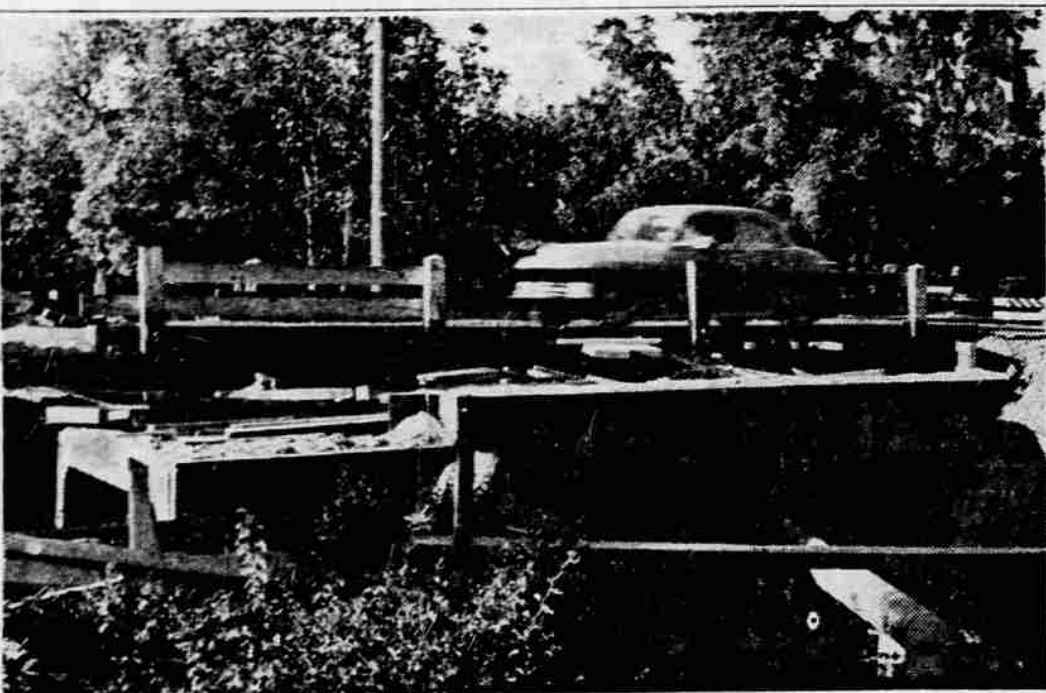


City Gets Few Complaints on New Couplet



CROOKED CREEK CULVERT — County construction crews have built a temporary bridge for Stewart ave. traffic crossing Crooked creek while they complete a box culvert. Plans call for widening Stewart bridge to four lanes.

Project One of Major Arterial Street Programs

By ERIC WENTWORTH
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Medford motorists apparently have taken to the new Main st.-Eighth st. couplet like ducks to water.

City officials report a minimum of complaints since the couplet opened Aug. 8 to provide a quicker, less-congested routing for east-west traffic. Most complaints received concerned minor "bugs" since worked out to satisfaction.

Some, of course, complain of the system's one real logjam; at the intersection of Main st. and Riverside ave., where the flood of home-bound businessmen and shoppers turning north from Eighth st. onto Riverside creates a backwater in the late afternoon.

Correct Lane Usage
Traffic engineers have adopted such expedients as signs and stripes to encourage correct lane usage and a shift in traffic light timing to favor the "commuters" at this peak period.

But the situation is temporary. The couplet lacks its final link, the extension of Eighth st. across Bear creek to merge with Main near the present Almond st. intersection.

The bridge across Bear creek, according to City Manager Robert A. Duff, is scheduled for construction this winter and opening next spring.

When completed, this extension should insure a smooth flow of traffic at any hour.

Meanwhile, two other construction projects in the city's 10-year arterial street program have gotten under way.

The extension of Jackson st. between Barneburg rd. and Sunrise ave. is scheduled for completion by the end of September, according to Vernon Thorpe, public works director.

Box Culvert
And county work crews are constructing a box culvert to channel Crooked creek under Stewart ave. west of the railroad. Stewart is slated to become a four-lane thoroughfare from the railroad to Holly st.

Both these projects straddle city and county land, and thus have become cooperative enterprises. The city has acquired the right of way for the Jackson st. extension. It has carried out excavation work, and plans call for installation of base material and leveling, which may get underway this week.

The county has undertaken to provide asphalt paving for a 22-foot center strip. Pending installation of base material, the street has been opened temporarily to public use. But most drivers decline to "shoot the rapids" across the present bumps.

Ease Traffic Flow
The extension's function is to link the thoroughfare to the west with the arc from Sunrise to Hillcrest rd., thus providing for through traffic. It is expected to ease the flow on East Main st.

At its meeting Aug. 7, the city council approved the agreement with the county whereby as improvement of Stewart ave. progresses the city will perform work outside its limits equal to the county's work within them.

The council authorized Duff at the same meeting to declare the city's intention of acquiring the property necessary for the Eighth st. extension as insurance in case his negotiations with property owners prove unfruitful.

Railroad Crossing
The council also authorized the drawing up of plans and specifications for extending Melrose ave. east across the railroad tracks to meet Riverside ave. opposite Barnett rd.

Duff had explained that crossing the railroad at this point would be safer than at Stewart ave. since there was a greater distance between the tracks and Riverside.

The Melrose extension, according to Duff, will handle much of the traffic entering town from the freeway interchange planned for Barnett rd. to the east. It will lessen congestion on Stewart ave. to the south, which it will parallel, Duff said Friday he expected work on Melrose to begin this winter.

These various projects, while naturally important, but scratch the surface of the 10-year program initiated in 1956. Other major items on the schedule include couplets for 10th and 11th sts. and for Grape and Holly sts.; widening of Jackson st. from Grape st. to Lindley ave., including

a wider bridge across Bear creek; widening of the East Main st.-Valley View dr.-Hillcrest rd. thoroughfare; extending Willamette ave. from 11th st. south to Barnett rd.; including a bridge over Bear creek; improvements and extensions for Columbus ave. from Stewart ave. to McAndrews rd. and widening of Oakdale ave.

Based on Needs
All were placed on a schedule running through 1967, their priorities based on needs according to estimated 1970 traffic volumes. Some changes in the timing and location of the projects are inevitable, resulting from such factors as subsequent traffic studies, new business and residential areas and exact location of the freeway and its interchanges.

The total cost to the city was estimated at \$1,656,100. But this was based on the assumption that abutting property owners could be assessed for part of the paving costs. Such assessment, to be imposed by the city without a property owners' petition for the improvement, would first require a change in the provisions of the city charter.

The charter provides that at least 50 per cent of the property owners must sign the petition before the city can assess them for paving. An attempt was made to amend the charter to allow the city to assess with or without a petition, but it did not succeed.

Hence, as things now stand, the city may be required to pay an additional estimated \$467,500. Petitions are encouraged wherever possible.

Bond Issue
The city floated a \$220,000 bond issue to get the program underway. This money was assigned to right of way purchases, as the city is naturally interested in purchasing rights early before expensive buildings can be erected on the land it needs.

The state is paying for \$143,000 worth of work on the Main st.-Eighth st. couplet. But from here on, according to Duff, the city—or rather the local taxpayers—can expect to carry the full load.

Funds from year to year are being provided by a special city-wide levy. The 1958-59 budget calls for \$143,600.

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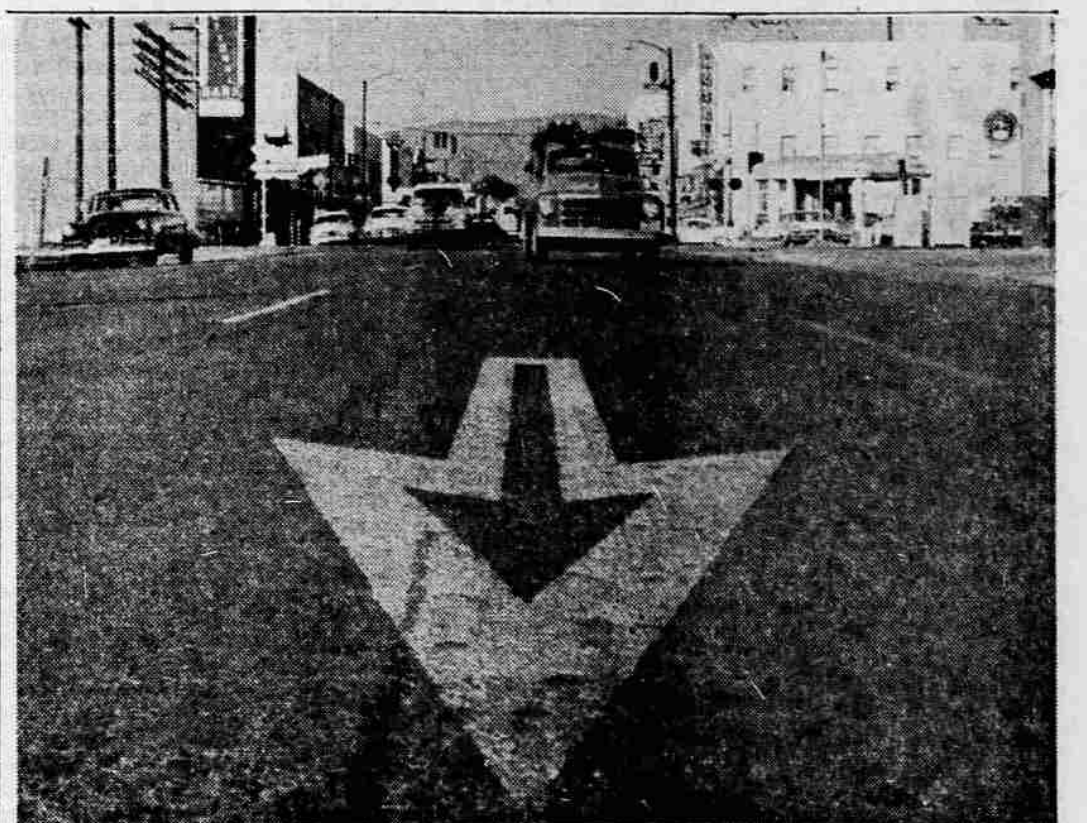
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ONE-WAY — No two ways about it, Main st. is now strictly westbound through the downtown area. Eighth st. handles east-bound traffic. City officials are pleased with successful operation of the couplet, opened Aug. 8.

Interim Committee Hears Tax Problems, Proposals

(Continued from Page 1)

Log production during 1957 in Oregon was lower than at any time since 1948, Katz said. During 1957 it was 22 per cent below 1955 and 19 per cent below 1956, according to state board of forestry figures.

Lumber production in the Douglas fir region (Western Oregon represents 72 per cent of the output) in the first seven months of 1958 was running 6 per cent below the same period of 1957. It was also 10 per cent below the same period in 1956 and 20 per cent below that of 1955.

However, the rate of decline seems to be slowing with July production 5 per cent below that of 1957.

Price Strength Shown
Price-wise substantial strength has been shown in July and August, the economist said. Most observers expect the trend to continue through fall at least. This comes from an improved demand from the housing market.

Wholesale prices of Douglas fir lumber hit the lowest level in many years in March. It began to firm up in April, May and June, Katz said.

Statistics reveal the highest rate of home building in 2½ years, Katz commented. About 85 per cent of the state's Douglas fir lumber production is used in residential buildings, he added.

"Private housing dropped in March to the lowest level since early 1949, then rose in April, May and June to the highest total for any month since August, 1955," the economist said.

Farming Receipts Up
In Oregon's second most important industry—farming—marketing cash receipts in the first five months of the year were up 2.3 per cent compared to the same period the previous year. They were up 4.4 per cent above the first five months of 1956. This excludes government payment, Katz added.

Indications are that 1958's tourist season should be close to 1957 in out-of-state tourist traffic, Katz said. The highway department's travel survey indicates a 4.2 per cent increase in 1957 compared with 1956. However, money spent per day dropped from \$18 a car in 1956 to about \$16 a car in 1957. The time spent in the state also declined, he said.

Oregon department store sales ran 3 per cent below the first six months of 1957 and 6 per cent below the first half of 1956. However, department store sales in Salem in the same period were actually 5½ per cent above the same period of 1956 and 1½ per cent above the same time in 1957. Helping this was a wider market area and the stability of large state government payroll.

"Considering population, a conspicuous change has occurred in Oregon's population growth pattern," Katz said. "The birth rate has dropped slightly and the number of new-comers to Oregon has dropped sharply."

Timber Draws Attention
Considerable attention on Friday afternoon and Saturday centered on timber lands classification during the public hearings of the committee.

One of the more interesting testimonies was that of a representative of the Weyerhaeuser Timber company, with headquarters in Tacoma, Wash.

Roger Henselman, company representative from Tacoma, Wash., and formerly of Medford, suggested that the depletion factor in taxing tim-

ber lands be considered on an operating area basis. This depletion factor, he said, is the heart of the current controversy over taxation of timber.

Present law provides that the appraised value of standing timber is determined by the state tax commission or of timber in the area and the rate it is cut down, or its depletion. The state tax commission considers the word "area" to mean county.

The Weyerhaeuser company suggests that House Bill 821 be rewritten to define area as operating area. These operations areas, as set up by the county, have different rates of depletion. Such operating areas in a county could have depletion rates varying from 10 years to 40 years, according to the company's sustained yield policy, it was explained.

An overall average depletion rate for the entire county harms companies operating on a sustained yield basis since their timber is evaluated on the same basis as the companies who cut more rapidly. Because of risk of fire, insect damage and other factors timber which stands for

some time depreciates in value. That which is cut sooner does not.

Alternative Cited
The alternative to this method is the individual ownership basis as set forth in House Bill 209, Henselman said. This, he said, is the only method which gives each owner the benefit of his individual depletion or cutting rate. However, it is considered difficult to administer, he added.

"No room should be left for any possibility of eventual construction of the state law to apply the depletion factor on a basis other than operating areas," he concluded.

The committee agreed to pass on to consideration by the state legislature a recommendation by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce as represented by F. L. Spangler of Medford. The chamber proposes to "create a tax supervisory and conservation commission in counties of more than 50,000 population, to have authority over all taxing bodies within the counties."

County Tax Commission
"An active and alert commission of this type in Jackson county could prevent any sharp increases in tax levies by coordinating the needs of the overlapping units of government, and could have a restraining effect on undue expansion of local budgets," he read.

Phil Lowry, state senator from Medford and a member of the committee, pointed out that such a recommendation was made by the chamber two years ago. However, the bill could not be introduced during recent legislative session because of lack of time, he said.

Friday, a legislative subcommittee voted against recommending establishment of such a "tax court."

Inheritance Tax
A subcommittee also recommended laws which would place an inheritance tax on property held by entirety. Oregon does not now tax such property. There would be a homestead exemption.

Albert E. Armstrong, deputy sheriff of Coos county, represented the tax collectors of the state at Saturday's hearing. Considering homesteads owned by elderly people, Armstrong suggested that such land could be deeded to the county for payment of the taxes. However, it shouldn't be sold if the owner is 65 years old and sole owner of the homestead.

During Friday's session, the committee recommended that liquor clubs be placed on the tax rolls. On a motion made by Sen. Monroe Sweetland, Clackamas county, the committee recommended fraternal organizations be required to show what portions of their activities are charitable. Then a pro-rata exemption should be applied, it was recommended.

French List Deaths
In Ranks of Rebels
Algiers, Algeria — (UPI) — French forces in Algeria killed 20,757 Moslem rebels during the first seven months of 1958, the French army said today.

An army spokesman said also that 2,777 rebel guerrillas had been taken prisoner between Jan. 1 and July 31. The bitter fighting has been going on in this North African territory for almost four years.

Interim committee members at the hearings were Sen. Rudy Wilhelm, Portland; Sen. Monroe Sweetland, Milwaukie; Sen. Lee Ohmart, Salem; chairman and Sen. Walter Pearson, Portland; vice-chairman and Rep. Clarence Barton, Coquille; Sen. Phil Lowry, Medford; Rep. Ed Cone, Eugene; Rep. Fayette Bristol, Grants Pass; Rep. R. E. Schenden, Gresham; and Rep. Clint Haight, Baker. Rep. John Kerbo, Klamath Falls, was present at only part of the hearings.

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JACKSON STREET EXTENSION — Excavation work for the extension between Barneburg rd. and Sunrise ave. has been completed. Next comes installation of base material, leveling and paving. The street was open temporarily to traffic last week, but few motorists braved the bumps.

BUTTE FALLS Party Honors Birthday

By MARY JO HARRIS

Butte Falls—Miss Venessa Facey was guest of honor at a birthday party given at her home July 29. Vanessa, four years old, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Burrell Facey.

Guests attending from Butte Falls were Doris and Jimmy Burton, Pam and Roger Harris, June and Ray Reddell, Paul and Jerry Conley, Joy Baker, Gordon Ellis, Joy Ellefson, Jeannie Clymer, Judy and Jennie Bowen, Floyd, Nancy and Jesse Smith and David Ferguson.

Out of town guests were David Wolf of Eagle Point, Terry and Deke Zimmerlee of Medford and Terri Dillard of Eagle Point. Mothers and friends attending from Butte Falls were Mrs. Elga Abbott, Mrs. Anzel Conley, Mrs. Charles Ferguson, Mrs. William (Doc) Bowen, Mrs. Virgil Conley, Mrs. Duane Burton and Mrs. Facey, hostess.

Visiting mothers were Mrs. Ed Wolf and daughter, Miss Joyce Dillard, of Eagle Point, and Mrs. Betty Zimmerlee of Medford.

Games were played and cup cakes, ice cream and jello served. Miss Patsy Facey, daughter of the Burrell Faceys, helped with the supervision of the children and serving.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddy Ellis are the parents of a boy born July 23 at the Sacred Heart hospital. Birth weight was four pounds, 12 ounces, and the baby has been named William Gale. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Dave Smith and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Lester Ellis, all residents of Butte Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Smith recently visited in Bandon with the Bob Fristoe family. After attending a show at Coquille, the Smiths motored on to Sutherlin to visit with members of their family. They visited with Mrs. Smith's daughter, Mrs. Marie Eastburn, and boys, and Mrs. Fred Houck and family. Mrs. Houck is a granddaughter of Mrs. Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Turk are the parents of a boy born July 24 at the Sacred Heart hospital. Birth weight was seven pounds, one ounce and the baby has been named Stanley Knuten. Maternal grandparents are Mrs. Jessie Norling of Medford and Bill Norling of Butte Falls and paternal grandparents are Mrs. D. N. Garman of Medford and Has-

Premier of Cambodia Visits Chinese Reds

Tokyo — (UPI) — Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Premier of Cambodia, arrived in Peking on a state visit yesterday and was welcomed at the airport by Chinese Communist Premier Chou En-Lai, the Red Chinese News Agency reported.

Sihanouk said he hoped "friendship between our two countries will be the purest example of the virtue of peaceful coexistence among nations which have different regimes."

Makarios Rejects 'Last Chance' Offer
Athens — (UPI) — Archbishop Makarios, ousted leader of the Greek Cypriots on Cyprus, yesterday rejected Britain's modified self-government plan for that troubled Mediterranean island colony.

The rejection was contained in his answer to urging by the British Governor of Cyprus, Sir Hugh Foot, not to reject "the last chance" to work together. Foot wrote Makarios Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Moore and family have moved from Gold Hill to Klamath Falls where Jim will do ranch work. The Jim Moores are former residents of Butte Falls and Jim is a son of the Ben Moores.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Dillard are the parents of a boy born July 7 at Sacred Heart hospital. Birth weight was seven and one-half pounds and the baby has been named William Edward.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. William Lytle of Butte Falls and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wolf of Eagle Point.

HOW'S THAT?
London — (UPI) — The London Times today carried an advertisement by a "young doctor" who said he was "dismayed at the financial prospects in the field of medicine" and was seeking alternative employment, preference for journalism or teaching.

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Rest Areas Along Freeway Are Defended

Salem — (UPI) — State Highway Engineer W. C. Williams announced Friday that there has been considerable comment from both public and press relative to the Highway commission's proposed policy of constructing safety rest areas at limited points along the interstate highway system.

In Oregon, the system consists of U. S. 99 and U. S. 30 from Portland east.

Williams said he felt that a statement of the national policy in this regard might give the people a better understanding of the proposal. The engineer said the rest areas are considered an essential part of the interstate system which is designed to prevent accidents and reduce fatalities.

Most fatalities are due to human error, Williams said, and a substantial portion is and monotony. Rest areas at strategic locations will permit motorists and over-the-road truck drivers to stop, rest and relax.

The main purpose of the rest areas is for safety, Williams said, and the toilet-facility features are a minor part.

Forest Fire Rages In National Park
Glacier National Park, Mont. — (UPI) — A 1,300-acre forest fire, worst in Glacier Park in 22 years, raged out of control through a wilderness area of the park today.

A force of 410 firefighters hoped to check the flames, spreading to new fir timber for the third day.

Officials said the blaze was the worst since 1936, when fire ate through 9,000 acres of timber in the center of the park and burned out a public camp ground and several other structures.

Baby's Pets



by Alice Brooks

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