

Central Point Rural Fire District Gets Discussion By City, District Heads

Central Point — "If Central Point and the surrounding rural fire district combine their equipment and resources, we can have a fire department second to none in Oregon," Councilman Bill Abbott reported to a combined group of councilmen and fire district directors last night.

Abbott, chairman of the council's fire committee, had just returned from a visit to nine rural fire districts in the northern part of the state, eight of which operated out of a nearby city, and reported on what had been found.

He stated the belief that the rural district could cut down its assessed millage to approximately two mills or less next year (the current assessment is four mills), and still have enough money to start a sinking fund to replace depreciated equipment.

Suggestions Reported
A number of suggestions on a tentative basis were reported to both the council and directors by Abbott. He offered them as a starting point for city-district negotiations.

They were that the city would agree to house the rural equipment for \$75 rental each month; the city would use this money to put into a sinking fund to build a new fire station; the rural district would buy one additional piece of equipment.

The city would agree to man the rural equipment in return for use of the rural equipment in town; the rural district would pay all gas and oil and repairs on its own equipment, and separate accounts would be kept for each group's equipment; the city fire chief would be in charge of, and responsible for, operation and maintenance of all equipment, and that he be held accountable to both the council and district.

Would Increase Pay
That the rural district pay one-half of the fire chief's and assistant fire chief's salary; if an agreement is drawn, the chief's salary will be raised to \$50 and assistant chief to \$25; the rural fire district would pay half of the \$75 monthly pay-

ment to the department fund. The rural district would pay each fireman on a rural call \$1.50 a call and \$1 an hour, or a fraction thereof, on rural fires when out over an hour, with the district being billed each month for services; that a written agreement be drawn between the city and rural district setting forth the duties and responsibilities of each party for a five-year period, and that the agreement be subject to change at any time by the majority vote of both parties.

If a fire is in the city and rural district at the same time, each party would have priority over own equipment; and that the city will allow any of their equipment to be used on rural fires where needed when available.

Cost Outlined
He outlined the approximate cost of such an agreement with the city to the rural district as \$8,220, including purchase of a new truck.

A summary of the activities of the city department was also made to the directors and councilmen. Central Point has 18 active firemen using two city trucks and one rural truck with tanker support. The city governs the department and the chief and assistant chief receive \$25 and \$15, respectively, on part-time service each month.

The city also pays the department \$75 each month to be used for whatever the membership decides (usually put back into equipment). In the first six months of 1952, there were nine rural calls using a total time of 8½ hours and 65 men. The percentage of rural calls to city calls was eight to two, according to Abbott. This percentage was the basis for the division of expenses between the city and rural district.

Directors A. C. Thompson and C. C. Hoover both stated that "there should be some mutual agreement between the city and district no matter what plan the district decided to work under in order that the resources of each could work for the benefit of the general public concerned."

The city assured the directors that the present system would be in effect until the district decided to make further plans.

Southern Pacific Plans Radio Use On Siskiyou Line

Extensive radio communications systems are being installed by Southern Pacific to facilitate train operations in the Sierra, Cascade and Siskiyou mountains, enlarging the railroad's already heavy use of electronics, according to D. J. Russell, president of the company.

Freight trains operating over the Tehachapi mountains and along the southern California coast have been equipped with radio for some time, Russell said. Use of radio to speed communications in large switching yards of the railroad has been increasing rapidly for the past six years, he added.

Early Installation Due
The new installations are expected to be completed before next winter.

In the Cascade mountains of western Oregon, radios have been installed temporarily at Eugene, Carter, Oakridge, McCredie Springs, Wicopee, Cruzatte, Fields, Cascade Summit and Crescent Lake, and before next winter will be on all freight trains operating over the Cascade and Siskiyou mountains, Russell said.

Three Frequencies Used
In its mountain radio installations the railroad is using three radio frequencies, one frequency reserved for train crews in communicating between head and rear end of their trains, one for snow fighting equipment, and the third for communications with or through the fixed stations. In the yards other frequencies are used for the switch engines and the walkie-talkies.

Dead line Sunday Classifieds is at 5:30 p.m. for following day; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; noon Saturday

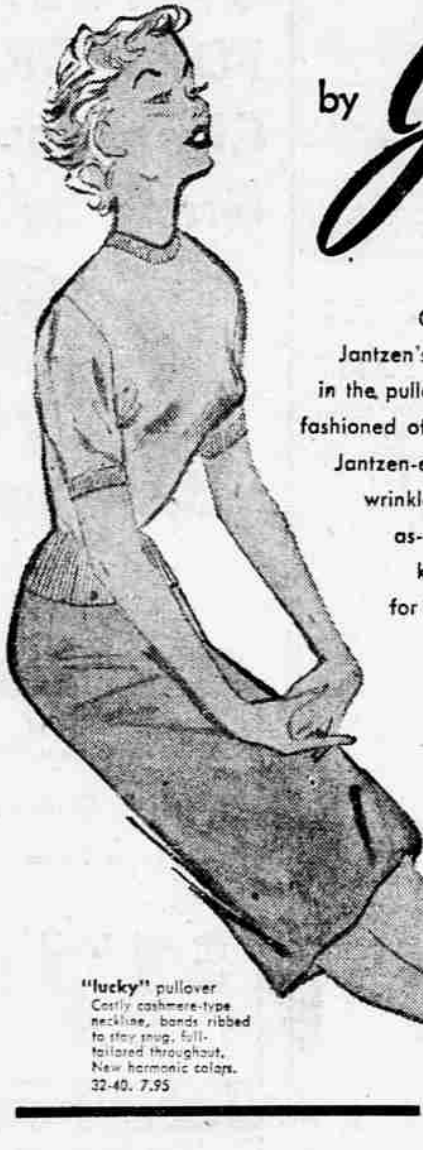


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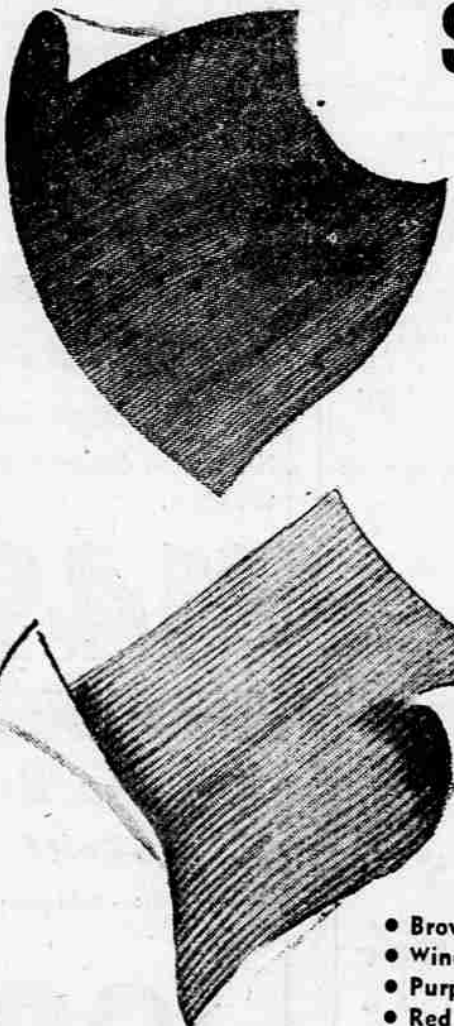
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