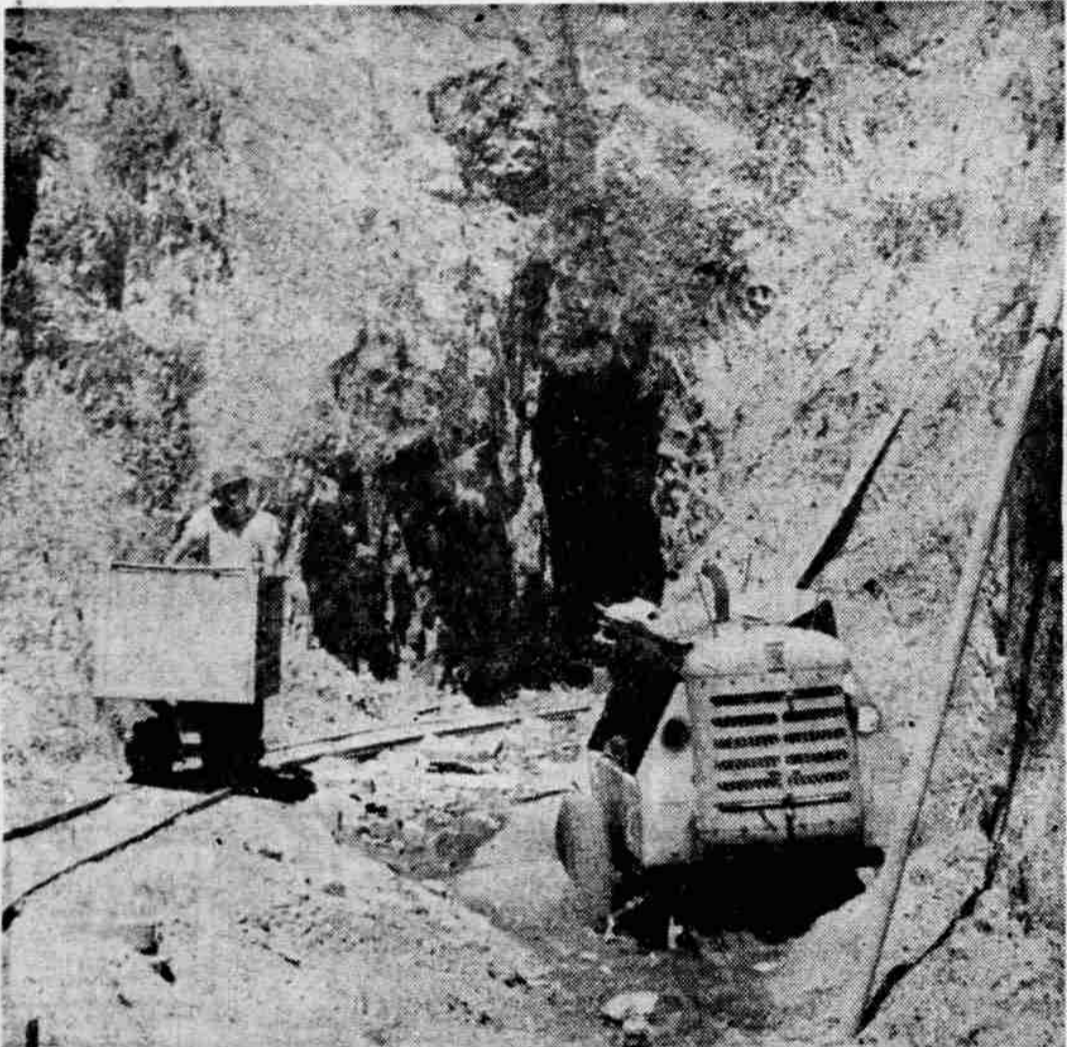


Hard Work, Know-How Pays Off for Resident

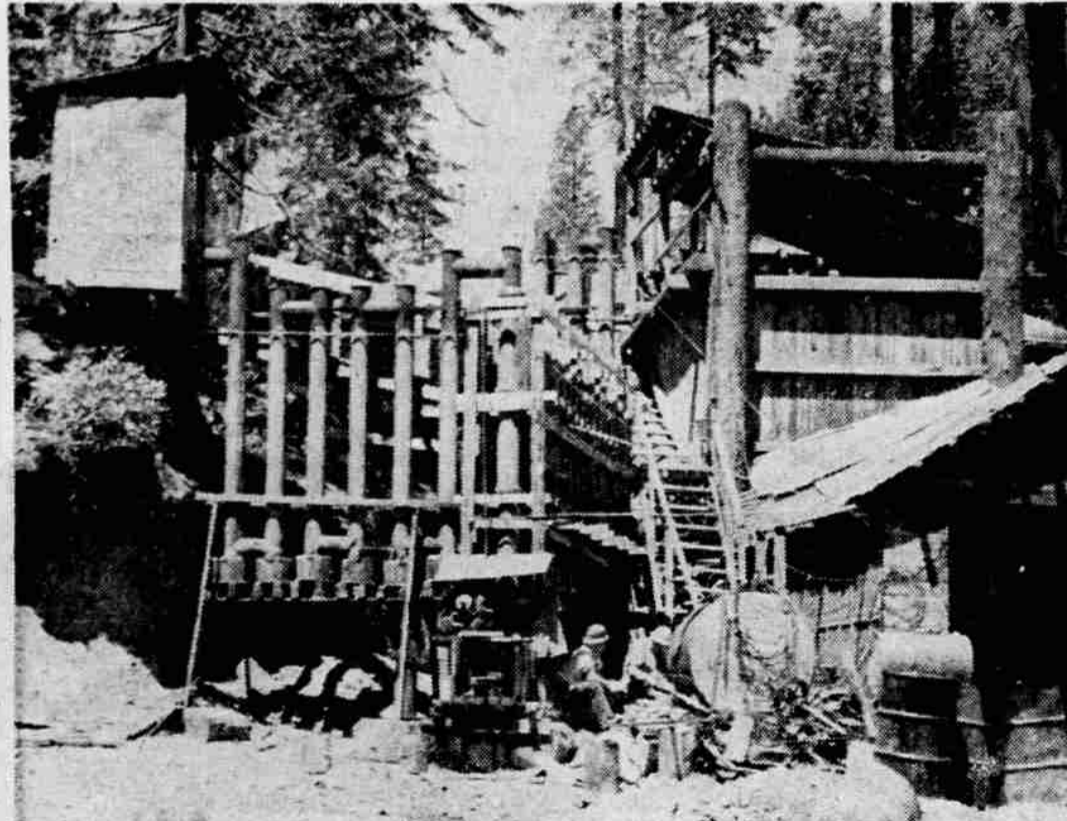
14 MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. Sunday, Aug. 16, 1959



PANNING—If David W. Chase (right) had to pan all his ore this way he'd never make any money. But it's a good way to check out a shovelful of ore to see how rich it is. The actual refining at the mine goes a little faster, since the retort can handle two-thirds of a ton an hour. At left is Darrel Lowe, mine foreman.



TUNNEL—This tunnel goes 335 feet into the hillside. It cuts right into the ore-bearing vein, which can be seen directly above the tunnel opening as a thin, tall triangle of darker earth. The ore is blasted out from inside the tunnel, and rails for the hand-car, which Daniel Lowe is pushing out, run the entire length of the tunnel.



QUICKSILVER MINE—The mine tunnel is located above the refining area of the Chase mine and can't be seen in this picture, but most of the mine is visible. The retort is housed in the building at the lower right. The condenser pipes are at the left and at the extreme left is the shed that houses the suction pump. At the upper right is the 50-ton bin and crusher through which the ore passes on the way down to the retort. Chase did most of the construction work himself.

David Chase Has Yielding Mercury Mine in County

By RON ABELL
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

It looks as if three years of hard work and a lot of know-how are about to pay off for David W. Chase of Medford.

Chase, known locally as the proprietor of Chase's Groceries Flower Shop, in the last three years has left the flower business largely to his wife while he put money, muscle and machinery to work and developed the only currently producing mercury mine in Jackson county.

"I'm over the hump now," Chase said. "I'm ready to go into steady production and I expect to start getting some of my investment back."

Frow flowers to mining: how did it happen? Diverse Areas Chase, a genial entrepreneur whose background encompasses such diverse areas as electronics, hydroponic plant-growing and home appliances, explained that his mercury mine is the result of cautious investigation and development.

He said that about two-thirds of the U. S. consumption of mercury is imported and that for years the foreign mercury producers, principally Spain and Italy, have been in an advantageous position because of their high-grade ores and low labor costs.

But, he said, the position has shifted recently due to an increased demand for the tricky liquid and a gradual depletion of foreign high-grade ore.

Business Venture So, since deposits of mercury have been known to exist in Jackson county for years, he said, it seemed to him to be a good business venture.

The property Chase has developed is in the same area as the old War Eagle mercury mine, which he says was in production during the years of the first World War.

His claims are up in the mountains on the west side of Round Top lookout, about 38 miles northwest of Medford near the Douglas county line.

It's a rugged, one-and-a-half-hour jeep ride from here. Chase's mine currently represents an investment of close to \$40,000, plus three years of hard work in which he was in turn miner, carpenter, mechanic, blaster, electrician, cat skinner and plumber.

Unique Element His mining operation is interesting partly because mercury itself is a unique element. The only metal which stays liquid at ordinary temperatures, mercury flows so freely that it was named after the speedy messenger of the gods.

The same quality gave the liquid metal its nickname—"quicksilver," or more commonly, just plain "quicksilver."

Chase has blasted out a 335-foot tunnel through a vein of mercury-bearing ore and in that respect his operation looks like a conventional mine.

Curious Project But two qualities of mercury combine to make mining it a curious project: its low boiling point and its weight. Because of its relatively low boiling point, the metal can be literally roasted out of its ore, and once it is vaporized the only thing left to do is to cool it and watch it condense in its pure form.

When recovered, the quicksilver is mixed with mud but since mercury is 13 1/2 times as heavy as water, gravity does the work of separating it.

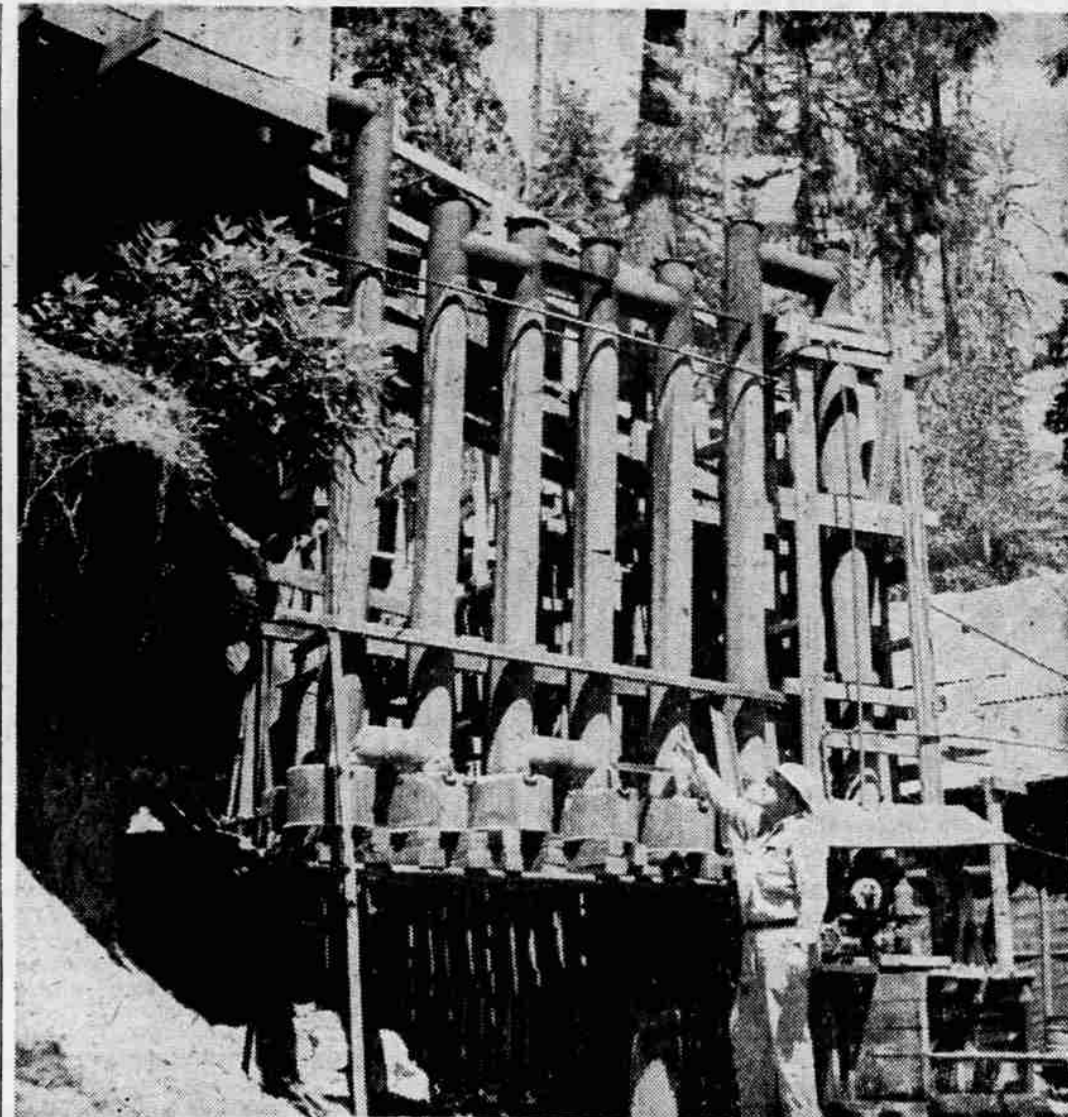
Chase can spend a day at his mine and return with a large jar or two of rich mercury-bearing mud. As soon as the metal is separated from the mud—which Chase accomplishes in his laboratory at 2266 Houston rd.—it's just like money in the bank.

Quoted Price The latest quoted price from San Francisco is \$241.25 per flask (76 pounds) and because of its weight it doesn't take a lot of quicksilver to make up a flask.

It may sound like an easy way to make money but a visit to Chase's mine would convince you that, even with the equipment established and operating, it's hard work.

The principal piece of equipment at the mine is a retort, which is in effect a cylindrical oven 24 feet long and two feet in diameter. The ore, after being blasted from the earth and run through a crusher, is dropped from a 50-ton bin into one end of the retort.

One Through Retort A screw mechanism, turning slowly, moves the ore through the retort towards the other end. The farther into the interior of the retort the ore gets, the hotter it becomes, until finally it reaches a temperature of 1400 degrees (F) and it glows red-hot.



AND THAT ONE'S FLAT—It's not a calliope; it's not 19 stovepipes looking for a stove; but, as Dan Chase points out, it's 350 feet of interlocked, vacuum-sealed condenser tubing that contains the mercury vapors as they cool to a liquid state. The condenser pipes are flushed out every eight hours during the operation, and the quicksilver is washed to the troughs at the bottom of the pipes.

terior of the retort the ore gets, the hotter it becomes, until finally it reaches a temperature of 1400 degrees (F) and it glows red-hot.

At that temperature the mercury has been completely vaporized and is in a gaseous form. It is actually cooked out of the rock.

A suction system draws the mercury vapors out of the retort and carries it through a 350-foot system of condenser pipes. The pipes resemble a large calliope or reed organ in appearance but in principle they resemble a distillery.

The pipes are constantly cooled by cold water spray on the outside and as the gases are thus cooled, the mercury condenses and adheres to the insides of the pipes in small globules.

Pipes Flushed Every eight hours during the operation the insides of the pipes are flushed down with water and this washes the liquid mercury down into a trough at the bottom of each pipe.

Since the suction system draws off particles of very fine dust along with the mercury vapors, the troughs actually collect a mixture of dust and water (the mud) and quicksilver. The heavy mercury settles to the bottom of the trough, however, and Chase draws it off for further refinement at his laboratory.

Chase can process about two-thirds of a ton of ore through the retort in an hour. This would amount to about 16 tons of ore for a 24-hour shift.

Mercury Per Ton He averages about 8 pounds of pure mercury from a ton of ore (this is slightly above the national average of 6 1/2 pounds) and in a 24-hour shift he estimates that he will produce from \$230 to \$300 worth of mercury.

All of his operating expenses, of course, must be deducted from that amount before any profit is shown. Chase has been working the mine only intermittently during the period of exploration and development. But he says he now expects to achieve steady production from the mine on a 24-hour schedule, five days a week.

His mine foreman is Darrel Lowe, 24, of 1327 Saling st., Medford. Lowe has been with Chase since last October. They expect to get at least two more men to work the mine when they begin steady production.

To date the mine has produced 10 flasks of mercury. Thermal Activity Chase explained that mercury deposits are laid down—unlike most metals—only in areas that have seen thermal activity; that is, in areas where hot water and geyser-type activity has occurred, a two-foot wide vein of Cinnabar volcanic activity, he said, would be too hot and would vaporize the metal.

In the area of Chase's mine there is a fault line where thermal activity has left deposits of mercury. The mercury is found in a compound in which sulfur is also present. This cinnabar ore, as it is called, is also known as "vermillion" because of its striking red color.

Chase can point out the fault line of the cinnabar deposit, though to the untutored eye it is not readily apparent. One place where it can easily

be seen, however, is at the mouth of the tunnel.

Vein of Cinnabar The tunnel bores right into a two-foot wide vein of cinnabar. The vein, Chase said, has a known depth of 600 feet, though it is considerably deeper in spots. It runs 3,000 feet in a straight line right through his claim.

Chase so far has blasted the tunnel 335 feet into the vein and in the future he expects to dig in at different elevations. The tunnel, with tracks for a hand car on the ground, is narrow enough so that one can easily touch both sides of it with arms extended.

But it one particularly rich area, Chase and Lowe have blasted out a "stope" hole above the level of the tunnel. The stope hole forms a chamber almost 400 feet high, an underground cavern. "Stopping" is done in rich spots, to dig out larger quantities of high-grade ore.

Common Knowledge Chase says that it is common knowledge that there are mercury and other mineral deposits in Jackson county. He says that his mine, for example, was a known deposit of mercury. All it took was someone willing to exploit it.

He has 10 claims all told, though he is working only the one tunnel at the present time. He has done some clearing and exploratory work at another location in the same area, however.

At the latter spot, the fault line runs right across the access road. Chase has had some assays done of the ore taken right from the road and it shows about two pounds of mercury to the ton.

That's not to say that Jackson county residents can kick up money by scuffing their feet along the ground—but it does point up somewhat the diversity of potential industry in the local area.

Klamath Prisoner To Get New Trial

Klamath Falls (UPI)—Klamath County District Attorney Arthur A. Beddoe said Friday that a 25-year-old county jail prisoner accused of running away after being sent to help fight a forest fire July 14 would be brought to trial again as soon as a new jury is called.

A hung jury resulted Thursday in the case of prisoner Charles Richard Lewis, 25. State police have charged Lewis with escaping. He was picked up by state officers two days later, pleaded guilty to escape but changed his plea when Sheriff Murray Britton interceded. The sheriff said Lewis was lost and had not escaped.

Beddoe and the sheriff clashed in Thursday's trial. The district attorney accused Britton of "prejudice against the state police," and the sheriff retorted: "I know you have me on trial, not the defendant."

NAZI-ADMIRER JAILED Columbus, Ga. (UPI)—A convicted Nazi admirer Richard V. Smith Jr., 18, was sentenced to from six to 10 years in prison Friday for painting swastikas on synagogues and starting a \$30,000 museum fire. The frail, bespectacled youth, an admitted Jew and Negro hater, was convicted on two counts of arson and malicious mischief.

Elmer Halstead was a visitor at the home of his uncle, Jim Whipple, Sunday. He was en route home to Salem from a business trip to Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Seaman returned to their home at Utica, N. Y., after a visit of a few weeks at the home of his brother, Roy Seaman, in Medford and at the home of his sister, Mrs. Carl Magerie.

The Charles Brown family accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Thexton went to the home of Mr. Brown's parents near Shady Cove and spent the day Sunday.

Ann Christenson has returned to her home in Denver, Colo., after spending a month

ROGUE RIVER Officers Named to Club

By MRS. MYRTLE WHIPPLE
Rogue River—Jim Clithero, owner of the Rogue River Supper club east of Rogue River was elected president of the Rogue River Boosters club at a recent meeting. Clithero was vice president last year and chairman of the Rooster Crow parade.

Other officers elected were Gail Grooms, secretary; Howard Norwood, vice president; and Peter Parre, treasurer.

Three directors elected were Floyd Jones, Shade Combs and Bob Green.

The meeting was held in the patio of the Howard Norwood home.

William (Bill) Hunter, vice principal of the Rogue River High school, has resigned to become superintendent-principal of the Butte Falls High school.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Hunter have taught here in the school for four years.

Ordination and installation services were held Aug. 7 for Robert Maxson at Hope Presbyterian church in Rogue River.

Participating in the service was William Kurtz of Malin, moderator of the Southern Oregon Presbytery, and the Rev. John Reynolds, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian church, Medford.

The ordaining minister was the Rev. B. J. Holland, pastor of First Presbyterian church, Ashland. He gave the charge to the minister.

The Rev. D. F. Barnett of Grants Pass, former pastor of the Rogue River church, gave the charge to the congregation. The sermon was by the Rev. Robert T. Bridge of Medford.

Mr. Maxson is a graduate of Southern Oregon college and a recent graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, Calif. He has done field work at Fairfax, Calif., and was intern chaplain at San Quentin Prison.

A reception honoring Mr. and Mrs. Maxson was held in Fellowship hall after the service.

Mr. and Mrs. William Strahan and children of Gold Beach were Rogue River visitors last week end.

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The Charles Brown family accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Thexton went to the home of Mr. Brown's parents near Shady Cove and spent the day Sunday.

Ann Christenson has returned to her home in Denver, Colo., after spending a month

with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Christenson, Highway 99, south.

Other visitors of the Christensons were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Jarvie of Bellingham, Wash., Mrs. Chas. King and daughter of Massena, N. Y., and Mrs. E. Glenger of Everett, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Milton of East Evans Creek have announced the engagement of their daughter, Patricia Lee, to Robert M. Jones of East Evans Creek. Robert is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Morris M. Jones. No date has been set for the wedding.

The Rev. and Mrs. John Canoles of Novato, Calif., recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hall. Mrs. Canoles and Mrs. Hall are sisters.

Charles Beck, son of Mr. Mrs. Jim Beck of Rogue River, was married Aug. 1 in Reno to Jean Estremado, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Estremado of Gold Hill. Beck is employed by his father-in-law, who has a large ranch in the area. The young couple will make their home in Gold Hill.

A family dinner was held Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Magerle. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Roy Seaman, Medford; Mr. and Mrs. Grand Clyde and two children, Horse Creek, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Parren and sons, Medford; Mr. and Mrs. Dick Magerle and two daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Oatney and daughters, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Magerle all of Rogue River.

Mrs. Melvin Whipple and Mrs. Alice Harwood of Eugene were visitors Tuesday at the home of Mrs. Harwood's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Whipple. Mrs. Whipple is the Whipples' niece.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hargitt are parents of a girl born Aug. 1. She weighed six pounds, 15 ounces and has been named Patricia Ann.

Woman, 23, Booked On Murder Charge

Portland (UPI)—Mrs. Ruby Lee Howard, 23, of Portland, was booked on a first degree murder charge Friday by Portland police.

She was held in connection with the fatal shooting here Friday afternoon of Winston R. Lee Roberts.

Police said Roberts was shot through the heart with a .32-caliber Savage automatic. Witnesses told police the pair had scuffled for the gun, which was in the woman's purse, shortly before the shooting. Police said the gun apparently belonged to Roberts.

About 10,000 oil wells drilled in the U. S. annually do not reach oil. Some oil wells cost as much as \$1 million for the drilling operations.

New Judge To Take Oath

Pendleton (UPI)—John F. Kilkenny, Pendleton, was to be sworn in as an Oregon federal judge in the Umatilla county courthouse here at 4 p.m. yesterday.

It was believed to be the first time an Oregon federal judge took oath of office in a city outside Portland. Federal Judge James Alger Fee of San Francisco, also a former Pendleton attorney, was scheduled to administer the oath.

Kilkenny is a native of Heppner and formerly headed the law firm of Kilkenny, Fabre and John H. Kottkamp.

Faster Deterioration Of Paper Reported

Washington (Science Service)—Paper in books published in the last 25 years will deteriorate much faster than that in publications that are now several centuries old. A study at the Virginia State library, reported by the National Science Foundation here, found that acid introduced during sizing and bleaching of the paper may be the principal cause of deterioration. Experiments are in progress to develop ways of neutralizing the acid.

It's EASY...

to find Hillcrest Memorial Park. Drive past the Rogue Valley Hospital to the North Phoenix Road and turn right toward Phoenix. The park is located 1 1/2 miles from the junction.

HILLCREST Memorial PARK

Bill Driscoll, manager North Phoenix Road

Phone 5P 3-6162 or SP 2-7111

260 Homes Planned East of Beaverton

Beaverton (UPI)—Plans for a \$5 1/2-million residential development to be called Royal Woodlands east of Beaverton have been announced by the Allen C. Edwards Realty Co. Some 260 new homes will be added on the 75-acre Henry J. Kaiser tract on S. W. Jamison road just east of here. The area has been annexed by the city of Beaverton and will have Beaverton city sewage and water service. Three homes are already under construction with immediate starts planned on 15 more. The homes will be in the \$15,000 to \$30,000 price range, according to Ron Sorensen, sales manager for the Edwards firm.

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