

Continued Cold Weather Predicted in State

Medford Core Area Showing Blight Signs



"Well, I suppose one of us should try to help the lady."

By GEORGE H. BELL
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Medford's central business district is rather like a patient, still outwardly healthy, but showing some early symptoms of cancer.

The disease is curable—indeed an unprecedented era of unusual vitality is possible—if the patient receives prompt medical attention.

Major surgery is indicated. But the sick man must initiate the steps toward recovery himself. And probably he'll have to pay all his own doctor bills.

To drop the metaphor, Medford's blight problem is not unique or even significantly different from that of any other medium-sized community in the country.

Downtown Streets Jammed

Its downtown streets are jammed with traffic that, during peak periods, backs up from intersection to intersection; despite the imaginative development of the Park and Shop program, a parking shortage still exists; every body, customers and merchants alike, is unhappy with parking meters; downtown employees have no convenient places to park their cars; and many of the stores in the central business district are out of date and badly in need of remodeling.

According to a study compiled by the Oregon Bureau of Municipal Research in 1961 (published in March 1962), about 84 per cent of the buildings in the central business district were constructed before 1940. Of that figure, an astounding 45 per cent were built before 1920.

Ground Floor Space Vacant

The same report noted that 4.7 per cent of building ground floor space in the core area was vacant; that 25 per cent of the 118 separate offices on upper floors in core area buildings were vacant; and that a large number of downtown rooms and apartments were vacant.

There are, then, even assuming the condition has not worsened measurably since the study was made, some clear unmistakable signs of deterioration in the heart of Medford.

Three major programs of considerable magnitude need to be undertaken to solve the dilemma that, unattended, will worsen steadily into a decline from which recovery might well be impossible.

Needs Complete Revision

—The arterial street network in the central business district needs to be completely revised.

—Private capital must be enlisted to finance the construction of increased parking facilities, possibly multi-level ones, in areas adjacent to the central business district.

—A thorough renovation of the core area, both inside and out, must be undertaken through the combined effort of merchants, property owners and city officials.

Despite periodic pessimistic groans of despair and Cassandra-like forecasts of impending doom from the downtown area, it is true some preliminary steps have already been taken to accomplish these three herculean tasks.

Discuss Generalized Land Use

The city planning commission has for over a year now been holding weekly breakfast study sessions, discussing a proposed new generalized land use plan for Medford.

Included in the discussion has been a good deal of talk about a plan for a redesigned arterial street system in the core area, one which would alleviate in large measure the traffic congestion on Main st. and Central ave.

Though it is still too early for any conclusive statistics, the recent opening of the Interstate 5 bypass through Medford is expected to take considerable pressure off Central ave. by rerouting transient traffic.

The city council recently passed an ordinance setting up the mechanics for creation of an off-street parking district. To this point, it hasn't been implemented, but it is clearly a step in the right direction.

Lots Are Almost Adequate

Park and Shop lots, if one can extrapolate from figures compiled from one week in August last year, seldom reach the saturation point and are, temporarily at least, almost adequate to the off-street parking problem.

But perhaps the most hopeful sign of all is the stir of interest in rejuvenation that is beginning to emanate from some—though not yet enough—of the downtown merchants and property owners.

Nothing tangible has been accomplished up to now. Actually, they haven't even begun the serious talking stage. But the notion is now generally prevalent that something drastic needs to be done in Medford's central business district to pump new life into it.

No Positive Assurance

Much needs to be done, and there is no positive assurance that anything will ever get beyond coffertalk. But the seed of a new, self-help attitude seems to be evident among some downtown leaders.

If the seed takes root and grows—and there are many who say it must—Medford may, in a few years, have a central business district that will be the thriving showplace of all southern Oregon and northern California.

Hatfield's Office Has 'No Comment' On House Battle

Salem—UPI—The governor's office had "no comment" today on a House power struggle that could delay Monday's scheduled inauguration of Gov. Mark Hatfield and organization of the 1963 House of Representatives.

At issue is the use of a proxy vote for Rep. Sidney Leiken (D-Roseburg) who is in Los Angeles with his ill wife, and may not be able to return here in time for Sunday night's House caucus or Monday's scheduled opening of the legislative session.

The power fight centers around Clarence Barton (D-Coquille), speaker-designate of the House, and House Minority Leader F. F. Montgomery (R-Eugene).

Barton said Montgomery at first approved use of a proxy vote for Leiken, then notified him that he had withdrawn the approval and would leave the proxy decision up to the full Republican delegation.

Edge Thin

The Democrats hold a 31-29 edge in House membership. Leiken's absence would cut the Democrats' margin to one vote.

Barton said he was not sure the House could be organized with such a close party split.

He said adamantly "If we can't organize the House, we'll just have to wait."

If the House is not organized, the constitutional requirement of the House canvassing the vote for governor could not be met, and Monday's inauguration might have to be delayed.

Slide Kills 4 in Oregon

Fifth Member of Lane Logging Party Rescued

Eugene—UPI—Four members of a logging party were killed when buried in a sudden mud and snow slide at a lumber operation about 50 miles east of here Thursday.

One other member of the party survived and was rescued.

The victims were Edward Hinkle, 24, Springfield; William A. Thompson, 23, Fall Creek; Gerald E. Pitts, also of Springfield, and Thomas Bowman, 23, Finn Rock.

A. J. Irvin, 41, Springfield, was rescued more than an hour after the slide and was taken to a Springfield hospital. He was reported in fair condition with a broken ankle, bruises and cuts.

Hillside Gave Way

David Burwell, a forester who witnessed the incident, said he saw the party logging the side of a deep canyon.

Burwell said the men had just attached a guy line from a spar pole to a tree stub on the hillside when "the whole hillside gave way" without warning.

Later at the hospital, Irvin told Lane county sheriff's officers he had just started uphill to pick up slag on the line when he noticed some twigs begin to move.

"I knew what that meant," Irvin said. "I've been in plenty of slides before."

Tossed Around

He said he started running downhill with the slide.

"I was tossed around quite a bit," Irvin said. "Then I saw a hole between two logs and dove into it."

That's where rescuers found him almost an hour and a half later. He was buried head first in the slide, his head and upper torso buried and his feet sticking up in the air.

Sheriff's officers said the slide was 150 to 350 feet wide and 40 to 50 feet deep. Equipment later was withdrawn from the scene because of fear of further slides.

Man Hurt When He Falls Off Car

Harry Neil, 37, of 854 East Ninth st., Medford, fell off a tank car at the California-Pacific Utilities company gas storage plant, Second and Front sts., this morning when he stepped back as a relief valve popped, city firemen reported.

Neil was taken by ambulance to Sacred Heart hospital for treatment and later released.

The mishap occurred about 10:10 o'clock this morning. Firemen said that excessive pressure in the tank car caused the valve to release. Neil was checking the car. There was no fire.

WEATHER

FORECAST: Continued clear and cold through Saturday night. Tonight's low near 3. High Saturday 38-40. Low Saturday night 3-10.

Highest Yesterday Temp. 42
Lowest This Morning 12

Our Skies Tonight

Sunrise today 7:59 a.m.
Sunset tomorrow 7:40 a.m.
Moonrise tonight 7:04 p.m.
Last Quarter Jan. 11

The planet, Mars, seen tonight between the Moon and the star, Regulus, is now a little over 67 million miles from the Earth.

Youth Trapped by Weight in Shop

Jerry Lee Morris, 18, of 734 Wilson rd., Central Point, lay trapped in near freezing temperatures for over 4½ hours last night with one leg pinned under 500 pounds of weight before being rescued.

Morris, an employee of Nye and Naumes Packing company, 619 South Grape st., was reported in fair condition at Rogue Valley hospital today. He suffered a broken leg.

According to city police, Morris was injured about 10:20 p.m. when a counter balance weight on a fork-lift truck on which he was working in the packing house's machine shop, broke and fell across his legs.

Officers said Morris was able to pry one leg from beneath the weight, but could not release the other. He lay there until about 3:08 o'clock this morning, when his cries for help were finally heard by a security patrol officer.

Three city police officers were able to lift the weight from Morris' leg. He was taken to the hospital by Medford Ambulance Service.

Mercury Dips to 12; Colder Is Forecast

Temperature at the Medford station of the U.S. weather bureau dropped to 12 degrees this morning and an even colder thermometer reading is anticipated tonight.

Prediction is for a low of 5 degrees as clear and cold weather continues. A Saturday night low of 5 to 10 is forecast.

Crater lake this morning had a low of 9 degrees below zero and Howard Prairie had a zero reading. Grants Pass reported 16 and Ashland 17.

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MEREDITH TARGET OF ROWDYISM

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City Planners Name Officers; Deny Requests

The Medford planning commission last night elected its officers for 1963.

Elwood Hedberg, 1690 Grand ave., was elected president, Lawrence Horton, 509 North Barneburg rd., was named vice president, and Ned Langford, 432 Lynwood ave., city planning director, was chosen secretary.

Following election of officers, the group voted to deny a request for a variance to permit the construction of a carport at 515 West Jackson st. The matter had been continued from the previous meeting to permit the commission to study the proposal further.

The group unanimously recommended to the city council that a zone change request for property located at 1205 East Main st. be approved. The change, if approved by the council, would be from single-family to multiple family.

The commission also voted to recommend approval of the construction of a sign at the entrance to Siskiyou Memorial park at Siskiyou Blvd. and Highland dr.

Proprietors of Siskiyou Memorial park submitted a redesigned sign after an earlier request for a sign had been vetoed by former Mayor John W. Snyder. The applicants propose the sign for identification purposes.

The commission voted unanimously to deny a request for a change of zone from single and two-family for property located at 1209 South Holly st.

An office building had been proposed for the location by the applicants.

Budget Discussions To Start by County

Preliminary budget discussions with county department heads will start within the next two weeks, Jackson County Judge Earl M. Miller said today.

The county court will issue all departments new forms to enable administrators to report any proposed salary increases or change of employee job classifications, Miller said.

This may expedite preliminary budget studies, but it will be difficult to reduce materially the length of time spent in county budget studies, Miller said.

"We have our regular county agenda sessions, plus other county business to consider," Miller said. "It would be difficult to have the budget committee meet more than twice a week to speed up the process."

The preliminary budget meetings may develop into regular meetings between department heads and the county court to consider administrative problems, Miller indicated this morning.

Tshombe at Odds With Followers

Elisabethville, Katanga, The Congo—UPI—Katanga President Moise Tshombe today was reported bitterly at odds with some of his followers over future cooperation with the United Nations.

Sources close to Tshombe said the most serious rift was with Interior Minister Godefroid Munongo, the most violently anti-United Nations member of the Katanga cabinet.

Tshombe went to the border town of Mkombo Thursday in a bid to talk his followers into returning here to get the Katanga government functioning again now that the United Nations has used force to reintegrate the Congo.

County Farm Home Complies With Laws

The Jackson county farm home has complied with all laws, rules and regulations of the state fire marshal, according to a letter received today by the Jackson county court.

Recently, the farm home established a fire control alarm system, put in exit doors, covered all individual room doors with asbestos, hung new fireproof drapes and blocked the attic off into 2,500 foot square areas, County Judge Earl M. Miller noted.

Groener Asks Probe Of Primate Center

Portland—UPI—A former legislator who led a drive for expanded research facilities in Oregon Thursday called for an investigation of the Oregon Primate Research Center controversy by the Oregon Legislature.

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CRASH SCENE—This aerial photograph shows the plane in which two Rogue Valley White City area, (Knackstedt Photo) pilots were injured yesterday afternoon

Two Valley Pilots Are Injured When Plane Crashes Into Field

Two young pilots were injured when their light plane crashed into a field near Antelope rd. four miles east of White City yesterday afternoon.

Lee Gossett, 23, Eagle Point, and Roger Farrell, 23, Central Point, were reported in fair condition at Rogue Valley hospital this morning. Gossett is being treated for a broken right ankle, and Farrell suffered facial injuries and broken toes.

The two men said they were making commercial maneuvers in the practice flight range. Before they knew what happened they regained consciousness to find their plane had landed upright in the field, but had hit on a right wing and its nose, according to reports.

Farrell, the instructor, freed himself and went for help at a nearby farmhouse. Gossett was pinned by his ankle under the floorboard.

Congressmen Feud Over Key Positions

Washington—UPI—Action in the new 88th Congress moved backstage today with House Democrats and Republicans feuding separately over key committee and leadership posts.

Outcome of their intramural squabbles could bear heavily on the fate of some of President Kennedy's legislative proposals, including his controversial plan for hospital care for the aged.

After a fast, furious takeoff on Wednesday, followed by routine talkfests and no action Thursday, the new Congress was in recess today until Monday when Kennedy will deliver his State of the Union message to a joint House-Senate session at 9:30 a.m. (PST).

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Meacham Marks 39 Below Zero; Medford Has 12

Portland—UPI—Temperatures plunged below zero in Eastern Oregon early today and below the freezing mark in all of Western Oregon.

And, said the weather man, it's going to get colder.

Meacham in the Blue Mountains had an unofficial 39 below.

A blast of arctic air from the north, coupled with a high pressure system, sent the mercury plummeting. There was some cheer, though, because the high pressure kept snow out of the state.

May Approach Record

The Weather Bureau said in its five day outlook that Eastern Oregon temperatures may near all-time record lows of 10 to 30 below zero in the next few days. Lows of zero to 20 below were predicted there tonight.

Western Oregon is in for it, too. Forecasts called for lows to 5 to 10 above in the Willamette Valley tonight and the five-day outlook listed lows to 5 below.

Worried motorists put a rush on anti-freeze while nurserymen feared for their crops.

At 7 a.m. today Pendleton had 9 below zero, the coldest official reading in Oregon reported to the Weather Bureau here.

But in addition to Meacham's 39 below, Austin had 23 below.

3 Above at Klamath

Some other official lows early today included Baker minus 8, Redmond minus 5, Lakeview minus 1, Klamath Falls 3 above, The Dalles 6 above, and in Western Oregon, all above zero, Astoria 17, Medford 12, Roseburg 17, Eugene 15, Salem 12, Portland 27, and Brookings 30.

Oh yes, the temperatures will moderate early next week. At that time, said the weather man, "a little snow" is expected.

Blitting east winds whipped through the Columbia Gorge. Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood reported gusts of wind to 60 miles per hour this morning.

Cardinal Takes Credit for Money

Boston—UPI—Richard Cardinal Cushing, Roman Catholic archbishop of Boston, says he is the "mysterious donor" who raised \$1 million to help free prisoners captured in the ill-fated April 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

The cardinal said Thursday he worked night and day and "I alone am responsible for the collection of this extraordinary sum. The credit, however, belongs to my co-workers, and benefactors in the United States and Latin America who have supported my apostolic work."

In a statement appearing today in the archdiocesan weekly newspaper, the Pilot, he said he was disclosing his part in raising the ransom money because of "rumors crediting the gifts as coming from sources with which I have no identification."

December Jobs Up Over 1961 Figure

Salem—UPI—Approximately 680,000 workers held jobs in Oregon during December, an increase of some 17,500 over December of 1961, the Employment Department said today.

Unemployment was 38,400, down by about 6,000 from the level of December, 1961.

WILDLIFE MEETING SET

Corvallis—UPI—The Oregon Wildlife Federation will hold its annual winter meeting here Saturday and Sunday.

1961-63 Biennium Seen Period of Advancement

Salem—UPI—Gov. Mark Hatfield today termed the 1961-63 biennium a period "of advancement along the Oregon Trail."

The statement was included in Hatfield's biennial report of executive department which traced progress noted during the past two years.

The governor said the state's program of economic diversification moved ahead.

He said Oregon's economy "in 1962 afforded work opportunity to more people than ever before in history" while non-farm employment reached a record level.

Hatfield said tourism "took a stronger hold on its position as Oregon's third largest industry" setting records in 1961 and 1962.

The governor expressed disappointment over failure of



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Anti-Poll Tax Ratification Urged

Washington—UPI—Sen. Maurice E. Neuberger (D-Ore.) today urged the Oregon Legislature to ratify the anti-poll tax amendment to the constitution.

Scenic Commission Schedules Hearings

Portland—UPI—The Oregon Scenic Areas Commission said today it will hold hearings at Salem Feb. 13 and at Reedsport Feb. 14 to consider designating scenic areas along two state highways.