

Pros and Cons of Annexation As Sanitation Answer Talked

The pros and cons of city annexation as a means of solving fringe areas' sanitation problems—which are largely those of finance—were discussed in detail at a meeting here last night.

The meeting, second in a series sponsored by the Jackson County Public Health association to seek solutions to the urgent and growing need for sanitary facilities, heard Medford City Manager Robert Duff and Mayor Earl Miller tell of the annexation plan presented to the city council this week.

Still Tentative
The plan, which is still only tentative and which will not be placed in effect until a detailed survey is completed, would call for the annexation of some 3,000 acres southeast, south and southwest of the city. It would be up to residents of the area to decide whether or not annexation is the appropriate plan for them, Duff emphasized, saying that the city is not "trying to put anything over on anybody."

Mayor Miller pointed out that the health problem affects everyone in the entire area, whether they live inside or outside the city limits. The plan is simply a reflection of this fact, he said, facing up to the reality that epidemics do not stop at city lines once they get started.

Seriousness Emphasized
Seriousness of the health menace created by raw sewage effluent saturating soils of the area was emphasized by a quotation from Dr. A. Erin Markel, county health officer, asking, in effect, "How long can we continue gambling with human life?"

First step in any annexation problem is a detailed survey and study of the problem, revealing what liabilities and what assets the city would assume by taking into its boundaries outside areas, the city officials said. The assets would include the assessed valuation of the areas for tax purposes, additional land for subdivisions, additional revenue from the state based on a per capita basis, and others. The liabilities would include any bonded indebtedness of water or sanitation districts in the areas involved, an increase in costs of fire and police protection, and added bonding necessary to put in sewer and water lines.

Advantages to residents of the annexed areas would include the ability to bond for sanitary facilities under the Bancroft act, which permits amortization over a 10-year period, building inspection, better police and fire protection, with resulting lower insurance rates, and the other

benefits of being within the corporate limits of a city.

Due In 30 Days

Duff said that his survey of the proposed annexation areas will be completed and presented to the city council within the next 30 days. He added that this study is only a phase of an overall project regarding annexation, and that later parts of it will embrace areas to the west, north and northeast of Medford.

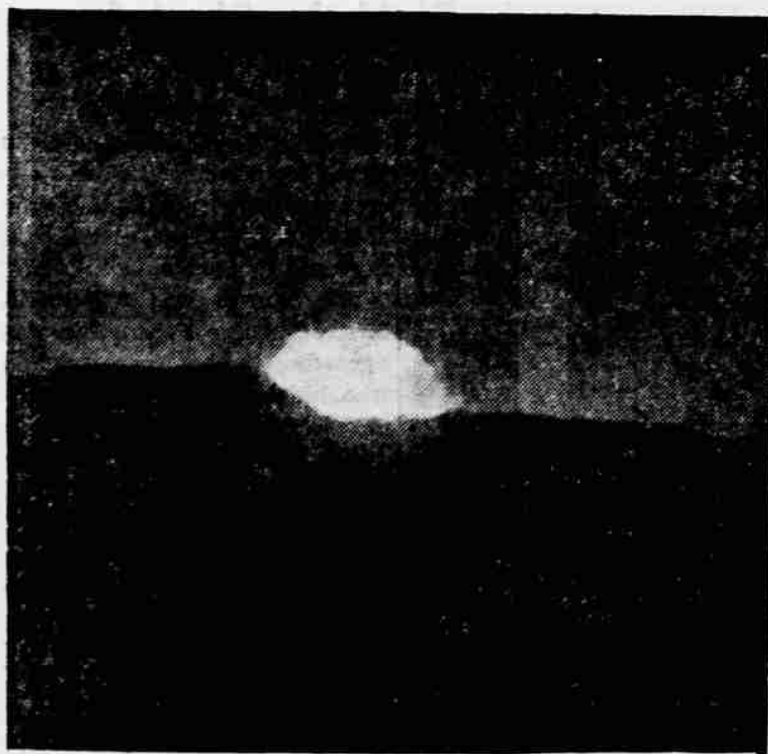
After the study has been completed, Mayor Miller said the city will be in a position to make a decision on how to proceed. If it is felt annexation is the best answer, elections can be called in the affected areas to see if the residents want to join the city. The city can approve or reject annexation either through a city-wide election, or by council action, but both Duff and

Miller indicated it would probably be the former.

County zoning as a solution was mentioned frequently during the discussion, and will be the subject of later studies by the committee.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 31, when A. D.

Harvey, Medford engineer, will discuss his proposal for a metropolitan sanitary district.



MAN MADE SUN—The fire ball of the fifth detonation in current series at the Nevada proving grounds at Yucca Flat is partially hidden by surrounding mountains. This A-bomb was exploded above smoke screen in test of theory that artificial smoke can insulate humans and cities from much of the searing heat of nuclear fission.

FFA Awards Made At State Convention

Central Point—Last night was "awards night" at the third annual state convention of the Future Farmers of America.

Mike Harms, Canby, was named "Star Farmer of Oregon," an award which is the highest the organization can give on a state level. He earned the honor with a farming program which includes 18 head of registered sheep, half interest in 39 feeder lambs, 4 registered chester white sows and 18 registered gilts, 10 acres of corn, 2 head of steers and 10 acres of oats. With the award went a \$100 check.

Star Dairy Farmer
An award as "Star Oregon Dairy Farmer" and a \$100 check went to Wilmont Elder, Enterprise. He has 16 registered holsteins valued at \$3,700, which averaged 12,746 pounds of milk and 449.93 pounds of butterfat per cow.

The soil and water management award and \$100 went to George Meyers, Newberg. He has developed 10½ acres of permanent pasture, built two dams to supply water for irrigation, started buying an irrigation system, and conducted other conservation practices.

Electrification Award
John Evers, La Grande, won the state farm electrification award of \$100. He has planned the wiring for his barn, run circuits for lights in the milk room,

milk barn and parlor, wired 240-volt receptacles around the farm, and repaired a number of small appliances.

The \$100 farm mechanics award went to Jasper Olinger, MacHi, Milton-Freewater, who has built and repaired many pieces of farm equipment on his farm, assisted in building a new residence and built cattle guards and corrals.

The Albany FFA chapter won the farm safety \$100 award for safety accomplishments taught and practiced in that chapter. A safety campaign using posters and reflectors was completed by the group.

Crater High school FFA chapter was listed as a "master chapter" for the first time this year, along with six other chapters. A total of 32 chapters earned the award, 25 of them for the second time. The chapter award is based on the program of work outlined and followed by each.

Other awards made during the convention were for chapter scrapbooks, Newberg, first, Wy-east, second and Gresham, third; for farm project record books, Ronald Peterson, Adrian, first, Harry J. Riehle, Canby, second, and Kenneth Purkey, Bend, third; secretary books, Newberg first, Banks second and Gresham third; and treasurer books, Roseburg first, McLoughlin second and LaGrande third.

(See story on Page 1)

Record-Breaking Douglas Fir Price Offered in Sale

Heavy competition for four tracts of timber offered for sale by the Medford office of Bureau of Land Management resulted in the highest prices ever received for Douglas fir timber in this district, according to District Forester E. K. Peterson.

Dollar and Patterson Co., Inc., of Glendale, paid \$44 per thousand for 4,000,000 board feet on Upper Cow creek; Bate Lumber Co. of Merlin submitted the high sealed bid of \$33.75 per thousand for 1,307,000 board feet of Douglas fir on Powell Creek near Murphy; Southern Oregon Ply-wood of Grants Pass made the last oral bid for \$33 per thousand on a tract of 1,000,000 board feet on Wolf Creek; Medford Corporation purchased 1,500,000 board feet north of Butte Falls for \$26.50 per thousand.

Minor Volumes
Only minor volumes of Ponderosa pine, sugar pine, incense cedar, white fir and western hemlock were included in the sales. Every tree sold was carefully selected and marked for cutting by a professional forester employed by the bureau. All thrifty trees, poles and tree seedlings were reserved and must be given maximum protection during the logging on these tracts of O&C and public domain land.

Another sale will be held at the Bureau's Medford office in the city hall at 10:30 a.m. on April 14. Sealed bids will be accepted for 3½ million board feet, mostly ponderosa pine.

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