

# Fight Over Money For Slum Clearance Seen for Congress

**By Congressional Quarterly**  
Washington — The Federal program for clearing away slums, which marks its 10th birthday this year, is having trouble with its legal guardians.

One guardian, the Eisenhower administration, wants to give the program less federal help. The other, Congress, wants to give it more. Standing in the background like anxious relatives are the nation's mayors. They are pulling for more federal help. They say they cannot clean up the slums on their own.

Cold figures show that something will be done. Out of \$1.35 billion that Congress has authorized since 1949, only \$24 million is left. The rest has been spent or promised.

Cities are clamoring for federal slum clearance money. As of Dec. 31, 1958, applications for federal money totalled \$583 million.

**Eisenhower's View**  
The Eisenhower administration concedes more federal money must be authorized. But it has made it clear that it wants to loosen and then cut the federal apron strings on the slum clearance program.

Pending bills reflecting the administration viewpoint call for appropriating an additional \$100 million to continue the program between now and June 30, 1959. What the administration wants on a long term basis has not been announced, but it is certain to be more modest than Democratic proposals.

A bill introduced by "Mr. Housing" of the Senate, Chairman John J. Sparkman

(D-Ala.) of the housing subcommittee, calls for \$2.1 billion over six years for the slum clearance program. This compares with the \$1.3 billion, six-year program that the Eisenhower administration supported in 1958. Besides appropriating less money, the administration in 1958 recommended reducing the federal share of a slum clearance project's cost from two-thirds to 50 per cent.

The cities want a 10-year program of \$600 million a year. Sen. Joseph S. Clark (D-Pa.) has introduced a bill to carry out their recommendations. He contends the cities

## Group May Form River Boat Trips

Organization of a group to provide boat trips along the Rogue river during the Oregon Centennial observance will be considered at a meeting of the Rogue Wonderland association in the Rogue River Lodge, Shady Cove, at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Representatives of the association said Monty Axtell, professional river guide from Shady Cove, Jim Wallis, a guide from Eagle Point, and T. Liliya, Trail, may consider organizing the group to provide tourists a boat ride along the river.

The idea was suggested by Ernie Hood, county centennial chairman and coordinator for the Jackson County Centennial association.

Shelton Hughes of Shady Cove is president of the Rogue Wonderland association.

cannot raise the necessary money to do the job. Less federal money, he says, means less slum clearance.

There is no question that the slum clearance program will get more money. The only question is how much and whether President Eisenhower will veto a bill calling for more money than he wants.

## Program's Operation

The program has undergone few policy changes since 1949. Basically, this is how it works. The city bulldozes away a slum area and puts in such facilities as sewer and water lines. Then it sells the cleared site to a private developer so he can put up new houses and shops. The difference between what the city paid to clear the site and the money it got from the developer represents the net loss. The federal government pays two-thirds of this net loss on projects that meet its requirements.

Although \$1.326 billion has been promised to cities for slum clearance projects, only \$157 million of that amount has been spent. This is because of the long lag between the time a project is approved and is actually completed.

All told, 668 slum clearance projects in 41 states, the District of Columbia and Hawaii and Puerto Rico have been approved by the Federal

## Mrs. Gibbs Speaks At Eugene Meeting

Mrs. W. O. Gibbs, 1011 North Riverside ave., Medford, spoke at the first annual banquet of the recently incorporated Emerald Dog Obedience group in Eugene last week.

The Eugene group will be directed by Eugene Architect John Stafford.

Mrs. Gibbs, who has been active in the Southern Oregon Kennel club for several years, is the only American Kennel club licensed obedience judge in the area between Portland and San Francisco. Mrs. Gibbs recently received an additional obedience classification based on the number of shows judged and the recommendation of the AKC field representative.

She will judge the winter show of the Vancouver Kennel club Jan. 25.

Urban Renewal administration. Of the 668, only 18 have been completed since 1949.

**Local Picture**  
Oregon since 1949 has received or been promised \$4,874,505 in federal funds for four slum clearance projects.

Despite the federal pump priming, slums are cropping up faster than they are being cleared away. Outgoing administrator Albert M. Cole of the Federal Housing and Home Finance agency predicts the tide will turn by 1970, but says it would take another \$1.35 billion in federal money.

Congress appears willing to appropriate far more than that for the second 10 years of the slum clearance program. Its efforts in 1959 to

authorize a generous allowance for the program shape up as one of the major battles of the budget.

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**Medford Will Be Central Billing Station for SP**

Grants Pass — Southern Pacific's plans to "streamline" some of its office work by centralizing all freight billing for southern Oregon in its Medford office were outlined at a meeting here last week.

George M. Joyce, trainmaster at Medford, said centralized billing is being placed in operation here as a result of studies which have been conducted for some time.

Billing is being concentrated at three locations for all Oregon operations, Joyce said. They are at Portland, Eugene and Medford. Previously, every freight depot has been a billing station.

**Willamette Valley**  
He explained that Eugene for some time has been handling the billing for the Willamette valley south of Albany, the Roseburg area, and the Coos Bay branch into the coast country.

Stanley Phillips, Portland, station master for the Portland division, told the shippers the billing change would not affect dealings with Southern Pacific. "The chief difference," he said, "will be merely that there will be three accounting stations in Oregon instead of seven."

One billing clerk will be moved from Grants Pass, Joyce said, but Ken Brunken still will handle investigation of overage, shortage and damage claims from the Grants Pass office.

## Diary of a Bird Watcher



Sunday, Jan. 11.

This time last year was the date of my first entry in the series of these columns. That first column was published in the Mail Tribune on Monday, Jan. 20. All the succeeding ones were in the Sunday editions.

Thus I have now rounded out a full cycle of the seasons in my observations. This seems a suitable time to bring them to a stop and I intend this to be my last one. I do this chiefly for lack of time. A person with a hobby can have pleasure giving no end of time to it, but if he also has a full time work he must constantly be on his guard about letting his hobby encroach on his work. The Monday outing I need for relaxation, but I don't need to spend extra time writing (since I have plenty of writing in my work), nor in pursuing the leads that come to me as a result of my writing. These tend to build up the longer you continue such a column, so there has to be a stopping place.

Monday, Jan. 12.

Knowing this was to be the last Monday morning birding trip of which I would give a general report, I was mighty glad it turned out to be a good one. The rains that had come in the night stopped and the weather was very mild and pleasant. J. H. came by and we decided to visit our favorite ponds, especially Hoover lakes and the string of ponds below them.

Our most exciting find was a swallow — yes, a swallow in a field north of one of the Hoover lakes. We then put this down as a sign of a mild winter. We feel pretty sure it was a tree swallow. We got a pretty good view of it, flying straight past us. At the moment it was going in a north-westerly direction. It didn't linger.

We saw our interesting birds in singles. Another was a white-fronted goose ("spec") which J. H. watched land in a field north of one of the Hoover lakes. We then pursued it on foot and got a good view. I don't know how many of these geese are found by hunters in our valley, but we don't see them very often. It was also in the Hoover lake region that we found a pigeon hawk. These birds closely resemble the abundant sparrow hawks in size and shape, but they don't have the reddish coloration. We are usually lucky enough to find just one or two in the course of the year.

In the evening I had a phone call from Ralph Brown. He said that he was putting some grease for the birds on the limb or a tree on their place in Phoenix, and while he was right there an orange-crowned warbler came down to take some of it. There are other winter records for this warbler in Oregon — in fact one in this year's Christmas count at Portland — but they must be considered rare at this season.

Wednesday, Jan. 14.

I had a phone call from a friend who said she had seen a slate-colored junco on her place. I would like to see it because J. H. and I have looked over thousands of Oregon juncos this year trying to find one of this species among them, and haven't. This is the common eastern "snowbird," but there are only a very few scattered among the Oregon juncos around here.

Thursday, Jan. 15.

A final thought about our Christmas count. We didn't succeed in finding any barn owl on it, although at a couple of places where they had been. I still would like to know of any place in the valley where there are some. I am really worried about the shortage of this most useful bird. I have received information that the Oregon Audubon Society is submitting to the legislature a model law about birds of prey. It would protect them all except when found in the act of molesting poultry or domestic animals. I strongly favor such a law.

Friday, Jan. 16.

Now for a few last words. I've had a lot of fun writing these columns for a year. I have been surprised and highly gratified at the number of people who read them. It shows how widespread and growing is the interest in nature and wild life.

I want to thank the Mail Tribune for giving me the space for this somewhat unique venture in journalism. At least I have not heard of any other column just like it. I also am very grateful for the many phone calls and letters I have received. Some of these have told about birds that I would never have known about or seen otherwise.

Also I want to thank Maj. Gen. J. H. Hicks (the J. H. of these notes) who has been my most constant birding companion. He helped me find and identify a lot of good birds. Also my wife. She is my even more constant companion and she has saved me from a few expressions in the writings, even more awkward than the ones that have appeared. Good bird watching to all my friends, known and unknown!

Thomas McCamant

## A Tribute --- To Our Ministers!

Each Sunday and oftentimes throughout the week, the minister of your church lifts his head in prayer and envisions the heaven of your faith. He is a patient man. He is an understanding man. He's there, your loyal friend, in sickness, sorrow. He officiates at weddings and visits the homes of his parishioners. Yet with all his biblical knowledge and his interest in his sermons, he is a man. A fine man. And he should be treated as a friend and companion, not merely as a cleric. Your minister and his church deserve all the support you can give them. Attend services regularly and be generous with your contributions.

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## TV Set Embezzler Sentenced to Prison

Portland — (UP) — A 35-year-old Portland man, Tony T. Hanna, was sentenced to 7½ years in prison Friday by Circuit Judge Alfred P. Dobson for embezzlement of a portable television set.

Judge Dobson said Hanna's police record included three prison terms for previous burglaries.

## BECOMES CAPTAIN

Sweetwater, Tenn. — (UP) — The superintendent of Tennessee Military academy said he understands a student expelled from the school for having too many demerits became a captain in Fidel Castro's rebel Cuban army. Col. Dwight Haynes said he had accounts of Angel Banos, 23, with the Castro forces.

## TWO CENTENARIANS DIE

London — (UP) — Two of England's oldest women died Friday. One was Mrs. Rhoda Harris, who claimed her 108 years made her the oldest woman in the country. The other was Emma Sarah Agate, who celebrated her 102nd birthday two weeks ago.

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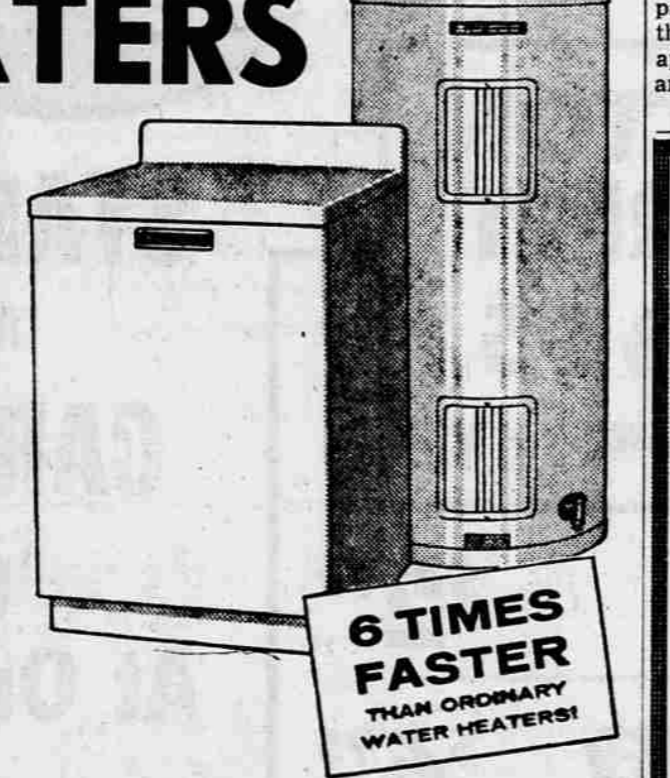
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