

Disposition of Kenwood School District Considered by Board

The Jackson county boundary board and members of Medford and Crater school district board Friday night discussed possible plans for the disposition of Kenwood school district.

Kenwood is one of two suspended school districts in Jackson county which are required by law to be annexed to one or more adjoining districts operating standards schools. The other district is Dewey. Suspended districts are those in which school boards contract with adjoining districts to take children on a tuition basis.

A 1953 law specifies that "whenever any duly organized school district . . . shall for any reason cease to maintain and operate a public school for two years from any annual school meeting, or suspends school for more than two successive years without approval of the State

Board of Education, the district boundary board shall declare the district abandoned."

The state law adds that the territory be "annexed to one or more adjoining districts maintaining standard schools."

Delayed by Case

Disposition of Dewey and Kenwood districts has been delayed pending the outcome of a circuit court case to test validity of the two-year time limit. Since two years have lapsed since the law was enacted, it is mandatory that the boundary board dispose of suspended districts.

Both Kenwood and Dewey districts are northeast of Medford. Kenwood district extends into a section of the city east of Bear creek near McAndrews rd.

Two of four suspended districts were disposed of in 1953. Colestine was annexed to Ashland and Derby consolidated with Butte Falls.

Among possible solutions discussed with suspended district boards and adjoining school boards in 1953 were: (1) both dis-

tricts be annexed to Medford, where many of the children were attending school; (2) the two districts (Dewey and Kenwood) combine and provide a standard school; (3) the two districts join Lone Pine to form one district; and (4) divide the area of both districts as logically possible, sending some children to Central Point, some to Lone Pine and some to Medford.

Alf B. Mekvold, county superintendent of schools and a member of the boundary board, said disposition of the districts was carefully surveyed in 1953, and that the board expects to decide disposition as soon as possible so school districts affected could plan accordingly.

Effective in 1956

Mekvold said any changes in district boundaries would not become effective until July 1, 1956 and that the board intends "to work out the most reasonable solution possible."

He said the board will consider "educational welfare, transportation facilities, travel routes, available school facilities, natural communities, financial support and the wishes of the people involved" before making any decision.

Mekvold said children in the Grandview section of Kenwood district contract with Lone Pine on a tuition basis, and several children in the northwest section of Kenwood district attend Central Point schools.

Crowded Conditions

Mekvold pointed out, however, that because of present crowded conditions at Lone Pine, the district may not be able to take additional students. He said Grandview area residents have secured a petition which they probably will submit to the boundary board requesting that their children go to Lone Pine.

Mekvold said a public hearing would be held if the petition is submitted.

The Medford district board has indicated a willingness to cooperate with the boundary board and accepting districts or sections of districts assigned to Medford, Mekvold said.

Delayed by Bond Vote

Action on disposition of suspended districts was deferred in 1953, Mekvold said, while Medford held a bond election and sale. He said changes in the boundaries at that time could have endangered acceptance of bonds.

The suit filed to test validity of the 1953 law contended that the boundary board could not take action until after two years lapsed after the law became effective. Although the case has not been decided, the two years has lapsed.

The attorney general previously issued an opinion that the law became effective immediately, and that districts which had not operated standard public schools for two years were to be considered abandoned.



Four Persons Given Penitentiary Terms; 8 Await Sentencing

Four persons were sentenced to terms in Oregon state penitentiary, and sentencing of eight others was continued by Circuit Court Judge H. K. Hanna Friday.

James Earl Sanders, 39, route 2, box 671, Central Point, was sentenced to an indeterminate period of six years. Sanders pleaded guilty to charges of rape which involved a 14-year-old Central Point girl earlier this month. Sentencing was continued pending a Federal Bureau of Investigation report.

Benton Culver MacPherson, 33, Upton, Wyo., was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. MacPherson pleaded guilty to charges of sodomy in May, but the case was continued pending receipt of FBI and psychiatrists' reports.

Russell E. Ahlum, alias Robert

Ware, 44, a transient, was sentenced to two years and six months for obtaining money under false pretenses. He was charged with passing a \$10 check, and pleaded guilty earlier this month.

Floyd Earl Denno, 25, San Diego, Calif., was sentenced to two years on a charge of larceny by bailee. Denno pleaded guilty last Aug. 5, but escaped from the Jackson county jail before sentencing. He was returned here from Soledad, Calif., jail last week upon completion of an 18-month term for second degree burglary.

Rented Sander

Sentencing of four persons who pleaded guilty in circuit court Friday was delayed pending receipt of federal bureau of investigation reports.

Phillip Lester Swenson, 35, Allen hotel, was charged with uttering and publishing a false check; Wendell Floyd Long, 17, who is stationed at Pleasanton, Calif., Air Force Base, was charged with grand larceny; and Glen Delbert Dunham, 34, Dunright, Okla., was charged with entering a motor vehicle with intent to steal.

Long was returned here from Reno, Nev., earlier this week by United States marshals officers, and Dunham was returned here from Portland by sheriff's deputies.

Pleads Guilty

Sigurd Forseth Cholaas, 31, Denver, Colo., pleaded guilty to charges of contributing to delinquency of a minor.

Sentencing of four persons was delayed pending reports from Joe Dispenziere, state parole officer here. All four pleaded guilty to concealing stolen property.

Catherine Elizabeth Porter, 38, and David Edward Porter, 39, both of Talent, pleaded guilty to the charges early this month, and sentencing was continued then pending FBI reports. Sentencing was continued Friday pending reports from Dispenziere.

The case involved thefts by juveniles in Jackson county.

James Albert Espy, 21, and Martha Alameda Espy, 20, both of box 21, Talent, pleaded guilty Friday to charges of concealing stolen property. Sentencing was continued pending Dispenziere's reports.

Waives Hearing

In district court Friday, Robert Johnston Smith, 35, of 801 Newtown st., Medford, waived preliminary hearing and was bound over to grand jury on charges of obtaining money under false pretenses. He is accused of cashing a fraudulent \$20 check at Jack's Sporting Goods in Medford.

Attorney Russell W. DeForest is representing Smith, whose bail was set at \$1,500.

Lowell P. Welburn, 30, 248 Fifth st., Ashland, waived counsel and preliminary hearing Friday and was ordered to appear upon notice by the district attorney's office or sheriff's officers. He is charged with obtaining money under false pretenses.

Welburn also pleaded guilty in district court Thursday to a charge of counseling and aiding with a game law violation. He was fined \$25 and \$5 costs. He was accused of aiding Charlie Mason, Route 4, Grants Pass earlier this month in foulhooking a salmon.

Larger Sugar Beet Challenge Issued

Portland — (U.P.) — The governors of Oregon and Idaho have issued a challenge to the governors of California and Colorado to produce a larger sugar beet this season.

Gov. Paul Patterson of Oregon challenged Gov. Goodwin Knight of California, and Gov. Robert E. Smylie of Idaho issued the same dare to Gov. Ed Johnson of Colorado when they met here Saturday at a Republican fund-raising dinner. At stake was a 100-lb. sack of sugar produced by the losing state.

Smylie and Patterson, who were visited by a delegation of sugar beet growers from eastern Oregon and southern Idaho, also challenged the world at large to match the largest sugar beet raised in Oregon or Idaho.

Meeting with the two governors were William Carson of Weiser, Ida., president of the Nyssa-Nampa Beet Growers' association; L. B. Martin, president of the Idaho Farm Bureau federation; E. W. Maag, head of the Malheur County Farm bureau; Everett Taylor, director of the Nyssa-Nampa Association and Jarad Lewis, district manager of Amalgamated Sugar Company of Nyssa.

Union Boy Hurt By Lightning Bolt; Service Disrupted

La Grande — (U.P.) — A violent electrical storm here late Friday critically injured a Union, Ore. boy and disrupted electrical service over a wide area.

Robert Lee Denton, 15-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Denton, was hospitalized "in very critical condition" after he received a direct hit from a lightning bolt near Cove, Ore.

The boy was on top of a truckload of baled hay when the bolt struck. His uncle, Ronald Puckett, said he had just climbed into the truck and turned on the ignition when the bolt seared the area.

The attending physician at St. Joseph's hospital here said the Denton boy was struck in the left temple and that the electrical shock was discharged between his legs and left heel. The physician estimated 70 per cent of the youth's skin surface was burned. Artificial respiration was administered until a first aid car arrived from La Grande.

Meanwhile, crews worked through the night in an attempt to restore damaged facilities of the California-Pacific Utilities company. The company's Cove substation sustained a direct lightning hit and a voltage regulator was knocked out. Service was interrupted for several hours.

Cal-Pac Manager A. B. Olson said falling branches and trees also wreaked havoc with lines and that some street lights in La Grande would remain out of service over the weekend.

Parked Car Damaged By Unidentified Auto

A parked car owned by Walter Herman Hoffbuhr, 507 South Holly st., was damaged Friday evening when hit by an unidentified vehicle which did not stop after the accident. Hoffbuhr reported the incident occurred in front of his home at 9 p.m.

Two cars collided at the East Main, Bartlett sts. intersection about 5:30 p.m. Friday. The drivers, Frederick Lawrence Strang, 540 Pennsylvania ave., and Cody LeRoy Stewart, 205 South Holly st., received no injuries.

City police recorded an accident about 11:30 p.m. Friday involving a pickup driven by David Sollitt Lofts, 4 Myers court, and a sedan registered to Harry Sewart, Springfield. Lofts' pickup struck the Stewart car which was parked on West Main st. at Ivy st., causing minor damage.

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Policeman Beaten When Called Into Family Quarrel

Portland — (U.P.) — Portland Patrolman Raymond A. Roadnight, 36, suffered multiple face and head lacerations and other injuries early Saturday when he was attacked and beaten during a routine "family disturbance" call.

Roadnight was taken to Emanuel hospital where his condition was described as serious but not critical.

Leland Cramer, 34, was held in jail on a charge of assault with intent to kill. Bail of \$10,000 was set by Police Chief Jim Purcell Jr.

Police officers said Roadnight was called to the Cramer home about 4 a.m. on a report that a noisy disturbance had been in progress since early Friday night. He was told by Mrs. Cramer that her husband was next door at the home of his father, Harry E. Cramer.

Cursed, Attacked

When the patrolman got no response at the front door he started around the house and was met by Cramer who cursed and attacked him. Roadnight, stunned by the surprise attack, had his sap and flashlight wrested from him by Cramer who used them to strike the officer.

Roadnight attempted to get his gun from its holster and in the futile effort fired five shots. This brought Sgt. Thomas Maloney to the scene and prevented Roadnight from suffering a worse beating. Cramer was promptly taken into custody.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

Washington — (U.P.) — President Eisenhower has signed into law a bill prohibiting the filing of mining claims on public lands for purposes other than real mining.

In a statement released by the White House the president said the legislation is "strongly endorsed" by both Interior Secretary Douglas McKay and Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson. He said it is one of the "most important conservation measures affecting public lands that has been enacted in many years."

He said that in recent years, thousands of mining claims have been filed on public lands, not for bonafide mining purposes but to obtain claim or title to valuable timber, summer home sites, or grazing land.

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Interim Committee On Election Laws Set

Salem — (U.P.) — Gov. Paul Patterson has appointed Mrs. Frederic W. Young of Portland and Vernon L. Burda of Prineville to an interim committee studying Oregon's election laws.

Already selected to serve on the committee from the legislature are Sens. Mark Hatfield, Salem, and Pat Lonergan, Portland; Reps. E. H. Mann, Medford; Kay Meriwether and Robert Jensen, Portland. Mrs. Meriwether is the only Democrat on the committee.

Other appointments announced by Gov. Patterson were Elmer H. Balsiger, Klamath Falls, to the Oregon Game commission for a five-year term, and Mrs. Stafford Hansell, Athena, to the Umatilla County Public Welfare commission for a four-year term.

Washington — (U.P.) — The Senate has confirmed President Eisenhower's nomination of Reuben B. Robertson Jr., of Ohio to be deputy secretary of defense. Robertson succeeds Robert B. Anderson who has resigned, effective Aug. 15.

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