



SLEEPING MYSTERY SOLVED — The months-long mystery of the strange sleeping malady affecting the Frantantonio sisters, Cleveland, Ohio, may have been solved at Mt. Sinai hospital. Traces of barbiturates, a sleeping potion, have been found in their blood. Shown here are the sister, 3-year-old Bernadette (left) and 5-year-old Venita. Bernadette has been in the "sleepy" state for the past 11 months. Venita joined her sister last month. The mother of the children is being held as "the prime suspect" in the drugging. (UPI Telephoto)

Free Electricity on Tennis Courts Asked by Players

Medford area tennis enthusiasts have asked the city to provide free electricity at the high school tennis courts.

The group recently petitioned the city parks and recreation commission asking them to take the request to the city council.

Letters were sent to Robert Haworth, recreation director for the city, and several members of the parks and recreation commission. The item was formally presented before the commission Wednesday night at the city hall.

According to school officials, lighting on the high school courts is operated by coin meter boxes, allowing 30 minutes of play for 25 cents. Other than a "courtesy limit" if others are waiting to use the courts, there are no further restrictions.

Chief Supporters
Chief supporters of the "free lights" movement were members of the Rogue Valley Tennis club. In the initial part of the group's plea, they point out that summer weather in Medford precludes a lot of afternoon or early evening tennis use because of the temperatures. Metered lights as now operated are not only expensive but are frequently inoperative or malfunctioning.

"On this basis the undersigned are requesting that the city . . . pay for the lighting of the . . . tennis courts. Appropriate rules should be set up as to use on a first come, first used basis and the length of time people could play when others are waiting."

"Our request is submitted on the basis of successful programs now in operation in Ashland's Lithia park and on courts at Oregon State college."

At Oregon State, they said, four courts are provided, a simple switch-box is used to turn lights off and on as needed, no time limit rule is in effect, lights are replaced by the college, and no charge is made to "anyone."

Ashland Courts
In citing Lithia park, the petition stated that two courts are lighted, simple switches are used for each court, and the Ashland police chief reports "having no real trouble with abuse of this service to the community."

The petitioners quoted the Ashland light department in reporting the cost of the Lithia park tennis facilities. The maximum cost per day for lighting the courts is 16.8 cents, it was reported. At this rate, the members said, the power cost for the lights seven hours per day, 365 days per year, would be only \$61.02.

The petitioners concluded, "The successful operation of these two systems leads us to believe this service could, and should, be made available to the citizens of Medford on a free use and free access basis without the need of direct supervision."

The document was signed by more than 50 local residents, many of whom are members of the Rogue Valley Tennis club.

The commission agreed to obtain further information. Data has been requested from the school district on the cost of such lighting, but "hasn't come back yet," it was stated.

Question Figures
Robert Haworth told the commission that he questioned the figures submitted in the letter. A check with Ashland city officials produced doubt as to the validity of the statistics.

The consensus was if this particular item was favored by the parks and recreation group, it might tend to set a precedent in allowing special, and limited, groups the right to facilities, paid for by the public.

Special Fees
Director Haworth said approval of this item might "establish a policy" for special fees to certain groups.

Russ Jamison, commission chairman, told the commission that the group should make arrangement directly with the school district. Perhaps a group price could be obtained, he noted.

Herb Partridge, commission member, inquired if the courts are used primarily by young people or if adults use the courts. It was decided that participation was probably in all age groups.

Final action on the agenda item was to "table it" until the next regular meeting.



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Street Resurfacing
Continues in City

Continued operations for the resurfacing of several Medford streets Monday will involve Central ave. between McAndrews rd. and Edwards st.; and Manzanita and Ohio sts. between Court st. and Riverside ave.

Vern Thorpe, public works director, said Saturday that these areas should all be completed Monday. Limited traffic is allowed on these streets, but parking is prohibited. Thorpe emphasized that drivers are not to park where streets are being resurfaced.

Work was started on the project last week by Rogue River Paving company. Scheduled completion date for the entire project has been set for Aug. 31. Low bid was some \$30,000.

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