

Questions, Answers On Annexation Plan Given By City Officials

Series Of Meetings Scheduled To Explain Facts On Proposal

The first in a series of meetings to discuss annexation problems was held in the Jackson County court house auditorium Friday night. Residents in the proposed area questioned city officials regarding different aspects of annexation.

A second such meeting will be held at radio station KYJC Wednesday night. The meeting will be sponsored by the Jackson County Health association, which also sponsored Friday's discussion.

Pamphlets containing information regarding proposed annexation of South Medford and Laurelhurst addition are being sent to post office box holders and householders by city officials.

The pamphlets contain a map indicating the area to be annexed, as well as information regarding city services which would be provided if annexation is approved.

Residents in South Medford and Laurelhurst addition will vote on annexation at an election July 5. If approved, annexation will double present city area, and furnish residents of the areas with city services.

Mayor Earl Miller and City Manager Earl Duff answered questions, and commented on annexation. Also attending was Jackson county commissioner L. G. (Shy) Morthland, who said he believed annexation of the area would be less expensive for residents over a number of years.

The following questions and answers on a number of different phases of annexation are those which have come up during the past week, many of them at Friday's meeting. Answers to any additional questions which may arise will be obtained and published in the Mail Tribune before the election July 5.

Q. Who is promoting annexation?

A. Mayor Earl Miller pointed out the city is promoting annexation. The city now furnishes water and sewer facilities to many residents in South Medford, and those areas, Miller said, could receive other city benefits at a cost equal to or slightly more than residents living in the area now pay.

Q. What is included in the area?

A. The area is shown shaded in the map on this page, prepared by city officials, a brief description of which accompanies the map. Additional information on exact locations of properties may be obtained at the city hall.

Q. Why is the area south of Medford, which includes many agricultural tracts, being proposed for annexation while similar areas north of the city are not?

A. South Medford is believed to be the most rapidly developing area. Mayor Miller pointed out that adverse sanitation conditions, a new community hospital, two shopping centers, a new armory, an elementary school, and several subdivisions which are planned or under construction, determined the planning commission's recommendation to the council for annexation of the area.

Long range plans call for annexation of areas north of Medford. The area south, if annexed, would be used as a guide for annexation to the north, and city officials will have a working basis for future annexations.

Q. Why is South Bear Creek Sanitary district included in annexation plans when sewer facilities are available in the district now?

A. Annexation is not exclusively for sanitary purposes, Mayor Miller pointed out. Annexation would also provide proper city planning and zoning for community development as well as provide additional police and fire protection. City Manager Robert Duff said it is almost impossible to expand city limits without including either a water or sanitary district.

Q. If the city is interested in sanitation, why did Medford residents go to Salem in an attempt to defeat Sen. Philip Lowry's Metropolitan Sanitary District bill?

A. Mayor Miller, who was in Salem when the bill was introduced, said he does not "know of anyone from Medford who was there opposing the bill." He pointed out the Metropolitan Sanitary District would take too much time to correct sanitary conditions in many areas proposed to be annexed, and that annexation was deemed the quickest and most efficient way of coping with the acute problem.

Q. Can sewer districts be organized in the area without annexation?

A. Yes. South Bear Creek Sanitary district was organized outside the city limits, and uses city sewage disposal facilities. Duff pointed out, however, that a large area is needed to finance bonding a sanitary district, and that annexation would solve the problem quicker and with less expense than a sanitary district.

Q. Are residents required to connect to sewers?

A. If a sewer line is within 200 feet of a residence, that residence is required to connect with the sewer.

Q. How long will it take to get sewer lines installed?

A. Petitions must be submitted to the council with over 50 per cent of the assessable property owners' signatures. It then takes between 60 and 90 days for improvements to start.

Q. What does a sewer connection cost?

A. The average cost of a connection, if one is made on an existing sewer line, is about \$80. Connections are installed for residences when new lines are constructed.

Q. How much will water mains, sewer lines, streets and sidewalks cost?

A. It is estimated water mains and sewer lines cost an average of \$2.25 per front foot, and that streets will cost an average of about \$7 per front foot. Those improvements can be instituted by petitions submitted to the council with at least 50 per cent of the property owners' signatures.

Q. How soon will improvements be available?

A. They would be available upon annexation, and when petitions have been submitted.

Q. Is it true assessments for water main and sewer lines may be financed under the Bancroft act?

A. Yes. Improvements may be assessed over a 10-year semi-annual payment basis, providing assessment against the property is not more than the assessed valuation. In that case, the difference between assessed valuation and the most of improvements is paid in cash, with the balance financed under the Bancroft act. For example, if an improvement costs \$135, and the assessed valuation is \$100, \$35 would be paid in cash with the remainder financed.

Q. What does a water connection cost?

A. A three-quarter inch connection costs \$40, with larger connections costing more depending on the connection size.

Q. Will private water supplies be allowed to be used by residents?

A. Yes. However, residents would be subject to assessments for water mains which might be installed in front of their property. Mains are installed on petition to the council, and the city pays the difference between a six-inch cast iron main and the size deemed necessary to furnish an adequate supply of water.

Q. Would water districts residents being annexed be responsible for their share of any indebtedness previously contracted by the district?

A. Yes.

Q. Would water district residents be present within the city?

A. Probably not. Optional water services rates exist in the city now, and residents may or may not be charged on a metered basis or flat rate. However, the water board probably would discontinue flat rates in annexed areas, and charge on a meter basis.

Q. How can city officials state that fire insurance rates will be lowered when rates are controlled by the State of Oregon?

A. Rates in the annexed area, if approved, would become the same as within city limits, which are less than rural rates.

Q. What effect will annexation have on streets and roads in the area?

A. They would be maintained as similar roads in the city, until petitions are submitted to the council for improvements.

Q. What of privately owned streets which are 20 feet wide when city requirements are for a 60-foot street?

A. The street could remain as a "court" and privately owned, as are some courts within city limits now.

Q. How long will it be before residents of the area will be able to obtain sidewalks, improved streets, and other city improvements?
A. It takes between 60 and

City Officials Set Television Broadcast On Annexation Plan

The city of Medford's plan of annexation to help solve the sanitation problem in Jackson county will be discussed on a television program on KBESTV at 3 o'clock this afternoon. The half-hour program is under the sponsorship of the Jackson County Public Health association and is a public service feature of the station.

City officials who will discuss the proposed annexation of 3,000 acres to the east, south and west of the present city limits include Mayor Earl Miller, City manager Robert Duff, and Tom Wray, chairman of the planning commission. Mrs. John Hensen, a resident of the area to vote on the plan, and Tom Reeder of the sanitation committee, will represent the Public Health association.

90 days for improvements to start after petitions with at least 50 per cent of the property owners are submitted to the council.

Q. Can the city condemn land for road purposes?

A. Yes. Condemnation is a court proceeding, and damages are awarded by the court.

Q. Can livestock, such as chickens, dairy cattle, and other domestic animals be raised in the area if annexed?

A. Yes. Zoning ordinances will permit farming and livestock raising. The planning commission is presently considering an additional agricultural zone which would permit all types farming.

Q. Can people moving in the area force other residents to discontinue raising farm animals?

A. Yes, if subdivisions develop within present farming areas, residents of the subdivision may request discontinuance of farming. However, farmers within the area will be protected by zoning codes, which will include orchards, small acreage and other tracts.

Q. Will orchard heating and spraying be allowed if the area is annexed?

A. Yes. Farming will be carried on as usual even after annexation.

Q. Why isn't the election being held within each separate district, such as water and sanitary districts, instead of a "package deal"?

A. The election could be held within each district, Duff said. He pointed out that if annexation fails July 5, other attempts may be made in smaller districts. The planning commission, after careful study, believed annexation as proposed the most feasible system.

Should the large annexation proposal fail, city officials said smaller areas similar to Laurelhurst addition could then be annexed. Residents there will vote on annexation July 5, an election which was called after they petitioned the council for annexation. An election is necessary, however, because 100 per cent of the Laurelhurst residents did not sign the petition.

Q. Is it possible boundaries could follow street lines, instead of 200 feet or more to one side?

A. It is possible, but city-county problems do not arise when boundaries are to one side. For example, should a water main be installed on such a city-county road, only those residents within the city would finance it while those in the county would be outside the city and would not be assessable for the improvement.

Q. Why is annexation being submitted to the voters now, instead of later to allow more time for publicity and voter registration?

A. City Manager Duff pointed out annexation received newspaper publicity as early as March 15, and that there has been much subsequent publicity. Residents in the proposed area could have been registered to vote prior to June 6.

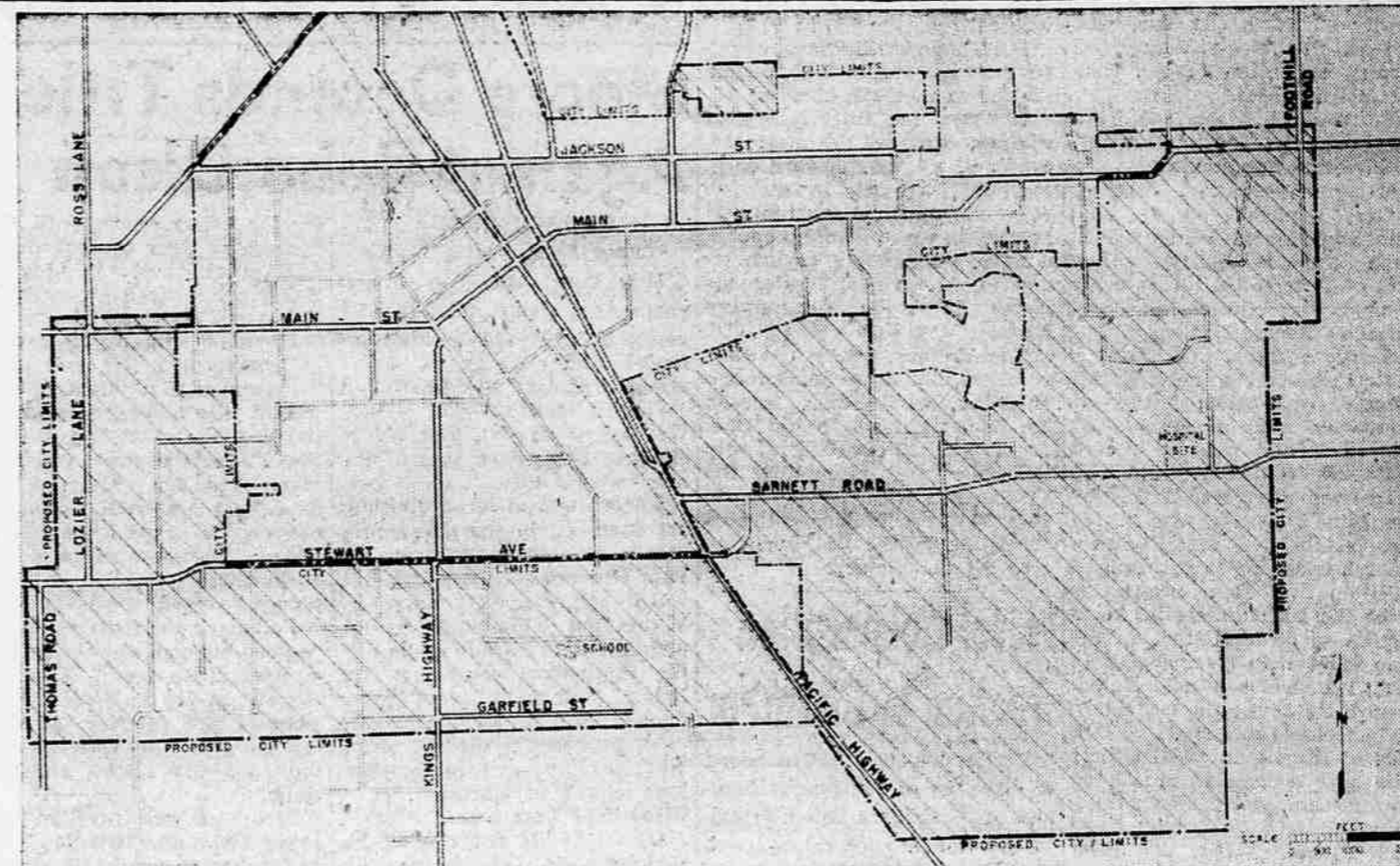
Q. Can non-property owners vote?

A. Yes. Any resident within the proposed area who is a registered voter may cast a ballot.

Q. Is it true that residents of Medford will vote on an increase over the 6 per cent limitation for the budget at the same time residents outside the city vote on annexation?

A. Yes. But Mayor Miller pointed out that the city election on financial questions has no direct connection with annexation.

Q. What additional revenue



ANNEXATION BOUNDARIES—The proposed area to be annexed is shown by the cross-hatched areas on the above map. The areas include the Laurelhurst addition north of Jackson st., and South Medford, briefly described here: From the east city limits, 200 feet north of Hillcrest rd., east to a point 200 feet east of Foothill rd.; south (with two zig-zags as indicated toward the right of the above map) to a point east of South Pacific highway; west across Southern Pacific railroad tracks; northwest to opposite Charlotte Ann rd.; westward 200 feet south of Garfield st. and to a point 200 feet west of Thomas rd.; north to a point 200 feet north of Stewart ave.; eastward to a point 547 feet west of Lozier lane; north to a point 200 feet north of West Main st.; and east to present city limits, shown toward left of map. The Laurelhurst annexation area includes that portion of the addition not now within the city. The boundary extends from the present city limits on Crater Lake ave. north to a point 150 feet north of Stevens st., and east to Wabash st. Residents who are not sure if they live within the proposed boundaries may check their residence location at the city hall.

will the city receive from the area if annexed?

A. The Medford levy (now 22.8 mills) will not be levied in the area during fiscal year 1955-56. The city will be underwriting the area for several years because revenue from the area will not pay for additional services until the area is more fully developed.

Q. What will be the tax on acreage in the area if annexed?

A. The tax would be at the city's millage rate. However, because of low assessments on acreages under present assessed valuations, the city tax on one acre assessed at \$100 would be \$2.28 annually at the present millage rate. Acreages annexed would not be assessed on a lot basis.

Q. Will school district boundaries change?

A. No. School district boundaries will be the same, unless changed by the boundary board.

Q. How will fire protection be increased in an area which already is served by the Medford Rural Fire Protection district?

A. The rural fire district contract provides that one piece of equipment be sent to rural fires. With annexation, the department would be obligated to send any and all equipment necessary to extinguish a fire.

Q. What would happen to bulk gasoline storage tanks above ground if annexation is approved?

A. The city operates under state code, which would apply. If more than 125 gallons of gasoline or oil is stored above ground, a permit will be necessary, or the storage tank will have to be underground.

Q. If a piece of property in the annexation area is now paying a rural fire protection district tax, a county tax, a school district tax, a sanitary district tax, a water district tax, and a rural school board tax, how would this be changed by annexation?

A. The property would no longer be subject to the rural fire tax of 5.2 mills, and would have the city tax (now 22.8 mills) added to it. Otherwise it would remain the same except that when existing bonded indebtedness of sanitary and water districts is paid off, these taxes would be eliminated.

City officials have pointed out that should annexation fail and growth continue in these areas, several districts probably would have to be organized for police protection, street lighting, and other services, in addition to those now being provided and paid for. The cost of maintaining such numerous, separate districts would in the long run become much more than if the area were provided these identical services by the city, they said.

COSTLY ENTERTAINMENT

Hartford, Conn. — (U.P.) — A television show cost Joseph Callahan \$80—and he didn't even see it. He money was taken from his nearby trousers after he dozed off in front of the screen.

Central Point Rural Fire Budget Election Issues Are Discussed

Central Point — Approval of the 1955-56 budget by Central Point Rural Fire district voters Thursday, June 23, may decrease fire insurance rates in the White City area and would insure present tax levies in the district, it was reported last week.

The election will be to approve \$8,629 over the 6 per cent limitation on a \$30,370 budget. The \$8,629 would provide equipment and personnel to operate permanently a Class 7 fire station in the White City area, land and a building which have been offered by the White City Realty company without cost to the district.

May Withdraw

District officials said reliable sources reported the White City portion of the rural fire district may withdraw if the budget is not approved. The Central Point American this week said, "It was said that White City firms will put in their own fire station if the proposal does not succeed."

Should the area withdraw from the district, officials said, assessed valuation of the northeast section would be lost, and taxes in the remainder of the district may be increased to support present facilities. The total assessed valuation of the 70-mile-square district is about \$7,000,000, including the White City industrial and residential areas.

Would Decrease Valuation

District officials pointed out that loss of the expanding area would greatly decrease total assessed valuation, upon which a tax levy is based. Should the area remain in the district, expanding industrialization in the future would be an asset in supporting the fire district, officials said.

If voters approve the budget, insurance rates for residences within 500 feet of a fire hydrant would be lowered for the fourth time in five years, according to district officials, who worked with fire insurance representatives in obtaining figures.

Insurance rates would be lowered to between \$6 and \$8.80 per \$1,000 of insurance for three years. It is estimated that at least 500 homes are in water districts with hydrants, or are in areas in the process of organizing water districts.

Estimated average insurance carried on dwellings in the district is \$4,000.

The 1950 insurance rates on

No Injuries Result From Auto Accident

No injuries resulted from two minor automobile accidents reported in the county Friday, according to state police.

A car driven by Keith Wesley Garrett, 33 North Pioneer st., Ashland, overturned in a ditch off Highway 99 south of Phoenix when he fell asleep while driving to Ashland, officers reported.

The other accident involved a car driven by James Lowery, 31, Shady Cove, and a Jeep driven by Anna Conover, 65, Eagle Point, and occurred on Highway 62 a mile south of Shady Cove. Damage was listed as minor, officers said.

Fairgrounds Windows Reported Broken Out

A total of 221 panes of glass have been broken in windows of a building at the Jackson county fairgrounds, Raymond F. Vinson, 767 Gilman rd., told city police Friday.

He said that the malicious damage to the building included holes pushed through the walls.

Youngsters in the area are believed responsible, according to the police report.

South American Scouter Tired After Long Trip

Portland, Ore. — (U.P.) — A 28-year-old South American Scoutmaster, who has pedaled a bicycle some 35,000 miles en route to the International Boy Scout Jamboree in Canada, is looking for an easier way to get back home.

Israel Alfonso Acovado Valderama, a carpenter from Barranquilla, Colombia, stopped here Friday to rest his weary legs and say a few words through an interpreter.

"I'm tired," he said. "If I can't buy a motorcycle, I think I'll work my way back on a ship."

Valderama started out from his home six months ago and decided to see South America first. He then pedaled through Central America and up the west coast of the United States. He plans to head through Canada to the Scout Jamboree at Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ont., Aug. 18-28.

DA, Deputy, Planning To Attend Conference

District Attorney Walter Nunley and Deputy District Attorney A. E. Piazza will be in Salem Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday this week to attend the annual conference conducted by the Oregon attorney general's office.

The conference is another in a continuing legislative educational program for district attorneys.

Subjects will include advising county officials, changes in the Oregon penal code, criminal trial tactics and techniques, handling juvenile offenders, non-support case procedures, and Oregon law of search and seizure. The Oregon crime picture will be analyzed. A report on possible re-vamping of the DA offices will be heard and general problems will be discussed.

Beaverton Engineer Awarded \$200 Prize

Portland — (U.P.) — A Beaverton engineer has been awarded a \$200 cash prize for sustained superior performance by Col. James U. Moorehead, Portland district engineer.

Dean L. Harshberger received the cash award for his supervision of Willamette Falls locks, the Willamette river from Corvallis to the Columbia, and the Columbia river from below Bonneville dam to the Longview bridge.

BETTER ROADS FUND

New Haven, Conn. — (U.P.) — The will of the late Andrew R. Bradley bequeathed \$774 to the state of Connecticut for improvement of its highways.

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