

Kiewit Moves to Site of Siskiyou Highway Work

Peter Kiewit Sons' company, contractors for the Interstate 5 project from South Ashland interchange to Wall creek, have moved equipment to the site and have started clearing the right-of-way.

The approximately four miles of freeway will follow the present alignment of Highway 99 except at Neil creek where the loop will be cut off. While a major portion of the work will be cutting into the side hill, company officials noted that more than one million cubic feet of material will be either removed from the hillside or used as fill.

One of the changes in the area, due to the highway widening, is the elimination of the Blue Star Memorial rest area.

Present Plans
Oregon state highway department officials noted that present plans do not call for a rest area in the immediate vicinity. They noted, however, that roadside improvement projects are constructed after the highways have been completed or in this case, if a good site is found along the Siskiyou summit is 3.7 miles.

Kiewit officials said their rock crusher is now being erected in the Dead Indian rd. area in preparation for surfacing and paving the North to South Ashland interchange section. The subgrade construction on this section is expected to be completed about May 1.

With the completion of the freeway to Wall creek, only 8.45 miles will remain from there to the California state line. From Wall creek to the Siskiyou summit is 3.7 miles.

The freeway section from Barnett rd. to North Ashland interchange is expected to be opened in July, state highway department officials said. The majority of the concrete has been poured for the roadway, they noted, and if the weather continues favorable the asphalt work will start soon. Remaining will be installing of fences, guard rails and signs.

Expiration Dates of Board Members Set

Rogue River—The expiration dates on all terms of office for the Rogue River library board were announced at a recent meeting last week. The expiration dates are for Mrs. Hubert (Glady's) Stephens, December, 1963; Mrs. Bessie Pollock, 1964; Mrs. John (Dorothy) Leyen, 1965; Mrs. James (Mary) Beck, 1966; and Mrs. Rolland (Ince) Jones, 1966.

The "staggered time" was established so terms of office wouldn't expire at the same time.

Mrs. Lulu Trotter is Rogue River's librarian. Board officers are Mrs. Jones, chairman; Mrs. Pollock, vice chairman; Mrs. Beck, secretary; Mrs. Stephens, treasurer; and Mrs. Leyen, publicity chairman.

Klimek High Bidder On Blowdown Logs

Tony Klimek, Medford, was high bidder last week for 335,000 board feet of national timber in the Southside Blowdown area, Ashland Ranger district, Rogue River National forest.

Forest Supervisor C. E. Brown said the high bid totaled \$8,650. This compares with the forest service appraised price for the timber of \$6,196.50, an increase of 41 per cent.

Next high bidder in the oral auction for the timber was G&R Logging of Medford. Other bidders were Continental Timber company and Gerald McKenzie.

The timber in the unit consisted of 105,000 board feet of Douglas-fir bid at \$49 per thousand board feet; 10,000 board feet of western white pine and other pine bid at \$40 per thousand board feet; and 100,000 board feet of white fir and other species bid at \$15 per thousand board feet.

SUPREME COURT MEETS
Washington — (UPI) — The Supreme Court met today to hand down decisions and orders before moving into the second week of arguments in the March session.

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Interest in Basin Project Shows Up In Letter Exchange

An exchange of letters regarding the Lost Creek dam project on the Rogue river, revealing the support being given the project by Congressman Robert B. Duncan of the Fourth district and Sen. Wayne Morse and Maurice Neuberger, was received here last week.

Commenting on the correspondence, Duncan stated: "If the White House supports this

move and the Bureau of the Budget can be persuaded to request the funds immediately, the item would be included in a request for a supplemental appropriation. This would come before the deficiency appropriation subcommittee of the House Appropriations committee."

Duncan has already discussed the project with Congressman Albert Thomas of

Texas, chairman of the subcommittee, he said.

Viewing the whole situation, Duncan gave this analysis:

"I am convinced that increasing the funds for this project would be a sound investment and that delay will cost money. But realistically, we must acknowledge the budget-tax climate in which we are operating and the

great competition for funds and not permit ourselves to be too optimistic."

In a letter to Charles Daly, special assistant to the president, Duncan stated: "This project has a favorable cost benefit ratio. Advancing its completion date by one year will represent an economic value of approximately \$6 million which will be lost forever if a delay occurs. The

property values are rising in the Rogue river area at the rate of two to three per cent per year.

"Early acquisition, therefore, would minimize the site acquisition cost and, undoubtedly, represent a saving on

the project cost of more than we are asking to be appropriated for 1963 and 1964 over the President's recommendation."

"There is also the usual uncertainty existing in the area and land owners should be

offered as early an opportunity as possible to dispose of their lands and make their plans. Logging access road construction and improvement of Highway 82 leading to Crater Lake National park is all being delayed pending the planning of this project."

The letter further states: "It would be appreciated by the people of the Rogue River valley if you would make appropriate representations to the Bureau of the Budget to secure their recommendation for an additional \$50,000 for

this year and for an additional \$250,000 for fiscal year 1964, making a total of \$350,000 for 1964."

(There is an appropriation requested in the President's budget for fiscal year 1964 of \$100,000 to initiate planning on Lost Creek reservoir.)

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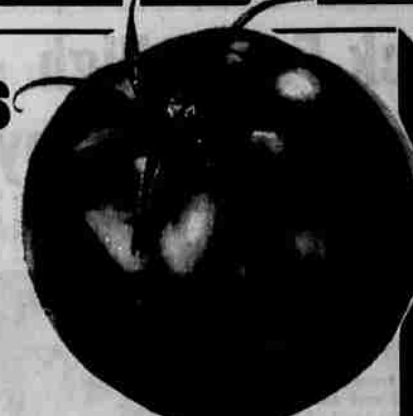


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