	79	92	77
Girls	82	79	92	77	74	101	162	156	190	158
Total	162	156	190	158	154	164				
1948-49 Census										
Age	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Boys	80	77	98	81	80	63	82	79	92	77
Girls	82	79	92	77	74	101	162	156	190	158
Total	162	156	190	158	154	164				
1947-48 Census										
Age	15	16	17	18	19					
Boys	78	63	64	64	53					
Girls	54	63	66	62	55					
Total	132	126	130	126	108					
Total Boys	1148									
Total Girls	1160									
Total Census	2308									

## Bowling Alleys To Have Holiday

Jack Eaton, owner of the Ashland Recreation Center, said this week that the alleys would close with the end of National league play Thursday night and remain closed until Monday, Dec. 26.

Eaton said the few days rest on the lanes would enable him to recondition the alleys for after-Christmas play.



## LDS Missionaries, Choir To Present Singing On Plaza

A group of missionaries of the LDS church and the LDS choir have announced plans for community singing on Friday afternoon, Dec. 23, at 2:30 o'clock, on the Plaza.

Special numbers will be lead by the missionaries, with songs for children and other well known songs, it was stated.

The public has been invited to either take part in the singing or to come out and listen. A Christmas story will be told as a special feature of the afternoon's festivities.

## Barnett Installed Kiwanian Prexy

Ed Barnett was installed as president of the Ashland Kiwanis club at the regular Monday luncheon of the club. Bert Miller, immediate past president of the club, opened the meeting and then presented Barnett with the gavel for the coming year.

Rev. George M. Shuman, of the Ashland Presbyterian church, and Dr. Stanton Oberg were initiated as new members of the club. Guests of the club included Johnny Larson, of Peteluma, Cal., Frank Rowe, Medford, and C. K. Pernel.

## Commandery Breakfast 9 a.m. Christmas Day

Malta Commandery No. 4, Knights Templar, will hold their annual Christmas breakfast in the Masonic Temple here on Christmas morning at 9 o'clock. It was announced this week.

Knights, their families and house guests are invited to attend.

## Free Movies On Tap Saturday

Ashland merchants have cooperated to bring to the people of this area a free picture show at the Varsity theatre starting Saturday afternoon at 1 o'clock. The shows will run continuously throughout the afternoon and evening, it was stated by Jerry Covell, manager of the Ashland theatres.

It's all free to everyone. Ashland merchants are paying the bill, and folks of all ages are invited to attend at their own convenience during the afternoon and evening of Saturday, Dec. 24.

## RETURNS TO STATES

Donald Mullins, machinist mate chief, son of Mrs. Jessie A. Mullins of 461 Alkion St., Ashland Oregon has just returned to San Diego after a nine month cruise in the Western Pacific. Mullins is now on leave and is expected to spend the holidays with home folks.

## CopCo Dedicates North Umpqua Power Plant

Formal dedication of the Toketee power plant on the North Umpqua river, first plant of a five year, \$50,000,000 building program of the California Oregon Power Company, was held in Roseburg last Thursday evening.

Dedication ceremonies were headlined by Governor Douglas McKay, Representative Harris Ellsworth, Bonneville Administrator Paul J. Raver, Albert S. Cummins, president of the company, made the dedication address and Governor McKay made the formal acceptance of the new plant in behalf of the people of Oregon.

The Toketee plant itself will add 42,500 kilowatts to the COP-Co system's capacity. The eight plants which comprise the North Umpqua project will add a total of 145,000 kilowatts by completion of construction in 1953. This will more than double the pre-war capacity of the system.

In his dedication address Cummins linked the increased demand for power to the increases in both industry and population in the area, and predicted that by 1953 the increase in power capacity will have been substantially absorbed by the greater demand.

Governor McKay pointed to the company's construction program as an indication of how the southern Oregon area is growing, and made a strong plea for the interest of all citizens of the state in achieving a balanced growth, with wise use of natural resources. The Governor paid tribute to the company's record of public service in the area and their faith in the future growth of the region as reflected by the building program.

Dr. Raver emphasized the conservation of other forms of fuel and energy made possible by the continued development of hydroelectric energy in the Northwest, and the results to be obtained by coordinating of power projects.

The California Oregon Power Company serves approximately 75,000 customers in Southern Oregon and northern California, with headquarters at Medford.

## BUSHNELL JOINS MEDFORD DESIGNING FIRM

W. C. Bushnell, former owner of Bushnell's studio here, has recently become associated with James McKaig, Medford architectural designer. Bushnell was a graduate in architectural designing before entering the photography business a number of years ago.

## Chamber Told Climatic Resources Of Valley In Relation To Public Health

Dr. Edward Brown was the guest speaker at the Tuesday luncheon of the Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Brown spoke of the Climatic Conditions of the Valley in relation to Public Health. Dr. Brown is a world authority in his field of climate and health.

A summary of Dr. Brown's report is as follows: Ashland is the most favored of Oregon's cities as a place to live because of its climate. Climate is the total of the weather of all seasons. Certain types of climate may have a stimulating effect on some people while depressing to others. The climate depends on the barometric pressure, humidity, ionization of air and temperature.

Barometric is the chief factor affecting health in a locality. When the barometric pressure drops suddenly, many effects take place. This means that the air pressure drops suddenly with the drop of the barometer. Five things occur when this happens. First, there is lower oxygen tension. The other four factors deal with increases. The lower oxygen tension is a decrease. Second, there is an increase of temperature; third, an increase in humidity; fourth, an increase of wind velocity and last a decrease in the ionization of the air. Ionization deals with the electrical charges in the air, which is affected by storms.

Storms are very important in their ability to do harm. Storms that have followed the same pattern,

going from the State of Washington across to New York and the New England states. The known storm areas are, first, Washington, second, the Chicago area, and third, New York and the New England states.

Barometric pressure best shows ionization of the air and its relation to disease. During an aurora, there is a stimulating effect on certain individuals. On others there is the opposite effect. This ionization effects the germs of the body. Severe storms, for instance, sometimes result in the malformation of animals and humans born during the time of the storm, due to the effects of ionization. This ionization destroys the embryos.

Extremes of temperature are very undesirable, especially to persons who are ill. Humidity amplifies the affects of high and low temperatures. Extremes of temperature may be tolerated in this area because of the low humidity.

Factors making up Ashland's favorable climate are these: there are no extremes of temperature, no extremes of humidity and no extremes of storms. The end of storms are usually the only ones hitting Ashland, and these do not affect people as does the eye, or main part of the storm. Another factor favoring Ashland is the lack of winds.

Many people settle here because of the altitude, which is considered a good one. This altitude permits the drainage of the usual focus of infections, such as the nostrils. Those suffering from rheumatism, arthritis, colitis and bronchitis often find relief here. These focus points do not drain in damp climates.

There is a zone of comfort which allows the clearest thinking and the most activity. This zone consists really of two zones, the first, which is the best for maximum comfort is not below forty degrees. The second zone, for maximum efficiency, is not above 75 degrees.

From the above reasons it is readily seen why Ashland is the most favored climate in the state of Oregon.

## Glenn V. Smith Dies In Crash

Funeral services will be held Thursday afternoon at Perl funeral home in Medford for Glenn Vernon Smith, who died from injuries received in an auto accident just outside the city limits of Medford Monday evening about 8:30. Interment will be in Siskiyou Memorial Park.

Smith, who lives in Medford, was apparently on his way home from his Ashland tire shop when the accident occurred.

According to police reports, Smith was attempting to pass another car when he met head-on with a car driven by William Ridgley, of Grants Pass.

Riding with Ridgley were his wife and four children, all of whom were injured and taken to a Medford hospital for treatment. Smith was driving alone. Smith was born at Lamar, Colo., on April 7, 1917 and attended Medford and Central Point schools.

Surviving are his parents Mr. and Mrs. Newton L. Smith of Medford, brothers Newton L. Jr. of Redding, Calif., Donald R. of the U.S. Army and a sister Mrs. Harry Snider of Redding, Calif.

## Elliott McCracken Installed Master Ashland Lodge

Elliott McCracken was installed as Worshipful Master of Ashland lodge No. 23, AF & AM at a special communication of the fraternity Friday night.

Other officers installed included Ralph Siles senior warden, John von Kuhlman junior warden, George W. Dunn treasurer, J. H. Hardy secretary, Clyde Caton senior deacon, Lyndel Newbury junior deacon, Robert Armstrong senior steward, Dale Williams junior steward, O. C. Marsh chaplain, M. J. Love tyler, and John P. Daugherty marshal.

Past Master Daugherty acted as installing officer assisted by Past Master M. P. Dunn as marshal. The meeting was preceded by a stag covered-dish dinner.