

# Medford Officials Study Many City Problems at Oregon League Meeting; New Ideas, Points of View Given for Solution of Development Questions

## Acquaintance With Other City Leaders Assists Officials

### Most Municipal Problems Talked

New ideas and points of view for coping with municipal problems, profiting from experiences of other cities, and learning techniques of federal and state agencies—these are among the major advantages of the League of Oregon Cities' convention held in Portland recently.

Medford City Manager Robert Duff, in a report to the council on the city's participation at the convention, indicated the meetings also helped establish personal relationships with other city officials. This promotes better cooperation between cities as well as state and federal agencies, he said.

#### Many Subjects

Meetings at the convention covered almost every subject concerning problems of municipalities, ranging from water supplies to uniform and standardized construction codes to urban and fringe area development.

Among those giving reports on fringe area problems were Duff, Klamath Falls Mayor Paul Landry, Springfield Mayor Edward C. Harms Jr., and Washington County Judge Harry M. Seabold, who suggested legislation so areas adjacent to cities would be forced to annex. He noted that some states now annex judicially without an election.

#### Subdivisions Controlled

Mayor M. A. Davidson of The Dalles reported that The Dalles requires all utilities to be installed in subdivisions before annexation, and that subdivisions are limited by the city's water supply. Problems in Klamath Falls, Springfield, Medford and other Oregon cities were similar, and many of them were faced with sanitation problems similar to Medford's.

Mayor Landry said Klamath Falls has neither power nor water to entice annexation, and at Springfield, a high water table and soil conditions create poor drainage and adverse sanitary conditions.

Subdivisions should be studied before planning commissions approve plats, Loyd T. Keefe, director of Portland Planning commission, noted. He said among items considered are capacities in streets, lack of cross connections and land use relative to proposed street system.

#### Street Dedication

Streets should be dedicated with adequate width for future arterials, Keefe said, and arterial streets and freeways should be fully determined before the subdivision is approved.

C. A. McClure, planning engineer at Salem, said maps of the area within the Salem planning commission jurisdiction show all subdivision streets and dedicated streets. The plat is submitted to the post office for approval prior to the planning commission's approval he said.

McClure pointed out that Salem also requires park areas in new subdivisions, and in some cases subdividers are required to deposit funds to be used for purchase of parks. The amount is based on the number of acres in the subdivision.

#### Package Deals

Ray N. Cruden, Oswego city engineer, said subdividers there receive permits for "package deals"—including all improvements—and pay the city 6 per cent for engineering costs. The Eugene public works director said public utility easements should be required in subdivisions before the development is completed.

A committee has been formed to study standards for subdivisions, J. W. Barney, Hillsboro city manager and chairman of the committee, reported. He said the committee, which has held only one meeting, will consider street patterns, drainage, traffic circulation, lot areas and sanitary requirements, pattern of utility extensions and land uses, in determining possible standards.

#### State Standards

Barney said subdividers would cooperate if the subdivider knew what statewide standards he had to maintain. He pointed out that master plan for subdivision standards should be used



**EARLY MEDFORD** — Main st. in Medford, looking west from near Riverside ave., is shown above in the picture from Ben Trowbridge's collection. The picture was taken more than 50 years ago, but resemblances to

present buildings (see picture at right) can be distinguished, as Hubbard Brothers store and the building just west of it. Part of the second bay window at center of above picture still may be seen at Swem's.

only as a guide, noting that difficulty arises in enforcing strict plans which cannot be changed.

The convention passed a resolution urging Oregon cities to cooperate with the state interim committee on local government and urban area problems in presenting views and problems. The resolution said the solution of many problems may require an evaluation of "new concepts" of annexation and other fringe area and urban problems.

Standards for improvements in new housing developments also were discussed at the convention. Ronald C. McReary of Commerce Investment, Inc., said developers should have standards which may be followed with reasonable cost. The developer, he pointed out, wants the city to accept the development upon completion.

#### City Supervision

Utility installation in new developments, McReary suggested, should be under contract with city supervision. The developer, he said, could contract for utility work, and pay the city for supervisions and inspections.

He also suggested relocation of water and sewer lines to between the curb and sidewalk, and suggested that asphaltic concrete streets be specified instead of oil mat to eliminate some maintenance work and expense.

From the investment point of view, McReary said, the developer improves the area and scale of living, and wants a reasonable return on the investment.

Parks and other recreation facilities in new areas also were discussed. Mrs. Edith Eden, Medford planning commission member, said she noted a trend in other cities to plan parks near or adjacent to schools, so both the city and school may benefit. Eugene, she said, coordinates use of a swimming pool between the city and schools.

#### Before Prices Rise

Among other items discussed concerning parks, was the importance of obtaining facilities in newly developing areas before purchasing prices increase to a point where the city is burdened.

Swimming pool temperatures, lessons for adults and children within and outside the city, and wading pools being used at certain hours for handicapped children, also were discussed, as was the possible use of bath houses for teen-age club houses during winter months.

The league adopted a resolution recognizing the importance of parks and recreation programs, and urged Oregon cities to develop programs consistent with their financial ability to provide necessary facilities and personnel.

Traffic problems, including freeways, were discussed by W. C. Williams of the states highway department. Medford Public Works Director Vernon Thorpe outlined the cost to the public of traffic congestion.

#### Cost of Congestion

He pointed out that the trucking industry estimates that congestion costs truckers between

\$5,000 and \$6,000 per year per vehicle, and that the highway research board has estimated a cost of about \$10,000 per year for delay in new traffic signals.

Freeways, it was pointed out at the convention, are planned to funnel traffic safely and quickly through congested areas. Mayor Landry of Klamath Falls said freeway routes should be determined early so investments might be made wisely.

Freeways should be constructed in conjunction with a city's overall street system, and an arterial plan should be extended into the future so right-of-way may be obtained in advance of needs.

Williams outlined activities of the National Urban Transportation committee which is working on an overall plan for standardization of inventories and reports for needs on arterial systems.

Landry reported on Klamath Falls' arterial street program, pointing out that before final plans were adopted, cross town traffic and a traffic pattern had to be determined.

#### Ask Share of Money

The convention voted to reaffirm its 1954 request that laws be passed to provide an equitable distribution of county road funds to cities. The resolution last year asked for the proportionate distribution to cities of any county market road levies made in lieu of general road taxes.

Among other topics discussed at meetings attended by Medford city officials were personnel problems, city finances, uniform construction specifications,



**PAST PRESIDENT** — Diamond L. Flynn, former Medford mayor, is retiring president of the Oregon League of Cities. He was succeeded by Astoria Mayor Peter G. Cosovich, who was elected at the League's annual convention recently. Flynn was elected to the board of directors. Another Medford man—Charles Champlin, chief of police—was elected president of the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police at the convention.

air pollution, aerial mapping, water supply, and street numbering.

Herman Kehrl, director of the bureau of municipal research and service and executive secretary of the League, said police officers and other city employees often have employment on a part-time basis in addition to regular employment. He said recruitment of competent employees, especially in police and fire departments, was one of the major problems facing communities.

#### Recruits Needed

Clyde A. Warren, Salem police chief, said his department was operating with several vacancies, and there was no one on the eligible list. The panel discussion revealed that several cities in Oregon, including Medford, are operating with below-complement police departments, and getting suitable recruits for career work is one of the major problems.

Discussions on financial problems and procedures and city recording departments were attended by Miss Neva Samuels and Darrell Huson. Among speakers were Max Manchester, executive secretary of the Public Employees Retirement board, who spoke on retirement systems; John W. Schuler, bonding attorney for the state, who discussed municipal bonds; and Robert K. Wood, chief of the accounting systems section of the state department of finance and administration.

Schuler listed procedures to avoid difficulty in selling municipal bonds, and Wood reported on services available to local governments, including services obtainable on a rental basis.

#### Revisions Said Needed

V. L. Goodnight, Corvallis city engineer, said there was a need for revising specifications and standardizing them so contractors could bid on a municipal project anywhere in the state without difficulty. He pointed out such standardization of specifications would help smaller communities.

The standard specifications are being prepared by the League's committee on standardization of construction specifications, and is patterned after the American Public Works specifications. Among the problems in developing the program, charters in various cities must be consulted for specifications before standards are adopted.

Air pollution was discussed by A. M. Westling of the League, who noted that methods have been devised to measure fallouts from sawmill waste burners. He said where cities adopt air pollution codes, the state air pollution board handles fringe area pollution.

#### Aerial Mapping

Coos Bay City Manager Bob Kyle reported on the Coos Bay area aerial mapping project, which cost about \$5,000 with



**TODAY'S MEDFORD** — Main st. in Medford, looking west from near Riverside ave., is shown in the Brainerd photo above. The picture, with several others, was part of Medford's exhibit at the recent League of Oregon

Cities convention in Portland. The exhibit showed progress of Medford since about the turn of the century. It was one of the most popular exhibits at the convention, according to city officials who participated.

the cooperation of North Bend and the Coos Bay Water board. Such maps are used in zoning, planning, street construction, sewer construction and other problems. Kyle pointed out that the method of mapping was considerably cheaper than if survey crews mapped the area.

Mayor Richard W. Long of Oregon City reported on problems in water supply, and O. J. Fett Jr., of the Roseburg planning commission, reported on street renumbering.

#### Seek Better Relations

Other resolutions adopted at the convention included one for better intergovernmental relations, and supporting decentralization of government with more responsibilities for local units; supporting a program to require federal agencies pay special local improvement assessments; and supporting a program in which the federal and state match local

funds for purchasing civil defense equipment.

A resolution also requested the interim tax committee to study and analyze financial needs of

cities and consider methods and sources of supplementing city revenues in order that the obligations of local government may be discharged properly.



**RESERVOIR DIKE** — Shown above standing on top of the soil conservation district dam, completed last week at the Viggo Skou ranch in the Upper Table Rock area, are, left to right, A. M. Petska, soil conservation service engineer who designed the dam, Skou, and Lester Adams, contractor. The 1,300-foot long dam will back up some 130 acre-feet of water for use in irrigation. The ranch reservoir was constructed in cooperation with the Sams Valley-Beagle Soil Conservation district.—(SCS photo)

## Complete New Earth Dam; 45 Acres To Be Irrigated

An earth dam completed last week on the Viggo Skou ranch, north of Upper Table Rock and south of Highway 234, will provide irrigation water for 45 acres of previously dry land.

The Skou ranch is located in the Sams Valley-Beagle Soil Conservation district and technical assistance for construction of the dam was provided by Bill Cox, conservationist; Albert Petska, engineer; and M. B. Lamp, conservation aide. It was built by Lester Adams, Medford contractor.

The earth dam, which is 1,300 feet long and 18 feet high at the highest point in the fill, will be stocked with trout to provide recreation for the Skou family. It will hold 130 acre-feet of water.

Skou has owned and operated the 200 acre dry land ranch for the past two years. He plans to plant hay and pasture crops on the new tract of irrigated land.

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## Man Bound Over In District Court Friday

Bob Orville Barton, 34, of 132½ Almond st., Medford, waived preliminary hearing in district court Friday on charges of obtaining money by false pretenses and was bound over to grand jury. Bail was set at \$1,500. The case involved a \$10 check.

Also in district court, Jimmie Mack White, 23, of 49 Pines Trailer court, Gold Hill, was arraigned. The case was continued until Monday on charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Bail was set at \$1,500.

## Y.M.C.A. SWIMMING CLASS for Boys and Girls

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## Awards Presented To Griffin Creek, SW Medford Clubs

Pins and card awards were presented to members of Griffin Creek and Southwest Medford 4-H clubs at achievement day ceremonies at Griffin Creek Grange Friday night.

Gene McCurley, agricultural field representative of the First National Bank of Portland, Medford branch, presented the awards. Included in the program were demonstrations on how to prepare a cow for milking, selecting aprons, and the seven basic foods. Vocal numbers were sung by Beverly Nelson and Bruce Boldenow.

#### Pin Awards Presented

Pins and card awards were presented to: First year pins—Sidney Bates, Carleen Black, Bonnie Brantley, Carol Depner, Judith Foreman, Mary Kay Harris, Charlene Muir, Candace Newland, Carole Newland, Ron Perry, Nat Rode, Heather Rode, and Donald W. Smith.

Second year cards—James Albright, Elizabeth Clark, Diane Evernham, Bonnie Goehring, Lynda Knips, Judy Maxson, Karlene Neill, Constance Patterson, and Barbara Walker.

Third year pins—Robert Allen, Ann Daland, Elise Eskew, Harold Knips, Dolores Meyer, Raymond Nougier, Jeannette Nougier, Norman Renner, Jeannette Robertson, Charles Show, Keith Smith and Diane Walker.

Fourth year cards—Bruce Boldenow, Sheila Couey and Mavis Strom.

Fifth year pins—Carolea Brantley, Judy Nelson, Donald Smith and Stephen Smith.

Sixth year cards—Dee Ann Clark.

Ninth year card—Beverly Nelson.

## Achievement Program At Sams Valley Monday

The Evans Valley 4-H club achievement program will be held at the Wimer Grange starting at 7:30 p.m. Monday.

Achievement pins will be presented by representatives from the First National Bank of Portland, Medford branch. A potluck supper will be served at 7:30 p.m.

## McLaughlin Students Give Hedrick JH \$323

A gift of \$323.60 was presented to Hedrick Junior High school student body by McLaughlin Junior High school students at an assembly at Hedrick last week. The amount was part of McLaughlin's \$743.75, and was presented as friendship gesture to start Hedrick's treasury.



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