

City Unprepared to Meet Disaster Problems

If Medford should have a major disaster such as hit Roseburg last summer, the city would find itself totally unprepared to meet the problems and responsibilities that would result because there is no overall plan or coordinated force ready to put into action.

The possibility of having a plan providing for the coordination of the agencies which would be involved in an emergency was the theme of the disaster preparedness plan called by City Manager Robert Duff in the city Monday afternoon.

Duff said he feels that Medford should be ready to face such a disaster as it is always possible that one could occur here without warning.

Discuss Manpower

Approximately 35 persons, representing various agencies throughout the city and county, discussed the individual equipment and manpower that would be available in an emergency. They also were asked to present any preparations they might already have made for meeting a potential disaster.

Maj. Gen. J. H. Hicks, Jackson County Civil Defense director, presented the attitude of CD toward the idea of a community effort to meet problems created by local disasters. He readily concurred in the wisdom of such a proposal, pointing out that CD has an emergency plan for national emergencies but not for local disasters such as fires, floods, crashes, explosions and others.

It is the CD's policy, he said, to stay out of local disasters, although it can be available when there are no other agencies to help or the disaster is of great proportion.

Need For Command
Hicks pointed out the need for a definite chain of command in case of emergency such as that in Roseburg. He said that City Manager John Warburton assumed immediate responsibility for meeting problems in the Roseburg explosion, and in many cases had to assume authority which he did not legally have.

Duff called on the various police agencies in the area to

enumerate the facilities and manpower that would be available to them in case of an emergency.

Jackson County Sheriff Joe Walsh said the county has 16 regular officers and 40 additional trained reserve officers who could be called in case of a disaster. He said that an air reserve squadron and a group of boats could also be called if needed.

Existing Plan

Capt. Paul Morgan, of the Oregon state police, said that a plan exists for their agency to help any city in case of need. It is their first duty, he said, to contact and work with the responsible agency in time of disaster. He said that in Roseburg it took only 20 minutes after the explosion for state police to have the city blocked off.

In the seven counties of this state police district, there are 64 officers and if needed an additional 240 men can be brought in from outside, he said. He noted that if it had not been for reserve police in Roseburg, the looting there would have been tremendous.

State police also have 75 vehicles in this district with the necessary radio equipment, and there are local control points in all seven counties, he said.

A representative from the National Guard said that its main purpose in an emergency would be to patrol and prevent looting. They also have many vehicles ready for use and a kitchen at the armory which could feed some 200 to 300 persons.

Gets Salem Orders

He pointed out, however, that the National Guard cannot be called out arbitrarily but must normally get orders from their Salem headquarters. They were called to the scene in Roseburg by Warburton, he said, due to the nature of the disaster, but at the Ashland fire they had to wait for directions from Salem.

It would only take one and a half hours to have 75 to 90 men ready for use in Medford or the county, he said. There is also an extensive alert and coordination plan that would

be used in time of emergency, he pointed out.

Medford Chief of Police Charles P. Champlin said the department has only the 37-man force available, and although there is no city police reserve at present, there are preliminary studies being undertaken to consider the possibility of having one.

Receive Cooperation

In the past, Champlin said, city police have always been able to call on the sheriff's office and state police for needed assistance and have always received the best of cooperation.

The four main problems facing city police in time of disaster, he pointed out, are traffic control, guard duty, light rescue work, and identification of the dead.

General Hicks said that communications is the area in which CD can make its greatest contribution to helping combat local disasters. They have a responsibility to get to the scene of the incident as soon as possible, set up a communications center, contact the proper authority, find out what is needed, and let the appropriate agencies know where they fit in.

Dwight Albright, speaking for the county CD radio net, said that their facilities are constantly monitoring radio and television stations and pointed out that often this is the source of their initial notification of an emergency.

Qualified Operators

There are some 20 qualified amateur radio operators with radio sets in the county who can be used for communication purposes in the event of a disaster. Albright said, if they are not able to use an existing station near the scene, then the CD has two or three mobile units ready for use. They also have point to point contact with CD headquarters in Salem in case CD help is needed, Albright said.

Col. Arthur Savard, Medford CD director, said that Medford has eight qualified amateur radio operators with radios, and there is a communications center at the airport.

Charles Thurston, head of

CD communications, said the CD radio net is also affiliated with Army units and 10 radio units can be moved into the field on short notice. He further pointed out that the CD net is well supplemented by communications facilities from the sheriff's office, and Pacific Telephone and Telegraph units. The weather bureau and the hospitals are also hooked in on the network, he added.

Wealth of Personnel
Thurston said that it would be a mistake to overlook and not use the wealth of communications personnel already in the area.

Frank Benesh, of the California Oregon Power company, and J. H. Creager, of Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company, both told the meeting that those companies had adequate equipment and

manpower available for their use in case of an emergency.

Benesh said that Copco has 55 people in the Medford district and could reach more. His company has a radio system connecting points in southern Oregon and northern California and these radio units can be mobilized.

Creager said the telephone company has connections for emergency services and important lines are tagged so they can easily be reached. In case of emergency call, there is a special number that can be dialed which will give that call preference over others.

Heavy Equipment

A spokesman for the county road department said that agency has many pieces of heavy equipment available, but their best use would be in clean-up operations as they are often spread out over the

county and it would take time for them all to get to one place.

General Hicks said that CD has a radiological set-up to detect nuclear fall-out scattered at various points throughout the county and this is always available when needed.

Carroll Brown, superintendent of the Rogue River National forest said it is the primary function of his organization to put out fires in time of emergency; and other duties as traffic control and food supply are left to other agencies. They notify the state police first in case of an emergency in their jurisdiction, Brown said.

Gordon Barker, Medford fire chief, said the fire department has 39 regulars and 15 volunteers. He said there is already a mutual aid program among fire fighting

agencies in Jackson and Josephine counties, who will come to each other's aid in time of disaster. He said that the fire department needs police assistance, especially for traffic control.

Housing Facilities

The Red Cross has ample facilities for feeding, clothing, sheltering and giving medical aid to disaster victims, according to Mrs. Edith Eden, of that organization. She pointed out that the national organization of the Red Cross is not called in unless the disaster has affected five or more families. This is based on the theory, she said, that a city can handle four families and less, but more than that will require outside assistance. The Red Cross is always available to help, and will come as soon as notified, she pointed out.

The meeting also heard from Capt. William Ricken

of the Salvation Army, concerning that organization's preparedness and from Dr. David Boals, concerning the readiness of Red Cross medical facilities and organization.

Dr. Boals pointed out that communications is all important in medical work, as they will need to know where people are needed to assist.

Need is to Coordinate

After each of the represented agencies had an opportunity to outline their individual organization and emergency facilities, Duff said there was an apparent wealth of manpower available in time of emergency and said he was surprised to see how well plans had been made in individual areas. The need now is to coordinate the different organizations to make them a working force in time of emergency, he concluded.

Mayor John Snider said that the moral fiber of a community becomes quite visible in time of emergency as the fine performance and cooperation of the people in Roseburg revealed. He said he is confident that the same high moral fiber would show itself in Medford if such a thing occurred here.

Colonel Savard said that it would now be good for each agency to go back and evaluate their individual needs and capacities and meet again for more concrete plans and action at an alter date.

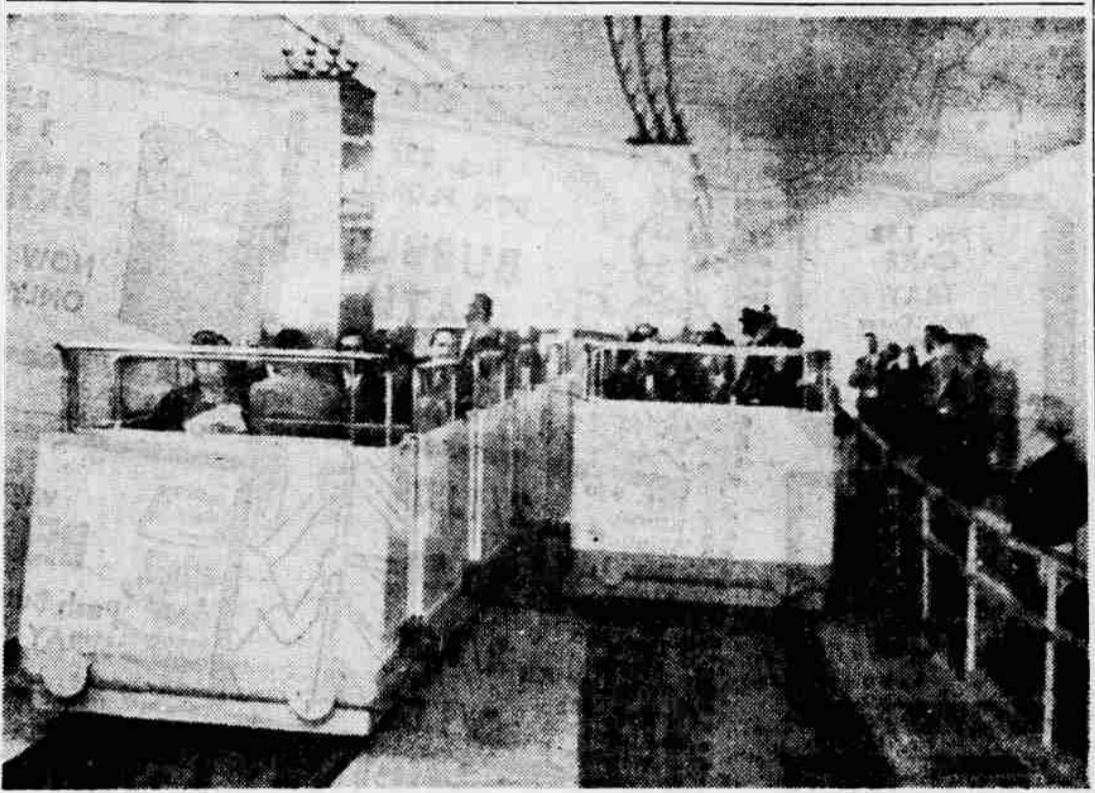
6 MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. Wednesday, Jan. 6, 1960

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SUBWAY CARS DEDICATED—Two of the in Washington Tuesday. Four such cars, subway cars make the run between each carrying 18 passengers and an operator, and the new Senate Office Building, will shuttle between the Capitol and the two Senate office buildings. (UPI Telephoto)

Second Advertising, Promotion Campaign Set for Area Pears

The second advertising and sales promotion campaign in behalf of the 1959-60 D'Anjou, Bosc and Comice winter pear crop from the Medford area will start late in January, continuing into February, R. A. (Dick) Patterson, general manager of the Oregon - Washington - California Pear bureau, Portland, has announced.

The main theme is "All Good Things Come in Pears," and the promotion will utilize more than 75 radio stations in 40 of the nation's most populated cities, and television in New York City.

The promotion will have as a secondary theme that of "related food items," which proved successful in the fall campaign. Emphasis will be placed to promote high-profit items which "go" with pears, such as cheese, and meat.

Display Material
Retailers in the nation are tying in with the advertising and making use of the display and promotional material, with the in-store speciality banners particularly popular and effective.

According to Patterson, the new campaign is aimed to help retailers promote a variety of cheeses, salad ingredients, meat and lunch box foods.

Radio and television promotion will be backed up by the bureau's nine merchandising representatives covering strategic population centers in the U.S. They also are devoting considerable effort with the wholesale and retail trade to stimulate the ripening of winter pears.

Demonstrations Held
Throughout the fall and early winter, the bureau's merchandising representatives have conducted sample demonstrations in many of the nation's markets. In November and December more than 135 demonstrations were held, lasting from two to three days. From 400 to 800 persons were interviewed at each demonstration. Women demonstrators in the stores have passed out samples of

ripe pears which have brought the taste of west coast winter pears to many customers for the first time.

Movement and sale of winter pears from shipping points exceeds last year, attesting to the success of the year's promotion. Winter pears started out at a fast clip and have continued into the winter months, Patterson said. As early as Nov. 15, D'Anjou, Bosc, and Comice pears actually shipped for the domestic and export markets exceeded the total for the same date in 1958 by 539,315 boxes.

ILLINOIS VALLEY Party Attended By Record Crowd

By MARGARET M. CROWL
Cave Junction - A record crowd of over 300 attended the New Year's Eve dance sponsored by American Legion Post 70 at Cave Junction. Music was provided by the "Teamsters." Hats, horns and confetti were distributed and supper was prepared and served by the auxiliary.

Monday evening 15 members of the Cave Junction Bethel 36 and four adults attended ceremonies for installation of officers at Bethel 13, Grants Pass.

Tuesday evening, seven girls from the Kerby Bethel and four adults attended similar ceremonies at Bethel 55, Medford.

The employment service will resume its weekly Thursday schedule in Cave Junction Jan. 21. At present, all who have unemployment claims have to make applications in Grants Pass. Manager Glen Halm stated that personnel are being trained to put in force new changes in the law.

Mr. and Mrs. Moris Hendix announced the reopening of the Illinois Valley bakery Jan. 4.

Burglar Returned To Finish Bottle

St. Paul - Theron Petersen found a burglar sitting in his kitchen enjoying a bottle of his best brandy.

The burglar got away, but two nights later he returned and finished the bottle.

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at

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