

# Wider South 6th Street Becomes One Of State's Outstanding Highway Stretches

By RUTH KING

Decelerating zones may sound like the title of a Greek myth but motorists using Klamath Falls' new half million dollar four-lane South 6th street are finding out that the wide safety zones between the concrete islands centering the street permit moving across heavy traffic with a minimum of time and effort.

To the uninitiated, the two-mile stretch of road appears to be broken up by masses of concrete, designed only for the purpose of confusing the unwary driver. But once the rules of driving on this latest type of highway, are learned, traffic can be accelerated through this newest business district and suburban residential area that in the last few years has grown into one of the most progressive in the city.

In celebration of the near completion of the long-planned project, the street will be officially opened tomorrow when George Conner, chairman of the South Sixth Street Improvement association, cuts the ribbon of the traffic island in front of the Tower theatre. This ceremony inaugurates a day-long round of entertainment planned by the association and others in the city.

Many of those now using this main traffic artery leading from the city to the heavily populated agricultural district and the great agricultural country and timber lands to the south, probably know little of the era when land now crossed by the street was a mud flat.

Drivers of horse drawn rigs and the few cars then in use followed the hill to the north above the line of the present main irrigation canal where the present Sunset stables have been built. The road came down to low ground again at the Judge Smith ranch, site of the present Altamont Auto camp.

City expansion and the arrival of new settlers seeking farm land necessitated a shorter route to the outlying country and May 5, 1906 Klamath county established a survey across the flat and a county road was in the making.

Rock piled into the strip to be surfaced, sank out of sight, but gradually the roadbed was built up and topped with macadam. The first surface was 25 feet wide.

Charles Wood Eberlein, one of the basin's earliest arrivals, later to be instrumental in much of the development of the suburban district, owned 1800 acres in the path of the new road. Looking ahead into the future he realized that the town would build that way and that traffic would increase.

Eberlein, who still lives in Klamath Falls, donated a ten-foot strip on each side of the road for a distance of one half mile through his property. Other land was later donated in the vicinity of the Tower theatre for parking space.

The new road was extended from the J. W. Kerns building to Altamont.

Then the railroad came in. Businesses began moving out south. Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Parks, Mr. and Mrs. T. Carnini and Sam Prewitt began selling groceries in three small stores. Frank Foratti sold gasoline from his location in front of Park's grocery, only recently vacated for a more modern home.

The Swan Lake Moulding company built and the late Ben Lewis and Mrs. Lewis bought a large tract of land in the vicinity of Shasta way. That was in the early 1920's.

Ducks still lit on ponds near the new road and employees and employers kept shot guns handy to kill birds for dinner.

Merrill and Malin were emerging from the pioneer stage and farmers were raising potatoes commercially by the time the state in 1929 found the trend of traffic in the crystal ball.

Traffic increased over the road at an amazing rate. The new Tulelake country came into being and the road across the railroad tracks was the center of state highway planning, and was reinforced with concrete.

Today South Sixth street is the second heaviest traveled stretch of highway in Oregon.

Those who have been "in" on plans for the big project say it is the splendid cooperation between property owners along the highway that has been the greatest incentive to state highway officials in planning this most modern of routes.

Normally all right of ways must be purchased but in this instance three-fourths of the 400,000 square feet needed was donated for the widening project, an expression of community spirit that has contributed much to Klamath Falls.

Summers lane is to be widened to the width of the roadway and widening of the viaduct is No. 1 program of the next year for the Klamath County chamber of commerce.

The folks who live and work out on South Sixth street are extending an invitation to all in the Klamath basin to celebrate with them, Klamath's newest improvement.

## Truman Wants UN Site In America

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (AP)—President Truman has informed Senator Myers (D-Pa.) that he doesn't care where the United Nations makes its permanent home so long as it is in the United States.

"I have taken no hand in this site program and don't intend to take any," the president said in a letter made public by Myers today.

## Christmas Eve Vacation Okayed

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (AP)—President Truman Thursday signed an executive order giving federal employees throughout the country a half-day holiday on Tuesday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve. The holiday on Christmas Day itself is provided for in standing regulations.

The Pacific Telephone company and the California Oregon Power company, anticipating a tremendous increase in population in the area, provided for that exigency as construction progressed on the street.

The concrete bridge crossing the main irrigation canal at

In only a few places west of the Rocky mountains is this particular type of highway found. California highway commissioners visiting here last summer stated that South Sixth compares favorably with any California highway entrance to a city.

The street is 193 feet wide at its widest point between the Swan Lake Moulding company and the Brown Equipment company. Here wide service streets on either side of the main traffic lanes provide three times the normal amount of parking space, and give speedier access to business establishments.

A thirty-five-foot width was surfaced at the expense of the moulding company and 32 feet on the opposite side by the Brown Equipment and Sheldon Brumbaugh, architect.

Folks out that way speak of their street as "the wide place in the road."

An 80-foot right of way extends from the viaduct to the Tower theatre, increasing to 125 feet between the vicinity of the theatre and the St. Francis Park community.

A paved service road through the county fair grounds will speed up traffic there during the time that hundreds of cars are in motion during public gatherings.

Safety of pedestrians and of motorists is the paramount thought of those planning the lighting system for the new street.

The improvement association is circulating petitions now for the establishment of a lighting district from the viaduct to the Tower theatre, lights to be placed on both sides of the street. Designs for the system are being completed by the state highway commission. The street will be lighted all night.

Lights Planned. The south side of the street from the Tower theatre to Washburn way will be lighted at the expense of the Swan Lake Moulding company with the

newest type of white lights, designed to flood the street. The Brown Equipment company and the Klamath Theatres will light the north side.

Some intersection lights are already maintained by the city.

Much of the credit of the huge surfacing project goes to Arthur S. Schupp, state highway commissioner, whose experience and ingenuity helped make this attractive entrance to Klamath Falls. Schupp will be on hand for the opening ceremony as representative of Governor Earl Snell.

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## Tulelake To Hear Talks

TULELAKE, Dec. 13—Four lectures on subjects of world-wide interest by nationally known speakers affiliated with the Institute of International Understanding will be presented here this winter under the sponsorship of the Tulelake Rotary club. Dates for the lectures have been set for February 3, 10, 17 and 24. Theme of the institute this season is "Is Cooperation Possible?"

Newton H. Bell, San Francisco, will speak at the first appearance on "Getting Together in Europe." The second lecture will be by Donald Bolt, Brazil, Ind., who will speak on "UN, Vehicle of World Cooperation," and "Getting Together in the Orient" will be presented by No-Yong Park, Kirksville, Mo. Park, long a resident of the Orient, is well informed on conditions in that part of the world.

The speaker for the last topic, "Cooperation or Confusion in Ten-Mile-a-Minute travel," has yet to be announced.

All speakers will appear before a high school assembly on the day of their appearance here and the principal addresses will be in the high school gymnasium.

## Flashes Of Life

**DOUBLE ROLE**  
HOLLYWOOD, Calif., Dec. 13 (AP)—Within 24 hours the stork made Mrs. Ethel Wadler, 37, both a mother and a grandmother.

Just 23 1/2 hours before Mrs. Wadler's seven-pound daughter was born, another daughter, Mrs. Edith Hood, 18, became the mother of a daughter, also weighing seven pounds.

**MAILMAN DEAD TIRED**  
EVANSTON, Ill., Dec. 13 (AP) Two police squads, an ambulance and inhalator were sent to Mrs. Anna Ekstrand's home after she

telephoned Sgt. Edgar Fellows. "It's my son, Carl," she cried. "I've been shaking him and can't wake him."

Finally Ekstrand, who is a letter carrier, sat up, eyed the activities and said sleepily: "Can't you let a fellow sleep? I'm dead tired, ma, walkin' and carryin' all that Christmas mail."

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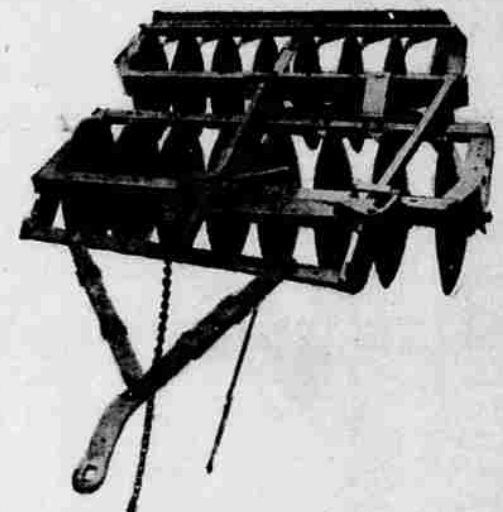
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We are proud of our new street and we are proud of our record of giving the best in service, quality and prices. Be sure to come in when you attend the South Sixth St. Opening Ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 14th.