

Operations of Rural Fire Department Are Reviewed

Central Point-C. C. Thompson, chairman of the board of directors of the Central Point Rural Fire Protection district, said Friday the district's budget for this fiscal year is the smallest in the last five years, "and nearly 10 per cent under our 6 per cent limitation."

Thompson, in lieu of an annual report, reviewed 1959 operations, presented a general picture of the district's financial position, and made recommendations for the 1960-61 fiscal year.

He said "the budget board and the board of directors lived up to our promises to the voters to reduce the budget substantially if they would pay off the indebtedness on the equipment." As a result, this year's budget is the smallest in the last five fiscal years, he noted.

"We will this year spend \$1,750 on replacement and new equipment," he said. New equipment, he added, is for the protection of firemen, both paid employees and volunteers.

Increases in Pay

Moderate increases in pay were given employed staff members, Thompson said, but added that "we are still considerably under the average pay scale for firemen." The board's program has been to bring the pay scale in line with other fire districts as fast as the financial position justifies it, he added.

Adequate money is available in this year's budget, he said, for the training program and for building maintenance and repair.

Thompson said the district is "likely to run a little over the budget on the cost of operations." This, he noted, is due to a large increase in the number of fires. Firemen were called to 176 during 1959, compared to 129 in 1958, he noted. The cost of operations also has increased because of the increase in the cost of insurance. Increasing the public liability and property damage limits was responsible for some of the increase in the insurance costs, he said.

Increase in Efficiency

Thompson called attention to the increase in efficiency of the department.

In 1956, he said, the fire loss ratio was 18.77 per cent, in 1957 it was 9.46 per cent and in 1958 it was 8.11 per cent. The 1958 national average for class 8 protection was 14.99 per cent, he noted. Figures for 1959 are not yet available.

The fire loss ratio is computed from the amount of loss against the insured valuation of property under Oregon Rating Bureau standards. Thompson noted that the figures are for insured coverage only.

"While we may run over our budget for this fiscal year by \$500 to \$1,000, our cash position will show a credit balance of \$2,000 to \$3,000," Thompson said.

Reasons Noted

There are two reasons for this, he explained. One is that more taxes have been collected than anticipated, and the other is revenue from protection given to companies like Southern Pacific which are in the district but not on

the district's tax rolls. As of Jan. 1, Thompson reported, the district had a credit balance of more than \$13,000 with the second and third quarter payments still to be received by the county treasurer. Expenses for the

balance of this fiscal year should be only slightly more than \$14,000, he said.

Replacement of the district's pickup truck and increases in pay or a retirement program, or a combination of both, should be considered in

the future program, Thompson said. Either in the next fiscal year, or in the 1961-62 fiscal year, the district should replace the second McCulloch pump.

Increases in the 1960-61 budget, he said, should be

made for operation of the fire department, particularly for the operation and repair of equipment.

The assessed valuation of the district for the next fiscal year should increase from the present \$9,200,000 to about

\$9,500,000, Thompson said. This, with the cash carry over, should enable the district to budget an additional \$2,000 more than this year's budget and still remain within the 6 per cent limitation, he added.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. Sunday, Jan. 24, 1960

3 Woman Succumbs After Home Fire

OFFER RESOLUTION
Washington—UPI—Two dozen House members asked Congress Thursday to express "a profound sense of indignation and shock" at the desecration of places of worship at home and abroad. The resolution was offered by Rep. Barratt O'Hara (D-Ill.) on behalf of the bipartisan sponsors.

Dallas, Ore.—UPI—Mrs. Oleda Riggs Lloyd, 49, Grand Ronde, died in a Dallas hospital today of burns suffered in a house fire Thursday night. Willamina Fire Chief Jim Shipley said the woman had been trapped in a small house she shared with her brother, Roger Riggs. Riggs told firemen he tried

to start a fire in a wood stove about 10 p.m., using a can of gasoline. There was an explosion and he was driven out of the house. Flames trapped his sister, who had been asleep on a sofa. A neighbor, Knute Strom, broke into the house and carried the woman out. He suffered hand burns.

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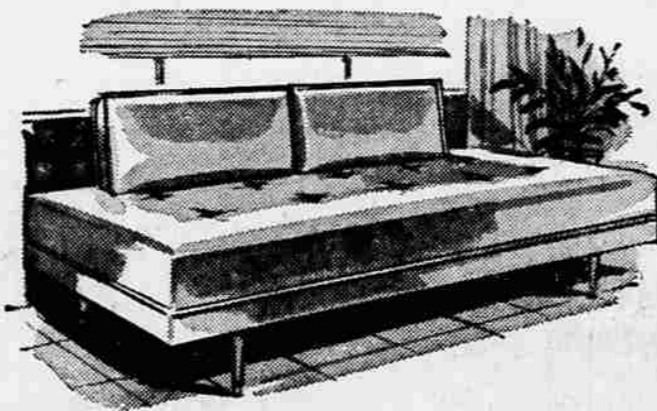
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Safeway Stores Here To Offer Stamps

Safeway stores in 12 Oregon cities, including Medford, will offer Gold Bond stamps starting Monday, Jan. 25, according to G. M. Mangan, Portland division manager for Safeway.

Other communities where stamps will be offered are Myrtle Point, Coos Bay, Coquille, Florence, North Bend, Newport, Taft, Grants Pass, Redmond, Madras and Bend. Gold Bond stamps entered the Oregon market in December, 1958, and are offered by several Safeway stores and other retail merchants in the state.

The trading stamp company, Mangan said, probably will establish a gift center in Medford along with others in the state. Manager of Gold Bond's Oregon division is Orville B. Hammer, Portland.

Business Meeting Slated in Portland

Portland—The second annual business conference sponsored by the University of Oregon's school of business administration will be held Feb. 3 at the Benson hotel here.

Authorities in the field of economics will lead discussions on the Landrum-Griffin act, the Ford Foundation and Carnegie Corporation, problems of urban decentralization in the next 10 years, and the Communist economic threat.

Information concerning registration is available from the school of business administration offices in Eugene.

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