

Legion Auxiliary Officers Visit Camp

Camp White, Apr. 22—Mrs. W. W. Graham, department president of the American Legion auxiliary, and Mrs. Charles Gunn, of the Legion's national rehabilitation commission, were taken on a tour of Camp White's facilities last week by Paul Hutton, manager here.

Mrs. Gunn is also chairman of state volunteer workers for veterans' hospitals. Both visitors praised the work of the VA in developing Camp White.

Mrs. Graham and Mrs. Gunn were accompanied by auxiliary unit members from Ashland, Central Point, Cave Junction, Grants Pass and Medford. They said that domiciliary home problems grow greater each year.

Camp White VFW Elects 1950 Officers

Camp White, Apr. 22—Camp White Post 6412, Veterans of Foreign Wars, elected officers from a membership of 31 at a meeting held here April 13. Named for the coming year were W. D. Smiley, commander; John A. Conwell, senior vice-commander; E. Pine, junior vice-commander; H. L. Williams, quartermaster; C. Doherty, post advocate; E. A. Erickson, chaplain; C. E. McKerschie, three-year trustee; C. A. Kelly, one-year trustee, and Benny Norgard, six-month trustee.

The new VFW post will meet twice each month. On hand are 1,000 poppies which will be sold this month for the benefit of the county's newest veterans' group.

Fire Chief's Report Explains Background for \$125,000 Bond Issue for Protection from Fire

At the May 19 primary election, the people of Medford will be asked to decide on the passage of a \$125,000 bond issue for capital investments for the fire department, and a four-mill levy for operation and maintenance of expanded service.

In order that citizens can become familiar with the problems of the fire department, and the background on which recommendations for the improvements were made, excerpts from the report of Acting Fire Chief Leo Weidner is reprinted below.—editor's note.

The city government and the people of Medford are to be congratulated upon taking steps to improve their fire defense at this time. Usually it requires a disastrous fire or loss of human life to motivate such a project. It is a well known fact that the history of municipal fire protection service has too often been a story of locking the barn door after the horse has been stolen—that a complacent attitude toward inadequate fire defenses has been transformed overnight to a public demand for "the most and the best" in manpower and equipment only after a fire or disaster of tragic proportions has swept away thousands of dollars of property, or far worse, taken a toll of human life.

Not Kept Pace

This report, together with its several recommendations, is born of the realization that the city of Medford's fire defenses have not kept pace with community growth in population and wealth, and that it becomes our responsibility to lay the facts and figures before our people. The answer rests with the taxpayers of Medford.

In the past few months a number of steps have and are being taken to meet the problem within the restrictions of our budget laws. Streamlining of practices and procedures within the department, aimed at getting the utmost in efficiency have been initiated. Small tools and equipment consistent with budget allowances, either have or are being obtained. A system of records and reports has been installed. We are working on a set of fire prevention ordinances and a set of rules and regulations, both to be submitted to the city council in the near future.

An intensive training program for the regular members of the department is in progress. Steps have been taken to recruit, organize and train a volunteer group to augment the regular force in the event of an emergency. A program of familiarization tours has been incorporated, designed to prevent fires by keeping the public fire con-

scious. This same program is invaluable to the firemen because it affords them intimate knowledge of the buildings in which they must fight fires and keeps them thinking of fire fighting. In addition many other minor improvements and additions have been made.

In the meantime an overall study of fire defenses has been carried on in anticipation of the next survey by the Oregon Insurance Rating Bureau. It is this survey that will determine Medford's "Rate Classification," or how cheap fire insurance will be for Medford's property owners for the next 10 or 15 years.

Values Up

The last rating survey was made in 1933, and at that time the assessed valuation of the property in the city was \$7,609,800.17. In 1949 the assessed valuation was \$16,263,093.39, and is in the vicinity of \$20 million at the present time. The population is in the vicinity of 20,000. At that time of the last survey the rating bureau found the fire department greatly deficient and made numerous recommendations for improvement. Practically none of these recommendations, such as an aerial ladder truck and alarm system, has been complied with since that time, and the population has about doubled, the property valuation has almost tripled, and a considerable area has been added to the city's boundaries. The fire defenses in the meantime have remained about the same in regard to man-hours on the job. There has been some improvement in the pumping capacities and civil service rules, but that's about all.

The improvement items necessary to raise the city's fire defenses to minimum standards are herewith presented.

EIGHTY-FIVE FOOT LADDER TRUCK

As a first step in a modernization program for the Medford Fire Department it is proposed to purchase an 85 foot hydraulic ladder truck, making it possible for one man to raise a steel ladder to any height up to seven floors, within 30 seconds after arrival at the scene of a fire. The aerial ladder can be shifted almost instantly, by the touch of a lever, from window to window, or floor to floor of a burning building to effect the rescue of trapped persons; or it can be used as a water tower to apply streams of water to the upper stories, or to the roof of a structure. This will be a short coupled truck with a three or four section aerial ladder, requiring no tillerman.

By comparison, the longest ladder that the fire department has now is an antique 50 foot extension ladder that cannot be carried on any of the apparatus because of its length and weight. Even if it were possible to get this ladder to a fire, it is so old and dried out that it would be hazardous to handle and dangerous to climb. It would require the services of six trained men for about two minutes, to raise it under ideal conditions, with reference to working space, footing, etc. This operation will either halt or seriously delay hose laying at the outset of the fire, or must await the arrival of the off-shift or volunteer reinforcements. The longest ladder we have in addition to this one is a 30 foot extension ladder that is not quite long enough to reach the third floor of most buildings. A modern aerial ladder truck is a potent weapon in fire defense, because it is particularly designed to combat flames and save lives when fire strikes in hotels, apartments, hospitals, of-

ice buildings and schools. In Medford this is a "must" item that should not be longer ignored.

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

It is strongly recommended by the Oregon Insurance Rating Bureau that an alarm box system be installed in Medford, with sufficient boxes to cover the high value district. Today it is a "key" item in any fire protection program, aimed at reducing a city's fire insurance rating classification.

As opposed to the telephoned alarm, the street box is immediately available upon discovery of the fire, at any hour of the day or night, and removes the possibility of human error in transmitting the alarm. Not infrequently an excited caller will give a wrong address or location. Precious time is then consumed in a "trace-back," or awaiting a recall. The use of the dial telephone system practically eliminates the possibility of tracing calls back. It is for this reason the Underwriters attach great significance to the fire alarm box system, and credit 350 rating points for its installation and maintenance.

The initial installation for Medford should cover the high value business district downtown, with special overhead lines to the mills and other critical fire areas.

FIRE DEPARTMENT SUB-STATIONS

The need for two sub-stations is very evident. The approximate location of these stations has received some study and research, but further consideration is necessary before final decisions are made as to location. These stations should be located with an eye to future expansion, as well as immediate requirements.

Justification for the new stations is to be found in the following factors:

1. The splitting of the high value district of the city by the railroad tracks. This is a serious factor that should be remedied immediately.

2. Extremely long runs for fire apparatus to the east side residential area. The fact that there is only one through street leading to the east city boundary that could be blocked, necessitating delaying detours, accentuates the hazard.

3. Rapid expansion of the city's industrial, business and residential areas. Hundreds of new buildings within the corporate limits and in the proposed fire protection districts.

4. Downtown traffic congestion impeding the movement of fire apparatus from the central station to the south, southeast, east and southeast sectors of the city.

5. Earth shock, gas plant explosion, or any other damage to the central fire station might easily put every piece of firefighting equipment in the city out of commission without warning.

INCREASED MANPOWER

Operation of the proposed sub-stations and manning of present headquarters equipment in accordance with minimum standards as set by the Fire Underwriters, calls for the addition of 16 firemen, which would increase the total paid strength to 31 men, including the chief.

The proposed addition to the department's roster would still fall short by about 12 men the number requested by the Underwriters to be on duty at all times. However, some of this can be made up by figuring in our call men.

The increased manpower, while representing the largest item of cost in the entire program, would also account for the largest decrease in deficiency points in insurance gradings for the city.

PURCHASE OF FIRE HOSE

At the present time the fire department is using some hose that is over 20 years old, and although this hose was recently

Convention Plans For Real Estate Men Discussed

A meeting of officials and committeemen of the Medford Realty board, in conjunction with the convention committee of the chamber of commerce, was held Friday evening in the Medford hotel.

Ray Schumacher, president of the Oregon Association of Realty Boards, outlined plans for the entertainment of delegates and guests who will attend the real estate convention to be held in Medford in September.

The real estate clinic previously planned to be held in Grants Pass will be held in the Jackson hotel, Medford, on May 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The day will be divided into several sessions, in which such subjects as listings, advertising, financing, and sales will be discussed.

At 7 p.m. there will be a banquet celebrating the 21st birthday of the Medford Realty board, which all members and their ladies are invited. The speaker will be Al. Crose, real estate commissioner of Oregon, and a former Medford resident.

LISTED AS SUICIDE

Salem, Ore., Apr. 22—(U.P.)—Sophus L. Jespersen, 60, former owner of the Rainbow inn here, was found dead Friday in a gas-filled room in a Salem auto court. Marion County Coroner Lester D. Howell listed the death as suicide.

tested to 200 pounds per square inch, it can no longer be considered reliable. We have practically no reserve hose and consequently cannot change hose in the apparatus as often as we should.

FORMATION OF RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS

The program just outlined, if put into effect in its entirety, would give the city of Medford an adequate fire defense and would enable the city to have sufficient fire coverage to afford the formation and protection of rural fire districts on the fringe of the city.

It is very difficult to estimate the amount of revenue that would be forthcoming from these districts. It would depend on how many would want to take advantage of this service if it were made available to them, and their total assessed valuation, together with the amount they were charged for this service. The amount charged, it seems to me, should not be less than what fire protection costs the people residing within the city. If this were charged, it should aid considerably in the support of the city's fire defense system.

SUMMARY

This plan if put into effect would cost the taxpayers of Medford about \$125,000. We must remember that within recent years there have been two very serious fires in Medford—the destruction caused by either one of them would have more than paid for this entire program, and these losses probably could have been greatly minimized by adequate fire protection.

It is also quite possible that if this program is adopted, the city not only would hold its present insurance rating, but might receive a rate reduction. That, of course, can only be determined by a complete survey by the rating agency.

Ex-Escapee Given 4-Year Prison Term

A charge of receiving stolen property netted Paul Norman Smallwood a four-year prison term Friday. He was sentenced by Judge H. K. Hanna in circuit court after pleading guilty on a district attorney's information. The charge against Smallwood was nearly two years old. He had been arrested for possessing a stolen car in 1948, but escaped from a room in the Community hospital after cutting his way out of a plaster cast around his waist. He walked out of the hospital with a broken pelvis and was not heard of until last February when he was arrested on the old warrant in Roseburg.

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Klamath Falls, Oregon
April 21, 1950

To the Residents of Southern Oregon and Northern California

Dear Friends:

This personal letter to you marks the culmination of nearly five years of effort on the part of KFJI Broadcasters. Mr. W. D. Miller, the management and staff of this Station are proud to announce that the Federal Communications Commission has granted permission that KFJI broadcast on our new frequency of 1150 kilocycles with a daytime power of 5000 watts; night time, of 1000 watts.

Doubtless you have seen the blinking red lights of our new towers high on the hill West of the city. Many of you have driven up to look over the studio-transmitter building and enjoy the beautiful view.

The new 5000-watt Collins Transmitter is completely installed and ready to operate; offices and a new studio are ready to accommodate the staff of KFJI. Preparations are in progress to inaugurate the use of these new facilities with ceremonies fitting to the occasion. Everyone of YOU is cordially invited to attend on Saturday, April 29th.

These new facilities represent the investment of much time and money which are dedicated to bringing you and your family the finest in sports, music, drama and news. As a member of the nation's largest Network, Mutual-Don Lee, KFJI, thru its regional power and superior frequency, will bring into your homes a carefully balanced national and local radio programming.

We long have realized that many sections of this wealthy, progressive Midland Empire of Southern Oregon and Northern California have not received the radio coverage to which it is entitled. Thus, more than four years ago, Mr. W. D. Miller instituted the proceedings which have resulted in 5000 watts of Regional Power on the more desirable frequency of 1150 kilocycles.

KFJI hopes to be a frequent and welcome guest in YOUR home; hopes that you will find interesting entertainment and valuable educational features on our program schedule to please every member of your family. If you will listen to our broadcasts and watch your newspapers, you will be informed of the opening date of our operation on these superior facilities.

Finally, KFJI wishes to assure you that it has been your commercial support and kindly comments which have inspired us to bring this improved service to you.

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