

Delegations Ask Bridge, Highway Benefits of State

Salem (UP) — An Astoria delegation promoting the proposed Columbia river bridge between Astoria and Megler, Wash., agreed after the state highway commission meeting here Friday that chances during this biennium were slight.

But groundwork for a campaign at the 1961 Legislature got underway.

The Astoria group was one of five delegations here before the commission. Others came from Eastern Oregon, Clackamas county, Newberg and Willamina.

Financing Problem
Port of Astoria Manager R. J. Bettendorf requested the highway department to have its legal staff meet with Washington state highway officials to seek a solution to the financing problem. Oregon legislation earmarking the bridge funds was snatched by constitutional requirements of Washington.

The group from Clackamas county, including Milwaukie, Sens, Monroe Sweetland and Richard Groener and Oswego Mayor Lee Stidd, requested widening of Highway 99E.

A delegation from Grant, Wheeler and Gilliam counties said the route between Fossil and Condon should be given top regional priority.

Better Access
Ray Morrison of Willamina appeared to ask for better access to Willamina, to serve industry there.

State Rep. George Layman, heading the Newberg group, asked for Highway 99W completion to Newberg. The route is four lanes from Portland south, but 2.5 miles from Newberg, he said.

Handicaps in Fighting Roseburg Fire Reviewed in Chief's Report

An austerity program which kept the two Roseburg fire stations undermanned and difficult in mutual aid inter-departmental communications were two main handicaps in fighting the Aug. 7 disasterous fire and blast in Roseburg, according to a report issued by Donald Starmer, recently appointed fire chief for the Roseburg fire department.

Portions of the report were read at Thursday's night meeting of the Rogue valley city officials in Central Point by Medford Fire Chief Gordon Barker who went to Roseburg to give assistance.

At the time of the disaster the department had 16 paid men working two 24-hour shifts for five days and 15 active volunteers. This kept on duty one officer with two or three men in the main fire station and two men at the west side station. Usual fire response is 18 off-duty paid men and volunteers.

Headquarters Station
The headquarters station, located in the city hall at the corner of Oak and Main sts. houses two 1,000 gallon pumps with a combined hose load of 3,700 feet of 2½ inch hose, one 500 gallon pumper carrying 1,250 feet of 2½ inches of hose and one salvage truck. The west side station, located across the Oak st. bridge, about 1½ miles out of the city center, has one 500 gallon pumper.

The explosion extensively damaged 28 square blocks and spread fire that consumed seven square blocks before being controlled. Thirteen persons are known to have been killed and the estimated property damage runs to \$12 million.

Apparently, Assistant Fire Chief McFarland had just become aware that the truck threatened with flames was an explosives truck before he was killed, the report said.

The Winston-Dillard fire department sent eight men, North Bend, six men; Coos Bay, five men; and Cottage Grove, one man.

"Individual activities of firemen, police and citizens contributed much to minimizing the great loss of life and property," the new Roseburg chief stated in his report. "Several spot fires were extinguished by citizens manning garden hoses. Most search and rescue was conducted by the police. This operation had been carried on while lines were being connected to pumps or lines were being laid in. The power loss that caused failure of the radio base station about 20 minutes following the explosion added to the confusion and difficulties."

On Communications
No truck-to-truck communication was possible between mutual aid departments. A common radio frequency is needed for mutual aid districts, the acting chief pointed out.

The city administration must be realistic in its actions and be willing to assume responsibility of making it clear curtailment (of fire protection forces) is a calculative risk that affects the life and property of the city, the chief wrote. Smaller and more widely distributed fire stations should be established, the new chief suggested.

The chief reported also, that a fire inspection program, fire prevention and

adequate fire ordinances have been "sadly negligent."

Black turn-outs with built-in liner did not provide sufficient protective clothing, the new chief noted. White or some other style protective clothing would have better reflection characteristics, he suggested.

Summarize
Summarizing his conclusions, the chief said:

1. Within the fire department, a definite chain of command should be established down to the last officer.

2. A well-organized training program should be maintained with money budgeted for cost of state-conducted training.

3. Radio communications both within the city and within the mutual aid organization should be revamped with an auxiliary power supply provided.

4. Standardization of drill evolutions and equipment within the mutual aid organizations.

5. All phases of the city's fire protection should be subjected to critical analysis toward its improvement.

6. A definite fire code, fire prevention policy, and inspection program should be started.

7. Effective plans made and projected into the future to provide financing necessary for maintaining effective fire protection.

8. Inter-bureau relations and public relations should be improved through better communications.

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Veterinarians Of State Pledge Cattle TB Battle

Baker — (UP) — The Oregon Veterinary Medical association (OVMA) meeting here Friday night pledged its support to combat a national rising incidence of cattle tuberculosis which a federal veterinarian said endangers the Oregon livestock industry.

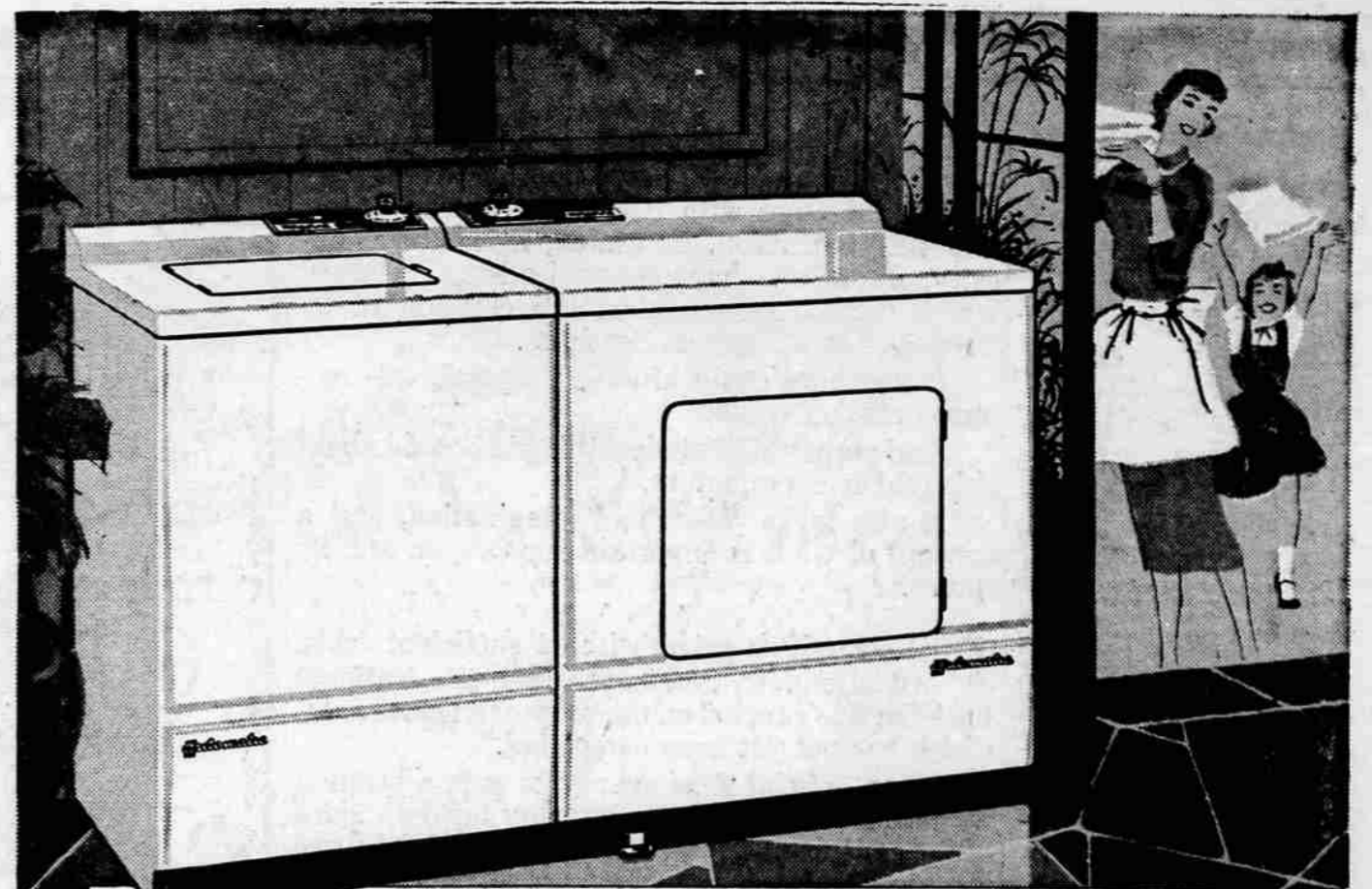
Dr. A. G. Beagle, agriculture research service veterinarian for Oregon, said the problem could also be a serious menace to public health. He said the state of Michigan currently is fighting a widespread high incidence of tuberculosis in cattle herds and that Wisconsin is faced with a similar problem.

"Influx of their cattle into Oregon poses a direct challenge to us," Dr. Beagle said. Dallan H. Jones of Roseburg, association president, said OVMA members would "exert every effort" to control the disease which is also transmissible to man.

The annual fall clinic ended Saturday.



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