

Building, Civil Defense, Manager Review Activities

(Editor's note: This is the last of a series of articles describing the purposes, 1959 accomplishments and 1960 plans of Medford's 18 departments, boards and commissions as they were reported at the city's Living Annual Report banquet last week. This article gives an account of the reports of the building department and the city manager's report.)

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The functions of the building department include plan checking, issuing permits for building, plumbing, electrical work, heating, air conditioning, signs, fences, demolition, moving and special permits for the use of streets or sidewalks.

In addition, reported Building Safety Director O. R. McNeel, the department inspects building, plumbing, electrical, heating and air conditioning installations.

They also number streets, have appeal boards, plumbing and electrical examining boards, prepare and maintain zoning maps, conduct department training programs, supervise the maintenance and improvements of public buildings and prepare a yearly department budget.

Department Personnel

The personnel of the department is comprised of the director of building safety, two building inspectors, two plumbing inspectors, one electrical inspector and one clerk, McNeel said.

In 1959, 1,843 permits, including 208 for new residences, were issued by the department, having a record total valuation of \$10,869,869.

To compare 1959's record total with other years, McNeel pointed out that in 1958 some 1,139 permits were issued for a total of \$5,778,527 and in 1957 764 permits valued at \$4,795,615 were issued.

The department made 16,076 inspections and collected total fees of \$37,015.87, he said.

Forecasts Activities

In forecasting the year's building activity, he said, "From our viewpoint all indications are that 1960 will be another banner year for building in Medford, and we estimate the total valuation to be well over the \$10 million mark."

McNeel picked out the in-service training program for special emphasis and said it has been of great value to the department in their dealings with the public and in increasing the staff's knowledge of administrative procedures and city laws.

Although two inspectors were added to the department's staff last year, he said, it is still understaffed and in order to give the public the kind of service to which it is entitled, additional personnel will be needed.

McNeel concluded by saying, "We are all working toward the same goal—a larger and better city."

CIVIL DEFENSE DEPARTMENT
The purpose of the Medford civil defense department is to provide an efficient attack warning system and render prompt and effective aid to the citizens of Medford in the event of an emergency, Col. Arthur M. Savard, director reported.

In addition, he said, the de-

partment is to receive and care for persons evacuated from target areas, provide radiological fallout detection equipment and provide for the maintenance and restoration of city resources as quickly as possible.

They also, on request from the Jackson county civil defense organization, provide mobile support to areas outside of the city in accordance with the county civil defense operations plan.

Install Receivers

In 1959, Savard reported, the local organization acquired and installed seven radio transmitter receivers for the meter warning net, and installed a high frequency radio transmitter and receiver to permit communication with the Oregon emergency nets.

One of last year's major developments, he said, was the move of the communications center to a city-owned building at the Medford airport. This move became necessary, Savard explained, when the Jackson County Red Cross withdrew the space it had previously provided for the center.

All the communications equipment was moved, installed and tested in one week end by amateur radio operators, who, he pointed out, should be commended for their efforts and assistance in local civil defense work.

Provide Support

There were no local disasters requiring civil defense action last year but the agency did provide communications support in the Roseburg disaster and the Ashland fire, it was reported.

Savard also pointed out in his report that the need for a comprehensive Medford disaster plan has been established and preliminary meetings and discussions toward this plan were held with city and county officials in 1959.

In 1960 the department hopes to procure matching federal and state funds to provide for emergency power for the Medford radio communication nets, for the expansion and modernization of the present communications system and to provide for additional necessary civil defense equipment.

The agency also hopes to see the completion of a practical disaster plan for the city in 1960, the report concluded.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT
City Manager Robert Duff outlined his duties as the administrative head of the city, reviewed some of the highlights of 1959 and briefly summarized the city's tax structure, in his report.

The city manager prepares the annual budget, sees that all city ordinances and laws are enforced, acts as purchasing agent for all departments and appoints and removes all appointive officers of the city with the exception of the municipal judge, who is appointed by the mayor.

In addition, he acts as business agent of the city council, attends all council meetings, keeps the council advised as to the needs of the city, submits the annual reports of all departments and other reports as the city may require, has general supervision over all city property and performs such other duties as shall be directed by the council.

Some of 1959's highlights that Duff brought out, excluding those already reviewed in other department's reports, were the authorization of an air pollution study, (which has not yet been completed), meetings held here by the director of the National Parking association, student government day, plans adopted and contract awarded for the Berrydale sanitary sewer and the preservation of the Clark st. railroad crossing.

The city also entered into a 10-year contract with the Medford rural fire protection district, saw the beginning of park and shop lots, and completed sanitary sewer systems in Kenwood - Grandview, North Laurelhurst and Berrydale districts.

The sanitary sewer projects, Duff said, were some of the most outstanding accomplishments of last year because they cleaned up critical sanitary conditions on the perimeter of the city.

Previous Reports

He summarized the previous reports of city agencies by saying "they have outlined their plans and priorities for the current year, which will

Features Becoming All Too Familiar

Tabor City, N.C.—One man's face is entirely too familiar to William G. Harper.

This man knocked at the door of Harper's home. When he opened it the visitor put a knife at Harper's throat and stole a small amount of money.

Eight days later, the same man did the same thing and got \$10.

be achieved within the framework of the statutory budget limitations."

He said that it is anticipated that these revenues will be obtained from the following sources in the following proportions:

General property taxes, 30 per cent; reserves and balances, 17 per cent; other agencies, 14 per cent; licenses and permits, 11 per cent; fines, 2 per cent; interest and services, 10 per cent; assessments and bonds, 16 per cent.

Duff noted that the city receives only 31 cents out of each ad valorem tax dollar.

In his conclusion, Duff said, "It is difficult at this time to forecast, but if assessed valuations keep pace with the building permits reflected in the city records, the city's tax levy will probably not be increased for 1960-61."



CHESSMAN WRITES TELEGRAM—Author-convict Caryl Chessman, right, in what may be his last press conference, is watched at San Quentin prison as he writes a telegram to Gov. Edmund Brown. Chessman made a dramatic turnabout Wednesday after the Supreme Court rejected his 15th appeal, and placed his fate in the hands of the governor. (UPI Telephoto)

Ambulance Travel Difficult Business

National City, Calif.—Debie Bretzfeld finally made it to a hospital after she was struck by a car. One ambulance was called. Its brakes failed. A second was summoned. It caught fire. A third made the run.

University Group Supports Repeal

Eugene—The University of Oregon chapter of the American Association of University Professors has expressed its appreciation to President Eisenhower for his recommendation of repeal of the "disclaimer affidavit" in the National Defense Education act.

President Eisenhower in his budget message made a strong recommendation for a repeal of the provision in the act which prohibits payments or loans to any individual unless he executes an affidavit that he does not believe in or belongs to any organization that teaches the illegal overthrow of the Government.

Eisenhower's message stated: "This affidavit requirement is unwarranted and justifiably resented by a large part of our educational community, which feels that it is being singled out for this requirement."

In a wire to the President, the local AAUP stated: "The University of Oregon chapter, American Association of University Professors, deeply appreciates the forthright recommendation in your budget message to repeal the disclaimer affidavit in the National Defense Education act. This expression of confidence in the educational community is most encouraging." The AAUP chapter earlier

had gone on record with a petition that the administration of the university recommend to the Oregon state board of higher education that no further awards be made under the act until the disclaimer affidavit was removed as a requirement for loans, grants, or scholarships.

American Zoos To Get Spanish Storks

Jerez De La Frontera, Spain—(UPI)—Two American zoos will soon receive from this Spanish town some of the "lucky" storks that can be seen strolling its streets the way pigeons strut about in U.S. parks.

The storks will be sent to the Lincoln Park Zoo in Oklahoma City, Okla., and to the Zoological Society of Buffalo, N.Y., by Alberto Duran Tereja of the Jerez Zoo.

According to Spanish folklore, the storks not only made certain that Jerez had plenty of babies but also assured good fortune to the winners whose sherry wine business is the principal industry of this area.

LEATHER INDUSTRY
Ottawa—About 4,800 persons are engaged in the leather industry of Canada.

Hapsburg Empire Tradition Boosted

Vienna—(UPI)—Restoration of the Austrian State furniture collection is keeping alive the splendor and tradition of the Hapsburg Empire in new Vienna.

The furniture agency, successor to the court furniture depots founded in 1750 during the reign of the Empress Maria Theresa, continues the collection and restoration of the invaluable pieces once housed in the royal palaces. The collection suffered a great damage during the last year of World War II, but many famous pieces have been repaired since the end of the occupation in 1951.

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