Small Industries, Homes Add to Area's Construction

(Continued from page 1)

Other smaller industries now under construction in the area include a potato by-product manufacturing plant in Central Point, which will employ 10 persons, and a co-operative warehouse in the Mason-Ehrman tract north of Medford which also will employ 10 persons.

Other new and sizeable industries are being rumored for the Medford area, and at least one of them appears it will locate here in the near future.

New home building is keeping pace with the rest of the growth. Since Jan. 1, the city building department has issued 30 permits having a total valuation of about $360,000 for new residences – both single-family and duplexes.

Apartment Developments

Also two apartment developments are proposed for the shopping center area, one of them having 43 units.

A complete list of the other announced projects in the Medford area would take considerable space. But some of the major ones are:

—A $1,200,000 addition to Rogue Valley hospital.

—A $250,000 medical center building to be erected near the hospital.

—A convalescent hospital near the shopping center.

—A new Newberry's department store at the shopping center.

—A new First Federal Savings and Loan building, costing about $100,000.

—The new St. Mary's High school near Barneburg hill.

Federal Building

—The $2½ million federal building, now proposed for property south of 10th st.

—Matlack's new shopping center on West Main st., representing an initial investment of $150,000.

—The addition to the Pacific Telephone - Northwest building. (The building addition will cost $117,000, and the investment in new equipment will be more than $1 million.)

—The Jackson county extension service building on Stewart ave., costing approximately $120,000.

Other Construction

Other recent announcements which are indicative of the overall growth in the area, are a proposed new golf course, a proposed private tennis club and the construction by the city of a new bridge across Bear creek at Fourth st.

Some of the new buildings and businesses in Medford that have already been completed should be mentioned, because they too are a part of the city's growth.

These would include the Rogue Valley Manor, the new Jackson County Federal Savings and Loan association building, a roller skating rink south of Medford, the new Standard Insurance company building, the recent addition to The Mall building, the new Army and Navy reserve building, the new city swimming pool and the new Thunderbird market.

Incidental to Growth

Then there is the freeway. The multi-million dollar highway is actually incidental to the growth of Medford, since it would have been built here whether or not the area was growing.

But it will nevertheless benefit the local economy considerably, since local labor will be used, and much of the vast amount of highway materials will be purchased locally.

And, it should prove an inducement for the location of new businesses here, particularly those businesses connected with the tourist industry.

This would be an impressive list for any city. For Medford (pop. 24,456) it represents probably one of the greatest construction booms since the infamous years of 1909-1912.

Won't Continue

Chamber of Commerce Manager Don McNeil does not think the present pace of construction will continue. He feels that the great amount of construction that is currently going came about by coincidence and that it will level off in the near future.

McNeil does believe that Medford is one of the fastest growing spots in the Pacific Northwest, and he said that Medford is gaining a reputation as being a boom city throughout Oregon and Washington.

This reputation alone could conceivably attract other new businesses here which think there is a boom, and want to get in on it. If this did happen, McNeil was not sure that it would be a good thing.

Enthusiastic About Medford

McNeil's note of caution should not be interpreted as pessimism, for he is as enthusiastic about Medford and its future as anyone.

He thinks, however, that industrial growth will come from within, rather than without. Jobs in the valley have been increasing at an average of 350 per year during the last 10 years, and McNeil said 90 per cent of these jobs are from the expansion and diversification of local industry.

He cited Bear Creek orchards entrance into the fiberglass trailer business and the expansion of the Jeddeloh Bros. Sweed Mills at Gold Hill as examples of this.

'On the Threshold'

On the subject of population, McNeil believes that Medford and the Rogue valley "are on the threshold of the greatest influx of population we've ever known," with much of this influx coming from the Los Angeles area.

He gained this belief while working for Oregon at a recent vacation travel show in Los Angeles. He said these persons are not only seeking the area as a place for a vacation, but also as a place to relocate. Many of them should be job-producers rather than job-seekers, he said.

While noting that some persons are predicting that Medford will have a population of 50,000 by 1970, McNeil said his own "conservative guess" would fix the population of Medford "and the urban area" at about 53,000 by 1970.

Unemployment in Area

Unemployment still runs rampant in the valley, but there are indications that it is going down. John Patton, state employment director for this area, said that 14 per cent of the 60 per cent of the workers who are covered by unemployment compensation are now out of work.

However, this represents a slight recrease from the 14 to 16 per cent unemployed average for the preceding months. It would be virtually impossible to arrive at an exact count of the total available labor force in the county, but Patton said he would estimate it about 25,000.

All in all, Patton forecast what looks like a reasonable year, "maybe a very good one." He is one of those who is predicting a possible boom in the valley.

Not everyone is in agreement that the city is pushing ahead. Some persons will say that what Medford is getting now, it has needed for a long time, and that we are merely "catching up."

But anybody and everybody knows that something is going on, and they will be watching the next few months with considerable interest.

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Hearing Slated On Annexation of Land To District

A hearing on proposed annexation of four areas to the Rogue River Rural Fire district will be held at 10 a.m., Monday, May 8, in the Jackson county court room, County Judge Earl Miller announced Friday.

Elections on the proposed annexations will be held in the main district and each of the four areas, probably June 12, according to Assistant Fire Chief Douglas Buckle.

One parcel extends from the Fly Casting motel to Rock Point; the second from Foots creek to the Ray Frantz residence; the third, one mile south along Savage creek; and the fourth, the Foothill blvd. area.

Has Four Trucks

The district now has four fire trucks to cover 11 square miles within the district, and any outside fire calls. A fourth, a tank truck, was purchased in January under a rent-lease agreement of $10,000 in anticipation of the annexed areas.

Millage for the district is 3 4/10 mills. The expected budget is $5,200, compared to the current year's budget of $4,400.

The district now has a Number 9 fire insurance rating and has applied for a lower one the assistant chief said. Property owners taken into the district would have a 10 per cent reduction in fire insurance rates compared to the present rates, Buckle said.

The rural district has 14 full-time volunteers and 20 part-time volunteers, Buckle said. The rural district firemen go to fires outside district boundaries, and assess a minimum charge in these cases, the assistant chief explained.

Eagle Point Girl Is Enrolled at Fresno

A Jackson county resident is one of 46 new students who have enrolled in the Fresno State college agriculture division for the 1961 spring semester.

She is Judy N. Bradshaw, of route 1, box 391, Eagle Point. A sophomore, Miss Bradshaw is majoring in animal husbandry.

Pre-School Clinics Scheduled in Area

Pre-school physical examinations and immunization will be offered by the Jackson county health department April 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Eagle Point school and at the Shady Cove school May 18.

Health officials reminded residents that it is requested that each child entering the first grade present evidence of having had a physical examination. This may be obtained from his private physician, or at the clinics.

Appointments for the Eagle Point clinic may be made by contacting Mrs. Dean Collette, Hillcrest 6-1176; and for the Shady Cove clinic, Mrs. Edward Leaming, TRinity 8-2102.

Waller's Inn Bought By Investment Firm

Rogue River – Waller's Inn, Main and Pine sts., Rogue River, known as a stage coach depot before the development of the railroad, was purchased last week by an investment company headed by Martin Barnett of Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fox, formerly of Gold Hill, are acting as managers of the inn.

Former owners of the restaurant, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bamforth, now own the 14-unit Valley Entrance motel, 1193 Siskiyou blvd., Ashland. The couple have also obtained a 22-unit trailer park behind the motel.

3,201 Visitors Noted At Museum in Month

Jacksonville – Visitors from 30 states and six foreign countries toured the Jacksonville museum during March, according to the regular monthly report.

The total for the month was 3,201 visitors, making a grand total of 412,514 persons who have toured the museum since it opened in July, 1950. The March total was 141 over the same time last year.

Classes of students attending in groups included the ninth grade from Myrtle Creek, grades 1 to 8 from Glendale Seventh-Day Adventist school, Lakeview High school band, Crater High school junior history class, Eagle Point eighth grade, Lincoln school third grade, Ashland, and the special education class from Central Point.

Others were Cub Scouts from den 2, pack 41, Griffin Creek; den 15, pack 6, Medford; den 2, pack 35, Jacksonville; and den 29, pack 3, Grants Pass; Camp Fire Girls Happy Workers, Medford; members of the Oregon School Food Service association; and the Apostolic Faith church, Grants Pass.

Foreign visitors came from Canada, Mexico, Germany, France, Japan and Australia.

Gifts and loans from Medford residents during the month included a small cradle and pieced quilt from Mrs. H. V. Elliott; a Chinese meat cleaver from Weaverville, Calif. given by Mel Crows; Bohemian glass goblets and pewter pieces, Mrs. Louise M. Warren; an 1861 picture, Robert D. Heffernan; directory of Jackson county streets and roads compiled by the California Oregon Power company, from Seth Bullis.

Gifts From Ashland

From Ashland came seven bound volumes of the Ashland Tidings, 1876-1893, from Edd Rountree; old photographs of Ashland scenes and store interiors, 1898-1906; opalized wood and mineral specimens, A. O. Phillips; and pictures of early settlers, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh F. Barron, from Hugh F. Barron.

The Barron family was one of the earliest in the Ashland area and Mr. Barron, with three other young pioneers, built the "Mountain House," noted stage station still standing several miles south of Ashland on the old Siskiyou Mountain rd.

A collection of antique and modern guns and knives from many countries was contributed by Clem H. Ault, Central Point, who also brought a collection of old pottery pieces from Italy. Mrs. Emma Morrison contributed an 1884 book, and Henry James donated a piece of Bolivian money. Three ledgers, 1892-1917, were received from Rogue River Hardware company, Grants Pass, and a coin from Frank J. Kelly, Harbor, Ore.

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