

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1961

Police Sharpen Shooting Eye On New Pistol Range

By FLOYD L. WYNNE
An ideal example of community cooperation to improve the community has been going on for just about a year in an obscure canyon just off the Old Fort Road. Here many men have given of

their labor and many merchants of the community contributed materials to construct a practical pistol course where police officers can improve their gun handling and shooting eye. Tuesday morning, the echo of

snorting bulldozers died and was replaced with the sharp crack of pistol firing as the course was opened for action. The firing range measures 240 feet by 260 feet and has been laid

out in accordance with the FBI design for such a range. Police Lt. Archie Huff was one of the guiding forces behind the construction of the range, with officers Phil Chlopek, Chuck Ellis and Sgt. John Kennard con-

tributing their time on off-duty days to operate machinery on the project. The operation consumed 155 hours of heavy equipment usage.

The approximate five acres of the course was loaned by Clarence Hard who owns the property. Then came the task of laying out the course and moving earth for it. The Ellis Earth Moving Company loaned its equipment and labor. A member of the family, Chuck Ellis, is also a city policeman.

Other equipment for the huge task was loaned by Amos Kelsey, Klamath Disposal Company and Crater Lake Machinery Company. In all, more than 12,000 yards of dirt were moved and a 12-13 foot cut and fill was effected.

A road to the site was fashioned by the City Street Department. Lumber for the firing range points and hardboard for the barricades was donated by such firms as Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, Long Bell Lumber, Klamath Valley Lumber and Home Lumber. Other material was supplied by Klamath Iron Works. A storage house was donated by Frank Weaver, owner of the cabins on Portland and Alameda, and the house was moved to the site by Billy Chambers, with an assist from Clyde's Towing and Ned Putnam Logging.

Klamath Ready Mix, Heaton Steel and Tidewater Oil were also contributors to the project. The Police Beneficiary Association donated more than 1,600 gallons of fuel for the equipment.

Both Police Chief Charles Howard and Huff are FBI Academy graduates, and both know the value of pistol training. While such a range was not provided by the city, the men of the department

pooled their resources to bring the range into actuality.

During the first opening of the range Tuesday, we saw five men of the department go through the established firing exercise. Fifty shots are fired in all from the posts, located at 7 yards, 25 yards, 50 yards and 60 yards from the target.

The target is a silhouette of a man with kill and disabling zones marked out.

The exercise opens with 10 hip shots in 25 seconds at the target from the seven-yard post.

Then, moving back to the 60-yard position, five shots are made from a prone position, where the candidate must reload and move to the 50-yard post. Here, he fires five shots each from prone and sitting positions, and five each from behind a barricade, first with the weak hand (left if right handed, and vice versa), then five with the strong hand.

Then he moves to the 25-yard line where he fires five shots each from kneeling, then right and left hands.

The target is divided into 5-4-3 and 2 zones. After the 50 shots are fired, the score is figured in this manner: The number of shots in the five zone are multiplied by five, the four by four etc. The total is then multiplied by .4 to give the final score.

A passing score is 70.

After the five officers had fired their rounds, and chalked up passing grades in most instances, a rank of novices went to work. The city manager, Robert Kyle, Mayor Robert Veatch, Councilman Ladd Hoyt and myself were outfitted with .38 specials and tried our hands at the range.

Several points were made clear after the scores were tallied.

First, the city manager and the mayor are both fairly dangerous with a .38 from the standpoint of accuracy. The other two shooters are also dangerous with a .38 but only because they were allowed to fire one.

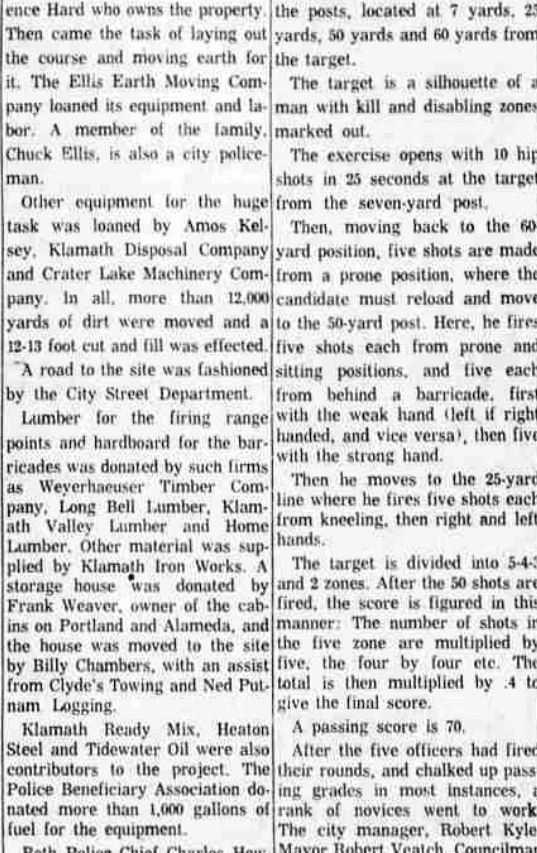
While not yet fully completed, the range will provide an outstanding facility for police authorities to sharpen their shooting eyes. Only members of the city police department, the sheriff's office and the State Police will be permitted

to use the range; it will not be for public use.

However, its construction is a tribute to the desire of men of the force to make themselves more proficient and thus more efficient police officers.



DEMONSTRATION — Opening the initial showing of the course Tuesday, Lieut. Archie Huff demonstrates the uses of both the sawed off shotgun and the submachine gun. Here, he holds the submachine gun and explains its use to a group which includes members of the force and city officials.



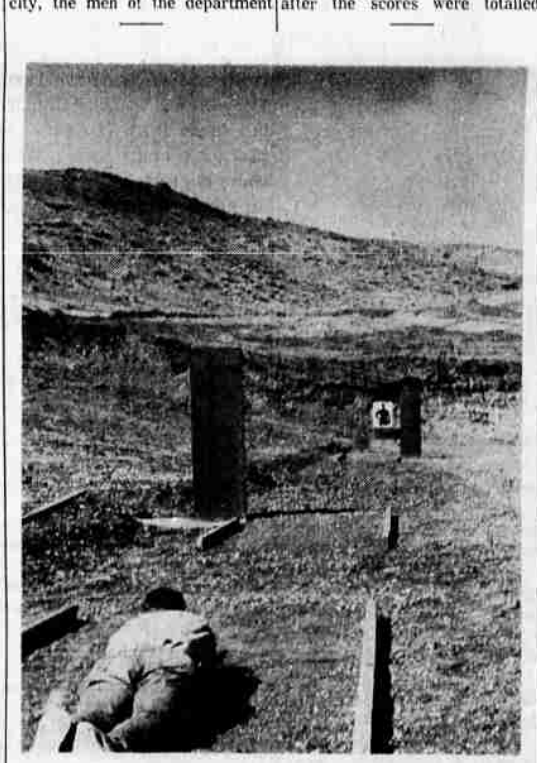
GRADING PROGRESSES — This view shows a part of the 12-foot cut that had to be made at one end of the pistol range. It also required a 13-foot fill at the other end to develop a level course.



WORK BEGINS — This picture was taken during the first stages of the earth moving at the pistol course site. More than 12,000 yards of dirt were moved for the course.



OVERALL VIEW — This view shows the larger portion of the practical pistol course in a valley just off the Old Fort Road. The course is located on about five acres of ground, and provides five firing lanes. Warning red flags have been mounted on the hills that lie between the range and the city of Klamath Falls to warn anyone entering the area.



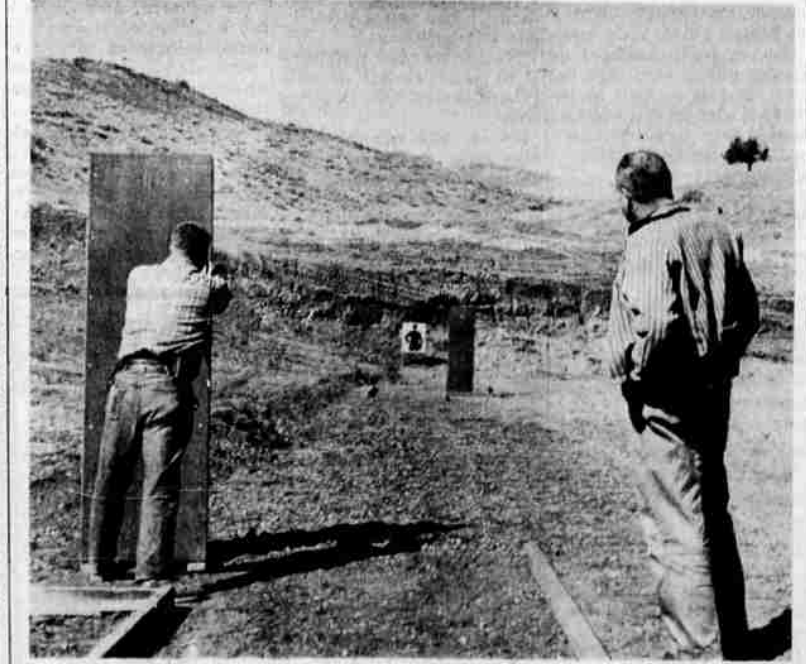
SHOOTING PRONE — The firing begins from long range at the 60-yard post where the person, in this case patrolman Chlopek, fires five rounds from the prone position at the target. The barricades which can be seen are stationed at the 50 and 25-yard lines respectively.



CAT WORK — Operation of the heavy machinery at the pistol range site was handled by these men. Left to right, standing, Dale Ellis, Chuck Ellis, Phil Chlopek and Archie Huff. Kneeling, left, Amos Kelsey, Sgt. John Kennard, and Kennard's son David. The operation required more than 155 hours of heavy equipment.



DEADLY FIRING — Showing the deadly effect of a sawed off shotgun is Sgt. John Kennard. This is one of the two type deadly weapons other than pistols employed by the department.



LONG RANGE — This is the phase of the exercise which requires firing with the weak hand from behind a barricade at the 50-yard post. Patrolman Phil Chlopek who is left handed, fires five rounds here with his weak hand, the right hand, as Councilman Ladd Hoyt observes the exercise.



LEVELING WORK — The work of leveling the range goes on with this check on the grading. Much of the surveying work was done by the street department of the city.