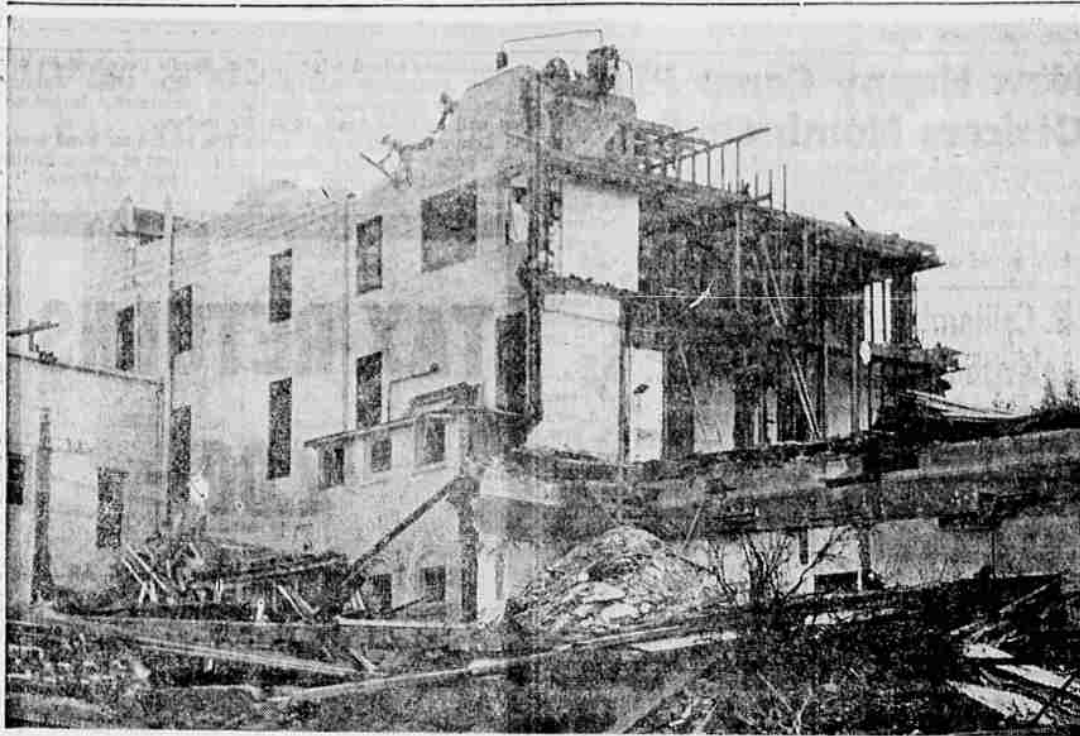




RAZING PROGRESSING—The Ashland skyline is being lowered at a rapid rate as razing of the old Ashland hotel continues. The rear of the northern half of the structure has been flattened. The razing should be completed by

July, according to First National Bank of Oregon officials. The bank purchased the hotel Dec. 22. A new bank building will be erected on the site.

Ashland's Policy of Soliciting Bids for Purchases Criticized

Ashland-City policy in soliciting bids for purchases and improvements was criticized sharply at the Ashland City council meeting last night.

Councilmen Don Lewis and Edd Rountree, publisher of the Ashland Daily Tidings, voiced disapproval of City Superintendent Elmer Biegel's methods of soliciting bids for major expenditures. The directors of the Ashland Community hospital also were criticized.

Two proposals inspired the comments. The hospital board asked the council to approve equipment purchases totaling \$9,999.30. Included were a portable x-ray machine costing \$3,500, a sterilizer for \$3,491, water still for \$433.44, solution warmer costing \$774.66 and a surgical light for \$1,710.

No Competitive Bidding—Lewis asked Arthur Kreisman, hospital board chairman, if competitive bidding had been taken place on the equipment. Kreisman said that it hadn't. He explained that the board felt it advisable to purchase from companies giving quick service in the event of a breakdown.

Lewis said he didn't believe in making major expenditures without sealed bidding. "All prospective bidders should have a chance to speak up. Then we won't be criticized," Lewis said.

Kreisman replied, "We know there are other companies offering similar equipment, however, they don't service this area."

Robert Flynn, hospital administrator, said that hospital equipment companies rarely offer favorable prices if all of a unit isn't purchased from the one company.

Councilman George Ward said if competitive bidding was held with the low bidder being awarded the contract, inferior equipment might be the result. "It is unfair to the people of the city if we give them inferior equipment," Ward said.

Purchases Approved—The council finally approved the purchases five to one. The issue came up again when Biegel requested permission to ask for bids on utility poles. He said policy in the past has been to send letters to various pole suppliers informing them that bidding would be held. Not all suppliers were contacted, he said. Biegel explained that some suppliers didn't have poles of suitable quality.

Lewis again voiced disapproval of limiting bidding. "We are spending taxpayers' money and they should get their money's worth," he re-

marked.

He was joined by Rountree, who cited a provision in the city charter specifying that "any expenditure of \$500 or more for ornamenting the city should be advertised for bids."

Rountree said the district attorney has indicated limiting bidding is illegal because it is in restraint of trade.

To Ask for Bids—Following the discussion, the council voted unanimously to authorize Biegel to ask for bids on the poles.

The city bidding was referred to the ordinance committee for study.

In other action, the council voted to accept bids for sale of the city warehouse at the next meeting. Emmett Whitman, realty and electric committee chairman, said the building had an appraised value of \$32,000.

The property is valued at \$3,000, he said. The council set the minimum bid for the building and land at \$35,000. Bids will be accepted on the whole parcel or separate parts.

Tax Reform Plan, Reapportionment Bills Wait Action

Salem—UPI—Oregon house committees today shipped a three-revised tax reform plan to the floor for action Friday and sent a twice-rewritten legislative reapportionment plan to the floor for action probably next week.

The House Tax Committee added deductions for charitable contributions to its income tax revision bill in the hopes of winning four more votes needed for passage.

The House Elections Committee conceded, 6-3, to give Multnomah county another state senator and Clackamas county another representative in hopes its plan for legislative makeup on the basis of new census figures would be found constitutional this time.

Would Cut Taxes—The income tax measure, which nearly went down in defeat last week, could cut state income taxes by ten percent while taxing some low earners for the first time.

The House Tax Committee also approved a revised companion bill that in its present form would require independent earners and professionals to withhold a flat four percent from their earnings. Aim

is to bring in about \$5 million in two years instead of waiting until the period is over.

This bill, in an earlier form calling for quarterly returns and payments to bring in about \$9 million, also was nearly defeated in the House.

Only Change—Addition of two legislators for Multnomah and Clackamas counties was the only change the House committee made in a GOP-backed plan okayed last week but snatched back after the attorney general called it illegal.

Overall, the plan makes relatively little change in present reapportionment. Most committee members agreed it probably would be tested in court if approved by the legislature.

Rep. Philip Lang (D-Portland) who wants more representation for growing cities, said he would fight the bill on the floor.

Former Pentagon Employee Sentenced

Alexandria, Va.—UPI—Arthur Rogers Roddey, 34, former Pentagon employee, was sentenced to eight years in prison today for being in illegal possession of a Defense Department document.

Roddey, Falls Church, Va., a suburb of Washington, pleaded guilty.

Federal Judge Albert V. Bryan said "only the fact that the defendant pleaded guilty and admitted his crime prevents this court from imposing the maximum penalty."

The maximum penalty under the federal espionage act is 10 years in prison plus a \$10,000 fine.

Roddey was arrested by FBI agents last November in Columbia, S.C., at the home of his mother-in-law.

WOMEN WORKERS

Washington—One out of three U. S. women work; one of every three U. S. workers is a woman; and one of every four married women has either full-time or part-time employment.

Medford Elks Club Elects Dumas As New Exalted Ruler

Members of Medford Elks lodge elected Murrey Dumas the 53rd exalted ruler at a lodge meeting recently.

Dumas has held office in the Medford lodge for the past four years. He is associated with his father and brother in the Dumas Domestic laundry.

During the coming lodge year, Dumas will be assisted by Leonard Carlson, leading knight; Leo Radke, loyal knight; John Strobel, lecturing knight; Dick Phair, secretary; Jack Sanderson, treasurer; George Howard, tyler; Frank Van Dyke, trustee and Joe Hosick, alternate delegate. Holdover trustees are Frank Hussong, Dick Woodcock, Aubrey Sander and Wayne Chase.

Appointive Officers

The appointive officers for the coming year are Robert Kennedy, esquire; Chester Ricks, assistant esquire; Monte Morris, chaplain; Jim Rose, inner guard; and F. H. Van Pelt, parliamentarian.

A new procedure for the installation of officers is being planned. It will be on a Saturday, April 1, instead of on a lodge night.

Following the ceremonies there will be a buffet lunch and dancing. Ralph Moe, North Bend, district deputy grand exalted ruler will be the installing officer. He will be assisted by the past exalted rulers of Medford lodge.



MURREY DUMAS
Elected Exalted Ruler

Eymann, Peck Eye Speakership

Salem—UPI—Reps. Richard Eymann and Grace Peck said Tuesday they might be interested in the job of speaker of the Oregon House if support was forthcoming.

Both are Democrats. Eymann is from Mohawk and Peck from Portland. The only announced candidate is Rep. William Holmstrom (D-Gearhart).

Oil Technicians Being Returned

Rabat, Morocco—UPI—Eleven oil technicians, including three Americans, who were kidnapped March 11 in the Sahara and released by King Hassan II, were getting ready to leave Morocco today.

The Americans were Dale Miller, Bakersfield, Calif.; Jim Gilbert, Littlefield, Tex.; and John Cosgriff, Bib Timber, Mont.

The Union Oil Company, a Spanish-American firm, that employed the technicians, was attempting to charter a plane to fly them back to Spain, the U.S. Embassy said.

The 11, also including two Canadians, a Frenchman and five Spaniards, were handed over to the company Tuesday night—10 days after they disappeared from their prospecting camp in the Spanish Sahara near the Moroccan border.

King Hassan II announced they had been captured by "patriots who were acting with a view to completing the liberation of our kingdom." Morocco claims jurisdiction over the Spanish Sahara, an almost unrelieved stretch of desert in northwest Africa.

AUTO TAXES

Detroit—Current taxes take about 29 cents out of each dollar spent in the United States for the purchase of a new automobile, the industry estimates.

SMALL REPUBLIC

Asuncion—Paraguay with a population of about 1,300,000 is the smallest among the South American republics.

Milwaukie Child Dies in House Fire

Milwaukie, Ore.—UPI—Steven Joseph Eisel, 4, lost his life about midnight Tuesday in a house fire that apparently resulted from matches with which the boy was playing. Three other children were saved.

Mrs. Eugene Howard Eisel, 22, was severely burned while rescuing the three other children and searching for the victim.

The three children saved

were Gene, 5; Richard, 2½, and Julie Ann, 2½ months. The mother told officers she took them outside and then searched the back of the house for Steven but couldn't find him. She saw the back door was open and thought he might have gone outside. She went out and then could not return through the wall of flames and heat. She said she could hear him crying. Steven was overcome by smoke.

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