

Medford Hobbyists Modern in Gold Search

Skin Diving, New Dredge Help Men In River Gorge

By MAUDE ZIEGLER
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Applegate Valley—It is mere coincidence that a group of Medford hobbyists chose the Oregon Centennial year to go ultra-modern in their search for gold in the Applegate river gorge.

Getting to bedrock in the bottom of a 20-foot swimming hole is their objective, while the Chinese a century ago merely looked at the holes and pondered their contents.

Robert Corbitt, Evergreen Bus Lines driver, and Gerald Butler and Keith Gildresgard, Medford city police officers, spent their two weeks' July vacation period skin diving and operating a special underwater dredge that does the business of recovering gold entirely under water.

Machine Patented
According to Corbitt, of 2467 Sunnyview lane, who has lived in Medford the past 14 years, the machine was invented and patented by a man who has been mining under water in the Yuba river in California for the past 20 years, and is one of three machines operating in United States.

Jake Jacobson, a Trailways bus driver from Sacramento, also is a partner in the venture of the Medford men, who operate on a mining claim a mile down stream from McKee bridge. Part of their work is on the Jim Corson property.

Corbitt described the dredge as suspended from a pre-fabricated barge 10 by 12 feet, which maintains its buoyancy from truck inner tubes interlocked on the bottom of the barge. The tubes can be inflated and deflated on the job, Corbitt says.

Operates on Pressure
The dredge, a 10-foot long structure with a seven inch intake, operates on the pressure and suction principal, using a 15,000 gallon an hour pressure pump, and is said to extract 98 per cent of the gold. The over-burden, or rocks and gravel, are moved at the rate of five yards an hour. A jet nozzle is used to break down the formations of boulders and sand that have hardened through the centuries.

Corbitt explains that the constant washings of top layers of sand and gravel deposit no gold, but that the lower layers that have hardened yield colors, and that gold increases with nearness to bedrock, which he estimates to be at depths varying from seven to 15 feet. With every two to four yards of gravel moved sampling is done with the gold gold pan. Little gold has been recovered from the hole so far, Corbitt says, because they haven't had time to reach any degree of depth.

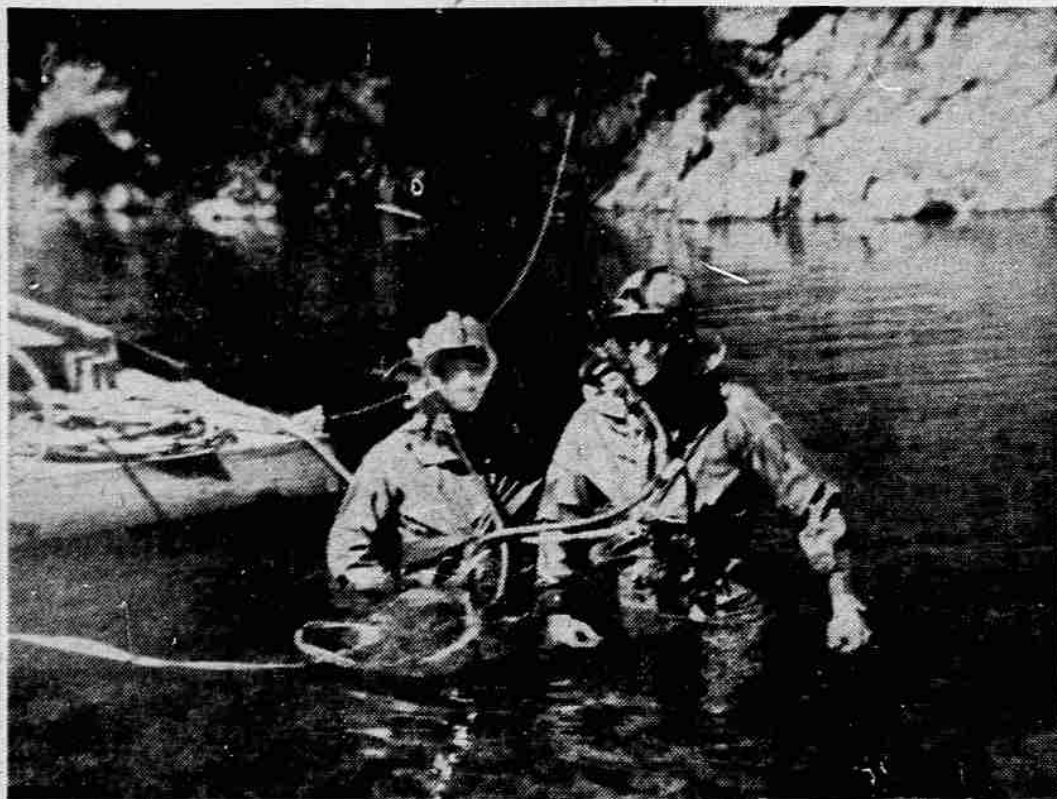
Full-Face Mask
For skin diving, the men use dry suits and wear insulated underwear. They use Navy Desco full-face masks, and a regular Navy diving compressor which supply individual oxygen tanks, giving 20 cubic feet of oxygen a minute. The men operate in two-hour working shifts under the water, Corbitt explained, each wearing 40 to 50 pounds of lead to keep him anchored at the bottom of the pool. They use quick release belts.

Two men work on the barge, while two are under the water. One diver feeds the machine, pulling river bottom material to him with a short handled grubbing hoe, while the other moves rocks and boulders into a scum boat.

The largest boulders are moved with a winch and chain. Each diver has a tender remaining on the barge, who is connected with the diver by a safety line, and by use of line - pulls the diver sends messages to his tender, telling him when to move the barge, etc. Corbitt said that on the barge they fly an internationally known red divers' flag 16 by 18 inches with a white diagonal stripe, which indicates that divers are at work.

With Marine Units
Corbitt and Gildresgard were with Marine amphibian units during World War II, and Butler was a Navy hospital corpsman connected with the Marines. Jacobson was an under water demolition expert, and taught demolition.

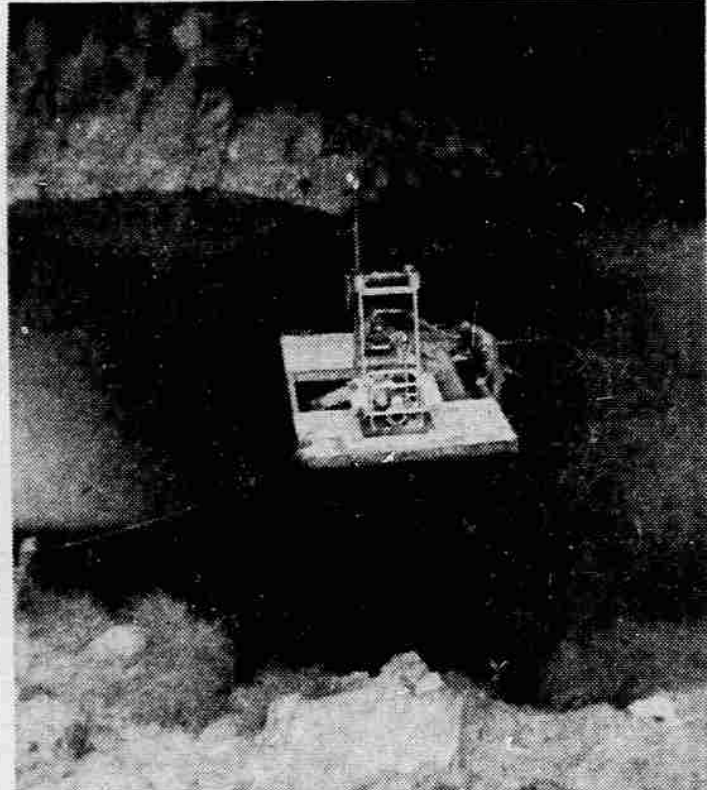
Before going into this venture, the men were doing research for the past three years. They visited libraries, and received much help from geology students at Southern Oregon college. They also contacted local miners, including Chris Ratoff living on Star Gulch. They also did a great deal of testing before selecting their river location.



MINERS—Robert Corbitt and Keith Gildresgard are shown above coming out of the Applegate river in full diving gear after going to the bottom in their gold-mining operation. The dredge used by the hobbyists is shown at left.



PANNING—Robert Corbitt is shown above panning dust from the river's bottom to determine the amount of mineral. This is done every three to five yards being run through the dredge. Diving gear is used by the crew for only a short duration and survey work because of the short air supply.



DREDGE—Above is the dredge used by the modern-day gold miners in the Applegate river. It also shows the bedrock on each side of the river, where the group believes they will find gold.

Corbitt believes that the possibility for wealth in the river bottoms is tremendous. Taking into consideration that the river gorge is 20 million years old, and that gold is nine times heavier than rock, he points out the likelihood that gold has collected through the centuries.

He says their method is to work with Mother Nature's plan in that gold must be conveyed by gravel, hence their underwater machine for extraction rather than the better known suction method of bringing gravel to the top of the water. He said the Chinese tried the holes by wading in up to their waist and sweeping the bottom with a broom.

Corbitt said their entire equipment involves a cost of about \$3,000, of which \$500 is invested in diving gear.

The advantage in working in a narrow gorge as in their selected spot in the Applegate is that no drag line nor dredge could possibly have been used there. It was trouble enough getting their own equipment down the steep slopes to the water, Corbitt said, describing the hand procedure as "a killer." The equipment was retrieved from the river by a "high-line." The men are daring to "think of a helicopter to lower their equipment in the distant future, Corbitt said.

As for conventional vacation activities, Gildresgard said they tried fishing, but the fish

Viet Nam Probe To Be Discussed

Washington—UPI—Sen. Mike Mansfield said yesterday he would ask the Senate Foreign Relations committee whether it wants an on-the-spot foreign aid inquiry in Viet Nam.

The senator said he would refer the question to the committee at a closed door meeting Tuesday.

Mansfield is chairman of a subcommittee which has held two days of hearings on charges of waste and inefficiency leveled against the aid program by Scripps-Howard reporter Albert M. Colegrove. For six hours Friday, the subcommittee heard a welter of testimony from administration officials who offered a point-by-point rebuttal to Colegrove's charges involving the aid program to Viet Nam.

But many of the points still were not cleared up, Mansfield said.

Area Youths Are Sentenced in Court

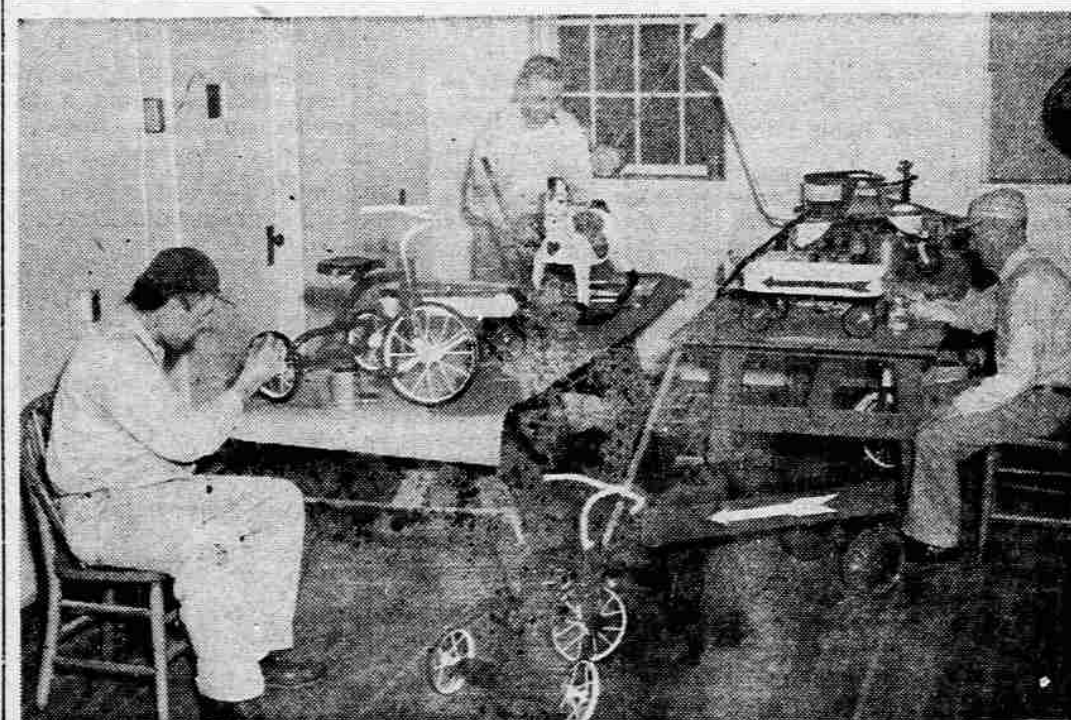
District Court Judge Roy Bashaw sentenced two area youths on charges of petty larceny Friday afternoon. The boys, arrested for separate incidents, both pleaded guilty.

Wesley M. Eaton, 18, of 104 Laurel st., Ashland, was fined \$25 and placed on four months probation in connection with the theft on July 23 of approximately 10 gallons of gasoline belonging to Elmer D. Hopkins, 1200 Buck Horn Spring rd., Ashland.

Walter W. Chappel, 18, of 522 West 11th st., Medford, was sentenced to six months in jail in connection with the theft on July 8 of a sweater belonging to Francis M. Ahern. Chappel had already served 17 days of the term, and the sentence said that parole would be considered in two more weeks.

BETTER THAN LULLABY

Knoxville, Tenn. — (UPI) — Disc jockey Jack Hill of WKGH plans to stop playing rock 'n' roll records so early in the morning. Hill put a rock 'n' roll number on early Friday morning and promptly fell asleep. It took his relief man, constant phone calls and several squad cars to get him back in the groove.



WORKSHOP—Santa's workshop at the VA domiciliary has started finishing toys for Christmas. Here are three veterans in a corner of the arts and crafts shop, painting and assembling some of the discarded and repaired toys collected as a community undertaking by the Ashland post of the American Legion, and turned over to skilled craftsmen at Camp White for the finishing touches. They are (left to right) Robert Tobias, George Butts and Irwin Tegrund at work on a few of the 30 or more items received thus far this year. Clarence D. Mathes, of Ashland, is handling the work for the Legion. The project was started last fall. An early start was made this year to take care of the "demand."

Employees Honored For Safety Record

By MRS. CLYDE KELL
Gold Hill — The Ideal Cement company honored employees of the Gold Hill plant and Marble Mountain quarry at a Boettcher Safety award picnic July 25 at TouVelle State park.

The picnic was given in recognition for the outstanding safety record achieved by the Gold Hill plant.

There were no lost time accidents during the years 1957 and 1958, and the local unit had passed its 1171st consecutive day of operation without a disabling injury. The Gold Hill plant had achieved the longest consecutive period without a lost time accident among the local company's 16 plants in the United States.

On July 28 the Marble Mountain quarry, located near Wilderville south of Grants Pass, celebrated its fifth consecutive year without a lost time accident. A total of 150 men are employed by the company at the Gold Hill plant and the quarry.

The day's activities included a full program of entertainment for children and

LaGrande Youth Victim of Crash

Wallowa — (UPI) — A one car accident near here about 12:10 a.m. yesterday claimed the life of a LaGrande youth and resulted in injuries to two others.

Orville Allen Rogers, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. K. Rogers of LaGrande, was killed. Injured were Larry Vermillion, 21, and Gerald R. McCoy, 23, both of LaGrande.

They were headed toward LaGrande when the accident occurred, police said. The car left the road, and struck a concrete culvert head-on. The Rogers youth was thrown out, and the car landed on him.

Vermillion suffered a shoulder dislocation and McCoy, a concussion and ankle fracture. They were hospitalized at Wallowa Memorial hospital here.

Mitchell Case Jury Challenged

Vale — (UPI) — An attorney for Homer Mitchell Friday filed a motion to quash a first-degree murder indictment that has been returned against him.

Mitchell was indicted earlier in the week in connection with the death of Victor Anthony, 19, Ontario, at Ontario. Arguments on the motion will be heard in circuit court here Aug. 5. Defense Attorney Charles Swan has asked for the motion on grounds that the grand jury was not properly constituted.

Evelyn Bufford, 24, of Ontario, pleaded guilty to a charge of removing property from Anthony's body without the permission of the coroner. She will be sentenced Wednesday.

Madrid, Spain — (UPI) — The government announced Friday a nearly 100 per cent boost in the cost of telephone calls as part of the plan to stabilize the nation's economy.

adults, and was the largest social event given for any one group in this community since the Boettcher picnic last year.

A roast beef dinner was served at noon to more than 315 people including employees, their families, local Ideal officials and guests, 14 retired employees of the Gold Hill plant and quarry, and company officials from out of town.

Expresses Gratitude

Frank A. Sutcliffe, manager of the Gold Hill plant, expressed his gratitude to all who were responsible for having achieved the safety record. He introduced Mayor Milton Steinmetz of Gold Hill; Claire Douglas, Rogue River; Robert Eastwood, Grants Pass, of the accident prevention division of the Oregon Industrial Accident commission; A. G. Lang, consultant engineer for the Ideal company, Palo Alto, Calif.; and A. W. Hooten, Pacific coast regional production manager for the company, Denver, Colo.

A. W. Hooten presented the Charles Boettcher Safety award permanently to the Gold Hill plant. Reaccepting the award was Donald Dusenberry, electrician, and president of the United Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers local union 136.

The Boettcher plaque is the highest safety award presented to any unit of the company chain. To qualify, the plant must have completed one calendar year without a lost time accident.

The Gold Hill plant was one of eight to qualify in 1957 and was honored at a Boettcher picnic last Aug. 2, when the Boettcher plaque was first awarded.

To retain the award permanently, a plant must have completed two consecutive years without a lost time accident. This safety record was accomplished by the local plant in 1958. After the plant had passed its 1,000th day of operation without a disabling accident, the firm, a member of the National Safety Council, became eligible to fly the Green Cross flag until an accident should occur. Then it would be flown at half mast for 30 days. J. Raymond Ritter, safety director said.

The Boettcher Safety award is named in memory of the founder of Ideal Cement company, Charles Boettcher, who stressed welfare and safety habits for his employees as far back as 1898, when he founded the original cement plant of Ideal in Portland, Colo. The company is now made up of 16 plants and five terminals throughout the United States.

First Degree Murder Charged

Portland — (UPI) — Two first degree murder indictments were returned Friday by the Multnomah county grand jury.

One indictment charges the Rev. Carl Loston Anderson, Portland, in the shooting death May 22 of Frank Johnkin, 35, Portland.

The second indictment was against William Henry Wesley, 38, also of Portland, who is charged with the fatal stabbing of Princella Barnes, 34, July 13.



RECEIVES PLAQUE—Donald Dusenberry, right, representing the employees of the Gold Hill Ideal Cement company, and president of local 136, United Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers, accept the Charles Boettcher Safety Award plaque from A. W. Hooten at a recent picnic honoring the company. The picnic was held at TouVelle state park.

Antelope-Eagle Point 4-H Pre-Fair Winners Listed

Judy Bradshaw, JoAnna Malloroy, Ann Higday, Antelope; and Craig Wright, Westside, were the outstanding 4-H'ers competing at the Antelope-Eagle Point Pre-fair, held at the E. M. Bigham ranch in Eagle Point. Double winner, Judy, was the outstanding showmanship in both the dairy and the sheep, according to the judges.

JoAnna Malloroy was the outstanding livestock judge, as she "nosed out" Betty Kerr of Siskiyou by 3/10 of a point.

Ann Higday proved to have the most prowess with a cane, as she showed her market hog for the championship.

The ability to show a sheep, won for Craig Wright of the Westside, procures the sheep showmanship title.

Complete results were as follows:

Swine Showmanship—Senior: 1. Betty Ann Higday, Antelope; 2. Karen Jossy, Antelope; 3. Bill Hubbard, Antelope; 4. Steve Stewart, Siskiyou.
Intermediate: 1. Mike Higday, Antelope; 2. Mary Ann Barker, Ruch; 3. Carole Foote, Central Point; 4. Ricky Davis, Ruch; 5. Dennis Cornutt, Gold Hill.
Beginners: 1. Bobby Hubbard, Antelope; 2. Kenneth Dowell, Eagle Point.
Dairy Showmanship—Senior first class: 1. Judy Bradshaw, Antelope; 2. Carolyn Tiegs, Talent; 3. Steve Green, Antelope; 4. Karen Jossy, Antelope; 5. Bill Hubbard, Antelope; 6. Georgia Hubbard, Antelope.
Senior second class: 1. Sue Higbotham, Central Point; 2. Darvyl Zapell, Talent; 3. Linda Cornutt, Central Point; 4. Steve Stewart, Siskiyou; 5. Sandy Higbotham, Central Point; 6. Carolyn Sidener, Siskiyou.
Intermediate: 1. Mary Anne Cantrell, Ruch; 2. Rick Anderson, Antelope; 3. Jerry Moore, Reese Creek; 4. Carole Foote, Central Point; 5. Dennis Cornutt, Gold Hill; 6. Sue Carroll, Eagle Point.
Beginners: 1. Susan Cornutt, Gold Hill; 2. Laqueta Stephenson, Reese Creek; 3. Sam James, Talent; 4. Les Geren, Antelope; 5. Tim Higbotham, Central Point; 6. Elin Livingston, Gold Hill.
Sheep Showmanship—Senior: 1.

Intermediate: 1. Ricky Anderson, Antelope; 2. Roxey Terry, Westside; 3. Kay Stephenson, Reese Creek; 4. Mike Reid, Antelope; 5. Chip Buffington, Phoenix; 6. Linda Gibson, Westside.
Beginners: 1. Laqueta Stephenson, Reese Creek; 2. Clint Gibson, Westside; 3. Kathy Zapell, Talent; 4. Donna Geren, Antelope; 5. Spencer Buffington, Phoenix; 6. Donna Hammond, Central Point.
Livestock Judging—Senior first class: 1. JoAnna Malloroy, Antelope; 2. Betty Kerr, Siskiyou; 3. Sharon Larson, Ruch; 4. Sharon Coffman, Antelope; 5. Carol von der Helten, Central Point; 6. Susan Harper, Eagle Point; 7. Florence Woolfolk, Antelope; 8. Charlotte Bush, Antelope; 9. Alice Woolfolk, Antelope; 10. Steve Stewart, Siskiyou.
AFRICANS RIOT
Port Elizabeth, South Africa — Rioting members of the African National Congress killed four persons in a flare-up of internal feuding Friday, authorities reported. The clash was the result of a dispute over the handling of congress funds, officials said.

Bank Clearings Exceed a Billion

Portland — (UPI) — Bank clearings exceeded a billion dollars during July and building permits during the month topped the totals of both June, 1959 and July, 1958 to indicate a brighter economic picture for Portland.

The billion-dollar bank amount is the second time such a clearing has occurred.

The increase in city building permits resulted despite the new planning and zoning code being put into operation, which brought a processing slowdown.

Building permits for suburban Multnomah county also exceeded the June figure but were \$304,000 behind July, 1958.

New housing starts however, lagged behind both a year ago and the figure in June for Portland and its unincorporated suburbs.

Portland Gas Prices Increased

Portland — (UPI) — The cost of gasoline went up here again yesterday putting at least a temporary halt to the latest price war.

Many stations which had been selling regular gasoline at 28.9 cents raised their prices six cents per gallon. The cost of premium gasoline went up to as high as 38.9.

A distributor representative denied there had been a "agreement" between stations and distributors to hike prices back up.

"Some station operators just decided to charge realistic prices and others are following suit," he said.

Prices at some stations dropped to 23.8 cents for regular here.

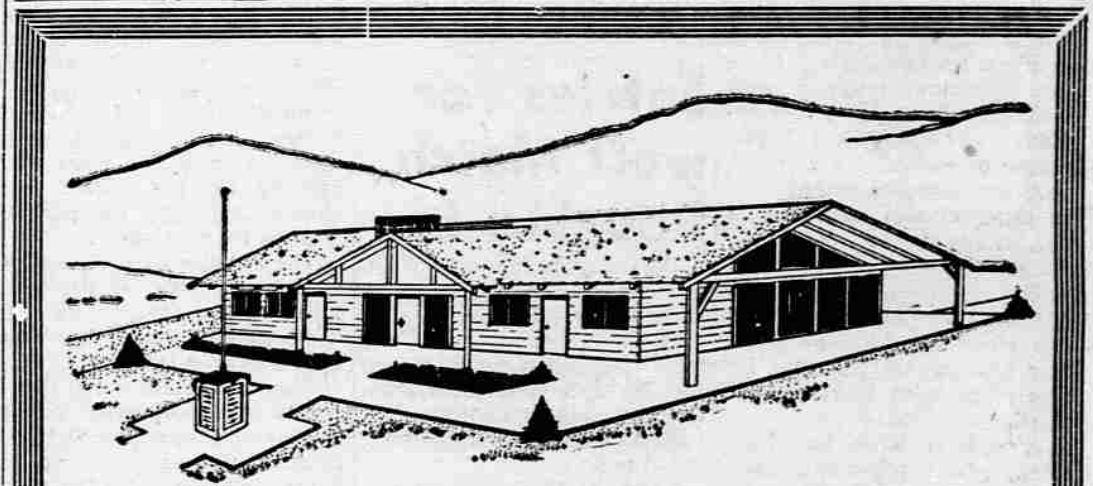
Trapeze Artist Plunges to Ground

Ontario — (UPI) — A trapeze artist who performs without a net was in an Ontario hospital Friday with multiple injuries after falling 20 feet.

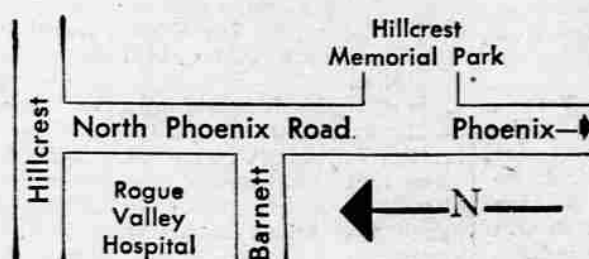
Princess Elaine — in real life, Mrs. Helen Henrichs, 34 — was doing a show for a predominantly young audience for Rudy Brothers Circus at the Malheur county fair.

She was hanging by her heels when she lost her grip and plunged toward the ground, striking a set of stage lights.

Officials said she narrowly missed being impaled on a wire fence near the grandstand. Her condition was reported fair.



HILLCREST MEMORIAL PARK, with the new Conger-Morris chapel, meets today's modern trend by having the funeral service and committal in one location. The chapel is available to everyone, regardless of the place of interment. If interment is to be in Hillcrest Memorial Park it will be possible to have one service take the place of the two services now necessary.



HILLCREST Memorial PARK
Bill Driscoll, manager North Phoenix Road
Phone SP 3-6162 or SP 2-7111