

New Rogue Valley Branch of Oregon Bank Opens Monday

Everything is ready for opening of the new Rogue Valley Branch of The Oregon Bank at 1025 Court Street Monday morning, Barney Baxter, bank manager, has announced. Open house will be held throughout the day, and refreshments will be served. Movement of cash, safe deposits boxes and crates of records was completed over the week end.

The new building with 7,000 square feet of office space will provide customers with greater banking comfort and convenience and will enable the firm to keep pace with the bank's growth, Baxter said. He pointed out that deposits have increased by 20 per cent in the last year.

The bank location was chosen at the junction of Court Street and Central Avenue to fit in with the small park which is adjacent. Architect Robert Keeney designed the bank building of low silhouette to blend with the setting, Baxter noted. Chester

Corry, landscape architect, made extensive use of the existing trees and employed Southern Oregon Landscape Co. to plant more than 2,500 ivy and small plants together with more than 400 shrubs to complete the scene.

There is ample parking space provided in the paved parking area and a drive-in banking window for persons who prefer to remain in their cars for banking transactions. Adjacent to the drive-in window is a night depository to accommodate both merchants with coin sacks and the individual depositor with an envelope containing his deposit. This facility will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The interior of the bank is decorated in soft yellow to complement the panels of walnut and the teakwood fixtures.

A conference room off the officers' space has been provided for private discussions.

Doors throughout the bank are eight feet high to match the tall floor-to-ceiling windows. The front door opens into a large lobby beyond which are the eight tellers' cages. The employees' lounge looks out over a small landscaped garden.

Forced air heating and air conditioning assure temperature comfort throughout the year.

Mechanical engineers for the building are Cornell, Hollander, Hayes and Merryfield, who supervised the work for Stuart Mechanical Company. William Werner and Son were the masonry contractors.

Other contractors and suppliers on the construction were Selby Glass, glass and aluminum; Ekerson's, roofing; Steek Electric, electrical; Barnard's Floor Covering, acoustical; Specialty Contractors, vinyl floor covering; Lippert's, carpeting; Midcoast Painters, painting, and McGuire's Home Furnishers, drapes. Jeffery Shute was the associate architect for the project.

Clarence Young, vice president of the bank, will maintain his offices in the new quarters from which he will direct work on the bank's third Medford branch which will soon be under construction at West Main and Grape Streets, Baxter said.

Jackson, Josephine County Groups Plan Meeting on Monday

The Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission will meet at 8 p. m. Monday, Dec. 9, in Grants Pass with the Josephine County Parks and Recreation Commission.

The two groups will discuss policy for their parks' operations and a youth work program.

County Parks Director Neil Ledward has suggested the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission study a paper prepared by Charles Collins, executive vice president of California Oregon Recreation Development Association, on fees and charges for recreation areas.

The local commission will be asked to consider special use of public lands and waters by private parties, clubs and organizations and other public agencies.

This would cover private boat docks, boat docks and boat houses by clubs or organizations, cabin sites, house trailer sites for over 14 days, organizational camping or picnicking, group picnic areas, sponsored events and shows, and possible preferential treatment for non-profit organizations or groups.

Assistance to municipalities and communities should also be discussed, Ledward suggested. This would include school districts, park districts and irrigation districts.

Such assistance could include the promotional, technical and financial. Financial aid might include acquisition of sites, construction and maintenance. Historical monuments are included in the various areas to be considered.

Ledward reported the field crew has been working almost entirely at Howard Prairie recently. The road department has hauled some gravel into new campsites, and a crew cleared a large part of the area toward the north campground of the old logging debris for a trailer park. Two holes have been drilled

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Combustible Gas Presents Hazard To Portland Area

PORTLAND (UPI) — The Northwest Natural Gas Co. has told the City Council that combustible gas presents a "potentially serious hazard" over a large area of Portland's near east side.

The utility said the gas may be from decay of underground wood waste.

The report said the gas is not from natural gas distributed by Northwest, but is a composition commonly called "marsh gas." It is from decomposition of materials underground.

A company spokesman said the gas has gathered in an area roughly 10 blocks square and an old pile of sawdust was suspected as the cause.

Few property owners are involved, the company said, and all have been notified. The gas is most dangerous when it becomes trapped in an enclosed space, such as under a building.

Marsh gas is not toxic, but will ignite when mixed with air in the proper proportion, the re-

port said. It is lighter than air and will rise through openings in the ground.

The gas company stated the marsh gas was found during routine investigations and was in places well below normal pipeline installations. The highest concentration of gas was at locations some distance from gas company facilities.

Similar marsh gas concentrations at various times have necessitated a subsurface collection and exhaust system under the Boeing Co. plant at Renton, Wash.; started underground fires in a sanitary fill on University of Washington property, and caused abandonment of a proposed housing development in Philadelphia, the firm said.

DEFEAT BOND ISSUE

TROUTDALE (UPI) — Voters in the Troutdale school district defeated an \$840,000 bond issue Thursday by a vote of 677 to 581.

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