

32 Per Cent of Area Residences Built in 10 Years

How much of Jackson county's annual economic activity is due to housing construction? How does the local production of new homes compare with that in other parts of the country?

Answers to these questions are contained in reports issued by the U. S. Department of Commerce. They show, for every city and county in the nation, the number of new dwellings erected over a period of 10 years.

Locally, the amount of such construction and the changes that have been wrought by it are impressive when viewed in perspective.

Built Since 1950
The reports show that no less than 8,372 dwelling units in Jackson county, or 32 per cent of the present total of 26,102, were built since 1950.

Many old houses were torn down in connection with this building and re-building surge. How many is not stated.

As a result of these changes, the occupancy rate per housing unit locally now averages 3.1 persons. Throughout the country as a whole, the average is 3.4 per unit.

Various factors are listed as responsible for the spurt in home building that took place in the 1950-60 decade.

Have Own Places
Primarily, it stems from the desire of most families to have places of their own. This desire they were able to gratify as their incomes grew larger and as mortgage financing became easier. It brought home ownership within their reach.

Nationally, as a result, about 63 per cent of the families now own their own homes, compared to 55 per cent in 1950. It is estimated that an additional 10 to 12 per cent have sufficient income and savings to become home owners if they want to.

For its size, Jackson county had a high rate of new construction in the 10-year period. It amounted to 123 dwelling units per 1,000 residents, based on average local population.

Compares Favorably
This compares favorably with the rate reported for the United States, 96 units per 1,000. In the state of Oregon it was 98 per 1,000.

What did this volume of construction add up to in terms of the local economy? On the basis of the average sales price of new, non-farm homes regionally during the decade, it amounted to an estimated \$125,580,000.

Its effect, because it stimulated activity in allied fields, was several times that great.

Two Boy Scouts Get Eagle Awards

The first Eagle Scout awards of the year in the Big Pine district of Boy Scouts were awarded in a ceremony last week in the U.S. National Bank building meeting place of Troop 14.

David Doty, son of Mr. and Mrs. Shirrell Doty, 46 South Keene Way, and James Savard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Art Savard, 1916 Stratford ave., Medford, were the recipients.

Both boys are members of Troop 14, sponsored by the Crater Lions club. They have almost identical achievement records and have worked together on many projects.

They were Cub Scouts in Pack 14 and joined the Boy Scouts in 1958. They are now assistant Scoutmasters and have held positions as assistant Scout leaders. They went to the National Jamboree together in 1980 and were on the service corps at the Seattle World's Fair.

They belong to the Mazama Lodge Order of the Arrow, and are leaders in youth activities in the First Christian church. Both are sophomores in Medford High school.

Graduate Center Name Selected

Salem — The board of trustees for a proposed Portland Graduate Center voted Thursday to call it the "Oregon Graduate Center for Study and Research."

The 15-member board retained the Portland legal firm of Mautz, Souther, Spaulding, Kinsey and Williamson to help it incorporate.

The board received \$1,000 checks each from Reed, Willamette, Linfield, Lewis and Clark, and the University of Portland.

A similar check is expected from Pacific university and the board hopes for \$8,000 from the state system of higher education.

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