County Commissioners Study Road Construction, Street Improvements, Solution To Fairground Floods

A road construction project, street improvement work and a proposal that would eliminate the possibility of flooding at the county fairgrounds were presented to the County Board of Commissioners during its business meeting Wednesday in the county courthouse.

The commissioners referred two of the matters to Winston Kurth, assistant county engineer, for study and then authorized the county road department to proceed with street improvement projects on Ogden, Arthur, Austin, Laurel, Cable and Dover streets; Barlett, Delaware and Climax avenues; and Homedale Road.

One of the proposed projects to come under the study of Kurth was a request by Lt. Col. Ragnar Carlson, Kingsley Field, in which he urged the county to realign the portion of Sprague River Road that forms a sharp curve near the Bray Mill. Colonel Carlson, owner of the property, offered to deed to the county that part of his acreage which would be utilized in the realignment.

The other proposal was advanced by the Klamath County Park Commission and urged that drainage from Hogback Mountain be diverted into the "A" Canal to insure against the inundating of a park at the county fairgrounds in the event of flood. Portions of the fairgrounds were under water for a lengthy period following the floods which developed locally at the end of last year.

Activity Approved

On another recommendation of the park commissioners, the board authorized the North Klamath Beef 4-H Club to use Hagelstein Park for a group activity next Labor Day.

The commissioners then established a new travel pay policy for county road department employes which will be in effect from Feb. 25 through Nov. 25 each year. Under the new plan, employes will work a nine-hour day and receive overtime pay at the rate of time-and-a-half for the ninth hour during the February-November period. During the remainder of the year, employes will work a regular eight-hour shift.

In addition, the commissioners also set 10 hours, including travel time, as the maximum working day for county employes. The new ruling excludes emergencies such as occurred during the December floods, the commissioners said.

Other Business

In other business, the commissioners

—Authorized the assistant county engineer to purchase a 36-inch bucket for a grade-all at an estimated price of $822.

—Received cost estimates from Kurth for two street improvement projects, including Brooklyn Avenue, from Austin Street to Avalon Avenue, $1,198 at $3.20 per frontage foot, and Cottage Avenue, $8,161.60 at $3. per frontage foot.

—Postponed for one week a hearing on the Dover Park street work project to permit Jerry Rutledge, major property owner in the area, to attend the session. Rutledge was in Salem on business.

—Approved the assessment roll for street work on Hope Street from South Sixth to Climax Avenue and approved a similar roll, despite objections from Bob Gion, involving Kelly Drive.

Hearings Slated

Scheduled for various times were public hearings on the following street improvement projects

—Main Street from Third to Fifth Streets in the First Addition at Midland.

—Fourth Street from Linden Street to Main Street in the First Addition at Midland.

—Laurel Street from Dover Street southerly to the south line of Lot 31, Block 3 of the Riverview Subdivision.

Legislators See Hope For 100-Day Session

SALEM (UPI) — Legislative leaders say they are more hopeful than ever that this session will not run much more than 100 days.

With 39 days gone, Speaker F. F. Montgomery, R-Eugene, said there was a possibility it could end in less than 100 days.

But at what price? For the first time since Mark Hatfield took over as governor, Republicans control the House, and for all practical purposes hold the balance of power in the Senate.

This is the last regular legislative session for Hatfield as chief executive. The programs he has championed must be enacted now or never go in the record as achievements of his administration.

Many political observers feel that Republicans have decided to strive for "image" rather than spectacular legislative accomplishments.

The feeling seems to be that a short session will look good to the public in contrast to the record-long regular and special sessions of two years ago when the Democrats were in control.

The governor has called for reorganization of state government. He got a Commerce Department in the 1963 legislature. Whether he will get a corrections or a public safety division this session is still a question. No efforts are being made in behalf of his other reorganization proposals.

Hatfield has urged state income tax reform and proposed a "net receipts" approach for years. It wasn't until this week that a tax reform bill was introduced.

Traffic safety proposals such as maximum speed limit, annual vehicle inspection, and implied consent are in doubt.

Democrats have hinted they may label this a "do nothing" session. Some Democratic leaders have said privately that the Republicans are "sweeping the problems out of sight."

They say if this proves true, the state could face critical fiscal problems two years hence. The Democratic battle cry in the next election campaign could be that the Republicans failed to take advantage of their legislative control to seek solutions.

Job Survey Shows Gain

A survey by the State Department of Employment has shown 16,460 persons were holding jobs in Klamath County during December — 200 more than a year before.

The survey, conducted every other month by the department, shows the total civilian work force in the county during December to be 17,610.

Of this total, 1,150 were unemployed for a rate of 6.5 per cent—somewhat higher than the 5.3 per cent rate during December, 1963, and substantially higher than the 3.5 per cent rate of October, 1964.

The 16,460 employed persons during December were divided into manufacturing, 2,800; trade, 2,990; government, 2,490; non-agricultural self-employed, 2,280; agriculture, 1,450; transportation, communications and public utilities, 1,440, and several miscellaneous categories.

The department said it expects that weather will continue to be the prime factor in the employment outlook over the next 60-90 days.

The insured unemployment rate for the week ending Jan. 23 was 9.9 per cent, which is in keeping with seasonal trends for past years. The national insured rate for the week ending Jan. 9 was 4.7 per cent and for Oregon during the same week, 8.7 per cent.

Horses Need Tail Lights

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — Wanted: A tail light for horses that doesn't make the animal nervous and won't irritate his rump.

That's the problem facing San Francisco's mounted police today as the result of the discovery that state law requires such lights on any caravan. Since the mounted detail often travels in a group, police figure their horses qualify.

"The area on a horse where you need them is an odd place to put lights," said Sgt. Joe Galik, in charge of the detail, who noted that the animals have thus far thwarted all attempts.

"The next thing you know, we'll need directional signals," he sighed.

Missing Man Returns Home

OREGON CITY (UPI) — A Molalla businessman missing since last Wednesday when his overturned pickup truck was located near a flood - damaged bridge, returned home early today.

Glen Leroy Shafer told Sheriff Joe Shobe he remembered nothing since he purchased a wood stove last Wednesday for his mountain cabin and that he awoke Tuesday in a hotel in Denver.

He said he notified his wife and made arrangements to fly to Portland, arriving at 12:40 a.m.

House Tables Driver Test

SALEM (UPI)—A bill calling for compulsory chemical testing of arrested drunken drivers — one of Gov. Mark Hatfield's traffic safety proposals—was tabled by the House Judiciary Committee.

However, Committee Chairman John Dellenback, R-Medford, said he hoped to revive the "implied consent" measure and get it approved by his committee.

The measure was tabled on a 5-4 party line vote while two Republicans were absent from the meeting. Dellenback hopes to revive it when Republican attendance at a future meeting is greater than Democrat.

Illness Fells Hotel Owner

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (UPI) —Conrad Hilton, whose hotels span the globe, was reported "doing all right" today by attendants at St. John's Hospital.

Hilton, 77, was taken to the hospital by ambulance Sunday from Palm Springs, Calif., for treatment of a lower respiratory infection and mild fever.

A hospital spokesman said Hilton underwent tests Tuesday and that his fever had "abated slightly."

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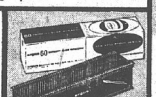

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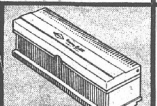

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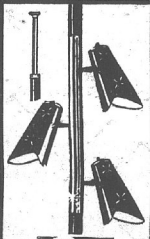

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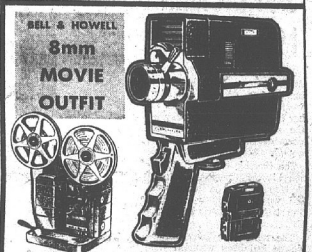

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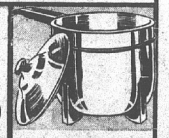

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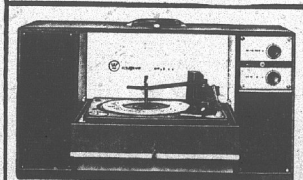

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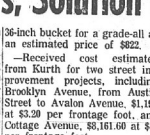

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