

Parks Program Reviewed by Department

Cooperation With Civic Groups Is Success Factor

By GREG NOKES
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Providing a good parks and recreation program has been universally accepted as a necessary and vital function of municipal government during the past decade.

The city of Medford was slow in realizing its obligations in this field and it has spent the past two years trying to catch up. The year 1960 was the most successful parks and recreation year in the city, and 1961 promises to be just as good, if not better.

A partial list of the activities and accomplishments of the city's park and recreation department during 1960 would include: the opening of a new swimming pool at Jackson park; the development of a play apparatus area at Hawthorne park; the development of Union park; and an extensive summer and winter youth recreation program.

Results of Efforts
All of these and many more are not the sole accomplishments of the parks and recreation department, as such. Many of them are the result of efforts in this field by service clubs, individuals and public agencies.

But, the parks and recreation department has served as the coordinator, and often the instigator, of these projects, and it must therefore receive much of the credit.

The start of this city's program dates back to early in Mayor John W. Snider's term of office. Mayor Snider and the county in October, 1958, directed that a study of the city's parks and recreation needs be undertaken.

Appoint Commission
The city had been offering some recreation facilities and programming, but they were shown to be woefully inadequate for a city of this size. As a result of the study, the mayor early in 1959 appointed a parks and recreation commission.

The commission, in turn, hired Robert Haworth from the Spokane, Wash., parks and recreation department, to serve as Medford's first parks and recreation director. That was in June, 1959.

Since then the department has established itself. In May of last year it received the go ahead to hire Ken Lyons from the Boise, Idaho, parks department to serve as Medford's first recreation supervisor.

Has Definite Views

Haworth, who, next to Mayor Snider, has been the individual primarily responsible for the growth of parks and recreation in the city, has some definite views on what a parks and recreation program should try to do.

He defines recreation "as anything that occupies an individual's worthy use of leisure time." This, then, would explain the increasing importance of municipally-sponsored recreation activities in recent years.

People have more leisure time now than they have ever had before, according to Haworth, and they need something worthwhile to occupy their time. This is where a good parks and recreation program comes in.

"But," he cautions, "I don't think we should ever be in the position of where the state - and I use that term loosely - is entertaining the individual or providing completely for his recreation activities, either in facilities or leadership."

Family Recreation

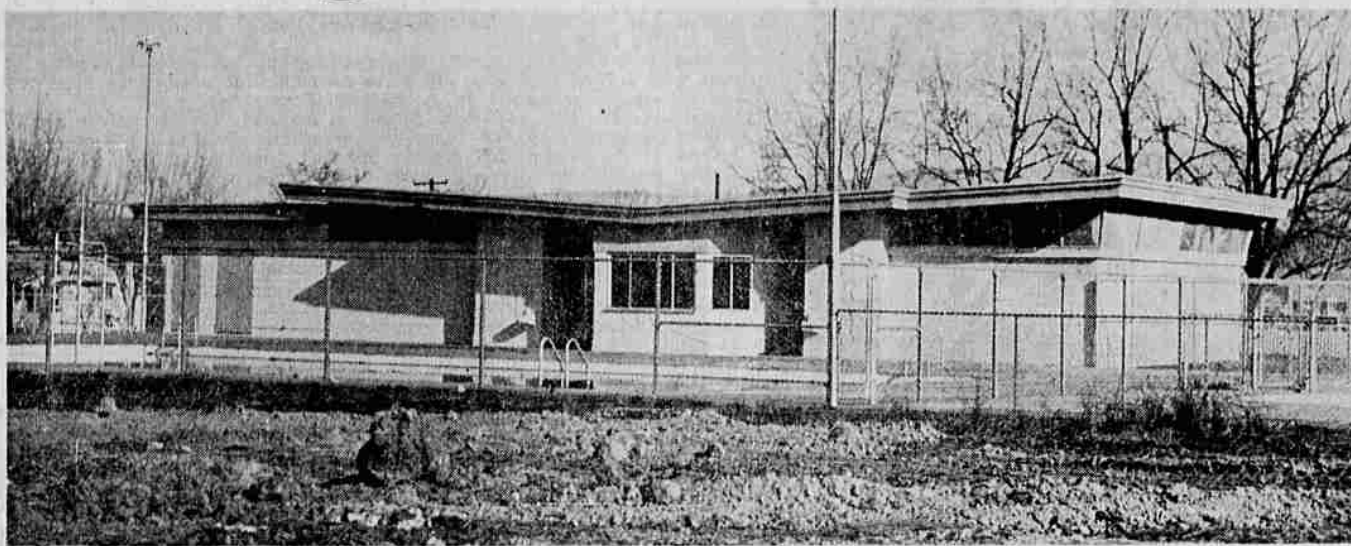
Haworth is a firm believer in family-wide recreation activity, and to this end, he hopes the department will be able to offer more recreation services for the family. He also declares that "the American public should strive more toward finding their own leisure activity."

Because the possibilities to be offered in a recreation program are endless, the department concentrates on those things which can be done by people of all ages, such as tennis, swimming, dancing and arts and crafts.

Also, because the department is limited in staff and budget, it attempts only to give recreation participants the necessary skills and information so that they can continue with a particular activity on their own.

Haworth is of the opinion that recreation and education "go hand in hand" and "it is folly to try and separate the two. The skills that a person picks up in school can be applied to leisure time activity in the future."

There are two kinds of recreation activity, according to Haworth. These are passive and active recreation. He says "everybody needs a little of



NEW SWIMMING POOL—Pictured above is a view of the city's new swimming pool in Jackson park which was opened last June. The pool was built with money given to the city by the old Jackson County Housing

both," and it is the function of the good recreation department to provide for both.

Active recreation is defined as any activity involving physical effort, or that activity which an individual may create for himself. Passive recreation, on the other hand, includes those activities where the individual is not involved physically in his own entertainment. This latter classification would include such things as watching television, going on a picnic or walking through a park.

Haworth points out that it is important for the department to coordinate its activities with other groups, such as schools, the YMCA and scouting organizations. This is necessary, he said, because by working together and avoiding duplication of effort, they can combine to offer many things that they could not offer individually.

Willing to Work
As a newcomer to the valley, Haworth said he found these agencies "very willing to work with us."

He also points out that Medford and the Rogue valley are fortunate in having so many "natural" recreation possibilities. And, a function of the department, he said, is to make the public aware of these possibilities and then promote their use.

Also invaluable to a parks and recreation program, are the many efforts in this field by individuals and community groups, according to Haworth. Some of these efforts during the past year include:

—Monetary donations for play apparatus in various city parks from the Elks club, the Kiwanis club, the Moose lodge, the T.W. Miles estate, Kogap Lumber company and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Wading Pool

—The financing of a wading pool in Jackson park by the Crater Lions club.

—The donation to the city of a historic logging locomotive for park use by the Medford Corporation.

—The financing of the Jackson park swimming pool and donation of land for Jackson park by the old Jackson County Housing authority.

—The development of Union park by residents of the Union st. area. Haworth said this effort was particularly commendable because the residents of this area did almost everything in the park themselves.

Total Outcome

—The development of Earhart park by the Hubbard and Bauer Construction company at the same time as they were building the Earhart park subdivision.

Commenting on these efforts, Haworth said: "The total outcome from the effort



HOLDS ON—Little Deston Nokes, age 1½, can barely hold on to one of three "horses" constructed in Hawthorne park recently. They are several of a number of modernistic

we (the department) put in would be considerably less than it would if we didn't have the help, that these people have given us."

The city's park program did have one setback of sorts during the year, when it was announced that the new freeway will go across the west end of Hawthorne park. This will almost completely destroy the passive recreation possibilities of the park, he said, and at the present time there is nothing in the city to replace it.

But, he noted that the city received more than \$160,000 for the park property from the state, and said this will probably be used to acquire land for a new park site, which should provide for even better passive recreation.

Budget Consideration

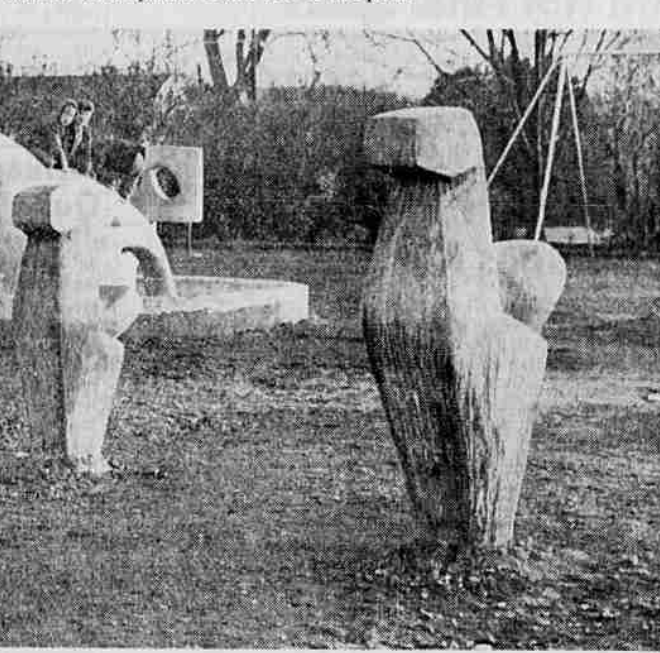
Budget considerations serve to limit the scope of activities that a parks and recreation department can offer. During the 1960-61 fiscal year the department has a budget of \$97,000. A big chunk of this, \$32,000, goes for park maintenance alone.

But despite this, the department was able to offer a recreation program last year that the city should be proud of.

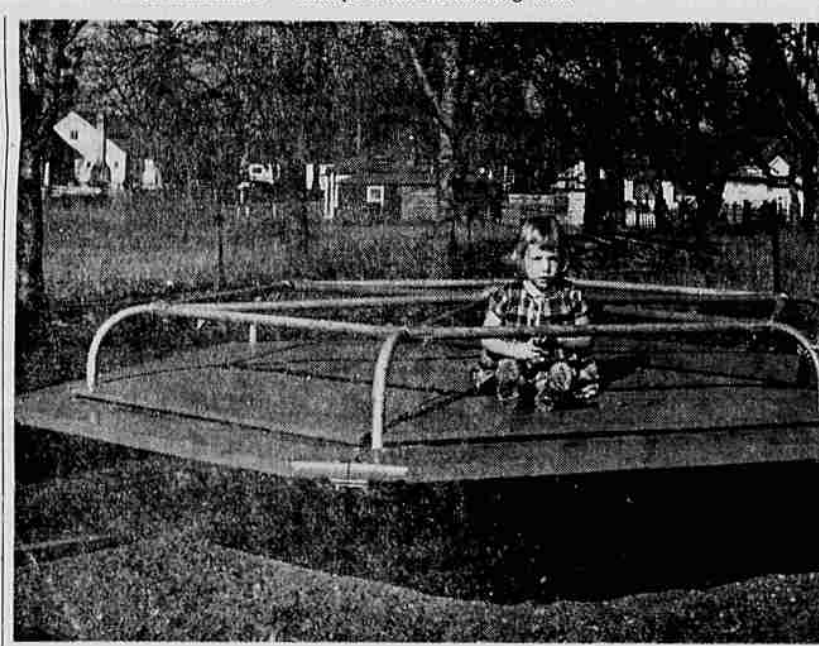
During the summer months the department had a recreation program operating on four centrally-located school playgrounds and Hawthorne park. The activities in the summer program ranged from organized baseball games to quiet reading sessions. Each recreation center was supervised.

During the Christmas holidays the department arranged

authority. Also at the site is a wading pool donated to the city by the Crater Lions club. The land in the foreground is being leveled in preparation for development of the rest of the park.



pieces of play equipment constructed in the park with service club donations. Also in the area are a turtle, a sand-pool and a climbing wall.



RESIDENTS EFFORT—Residents of the Union st. area in west Medford developed a small neighborhood park for their children called Union st. park. Doing all the work themselves they even raised the money to pay for the play

to have a number of school gyms remain open for indoor activities. Also, from November through February, the department offers a regular indoor recreation program at school gyms.

With the opening of the city's second swimming pool in June, the department stepped up its swimming instruction program. The year also saw the organization of the

city's first municipal swimming team.

In addition, the department issued a series of four party suggestion booklets, sponsored three teen-age dances, offered a women's physical fitness course, and worked to assist the Senior Citizens with their recreation program.

During the coming year, the department will continue with its existing recreation pro-

gram, and, if possible, will expand it. They will also continue with the development of Jackson park and a necessary redesigning of Hawthorne park.

In summing up the past year's activities, Haworth said, "we have made rapid strides" in providing a parks and recreation program for a city, which, two years ago, had no real program at all.

He credits not only the city for these accomplishments but also "the cooperation of other agencies and the general attitude of the public which has made it extremely easy for us to get the ball rolling."

Officials Inspect Irrigation Ditches

Medford Irrigation District officials have been advised to consult with the district attorney concerning raw sewage being dumped into an irrigation ditch in the Lozier lane district. T. M. Gerow Jr., sanitary engineer for the Oregon state sanitary authority, said Friday.

Medford Irrigation District Manager Jack Hoffbauer took Dr. A. Erin Merkel, public health officer, Chief Sanitarian Orle Moore, and Gerow on an inspection tour of the ditches in the Lozier lane area Friday.

Gerow said that one resident of the area was piping septic tank effluent directly into the irrigation ditch, and had not tiled the ground around the tank.

Earlier, former District Attorney Thomas J. Reeder had sent letters to all residents of the area south and west of Medford warning them of the legal consequences of violating state sanitary laws. He postponed prosecution when it appeared residents of the problem area were attempting to \$100 to \$200.

Organizing of Farm Labor Not Expected in State at This Time

The Agricultural Workers Organizing committee of the AFL-CIO probably will not come to Oregon for some time, Joe Bianco, agricultural editor for the Oregonian told a meeting of the Jackson County Fruit Growers league here Friday afternoon.

Bianco said much of his information comes from the California Growers' council and some from Louis Krainock, AWOC's publicity man.

During the 18 months AWOC has been in operation it has not been able to form a local. A month ago, Krainock reported AWOC "is having trouble." It had only 3,500 to 5,000 migrant workers organized and was reported in financial trouble. Several weeks later the growers council confirmed this report.

Shortly after Krainock's talk with the Oregonian writer, he was reported ill and unable to attend the Oregon Horticultural Society meeting at which he was scheduled to speak. This indicated some difficulty within the organization, Bianco said.

Political Climate Unchanged

Bianco said he does not think the California political climate which favors the AWOC operation has changed.

Now the United Packing-house Workers' association has joined forces with AWOC. On Jan. 5, a meeting of some top union officials such as Walter Reuther, president of the United Auto Workers' union, and the president of the United Chemical and Oil union, met in Washington, D.C. An unofficial report indicates AWOC was voted \$300,000 in additional funds, Bianco said.

UPWA is a strong established union with 20,000 members at one time. With closure of some meat packing-houses the membership dropped to 5,000, the Oregonian writer said.

Bianco said he learned through a press association

that UPWA is now trying to penetrate Yakima, Wash. fruit growing areas. UPWA and AWOC will help each other so that both packing-house and field workers will be organized, the farm editor told fruit growers.

"The most important thing is to study the labor situation the best you can, then try to plan and tell your story to the people," Bianco advised the growers Friday, "and have courage."

UPWA and AWOC want the following, Bianco said:

- (1) Recognition of the union as a collective bargaining agent.
- (2) Minimum wage for field workers of \$1.25.
- (3) UPWA wants piece rates for field workers. AWOC wants piece rate incentives on skilled work.
- (4) Establishment of sanitary facilities, including toilets and drinkable water.
- (5) Ten minute rest periods every two hours.
- (6) Transportation to and from day haul points.
- (7) Close shop providing for employment of all workers in a union hiring hall similar to what the Longshoremen now use.

Establish Themselves

"If AWOC and UPWA are able to establish themselves as bargaining agents, you may see the inauguration of the six major goals," the agricultural editor pointed out.

The California growers feel their problem points directly to the California department of employment, Bianco said.

"When the farmers found the department of employment could offer no aid to a farmer surrounded by picket lines, the farmer developed his own referral service. According to the Wagner-Peyser act, the state employment agency, which does receive federal aid, cannot refer workers to an area that has a labor dispute. The referral service in some cases involves Mexican nationals.

Borrow Workers

"Early this week in El Centro, Calif., one of the lettuce farmers, whose ranch was struck by AWOC and UPWA, borrowed Mexican workers allocated to a nearby farm because his farm was struck. However, the U. S. and Mexican governments ordered the braceros off the ranch for the duration of what the governments call labor unrest."

Some proposed "pro-labor" laws now before the California legislature at Sacramento are worrying growers. A proposed minimum wage bill for agriculture would set the minimum hourly wage at \$1.25 per hour.

However, some bills favoring agriculture are being introduced. The "strikes at harvest time" measure is aimed at preventing strikes when the crop is to be harvested.

State Employment Director Irving Perluss is reported to have said this will not pass unless labor's position is considered.

Another bill would prevent "stranger picketing" where AWOC men work in an orchard for a few hour then strike for higher pay. They are not regular migrant workers, Bianco explained.

Interested in Organizing

In answer to questions, Bianco pointed out that AWOC is mainly interested in organizing 2 million migrant workers. They have been given two

years in which to do it by the AFL-CIO organization.

Money to support AWOC activities comes from all AFL-CIO union members' dues. During the first year AWOC spent \$300,000. UPWA is not as strong as it once was, but does provide a strong framework by joining AWOC, Bianco said.

The fact that the Medford pear district pays top wages will not deter union activities, Bianco said. He advised growers to consider the "check off" plan in their strategy. According to this plan, the union would require employers to deduct union dues from wages paid. One local grower said he didn't think the AWOC could operate effectively without the plan.

Charles Henry, outgoing league president, advised all local growers to use the Medford Pear Shippers office for an information clearing house on all labor problems. He urged all growers with ideas to attend the league's committee meetings and present their ideas.

59 Disease Cases Reported in Area

A total of 59 cases of communicable diseases were reported to the Jackson county health department last week, according to Dr. A. Erin Merkel, public health physician.

Influenza headed the list with 10 cases in Phoenix and six in both Medford and Ashland. Medford also had one case each of mumps, measles and infectious hepatitis, and two cases of chicken pox. Ashland reported two cases of mumps, one pneumonia, one case of German measles, and two chicken pox victims.

Phoenix had two cases of mumps, eight strep throat, and one poliomyelitis. Central Point reported one case of both measles and German measles, and one chicken pox case. Six cases of chicken pox were reported at Jacksonville. Rogue River had one case of pink eye. Three scarlet fever cases were reported in Talent.

Bonanza, Ore., in Klamath county, reported one case of infectious hepatitis, and Myrtle Creek, in Douglas county, reported one case of rheumatic fever.

Army Reserve Unit Contributes to Area

One hundred and seventy members of the United States Army reserve units in Medford contribute a substantial amount to the local economy, according to figures announced by Major Ray E. Stewart, Medford subsector commander.

During the taxable year of 1960, local reservists received, after federal income tax deductions, the sum of \$87,508.83.

The pay to members of the Army reserve was gained through attendance at regularly scheduled drill assemblies, and for periods of active duty. The pay is additional income to many men engaged in varied vocations in this area.



WEIRD APPARATUS—Donations from various service clubs in Medford were used to finance the construction of the above "modernistic" play apparatus in Hawthorne park. The design and construction of the apparatus was

done by Charles Forrester of Ashland, who did the work at cost. Bob (standing) and Jack Peterson, ages 8 and 5, are two newcomers to Medford who don't care what the apparatus is supposed to be—they just like to play on it.

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