

Central Point: Racing to Meet Its Demands

Facilities Operate Near Capacity All Year, Mason Notes

By JOHN STAFFORD
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

The population of Central Point has more than doubled since 1940. The city has been racing to meet the demands on city facilities the increase has brought. So far the city has won the race.

However, at the present time, the margin of victory is decreasing as the population boom closes the gap.

City facilities are operating at full capacity during most periods of the year. The water situation in summer months gets critical at times.

Mayor Freeman Mason says if a major fire ever occurred during these months a disaster could result. The water supply could be completely exhausted and a fire could rage out of control.

Mason says the town is growing as fast as vacant lots can be filled with houses. Two new subdivisions have sprung up in recent years.

Expansion has brought problems. However, much has been done and is being done presently to meet the demands. New schools have been built. Street paving has been progressing at a record rate. City departments have been expanded. City facilities have been improved. A new hospital has been constructed. Increased recreation facilities have been under consideration.

Show Revealing Picture

Facts and figures available from City Recorder Lyle Paull provide a revealing picture of what has happened in Central Point.

The population boom started in the 40s and progressed at a rapid rate through the 50s. In 1920, 582 people lived in the city. This rose to 906 in 1940 and jumped to 1,667 in 1950. Final figures for 1960 show 2,289 people living in Central Point.

Value of building permits issued in 1955 totaled \$221,500. This figure increased slightly in 1956 to \$224,300. In 1960 permits issued were valued at \$684,344. Of this amount \$335,900 was spent on 37 new one-family homes.

The new Crater Osteopathic hospital was constructed at a cost of \$225,000. The new city hall cost \$14,444. School improvements, service stations, a rest home and two-family dwellings comprise the rest.

Assessed valuation of the city is \$1,017,512.

In the last two years, 10,769 feet of street paving has been put in. Six streets accounted for this total. Second, Oak and Hazel sts. were completely paved. Additional paving on Pine st. totaled 700 feet. City and state funds were used in financing this latter project.

In 1960 the new city hall was dedicated.

In 1954 a new library and fire department were constructed on the corner of Pine and Third sts. The new \$14,444 addition for city offices and library was added to the fire department. The police department has moved into the former library quarters.

The police department has been modernized in the last five years. Wally Bowen, police chief, has instituted a number of progressive programs.

A complete cross filing system for finger prints and photos has been established. Three policemen have been on the job for the last year and a half. Modern radio equipment has been installed in police cars and the police station in the city hall. A night telephone answering service has been initiated.

In its quarters in what used to be the city library, the department has a waiting room, interrogation room, jail facilities for 11 inmates and a private office for the chief. The department has initiated a junior police club and has given safety lectures at city schools.

Department Problems

Problems the department faces include a need for a fourth office room, an office secretary and more manpower. In five years, Bowen has never taken a vacation.

The fire department has been active also. Latest addition is an emergency rescue truck financed to a great extent by the 26 department volunteers. The vehicle is available for use anywhere in the Rogue valley.

A survey of the city water system was recently completed. The system is going to need improving if it is to adequately meet needs future growth will create, Mayor Mason says.

The city has a 50,000 gallon reservoir now. The engineering firm making the survey has recommended a 500,000 gallon or 1 million gallon reservoir. This estimate is based on future growth. The present system was installed in 1946. There are 857 connections in the city.

"Before we can do any serious growing we have to work out some agreement with Medford," Mason says. All city water is provided by Medford at the present time.

"If we can get an agreement for more water from Medford we will explore possibilities of getting a new reservoir," Mason said. Mason also indicated that new water lines would have to be installed in some areas if more water becomes available.

Dale Bartley, chairman of the city planning commission, said a new reservoir could be partially filled at night in the summer from excess water

HOME CONSTRUCTION—New homes are being constructed in Central Point at a rapid rate. Two new subdivisions have been started on the northern part of the city. Thirty-seven building permits were issued in 1960 for new one-family homes totaling \$335,900. In addition, three two-family dwellings were built costing \$49,000. Mayor Freeman Mason says, "We're growing inside the city as fast as vacant lots can be filled."

coming into Medford. "This would assure us of a safe level in the daytime," Bartley said.

Mason said another problem is one of money to finance all desired projects. "We have one of the lowest tax millage rates in the nation for a city our size," Mason points out. This rate is 19.4 mills. It would take a vote from the people to raise this figure.

Mason points with pride to the active street paving program in the last two years. "The town has needed more paved streets for 10 years," the mayor said. Getting more streets paved is high on Mason's list of needed future projects.

Mason said the city also is exploring possibilities of a new sewage disposal system. Presently, liquid sewage is pumped into lines of Medford and then disposed of at Camp White. "Preliminary plans for a lagoon type disposal system are being explored," according to Mason.

City Park Development

Bartley said the planning commission is working on plans for development of a city park on a 15-acre tract between Taylor and Hanley sts., where the present city baseball field and grandstand exist. Various recreational facilities would be provided in the park. Mayor Mason and the planners are attempting to devise a plan whereby a swimming pool could be built in the park. This is still in the discussion stage.

One project which became a functioning reality in 1960 was completion of Crater Osteopathic hospital. The hospital is privately owned. Sam Zier, hospital administrator, said the hospital is equipped to handle 26 beds. However, 29 can be put into operation.

Hospital Dedicated

Dedication ceremonies for the \$225,000 structure were

held May 22, 1960. Zier said the hospital is equipped to handle practically any type of surgical or medical care. Fourteen doctors are listed on the staff. "It is a big step for the osteopathic medical profession because they have almost every type of equipment available here," Zier commented.

A total of 700 patients have been treated since the hospital opened its doors. "We feel we have done well for the length of time we have been in operation," Zier said.

Future expansion possibilities could be handled with little trouble, Zier pointed out. The hospital is on a three-acre site, and was built so it could be expanded with little difficulty.

Twenty-four employees keep the institution going. Of these, 12 are on the nursing staff.

Schools Built

Schools which fall into District 6C have also been built and old ones improved. District average daily attendance in all schools in 1950 was 1,188. In 1960 the figure stood at 2,229, according to Charles Meyer, district superintendent.

Major addition to school facilities came in 1957 with completion of the Jewett Elementary school. Twelve rooms, a music room and multi-purpose were included. An eight-room addition was completed in 1960.

Other improvements last year included addition of 13 classrooms, remodeling the old high school study hall into a new cafeteria and construction of an elementary library at the junior high. In addition a district administrative building was completed.

Meyer terms the major district problem one of finance. "After you build new schools you have to pay for them," Meyer noted.

In addition, transportation

problem is being faced. Most of the district's 18 busses are on a four trip daily shift. Some make more runs. Transportation is a major item in the district budget. About \$95,000 is budgeted each year for this purpose. Busses travel about 1,076 miles a day. About 1½ million student miles are covered each year.

As is true in any consolidated district, transportation for children in outlying areas creates problems. Each child is entitled to take part in after-school activities and the district is expected to furnish transportation home for these children, Meyer said.

Future district plans call for construction of a girl's gymnasium at the high school in 1962, eight additional classrooms in 1962 and a teacher's room.

Enrollment trends are being studied in an effort to determine feasibility of a new elementary school site. Total enrollments in 1960 were 3,016, an 11 per cent increase over 1958.

Three lumber mills, the Grange Co-op and Rogue River Valley Creamery are major businesses in the city.

Cheney Forest Products, Mt. Pitt Lumber company and Hilton and Sons Lumber company are lumber industries. Cheney is the largest of the three. Thirty-two people are employed at the Cheney mill.

Cheney specializes in beams for home construction and utility pole and railroad tie production. Cheney products go to all areas of the nation.

Currently Cheney is facing a problem of a poor national lumber market, according to Francis Cheney. "The outlook doesn't look good for market

improvement in the immediate future," Cheney says. He said Cheney's production has been cut in half. Only one shift is working presently.

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The Grange Co-op is one of the city's largest businesses. Thirty-four people are employed.

Manufactures Feeds

The co-op manufactures 26 types of formula feeds, all

types of whole, ground and rolled grains, 18 different varieties of fertilizer and home garden products. In addition, it operates a bulk and retail petroleum business.

The co-op started as a small business in 1934. Retail and wholesale sales in 1960 were \$1,722,000. Sales have jumped from \$900,000 to the 1960 figure in four years.

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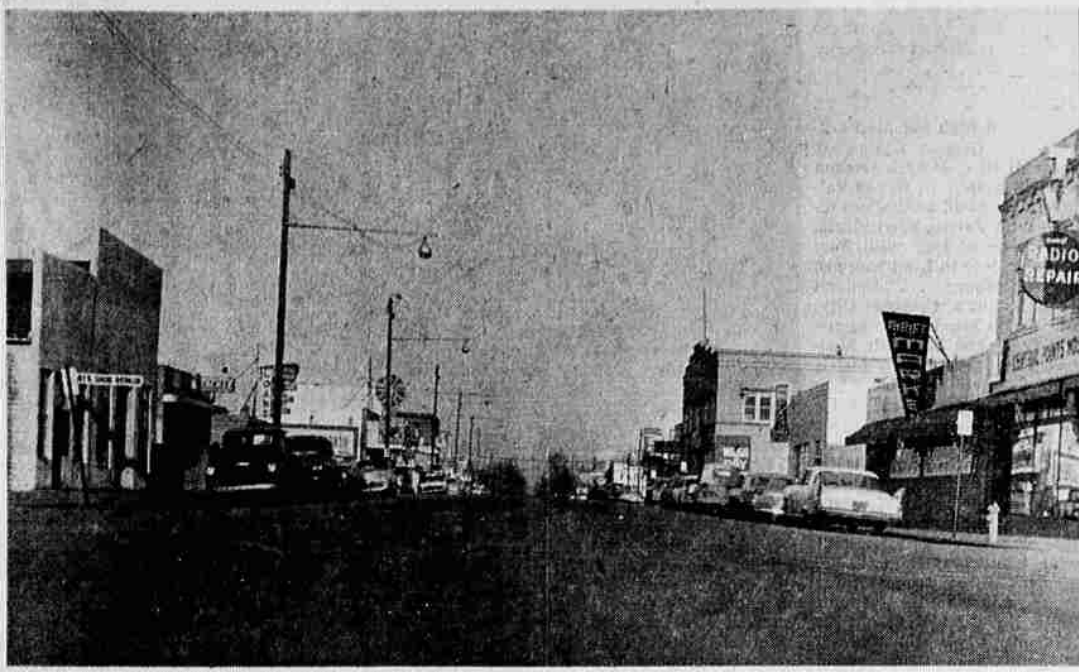
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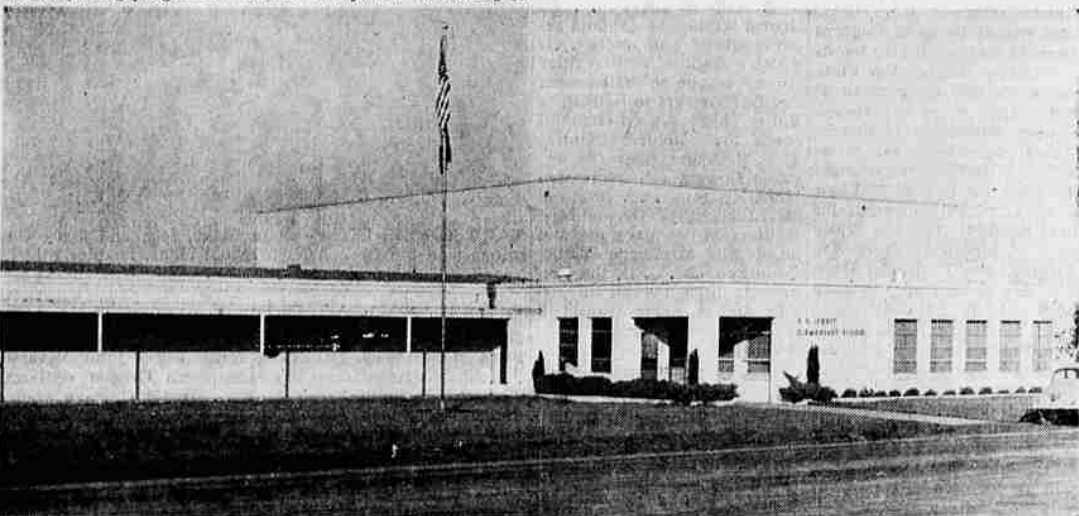
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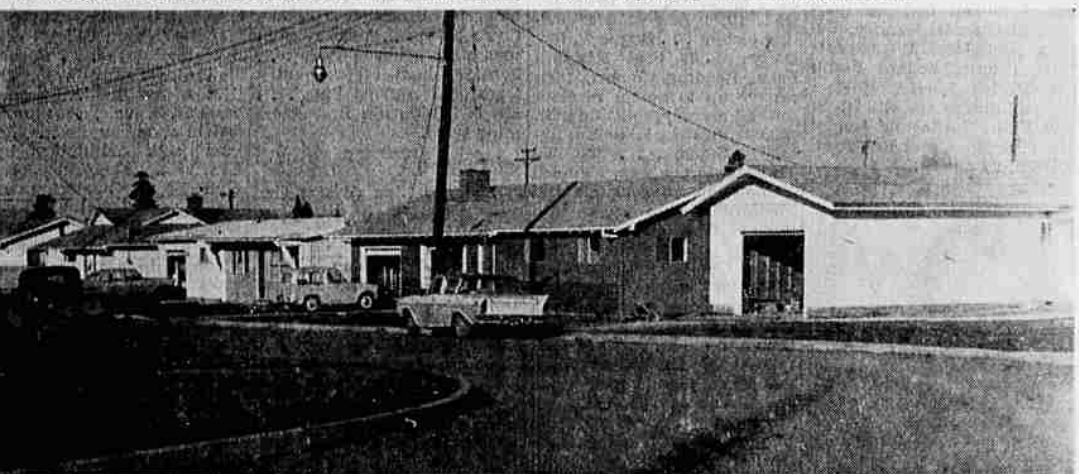
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CENTRAL POINT STORY—The Central Point story is one of a city which has experienced a rapid growth in a relatively short time. The city's population totals 2,289. In 1940 it was 906. The city has been carrying on an active street paving program in the last two years. Two miles of



JEWETT SCHOOL—Schools in Central Point have been keeping pace with expanded enrollments thus far. District 6 1960 average daily attendance totaled 2,229, compared with a figure of 1,188 for 1950. Jewett Elementary school, pictured above, was completed in 1957. In 1960 an eight-room addition was added. Charles Meyer, district superintendent, says the major problem in the next few years will be in keeping up with classroom needs.



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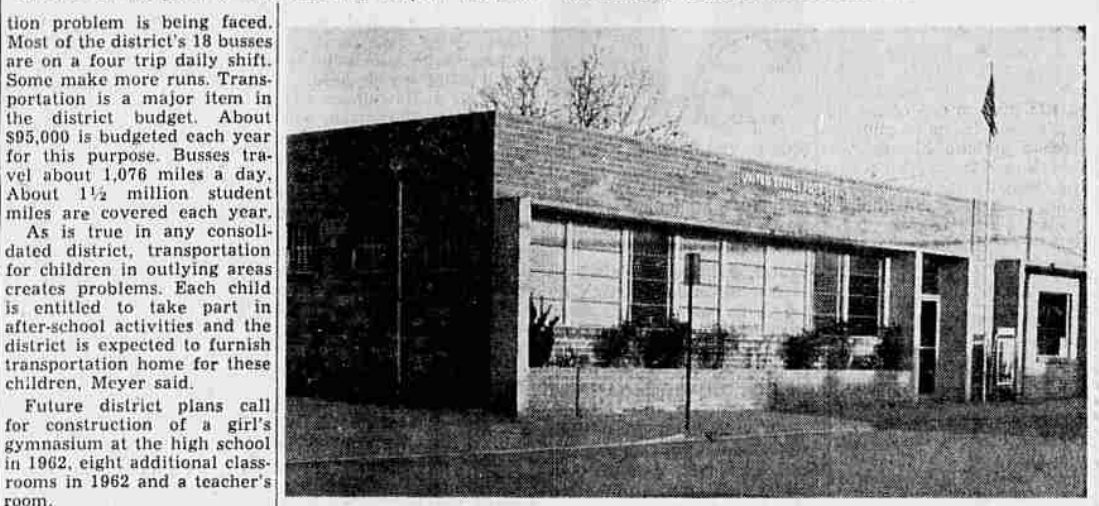
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POST OFFICE—Building in Central Point near the Fourth and Pine sts. intersection, has been active for the last few years. In 1958 a new U.S. post office was completed. The new building is located on Fourth st. It features modern postal facilities and an attractive styling.

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