

Letter to Medco Signed by 100 Protests Possible Conversion

(See story on page 1)
A letter signed by over 100 residents along the Medford corporation logging railroad was sent to the corporation directors and officers yesterday protesting the possible conversion of the railroad to a private log truck route.

Signers include members of the Jackson County Home Owners Protective Association, which was formed in February to protect property rights along the railroad from Butte Falls to Medford.

The letter reads: "We, the undersigned, are people whose homes and property adjoin your railroad right of way. We are greatly disturbed by the reports that you intend to change your railroad operation into an off-highway truck operation. We understand that the final decision by your company as to whether or not this shall be done has not yet been made. It is with the hopes of influencing that decision that this letter is written.

Relationships Good
"For many years we have lived near and owned property adjacent to your railroad right of way, and by and large our relationships with your company have been good, and we have found it

easy to adjust to the operation of your railroad. The one or two trips a day which your train has made in the past has not been bothersome; the crews have been friendly and cooperative; and noise, although obnoxious, only occurs a short period each day; and above all, the train running on steel is not a creator of dust; and because of the infrequent runs the exhaust smoke from your engine has not been a serious detriment to our property values.

"We have had representatives from our group investigate the operations of other such roads as you propose, and what we have found alarms us greatly. We have not found any private logging road which travels through a large area of residential and farm property such as we have. We have seen homes made vacant and unlivable because of the noise and dust created by such an operation.

"We have been told that the extreme amount of dust created by such a road makes pastures unpalatable to livestock for a considerable distance from the right of way. We have been told that businesses such as Grade A dairies would find it difficult and maybe impossible to success-

fully operate anywhere near such a road. We assume from all of the evidence available that the change in use of your right of way would severely damage many other types of personal and business endeavors which we conduct on our properties.

Crossing Right
"Many of us who own property on both sides of your right of way have valuable crossing rights for livestock, machinery and other purposes. Frequent and unscheduled travel of many trucks on this right of way would seriously damage those crossing rights.

"As citizens of the community, we are greatly concerned with the added danger at the many public crossings that such type of use would create.

"Also, as citizens of the community, we are concerned with the effect that a private truck logging road cutting through the heart of our community would have on the future development of this county.

"We have successfully adjusted to the existence of your railroad operation, but feel that a continuously operated truck road would create entirely different problems which would have a serious

effect on all future developments for a considerable distance on both sides of the right of way.

Prospective Fate

"As an example, please consider the prospective fate of the City of Eagle Point. When your railroad was first put in, its avowed purpose was to serve the City of Eagle Point and to provide a connecting link from this valley to east-bound points. You have since ceased to serve the City of Eagle Point in any manner whatsoever, and never did make the proposed connections. If now you convert to a continuously operated heavy off-highway truck equipment through that city, the resulting dirt, smoke, noise and danger will destroy it as a residential and commercial area.

"We do not know what, if any, economic benefit you would derive from private road hauling of your timber, but we do feel that any such economic benefit which you might gain would be small in relation to damage caused to the adjacent property owners and to the community in general.

Public Roads Available

"Public roads are available for the transportation of your logs, and at the present time you have discontinued use of the railroad and are using the public roads. It does seem evident that the conversion of your right of way to truck hauling is not a necessity, but merely a choice between to

Frogmen Locate Wreck Of Revenue Cutter

Manchester, Mass. — (UPI) — Frogmen recently located the wreck of the U. S. revenue cutter Gallatin on the ocean floor 75 feet below the surface about 12 miles off here.

Only one member of the cutter's crew was lost when the vessel crashed into a ledge and sank Jan. 6, 1892.

California Farm Income Beats Average

Sacramento, Calif. — (UPI) — Average net farm income in California totaled \$7,372 in 1959, more than triple the national average of \$2,547, according to the California Department of Agriculture.

alternate methods of transportation.

"It seems to us probable that the taxes which you pay, or your carriers pay, for use of the public highways, should justifiably be used for the improvement of the Butte Falls highway. We believe that such improvement would be of benefit to you, and we offer you our support in any effort you may wish to undertake to get the state and the county to improve the public roads between Crater Lake highway and your woods operations. We would appreciate very much your consideration of our considerable interest as has been set forth in this letter."

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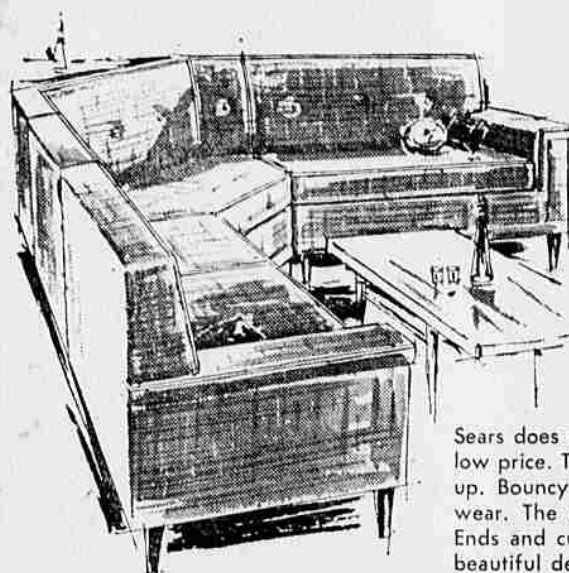
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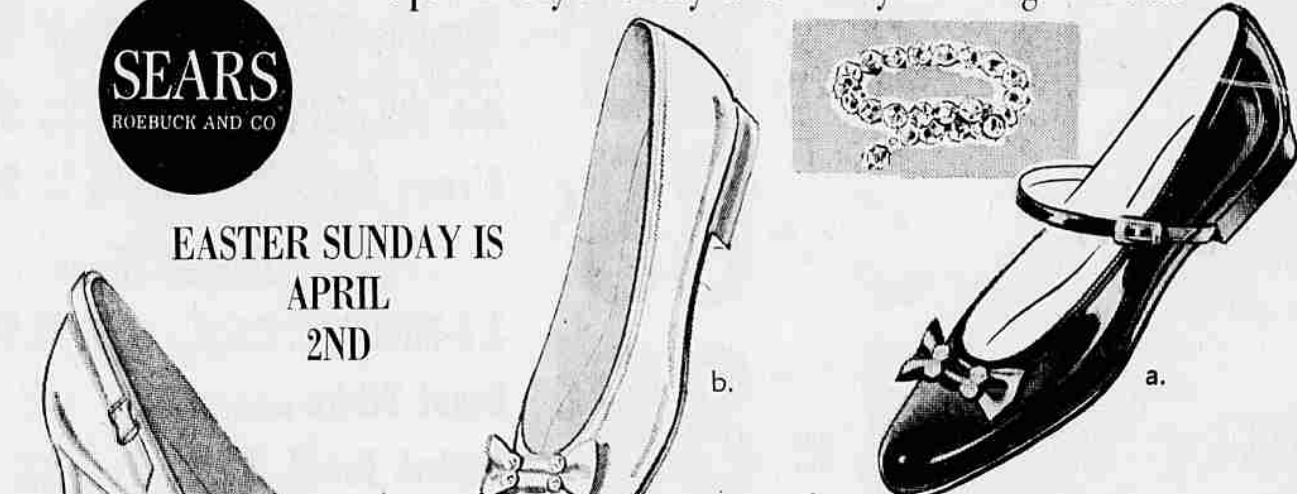
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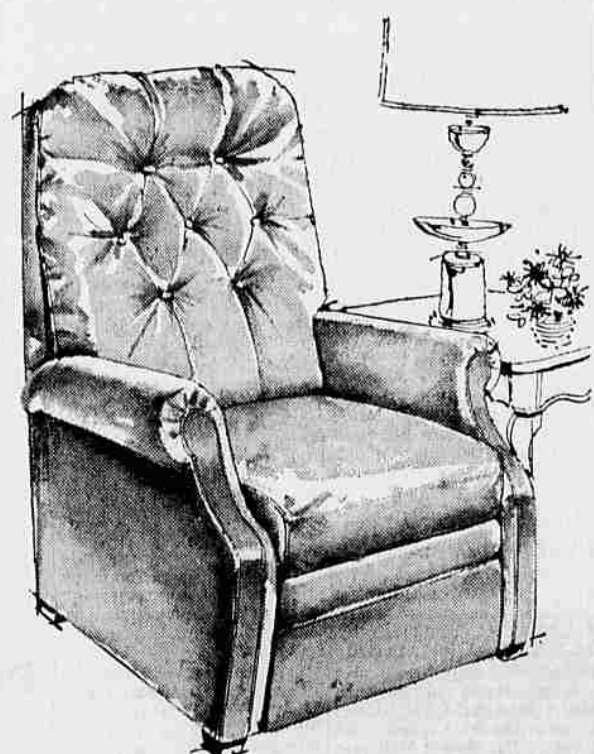
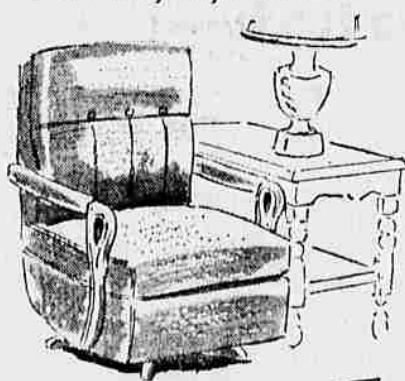
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