

WPA Finds Work for Many in Southwestern Oregon



(1) View of the North Bend airport, WPA Project 695, showing dredge in the foreground pumping sand to raise the elevation of the field. The beautiful new Coos Bay bridge, completed during 1936, is shown in the background. (2) WPA workmen installing a drainage system in Medford's fine municipal airport with the hangar building painted by WPA crew in the background. Medford's airport improvement program is being conducted under WPA Project 1021. (3) Road construction in Josephine County was undertaken as a part of the WPA program for that area. This photograph shows workmen engaged in construction of the Merlin-Gallice section on the banks of beautiful Rogue River, a part of WPA Project 290-A. (4) The beautification of and addition of new facilities for Luthia Park in Ashland is another WPA undertaking. This is Project 1352. (5) When a disastrous forest fire almost wiped out the coast city of Bandon in the fall of 1936, the task of providing temporary shelters, hospital, city hall and rehabilitation of utilities was undertaken by the WPA. The accompanying photograph shows a portion of this housing program which is listed in WPA files as Project 1167. (7) A partial view of a 300 foot reinforced concrete culvert at the municipal airport of Roseburg. Improvement of this airport, Project 1175, is another WPA activity in southwestern Oregon. (8) The expansion and beautification of the Grants Pass municipal park is WPA Project 1235. This photograph shows a glimpse of workmen busy on this improvement work. (9) Glimpse of WPA workmen engaged in opening up Commercial Avenue, a two elevation street in the city of Marshfield. This Project 1230 is another evidence of the cooperation of the Works Progress Administration with municipalities of southwestern Oregon

of occupations as nearly as possible in order that they may more readily be able to resume their places in normal private employment when that may become available for them. Operation and employment on WPA projects must be so planned as to coordinate with trends of employment in seasonal work and other types of private industry within the various communities.

Employment Service Aids
It is the policy of the Works Progress Administration that this type of emergency federal employment be made available only as a tide-over between the periods of opportunity in private employment. Thus it has been true in this part of Oregon, which is quite largely agricultural, that WPA employment has been materially decreased during harvesting and seasonal work periods. Workers who withdraw from the work program to take advantage of these opportunities have not jeopardized their eligibility to return to their WPA projects when these other employment opportunities have terminated.

The facilities of the United States Employment Service have greatly aided these workers in finding other employment and for this purpose those offices maintain records of all who are being employed on the WPA program. Because of these fluctuating periods of employment on WPA projects, the result of mass withdrawals of workers for seasonal work, it has been necessary to conduct this work during disadvantageous weather conditions in the winter months.

WPA workers are paid by check twice each month and the use to which these earnings are put are entirely within the province of the workers.

(Continued on Page Four.)

Medford Headquarters Directs Large Program Worthwhile Projects

Editor's Note: The Works Progress Administration has engaged in a comprehensive program of public improvements in southwestern Oregon since its inception here in July, 1935. This program repeats with street, road and bridge construction, expansion of recreational facilities, the erection of public buildings, installation of sewage disposal systems, and improvement of municipal airports. Because of the widespread interest in the numerous WPA projects in this section of the state, this newspaper has prevailed upon Harold D. Grey, director of District Number 4, to outline the major functions, aims and accomplishments of the Works Progress Administration in this district which comprises Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Coos, Curry and Douglas counties.

By Harold D. Grey
(Director, District No. 4 Oregon Works Progress Administration)
During the period since July 18, 1935, all of the governmental bodies functioning in the southwestern part of Oregon have actively aided the Works Progress Administration in the development and operation of a splendid work program in this area. This program of employment throughout the seven southwestern counties in Oregon has been directed from the fourth district office of the WPA with headquarters in the city hall, Medford, Ore.

many resulting public improvements. In the main, the expenditure of federal funds has been devoted to the meeting of labor payrolls while funds from local sources have largely gone for the purchase and rentals of needed materials and equipment. Some expenditures of federal funds has been made for materials and equipment in order to make possible the employment on some particularly desirable projects wherein the sponsoring agencies were financially unable to assist to a normal extent.

Many Types of Work
Many types of work projects have been instituted and carried to completion within district No. 4 of the WPA and all have been entirely expressive of the wishes of the various local communities. All project operations originate with a proposal from a local source such as a county court, city council, etc. They are acceptable by the Works Progress Administration when they propose an improvement that is for the general benefit of the public and are of a type that can be done with the services of those persons who are eligible for such employment. As it is not intended that this work program be administered in such a manner as to displace other persons in their normally expected employment, no consideration is given to project applications which request federal expenditures for normal budgeted functions of local government.

Acceptance and operation of work projects is also contingent upon their being located near the source of supply of workers who are eligible for such employment. The larger size projects are undertaken on a unit basis of operation, so that if conditions make necessary a stoppage of operation at any time, certain useful units will have been completed in the partial period of operation.

Need Is Certified
Persons who are eligible for WPA employment are those persons who are 18 years of age and older, who are able to perform the types of work required and whose need for assistance has been certified to by the various county relief offices. Employment on WPA projects is also limited to one member of a family group. These workers receive hourly rates of pay which are comparable to those prevailing in their own community for the same type of service. They work a sufficient number of hours each month that will make possible the earning of an established sum each month.

Payments are made only for time actually worked on projects, but time that is lost involuntarily may be made up within certain limitations. An effort is made to plan project work in such a way as to continue these persons in their former types

