

Pre-War Years of Commission Mark End of Road Era

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

The close of the 1940-42 biennium marked the end of the 25th year of the highway commission's program, as set up by the legislature of 1917.

From 1936 forward, the commission and its engineers (contrary to some other states) had held to the theory that highway standards for construction should, within reason, keep pace with the growth and improvement in motor vehicles. They had widened pavements to 22 feet, straightened curves, reduced grades, developed non-skid driving surfaces and had adopted the most modern design used in America. They had the satisfaction of seeing other states follow in their tracks.

Develop Merit System

They had developed a merit system in the selection and train-

ing of personnel which made tenure and promotion dependent upon ability and performance rather than political influence. They had progressed far in the acquisition and development of the highway park system. The travel bureau, through its advertising program, had doubled and trebled tourist travel and its consequent revenue was distributed throughout the state.

In the first highway report of November, 1914, Major Bowlby, first state highway engineer, set out that Oregon then had "more than 37,000 miles of roads." Not many of these miles were improved, practically none were paved. State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock's report as of June 30, 1942, summarizes both in miles and in money the changes of a quarter of a century.

Highway Miles

The report shows 4,809 miles of primary state highway, all paved or improved except 98.83 miles; 2,387 miles of secondary state highway of which but 263.72 miles were unpaved. There are listed 45,614 miles of

roadways not on the state highway system, including forest roads, national parkways, county roads, city streets and rural roadways. This adds to a total of 52,810 miles of highways, roads and streets, all but approximately 12,450 of them paved or otherwise improved.

It cost approximately \$175,854,253 for construction on primary and secondary state highways and on sections of county highways improved by the state. Including maintenance and general purpose expenditures, the gross expenditures footed to approximately \$321,703,832, not including federal and county funds amounting to \$20,651,846 expended in constructing 1,957.46 miles of forest highways.

Prospect Logger Hurt Seriously in Accident

Eugene Dolenshek, 23, Prospect, is in critical condition at Community hospital as a result of a logging accident Tuesday morning, his doctor reported. A Port ambulance attendant who brought Dolenshek to Medford said the youth suffered a head injury when a falling tree struck him five miles north of Prospect.

Dolenshek is an employee of Everett Skeelers.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at Noon Saturdays.

State Department Aide Takes Life

Frankfurt, Germany, June 22 (U.P.)—Clay H. Henderson, 33, U. S. vice consul here, killed himself in his quarters yesterday. American authorities announced today.

Henderson shot himself after writing several notes, one to his mother, Mrs. Virginia R. Henderson, Ventura, Cal., the announcement said.

It added that none of the notes indicated any reason for suicide except possibly in the mention of his deafness which required him to wear a hearing aid. Associates said he was extremely sensitive about his ailment.

OC Timber Sold At Oral Auction

Salem, Ore., June 22—(U.P.)—District Forester A. P. Collins said today that a total of 6,340,000 board feet of O&C timber was sold at oral auction here for \$142,000 from 195 acres of railroad grant land in four tracts in Yamhill and Tillamook counties.

The bulk of the timber went to the Willamina Lumber company, which was high with a bid of \$24 a thousand feet for 5,080,000 board feet of Douglas fir. The total purchase price was \$121,920.

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Beaver Boys State Will Open June 25

Corvallis, Ore., June 22—(U.P.) The 14th annual Beaver Boys State will open a week's sessions at Oregon State college June 25 with 250 boys from all parts of the state expected to attend.

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The boys state is sponsored by the American Legion. It provides practical training for selected boys, 15 to 17 years of age, in operation of government.

Rev. James L. Wilson of Toledo will direct the session.

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