

Group Approves Preparation of Brief on Rogue Flood Control

The Rogue Basin Flood Control and Water Resources association last night in the county court house, approved preparation of a brief with flood control proposals which will be submitted at a public hearing on Rogue river and tributary flood control in Grants Pass Oct. 25.

The board of directors of the association decided the brief should be confined to the fact that "this area needs assistance," and explain what the association has done in connection with flood control. No proposals will be adopted which could be detrimental to fishing in the Rogue basin, the board agreed. The board will meet in Rogue River Oct. 9 to adopt proposals for the brief.

Purpose of Hearing

Ross Hatch, representative of the Army corps of engineers, Portland, told the board the purpose of the public hearing. He said Army engineers are conducting the hearings merely to consider the problems of flood control in the basin, but will make no proposals as a result of the hearings.

Hatch pointed out that the Army is conducting a two year study of the flood control situation in the basin, of which the public hearing is only a phase. Upon completion of the study, he added, Army engineers can make recommendations and apply for emergency funds for flood damage restoration, made available by Congress.

Reason for the length of the Army study, according to Hatch, is because the Army is anticipating divergent flood control interests in the basin to apply pressure, previous reports on flood control have become obsolete. The Army will have to coordinate its study with other government agencies, Army proposals will have to be reviewed by a higher authority, and eventual submission to Congress for approval.

'Flood Warning'
Bob Church, chief of the weather bureau in Medford, outlined the "flood warning" work in progress in the valley. He said the present rate of communications during an emergency, such as the floods last December, are

too slow to keep up with the Rogue river.

The "remarkable" prevention of deaths last December, Church pointed out, was not due to the flood warning system, but due to the alertness of the people on the river's banks and county communication facilities. He said the maximum warning that can be given in an emergency like the one last December is three hours.

The Public Utilities commission, according to Church, is now perfecting an automatic river gauge to be installed at Dodge bridge near Shady Cove. With an automatic gauge, he added, all a weather coordinator would have to do is call that station for an automatic checking. He pointed out that river observers slow down the information-gathering process because of the difficulty in communication.

Discusses Radar

Church also discussed the possibility of obtaining radar for weather indications on Sexton mountain. There is one in Eureka, Calif., he said. If the bureau had the money, Church said, robot weather stations spotted in all crucial areas would be the best flood warning system, even if they only paid off once in 20 years. The area where the present flood warning is least effective, he said, is in the Applegate.

The big problem in the flood warning system, Church explained, is closing the time gap between the information on the emergency and the actual condition of the rivers. He added that the system's flood warning information was constantly behind the actual condition of the rivers during last December's floods.

One reason for this, he said, is that he and his staff had to check river gauges and precipitation stations in person, which accounted for loss in time. He said this work should be done by volunteers while he and his staff concentrate on coordinating river reports from the various weather stations.

Church added that another hindrance to the flood warning system was rumors that get started which often panic and misinform the people, making it harder to correctly warn them of the emergency.

Railroad Firemen

Schedule Mediation

Chicago — (U.P.) — The National Mediation Board will come to Chicago Oct. 2 to begin mediation of a labor dispute involving 30,000 railroad firemen, a rail spokesman said Tuesday.

Mediation of contract talks between the nation's railroads and 121,000 trainmen and another 8,000 switchmen will begin Oct. 3, according to the spokesman.

Firemen and trainmen are asking a \$3 per day boost. The switchmen seek 25 cents more per day.

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HEALTHY AND VIGOROUS—President Eisenhower, on the first anniversary of the heart attack he suffered a year ago, considers himself fully healthy and vigorous for a man of his age. At 65—he'll be 66 on Oct. 14th—the chief executive harbors no thoughts of possible recurrence of either heart trouble or ileitis. The president is shown on the left as he looks today and on the right is a closeup of Mr. Eisenhower as he looked the day he left Fitzsimons Army Hospital near Denver on Nov. 15, 1955, following his 48-day confinement.

Atoms Will Power New Merchant Ship

Kansas City, Mo.—(U.P.)—Undersecretary of Commerce Louis S. Rothschild disclosed Tuesday night that the government has decided to start immediately construction of a combined passenger-cargo ship with atomic power.

In a speech before the Midwest Institute of Transportation, Rothschild said the ship will have a service speed of 21 knots, carry about 100 passengers and

have a cargo capacity of some 12,000 tons.

In unveiling the plans for the nation's, and perhaps the world's, first atom-powered merchant ship, the undersecretary said the Maritime Administration and the Atomic Energy Commission have reached an agreement which provides for immediate construction of the vessel. It is hoped it will be in operation before the end of 1959.

Sixth Annual DAV Talent Show Set For November 9

The sixth annual Talent Show sponsored by the Jackson county chapter of the Disabled American Veterans will be held Friday, Nov. 9, according to Pat Graham, chairman of the Talent Show committee.

The show, which is held on the weekend date nearest to Veterans Day, is open to all forms of entertainment talent, whether from talent schools or individuals and other groups, Graham said.

During the past two years, prizes have been awarded for the best song, dance, acrobatic number, majorette act, and a grand overall prize for the best general award in each age group.

Previous Prizes

Graham said previously, first, second and third prizes were awarded in each of two age groups, the junior group under 10 years of age, and the senior group between 10 and 18, regardless of the type act. The committee noted, he said, that at times first place can be won by an entrant who knows one entertainment song which does not require much talent. The committee then decided to award prizes in various classifications.

Graham said anyone interested in entering the show should contact him as early as possible so a program can be arranged. Graham said he could be contacted by telephoning 2-9312 during the day or 2-4192 during the evening. There is no entrance fee, he said.

Astoria Chamber Files Abandonment Protest

Astoria — (U.P.) — The Chamber of Commerce here has filed a protest with the Oregon Public Utilities commission against proposed abandonment by Pacific Greyhound bus lines of one of its roundtrip schedules to Portland.

The Oregon PUC has scheduled a public hearing for Oct. 11.

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