

### Benson St. Paving Protested by Area Property Owners

Five property owners vigorously protested the proposed paving of Benson st. at a hearing before the Medford city council last night on the grounds that they could not afford to pay their share of the cost of paving.

The council had received a petition bearing the signatures of property owners representing 55.6 per cent of the property to be affected by the paving. They seek to have Benson st. paved, curbed and guttered from 10th to Prune sts.

One woman said, "I would like to have the paving, but can't afford it... our homes need more improvement than the street does."

Following arguments both pro and con on the proposal, the council voted 5 to 3 in favor of paving the street. However, the vote fell short of the necessary three-quarters majority required to pass a measure when it appears on the council's agenda for the first time, and the matter was automatically continued until the council's next meeting Jan. 5.

**Challenge Percentage**  
Several persons at the meeting challenged the percentage of property owners represented on the petition. One man said several properties have recently changed hands and it might be that there are no longer more than 50 per cent of the property owners favoring the paving.

City Engineer Vernon Thorpe, however, confirmed the percentage, and City Attorney Joel Reeder noted that the signatures have been checked with a list of the owners of record in the courthouse. This meets the legal requirements of the city, he said.

Another point of contention appeared to revolve around three strips of city-owned property, decided by the city council last month to several property owners, which, whether intentionally or not, enabled them to sign the petition favoring the paving. If the city had not decided these three 24-foot wide strips, which border Benson st., to the property owners, then those persons would have been unable to legally sign the petition, it was contended.

**Seek Low-Cost Paving**  
Several of the protesting property owners sought last night to substitute a low-cost paving for the high-cost paving which is now planned.

One man opposed this idea, however, and said if a street is going to be paved, it should be paved right. He also contended that several city streets now paved with low-cost paving are in worse shape than Benson st. which is not paved at all.

He said "paving Benson st. is the greatest step toward making it a first-class neighborhood." He noted too that the assessment payments can be made comparatively small

semi-annual installments and that "we can usually afford just what we want to."

### Ordinance Asked To Permit Bus Stop Benches in Medford

A Crater Lions club proposal to install bus stop benches in the city came one step closer to reality last night, when the Medford city council directed the city attorney to prepare an ordinance permitting the benches to be installed in the city.

The ordinance will be considered and acted upon at the council's next meeting Jan. 5. A measure directing the city attorney to prepare the ordinance passed by a 6 to 2 vote. It appears, however, that the ordinance itself will meet strong council opposition when it is presented at the next meeting.

### Hatfield Opposes Exclusive Oil Deal

Salem—UPI—Gov. Mark Hatfield indicated Thursday he does not favor exclusive negotiations with Shell Oil Co. or anyone else for a lease to explore for oil on Oregon's offshore lands.

He made the comment during a news conference with Sen. Maurice Neuberger, (D-Ore.), here.

Shell asked the State Land Board to do this and the board, whose chairman is Hatfield, asked Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton for an opinion.

Thornton said Oregon has no authority to enter any kind of a lease until the laws are clarified by the legislature.

As for the negotiations, Hatfield said he personally believes in the open bid system. "Everyone should be given an equal opportunity to bid," he said.

### Rogue River Academy Schedules Open House

Open house at the new school building at the Rogue River Junior academy will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17. The school is located on Old Stage rd.

Patrons and friends of the school have been invited to visit teachers and students at the school.

## Home Construction Expected To Get Economy Going in 1961

By HENRY J. BECHTOLD  
UPI Financial Editor  
New York—UPI—Housing starts played a big part in the failure of the nation's economy to get rolling this year.

At the same time, however, new home construction is expected to get the economy moving in 1961.

Housing starts this year approached 1.3 million units, approximately 19 per cent below the 1959 figure of 1.6 million, and the Housing Institute looks for this figure to jump to 1,375,000 in the new year.

The institute said there are many favorable factors for

an upturn in housing starts, although it may not come until sometime during the second quarter. The consensus among economists is for the economy to start picking up at mid-year. Among the favorable factors are:

—Disposable personal income should increase by about \$12 billion next year (providing a higher level for home purchases).

—Consumers will start the new year with record liquid assets and a very favorable financial position, despite the large short-term debt.

—A continued increase in population to more than 181 million should result in increased demands for new homes.

—The number of families in the middle income group—a big home buying category—continues to expand.

Vacancy rates, which showed a substantial gain in 1960, indicate that buyers are becoming more selective, and that the supply of new apartments is greater than demand. The institute said the home building industry is in a position to capture some of the market since high rents provide an incentive to the purchase of a home.

—A continued easing in the mortgage market will be more favorable to the housing market in 1961 than in 1960.

—There should be an improvement in the stock market, which will result in a more favorable trend of public psychology. The institute regards this as a help to home building.

—The latest survey of consumer intentions, as reported by the National Industrial

Conference Board, indicates an improvement in consumer confidence following the elec-

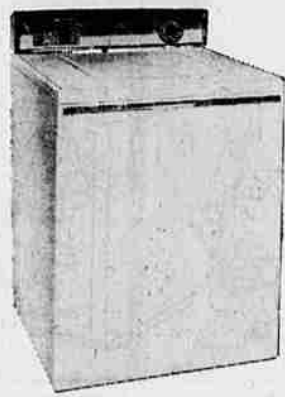
tion. Consumer buying plans for new homes showed a 13 per cent gain from November,

1959, levels. —In addition to the normal and expected stimulants to an

increase in housing activity, the institute said increased attention will be paid in the

coming session of Congress to housing for the elderly. Both parties have stated that they favor such action, and it is expected to be one of the first measures taken up.

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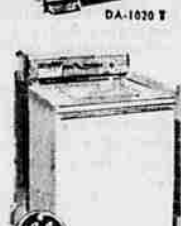
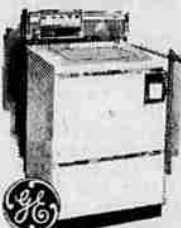


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### Attorney Drops Alienation Suit

San Francisco—UPI—Jamie Kelly Farris Sr., 33, a Portland, Ore., attorney, Thursday withdrew a \$300,000 damage complaint against two San Francisco men whom he charged with alienating the affections of his wife, Barbara.

The defendants were William Holznecht and Bruce L. Jones Jr. Attorney Richard F. Gerry, representing Farris in the U.S. District Court action, said a reconciliation had brought the couple together and divorce proceedings also were dropped.

### Crisp, Fresh!



by Marian Martin

Feminine without fuss — that's the virtue of this shirt-dress that looks so crisp and fresh in 1961's newest fabrics. Softly flared skirt has bias insets to emphasize a slim waist.

Printed Pattern 9233: Misses' Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Size 16 takes 4 3/4 yards 39-inch fabric.

Send Thirty-five cents (coins) for this pattern — add 10 cents for each pattern for first-class mailing. Send to Marian Martin, Medford Mail Tribune, Pattern Dept., 232 West 18th St., New York 11, N. Y. Print plainly NAME, ADDRESS and SIZE and STYLE NUMBER.

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