

Water and Sanitary Districts Formed To Solve Suburban Problems of Health

Areas Connecting With City Lines; Many Being Served

The post-war mushrooming of the greater Medford area has brought many growing pains. Water and sewage problems are probably the two most pressing.

With soil conditions unsuitable for septic tanks in most areas, except where there is considerable land to dispose of the sewage effluent, well water systems are constantly in danger of contamination. Added to this is the health hazard of sewage runoff standing stagnant in open ditches along the streets and roads where children play.

Many Formed Here
Because of this situation, six water districts and two sanitary districts have formed since 1950 in the area near Medford. Two other water districts were formed a considerable time ago. At the present there are five districts using city of Medford water, and two districts almost ready to connect with the system.

All the water districts except one are municipal corporations. Those now served by Medford include the Midway (Berrydale), Jacksonville highway, Maple Park and Kenwood districts. The Myers lane group of users is organized as a non-profit private corporation.

Three other districts are organized but not now in service. They include the Charlotte Ann, Kings highway and Elk City districts. The former two are expected to be in service in the immediate future.

One Being Organized
Added to this list is the Grandview area northeast of the city which is now in the process of being organized, an election to form district is due in the near future. Boundary hearings were recently completed with the county court.

The five groups now using Medford water have a total of 794 connections, and serve about 2,400 persons. When the Charlotte Ann and Kings highway districts are added, 225 more connections will be added, for about 675 persons.

The districts using Medford water consume about 77,000,000 gallons a year. Compared to the city's total system consumption of 3,000,000,000 gallons a year, this amounts to about 2.6 per cent, according to Robert Lee, assistant water superintendent.

Health Problem Cited
The prime importance of the consumption, however, lies in the suburban area's relationship with the city as a health hazard. An epidemic could spread to the city after starting from septic tank seepage into a well. Lee pointed out that this hazard has been eliminated to a great extent by the use of pipeline water.

The organization of the first water district, in the Berrydale (Midway) area in 1929, was because of a typhoid epidemic, Lee stated. The first 75 connections were made at that time, and since the district was small, only \$13,000 could be spent for the installation.

An inexpensive system was installed, with no fire hydrants. It lasted until this year when an \$80,000 bond issue was voted to replace the entire system and install fire hydrants. The area involved lies about half within the Medford Rural Fire Protection district and half in the Central Point rural district. It is mainly residential, with most of its business located within the Big Y marketing area.

Jacksonville Highway
The next district to be formed was the Jacksonville highway district, in 1938. Financing the project was aided by 50 per cent federal participation. An excellent system was installed in the beginning, and was financed from water revenues after the first year, Lee continued. The district provides water and fire protection to the area from the Medford city limits to about 400 feet west of Perrydale ave., and on Lozier lane down to Stewart ave.

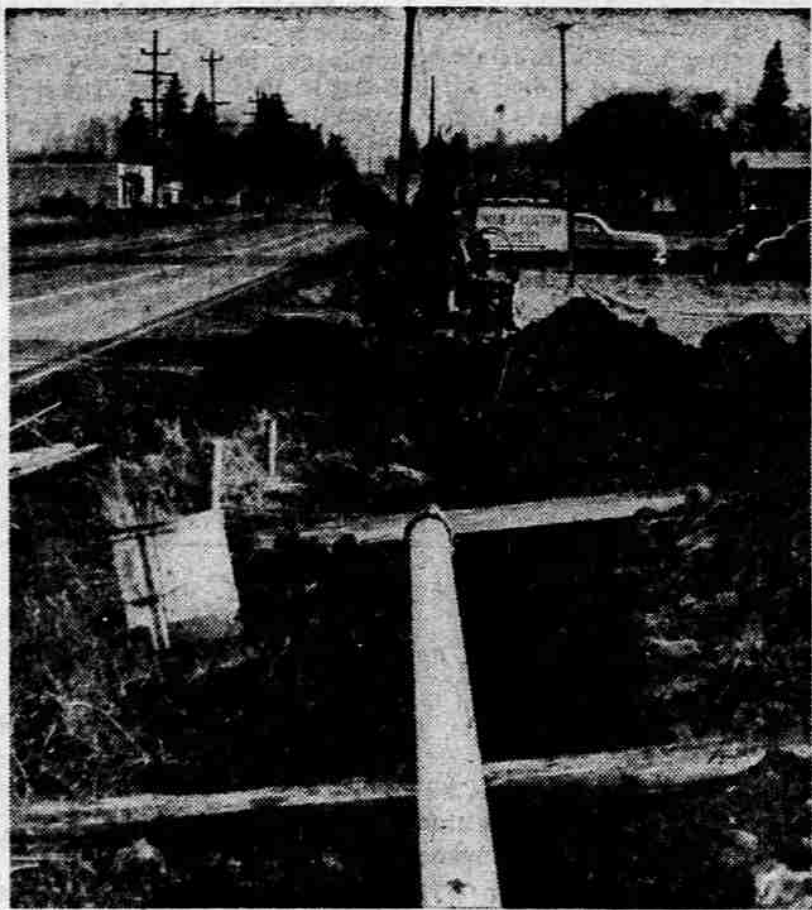
It is the only district with an elevated storage tank, located at the Oak Grove school. Tank capacity is 60,000 gallons, which provides adequate pressure for fire protection.

Growth in both the Jacksonville highway and Midway districts has been extensive. The former has grown from 90 to 283 service connections, and Midway from 75 to 355.

Private Corporation
The Myers lane group formed its private corporation in 1952, with each shareholder borrowing from the Farm Home administration to finance the total cost of about \$14,000. No hydrants were installed. Fourteen connections are now included with the group.

The Kenwood district, which was formed last year and began service last summer, now has 63 connections. The district is mainly residential, located north of McAndrews rd., between Biddle rd. and the old Crater Lake highway and Morrow rd. on the north, with a few small sections outside this area.

The Maple Park district,



INSTALLATION—Shown is a portion of the Charlotte Ann water district installation south of Medford near Phoenix on Highway 99. A ditch digger is shown in operation last week, with the pipeline ready for installing in the foreground. Construction is expected to be completed within the week and water service begun in the near future. The district will serve about 300 people to start with, as well as businesses along the highway.

which now serves 79 connections, was organized in 1952 and received its first water in 1953. On Jan. 10, the district residents will vote on a \$10,000 bond issue to extend the system to about 100 more persons. There are no hydrants. Initial cost was about \$26,000. The district is located west of the city in the McAndrews rd. and Ross lane area.

125 Connections
Pipelines for the Kings highway districts, which will have about 125 connections, have now been installed. The district was formed this year, with the installation costing about \$65,000. It is located south of Stewart ave. to Shaffer lane, between Kings highway and Peach st.

Work is now being completed on the Charlotte Ann district, where about 100 connections will be served. Cost of the installation of pipelines and hydrants is about \$75,000; according to A. D. Harvey, engineer for the district. The pipeline is located along Highway 99 south from the proposed armory site almost to the city limits of Phoenix.

The most recently organized district, Elk City, extends from the site of the Crater Lake Machinery company, North Pacific highway, to the city limits of Central Point. It includes the Elk City area and is bordered on the east by the Midway district. Preliminary plans and financing are now being discussed by district officials and it is hoped to call for a bond election in the immediate future.

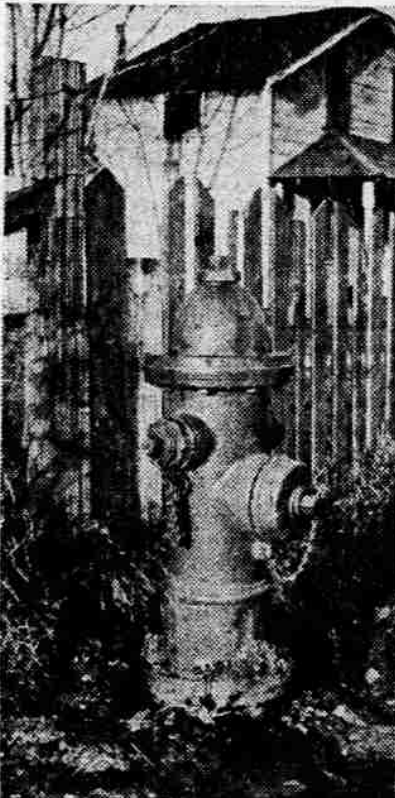
Industrial Area
The Elk City district will serve an industrial area along Highway 99 and also provide a second trunk line to the city of Central Point, to double its water supply.

City of Medford employees maintain all district mains on a cost-plus basis. The Medford water commission has set a policy of charging water rates outside the city the same as a private utility, Lee pointed out. This means a rate based on the \$5,500,000 investment by Medford residents in the whole water system. Each district, in turn, sets its own rates, based on its investment costs, Lee explained.

By providing the outside services, the commission obtains a lowering of each unit cost by increasing its overall volume with use of the same primary installations. Besides a monetary factor, the commission offers the connections for assistance in the health problem, and for the general economy of the whole area, the assistant water superintendent said.

Pure Water
In return for the payments, suburban residents obtain water which for the past four years has been 100 per cent free of bacteria in each of 240 samples taken annually. The water is also free of all solids. It is 99.9913 per cent free of solids such as silica and other dissolved metals.

Action is also pending on both the county's two sanitary districts. The oldest, the Table Rock



FIRE PROTECTION—Shown is a new hydrant installed on Charlotte Ann rd. south of Medford during recent construction in the Charlotte Ann water district. By installing water mains, district residents will benefit by increased fire protection by having hydrants throughout the district. The area is within the Medford Rural Fire Protection district.

Sanitation district, located adjacent to the principal sewer main to Camp White at Four Corners, is negotiating with the city on proposed charges before it votes a bond issue for construction, according to Irving Allen, attorney for the district.

The South Bear Creek Sanitary district, formed this year, includes about the same area as the Charlotte Ann water district. A \$58,000 bond issue has been approved and the district hopes to get plans for construction ready in the near future.

Pioneering Work
Harvey pointed out that the local districts are "pioneers" in the field. Only a few other sanitary districts have been formed in Oregon, the closest being at Roseburg.

The city of Medford is now almost surrounded by water districts, except in the Orchard Home dr. area, southwest of the city.

Instead of small districts being formed on a limited basis, as has been done, Harvey has proposed a Metropolitan Sanitary and Water district from Talent north to the Rogue river. The proposal would utilize Medford's Camp White sewage plant and water system.

Whether or not it is ever adopted will remain for the future to tell. However, at the rate such districts are now being formed, a good portion of the area seems destined to be connected with Medford's ever-growing distribution and collection systems — and before too long.

Four Tree Farms, Totaling 81,000 Acres, Dedicated

Four Jackson county tree farms totalling approximately 81,000 acres were dedicated here Friday night at a meeting of the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association.

They brought the county's dedicated tree farm acreage to more than 200,000 acres on nine tree farms.

Certificates were presented to B. L. Nutting, for Medford Corporation; William Schmidt, for Oregon Switzerland Tree Farm; J. W. Fitzgerald, for the 3B Tree Farm, and to Albert Straus, for the Sams Valley Irrigation Association Tree Farm.

By Two Agencies
Certification was made by two agencies, the Western Pine association, and the Industrial Forestry association. Medco and Oregon Switzerland received certificates from both organizations, while SVIA and 3B received Western Pine association certificates.

Western Pine association certifies pine tree farms, and Industrial Forestry association certifies fir tree farms.

U. R. Armstrong, president of Western Pine associations, noted in his presentation address that the joint dedication sponsored by the two regional associations is unique. This is the only area, he said, where the fir and pine timber belts overlap.

Cites Support
Armstrong noted a "strong community support" for tree farms in southern Oregon and praised SOCTFA and local soil conservation districts for backing the tree farm movement on a local level.

Community groups have a great opportunity in the west to back tree farming, the Western Pine official declared. He pointed out that, in general, the larger private timber holdings have taken up the tree farm program, and community groups can do the greatest good by concentrating on boosting tree farming among the owners of certificates were presented by smaller timber holdings.

Industrial Forestry association Floyd Hart, of Timber Products company, who is vice-chairman of the association. Hart noted that tree farming is a unique program in that those who operate tree farms have little chance, in their own generation, to reap the benefits of their actions and teachings.

KOG Commendations
During the evening, three Keep Oregon Green association commendations were presented by Jim Dunlevy, acting for KOG Executive Secretary Al Wisendanger, who was unable to be present.

The commendations went to

Jorgen Jorgensen, owner of Jorgensen's dairy, for using the KOG emblem on milk cartons; to Fred and Mike Beck, owners of Beck's bakery, for using KOG's "Smoky Bear" stickers on their bread wrappers, and to Walt and John Garner, of Cal-Ore Machinery company, for using the KOG slogan on the firm's 1955 calendars.

It was announced at the meeting that the Sierra Cascade Logging conference will be held Feb. 17-19 next year at Redding, Calif. Several local men will take part in the program.

Guests Attend
Special guests at the meeting included State Rep. Ed Mann, Assistant State Forester Dwight Phipps, Josephine and Jackson county officials, Mayor George Burr of Coquille, officials of the Southern Oregon Truckers league, and representatives of the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Soil Conservation Service, and the State Forest Patrol.

SOCTFA President
Glenn Hunter presided at the meeting, and L. L. Simpson, forester and secretary-manager for SOCTFA, presented the secretary's report.

BPA Set To Spend \$35,000,000 in '55

Portland — (U.P.) — Bonneville Power administration Saturday announced the scheduling of \$35,000,000 expenditures for new and improved facilities during 1955.

The figure includes \$6,487,000 for contract construction work, according to administrator Dr. William A. Pearl. Pacific Northwest contractors will be invited to bid on 182 miles of right-of-way clearing at an estimated cost of \$1,485,000; 200 miles of transmission line construction, \$2,499,000; 24 substation additions, \$2,082,000; six new substations, \$405,000, and four radio stations \$16,000.

Dr. Pearl said administration expenditures during 1954 totaled \$40,000,000, including \$6,594,000 in contract construction.

Construction activity during the next year will center on completion of high voltage transmission lines from McNary dam to Portland-Vancouver, lower Willamette valley and southwest Oregon load centers, and from Chief Joseph dam to Puget Sound and Olympic Peninsula load centers.

San Francisco's Central Fire Alarm station is housed in a fireproof building located in the center of Jefferson Square park.

AEC Planning To Strip Mystery From Menace of H-Bomb Fallout

Washington — (U.P.) — The Atomic Energy commission plans to strip some of the mystery off "fallout" the radioactive menace which has extended the H-bomb's deadly range and posed a tough new problem for civil defense planners.

AEC Chairman Lewis L. Strauss disclosed Friday that the commission's medicine and biology, weapons applications, and research divisions are making a study of this "very important subject."

Will Present Results
At some future dates, unspecified, he will present the results of the study at a new conference. He made it clear that the AEC knows enough now about fallout to be convinced that future weapons tests may be carried out without undue risk.

Strauss said the current study will not affect tactical A-bomb tests scheduled for the Nevada Proving Ground early next year. And he said the AEC plans to continue using the Marshall island H-bomb test area in the Pacific as developments warrant. Unofficial speculation is that the new H-bomb tests are in the works for next fall.

Fallout is a consequence of both A-bomb and H-bomb explosions, but the H-bomb has amplified it by what the scientists call a new "order of magnitude." Normally, if a bomb goes off high enough in the air, radioactive particles generated by the explosion are dissipated harmlessly in the upper atmosphere.

Hot Particles Fall
But if rain falls through the bomb cloud, or if the explosion is low enough to scoop up and hurl pulverized soil into the air, "hot" particles may fall in lethal quantity downwind of the burst.

On March 1, 1954, the world got an unpleasant lesson in the hazards of H-bomb fallout. On that day a U.S. hydrogen bomb, unofficially reported as equal in

power to 15 million tons of TNT, was exploded at Bikini in the Marshalls.

A short time later, radioactive coral dust rained down on 23 Japanese fishermen going about their business 71 miles away. All became sick. Last September one of them died.

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