

County and City Officials Beat By Dog Problem for Taxation and Curbing Canine Freedom in Flowers and Gardens

It developed last night at the city council's special meeting, which was primarily held to take up legislation to do away with the nuisance of stray and home dogs uprooting garden and flower beds, etc., and running at large, that the new state law, passed at the behest of the sheep owners, requires every dog in the county to be licensed, and this includes city dogs, does away with the right of a city to license its own dogs; as to compel a city dog owner to take out a city license as well as the compulsory state or county license, would be double taxation.

The loss of this license money to the city is a mere trifle, as only 80 dog licenses were taken out last year, which amounted to but \$125 in money, the city recorder's records show. Only 17 city licenses have been taken out so far this year.

The city, however, despite it cannot collect licenses, has the power to regulate the dog nuisance in some way and enforce it. After much discussion last night the mayor and councilmen decided to try and induce the county court to cooperate with the city government and Humane Society in helping the city to do away with stray dogs and the running of dogs at large. To this end it was decided to have the city officials, humane society representatives and citizens generally interested in doing away with the dog nuisance, meet with the county court this morning to cooperate with the city government and Humane Society in helping the city to do away with stray dogs and the running of dogs at large. To this end it was decided to have the city officials, humane society representatives and citizens generally interested in doing away with the dog nuisance, meet with the county court this morning to cooperate with the city government and Humane Society in helping the city to do away with stray dogs and the running of dogs at large.

At last night's meeting, which was attended by Humane Society representatives and citizens, with complaints about the depredations of dogs, Sydney E. Richardson, representing the Humane Society, said that that society would provide a pound for captured dogs, etc., if the city would bear the expense of a dog catcher and the putting to death of the homeless dogs gathered in. He said the society would want the dog catcher to be on duty the full 12 months of the year, instead of only a few months in the spring and early summer.

This evidence was cumulative that there are too many stray dogs as well as home dogs, at large in the city, and that they are doing much damage to the flower beds and gardens, etc. Mr. Richardson declared that there are at least 2000 dogs in Medford, and Mayor A. W. Pipes declared that the sight of many dogs running about the streets was not a good advertisement for the city.

John Demmer, himself a dog lover and usually the most mild mannered of men, has lost patience completely with the dogs at large nuisance. He told the council that the dog nuisance was deplorable in his neighborhood on West Jackson street, as well as other neighborhoods throughout the city. He related how dogs had caused \$50 worth of damage last year to his truck patch, and of how a dog had killed a pet cat of the Demmer home. "If the city is powerless to regulate the dogs at large I serve notice that from now on I am going to take the law in my own hands in seeking protection from the depredations of dogs, and shoot to kill all dogs coming on my premises," said Mr. Demmer. "I have a right to protect my property and will do so, and so told the district attorney, who says I have the right."

A woman who is employed away from home daily related to the council how she would come home in the evening to find dogs had rooted holes in her flower bed.

T. E. Daniels, who is a dog fancier, told that he kept his dogs penned up at home, and he thought that all people should confine their dogs to their home premises.

"The people of Medford are entitled to relief from this dog nuisance," said Mayor Pipes. "Medford is overrun with dogs to such an extent as to make a miserable situation for many neighborhoods. This is not good advertising for the city. It is fortunate for the city that the Humane Society is taking so much interest in trying to solve the problem."

Between now and the next council meeting, next Tuesday night, the mayor and councilmen hope to evolve some legislative plan to put an end to the dog nuisance, in spite of the fact that the new state dog license law practically annuls the local dog license ordinance.

The county court, at its regular meeting this morning, took under advisement a proposition to have the city, county and Jackson County Humane society collect the dog tax; the city and county to bear alike the cost of paying the dog catcher, and the Humane society to collect the tax, and render death unto the dogs without owners.

Sidney E. Richardson of the Humane society agreed to collect the tax for a substantial portion of the sum collected, and do the work in both city and county.

City Attorney John H. Carlin favored Mr. Richardson's plan, and held that if the city and county both collected dog tax, it would cost a dog owner with the penalty attached \$7 to keep a dog, which would bring down murder upon our heads, and cost more than it does a farmer to keep a cow." He said the city was willing to share a portion of the expense, over a period of three or four months, and thought in that period that all the dog tax that could be collected would be in the exchequer.

The new state dog tax law, which was passed as a protective measure to sheep-owners, principally upstate, provides a tax of \$3 upon female dogs and \$2 upon male dogs, and a penalty of \$2 if the tax is not paid by March 15. The time has been extended in this county until April 15. The appointment of a dog catcher, and the apportionment of the fees will be made by that date, as the county court will be guided by the ruling of the district attorney who will be asked for an opinion at once.

County Judge Alex Sparrow, during the hearing, declared that "the dog problem is sure a problem."

"I don't blame the sheriff for refusing to kill a dog and I don't blame a dog owner for wanting to keep his dog. If a dog is no account, his owner thinks more of him, than if he is mounted to something."

The judge also said that "every boy and girl should have a dog."

This caused Commissioner Alford to declare that from what he could see, and judging by the number of dogs around, "the kids had three or four apiece."

Commissioner Alford said he had "branched for 30 years, and there had been just two dogs on the place."

One was killed and the other disappeared mysteriously.

City Attorney Carlin said that the city council was under the belief that city dogs were exempt from taxation. Commissioner Victor Bursell pointed out in the law that there was no discrimination between city dogs and country dogs.

Data presented during the discussion revealed that \$42 was the grand total of the amount collected last year in Jackson county for dog taxes, and it was estimated that between 4000 and 5000 dogs reside within the confines of the county. It was previously estimated that the dog population was 1624.

SENTIMENTS OF SPRING IN WOMEN'S CLUB MEET

The voices and sentiments of spring will be re-echoed through an interesting program to be staged for the Business and Professional Women's club at Hotel Medford, April 2, under the direction of Mrs. Leona Marsters, supporter of music at the Southern Oregon Normal.

Mrs. H. D. McCaskey, who is well known for her beautiful flower beds and prize roses, will give an interesting talk on "Flowers of Spring." Mrs. Ethel Willets will speak of "Birds of Spring" and Mrs. Leona Marsters will review Spring Music, as produced by some of the greatest composers.

Arrangements have been made with the Hotel Medford to secure reservations at the desk, and all members and their guests who wish to attend the meeting are asked to hand in their names as soon as possible.

PROVIDE PARKING SPACE NEAR CITY MARKET BUILDING

Because of many complaints for a long time past that farmers and others having business at the public market are unable to drive in beside the market or park directly in front of it to load or unload produce, without being parties to double parking in that vicinity, the city council last night voted unanimously to not renew the lease of a local automobile concern, which has rented the 50-foot space south of the market for storage of second hand cars for sale.

The lease expires on April 1, and the concern only paid \$100 a year rent for the lease. Mayor Pipes and the councilmen declared that every encouragement should be held out to the public market and its patrons, and all hindrance to transacting business should be removed.

It seems that instead of the automobile concern confining its storage of second hand cars within the 50-foot leased strip running alongside of the armory, the council had decided to gradually encroach to take up most of the 50-foot space, and also parked on Riverside avenue about the front of the market.

Chief of Police McCredie, in talking about the encroaching on the leased space and of the consequent double parking existing pointed out to the councilmen that Riverside avenue was a main tourist artery of travel through the city, and hence the double parking on both sides of the street would delay tourist travel when it got in heavily, and make a dangerous condition. It had already become a danger, he said, although the tourist travel had hardly yet begun.

The council also passed the sign ordinance to prevent the blanketing of illuminated signs in the business district. The ordinance requires that all signs must be securely fastened, must be illuminated on both sides, and must be kept burning from dusk to 10 p. m. daily, but leaves it optional with the merchants or other

sign owners to burn until midnight or later. The boxing and wrestling ordinance was amended to reduce the fee for a boxing or wrestling exhibition from \$30 to \$15.

CENTRAL POINT CHURCH HAS SPECIAL SERVICES SONG, STORY, TEACHING

Special services are being held this week in the Central Point church. The young people are meeting at 7 o'clock each evening in the Endeavor room, and after a season of singing and prayer, Leslie McCue is giving a series of lessons on "How to Deal Personally With the Unsaved." At 7:30 in the auditorium of the church, the intermediates and the juniors are having their own services in song, story and teaching.

At 8 o'clock all meet in the auditorium for the regular service of the evening. Here a praise service is held under the leadership of Mr. McCue, and then the pastor presents the events of the passion week in order to make the spiritual application of these last events in the life of our Lord. On Wednesday evening the parables teaching of Jesus will be discussed. On Thursday evening the last supper will be the subject, and on Friday evening the crucifixion will be presented. There will be no services on Saturday evening, but on Sunday morning the Bible school and the pastor will present the resurrection story, in all the program.

A musical program of more than usual interest will be given in the Sunday evening service. A male quartet under the leadership of Olaf Severson, the ladies' quartet under the direction of Mrs. Ed Strohmeier, the young ladies' club, under the leadership of Miss Bernice Burger, the regular church choir under the direction of Mrs. H. W. Davidson, and others will present the story of Christ's victory and our salvation, in specially selected music. The pastor will speak briefly on the meaning of the resurrection. All are invited.

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