

School Echo Problem Noted by Board; To Ask OK on Band Trip

The Medford school board this week voted to employ an acoustic engineer to see what can be done about the problem of echoes in the auditorium of the new Hedrick Junior High school.

Since opening of the school, the acoustical problem there has plagued school administrators, students and the public attending functions in the auditorium. It was hoped for a time the addition of stage draperies would solve the problem, but the improvement after they were put in was not sufficient, the board decided.

To Ask Band Trip

The board also authorized School Superintendent Leonard Mayfield to get in touch with the state High School Activities association to request permission for the high school band to attend the annual East-West Shrine football game in San Francisco in December. The band recently was invited to make its fifth appearance there in five years, but a recent ruling of the association would prohibit the band's attendance.

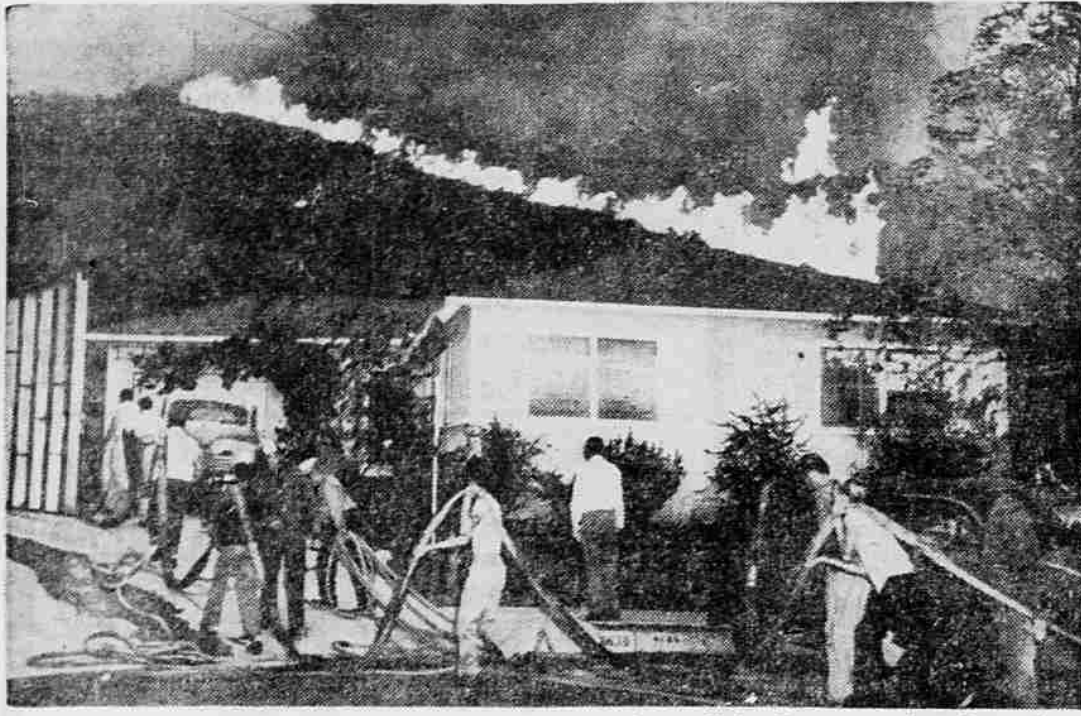
The board adopted a policy under which school facilities will not be rented for private commercial use. They will still be available for use by bona fide organizations, the board stated.

Audit Approved

In other action, the board approved a recent audit of school district finances, and discussed the future needs and problems of the district, including such matters as possible annexation, district consolidation, building needs and sites, curriculum, maintenance and storage, and bus storage.

The board inspected the physical facilities of Washington school, and, under a regular program of inspections, will check on Roosevelt school next week.

Explosion of a hydrogen bomb is as mild as the falling of a feather compared to energy released by an exploding star, says the National Geographic Society.



TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT—Firefighters move in to fight flames roaring down the hills within 400 feet of a block of homes at Sunland, Calif. Two Southern California fires destroyed over 1000 acres, moving perilously close to hundreds of homes. More than 1000 firefighters fought the blazes.

British Underworld Doesn't Use Guns, But Is Just as Tough as U.S. Gangland

By ROBERT MUSEL, United Press Correspondent

London — (U.P.) — I once told a New York gangster that the British underworld does not use guns, except on rare occasions, and he laughed and said if he could get a passport he'd fly there and take over.

He's lucky he never got a passport. Like several other ambitious Americans, including some Army deserters who thought they were getting in on a good thing, he would have wound up as close to hamburger as makes no difference.

Instead of guns thugs use razors and knives here, or lengths of bicycle chain wrapped around the knuckle with a few inches lashing loose to gouge an eye or rip a cheek.

More than one hopeless cripple wishes they did use guns—then maybe he would be dead and out of his misery instead of being a hulk in a wheelchair, his tendons slashed through by razors.

The British public doesn't pay too much attention to its underworld or hear much about it. Two gangs will fight it out in the early morning and perhaps there will be a paragraph in the newspapers reporting that an unidentified man was picked up slashed from ear to ear.

No Killing

Not murdered, mind you, for the gangs here do not kill. They prefer to mark and maim. A man walking around the streets of Soho with a long scar on his

face and throat is a more effective warning to other gangs than a small stone in a cemetery in the suburbs.

Right now, however, Britons are getting a look at what goes on in their own backyard and some are doubtless wishing they hadn't been so virtuous about American gangsterism.

Several weeks ago Jack Comer, alias Jack Spot and Albert Dimes, known as Italian Albert, waged a bloody struggle for a knife in a fruit shop in the Soho district which has been headquarters for the London underworld for 250 years.

Spot is a bookmaker, reputed to control the placing of bookmakers at race tracks, one of the most lucrative sources of gang income here. At his trial, a venerable clerk in holy orders, Rev. Basil Andrews, 88, came forth solemnly and swore the bookmaker had not wielded the knife.

Impressive Testimony

Spot was acquitted on this impressive testimony, but then it developed the star witness had a most curious background for a minister. He finally admitted he had committed perjury.

Britons found to their chagrin that they had their own colorful collection of Damon Runyon characters — Sonny the Yank, Moische Blue Boy, Benny the Kid, Flash Harry, Erny the Gent, Monkey Johnny, Joey King Cross.

Demands arose and are still

coming in that Scotland Yard clean up Soho, which Scotland Yard frankly is unwilling to do. The Yard concedes that there will always be criminals and it is far better to have them congregated where they can be watched, in Soho, than to be dispersed all over the biggest city in the empire.

Advisory Board of BLM Here Slates Meeting Nov. 18

A meeting of the advisory board for the Medford district of the Bureau of Land Management will be held on Friday, Nov. 18, according to District Forester E. K. Peterson.

Scheduled for discussion are (1) the plan prepared by the district for offering O&C and public domain timber for sale in calendar year 1956, (2) discussion of possible changes in marketing area boundaries, (3) consideration of the advisability of various possible grazing improvement projects, (4) priority for construction of various possible timber access road projects. Also there will be an election of officers. L. L. Simpson is chairman and B. L. Nutting vice-chairman.

New Members:

Two new members have been appointed to the local board by Area Administrator James Doyle. They are A. C. Smith, Grants Pass, owner of a sawmill on Wolf Creek, and Ted Wood, Murphy, a partner in the Conifer Woods Products Co.

Members of the board reappointed for another year are, from Klamath Falls, O. K. Puckett and Tim Sullivan; from Medford, Eric Allen Jr.; George Flanagan, Glenn Jackson, B. L. Nutting, L. L. Simpson, Gene Tedrick, and W. B. Tucker; from Grants Pass, F. I. Bristol, Cliff Coleman, and Raymond A. Lathrop; and from Glendale, Tom Mehl Jr.

Actor Rock Hudson Weds Secretary

Santa Barbara, Calif. — (U.P.) — Actor Rock Hudson, 29, and Miss Phyllis Gates, 26, his agent's pretty brunette secretary honeymooned in secret today.

The actor and his bride drove to an undisclosed locale for their honeymoon shortly after they were married here last night by the Rev. N. B. Thorpe of the Trinity Lutheran church.

The couple eloped from Hollywood to wed. They had been dating for a year and gossip columnists frequently had predicted their marriage.

The actor frequently was quoted as saying he wouldn't think of marriage until he was 30. His 30th birthday is next week. The actor's picture recently appeared on the cover of Life Magazine, listing him as Hollywood's most handsome bachelor.

It was the first marriage for both.

Scientists Delve Into Fingerling Fish Mystery

Seattle, Wash. — (U.P.) — Science in its relentless probe of the mysteries of physical nature, has determined the aerodynamic characteristics of fingerling fish.

This new knowledge, gained in a wind tunnel at the University of Washington, should save the lives of thousands of young salmon which plunge over the spillways of Pacific Northwest dams en route to the ocean.

The scientific interest in how well a salmon can "fly" grew out of observations that the height of the dam apparently wasn't the major factor in the survival rate of fish taking a spillway ride.

Elwha Dam, on the Elwha river near Port Angeles, Wash., is only 100 feet high, but 37 per cent of the young fish plunging over the spillway there were dying in the pool below. Glinis Dam on the same river is twice as high, but a spillway trip there killed only seven per cent of the salmon run.

The fisheries men also knew that fingerling salmon could be planted safely from airplanes flying at 500 feet.

Plastic Models

To find out the unknown factor for fish deaths, Dr. Eugene P. Richey of the University of Washington made plastic models of fingerlings in various attitudes of swimming. These models went into a wind tunnel and their coefficients of "drag" through the air were determined. With these coefficients, the professor determined the ultimate speed a fish would reach during a free fall through the atmosphere.

The calculated results were compared with the speeds of live fish dropped from a 150-foot tower. The live fish demonstrated they knew enough to spread their fins and twist their tails

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