

Commission Views Highway Progress In 1930 Report

(This is another in a series of articles entitled "Glimpses at Highway History," prepared by Ralph Watson, highway department writer.—Editor's note.)

At the close of 1930 the highway commission surveyed its accomplishments and decided that its job was almost finished. It was the close of the 14th year since the start of the program, and the commission, in its report, notes that "at the present time on the state highway system of 4,359 miles, 4,019 have been improved and only 340 miles remain unimproved."

As of that date, the commission had laid 739 miles of paving (188 miles concrete and 551 of bituminous), 1,572 miles of oiled macadam, 239 of non-skid and 2,472 of rock and gravel surface; had repaired 54 miles, done 708 miles of resurfacing and 337 miles of regrading. It notes that Multnomah and incorporated cities of not more than 2,000 population had done their own paving without state assistance. During the 14 years 558 bridges over 20 feet in length had been constructed by the commission.

Spending Told
During the 14-year period there had been expended a gross total of \$141,992,545, of which \$14,596,140 was county funds, \$13,222,242 government, \$563,629 miscellaneous and \$113,610,533 state money. Of the state funds a total of \$29,241,988 represented payments on bonded debt and interest.

It is noted that "The Pacific and west side Pacific highways have been considered as completed, but betterments have been necessary."

Progress had been made on the entire highway network, but already faster and heavier traffic had begun to call for widened roadways, improved curves and flatter grades. The Roosevelt Coast highway had been opened for the greater part of its length, having heavy construction at such points as Hecla Head and the commission foresaw a completed road in the late summer of 1932.

Medford Man Named
The commission started in 1926 with H. B. Van Duzer as chairman, C. E. Gates, Medford, and Robert W. Sawyer, Bend, as commissioners. In 1930 Sawyer resigned and M. A. Lynch, Redmond, was appointed to succeed him.

The first of the coast bridges, and the largest up to then undertaken by the commission, was contracted to be constructed across the Rogue river between Gold Beach and Wedderburn in January, 1930, to be completed by December, 1931.

Eagle Point Students Commended by Morse

Eagle Point, May 18.—Senator Wayne Morse has commended Eagle Point high school students for the manner in which they represented their school in the Youth Day parade in Medford on Monday, according to Steve Whipple, music instructor at the school.

Eagle Point students have been invited to participate in the Armed Forces Day parade on Saturday. The band, majorettes, sports queen and her attendants, cheer leaders and cars containing students will take part.

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