

Girl Scout Leaders Question Plan Of National To Change Council Areas

A booklet questioning the advisability of adopting the new "council coverage" plan of the national Girl Scout organization has been prepared by Rogue Valley Girl Scout Council, Inc. Copies will be released to adult workers in the movement this week according to Mrs. B. E. Culy, Medford, council president.

The new plan, which would greatly enlarge the areas covered by any one council would be nationwide in effect and is meeting with resistance in some states. Mrs. Culy points out that council members, leaders and other adults working in the Girl Scout movement have studied the proposal, held a series of conferences and that each council will vote on the matter this spring.

If "council coverage" is adopted, the enlarged council into which Rogue Valley would be absorbed, would cover Lane, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Crook and Jefferson counties in Oregon, and three counties in northern California. Headquarters, it is understood, would be in Eugene.

Camps Listed
In this enlarged council would be three established camps, including Low Echo, 80-acre camp at Lake of the Woods, and six troop camps, including Tomlin Forest, 200 acres, east of Medford; both Low Echo and Tomlin Forest are owned and used by Rogue Valley council troops.

Rogue Valley council is now made up of troops located in Jackson and Josephine counties in Oregon, and Siskiyou county in California. About 2,000 girls are being served by this council.

A booklet which presented the council coverage plan for Oregon and northern California has been received here. The cover states "Council Coverage offers the challenge of Girl Scouting - A Girl Scout is a Friend of Every other Girl Scout; may we all find joy in giving a share of what we have, receiving a share of what we have not and in extending a share of all to those who need us." It is said that the philosophy behind the new plan stems partly from the fact that some councils are much "richer" than others, and that enlarged councils would offer wider opportunities to more girls.

The booklet also states that "Council Coverage is a program initiated by the National Council of Girl Scouts of the U. S. A. to increase the effectiveness of existing councils through consolidation and inclusion of areas not currently served by the council. It is to provide contiguous 'border to border' councils throughout the United States, each of which is to be strong enough to provide for the expanded interests of girls today; to be effective enough to provide an opportunity for girls beyond their troop and commu-

nity; to be financially sound enough to employ professional help where needed to augment the activities of the volunteer workers; and to be resourceful enough within its own jurisdiction to carry out its own total responsibilities. The new council proposed under Project 10 can do these things."

To Vote Soon
Voting on the new plan is to be completed not later than April 22 of this year and if it is approved, national hopes to begin the operation by January, 1964.

"After acceptance of the new council boundaries, committees with representation from all areas will be formed to carry on council business, the booklet continues. "A new board of directors will be elected to set policy for the new council. Needed professional Girl Scout people will be hired (a shortage of trained salaried executives has been evident in the movement for several years). The basic structure of Girl Scouting, i. e., patrols, troops and neighborhoods, will remain essentially the same.

"Community Associations which will often combine present districts, will coordinate planning at the local level and carry out the policies determined by the board of directors at meetings several times a year. Field directors, replacing district advisors, will work from service centers with groups of the Community Association.

"The main office will be in Eugene. Other service centers with conference arrangements, space for training and use of the telephone will be set up in Klamath Falls, Lakeview, Medford and North Bend - Coos Bay. (The Lakeview council has already voted against the new plan, according to information sent from there earlier this year).

Directors Listed
Professional people to be hired will include an executive director, a field service director, five full-time field directors, one half-time field director, a program service director and a public relations and fundraising director.

A finance committee would build the total budget and determine what requests should be made to the various United Funds, etc.

The booklet states that all present campsites would be retained through 1965 and beginning with the 1965 camping season, all camps will be open to all interested girls in the new council area. Additional day camp sites will be secured. For the Senior Scouts a two-year C. I. T. program will be provided with each year spent at a different camp. Also, the council will provide back-packing experience and explore possibilities in other special events such as bicycling, horseback

riding and mountain climbing.

Ten questions about the new plan are asked and answered in both booklets. Question one: "Will we be more effective as a larger organization?" Project Ten booklet answers "The organization for girls will remain the same but duplication of planning and policy-making will be avoided." Rogue Valley council answers "The duplication will be avoided, but as in all mergers, control is in fewer hands."

Question two: Will we be able to offer Girl Scouting to more girls? Project Ten answers "8,300 girls are registered in existing councils - large areas under proposed jurisdiction presently have no Girl Scout program available." Rogue Valley answers: "In our council approximately 2,000 girls have been provided with Girl Scouting in all areas where it has been requested. The areas which have not been served lie within the boundaries of two weaker councils."

Question Three: Will we provide a more complete program for all girls? Project Ten answers "Coupled with the program change, the larger council will offer more ideas and wider resources within itself." Rogue Valley answers: "A complete program has always been available within our council. Any program needs adult volunteers to carry it through, and

an enlarged area does not seem to be the way to attract more volunteers."

Question Four: Will we more wisely spend our dollars? Project Ten answers "We will spend more but expect a greater return in services rendered." Rogue Valley council answers "Raising more money to be spent on higher professional salaries, with increased traveling expense and loss of time, is a factor to be considered."

Question Five: Will we still keep our neighborhood organization? Project Ten answers "Neighborhoods remain the most important link between girls and administration and will be more valuable than ever." Rogue Valley council answers "Neighborhoods have never been serviced as they should. Forming a larger council would mean larger neighborhoods, and under the control of a board of directors who could change boundaries at will."

Question Six: Will we share our resources? Project Ten answers "As one big council we expect a free exchange of ideas and materials. No equipment will be moved from a community without the consent of that community." Rogue Valley council answers "All councils are happy to do this. As to sharing properties which were donated by local people for local use, this is another problem. Therefore we oppose change of ownership."

Question Seven: Will we retain all council properties? Project Ten answers "All real properties will be retained where they are at the present time. The new board of directors may make changes as needs are determined."

Rogue Valley council answers "This would need local people to constantly serve on the enlarged board to see that all properties would remain where they were meant to be, with no change in control."

Question Eight: Will we have a better camping program? Project Ten answers "With camps established in varied places, girls will have many wonderful new experiences." Rogue Valley council answers "This has always been possible. All it has needed is cooperation and coordination."

Question Nine: Will we have more professional help? Project Ten answers "More direct help will be given to the neighborhoods." Rogue Valley council answers "If professionals were available and if they are willing to spend the time necessary."

Question Ten: Will we have more training available to volunteers? Project Ten answers "Many volunteer trainers will be sharing their special skills." Rogue Valley council answers "The training has always been available in our council; getting the volunteers to attend is the problem and transportation and

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Members of Girl Scout Troop 153 worked in the kitchen when lunch time came during the international festival which the Rogue Valley Girl Scout council sponsored last Saturday at Scout headquarters. More than 200 girls attended. Pictured are (left to right) Angelika Bayley, Karalee Piel, Nancy Atwood and Carol Tiecke. The girls learned foreign songs and dances during the day, and performed there during the program.

Couple Away
Ashland - Dr. and Mrs. John N. Reid, 2190 Siskiyou boulevard, spent last week in southern California where they visited Dr. Reid's mother in San Bernardino.

O'Brien Couple Now in Europe
O'Brien—Letters from Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Drews, who are on a round-the-world tour, reported a fine journey with very little rough seas on the trip across to England. They arrived in Southampton one day late due to fog.

Sewing Club To Meet
The sewing club of the auxiliary to the Disabled American Veterans will meet Thursday, February 28 in the home of Mrs. Lavine James, 5223 Gebhard road, Central Point. A noon potluck luncheon will be served.

Brother, Family Visit in Derby
Derby—Recent visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Terrell and family, Box 137, Butte Falls highway, Eagle Point, were Mr. Terrell's twin brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Terrell, San Bernardino, Calif.

Mrs. Drews said everyone was wearing heavy clothing in Amsterdam where they watched skaters on the ice over canals.

The Drews found prices a little lower than in Oregon, but compared to wages, they are high. An ordinary meal costs about \$1.50, but carpenters get only \$30 a week, they wrote.

Seattle Family Visits Ashland
Ashland - Guests the first of the week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Will Dodge, 600 Siskiyou boulevard, were Mr. and Mrs. William Burke and their daughter Marilee, Seattle, Wash., who stopped in Ashland en route home from a California business trip. Mr. Burke is Mrs. Dodge's nephew.

In Ashland
Ashland - Mr. and Mrs. Fred West, Pacifica, Calif., were guests over the week end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Retter, 760 Clover lane, and with other relatives. Mr. West lived in Ashland for several years.

The Drews were guests of Mr. and Mrs. LeGroot in Amsterdam, who met them on the boat on their arrival. The LeGroots are friends of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Halverson here.

Sunshine Girls
Pythian Sunshine Girls plan a meeting for Thursday, February 28 at 7 p.m.

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