

Recommended
The Talent project within the Rogue River Basin project is now 94 per cent completed. An article on Page 10A in today's Mail Tribune tells what the power, agriculture, and recreation potential of this project will be when completed this year.



To report improper or non-delivery of the Mail Tribune in Medford phone SP 2-6141 in Ashland MU 2-1021 and in Yreka, VI 2-2007 before 8:30 p.m. daily and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. If regular delivery arrives shortly after you call please notify office thus eliminating special messenger service.

Wendt Says Skiing Resort at Ashland Possible by 1962

Road Conditions Slow Development

The Mt. Ashland ski resort could be completed by 1962, County Commissioner Chester Wendt said Friday. No paving work on the road to the proposed ski resort could be done until spring.

Engineers from the U.S. Forest service, state highway department and county plan to make a final inspection of the road this week to see what work needs to be done, the county commissioner said.

Wendt said that the county's portion of the overall 14 mile road will be included in the new county two-year road development plan now being formulated. Jackson county's portion covers three miles.

Paving Needed

Obtaining paving of the road and a plan for snow removal apparently is all that stands in the way of early development of the ski resort 15 miles from the center of Ashland. Thomas J. Parker and Associates, Ashland contractors, have indicated they are ready to install facilities including lifts and a ski lodge as soon as the road is paved.

They propose to construct a resort costing \$185,000 with provisions for future expansion as the need develops.

Compared to Festival

Backers of the project figure it will support 40,000 skiers or equivalent to the number of persons who rode ski lifts last season in the Bend ski area. One official compared this total with the drawing attraction of the Shakespeare Festival which drew 41,000 persons last year.

Money for developing the road into the area would come from contraverted O and C lands or O and C timber lands which have been placed under the jurisdiction of the forest service. The pay out is based on the O and C formula.

Taylor Requests Jury Hearing

John R. Taylor, 27, Salem, who shot a state policeman near Ashland, will appear in Jackson county circuit court Jan. 16 to enter a plea to two counts of grand larceny.

Taylor appeared before Circuit Judge James M. Main Friday afternoon, and waived right to a grand jury hearing on the grand larceny charges. His attorney, Edward Branchfield, requested more time in which to enter a plea to the charges.

Taylor requested a grand jury hearing on the charge of assault with intent to kill. District Attorney Thomas J. Reeder did not say when a grand jury will be called.

Merger of Power Companies Seen In Three Months

A. S. Cummins, president of the California-Oregon Power company, said at a press conference Friday afternoon that the proposed merger between Copco and the Pacific Power and Light company "as far as the stockholders are concerned."

Cummins said it would probably take longer to have the merger approved by the federal power commission and state public utilities commission.

The press conference was called at the Rogue Valley Country club announcing the official announcement of the merger proceedings, to answer questions posed by representatives of the news media in the Rogue valley. Word of the merger had leaked out Thursday.

Employees Not Affected

Cummins emphasized that the merger will not seriously affect local employees of Copco and added that "there won't be a single family leaving here unless there's an opportunity elsewhere."

Cummins also speculated that many of the company's administrative offices for the region served by the Copco division will remain in Medford. Others, he said, will probably be moved to Portland to facilitate greater economy in administration.

Regarding the employees of the company locally, Cummins said: "Except for the fact that you'll have a change of name they'll never know there was a merger." He did note, however, that many of Copco's present officials will assume slightly different administrative positions with PP&L.

Discourages Rumors

Cummins also discouraged rumors that the merger might lower power rates locally. (PP&L's rates are lower in the Portland area than are Copco's rates here.) He said he would consider it "very optimistic to anticipate that this merger will hasten any rate decrease in this area."

In giving his personal opinion, he added: "I wouldn't want anybody to think that completion of this merger will see any change in our rates."

Cummins said that even with the recent rate increase that was granted Copco, the company still isn't earning enough. He noted too, that PP&L has different rate schedules for different areas in its system, some higher than in the Rogue valley and some lower. "These areas have to support themselves," he said.

He said the merger will bring increased economy of operation in providing power for this area, but added "I think that the economies we

make are going to act rather as insurance against high rates" than to bring lower rates.

Increased Economy

Before the merger can be completed, he said, two thirds of the stockholders, in both the common and preferred stock classifications, will have to approve it. To do this, he pointed out, both stock classifications will have to benefit by the move.

It is already proposed that the common stockholders of Copco will receive 12 shares of PP&L stock for every 10 shares of Copco stock they hold. He speculated that equally good benefits will be offered preferred stockholders.

Copco now has approximately 22,000 stockholders, including 17,000 common stockholders. PP&L has about 35,000 stockholders.

It is hoped, he said, that the boards of directors of the two firms will be able to act upon the merger by mid-January. To date they have reached only general agreement on a basis for the merger.

Asked about an earlier statement that he (Cummins) would personally be opposed to a merger, Cummins replied that he, and also a majority of the board of directors, would rather have the company independent. But, he said, the company belongs to the stockholders and the board "has a moral responsibility" to submit any good offer to them. Cummins said the offer is a good one and has therefore received a favorable recommendation from the board.

Under the proposed merger agreement, Cummins pointed out, PP&L's board of directors will be expanded to 23 members. Eight of them will be from the Copco operation. In addition, the board will have an executive committee of 11 members and four of these will be former Copco officials.

Details of the merger agreement will be worked out by a joint committee. Members of the committee from Copco, Cummins said, will be himself, Glenn Jackson and Gregory Harrison, Copco's chief legal counsel. PP&L will have an equal number of representatives on the committee, he said.

PROBE SHIP DISASTER

Norfolk, Va. — (UPI) — A Coast Guard board of inquiry investigating the break-up at sea of the tanker Pine Ridge will board the shattered stern of the ship Jan. 3. Seven men were lost when the ship broke in half off Cape Hattaras, N.C., last week. Some of the 29 survivors filed damage suits charging the ship was unseaworthy.

Four Persons Die In Plane Crash Near Mt. Hood

High School Teacher, Wife Among Victims

Molalla, Ore. — (UPI) — Two young couples bound for a New Year's eve celebration in Reno were killed Saturday when their one-engine plane plunged into the snowy Mt. Hood National forest 20 miles from here and burned.

Recovered from the wreckage last night were the bodies of David L. Enger, 28, a fireman and high school teacher from Troutdale; his wife, Sharon, 23; Everett W. Boyd, 26, Portland; and his wife, Diane Isabel, 22.

The federal aviation agency listed Enger as the pilot of the Piper Tri-Pacer, which left the Troutdale airport about 11 a.m. flying on visual flight rules for Reno.

Logger Saw Crash

The crash in the overcast Wanderers peak area of the Mt. Hood forest was first reported by a logger, Hardy Jackson, who saw the green and cream plane slam into the trees and burst into flames.

Hardy ran to the crash scene, but the intense fire prevented him from approaching or aiding the victims inside the plane.

He called for help, and rescuers were rushed from near-by Molalla to the scene of the wreckage. They were hampered in reaching the scene of the crash by snow and the 3,500-foot elevation.

Mangled and Burned

The bodies, mangled and burned, were carried out late in the day and taken to Oregon City.

There was no explanation for the crash, but aviation officials said Enger had received his pilot's license only two months ago, and had been cautioned to fly an easterly course to Reno via the Dalles, instead of flying south over the Wanderers peak area of the forest where visibility was poor.

The plane was listed as a craft belonging to the Mt. Hood Flying club of Troutdale.

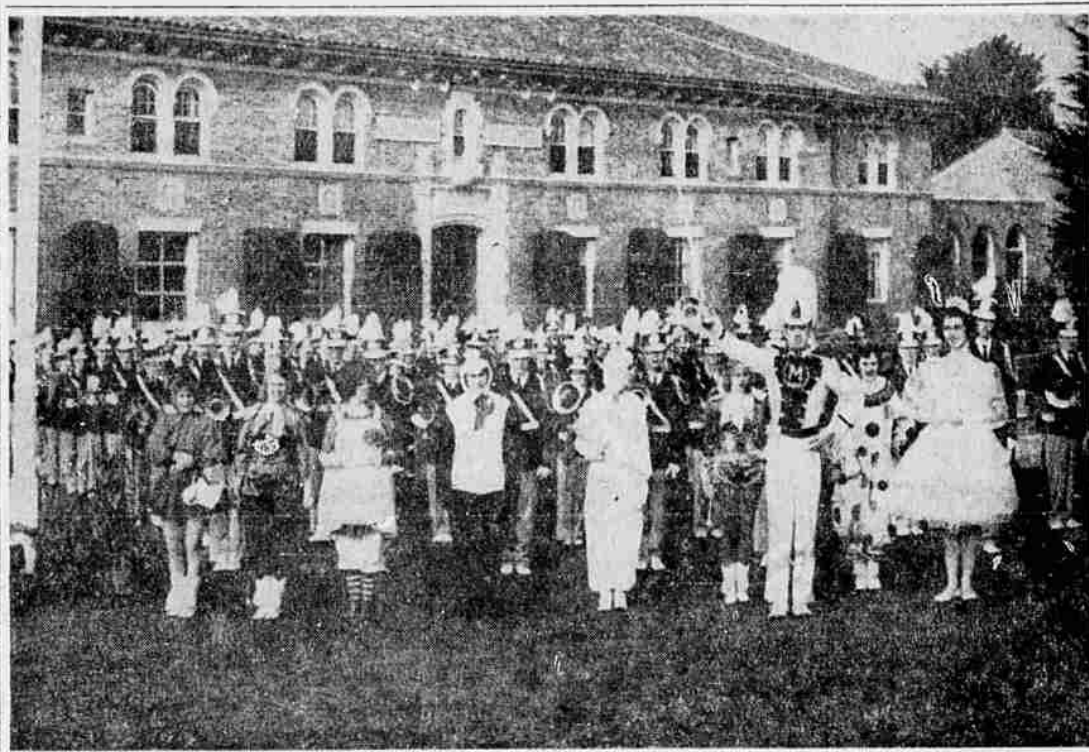
Moore Pleads Guilty In District Court

Ralph Carl Moore, 39, of 815 South Central ave., pleaded guilty in district court Friday to charges of committing an indecent, obscene and immoral act.

Moore was placed on two years probation and charged \$5 court costs. Probation was granted under a number of conditions, one being that he receive medical treatment.

Moore was arrested by Medford police Thursday afternoon on a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, involving a 5-year-old girl.

Communists Invade Laos



PERFORMS IN SAN FRANCISCO—Members of Medford high school's band are shown lined up on the front lawn of the Shrine hospital for crippled children in San Francisco Saturday. The band played, and the majorettes performed, much to the enjoyment of the child patients. The band also played prior to the East-West Shrine football game. —(UPI Telephoto)

U.S. Warns China, Viet Nam Against Armed Invasion

Ike Calls Secret White House Talks

Washington — (UPI) — The United States, after a secret-shrouded White House conference Saturday on the turbulent situation in Laos, warned Communist China and Red North Viet Nam against armed intervention in the south-east Asian country.

The state department issued a statement declaring the United States "would take the most serious view of any intervention" in the trouble-torn Laotian situation where a Red invasion was reported.

The grim American statement was issued with the approval of President Eisenhower.

It came about five hours after the Chief Executive met with his top military, diplomatic and intelligence advisers.

Mindful of Obligations

The declaration warned the Chinese Communists and their allies that the United States was "mindful of its obligations under the SEATO treaty," the eight-nation alliance which pledges the defense of any southeast Asian country against Communist aggression.

The state department officially confirmed that foreign Communists troop had invaded Laos but declined publicly to identify their nationality or estimate the number. Press Officer Joseph W. Reap said, however, that the invaders consisted of "certainly much more than a handful."

American officials said there undoubtedly would be a very early meeting, probably tomorrow, of the SEATO council, which sits in Bangkok.

Consults With Allies

Reap said the United States was in consultation with its treaty allies — Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand and Pakistan.

The U.S. statement added up, in the view of observers, to an implied threat to invoke the SEATO treaty if Chinese Communists or North Viet Nam forces pushed deeper into Laos.

Troops under pro-American Gen. Phoumi Nosavan are trying to protect the legal government against the onslaught of the Red-led Pathet Lao rebels.

Reap said the reports from Laos "are fragmentary" and "I am not in a position to describe the nationality, nor the numbers nor the intentions" of the invading forces.

Viet Nam Suspected

"However," he said, "we are satisfied that they are non-Laotian forces. Presumably they are coming from North Viet Nam."

Acting Secretary of State Livingston T. Merchant and his aides worked late this New Year's Eve conferring on latest reports from the strife-torn southeast Asia kingdom which stands athwart Communist China's path to south-east Asia.

Secretary of State Christian A. Herter, vacationing at his plantation near Green Pond, S.C., was being kept informed by telephone. He was due to return to Washington today.

The State Department declined to say whether Prince Boun Oum, premier of the pro-American government in Vientiane, was being encouraged to ask SEATO to help him. Boun Oum, in announcing the Communist invasion, had said that it might be necessary to call upon his country's "friends."

Kennedy Appoints Negro To Head Housing Agency

Palm Beach Fla. — (UPI) — President-elect John F. Kennedy named a Negro Saturday to head the federal housing agency and picked a Harvard professor to stem the national security council.

The housing administration appointee, 53-year-old Robert C. Weaver, board chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is a veteran and recognized housing expert and currently is a member of the New York City housing and redevelopment board. His official title will be administrator of the housing and home finance agency.

Fleming Meets With State Board

Portland — (UPI) — Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Arthur Flemming met Saturday with the Oregon State Board of Higher Education presumably to discuss the post of President of the University of Oregon.

The results of the meeting will not be made public until Monday, however, Chancellor John R. Richards said.

Flemming, who was once president of Ohio Wesleyan university, has been mentioned for the vacant president's post. The job has been empty since Dr. Meredith Wilson took a similar post at the University of Minnesota last summer.

Visit University

Flemming and his wife visited the university Friday and according to members of the board made a favorable impression.

He has been attacked by some farm leaders because of the 1959 Thanksgiving cranberry scare, but most farm leaders came to his defense.

Government Gives Projects to TID

The Talent Irrigation district will take over operation and maintenance of irrigation facilities in the Talent division of the Rogue River Basin project, effective Jan. 1. The Interior Department announced in Portland Friday.

The transfer covers storage and delivery facilities serving the Medford Irrigation district, the Rogue River Valley district, and the Talent district.

Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Floyd E. Dornay said the transfer was designed to "place the responsibility where it can be most effectively discharged — in local hands."

Works to be transferred include the collection canal system, Howard Prairie dam and reservoir, Hyatt Prairie dam and reservoir, Keene Creek dam and reservoir and Emigrant dam and reservoir.

The Bureau of Reclamation will retain responsibility for operation and maintenance of the 18,000-kilowatt capacity Green Springs power plant.

Reds Claim Victories In Laotian Fighting

Vientiane, Laos — (UPI) — Communist forces Saturday claimed a series of victories in sharp fighting with pro-American government troops and there was fear Communist North Viet Nam might mount a full-scale invasion of Laos.

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Durno Interviews Staff Candidates In Capitol Office

Washington — (UPI) — Congressman-elect Edwin R. Durno of Medford moved into temporary headquarters on Capitol Hill this week end and began interviewing candidates for his congressional staff.

The new Fourth district Republican representative also indicated he has hopes of winning a seat on the House Interior and Insular Affairs committee.

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CONSTRUCTION AREA—The Crater Lake highway over Bear creek, above, is soon to be removed and replaced with an elevated structure that will form part of the overcrossing on the new freeway. Currently under construction is a detour and temporary bridge that will take traffic off the present bridge while the work is being done. The tractor (compare its size with that of the car on the bridge) is using the creek bed as a route to another construction site instead of crossing the highway. Completion date for the Seven Oaks-Jackson st. section is tentatively set for May 1, 1962, according to A. A. Anderson, engineer for the state highway construction office here.

WEATHER

FORECAST: Partly cloudy Sunday and Monday with patches of valley fog during early morning hours. High Sunday 46. Low Sunday night 29. High Monday 38.

Highest Yesterday	Temp.
Lowest This Morning	21

Our Skies Tonight

Sunset today	4:49 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow	7:41 a.m.
The Moon rises	5:08 p.m.
today and sets high.	
Full Moon today	3:06 p.m.
There will be two eclipses of the Moon this year, the first in March and the second in August. Both will be visible over most of North America.	

To 3 p.m. Yesterday