



NORTHWEST HIT BY FLOODS—Coast Guard helicopters and boat crews are stepping up rescue operations evacuating persons marooned by flooding Pysht River (above) near Pysht, Wash. Farms and homes surrounded by water in the lowlands face further flooding as more storms are expected.

Kent Gives His Side of Talent District Contract Controversy

R. M. Kent, secretary-manager of the Talent Irrigation district, Saturday gave his side of the controversy which arose last week over a proposed agreement between Kent and two members of the TID board of directors.

The proposal would have given Kent the resort concession at Hyatt Lake for cabins, boat rental and other purposes. It was tentatively agreed upon at an Oct. 4 meeting of the board, with Board President Homer Moore dissenting. A circuit court restraining order, banning the contract, was issued after an injunction suit was brought by Collier Buffington Jr., a landowner in the district. The board voted to rescind the agreement at another meeting last week.

Drew Rough Draft

Kent, in his statement yesterday, pointed out that he had been with the district 18 years, and will be eligible for retirement before too long. "The concession looked like something that would afford me a living," he said. He drew up a rough draft of a proposed agreement and presented it at the October meeting, at which time Directors Joe Meyer and Henry Owen approved it, with Moore disapproving it.

Kent said it was decided by the majority that the rough draft should be taken to the district's attorney, Frank Farrell, to be passed upon, and, if approved, for a formal contract to be drawn up. This was done, he said. He then left for Lincoln, Neb., to attend the convention of the National Reclamation association as president of the Oregon Reclamation congress.

"When I came back to my amazement I found an enormous furor had been raised, including an injunction suit," Kent stated. "But on my desk was a letter from the attorney in which he

said he had it looked up, and said that Oregon law made such a contract illegal.

GRANGE

Upper Rogue Grange

Upper Rogue Grange held their regular meeting Thursday, Nov. 3, with a good attendance. Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Morehead and Mr. and Mrs. A. Kyleby were voted to become members by initiation.

HEC meeting will be in the hall Thursday, Nov. 10, with a luncheon at noon. Election of officers was in order and the following members elected for the year 1956:

Master, Caroline Harding; overseer, Carl Richardson; lecturer, Robert Darrohn; steward, Ray Grice; assistant steward, Ray Tockstein; treasurer, May Richardson; secretary, Eda Torrance; gate keeper, Harry Harding; Ceres, Mae Darrohn; Pomona, Daisy Stone; Flora, Hazel Ulrich; lady assistant, Georgie Grieve; and executive committee members, Randal Axtell, Bill Miller and Roy Vaughn.

Refreshments were served by Mr. and Mrs. Wyles Berry and Monte Axtell.

Gold Hill Grange

The meeting of the Gold Hill Grange was held Nov. 3. The attendance is picking up since the hunting season and fruit harvest are over.

The main business of the meeting was the election of officers. Master Herman Kamping was reelected by a record vote.

The lecturer's program was omitted owing to the lengthy election and the late hour. Every one was ready for the delicious refreshments served in the dining room.

The next serving committee will be the Mosers and Gertie Rosencranst.

That settled it right there," Kent declared. "It was a dead issue. The board would not have ignored the attorney's opinion. The injunction suit was only a grandstand play for publicity purposes. It was unnecessary and superfluous, because the law made such a contract illegal, which neither I nor the board knew at the October meeting."

Disturbed By Point

Kent also said there "is one thing I am concerned about." He declared he is "not campaigning for anyone" in the current election for selection of a new TID director. But he pointed out that one point raised in a letter supporting the candidacy of David Holmes disturbs him. This states that Holmes "believes that more positive action should be taken on the Talent project. Government requests for factual data should be met promptly, and strong, vigorous action should at all times be exerted by the manager and the board of directors to insure successful conclusion of this project with government agencies."

This statement carries the implication, Kent maintained, that progress is not being made on the project. "None of the members of the committee have inquired," he stated, "but they question our progress. We're right on the verge of the thing, and I have been familiar with the negotiations throughout."

Several drafts of contracts between the government and the district can be expected before a final draft satisfactory to all can be obtained, Kent stated, and he indicated the government would be reluctant to enter in where there is "dissentation." This could well endanger the Talent project "which right now is in the last delicate stages," Kent concluded.

TABLE ROCK Earthen Dam Constructed

Table Rock — Viggo Skou, former resident of Table Rock now living at Central Point, has completed an earthen dam and reservoir on land he owns at Beagle. It will impound some 130 acre-feet of water.

The dam, as planned by engineers of the soil conservation district, was arranged to catch winter runoff water from the north slope of Upper Table Rock that would otherwise go down over grain fields, causing much damage to crops.

The next meeting of the Table Rock Ladies club will be held Wednesday, Nov. 9, at the home of Mrs. J. S. Richardson, with Mrs. R. E. Nealon assisting. Mrs. Alan Fleischer, recently elected president, will preside, with Mrs. Hobart Moore, the new secretary-treasurer, in charge of the minutes and finances.

School census in the boundaries of what used to be district 44, taken recently by Mrs. Everett Brown, gives the number of children in the age brackets of 4 to 19 inclusive, to be 50. Compared to 1954 there is a decrease of 9. These figures are accounted for by 17 moving from the district, two growing out of the age limit and 10 moving into the district.

At the last meeting of the local community club, Everett Brown was elected president, and Mrs. Everett Brown secretary-treasurer for the ensuing year. A fair-sized audience was entertained with a program of songs, instrumental music, skits and readings, some of the numbers being furnished by young folks from the First Baptist church of Medford. The decorations, by Mrs. Ray Doran, who cleverly arranged with fall fruits and flowers.

A recent land survey at the Darling farm revealed that the owners were paying taxes on 21 acres more than they own. Other news given by Mrs. Darling is the disappearance of five white face cattle from their pasture along the river, with no clues so far as to where they went. A 40 pound hide taken from a steer butchered by the Darlings brought \$1.60 or four cents a pound at a local market. As a hide of this size would make several pairs of shoes, it gives one some idea of the difference between what the farmer gets for his produce and what he pays for what he buys.

On their return recently from a short vacation in California, the Ray Doran family were surprised when coming through Oakland Sunday morning to see so many Negroes, or what mother used to call colored folks, going to the different churches.

Mrs. Delmar Dooley, the former Thalia Doty, writes from Iran that she sees something new every day, especially on the farms, where ox carts and beasts of burden are still their dependable equipment and power.

About 20 "trick or treaters" visited us Monday night draped in as many different costumes. About the cleverest, and hardest to guess the wearer, was Penny Sage, who carried an extension that was arranged so as to make her look like a beautiful lady about eight feet tall.

The following we received through the mail which we thought was rather cute and is self-explanatory:

"Now I intended to surprise the parents I selected, but someone went and put 'em wise—I found I was EXPECTED! But say! I fooled 'em anyhow in spite of all their guesses—(They didn't know for sure till now if I'd wear pants or dresses!) P.S.

In case you're interested — I wear pants. My name is Gerald Keith—I arrived 2:51 a.m. October 27. I weigh 6 pounds, 10 ounces. My folks are Robert and Donna Dunn." (The doctor told the Dunns their baby would be a girl.)

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Hamilton returned Tuesday from a few days visit with their daughter Jean (Mrs. James Lewis), at Forest Grove.

Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Taylor and daughter Debbie were recent visitors with relatives and friends in Portland and Seattle.

The Taylor family held their regular annual reunion and dinner at the Table Rock school house Sunday, Oct. 23, with members present from many parts of the county.

The Bert Pierce family had as guests last week the Harvey Boren family of Altira, Ark., who are taking a sight seeing vacation on the western coast. Mrs. Pierce and Mrs. Boren are sisters.

We are glad to report that Alan Hill, missionary in this section for the American S. S. Union, who was seriously injured recently in an automobile accident on Crater Lake highway, is steadily improving at his home in Central Point.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Richardson, whose marriage was an item in the 40 years column of Monday's MT, were honored guests at a dinner party, attended by relatives in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary at the R. E. Nealon home, Wednesday, Oct. 26.

C. L. Goodwin with his wife and two sons from Port Angeles, Wash., have moved into the Ray Baker house. Goodwin is a share-holder in a plywood mill at White City, where he is employed.

It was with sincere regret that we learned of the passing of Ralph Sweeney, long time citizen of Jackson county and for many years its treasurer. Not only was he a conscientious, upright citizen, but a public official that was outstanding in that he was untiring in his efforts to do his work well. We have had many contacts with the treasurer's office, through serving on school boards, budget committees and the county court, but Ralph Sweeney was the only treasurer that could give the financial statement of the county and its subdivisions on a minutes notice. Ralph was one public official who went far beyond the call of duty to do his job as he felt it should be done.

Another death that came as a shock and surprise to us was that of Leslie Davis, former resident of this community, who passed away suddenly at his home near Medford. Leslie, with his parents and brothers and sisters, lived here for many years, coming from the state of Washington back in the 90's, and at one time owning what used to be called the Billy Wilson ranch, now a part of the Table Top Ranch. The Davis family, not mercenary in any way, went all out for anything they believed in, took much interest and were very active in church and Sunday School work. The S.S. they attended and helped to build up is still a live institution here, furnishing a place of worship for those who do not attend elsewhere.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Timm of Tou Velle park are back home again after a two week vacation spent in California, Mexico, Nevada, eastern Oregon and coast points. In all their meanderings of visiting friends, sight-seeing



LAST FLIGHT—Capt. Lee H. Hall (above) of Seattle was the pilot of the United Air Lines DC-6B airliner that crashed in a blinding explosion near Longmont, Colo., killing 44 persons.

and going to places they had never seen, they traveled nearly 3,000 miles. Mrs. Timm reports that in her observation work at Tou Velle park she only reports jets and group planes at present as the so called "hot line" is not working now and there is too much business on the regular line to report the 30 to 60 planes that daily pass over this valley. Those in charge of this work hope to get a fully manned post started here or nearby in the future, according to Mrs. Timm.

Miss Penney Taylor was hostess to local teenagers at a Halloween party at her home Monday night.

The M. A. Blackwood family residing here on the Tou Velle place since 1948, are moving this week to a home recently purchased near the Medford airport. The Blackwoods have eight children, and since coming here, four have married and three graduated from Crater High. To keep the home-fires burning Blackwood has worked at many trades, including painter, pear picker, paper hanger, and medicine man.

Gas in the well at the Ralph James home in Sams Valley is being explored by a man familiar with this kind of work, who claims there is enough gas generated in the well to heat and light the home and operate the household gadgets, if properly harnessed.

McLEOD Klamath Family Visits

McLeod—Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bennett and family, Klamath Falls, were house guests of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Vaughn and family over the week end of Oct. 30.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Harding were dinner guests Monday evening, Oct. 31, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Close in Medford.

Mrs. Blanche Stanley made the trip to Hawaii on the "Pears to Pineapple" tour.

Helping Mrs. Herb Carlton celebrate her birthday Oct. 29 at her home were Mr. and Mrs. Bud Netherland and family and Dave Schultz, all of Medford.

Wayne Close, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Close, has received the nomination from Congressman Ellsworth to the new Air Force Academy at Colorado. He takes his physical tests on Dec. 12 at Parks Air Force base and

then is slated for college entrance examinations. At present he is attending college in San Francisco.

Irrigation Association Reflects Its Officers

The officers of the Rogue Valley Irrigation association were reelected at the group's annual meeting here Friday. They are Victor Boehl, Grants Pass, president; Paul Culbertson, Medford, vice-president, and Jack Hoff-bur, Medford, secretary-treasurer.

Discussion at the meeting was devoted to the plans for the Talent and Illinois Valley reclamation projects, and to various aspects of the report of the Hoover task force on reclamation. The group felt that a number of the recommendations were not in the best interests of reclamation, as did the recent meeting of the National Reclamation association, it was reported.

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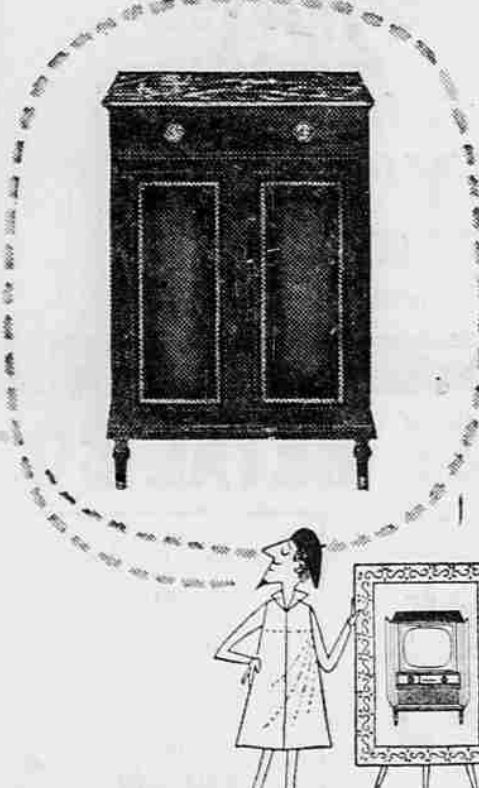
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