

PUC Orders Changes In Signals at Six Crossings in City

Motorists here may find six of Medford's nine railroad crossings operating more efficiently before too long as the result of recent action by the state public utilities commission.

A supplemental order issued by the commission Sept. 25 provides for installing or altering traffic signals and control of trains "in the best interests of safety of operation of vehicles and trains" over the crossings.

City Manager Robert A. Duff submitted a copy of the order to the city council Thursday night for its information.

Crossings Involved
The six crossings involved are those at McAndrews rd., Jackson st., Sixth st., Main st., 11th st. and Stewart ave.

The order provides that the SP at its own expense reconstruct or alter the track circuits activating the signals at these crossings "in such a manner as to provide the warning intervals designated as necessary and desirable; and thereafter operate its trains over the tracks which control the signal operation at such speeds and in such manner as shall provide the necessary warning intervals."

It decrees that the signals not be activated for prolonged operation when a train is not approaching the crossing. It provides that timing mechanisms be adjusted to terminate signal operations approximately 45 seconds and no longer than 60 seconds after each activating impulse from a locomotive or train.

Trains To Stop
The order states that where signal activating circuits extend short distances from the crossings the approaching locomotives or trains are to stop short of the crossing to allow the signals to operate long enough to give motorists ample warning. This warning interval is specified as between 20 and 30 seconds.

The order also lists a schedule of permissible speeds for trains traversing the crossings.

The order comes as the result of a joint study by the commission, the city of Medford and the SP. The study was ordered by the PUC following a hearing here Aug. 20, 1957.

Representatives of the three groups met Jan. 7, 1958 and approved the plan on which the present order is based.

Duff noted Thursday night that the SP's responsibility for financing signals at McAndrews rd. and Fourth st. depends on closure of the Clark st. crossing.

The closure matter is currently before the city planning commission. It is understood that if the Clark st. crossing remains open, the city is to contribute \$10,000 to financing signals at the other two crossings.

Mrs. Stevens Back From Travel Tour

Mrs. Helen E. Stevens, travel counselor from the Medford office of the American Automobile association, returned last month from an AAA tour of the state of Washington.

The nine-day tour was taken by 66 persons from 33 states and British Columbia, and covered more than 1,500 miles. The tour started at Spokane and visited Wilbur, Coulee dam, Ginkgo Petrified forest, Wenatchee, Ellensburg rodeo, Yakima, Mr. Rainier national park, Tacoma, Olympia, Westport, Quinalt lake, Port Angeles, Bremerton and Seattle.

Side trips included an air flight of the state, deep sea fishing, cranberry bogs tour, and various other points of interest.

Forty-five million bushels of potatoes went into potato chips in this country last year and another seven million bushels were turned into commercially marketed French fries.

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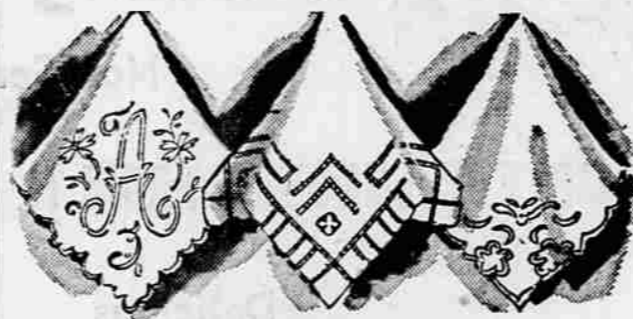
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