

Economic Forecast for Ashland Said Good

By FAITH McCULLOUGH
Mail Tribune Correspondent
Ashland - It takes no crystal ball or Farmers Almanac to forecast Ashland's economic weather for 1963.

Without exception the amateur Roger Babsons on the local front predict "fair and warmer" in the months ahead, with only one cautious prophet adding "barring unforeseen circumstances."

Even completion of Interstate 5 and its bypassing of the city fails to dampen the enthusiasm of Ashland prognosticators.

Officially optimistic over the immediate future, though carefully cautious in comments calculated to generate public confidence without going out on a limb, is City Hall.

Anticipates Progress

Mayor Richard Neill says he "anticipates continued progress and steady economic improvement in Ashland during 1963," and points to the city's program which includes leasing of a city-owned 14-acre tract for industrial use.

The lease was recently granted to Thomas Parker and Associates who have given assurance of obtaining a new sawmill and several allied manufacturing plants for the northeast area adjoining the Southern Pacific tracks.

The mayor says he expects to see an increase in tourist business during the Shakespearean Festival season and more or less during all seasons due to the new recreational areas open the entire year.

Joining Mayor Neill in predicting a prosperous period is Elmer Biegel, city superintendent, who is entering his final year before retirement.

Biegel pointed to the principal project on this year's municipal agenda, a new water filtration plant to be constructed in Ashland canyon at an estimated cost of between \$30,000 and \$40,000. It will increase the daily output from 6 to 10 million gallons. Work is to get under way within a few weeks.

The city superintendent said that utilities will be extended and that a new transmission line will be installed south of town. He also announced a \$60,000 paving program.

Biegel anticipates an increase in building permits, and expects an upturn in total value, as well as number of new residences. He cited the new motel now under construction at North Main and Helman sts. The deluxe \$200-

000 motel, to be known as the Bard's Inn, will feature a swimming pool and restaurant. Completion date is July 1.

Other Building Projects

Other building projects scheduled for early spring are a Safeway store on the site of the old junior high school on Siskiyou Blvd.; a new dental clinic, now under construction at Iowa and Mountain sts.; a church building

for the Assembly of God, and several other structures still in the preliminary stages.

In the chamber of commerce office around the corner from City Hall the Inquiring Reporter asked the \$64 question of Bill Patton, president of the Ashland Chamber of Commerce.

Here there was no hesitation or weighing of words. Enthusiastic and positive were his predictions, made doubly

impressive by the fact that Patton wears two new hats this year, one as president of the chamber, the other as president of the recently organized Mt. Ashland Ski Development Corporation. His

Ashland - Determining methods of getting traffic off the freeway once the section bypassing Ashland is open will be the primary project of the Ashland Chamber of Commerce during 1963.

At a meeting last week, the chamber board of directors organized five distinct projects from a list of suggestions made at a recent general membership meeting.

The projects, in order of priority, are:

1. Studying effects of the freeway bypass and determining what can be done to get traffic off the freeway and into Ashland.

2. Creating a conservation committee to study flood control and recreation possibilities, specifically including a dam at the junction of Bear and Gearke creeks.

3. Developing the Ashland airport.

4. Advertising Litchia park and improving the appearance of its entrance.

5. Promoting better indirect access to and from the freeway on such routes as Oak st. and Eagle Mt. rd.



BIRDING

By JOSEPH HICKS

With little snow in the mountains during January, mountain roads were accessible that ordinarily are impassable in the winter. On Jan. 5 H. Pringle and I checked the birds on Willow Creek reservoir.

There were two pairs of hooded mergansers, a few canvasback and ring neck ducks, and many ruddy and bufflehead ducks. There was also one goldeneye duck, earlier reported by R. Maben on Dec. 28. Maben also saw an immature bald eagle, but Pringle and I couldn't locate it.

On Jan. 7 there were six whistling swans and large flocks of Canadian geese on Howard Prairie lake as well as buffleheads and ruddy ducks. On Hat reservoir were the estimated 2,000 coot and various species of ducks. For the Bald Eagle census there was a striking adult bald eagle perched on a snag near the east end of Howard Prairie lake.

The Northeast slope of Roxy Ann always has warblers and small birds in the spring. On Jan. 8 there were large flocks of golden-crowned kinglets, chestnut-backed chickadees, both red-breasted and white-breasted nuthatches, and a pileated woodpecker on the same slope. The pileated woodpecker is the large, black crow-sized woodpecker with a conspicuous red-crest. He has a loud, irregular, ringing call.

At the Lower Klamath Game Refuge on Jan. 12, there were 12 bald eagles and seven golden eagles. This is the largest concentration of eagles I have ever seen. The coot, ducks, and swan on the refuge were flocked together on the few open spots not frozen over. Each separate flock had a nearby eagle sitting on the ice as if it were a sentinel on guard duty. I was surprised to find a common egret and a crippled pelican that had not migrated south with their respective species.

Most of the geese and ducks at Klamath Falls had left for the rice fields near Sacramento. There were still some pintails, ruddies, and shovellers, on the refuge, as well as one rough-legged and one ferruginous hawk.

Carl Richardson accompanied me on a visit to Hiatt reservoir and Howard Prairie lake on Jan. 14, and Frank Sturgis and I covered the same territory on Jan. 19. The results of the two trips disclosed that goldeneye ducks, Canadian honkers, ruddies and bufflehead ducks were still on Howard Prairie. Also on Howard Prairie, there was an adult bald eagle, and a golden eagle that made an unsuccessful pass at the ducks on the lake. There were numerous flocks of evening grosbeak in the evergreens as well as some golden-crowned kinglets and mountain chickadees. A surprising find were the six magpies on a meadow just west of Howard Prairie lake.

There seems to be a general consensus of opinion by valley birders that the quantities of valley birds are much lower than last year. At my feeder I note fewer golden-crown sparrows and only an occasional white-crown sparrow.

I still do not have a hermit thrush or Stellar's Jay in the yard. There are a few bands of robins in the valley, but seldom do I see them working the lawns for worms. Eight years ago, there were probably more robins in the valley than any other species.

At my feeder in Medford I have black-capped chickadees, titmice, bushtit, golden-crown sparrows, juncos, an acorn woodpecker, a flicker, house finch, scrub jays, rufous-sided towhees, Audubons warblers, starlings and house sparrows.

The Conway's feeder on the Rogue river in the Shady Cove area attracts song sparrows, fox sparrows, juncos, brown and rufous-sided towhees, black-capped chickadees, down woodpeckers, and a pair of hairy woodpeckers.

This is the time of year when birds need supplementary food. Suet, bread crumbs, chicken scratch, fruit, peanuts, sunflower seeds, any or all of these items will help the birds survive the winter. And now is the time to build and hang the nest boxes for the spring nesting season. I recommend small-size entrance nests for wrens or titmice in the city. Around the edges of the valley bluebird boxes are needed. These bluebird boxes should measure 5 x 5 by 8 inches inside with 1 1/2 inch diameter entrance hole 6 inches from the bottom of the nest box.

Last year only one bald eagle seen in Jackson county was reported to the National Audubon Society bald eagle census. This January, with many reports from observers, a total of five bald eagles in Jackson county were seen and reported.

There was one pair and one single adult male in the Howard Prairie lake-Hiatt reservoir area, there was an immature one, near Willow Creek reservoir, and one adult on the Rogue river in the area between Prospect and Shady Cove.

The overall United States bald eagle census of January, 1962, listed only 3,807 eagles. Approximately two thirds of this total were adults. Nesting studies by the society continue to show an alarming failure of bald eagle reproduction. This situation coupled with the 91 that were illegally shot last year show the difficulty that this bird is having in its efforts to survive. It is now a federal offense to shoot either a bald or golden eagle.

Truck Drives Off Freeway Pavement

A truck operated by Gilbert Christ Lauritzen, 35, Roseburg, drove off the roadway on Interstate 5 near Highway 62 about 5:20 a.m. Friday, according to city police.

Lauritzen was not injured, officers said. No citations were issued and no damage was reported.

Thomas Gene Bentley, 23, Talent, was cited for disobeying a traffic signal after the car he was driving collided about 11:39 p.m. Thursday at Court and Edwards sts. with a vehicle operated by Virgil Miles Strong, 57, Talent.

Police said Bentley suffered slight head injuries in the accident, but did not require hospitalization.

Gold Hill Youths Are Arrested for Burglary

Jackson county sheriff's deputies and Gold Hill police arrested two 15-year-old Gold Hill boys Thursday on charges of burglary.

The two were referred to the juvenile authorities on charges of burglarizing a school and service station at Gold Hill.

third hat as business manager of the Shakespearean Festival he has worn for many years.

Health Office Hires Two New Staff Members

Two new staff members have been hired for the Jackson County Family and Guidance Clinic, according to Dr. A. Erin Merkel, Jackson county public health officer.

Miss Donna Gilkey started duties as chief psychiatric social worker Jan. 21 and Richard Runyon will start Feb. 4.

Miss Gilkey is replacing Thomas Goff who resigned as senior psychiatric social worker to devote more time to private counseling in Medford. Goff will continue on the clinic staff part time until at least July 1, Dr. Merkel said.

Miss Gilkey moved to Medford from Eastern Washington state hospital at Medical lake. She served there for about five years as staff psychiatric social worker and as a supervisor.

Degree in Sociology
Miss Gilkey received her bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Whitman college, Walla Walla, Wash., in 1954, and completed her master's degree in social administration degree at the school of applied social sciences, Western Reserve university, Cleveland, Ohio, in 1958.

Runyon served with the family service of Orange county at Santa Ana, Calif., for the past three years. Before that he worked with the California department of correction and was a social case worker in the San Diego probation department for 2 1/2 years.

Runyon is a graduate of San Diego State college where he received his bachelor of arts degree in 1956. He completed his master's degree in social work at the University of Southern California in September, 1960.

Foundation Film on Television Today

An hour-long film, "Once Upon a Dime," will be seen on KMED-TV (Channel 10) starting at 11:05 o'clock tonight.

Filed for The National Foundation, it marks the 25th anniversary of the March of Dimes. The film features some of Hollywood's top entertainers, including Morey Amsterdam, Pearl Bailey, Bing Crosby, Lionel Hampton, Don Knotts, Dean Martin, Andre Previn, the late Dick Powell, Juliet Prowse, Soupy Sales, Connie Stevens, Dick Van Dyke, Jane Wyatt and Ed Wynn.

Basil O'Connor, president of The National Foundation, appears on the program in behalf of the March of Dimes. Cathy and Carol Gile, twins from Vancouver, Wash., represent young beneficiaries of the March of Dimes aid to birth defect victims, and Jimmy Boggess represents aid to polio victims. Rheumatoid arthritis is the third field in which the March of Dimes works.

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Patton gave figures and statistics which he claims point to a banner tourist year and a successful festival season. He sees increased interest and attendance for the summertime activities and cultural events and is even more certain of the year-round attraction soon to be offered winter sports enthusiasts.

Mrs. Velma Jones, chamber of commerce secretary, commented that in her opinion "the combined recreational, cultural and educational advantages in Ashland assure its steady prosperous growth." To which Patton added: "Our winter recreation should be the key to full time employment and expansion of cultural activities. It could be the cog in developing winter as well as summer theater."

At the opposite end of the city in the office of Dr. Elmo N. Stevenson, confidence abounded as the president of Ashland's largest industry, Southern Oregon college, displayed charts and architects' drawings, quoted enrollment statistics and financial surveys.

To a background of campus construction noises the beaming president reported the significant action of the state board of education at its meeting in Portland last week.

Of prime academic importance was approval for a four-year bachelor of business degree, thereby assuring an increased number of third and fourth year students. Approval was given for proceeding with units of the Cascade Complex (dormitories) with dining and kitchen facilities for 800, followed by a college health center and infirmary for which bids will be taken in March. On the approved list for construction will come the women's physical education building and swimming pool. All of which add up to a bright and prosperous future in the building field.

Dr. Stevenson's enrollment predictions have been proved so accurate that he now has the public convinced that his 1963 fall estimate of 2,000 students may be too conservative.

In First Place
The winter term enrollment of 1,810 has placed the Ashland college in first place percentage-wise in the state with 21 per cent increase. Oregon College of Education is next with 12.2; then Portland college, 11.5; Oregon State university, 10; University of Oregon, 8.5; and Eastern Oregon college, 8.

The added student load made necessary the hiring of

nine more instructors at the beginning of winter term, thus bringing the active faculty to a new high of 117. There are also 80 civil service employees on the college campus.

The Inquiring Reporter's head was in such a rosy whirl of statistics that she decided to try a few man-on-the-streets interviews in the downtown district.

Sidewalk experts on any subject are always easy to find but most seem unwilling to be quoted. It was Mr. Anonymous who remarked bitterly "If they'd yank out these blasted gutter bandits, kicking a parking meter viciously," there would be more business where it ought to be."

Stores Perking Up
Two lady shoppers opined that "Ashland stores have been perking up a lot lately," and at a drug store soda fountain several customers agreed that some of the recent store front face-lifting had improved the appearance of Main st.

Rumors persist, but without verification, that announcement is about to be made on the purchase of a large business that will have a hundred employees on its payroll.

All in all it looks like fair weather ahead for Ashland in 1963.

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