

Annexation Elections In Two Areas Tomorrow

Second Election in Expanding Section Called Within Year

Officials See Need For City Facilities

Residents in two areas southeast of Medford will decide tomorrow whether or not they will become part of the city.

Elections will be held in an "island" of three and a half blocks in Siskiyou Heights extension, and an area of close to 1,200 acres extending south around Barneburg hill.

The city council called elections in both areas after petitions with a majority of residents' signatures were submitted, asking annexation. The council then held a public hearing for residents of the city to express opinions before setting the election date.

Second Time

This is the second time within a year that residents in the area have been asked to cast ballots in a special annexation election. Last summer, residents in more than 3,000 acres surrounding Medford on the east, south and west rejected an annexation proposal.

Since that time, however, several individual pieces of property have been annexed by petition, including several acres south of Stewart ave. between extensions of Oakdale ave. and Holly st. The annexed property included the new Jefferson grade school, and several subdivision developments.

The county "island" in the Siskiyou Heights extension is the result of annexation by petition of several pieces of property. Most these were done late last year just prior to submission of petitions from the present proposed annexation areas.

Population of 447

According to city officials, the larger area includes about 125 residences, with a population of approximately 447. There are three stores, four farm barns, one crematorium, two mausoleums, and one radio station, a golf course, two churches and both the IOOF cemetery and Siskiyou Memorial park.

City Manager Robert Duff estimated the assessed valuation of both areas about \$370,400. The large area has an assessed valuation of about \$343,260, and the Siskiyou Heights extension area about \$27,140, he said.

If the area is annexed, residents will pay a net increase of 14.9 mills for city police protection, additional fire protection, eventual street lighting, and the protection of zoning and building codes. It also will be an area to which city sewer and water services may be extended upon submission of petitions by residents.

The net increase in millage rate is determined by subtracting the rural fire protection district's 4 mill levy from the city's 18.9 mill levy. The 14.9 mill increase is added to present levies in the areas. Present levies depend on location, because some of the area is included in the Phoenix school district, while part is in the Medford school district.

Water Rates

City officials pointed out that water rates will be lower should residents favor annexation. On a basis of a minimum charge on a 3/4-inch meter, the rate after annexation would be \$1.65 per month for the first 5,000 gallons, compared to a rate of \$2.90 per month for 5,000 gallons now, Duff said.

On a graduated scale, the next 1,000 gallons of water would cost 9 cents in the city, compared to 25 cents outside the city.

Many city services are tentatively planned for later this year

in the annexation areas, should residents vote to be annexed.

One of the major services would be a trunk line sewer along Barnett rd. Duff said tentative plans call for construction to be started by June. The trunk-line sewer will cost an estimated \$78,090, Duff said, and will extend from about the hospital site westward to Bear creek and north along the east side of the creek.

Area Development

Supporters of Rogue Valley Memorial hospital, construction and equipping of which is estimated to cost about \$1,900,000, pointed out that a commitment for sewer facilities must be made, and construction of the hospital started, in June if the organization is to receive federal Hill-Burton funds.

An application for \$563,960 received preliminary approval by the federal Health, Education and Welfare department Friday. Final approval will come after plans and specifications have been submitted. Earlier the Oregon state board of health recommended approval of the funds.

A Barnett rd. trunk line sewer also would serve residents of Verde Hills subdivision, just south of the Siskiyou Heights extension "island."

Financing installation of a trunk line sewer would be assessed against the property served by the trunk line. Duff pointed out that if residents do not request sewer facilities and conditions become so adverse as to affect public health, the council has authority to order installation of sewers as a matter of public safety. Residents still would be subject to assessment for their proportionate share of the sewer, Duff said.

Trunk Line Service

A Barnett rd. trunk line sewer also would serve an extensive subdivision development, estimated to cost close to \$10,000,000 eventually, on Barneburg hill, by the Rogue Valley Land company. The Medford planning commission has given tentative approval to the Mont Crest subdivision plat, subject to sanitary facilities being available.

Also planned for Barneburg hill is construction of Rogue Valley Manor, a retirement home, estimated to cost about \$2,500,000.

Water facilities also will be started this year if the area is annexed. Duff said estimated costs of installing a 10 or 12 inch water main along Barnett rd. to Murphy rd. would be about \$42,000, and that it will have to be installed almost immediately. He noted that some of the cost will be assessed against property served, but added that the city water department will finance much of the installation.

Water Mains in Area

Depending on development in the area, Duff said, the water department has estimated that about \$98,000 will be expended for mains in the area within the next two or three years. The expenditure includes installation of a 24-inch trunk water main between Capitol hill and the reservoir site on Barneburg hill.

Duff said construction of a reservoir on Barneburg hill is in long-range plans for municipal development. He noted, however, that if development demands, it would be constructed sooner.

Annexation of the area also will provide residents, businesses and farming areas with protection under municipal zoning ordinances.

Residential District

Duff pointed out that the area, if annexed, will be brought into the city as a residential district. However, the council recently directed the planning commission to study possible zones in the area, so that, once annexed, it may be zoned as quickly as possible to fit present uses and future development.

He said the planning commission has plans to have a commit-

tee of land owners and residents of the area work with the commission to determine which zone would best fit particular areas.

Officials pointed out that farming is permitted under single family residence zone. The area would be annexed as single family residence. The Medford planning commission will hold a hearing Feb. 13, on a proposed agricultural zone.

Duff stressed that residents

within the proposed annexation area will have a voice in determining change of zones.

Police Protection

In addition to zoning protection, residents will be provided with city police protection and fire protection. Residents presently are protected through the Medford Rural Fire Protection district, but city officials pointed out that only one pumper truck is required to answer calls

in the rural district. If needed, all city equipment responds to a call anywhere within the city.

Supporters of Rogue Valley Memorial hospital and subdivision developments have noted a necessity to have all fire equipment available for extensive developments.

Additional police protection would consist of resident's requests to watch vacant houses during vacations, to check prowler calls, and other disturbances in the area. Many of the services are available through state police or the sheriff's office, but because of limited personnel in each organization, city officials believe residents will be better protected if the area is annexed.

Street Construction

Street construction within the area will be done when residents submit petitions for street improvements. Improvements include curbs and gutters in addition to improve street surfaces. Maintenance would be similar to that provided within the city at the present time, Duff said.

School district boundaries would not be changed automatically should the area be annexed, Duff pointed out. Much of the area is in the Phoenix school district, and would remain in that district unless changed by the county school board. Several residents have expressed a desire to send children to Medford schools, Duff said.

News About Books From the Library

By MISS HELEN WEBSTER Medford Librarian

Floods, slides, icy roads, washed-out bridges may make our highways hard to travel, but they needn't prevent our enjoyment of some good exciting armchair adventure.

You can go non-stop to the fabulous South Seas with Fanny and Robert Louis Stevenson in "Our Samoan Adventure." This, Fanny's three-year diary, reveals the last years of the Stevensons' life together and tells an interesting story of a witty and valiant lady's struggle with an alien environment.

Amateur Journey

For an amateur journey from Sweden across Russia and Turkestan to Canada to join the free Norwegian forces of World War II, read Wilfred Skrede's "Across the Roof of the World." This is no ordinary travelogue; it is a strange, heroic story, often very funny, and frequently breathtaking, the story of a very modest and likeable travel companion.

Of all the books by wanderers in the jungle heart of South America "Expedition Tumuc-Humac," by Francis Maziere, is one of the most sensitive, authentic, and appealing. The author and two companions, one a woman, traveled from French Guiana through the South American jungles and across the Tumuc-Humac mountains to the borders of Brazil.

Tickets to Adventure

A recent trip to British Guiana in quest of specimens of live

animals is the subject of "Three Tickets to Adventure," by Gerald Durrell. The book draws a clear picture of the region; its curious beasts and engaging people. Other animal-collecting adventures of the author are related in "The Overloaded Ark" and "The Bafut Beagles."

Not only a travel adventure but a survey of what is happening in all of Africa is Stuart Cloete's "The African Giant." The author and his wife traveled from Kimberley to Rhodesia, to French Equatorial Africa, Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Liberia, the Belgian Congo, and Cape Town. Stuart Cloete was born in Africa.

Sahara Journey

A welcome antidote for those who have been thinking of Africa only in terms of rioting and social problems is the warmth and humanity of Rene Gardi's "Blue Veils, Red Tents; the Story of a Journey Across the Sahara." The author, a Swiss journalist, has a sharp eye for the characteristics and customs of the desert people, but what interests him even more is the desert itself.

Any of the books mentioned above may be obtained from the Medford Public library or any of its Jackson county branches.

Farmers Reminded Of Social Security

Many farmers have social security responsibilities for the first time this year, according to W. V. Nusbaum, district manager of the Medford social security office.

Farm and ranch operators who paid \$100 or more cash wages to an agricultural employee in 1955 are required to report all cash wages paid to that employee up to \$4,200. At the same time, the operator must forward four per cent social security taxes on those wages, Nusbaum said.

Law provides, he said, for the employers sharing the tax with the employee. However, he pointed out it is the employer's responsibility to forward the tax along with a wage statement to the district director of internal revenue. Deadline for filing the report is Jan. 31.

Nusbaum said correct forms for reporting wages and paying social security tax are available at the internal revenue district office. He added that "cash wages the operator is required to report on form 943 are credited to his workers' individual social security accounts."

Nusbaum also reminded farm and ranch operators that reports and social security tax payments on their own net earnings must be filed by April 15, when income tax forms are due.

Use Tribune Want Ads

Hardy's Paintings On Display at SOC

Ashland — Watercolors and lithographs by artist Tom Hardy of Eugene will be on exhibit

Monday through Friday in Chapman hall, Miss Merion Ady, associate professor of art at Southern Oregon college has announced. Time and Life magazines have

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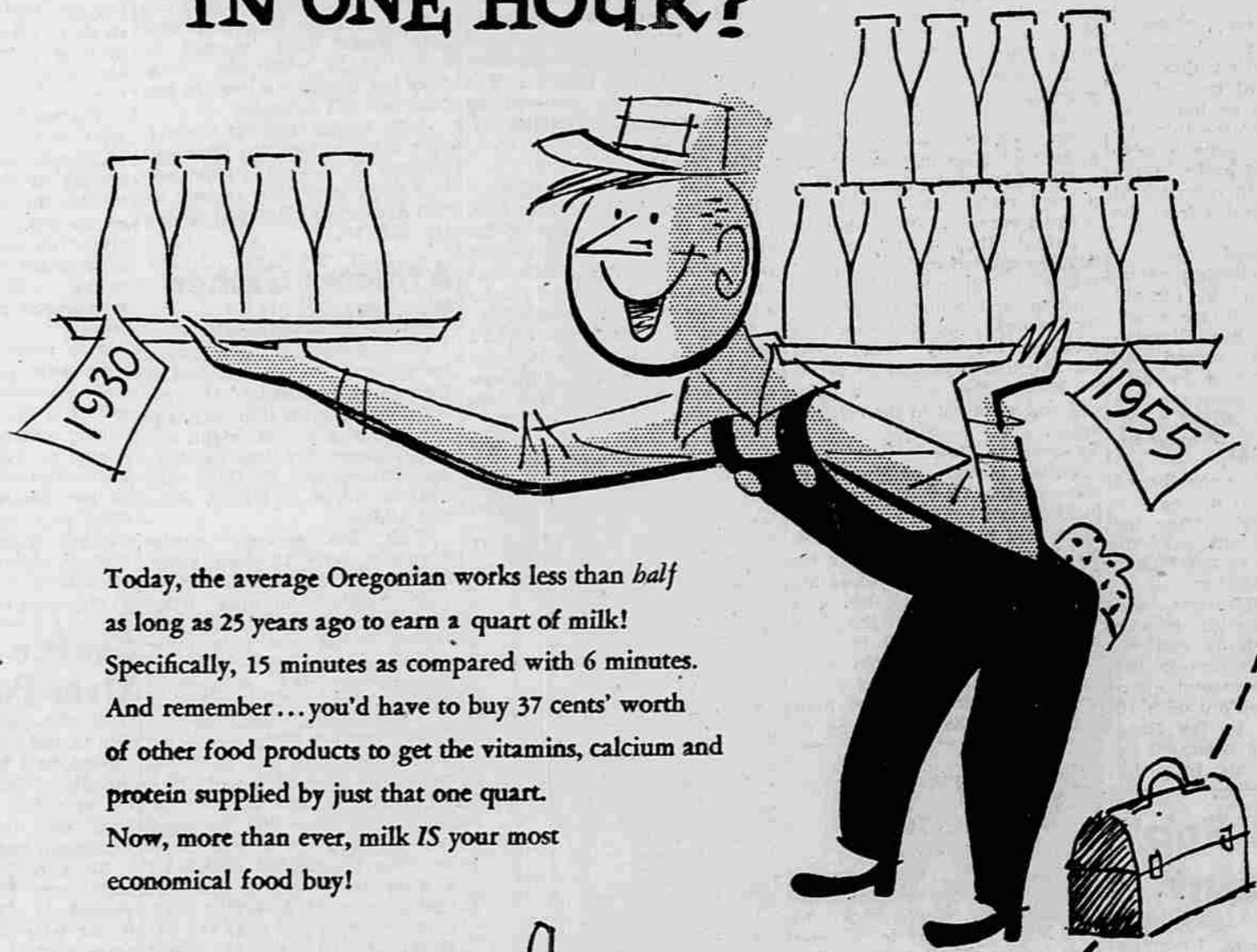
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