

Council Expresses Worry Over Liability Arising Out Of Apartment Ruins

A long discussion of possible hazards and city liability in connection with the fire-ravaged Evans apartment house building at 10th and Main streets was a major feature of Monday night's meeting of the city council.

Fire Chief Keith Ambrose told the councilmen that Joe Evans, one of the members of the family which owns the building, had said he would have an architect look over the property to determine whether it could be reconstructed from its present status.

Chief Ambrose and Police Chief Orville Hamilton said that while the structure in its present condition looks solid, they are afraid it might not withstand a high wind. Ambrose said that if the walls are to be permitted to stand, the city should rope off the sidewalks and streets there. He pointed out the public inconvenience of roping off such a large section.

Councilman Paul Landry said that the owners of the building are members of an old family here who have paid taxes a long time, and he felt they should be given opportunity to salvage the standing walls if possible. Councilman A. F. Condyre, however, demanded to know if the building is "condemned or not condemned," and said that "if it is condemned, it ought to be torn down."

It was finally decided for the city attorney to examine the law and determine whether the city could be held legally liable in case of damage from the structure or part of it falling.

At the outset of last night's meeting, Councilman Condyre sounded a cry of discrimination. He declared the minutes of the previous meeting were not complete, inasmuch as they included comments and questions by Councilman Landry, but not those which had been offered by Condyre. He insisted that the notes should not be approved unless Condyre's contributions to the last meeting were shown on the books.

The girl reporter indicated it would be difficult to recall just what Condyre had said, but Condyre offered to repeat his statements for the benefit of posterity. It was finally agreed to pass the minutes with the understanding that they would be amplified with the help of Councilman Condyre.

The councilmen went on record as opposed to HB 290, now in the legislature, which the council feels is restrictive of competition among utilities. Wires voicing councilman's opinion on this matter will be forwarded forthwith to Klamath's legislative delegation and Mayor Ed Ostendorf, who is sojourning in Salem for the moment as a member of the "third house."

After some discussion, the council granted a city plumbing license to R. P. Oliver, local real estate man and builder, requiring that he post a bond. Oliver said the plumbing operations would have headquarters at 228 N. 8th. Councilman Landry asserted his belief that Oliver wanted to go into the plumbing business to avoid paying plumbing costs while engaged in construction. Councilman Smith remarked that plumbing costs are high, and that as a result of his plan, Oliver could probably sell his houses cheaper to service men.

Fire Chief Ambrose requested permission to purchase hose, tires, gas masks, hose extender and other articles for the fire department. The council approved.

Street matters received considerable attention. Mrs. R. I. McNutt of the Shippington district told the city it should be ashamed of its part of the road connecting the Shippington district with a county road across Hanks, Scott and Wocus streets. The county's part of the road is good, but the city's is deplorable, she averred. The councilmen said they have no adequate equipment to work the road, but they will see if they have

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Flashes Of Life

GOOD CASTING
SANTA FE, N. M., Feb. 25 (AP)—Angler Jennings Donks was fishing along the Rio Grande when his small Sealyham gave battle to a larger dog.

The fight ended in midstream. The bigger dog paddled out but the Sealyham, exhausted, went under.

After several casts from shore Donks hooked the unconscious pup and reeled him in. A little artificial respiration revived him.

NO HIGHER MATHEMATICS NEEDED
LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25 (AP)—The board of education agrees that it's not going to make any profit at this rate.

At a fiscal session last night, it accepted \$56.41 as a year's return on an orange grove the school system owns in Granada.

But at the same meeting it paid out \$27.45 for one month's labor on the same grove.

FIRE HAZARDS
ALPHA, Ill., Feb. 25 (AP)—A fire in Alpha (population 550) is quite a novelty and when the first alarm in two years was sounded there was such a rush of motorists to get to the fire that the volunteer fire department nearly missed getting to the scene to fight the blaze.

"Autos driven by fire-hungry spectators kept getting in our way," said Fire Chief Floyd Krueger, "and the truck with fire apparatus was delayed."

"Lucky" Luciano Release Probed

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 25 (AP)—An investigation by the New York legislature into the release from prison of Charles (Lucky) Luciano, whose sentence was commuted by Governor Thomas E. Dewey 13 months ago, is sought by Democratic Assemblyman Owen McGovern of New York City.

McGovern's resolution was introduced last night as Cuban officials announced the former New York gangster would be deported to his native Italy. Luciano, deported to Italy after Dewey commuted his sentence on January 3, 1946, came to Havana last October.

The U. S. government last week banned all narcotics shipments to Cuba as long as Luciano remained there.

More than 71,000 Pacific northwest veterans were receiving disability pension or compensation at the close of 1946.

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'Just Had The Urge'



Miss Tillie Ranhofer, 52, stands with Detective James Pritchard as she is booked at New York's West 47th street police station on an arson charge in connection with baby carriage fires at the entrances of four midtown tenement houses within a period of a little more than an hour. Detectives said the woman admitted setting the blazes, explaining that she "just had the urge." All the carriages were empty. —AP wirephoto.

Unemployment Question Deadlock Break Seen Soon

SALEM, Feb. 25 (AP)—Employers and labor, who have been at loggerheads over unemployment compensation legislation, indicated a possibility of compromise today after a senate labor and industries committee hearing on a bill to reduce employers' payroll taxes by \$1,500,000 a year.

James T. Marr, secretary of the State Federation of Labor, said his organization would have no objection to reducing employers' unemployment taxes if the legislature passed labor's bills to fix maximum jobless benefits at \$25 a week for 26 weeks in any one year. The maximum now is \$18 a week for 20 weeks.

James Cellars, Astoria fish packer representing employers, said the unemployment trust fund of \$70,000,000 is so large that it should take care of any depression, so that a reduction in employers' taxes is justified. Other labor news in the legislature will be made this afternoon when the house labor and industries committee holds hearings on proposed constitutional amendments to ban the closed shop and to force labor unions to incorporate.

The house passed 39 to 19 Monday and sent to the senate a bill to increase the size of the state highway commission from three to five members, with two from eastern Oregon and three from western Oregon.

The senate roads and highways committee will meet late today to try to work out a compromise on the bill to permit the state highway commission to build throughways, or roads with limited access. The compromise might be to permit throughway construction only between congested areas. This would meet the objections of the motor court owners, although some opponents to the bill said they would accept nothing less than defeat of the bill.

Greyhound Buys Motor Coach Co.

CHICAGO, Feb. 25 (AP)—The Greyhound Corporation of Chicago announced today it has acquired control of the Washington Motor Coach company, which operates in four Pacific north-west states.

Orville S. Caesar, president of Greyhound's corporation, said 96 per cent of Washington's outstanding stock was purchased. The corporate name of the northwest firm will be changed to Northwest Greyhound Lines, Inc., and Clifford E. Graves will become president March 1.

Graves, who will make his headquarters in Seattle, has been president of Capitol Greyhound Lines and Valley Greyhound Lines with principal offices in Cincinnati, Ohio.

More than \$1,500,000 was involved in the purchase, approved February 11 by the interstate commerce commission. Washington Motor Coach operates 128 inter-city buses in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Its 2500 miles of authorized routes extend from Helena and Butte, Mont., to Seattle and Portland.

Federal Payroll Purge Planned

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (AP)—President Truman is studying a proposed program to purge government payrolls of disloyal and subversive employees.

The program is in a report submitted to him earlier in the week by an inter-agency commission. Mr. Truman appointed the group made up of representatives from various government agencies, and asked it to recommend steps for removal of disloyal employees.

Presidential Press Secretary Charles G. Ross told reporters today that the report is a long one and is in process of review by the president. Details have not been made public.

City Delivery Service, Ph. 8417.

Red Cross Fund Campaign To Get Under Way Monday

All the wrinkles of the 1947 Red Cross fund campaign for Klamath county will be ironed out at a board meeting this Tuesday at 4 p. m., when chairmen of the various committees will meet at headquarters, 518 Main.

The campaign will start here on Monday, March 3, with a goal of \$25,000 for the county. It is the aim of the board to reach this goal within two weeks and with a streamlined campaign program lined up for the cooperation of the Klamath county people, it is possible, Frank Sexton, 1947 fund chairman said today.

A parade Monday morning with the KUHS band and Pep Peppers will start the campaign, stopping at the corner of 8th and Main for a special performance at noon, and proceeding on to the Willard where the kick-off luncheon will be held.

Committee chairmen have been named with Otto L. Smith, chapter chairman, and Marthu M. Hurd, residential chairman. Joe Matulek will be in charge of East Main business contributions, Paul O. Landry for special gifts and H. E. Getz, payrolls.

Publicity chairman is Tom Williams, with John Houston head of the advertising, Vince Clapp of radio announcements, Bud Chandler for KFLW, Lloyd Low has been named to head the campaign in rural communities, Buz Larkin, city clubs and fraternal groups, R. v. Victor

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