

**THIS VIEW** of the new city street department building, located just beneath and south of the South Sixth Street overpass, shows its nearness to the sewage disposal plant, shown at upper left, adjacent to the sawdust burner. Piping between the two installations goes under the railroad tracks and adjacent to the roadway.



**CHECKING** the accumulation of methane gas in the dome of the digester at the city sewage disposal plant is Bill Swanson. He keeps careful tabs on the gauge indicators of gas produced in the digesters. Paul Barnes is superintendent of the city sewage disposal plant.

## Unusual Idea Saves City's Taxpayers Money In Heating New Street Building

By FLOYD WYNNE

An unusual idea plus planning with an eye for the future has resulted in a considerable savings to the taxpayers of Klamath Falls on the heating of the city's new street department building.

The planning entered the picture when the city recently constructed a new primary and second sewage disposal treatment plant, and later built a new street department building, both within a short distance of each other.

Purpose of the proximity of the two was to enable the city at some future date to utilize the methane gas that builds up in the sewage digesters to heat the street department building.

After the disposal plant had been in operation for some time, it was found that the accumulation of gas was sufficient to warrant installation of piping to use the excess gas for heat.

City Manager G. S. Vergeer explained the process. "In the process of digesting sewage," he said, "changing sewage to sludge by the digesters, a gas is generated known as methane gas. This accumulates in the dome of the digesters and is generally used by the disposal plant for heating of the same digesters by use of a steam boiler.

"Investigation revealed that the amount of gas generated here was

sufficient in quantity to also provide necessary fuel for heating furnace and hot water heaters at the street shop.

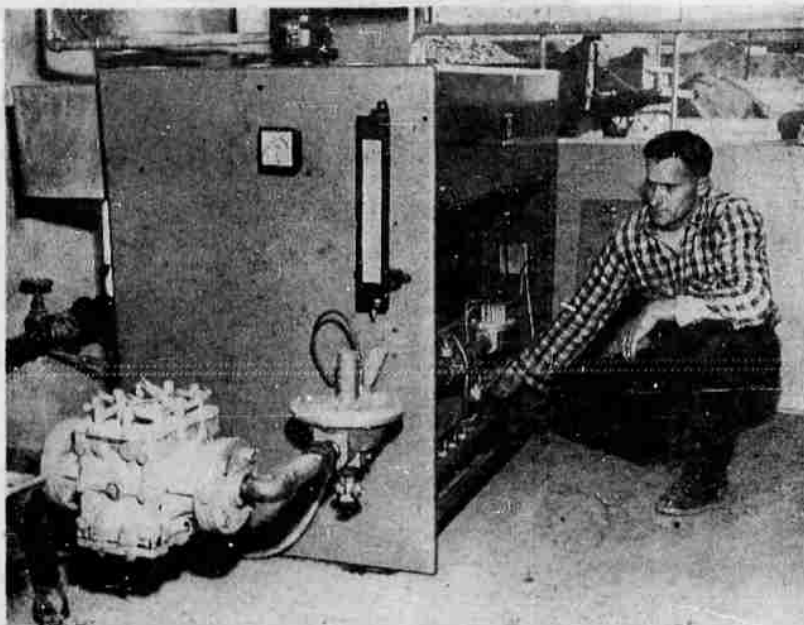
"This process had been planned at the time of locating the two facilities close to each other," he continued, "but a temporary offer to install gas made the immediate use of the system not too important.

"However, as soon as we determined that the amount of methane gas exceeded anticipation, we proceeded as originally recommended in installing piping between the two facilities."

Vergeer estimated the cost of the piping and other supplies and installation at about \$2,000.

The monthly winter heat bill has varied between \$250 and \$300 monthly, down to \$50 during the summer months, he pointed out, adding that the savings made in one year should pay for the new method of heating.

When queried as to whether there was sufficient gas still available to heat other city structures, such as city hall, Vergeer indicated that no further heating would be possible without the use of storage tanks to enable storing of the methane gas for use elsewhere. However, he did not rule out the future possibility of heating city hall, also, by this new and novel method.



**THE INTERIOR INSTALLATION** to provide fuel for heating the burner that in turn provides both heat and hot water for the street department building is shown here. Neil Hicks, city employe, checks the connections. Operation is smooth and efficient, he reports. Paul Hamblin is superintendent of the Street Department.

### Pure Tungsten Casting Made

ALBANY, Ore. (AP) — The Oregon Metallurgical Corp., which makes space-age metals, today claimed the world's first casting of pure tungsten.

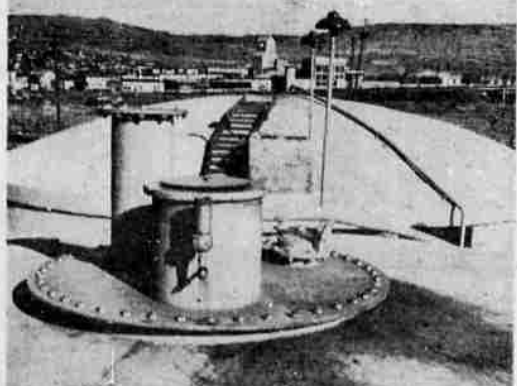
President Stephen M. Shelton said this extremely hard and heat-resistant metal previously was considered uncastable.

Because it does not melt until 6,170 degrees, however, it was wanted for missiles.

Shelton told stockholders at their annual meeting Thursday night that the firm successfully cast 240 pounds of pure tungsten for a missile nozzle Tuesday. The process was repeated Wednesday.

#### THE COVER

Corn on the cob is a relished dish for Scrooge, a cat owned by Mrs. Gene Stokley of 423 North Tenth Street. Herald and News photographer Don Kettler took the cover picture and two others of Scrooge's feast on Page 4.



**TAPPING** the roof of the digester to permit quantities of methane gas to be drawn off for use at the city's street department building is demonstrated in this photo, showing the line running to the dome.

### White Slavery Charge Filed

PORTLAND (AP)—The Federal Bureau of Investigation Wednesday night arrested Robert Curtis Lee, 37, of Portland at his apartment here on a federal warrant charging violation of the Mann Act.

agent-in-charge of the Portland FBI office, said the indictment returned by a federal grand jury charged Lee with unlawfully transporting a woman from Portland to Kelso, Wash., for the purpose of prostitution.

Joseph E. Thornton, special



**GAS INSTALLATION** is shown at the city street department building, checked by Hugh Washburn, city employe. In foreground can be seen standby commercial gas installation which will be dispensed with by the sewer gas operation.