

IRRIGATION DISTRICT REHABILITATION VOTE FRIDAY

Interest-Free Loan From Government in Contract is Sought.

On Friday, some 1,200 or more water users of the Medford and Rogue River Valley Irrigation districts will vote to determine whether to enter into a rehabilitation contract with the United States government.

Leaders in the two districts say the \$1,712,000 project is vital to protect the future irrigation of valley croplands from possible loss through a failure of the system.

The amount would be repaid the government over a period of 40 years, free of interest.

Study Shows Need

A recent study made by the bureau of reclamation, and pamphlets published by the Medford district point out the need for such a project.

According to this information, the large structures on the main supply line now transporting water to the valley were built 34 years ago of untreated lumber. They are rapidly deteriorating and maintenance costs are rising proportionately.

There have been four canal failures in the past five years.

If the Lake Creek flume, responsible for the entire supply of water delivered to both districts, were to collapse, replacement time could easily exceed 30 days. The logical period for failure would be the heavy demand months, July and August. During these months, a 30 day delay in water deliveries would result in complete crop failures.

Critical Structures

The Lake Creek flume is considered one of several critical structures.

The Medford district has within its system 21 main canal flumes and two large wood siphons. The material in some of these is badly rotted.

In addition to the danger of failure, seepage losses on the present system are high. Engineers estimate that water savings in the Medford district alone, if the rehabilitation is completed, would be equivalent to that needed to irrigate 739 acres—or about 1,315 acre-feet per year. The board plans to use this increase as a supplement for presently-irrigated lands.

Bottlenecks in the system would be eliminated, further increasing the capacity of the canals.

Dams at Fourmile and Fish lakes retain the water used in the irrigation season. Initially, the districts were not financially able to complete construction of spillways, required to release excess water after the reservoirs have filled to capacity.

Spillways Need Work

The Fourmile spillway has been in use, but needs attention. The spillway at Fish lake, although excavated, has never been used because it was not completed at the time of original dam construction.

Because of the condition of the spillways, the districts have been forced to employ a dam tender throughout the year to control the gates manually.

According to district officials, the annual installment to the government for rehabilitation improvements would almost exactly equal and offset normal maintenance expenditures for present structures. Consequently, there would be no need for raising assessment charges to meet the yearly payments.

Large Area

The Medford and Rogue River Valley Irrigation districts themselves consist of 13,969 acres of irrigable and 13,135 acres of dry but potentially productive lands within a 2 to 10 mile radius around Medford.

Their water supply is obtained from a direct flow from the North and South Forks of Little Butte creek. The natural flow of these streams is supplemented by storage in Fourmile Lake reservoir in the Klamath river basin, and the Fish lake reservoir, at the source of the North Fork of Little Butte creek. These supplies are further augmented by diversions of Bear creek water into canals of the districts.

Own Works Jointly

The two districts own jointly works at Fourmile dam and Fish lake dam, together with connecting spillway, flumes, canals and other structures to Bradshaw drop.

The Medford Irrigation district alone owns the Medford canal, running from Bradshaw drop to Phoenix, and the Phoenix lateral, running west and north from Phoenix, to Hopkins canal.

The Rogue River Valley Irrigation district controls Hopkins canal, running from Bradshaw drop south and west to a point some two miles west of Central Point and five miles north of Jacksonville.

A breakdown of total improvement cost follows:

Medford district: Total \$1,475,466; share of joint works, \$334,886; work on its own system, \$1,140,580.

Rogue River Valley district: Total, \$236,534; share of joint works, \$164,934; work on its own system, \$71,600.

Plan Outlines

This is the rehabilitation plan: The spillway at Fourmile lake to be reconstructed and a reinforced concrete parapet wall to be added to the crest of the dam. A new spillway to be built at Fish lake and the embankment protected by adding rock fill to the crest and riprap to the upstream face.

Eight metal flumes on the Main Canal to be replaced, three with concrete bench flumes, one with a concrete wall, and the remainder with concrete pipe siphons. One spillway on the main canal to be repaired by the addition of a concrete cutoff wall and a concrete-lined stilling basin. On the Medford canal, two existing wood-stave siphons and one metal flume to be replaced with concrete pipe siphons.

Six-Year Period

In addition to this immediate program, a rehabilitation project to be spread over six years will include numerous less important items, such as canal lining, pipelines, checks, waste-ways, spillways, flumes, and bridges.

Bids have already been accepted on two phases of the program, the spillway work at both reservoirs, so that work can start immediately if the contract is approved and the initial appropriation is made.

The appropriation to get the work started amounts to \$350,000 and the bill in which it is contained is nearing final approval by congress.

Methods of repaying the government for improvements will differ in the two districts. The Medford district presently has \$190,000 bond obligations, scheduled for retirement by 1969. During the period in which the district is obligated to pay \$18,400 per year retiring its bonds, the annual installment to the government would be 1/80 the total rehabilitation cost, as of the preceding Dec. 31.

After the bonded indebtedness is paid, the number of years during which installments on the rehabilitation costs have been made are subtracted from 40. This number is then divided into the amount remaining to be paid, giving the total for each ensuing yearly installment.

The Rogue River Valley district has no bonds outstanding. Therefore, its improvement cost of \$236,534 would be divided into 40 yearly payments.

No payments will be due until after the joint works are completed—sometime in 1958.

Only Other Fund Source

If the contract proposal is turned down, the only possible source of financing for additional work would be an increased assessment.

For water the 900 or so eligible voters in the Medford Irrigation district, three meetings were held last week to explain the proposals in detail. They were not attended by many persons, leaving directors with the belief that the issues are pretty well understood.

In the Rogue River Valley district, some 300 or more water users will be eligible to vote.

Eligibility Told

In both districts, eligible voters are those 21 years of age or more who own two or more acres within the districts with the deed recorded for at least six months, or with a recorded contract of sale.

Filing places for the Medford district are, Precinct 1, Hillcrest Orchard house; Precinct 2, Phoenix Grade School gymnasium; Precinct 3, Oak Grove school.

The Rogue River Valley district poll will be at the district office on the old Central Point highway past the Table Rock rd. junction.

Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Grand Jury Returns Two True Bills Friday

Two true bills of indictment against Joseph Patrick Lynn, 36, Grants Pass, and one "John Doe" true bill were returned by the Jackson county grand jury Saturday, District Attorney Walter Nunley reported.

He said that Lynn was indicted on charges of obtaining money under false pretenses. One involved a \$15 check cashed at Chungking inn and the other a \$10 check passed at Jackson hotel.



OLD FLUME CARRIES CANAL — One of the chief reasons that rehabilitation is being sought for the canal system of the Medford and Rogue River Valley Irrigation districts is the old structures, built more than 30 years ago of untreated wood, which are now in

dangerous shape. One such, a flume in the Lake Creek area, is shown above. Constant repairs are necessary to keep it standing, and it is still a threat to the district's water supply.



REHABILITATION NEEDED — Another flume carrying water to the valley floor is shown above. It is planned to replace such structures with concrete conduits if next Friday's vote by water-users of the Medford

and Rogue River Valley Irrigation districts approves a 40-year repayment contract with the bureau of reclamation. Details of the plan are told in the accompanying article.



LEAKS IN OLD SIPHON — Jack Hoffhuhr, manager of the MID, is shown above pointing to one of the many leaks in the siphons used by the irrigation districts to get water to the valley floor. It is proposed to replace these slowly rotting, antiquated structures with concrete siphons. It is believed that the savings in maintenance costs alone will permit repayments on a contract with the government to be made without increasing water assessments. If the system failed at any of its weak points, it could be up to 30 days before service could be restored, which might well mean a total crop loss in the districts.

4-H Teenage Council Will Meet on Monday

Jackson County 4-H Council of Teenagers will have their monthly session at 8 p.m. Monday, July 11, at Bigham hall at the county fairgrounds.

Plans will be made for the summer camp at Camp Gray-back the last week in July and for the county 4-H and Future Farmers of America fair in August.

Miss Jean Brooks, county 4-H club agent, pointed out that the deadline for filing applications to attend the camp is on Wednesday, July 13. She said that at least 10 more applications must be in to assure that the camp will be held.

Swim Lesson Signup Will Start Tomorrow

Registration for the second series of 10 swimming lessons at Hawthorne park pool will start at the pool tomorrow, Darrell Huson, park director, has announced. Classes for the second series will start Monday, July 18.

Huson said children 8 years old and over may register any

Spring Tree Planting Finished in Forest

Tree planting on the Rogue River National Forest has been completed for the spring period, according to Supervisor Jack Wood. Approximately 500,000 trees, including sugar pine, ponderosa pine, jeffrey pine and shasta red fir, have been set out on 600 acres of cutover lands.

During the past five years more than 2,500 acres of national forest lands have been planted with seedlings. Areas selected for restocking are those for which natural seed source is poor or other factors indicate the need for artificial seeding.

Seedling trees used in the operations are raised in Forest Service nurseries and planted when about two years old.

Bud Fisher Newly Elected Commander Of Legion Post 15

M. E. "Bud" Fisher recently was elected commander of Medford Post 15 of the American Legion for the year 1955-56.

Fisher was born at Vader, Wash., in October, 1900, and was raised in the Willamette valley. He finished grade school in Se-



"BUD" FISHER
New Legion Commander

attle and high school at Monmouth, Ore., when E. H. Hedrick, now superintendent of Medford schools, was principal.

Fisher became a member of an Oregon National Guard company at Dallas while in high school and went to Vancouver barracks at the outbreak of World War I in 1917. He was discharged from the Army while still 15 years old. When he was 16, he enlisted in the Navy, serving overseas. After the armistice he was placed on special duty, returned to the states in October, 1920, and was discharged in July, 1921.

He became a member of the American Legion at Bend in 1925 and has been in continuous membership since.

Fisher became a member of the 40 and 8 in 1940, and re-enlisted in the Navy in 1942. Finally discharged in 1945, he and his family moved to Medford where they have resided since.

Fischer has been active in affairs of the local Legion post, holding the offices of second and first vice-commander, and has headed a number of committees.

He said last week he is planning an active and aggressive year for the post, and has secured the services of some of the post's top members to serve as leaders of important committees.



LODGE AT YMCA CAMP
Outdoor Area Opening Today; Work on Site Completed

'Y' Summer Camp Opening Today; Workers Ready Site

During the past several weeks, workers have been readying the YMCA Diamond Lake camp for its official opening today.

In general, preparations have included setting up tents for living quarters and getting waterfront facilities "ship shape." The lodge, used as a cafeteria, was constructed two years ago. It has now received the final hammer and nail treatment as the fireplace outer wall was sheathed.

Today, campers from the Ashland YMCA move in for a week's stay. Roseburg and Klamath Falls also share the camp in ensuing weeks.

Local Camp July 24

Camp for Medford boys aged 9 through 14 begins July 24 and runs until Sept. 5, the last week being for "families of all ages."

Fee for one of the four seven-day periods is \$18, of which \$3 is an advance registration charge.

Spiritual values, swimming, diving, canoeing, sailing, boating, hiking, and campfire sessions are featured. Safety measures are primary considerations.

Staff Listed

Staff for the summer will be Donald Day, director; R. L. Jones, supervisor; Alfred Lestebarger, engineer; Mrs. Bernard Moore, nurse, and selected college and high school students as counselors.

Campers are asked to provide their own transportation, and

parents are invited only during Sunday afternoons.

Registration blanks may be obtained at the YMCA, 522 east Sixth st. Those desiring further information may receive it there or telephone 2-6295.

Mental Health Expert Slates Appearances

Melvin Murphy, executive secretary of the Oregon Mental Health association, will speak here Monday at a meeting of the Jackson County Mental Health committee.

The meeting is scheduled for 8 p.m. at the Congregational church, 300 Oakwood dr.

Murphy is conducting a workshop at Southern Oregon college in Ashland, and is spending his free time working with the county group, according to Mrs. Walter Bish, committee chairman.

At Monday's meeting he is scheduled to discuss family counseling and problems of the aged in Oregon, as well as local work in these fields.

Murphy also is scheduled to appear Monday at 4:45 p.m. on television station KBES-TV and at 4:15 p.m. July 18 on radio station KMED. He will meet with parents of mentally retarded children on July 18, and again with the mental health committee on July 21.

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