

BOGOTA STORE FIRE CLAIMS 98

Recreation, Sports Area Planned South of Medford

Corporation Buys 18-Acre Site for Future Buildings

Roller Rink, Bowling Alley Planned Soon

Plans for an extensive recreation and sports center on Highway 99 south of Charlotte Anne dr. was announced today by John S. Weisbrod, Medford real estate agent who handled the sale of property.

Developing the center is a corporation formed by Medford area residents, who are providing financial backing. The corporation will lease facilities at the center to operators, Weisbrod said.

The center, which will be an 18-acre site, will include a roller skating rink, bowling alley and, later, other facilities such as swimming pool, tennis courts and possibly a dance hall, he said.

Construction Planned

Construction of the bowling alley and roller rink are planned as soon as pear trees are removed from the site, which extends from the highway eastward to Bear creek. Weisbrod said the corporation hopes to have the bowling alley and roller rink ready for operation late in the spring.

The bowling alley will be operated by Herschel H. and Kenneth F. Bixon of Raymond, Wash., and will include modern equipment. The Bixons will hold the American Manufacturing and Foundry company's bowling equipment franchise in this area, Weisbrod said. Included in the equipment will be an automatic scoring device, automatic pin setter and spotting, and a ball return which delivers the ball under the floor to the rear of the bowler.

Weisbrod said the building will be an investment in excess of \$100,000 and that an additional \$100,000 will be invested in the bowling alley facilities such as snack bar, pro shop and space for retail sales.

The Bixons plan to retain a professional bowler to handle lessons and arrangements for tournaments. The bowling facilities will include 2' alleys, Weisbrod said.

The roller skating rink will be operated by Hazel Middlekauff, Medford, and her brother, T. C. Cline, who operates two large rinks in the Pacific northwest. They plan to provide a professional skater for instruction courses, Weisbrod said.

The roller rink will be about 14,000 square feet, he said, and probably will cost in excess of \$100,000. Facilities will include a snack bar and pro shop.

Weisbrod said the corporation plans to spend about \$350,000 at the site in the near future. Members and officers of the corporation were not named, but Weisbrod said it is made up of valley residents interested in developing the center, which has been planned for some time.

The property of the center formerly was owned by Clyde C. Pittenger, Weisbrod said. Value of the transaction was not released.

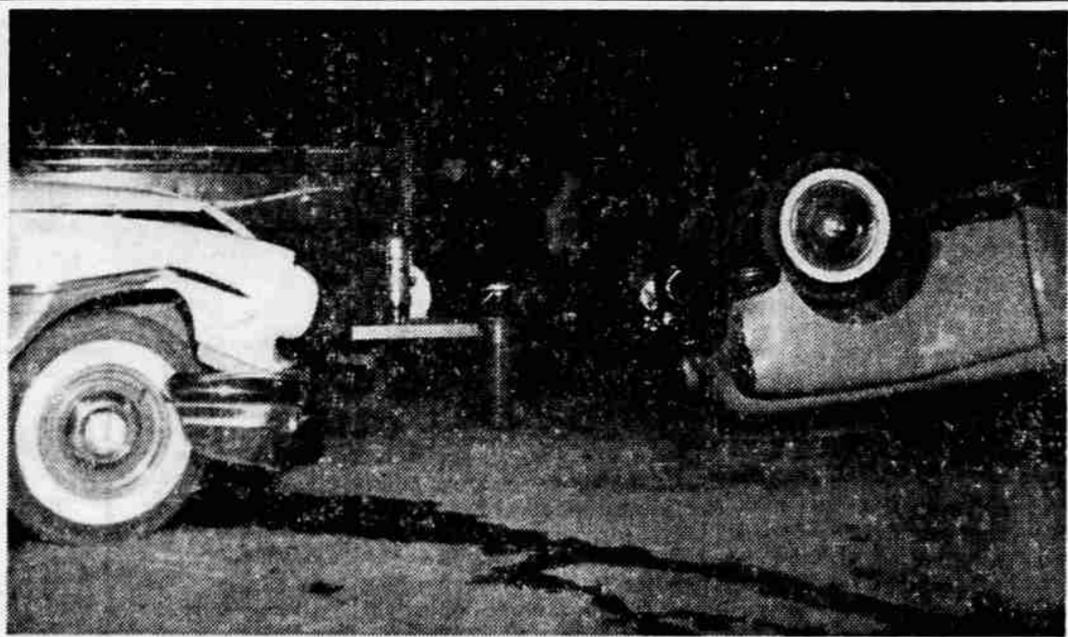
Red China To Replace Mao

Tokyo - (UPI) - Peiping radio announced officially today that Communist leader Mao Tse-tung will be replaced as chairman of the Red Chinese government.

The official Communist broadcast did not name a successor. Reports reaching Tokyo said aging Marshal Chu Teh, now vice chairman, would succeed Mao.

A Communist New China news agency dispatch from Peiping said "the question of not nominating comrade Mao Tse-tung as candidate for chairman (president) of the People's Republic of China for the next term" was discussed by the Chinese Communist party's central committee.

"The plenary session adopted the relevant resolutions," the agency said, meaning that Mao's decision not to continue as president had been approved.



COLLISION—A 16-year-old girl was treated at Rogue Valley hospital and released Tuesday afternoon and the automobile she was operating was demolished in a collision at Eighth and Holly sts., according to Medford city police. Miss Judith Jean Lambert, 172 Greenway circle, was treated for shock and an injured left ankle after the vehicle she was driving was hit by an automobile operated by Mrs. Minda Everetta Irving, 42, of

2103 Hillcrest ave. The Lambert car was eastbound on Eighth st., police said, when it was hit by the Irving car which was traveling north on Holly st. Mrs. Irving was cited by police for failure to yield to a vehicle on a through street. The Lambert automobile (above right) was turned over in the impact. The front end of the other vehicle also was damaged. A Medford city fire truck was called to the scene of the accident.

Prisoner Smuggles \$590 Into County Jail Despite Search

Tight-fisted Lendel Carl Buttram smuggled \$590 into Jackson county jail recently following his arrest on a burglary charge, local police authorities reported yesterday.

According to their account, he wadded the cash into his "faithful right" hand, swollen from an injured knuckle. He managed to conceal it in spite of being searched twice.

A total of \$350 was discovered in the course of a jail search yesterday morning, all but \$10 in the personal possession of other prisoners, the authorities said.

First Clue

The first clue reportedly came when Jack Kenneth Lytle, taken from county jail to the Oregon state penitentiary following sentencing here, turned over \$230 to the state guard who admitted him. Lytle, 25, of Willow Tree court, Central Point, was given a three-year sentence in circuit court after he pleaded guilty to last month's burglary of the Jacksonville school safe.

Buttram, 21, of Shady Cove, is in the jail here awaiting a preliminary hearing Friday on a charge of burglary in \$5,000.

He was arrested early Dec. 4, shortly after a high-speed chase through Medford and Talent, in connection with the theft that night of approximately \$687.55 from the safe of Crater Finance company in Central Point.

Searched Again

He was questioned at the Medford police station, and then reportedly strip-searched by Central Point officers. All his clothes were reportedly removed, but he kept the

cash, \$20, \$10 and \$5 bills, safely in his hand.

At the county jail he was reportedly searched again by the Central Point police and the night jailer. Again the money went undetected, although it was said he turned in his wallet, containing \$30, as part of his personal possessions.

Homer Cloyd Brooks, 39, of Pueblo, Colo., who was arrested shortly before in connection with the same theft, reportedly had no money himself.

Admitted Smuggling

Buttram yesterday admitted smuggling in the money, according to a sheriff's deputy who participated in the shake-down.

The shakedown revealed that Donald Harry Morgan and John E. Clark, other prisoners, each had \$160 tucked inside cigarette packages. Allice Corriam, a woman prisoner, had concealed \$20 and \$10 was under Morgan's bunk, according to the deputy.

Buttram was reported to have given another \$10 to a visitor to the jail.

The other prisoners reportedly talked of winning the money from Buttram in a card game, but Buttram was said to have stated he simply gave it to them.

Results of the shakedown have been submitted to the district attorney's office. District Attorney Thomas J. Reeder said yesterday afternoon he did not expect to bring any charges against the prisoners who had the money.

Salem - (UPI) - State tax commission valuation division employees will meet here Thursday and Friday for their annual in-service training school.

"I Think This Is Rather A Sad Sort Of Thing . . ."



California Brush Fire Burns Into Camp Pendleton

Marine Forces Man Fire Lines

San Juan Capistrano, Calif. - (UPI) - A roaring brush fire whipped by turbulent winds spilled over into the 110,000-acre Camp Pendleton Marine Reservation today and in another area threatened nearly 300 homes.

Marines manned fire lines as the flames rolled across the tinder dry brushland of the reservation that is dotted with scrubby oak trees. Barracks on the base were only several miles from the fire's southern edge.

52,000 Acres Blackened

The four-day blaze blackened more than 52,000 acres of valuable watershed and destroyed 19 structures, mostly summer cabins, as it burned on an 80-mile perimeter at the junction of Orange, Riverside and San Diego counties, about 55 miles from Los Angeles.

Fire officials said helicopters were standing by to drop Marine crews into remote portions of the northern front while backfires were started to check other hot spots.

More than 2,000 firefighters were on the lines while bulldozers carved out breaks on mountain ridges and planes bombed hot spots with a water-borate solution.

County Purchases Site for Wayside Picnic Facility

The first of a series of proposed wayside picnic areas was acquired yesterday by Jackson county, County Judge Rodney Keating said today.

A deed to approximately 1 1/2 acres at Spout Springs on the Dead Indian rd. was signed yesterday by Mr. and Mrs. Leland D. Houk of Ashland.

When developed, the roadside rest and picnic area will include a semi-circular road through the site, picnic tables and benches, toilet facilities and a new drinking fountain, the county judge said.

Agreement Reached

In return for the deed the county has agreed to run a water pipe under the road into two concrete watering troughs which it will construct for the Houk livestock.

Profile drawings of the site will be sent to the state park department and to the Jackson county planning commission for making plans for the site. The park committee of the county planning commission and a representative of the state park department had already examined the site, Judge Keating said.

"Henry Enders of Ashland was instrumental in interesting the Houks in the project," the county judge said. "This has been under negotiation for the past six months while arrangements were being worked out."

Jaycees Announce Christmas Tour

The Medford Junior Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a shopping tour for underprivileged children, Jim Asher, committee chairman, has announced.

Each child on the tour will be given funds to purchase gifts for his family. Children are accompanied by a member of the Jaycees, who sponsor the program for children who would not otherwise be able to purchase gifts.

Asher said anyone desiring to contribute to the program may mail contributions to the Jaycees, post office box 251, Medford. Assisting Asher are Don Randles and Jerry Neidergahl on the committee.

WEATHER
FORECAST: Considerable valley fog tonight and Thursday with variable high cloudiness above the fog. Low tonight 35. High Thursday 45.
Temp.
Highest Yesterday 51
Lowest this Morning 35
Our Skies Tonight
Sunset today 4:40 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow 7:35 a.m.
Moonset tomorrow 12:27 a.m.
First Quarter today 3:52 p.m.
At moonset the constellation of Orion will be in the south, its second brightest star, Betelgeuse, is high above Rigel and to the left.

Prentice Named Secretary of Tree Farm Group

Dale Prentice, now district forest engineer with the Western Pine association in Redding, Calif., has been hired to succeed the late Lewis L. (Doc) Simpson, Robert Kline, president of the association, announced today.

Prentice said yesterday he will assume his new duties as secretary-manager and forester of the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association Jan. 1. His wife and two children will stay in Redding to handle the sale of their home there.

Mr. Simpson helped organize the SOCTFA about 11 years ago and served as its executive until his death on Oct. 25.

With Group 10 Years

Prentice has been with the Western Pine association in southern Oregon and northern California for 10 years, and was a friend of the former SOCTFA secretary-manager. He spent seven of the 10 years in Klamath Falls for the Western Pine association and three years in Redding, the U.S. bureau of entomology. Prior to that he served with and plant quarantine when it was an independent agency.

Prentice graduated from the University of California, served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, is a native of Kansas and came to California in 1937.

Prentice said his job here will be similar to the one he has with Western Pine association. His present job involves advising owners of more than a million acres of forest land in northern California and 300,000 acres in southern Oregon.

Branch Bank at Portland Held Up

Portland - (UPI) - The Hillsdale branch of the Multnomah bank was held up about 1 p.m. today, police reported.

A spokesman at the bank said it was not immediately determined how much money was obtained.

Brownlee, Idaho - (UPI) - Idaho Power's third 90,000-kilowatt generating unit at Brownlee dam across the Snake river went on the line today.



LONG REACH—The Medford fire department's 85-foot aerial ladder rig has proved itself to be a "handy gadget" to have around for a number of things besides fighting fires, and use was made of it yesterday when strings of Christmas lights were hung on the two blue spruce trees in front of the Medford library. The trees are so tall and the

limbs so brittle that it would be impossible to hang the lights by use of an ordinary ladder. City Park Custodian Johnny Dyer is shown above on top of the hydraulic ladder, while Fireman Ed Evans operates the controls on the truck. Also helping put up the lights were Park Custodians Tom Mead and Fred Grow.

Double Launching Of Thor Missiles Termed Successful

Vandenberg AFB, Calif. - (UPI) - Two powerful Thor intermediate range ballistic missiles, fired within four hours of each other Tuesday, "went the full program range" into the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, missile sources revealed today.

Had Field Day

"The missiles went right down the pickle barrel," an unofficial spokesman admitted on the basis of information from this new western missile base and at Cape Canaveral, Fla., as the aftermath of a double-barrelled launching of the Thors.

"The Thor boys had a field day in less than six months after contracts were signed for operational missiles.

"Both missiles went the full range, landing within five miles of the intended impact point. And that would be close enough if they were carrying atomic warheads."

The double launching, according to best-informed sources, has paved the way for the first Project Discoverer program before the end of the year.

At the same time, it was expected that the first flight test of the Titan ballistic missile, slated as the eventual successor to the Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile, would be conducted before the end of this year at Cape Canaveral.

Vancouver, Wash. - (UPI) - George Bell, 66, Vancouver switch foreman, was dead on arrival at a Vancouver hospital Tuesday after being crushed between a moving car and a stationary one. The accident occurred at the downtown railroad yards.

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Short Circuit in Nativity Scene Starts Holocaust

Estimated 200 Persons Injured

Bogota, Colombia - (UPI) - A fire which started in a Christmas nativity display swept through the crowded Vida department store Tuesday night in one of the worst holiday tragedies in Bogota's history.

At least 98 persons died in the flames and smoke—many of them trampled and smothered in the panic that followed the first dreaded cry of "fire." An estimated 200 others were injured, of whom about 50 were near death today.

The fire started at 5:25 p.m. while the store was crowded with Christmas shoppers, most of them women and children. A fire department official said the blaze was caused by a short circuit in the colored lights of the nativity display in the center of the ground floor.

The flames, fed by paper and straw in the simulated manger of the Christ child, leaped to nearby counters piled high with inflammable plastic toys and gifts.

Trapped Inside Store

In a matter of seconds, the flames raced across the ground floor, trapping scores of persons in the windowless, doorless rear portion of the building. Dense smoke quickly filled the store.

Firemen reached the scene only two and a half minutes after the alarm was sounded. But by then the whole front of the store was aflame.

Many were trapped, and investigations were underway to determine if the store's doors had been ordered locked to prevent theft.

Within an hour, the blaze was under control. But the scene inside the store was grim.

One fireman said bodies of many of the victims were piled against the back wall of the store's ground floor. They apparently had milled about desperately and blindly there until they fell. Most were asphyxiated.

The injured were taken to the hospital of San Juan de Dios and other institutions. Some were given blood transfusions.

Friends and relatives crowded morgues and hospitals this morning, hunting for their loved ones.

By dawn, every available coffin in Bogota had been used, and additional ones were brought in from nearby communities to hold the dead.

Many of those who escaped saved their lives by making their way to the store's roof and jumping to the tops of adjoining buildings.

One group of men, trapped at the rear of the second floor, grabbed tools from the hardware section and chopped their way through the wall to safety.

One survivor said that when he ran to the back of the first floor, he found a man perched atop a fragile step ladder frantically beating the wall and ceiling with his head in a desperate effort to get out.

Several other men joined him with various weapons to open a hole. As they worked away, firemen chopped through from the second floor and saved them.

Children May Call St. Nick Tonight

Children of the Medford vicinity still have three opportunities this week to give their orders to Santa Claus.

They may telephone Spring 3-7533 this evening and Thursday and Friday nights. Hours for calling are 7 to 9 p.m.

The telephone service has been arranged by the Medford Kiwanis club with D. J. Bolton, chairman, in charge.

Bolton advised youngsters to dial Santa's number with care in order that telephone subscribers with similar numbers will not be flooded with calls. He reported that Travelodge motel here received approximately 100 calls last night because of transposition of digits by dialers.

Santa talked to some 500 children calling from this area last night.

Washington - (UPI) - The Agriculture Department has estimated Oregon's 1958 wheat crop at 28 million bushels.