

Plans for Highway 99 Discussed at Meeting

Plans for reconstruction of Highway 99, from Rock Point bridge, west of Gold Hill, to the foot of Sexton mountain, north of Grants Pass, were discussed at Grants Pass during the past week by R. H. Baldock, Oregon state highway engineer.

Speaking before the Grants Pass and Josephine County Chamber of Commerce, Baldock said he was in southern Oregon to look over alternate routes north from Grants Pass, and the proposed freeway between Gold Hill and Grants Pass.

Baldock indicated that he will recommend the Merlin Hill route north from Grants Pass rather than an alternate route over the Granite Hill location. Construction of a portion of the project, which eventually will be about nine miles long, from Grants Pass to the south end of construction over Sexton mountain, completed several years ago, may be started some time during the coming summer months, the highway engineer said.

He stated that he had looked over alternate lines now under survey and study for the proposed route of the Pacific highway from a connection north of Grants Pass to a point near Rock Point bridge, about two miles west of Gold Hill.

Medford and Grants Pass sources have indicated that plans

call for the highway to run north of the Rogue river to a crossing somewhere between the town of Rogue River and the present completed new highway, which has its western end near Rock Point bridge.

Bypasses Grants Pass

When completed, the proposed new highway would bypass the Grants Pass business district to the north. It also would run on higher ground between Grants Pass and Gold Hill than does the present highway, thereby eliminating a section of highway on the south side of the river which is frequently closed by flood waters during late winter and early spring.

The state engineer said the state highway commission will not act on his recommendations until its next meeting, slated for March 2 and 3.

The date for construction of the portion of the highway between Grants Pass and Gold Hill, Baldock said, will depend on the availability of funds, including the amount of federal aid.

In answer to a question, Baldock said that fences along the Pacific highway freeway, across the Rogue river from Gold Hill, are to stop access to the limited access road.

"In the main, it is a safety measure, to protect the motorist on the freeway from side access," he explained.

Councilmen Study Lease, Restoration Of Old U.S. Hotel

Jacksonville—The city council and mayor of Jacksonville discussed leasing of the historic U. S. hotel, with some arrangement to restore it, at an adjourned meeting last week, according to B. J. Christianson, city recorder.

It was pointed out that the city now has full title to the building and some means of keeping it in good repair was needed. A suggestion to make the building into a hotel again, with dining facilities for tourists was proposed.

Singers and Band Entertain Vets

Camp White — The Happy Jesters, Jerry Prez, Ken Cornell and Sal Tino, vocalists, and Bob Frisquie, accompanist, who have been appearing at the Rogue Valley Country club, entertained members of the Camp White Domiciliary Friday afternoon. The entertainers, who give their final program at the country club tonight (Sunday), appeared at the Domiciliary under sponsorship of the Oregon State Elks association, the Elks National Veterans Service commission and the Bend Elks lodge 1371. Three officers of the Bend lodge, Kenneth C. Cale, exalted ruler, Homer E. Rainey, loyal knight, and Lloyd L. Evans, lecturing knight, accompanied the troupe. Hugh Williams, hospital chairman of the Medford Elks lodge, presided and was assisted by George E. Harrington, manager of the country club, and Mrs. Ernest L. Scott of Medford.

Cigarettes, coffee and doughnuts were served after the performance.

Acting Manager Reuben H. Denning of the Domiciliary later escorted the Bend Elks on an inspection tour of the institution.

In the evening the Talent high school band of 50 pieces under direction of Ralph Carroll gave a concert for the Domiciliary members. The band's appearance was arranged by Emil Kroeger and Everett McLaughlin of the Ashland Elks lodge hospital entertainment committee. The band was accompanied to Camp White by Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Bell and Mrs. John Baldwin.

Ashland lady Elks, Mrs. Pearl Jones, Mrs. A. G. Hamilton, Mrs. George Jones and Mrs. C. E. Taylor served refreshments in the theater.

Barbershoppers Slate Roundup at Forest Grove

Forest Grove — (U.P.) — The city of Forest Grove turns back the clock to the Gay Nineties next week with the biggest barbershop quartet roundup in the nine-year history of the songfest to be held.

Some 32 quartets from three states are signed up for the three days of singing, Thursday through Saturday. They include 17 men's quartets and 15 feminine foursomes.



JUBILANT CALIFORNIANS exchange congratulations in Washington after GOP national committee unanimously approves San Francisco as site for Republican national convention Aug. 20, 1956. From left: Howard Ahmanson, Los Angeles, vice president California State Central committee; A. Ronald Butten, Los Angeles, national committeeman; Marjorie H. E. Benedict, Berkeley, national committeewoman; national chairman Leonard Hall; Mrs. Margaret M. Brock, Los Angeles, national committeewoman, and Thomas C. Caldecott, Berkeley, chairman of California State Central Committee. (International Soundphoto)

Jennings Pierce New Head Of Chamber Greeters Group

Jennings Pierce has been appointed chairman of the Greeters committee by John Pietsch, president of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, it was announced Saturday. Pierce, senior partner of Pierce, Dawkins, has been associated with the Greeters committee for several years.

Was With NBC

Before coming to Medford, Pierce was manager of station relations for the National Broadcasting company covering the 11 western states. Coming to Medford in 1950 with his wife, Pierce took over the management of radio station KMED.

Pierce has served as president of the chamber of commerce and Kiwanis club. He served on the board of directors for the Shakespearean festival, YMCA, chamber of commerce and state board

of PTA. At present he is president of the Oregon Life Savers committee for this area.

Attendance Up

Attendance has continued to increase at the regular Chamber of Commerce "Kaffee Klatch" under Pierce's leadership. The committee has met six times during 1955 with 20 to 30 greeters and guests in attendance at each meeting. A

special meeting, Thursday, Feb. 10, held at KBES-TV, acquainted the Greeters committee with the new studios on the Crater Lake highway. Other trips are planned by the greeters to various communities in the valley.

The "Kaffee Klatch" has been shortened to 30 minutes, with the Greeters assembling at 8:55 a.m. and ending their meeting at 9:30 a.m. The committee was organized more than three years ago for the purpose of greeting new comers, new business firms, new managers of businesses and other recent arrivals to Medford.

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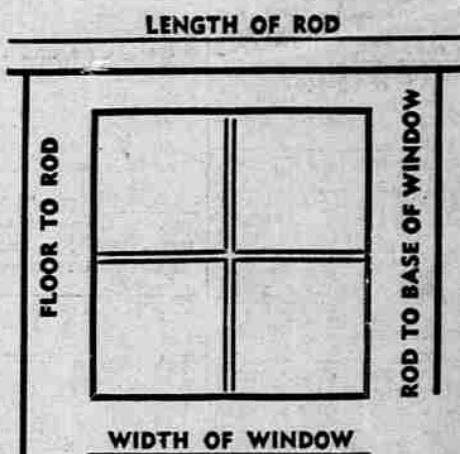
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State Employment Up Over '54 Level

Salem — (U.P.) — Employment in trade, industry and other non-form activities in Oregon declined 23,000 in January from the previous month but continued 10,500 above similar figures a year ago, the State Unemployment compensation commission said Saturday.

Reports from 1700 representative employers showed seasonal layoffs in trade, lumbering, construction and food processing were responsible for the drop to 437,000 non-agricultural jobs last month. This compares with 460,200 in December; 426,700 in January, 1954; and 441,300 in January, 1953.

A mild winter and improved lumber market helped to hold employment in the basic wood products industry at 73,700, a decrease of 500 from the previous month but 8000 higher than a year ago.



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