

# Satellites With Animals Will Be Launched



**SHARPSHOOTER**—Ray Harp, 901 West 10th st., Medford, displays the pelt of an unusually big coyote that he bagged with a shotgun while hunting near Table Rock rd. on the Rogue river this week. Harp said after he shot the animal once, it charged him and it took the remaining shells in his automatic to bring it down. He collected a \$5 bounty from the county.

## Open Doorway Partially Blamed for Death Toll

### Sweet Gum Trees to Be Planted in City

One hundred sweet gum, or liquidambar styraciflua, trees, the first of the large orders of trees for Medford's street tree planting program, have arrived at Southern Oregon Nursery, the Medford street tree committee has announced.

Four streets in Medford have been designated for sweet gum tree planting, including Pennsylvania st., Siskiyow blvd., Black Oak dr., and Country Club dr.

### Festival Fund Nears Half Mark

Contributions to a new theater building for the Oregon Shakespearean Festival neared the 50 per cent mark today, when a total of \$135,992.93 of the \$275,000 campaign goal was reported at a luncheon in the Red Cross building here.

The total contributed from Medford sources is now \$43,748.50; Ashland's contributions total \$39,376.09, for which funds are available to match that.

A total of \$10,712 was added in the special gifts division bringing that division's total to \$36,542; and \$2,240.25 was added to the out-of-town gifts, bringing that total to \$5,767.75.

In material gifts, \$2,642 was added today, bringing the overall total to \$5,042.

The building fund campaign started in mid-November, and is expected to be completed by Christmas. Alfred S. V. Carpenter, Medford, is general chairman.

The campaign is being conducted to raise funds for construction of a theater building at Ashland to replace the Festival theater torn down after last season's plays.

### Circuit Court Upholds Subdivision Requirement

Requiring a subdivider to dedicate land for park or recreation purposes, or pay a cash equivalent, recently was upheld by a circuit court judge in Multnomah county.

The proposed subdivision ordinance for Medford includes a comparable provision.

The city's recently-created parks and recreation commission has sought information on whether it is considered constitutional.

The proposed ordinance will be discussed tonight at a joint meeting of the councilmen and planners in city hall.

The decision upholding Multnomah county's requirement is reported in the current newsletter of the League of Oregon Cities. That county

### Flames, Gases Allowed To Reach Upper Classrooms

Chicago—UPI—Fire experts speculated today that an open doorway at the head of a stairs turned the second floor of Our Lady of the Angels school into a furnace of death for 87 children and three Roman Catholic nuns.

But they disagreed as to whether doors actually hung in the doorway Monday when flames, possibly touched off by a youngster's carelessly tossed cigarette, shot up the stairwell from the school basement and pushed suffocating hot gases through six classrooms.

The office of Coroner Walter J. McCarron announced the inquest would begin Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Two investigators of the National Fire Protection association said they found that there were two heavy wooden doors at the head of the stairs and that they had been wedged or hooked open.

No Evidence of Door  
But Deputy Fire Commissioner Albert H. Petersen said city fire investigators found no indication that there was a door at the landing.

He said "if there was a wooden door we would have found evidences of it—such as hinges—and had there been a steel door I assume it would have remained."

Petersen agreed with the association investigators that if the doorway had been closed off, the fire toll might have been considerably less.

Percy Bugbee, general manager of the association, said "a simple blunder of open doors appears to be the major cause of the heavy loss of life."

Officials View Ruins  
"The simple precaution of keeping these second floor landing doors closed would have kept the intense fire and hot gases out... for many precious minutes," Bugbee said in Boston. "In all likelihood every classroom could have been emptied in time."

California Fire Marshal Joseph Yockers and three Cedar Rapids, Iowa, fire officials toured the blackened ruins in the hope of learning lessons that could be put to use in their schools back home. Fire experts from other cities were expected to make similar inspections.

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He based his Nov. 20 opinion on ORS 92.044, which authorizes cities and counties alike to regulate subdivisions in this manner:

"Where the additional standards are considered necessary to carry out development patterns or plans and to promote the public health, safety or general welfare."

The statute includes educational and recreational needs among those that regulations can provide for.



### Phoenix Named in Court Suit Over Sewer Assessment

Decree Sought To Stop Sale of Land

A complaint has been filed in Jackson county circuit court by Alex and Jean P. Baldigan, Phoenix, against the city of Phoenix involving a sanitary sewer system assessment.

The Baldigans seek a decree from the court enjoining the city of Phoenix against selling or attempting to sell their property or enforcing collection of the assessment.

The cost of constructing the trunk sewers was \$38,167.87 and the lateral sewers about \$61,470, the Baldigans allege.

The Baldigans state that part of their property against which the assessment is levied was sold and the city was notified of the change of ownership on Oct. 5, 1957. The Baldigans then asked that Phoenix give them the segregated total of the assessment between the two properties.

Figure Assessment

The property owners charge that they figured \$977.25 is what the assessment would be on the parcel of land they own and paid \$48.87 as the first installment under the Bancroft plan. However, this was refused by the city, they claim.

The Baldigans claim they are not benefited by the sewer construction since the city neither has any right to the disposal of sewage nor owns a sewage disposal plant. The city uses a trunk line which extends through the South Bear Creek sanitary district into the Medford sewage system. Medford has terminated the contract with the sanitary district, but it continues to receive sewage into its system and the sanitary district is still paying for the disposal of it, a Phoenix spokesman said.

Because of the contract termination, the Baldigans claim Phoenix has no right to sewage disposal.

### Building Planned For BLM Offices

A 14-room building to house the Medford offices of the bureau of land management will be constructed at the City Office park, corner of Barnett rd. and South Riverside ave., it was announced today.

Bids will be opened Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 3 p.m. for the building.

The one-story building will be owned by O. L. Williams and will be leased to the General Services Administration for BLM. The structure will be of brick and be 200 by 40 feet. BLM is tentatively scheduled to occupy the building March 1, 1959.

BLM's offices are now on the third floor of the city hall. The city of Medford is expected to move some of its departments on the second floor to the top floor, City Manager Robert Duff said.

"I Don't Quite Know How To Tell You This—"



**BRIAN B. MULLEN**  
Deputy District Attorney

### Medford Man Named Deputy District Attorney

Brian B. Mullen, Medford attorney, will be the new deputy district attorney for Jackson County, District Attorney Thomas J. Reeder announced today.

Mullen will start work in the courthouse on Monday, Dec. 15, Reeder said. He will serve as second deputy.

Gerald Scannell, now second deputy, will be promoted to first deputy district attorney, Reeder explained. Scannell will replace John C. Anker, who is leaving this month to work for an Oregon City law firm.

Mullen, 27, is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State college where he received a bachelor of arts degree in 1951, and of the University of Missouri law school at Columbia, Mo., where he received his law degree. While attending Southeast Missouri, Mullen was a member of Sigma Tau Delta, honorary for English majors.

The new deputy district attorney passed the Missouri bar examination in 1954. Following that he served with the U. S. Army for two years. He passed his Oregon bar examination in 1957 and has been practicing law in Medford for a year.

### Flames Ruin Baker Stores

Half-Block Area Wiped Out by Costly Blaze

Damage Figured at Half Million Dollars

Baker—UPI—Fire wiped out half a downtown block on Main street here Tuesday night and heavily damaged other businesses on the block before being controlled about 10:25 p.m.

First estimate of total damage was "conservatively" set at half a million dollars.

Initially destroyed by the blaze was a building housing a drug store in the middle of the block and office upstairs. The Oregon Motor club building next door and an insurance agency also were gutted.

The blaze burned the roof and a wall of the First National bank, a regional magazine agency and Moose lodge. Heavy water and smoke and some fire damage was reported at the H. C. Stevens Department store, Reed Furniture company, Baker State bank and the Baker Business college located over the state bank and the furniture store.

The fire was thought to have spread from the basement of the drug store. Two firemen narrowly escaped when a wall of the First National bank collapsed while they were spraying it with water. No injuries were reported. The flames were first noticed about 6:30 p.m.

All available firefighters and equipment from Baker plus help from La Grande, Union and Elgin fought the fire.

Total loss in the drug store was more than \$250,000, according to owner Henry Levinger. Other available individual estimates included: First National bank, \$20,000; Leo Adler Magazine agency, \$35,000, and the Moose lodge, about \$3,000.

### Warrants Served On Weed Parents

Weed, Calif.—UPI—Warrants have been served on seven adults following investigation of what police termed a pitched battle among four local high school girls Monday night.

A complaint was filed in Weed Justice Court by the mother of one of the girls. The girl spent Monday night in Mt. Shasta hospital receiving treatment for a black eye and bruises.

Police said investigation indicated mothers of two of the girls took their daughters to the Weed school playground and that the other two were escorted by five young men. The fight followed.

The warrants charged contributing to the delinquency of a minor by permitting minors to fight.

### 40 Homes Burned As Malibu Flames Go Uncontrolled

2,000 Firefighters Fail To Hold Lines

Malibu, Calif.—UPI—An out of control fire gorged on 20,000 acres of brush and watershed today, destroying 40 homes, including those of movie personalities, and sending flames licking toward the Pacific ocean.

As the some 2,000 firefighters battled the blaze on a 40-mile perimeter, there were encouraging developments. Previously gale force winds diminished to 25-35 miles per hour. Concentrated aerial bombing with a water-borate solution was proving effective.

More Homes Threatened  
But there was still a threat to hundreds of homes, including those of the exclusive Malibu Beach colony—often the summer playground of movie stars. More than 2,000 persons had been evacuated from the area.

Movie stars joined their neighbors in the fight against fire. Roofs of homes were wetted down with garden hoses, and backfires were started to drive the flames back across the Pacific Coast highway, which was cut off to traffic from Topanga Canyon east of here to Pt. Mugu, some 20 miles north.

The flames leaped Pacific Coast Highway and moved toward the Malibu colony. Equipment diverted to the area—at least temporarily—stopped the wall of flames 100 yards short of an emergency hospital and shop buildings edging the colony.

Pumper units patrolled the vital Malibu Canyon road, spearing their plumes of water as minor patches of flame leaped over. Fire officials feared that if the canyon road were bridged the flames could spread into heavily populated areas.

At least a dozen firemen suffered burns and hundreds of others had their eyes treated for smoke damage.

### Trial Expected to Last All Week

The non-jury trial of the State vs. the California Oregon Power company is expected to continue through Friday, according to Jackson county circuit court observers.

Hearing the case is Circuit Judge Orval J. Millard of the first judicial district.

The state is asking that \$40,682.40 be paid the state forestry department in firefighting costs by the California Oregon Power company.

The state alleges the costs were incurred during the Sykes creek fire on Sept. 5, 1955, when 4,200 acres of forest land were burned. Copco has one of its transmission lines through the fire area, the state alleges.

Warren Degesch, who lives at the scene of the fire, testified yesterday concerning strong wind which helped start the fire. Another witness, Mrs. Ruth Davis, gave similar testimony.

Degesch continued his testimony this morning. Donald Maus, state forestry department official, told of his examination of the area and pictures he took while flying over it.

### Temperature Sets New Record in City

Yesterday's 65-degree temperature set a new record for the date and today's maximum is expected to establish a new high for Dec. 3 for the Medford vicinity.

The 65 reading yesterday was the highest for the Medford weather station for Dec. 2 since a 63 maximum on the date in 1915.

Temperature today is expected to reach 65 degrees, compared to the previous high for the day of 58 on Dec. 3, 1945.

Portland—UPI—The 43rd annual convention of the Oregon State Sheriff's association is under way here.

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### Councilman Says Ballot Measure Is Not Tax Measure; Explains Reason for Move

The ballot measure to amend the city charter which Medford voters will decide in a special election Dec. 10 is not a tax measure and should not be construed as such, Acting Mayor Paul Meyers, councilman from Ward IV, said today.

Meyers spoke at a meeting of a citizens' advisory committee on parking which met to discuss ways of expediting the educational program relative to the ballot measure.

The councilman noted that "months of study and survey work" by municipal planning leaders has been done to formulate an overall plan to keep our growing city strong and progressive. Most of the plan hinges on the provision for adequate parking, and specifically, it hinges on the formal approval of the charter amendment," he said.

### West Coast Site To Send Monkeys, Mice Into Space

Objects Will Be Returned To Earth

Washington—UPI—The Defense Department announced today it will launch a series of satellites with mice and monkeys aboard in an effort to learn how to put a man into orbit and get him back.

The program, called project Discoverer, will be carried out at Vandenberg Air Force Base near Lompoc, Calif. The first shot of the series will be fired in about 30 days.

Project Discoverer will use proved military rockets capable of putting as much as five tons of payload into an orbit around the earth. Russia's Sputnik III satellite weighs about a ton and a half. The heaviest U.S. satellite weighed about 38 pounds.

The first moon of the new launching series will be fired into orbit late this month or early next. It will weigh about 1,300 pounds.

Roy W. Johnson, director of the Pentagon's Space Agency, said further launchings may be expected at the rate of about one a month in 1959.

Animals To Return  
In disclosing the plan to use mice and monkeys as satellite "crews" during Project Discoverer, Johnson said space experts believe they can bring artificial moons back to earth and land them within 200 miles of a desired point.

Johnson said no attempt will be made to put a man in orbit in 1959. And the first animals, he said, probably will not go aloft until the fifth or sixth launching in the series.

Project Discoverer plans now cover only next year, but Johnson said he expects it to continue indefinitely.

Its main purpose, he said, is to develop "useful information" for putting a manned satellite into orbit and bringing it safely back.

Johnson said Project Discoverer will be "the largest single item" in the advanced research projects agency's \$460 million 1959 budget. He refused to estimate the cost more precisely, or to say whether the amount will be more or less than \$100 million.

### Pinball Machine Destroyed Today

A pinball machine confiscated in October from Valley Billiards, Central Point, was broken up by Jackson county sheriff's deputies this morning.

Sheriff's Officers Glenn Wright and Veryl Vanocoe destroyed the machine with sledge hammers at the Medford city garbage dump off Barnett rd. The pinball machine was confiscated earlier by Central Point police on orders of the Jackson county district attorney's office.

Monday, the proprietors of Valley Billiards, Ernest Lytle and Aylmar Ditmanson, pleaded guilty in district court to charges of possessing and displaying a game of chance. Each was fined \$150 by Judge James M. Main.

The complaint filed against the two men was signed by Central Point city police.

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