

# MEDFORD TRIBUNE

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1961

## Plans Discussed By Council to Raise Money For Center

Plans to raise money for construction of a new Senior Activity Center are being made by the Rogue Valley Council on Aging and a new Senior Center Building committee.

Authorization of the committee was given by the council Jan. 26 when it approved action taken by the executive board. The new committee will raise money and receive contributions for the purpose of buying or building adequate quarters to house senior citizen activities in Medford.

John Gribble, treasurer of the council, was instructed to set up a special account for the building fund and to transfer donations already received for the project.

Architectural plans for such a Center have been made by the J. E. McClellan company, Los Angeles, which developed the Medford Shopping center adjacent to the present crowded senior Center. The plans were presented to the council as a gift by Mark Goldy, the company's local representative, with assurances that all changes desired would be incorporated in the designs after study by the center committee.

**Cheaper Structure**  
Discussion at the council meeting indicated that "less elaborate and costly building would be acceptable," members reported. Those using the center and officers of the Fifty Plus clubs stated that all they want is "a comfortable multiple-use center, on one floor, with easy access, which can be used every day of the week, and where we can feel at home and enjoy both social and educational activities."

A public drive to obtain funds for the building was suggested as a project for May, National Senior Citizens month, with possible benefits planned by Center participants and Fifty Plus club members. Donations already received for the project include a \$100 donation made last year by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred S. V. Carpenter, and \$109 earned by the Center in a Christmas sale headed by Dr. Frank Roberts.

The council, a non-profit agency of the United Medford Crusade, is in the process of incorporation under Oregon

laws, making donations tax exempt. It was organized in January, 1958, to study problems and desires of older citizens of Jackson county and to promote, sponsor or initiate actions to meet such needs.

The two Fifty Plus clubs, formed shortly after, meet weekly to bring companionship and to combat loneliness for over 400 seniors each month.

The Center opened in October, 1958, in a small room in the city warehouse to offer educational and cultural opportunities to older people. It has been open five days a week since that time and 4,727 persons over 50 years of age have registered there to learn to paint, carve, speak Spanish, discuss world problems, work in crafts, play in the orchestra, enjoy world travel meetings and help others in the group to enjoy life. All take their part in running the Center.

**Fund Raising Benefit**  
One of the first fund raising benefits will be an art exhibit and silver tea planned by the Tuesday oil painting class taught by Mrs. Victoria Staley. The event will be held Sunday afternoon, Feb. 25, at the Center. The public is invited.

Mrs. O. A. Eden and Eugene Thorndike, former members of the Medford parks and recreation commission, are assisting in forming the building committee. They were appointed by Russ Jamison, commission chairman to work with the council on aging to obtain more adequate facilities.

**Annual Meeting**  
The annual meeting of the council will be held Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Red Cross auditorium. Annual reports will be made and a speaker will discuss the Conference on Aging, which will be held in Salem Feb. 18. Officers will be elected.

Mrs. C. A. Thatcher is chairman of the nominating committee, with Wilma Hoxie and Mrs. Chester Gutches as members. On the auditing committee are Dr. Frank Roberts and Walter Hatch; budget committee, Mrs. Harry Fuller, chairman, and Omar Bacon, James Pullman, John Gribble and Mr. Hatch.

The general meeting and all other meetings of the council are open to the public.

## Envoy to Russia Told To Intensify Effort for Powers

Washington—Officials have disclosed that the American Ambassador to Moscow, Llewellyn E. Thompson, has been instructed to intensify efforts to see Francis Gary Powers, imprisoned American U-2 spy plane pilot.

Powers is serving a 10-year sentence in Russia on "aerial espionage" charges but no U.S. official has been permitted to interview him since he was downed 1300 miles inside the Soviet Union last May 1.

Thompson, during the Eisenhower administration, made repeated but futile efforts through the Kremlin to talk with the pilot.

The capture of Powers led to collapse of the Paris Summit conference, a sharp break between President Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev and a deep new chill in Soviet-American relations.

**No Effort Now**  
Officials said no effort was being made at present to get Powers released—as were the two U.S. RB47 fliers—but U.S. authorities want to check on his treatment and physical condition, as is customary under international law.

An attempt to secure his release might be made at a later date, they indicated. They said they had no information to support Powers' statement in a recent letter to his father, Howard W. Powers of Pound, Va., that Khrushchev is "going to forget the U-2 incident and might let me come home."

The evident desire of Khrushchev for more cordial rela-

tions with the new U.S. administration has led to speculation that the Soviet leader feels he has extracted all the propaganda he can from the Powers case and might make another gesture like the release of the RB47 airman.

However, President Kennedy said in his new conference Wednesday that Powers "is in a different category" than those fliers. The RB47 airman were the survivors of a plane brought down over the Barents Sea. Soviet officials claimed they were over Russian territory. Powers came down on what admittedly was a photographic intelligence mission.

**Powers Unmentioned**  
Kennedy said Thompson did not mention Powers during his talks with Khrushchev and other officials Jan. 21 which led to the release of the RB47 airman. One reason, officials said, was that the United States did not want to endanger the success of the discussion by injecting another matter.

American officials in Moscow, along with hundreds of other spectators, saw Powers in person during his trial in September, 1960, but only members of his family who went to Moscow were permitted to see him alone.

The Russians have repeatedly told the U.S. embassy that requests to see Powers were being referred to the "appropriate authorities."

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