

Southwest Sewage Situation But A Part of Overall Problem

Suggestions for Solutions Made; Some Long-Range

By JIM BOYD
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

The sewage problems in the southwestern area adjacent to Medford are but a part of the pollution problems which the Rogue valley will face in the future.

The flow of sewage into irrigation laterals is also found in other parts of the valley, according to J. A. Hoffbahr, secretary-manager of the Medford Irrigation district.

The problem is acute in the area southwest of Medford only because of the number of people living there.

The growth of suburban areas is "a mushrooming sort of thing," Orin Moore, county sanitarian, said recently. "We are fast running out of soils here that are acceptable for the disposal of household sewage," he said.

Several long-range suggestions have been made. Good County Planning Moore claims that good county planning could prevent many of these situations. "We are finding that close housing like on Clover lane just isn't working out," he said. Because of this, he said that he usually insists that a rural house have a one half acre lot.

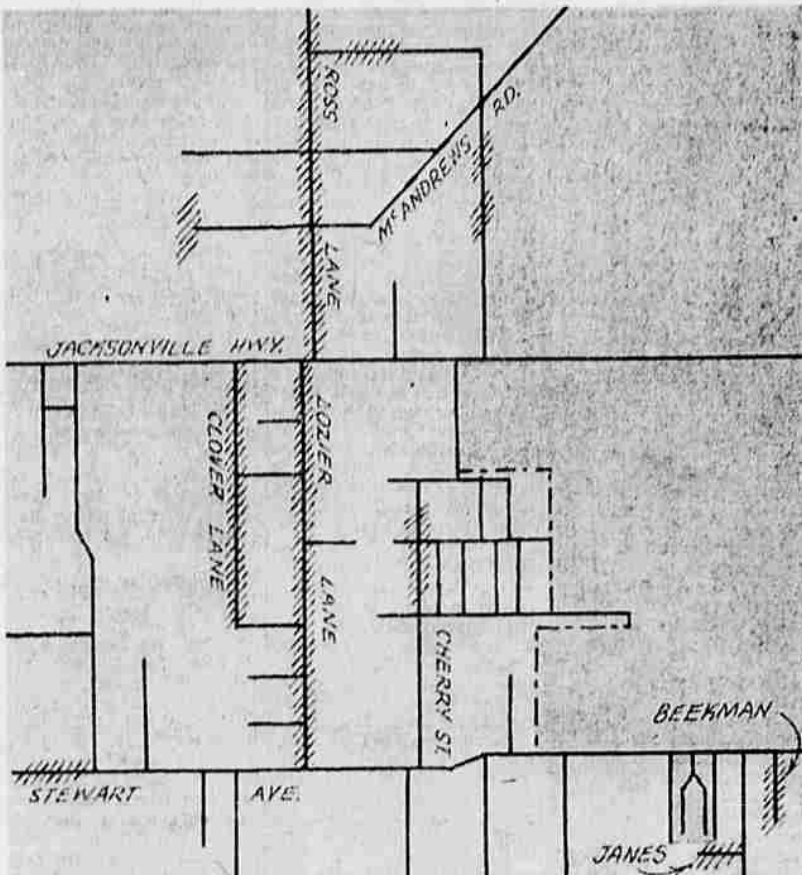
The problem with planning, he said, is the lack of control over the actual construction of the sewage facilities. Subdivisions, FHA-financed and GI homes are reviewed by his office, but there is no provision to inspect privately constructed sewage facilities. It is not until the problem is present that it may be eliminated, he said.

Another suggestion is the modernization of the laws which govern pollution. Tom Reeder, Jackson county district attorney, suggested that the laws which he would have to prosecute under may have been designed when there was little conception of the modern problems of water and air pollution.

Ideally suited Still another solution was suggested when the Berrydale district was annexed to the city. At that time there was a move to provide metropolitan sewage facilities for the valley.

One city official said recently that the valley is ideally suited for a metropolitan sewage system.

Here again, the cost and



POLLUTION AREAS—Reports of pollution in irrigation laterals and roadside ditches have caused residents in this area southwest of Medford to consider annexation. Diagonal lines marked above indicate areas which

Annexation Action Must Be By People

The city of Medford plans to neither encourage nor discourage annexation of the area southwest of Medford, according to City Manager Robert A. Duff.

This sort of action must come from people of the area, he said.

This is also the stand of most of the other governmental agencies concerned with the problems of the area. All recognize that there is a problem, but do not want to

the natural reluctance of present governmental agencies to lose control would be the limiting factors.

The final solution will come only, as County Judge Earl Miller said Friday, "when enough people become concerned and put through programs to keep this from occurring."

suggest what the remedy should be.

If the people should decide to annex, Medford can have sewerage to the area in about two years, Duff said.

He estimated that it would take about 60 days for hearings on the annexation after the petition is presented to the city council.

After this, it would take about 60 days to circulate a petition for sewerage, a month for hearings, and if the petition was granted, about six months to complete plans and specifications.

Following this, it would take about a month for bids and nine months for actual construction.

SECRET ARMS DEAL London—UPI—London Daily Express columnist William Hickey reported Saturday that Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev has been secretly buying arms from Britain.

Hickey claimed that they were double-barrelled shot guns made by London gunsmith James Purday.

Boundaries To Be Set After Poll

Tentative boundaries of the area desiring annexation to Medford will be drawn after the opinion poll is completed, Wallace B. (Wally) Brill, chairman of the polling committee said Saturday.

Three of the seven poll lists have been completed, Brill said, and the committee hopes to be finished within the next few weeks.

After this is done, he said, the committee will plot the locations on a map and then draw tentative boundaries around the areas desiring annexation.

Lee Hobbs, who has a petition with about 200 dissenting names on it, said Saturday that he would like to see the areas objecting to the annexation also plotted on the map.

Several Solutions Suggested For Southwest Area Problem

By JIM BOYD
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Several solutions for the dilemma confronting residents of the area southwest of Medford have been suggested. But in spite of stiff opposition, annexation seems to be the answer most generally supported by the people of the area.

Residents now find themselves threatened with prosecution unless something is done to abate the sewage pollution in the area. But a combination of natural factors makes it impossible for many of them to improve their drainage systems.

The committee conducting an opinion poll on annexation has gathered about 450 signatures, Wallace B. (Wally) Brill, chairman of the com-

Reeder Reaffirms Earlier Decision

Tom Reeder, Jackson county district attorney, reaffirmed his decision Friday to prosecute those people who have made no attempt to abate their sewage pollution.

"Basically, I think we are faced with a situation where criminal prosecution is not the answer. We are dealing with law abiding citizens who do not want to violate the law," he said.

For those who have insurmountable drainage problems, Reeder said that he saw no solution other than a sewer system. "In these cases I feel they should be given the opportunity to seek a solution before prosecution," he said.

"However, it is my view that I cannot turn my back on such violations and will do what I can to see that those laws are upheld."

"I prefer general persuasion to outright prosecution, but must certainly prosecute where necessary," he said.

Cars Damaged in Crash; No One Hurt

Two cars sustained "considerable" damage Saturday noon as the result of a head-on collision on Griffin Creek rd., near Mud Springs rd., according to state police. There were no injuries.

Police said one of the cars, operated by Albert Frank Dutton, 43, Jacksonville, was northbound on Griffin Creek rd. in the wrong lane of traffic and collided with a southbound vehicle operated by Russell Franklin Kemmerer, 22, route 4, Medford.

Police informed Dutton that he would be cited into district court for failure to operate on the right side of the highway. Both cars were towed from the scene of the accident by wrecker.

Schrunk Asked to Form Water Group

Portland—UPI—Mayor Terry Schrunk was requested Friday to form a citizen's committee to educate Portlanders on the city's water pollution problem.

But the mayor said such a committee was already being organized, and would even "carry some of the program into the public schools."

The request to Schrunk came from the Oregon Committee on Natural Resources, in the form of a resolution calling for a fiscal program that would cope with sanitary needs of the community.

Hatfield, Wife Return to Oregon

Salem—UPI—Gov. and Mrs. Mark Hatfield arrived home Saturday, from the 1960 Republican National Convention.

The Hatfields flew from Chicago to Seattle where the governor served as honorary grand marshal in the Seattle Seafair celebration Saturday morning.

His plane was due at Portland International at 8:20 p.m. and the Hatfields were to drive home to Salem.

PUBLISHER DIES Stamford, Conn.—UPI—Richard L. Simon, 81, co-founder of the book publishing house of Simon & Schuster, died at his home here Friday of a heart attack. Simon, who retired in 1957 after two heart attacks, was noted as one of the first to employ the modern methods of advertising, promotion and merchandizing in the book-selling field.

constructed drain lines could be redesigned, but that even good installations are having trouble.

"Some form of community sewage is the only real answer to it," he said.

Favor, Against Annexing Residents in favor of annexation want it because of the sewage situation and because of the depreciation of property values, resulting from the situation.

Residents opposed to the annexation appear to be rather independent folks who do not want city regulation or are seriously concerned with the costs involved.

Increased taxes and the inevitable sewer charges are felt to be too high, they say. This is especially true, they say, for the retired people on fixed incomes in the area.

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