Committees Favoring, Opposing Annexation Present Statements

Sanitation Group Active in Support Of Entering City

The Berrydale Sanitation committee, which has been active in supporting annexation of the Berrydale area recently prepared a brief on why it proposes annexation.

The committee supports annexation because of the sanitation problem in the area, citing state law regarding disposal of domestic sewage, and a letter from Dr. Harold M. Erickson, state board of health. Its statement also includes estimated costs of construction of a sewer system, and how annexation would affect taxes in the area.

The statement was prepared under the direction of Nick Gier, chairman of the committee, in cooperation with city officials.

Won't Extend Service

The committee declares that the Berrydale Sanitation district "failed to solve its problem because it depended upon the city extending utility services to fringe areas." The city's policy is that city services will not be extended to a fringe area unless that area is annexed.

Residents in the Berrydale area were asked to consider annexation to solve the problem. One annexation proposal was defeated in the November election last year.

The committee statement continues: "Our present proposed annexation boundaries encompass the area that presents the sanitation hazard and has the problem we must solve.

"The Oregon state board of health regulations governing the disposal of domestic sewage and other household wastes states that: 'No human excreta, kitchen wastes, laundry water, sink water, toilet wastes or other septic tank effluent shall be allowed to discharge or flow upon the surface of the ground or into any ditch, gutter, street, roadway or public place, nor shall such wastes discharge onto any private property so as to create a nuisance condition or health hazard."

Bill Won't Help

Discussing House Bill 531, which provides for formation of county service district to furnish sewage, streets, lights, fire and police protection, the committee said the bill would not solve the problem in Berrydale.

"The authority of this type of district parallels the authority of the Berrydale Sanitation District. After petitioning for an area to the County Court, the first step is to approach the nearest city that has the available utilities and enter into a contract to furnish utilities desired. The city does not have to enter into any such contract. Step No. 2 is to ask the city if they want to annex the area. If the answer is no, the last step is construction of your own facilities including a disposal plant."

SERVICE BILL REFERRED

Salem — The much-amended special service district bill, HB 531, which would permit formation of non-municipal service districts to be administered by counties, was sent back to a house committee for the third time Thursday.

Rep. Katherine Musa, The Dalles, said she does not expect the bill to pass because supporters and opponents cannot seem to get together on amendments. It was killed once in the house, reconsidered, and referred to committee. It has yet to pass the house and has not yet been in the senate.

The most recent amendment to the bill would forbid formation of a service district within two miles of an incorporated city which objected to it.

As to possibilities of state solving the problem, Dr. Erickson noted ". . . Because of the extremely unfavorable soil and drainage conditions which prevail in your area there is only one solution to such a problem and that is the installation of a community-wide sewer system . . ."

The letter continued: "Under existing laws the state board of health does not have authority to build a sewer system and charge the cost of the same to the property owner. However, either the state board of health through the state sanitary authority or the Jackson county health officer could under existing circumstances certify to the Jackson county court that an emergency exists in the area requiring that immediate action be taken to protect public health. The county court could then proceed according to law to install the required facilities at the expense of the property owners. . .

"In the case of the Berrydale district the most economical and practical method for disposing of the sewage would undoubtedly be by discharge into the Medford sewerage system. If the city refuses to contract with either your district or the county for such a service then a separate treatment plant would have to be built. This would greatly increase the cost to the property owners in your district.

Higher Costs

"Furthermore, if the county has to build the facilities it will be considerably more difficult for the people to finance the cost because it is doubtful that, due to constitutional limitations, the county has authority to issue local improvement (Bancroft) bonds for this purpose. Such bonds could, of course, be used if the facilities were to be built by the city of Medford.

"In view of the above facts we recommend that if an annexation election is held it be approved by the voters."

The Sanitation committee commented: "Most assuredly neither a sanitary or county service district or 'let the state do it' are feasible solutions. Therefore the sanitation committee endorses annexation as the only practical solution. A vote against annexation amounts to a vote against a sewer. An unsuccessful annexation election will doom our entire area to another period of several years of wrangling, argument and discussion without a solution."

Costs Estimated

Estimated construction costs are reviewed by the committee. The statement continued:

"Estimate $2.74 per front foot to lateral on which you connect and an estimated $65 per acre base assessment, minimum base assessment $26. Corner lots are assessed only on the side to which you connect unless your property can be successfully subdivided. In this event you would still be exempt on proportionate frontage already assessed for your house connection."

The committee cited examples of a 50-acre frontage Howard ave. lot of about one-half acre on which the total sewer assessment would be $174.50, and on a small lot 50-foot frontage, 100 feet deep, $163 total sewer assessment.

"Taxes, after adding city levy and subtracting deductions will increase approximately 23 mills for Midway and 25 mills for the Elk district. Reduction will result from change of water and fire insurance rates. . ."

Examples Cited

Two pieces of property, one in each district, were cited as examples of increases. On one with an assessed valuation of $2,580 in the Midway district the cost increase per year was estimated at $41.11. On the other with an assessed valuation of $1,770 in the Elk City area the net cost increase per year was estimated at $28.48.

'With annexation all water users will immediately be assessed the Medford residential and commercial water rates which afford considerable savings," the statement said.

The committee noted that on a minimum of 5,000 gallons with a five-eighths inch connection water rates after annexation would be $2.15 compared to $3 in the Elk City district and $3.50 in the Midway district. On a 1½ inch line with a minimum of 5,000 gallons the city rate would be $3.61 compared to $4.15 in the Elk City district and $4.50 in the Midway district.

Questions, Answers

Included in the statement is a question and answer section. Among some of the questions are:

"How will annexation affect my keeping cows, chickens, etc?

"Answer: There will be no change. You can keep the livestock or present agriculture without penalty but you cannot expand your operation.

"Question: How will annexation affect the schools?

"Answer: 'City annexation and change of school district boundaries are two separate operations. Annexation will not in any way change which school or high school students may attend.'

"Question: How will the city building codes affect us?

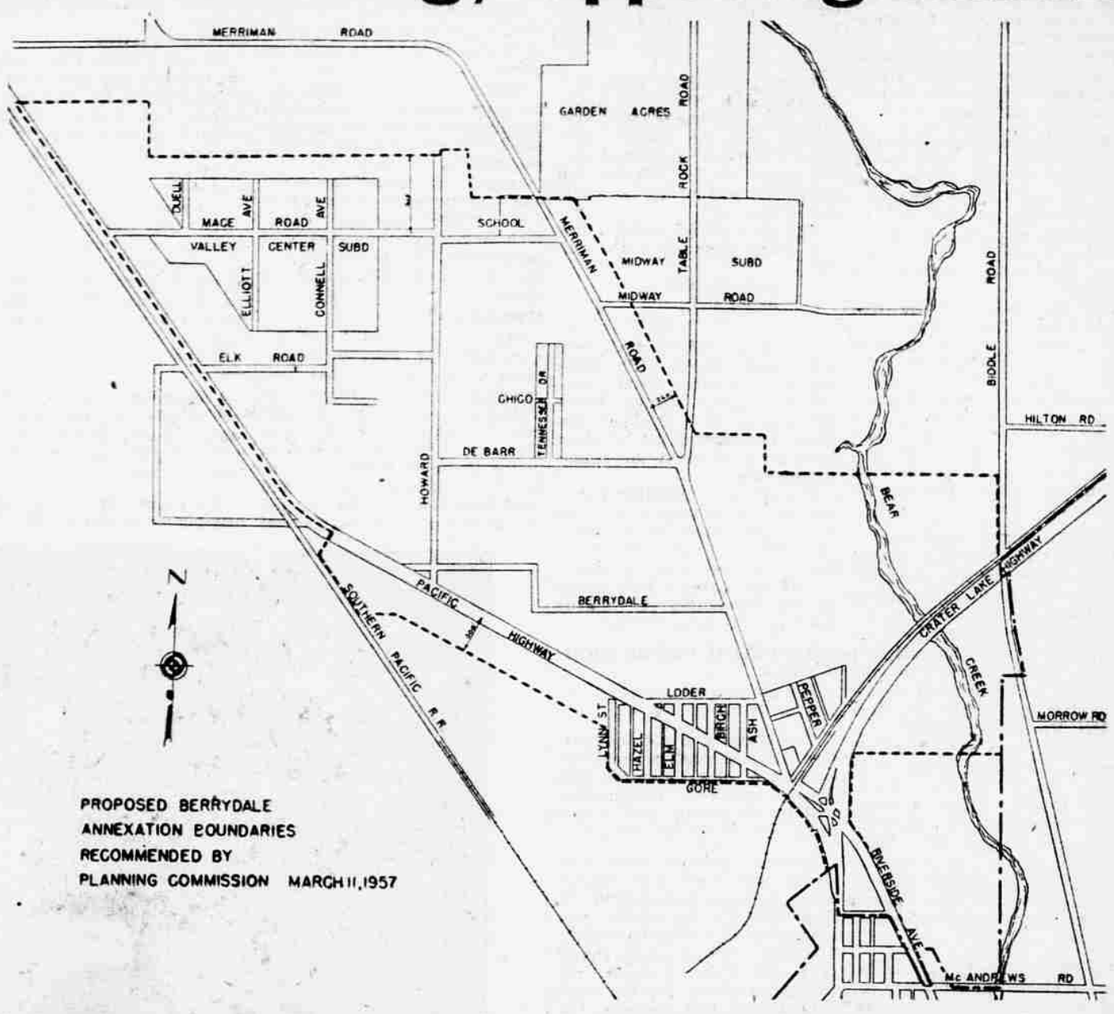
"Answer: Would not apply to existing buildings. They apply only to any new additions unless the chimney presents a fire hazard or the bathroom does not meet sanitation requirements, or the existing structure is in such a condition that it is liable to collapse.

How Soon?

'Question: How soon can we get a sewer?

'Answer: Unless some unforseen development arises, we can expect our sewer project to be completed before the end of 1958. The budget for 1957-58 is being held open until after our election. With a successful election and immediate petition for a sewer, existing plans could be finished and preliminary engineering work begun this summer. We already have a preliminary engineering program for this district that is acceptable to the city.

"Annexation to the city will give us the benefit of trained engineers and legal personnel that will survey, supervise, and administer a sewage installation. This advantage alone will save us several thousand dollars. The city has the necessary financial arrangements to begin the purchase of materials and pay the construction costs."



PROPOSED BOUNDARIES—The dashed line in the above map represents the area in Berrydale proposed for annexation to Medford. Registered voters residing within the line will vote Wednesday, May 22, on the annexation proposal. The boundary line extends from west of Court st. at the junction of Highways 99 and 62, takes in Gore and Lynn sts., continues north 300 feet west of Pacific highway, then goes to the Southern Pacific railroad tracks, back to the center of Highway 99 and north to a point north of Mace rd. It then follows an easterly direction, taking in residences along Mace rd., Howard school, and extends 250 feet east of Merriman rd. At Table Rock rd. the boundary extends eastward to Biddle rd., then south along the present city boundary in the Kenwood area before going west to Crater Lake highway and Riverside ave. Residences located in an "island" area in the Midway rd.-Table Rock rd. area were eliminated from the proposed annexation after informing city planners they did not desire to be annexed.

No Position For, Against Annexation Taken by Court

The county court is taking no position for or against the proposed annexation of the Berrydale district to Medford, members reported Saturday in response to questions.

Residents of the area will vote on annexation Wednesday.

The court is interested in the results of the election, because if annexation is defeated, the problem of sanitation in the area may be thrown into their laps. But they believe they should not try to influence the outcome of the election, and that it is up to the people involved to decide.

Some residents of the area believe that a county service district bill which has ben considered by the current legislature would solve the Berrydale problem, but county court members believe it would have no immediate effect, even if enacted which is by no means sure. It was still in committee at latest report from Salem. And members of the court pointed out that even if it does pass, it would probably be several years before anything could be done.

The county court may become involved if annexation fails, and if the county or state health department certify the Berrydale area to be a health hazard. According to Dr. Harold Erickson, state health oficer, in such cases the court would be empowered to install sanitary facilities and then assess the cost on the benefited property.

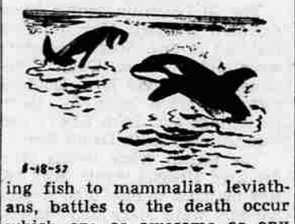
But how this would be accomplished under existing law is by no means sure, the court pointed out. They also indicated that if the county could go ahead with construction of sanitary facilities, there would be no provision for bonding the costs for repayment by the residents over a period of time. They said they are fearful that the resulting assessments might be prohibitive for Berrydale residents.

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Know where the real knock-down, drag-out battles of the wild occur?

Nowhere on earth is violence more lavishly expended than among creatures of the water. From two-inch Siamese fighting fish to mammalian leviathans, battles to the death occur which are as awesome as any provided on land.



Size and ferocity have little in common. When two little male fighting fish meet during the mating season, these bantamweight contestants seldom emerge intact—qiute often, both battlers will be so deeply wounded that they can never fight again.

For cold - blooded, wanton murder it would be difficult to surpass the bluefish, a silvery, blue-backed ocean dweller which seldom exceeds 15 pounds. In its lust to kill, this animated chopping machine seems motivated by the desire to destroy as many fish as possible in the shortest time possible. Roughly a billion of these butchers appear annually along the Atlantic coast of the U.S. months season round 1,200,000,000 fish. Enough to supply every living person with fish every Friday for Lent.

Although the piranha of South America seldom attains two feet in length it can make short work of any animal which falls in the water, cutting off mouthfuls of flesh as cleanly as with a pair of scissors.

Killer Whale Awesome

But size is the thing which inevitably arrests the eye. And of all killing creatures the most awesome on this earth is the killer whale. Although only 20-30 feet from snout to tail flukes, this ferocious carnivore will not hesitate to attack and destroy anything that swims in the sea including whales many times its size.

In fact, as the killer whale rushes in to attack the giant gray whale—largest of all mammals—the gray will sometimes become absolutely paralyzed with fright and turn on its back with flippers outstretched, lying helpless on the surface as the smaller whale tears chunks out of its lips with his mighty teeth until the tongue is exposed. Once that happens, the killer seizes the tongue and tears it out, leaving the hapless gray a floating, dying hulk.

In massive violence, surely the killer whale is unsurpassed.

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Greenland's ice cap is twice the area of Texas.

Antioch Cemetery Group to Meet

The Antioch Cemetery association will hold its annual "clean-up" day Saturday, May 25, and its annual meeting Thursday, May 30.

Those planning to participate in the clean-up event should be at the cemetery at 9 a.m., according to Charlotte R. Sweet, secretary-clerk of the association.

Election of officers will be the main item of business at the annual meeting. The session will begin at 2 p.m. Present officers are Bill Bigham, Eagle Point; Ralph Ellis, Central Point; and Belle Loftin, Central Point.

About 60 per cent of all employed Americans now have a daily coffee break, most of them in the mid-afternoon.

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Arguments Against Move Presented by 'Fair Play' Group

Arguements opposing annexation of the Berrydale district are contained in a statement circulated in the area by a "Committee on Fair Play."

Names of members of the commitee are not listed on the statement, but it was prepared and circulated by William Doernbach, 143 Mace rd., leading opponent to the annexation proposal.

The statement follows:

"The question being put before us on May 22 is not merely a decision as to whether we are to become a part of the cty or not. It is something more important. It is a question as to whethre we are going to act as a group of Americans or whether we are going to be dominated by the questionable policies of a few.

"It is a recognized American policy to allow people to solve their own problems if they are able, and in case they are not, to give them some form of assistance to aid them in their struggle for a better way of life. This policy is backed by the Federal Government and State Governments with the tax money that you and I give. We extend this policy to all the countries of the world and point to it with pride. Our tax load is heavy because of this policy but, we think it only fair and just.

Problem After War

"Medford had a problem after World War II. They received as a gift from the Federal Government (us), a badly needed sewage treatment plant. This gift was given for public use, NOT for its own private use because gifts or grants from the government (us) cannot be given for private use. Because of the above policy, we were happy to aid the city of Medford with their problem.

"This treatment plant is large enough and can be expanded to fit the needs of the entire valley. It was anticipated that Medford would share with the rest of the valley that required its use. Medford did share the use of the plant with the cities of Central Point, Phoenix and the South Bear Creek Sanitation District. They also promished to share with the Berrydale Sanitation District as soon as the district was able to use it. This promise is in the form of a written contract.

"People of the Berrydale Sanitation District were taxed to the extent of several thousand dollars to pay for an engineering study, which is now in the hands of the city officials, then waited until the district was financially able to pay its way. They then went to the city planning commission to ask for a re-assurance that the agreement made in the past was still in effect.

New Policy

"You all know what happened. The district's attorney, Ervin Hogan, was told that the planning commission had a new policy: 'Annex or you can't use OUR plant.' That policy is still in effect as of this date. What would cause a city like Medford to change its agreement with the Berrydale district and to repudiate our national policy of allowing people to solve their own problems? Especially when under that policy they received the thing that they were now refusing to extend to others?

"We all know that the city of Medford has had an increase of population during the past few years. We also know that the city area has increased about threefold through annexation by use of their present policy. In view of Medford's success in the use of their present policy and because they believe that the end justifies the means, should we get behind this policy and try to have the national policy changed? Or should we try to change this policy so as to have it conform to that of our State and our Nation?

"We know that the people of Medford did not set this policy and, we think, that it reflects only from the thinking of a few city planners who are aided by a few persons who fail to think in terms other than a few local gains which they may share in.

Sickening Feeling

"When we realize how certain persons are aiding jn the application of this questionable policy in order to make Berrydale people vote for it, a sickening feeling appears in the pit of our stomach. We are taught at a very early age to have a sense of respect and loyalty to home and parents. Later in life we are encouraged to be loyal and support the policies of our neighborhood, district, state and county. We learn that derogatory remarks about any of them only tends to reflect back on us because we are a part of what we run down.

"We think that the people in this area should merit a bit more consideration as normal Americans with feelings that make for resentment when some one indicates that: 'If you don't vote the way I want you to, I may have your area condemned.' What kind of talk is that? And what kind of policy is it furthering? Are you going to vote for it? If you do, you might think of the people who are being affected by the drawing of the election boundaries in such a way as to take away their right to vote on a matter which affects their property and freedom. Do you want to be a part of a policy like that?

Not Concerned

"We feel that the city planners are not concerned about any health problem in this area or they would have let us solve it when we were ready to start sewer construction over a year ago. We are to them just an area on the map that they have decided to control if at all possible. Information obtained from a 1953 city report indicates that they would zone this area for industrial sites. What industry and where would that leave us?

"We well know that our tax rate this year will be the highest ever without adding about 30 mills for the city. Most of the money we earn is received from areas outside the city. Most of that same money is spent inside of the city. What more do they want? A few of the planners seem to think that they must regulate the life we live with city ordinances, restrictions, inspections, building codes and license fees. They believe we must have paved streets. Our animals and large gardens will be a thing of the past. Annexed areas tend to have irrigation water availability problems due to area build up. What a nice picture; and to think that they suspect that we are going to vote for it.

"There has been enough dissention and strife in this area caused by this annexation problem. It was voted down in every precinct only six months ago. Let us really kill it this time. Then let us concentrate on sewers.

Never Be Solved

"The sewer problem can never be solved until at such time as the area is behind it and annexation is not involved. Your best and fastest bet for sewers is to back your Berrydale Sanitation district officials. It is possible for the district to connect laterals to the line now in use near the Big Y area. This will be a limited service area until at such time additional connections to the former Camp White plant can be made. These can be made only when the area is unified and make their want known through present or new district officials. Backed leaders must fight and speak for a unified area. Forced annexation will not solve the sewer problem for the area nor will it unify the community as a whole.

"If you don't fight for your rights, you can't expect to receive them from people who are out to take advantage and discriminate against the area.

"If you must annex, give yourself a break and wait until SB 97 becomes a law. The bill has passed the house and senate and should become a law in about 90 days. This bill will allow a tax differential in favor of annexed areas for a period of ten years after annexation or until at such time as they receive full city services.

"Prepared by: The Committee on Fair Play."

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