

An aerial, black and white photograph of a rural landscape. The image shows a dense network of roads forming a grid pattern across a field of agricultural plots. The terrain appears to be hilly or uneven, with varying shades of gray representing different types of land use, possibly crops or pastures. The overall perspective is from a high angle, looking down on the terrain.

***Josephine County  
Long Range Planning Report***

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# Preface

Long-range planning conferences have been held in the counties of Oregon at approximately 10-year intervals since the 1920's. These conferences have been sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service and have given the people of the counties an opportunity to express themselves as to their needs and concerns and to establish long-range goals.

The earlier conferences were mainly concerned with matters associated with agriculture, home economics, and 4-H club work. The complex society of today necessitated the consideration of a broader scope of subjects in order that a conference actually contribute to the development of our county. The committee feels that this broadened program will enhance the total liveability of Josephine County.

This report represents a combined effort of many citizens of Josephine County. It is the beginning of such an effort. Now we must work together to obtain our goals.

# Foreword

Josephine County is located in southern Oregon with a total area of 1,625 square miles, or 1,040,000 acres. It ranks twenty-second in the state according to county size. On the south it borders California, on the west, Curry County, on the north Douglas County, and on the east Jackson County. The county lies within the Rogue River drainage basin.

The principal features of Josephine County topography are hills and narrow winding valleys with flat areas in the Grants Pass and Cave Junction areas. The level river bottom land is as wide as 8 or 10 miles in many places. The highest elevation is Grayback Mountain, located in the Siskiyou Mountains in the southeastern part of the county. The main rivers are the Rogue River and its tributaries, the Applegate and Illinois rivers, and Wolf and Grave creeks.

Approximately 85 percent of Josephine County's total area is classified as forested lands; 70 percent of the land is publicly owned. About 675,000 acres, which are mostly forested, are controlled by the federal government. The federally owned lands are administered through the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

There were 77,000 acres of land in farms in Josephine County in 1964, 7.4 percent of the total county area. This was the lowest ratio of farmland to total area of all the counties in Oregon. About 80 percent of the county's area is in steeply sloping, untillable hills and mountains.

Most of the farmland in the county is located in three lowland areas: the Grants Pass area, the Applegate Valley, and the Illinois Valley. Irrigation is necessary for intensive farming activities

because of the dry summers. Eighty percent of the farms were using supplementary water on some portion of the farmland in 1959.

The population of Josephine County numbered 36,600 in 1966, or about 22.5 persons per square mile. Ten percent of the county's population live on farms, 34 percent live in the urban areas, and the remaining 56 percent make up the rural nonfarm population.

In 1962 total employment in Josephine County was estimated at 9,000 persons, with 9 percent of the civilian labor force unemployed. During that year total employment fluctuated from a low of 7,900 in January to a high of 9,700 in August and September. Between 1958 and 1964 the number of jobs fluctuated a good deal, due in large part to expansions and contractions in the lumber and wood products industry.

It is estimated that Josephine County employment in the six basic industry categories will be 4,200 in 1980. These industries are: lumber and wood products — 2,150; agriculture — 1,100; electronics and electronics-oriented industries — 200; recreation and transportation equipment manufacture — 140; mining — 30; and tourist-oriented industries — 600. Employment in these same categories in 1962 was estimated at 3,500. An increase in basic employment of 20 percent is thus indicated.

Josephine County has a multitude of natural needs for outdoor recreation. The Rogue River and its tributaries offer unlimited recreation to the fisherman, boater, swimmer, and to those who simply wish to enjoy its natural beauty. The Siskiyou Mountains offer a challenge to the hunter, hiker, camper, or picnicker.

# NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

## Land

Josephine County, twenty-second in land area of Oregon's 36 counties, contains 1,625 square miles, or 1,047,170 acres. Principal features are hills and mountains with winding river and creek valleys. The main valley areas are around Grants Pass, Cave Junction, and the Williams Creek-Applegate River area. The highest point is Grayback Mountain, which is 7,055 feet high and is located in the southeast corner of the county in the Siskiyou Mountains. The state and federal governments manage 72 percent of the land and the county 1 percent. Land classified as forest land is 85 percent, and land suitable for crop production is 7½ percent of the total land area.

The soil types are many and are widely dispersed throughout the county. About 75,000 acres are in agricultural production, a portion of this being highly desired homesite and subdivision property.

Land is a very valuable resource to the individual landowner and to the general public. As the population of Josephine County increases, choice building sites are being sold, subdivisions developed, and some prime agricultural land is being squeezed out of its farm use.

A potential of proper land use, orderly development and conservation, appears to be in "county zoning ordinances". Objectives would be the preservation of farmland and forest, orderly growth patterns of urban and rural residential developments, and sustained management of land, mineral, water, wildlife, and forest resources. The recreational use of the land is becoming a large economic factor in all aspects of planning, and there is a great potential here in the future to landowners.

The "greenbelt law" is aiding a great deal in giving the bona fide farmer and forester a fair share in land taxes.

The following summary contains related factors and feelings of land-use planning as expressed by this subcommittee.

## PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS

While this planning is primarily constituted to help formulate orderly land-use for a 10-year period, it must be remembered that the developments in this decade will be reflected many years hence.

**Zoning.** The County Planning Commission is presently engaged in the development of a comprehensive zoning plan for Grants Pass and the contiguous area. This committee supports such an effort and is in favor of expanding the plan to include the entire county. Unknown factors may accelerate the population growth of the county far beyond that presently anticipated. Therefore, it is prudent that a plan for orderly development be formulated and applied.

**Timber resources.** A large percentage of Josephine County is under public domain, being managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service, Oregon State Forest Department, and Josephine County. As such it is removed from a tax-revenue-producing status to a more passive role as timberland, wherein a tax-supported agency manages timber harvesting. The same land under private ownership has immediate revenue-producing potential through taxes, while ultimately it has a sustained, long-term value as a tree farm where timber products are cultivated and harvested through free enterprise. This committee favors gradual return of some public domain property to private enterprise, recognizing at the same time the value of some county lands remaining in county ownership for future public usage.

It is anticipated that timber products will continue to play a prominent role in the economic future of the county. Therefore, continued effort must be given to protecting our forests against insect and fire damage. Also, recent advances in timber product uses have upgraded the value of small trees and even slash, which formerly was

burned. The maximum recovery of this category of forest products creates a much higher economic potential for forest lands.

**Mining.** In the first half century following settlement in Josephine County, many millions of dollars came from mineral resources; however, when surface deposits of gold were removed, mining virtually disappeared from the scene. Mining is one of the few things man can do to create new wealth. Considerable deposits of minerals still exist in the county. Mining of these minerals should be encouraged for the economic well-being of the area. Both real estate and capital improvement tax incentives should be used to encourage this development.

**Farming.** Certain areas of the county are only suitable for agricultural use under current land-use practices. Therefore, the continued productivity of these lands should be encouraged. Zoning appears to be one of the few tools that can be used to prevent real estate exploitation and subsequent high taxes from neutralizing farm property. Again, tax incentives should be considered for keeping land productive. This committee believes that continued productivity of farmland is essential to the future best interests of the county.

**Home and Business.** By all indications, the population growth of Josephine County is going to continue at an ever-increasing pace. This makes planning and zoning essential for orderly growth. The committee stresses the need for careful planning and zoning of the entire county as soon as possible.

As the density of population increases, the problems of appropriate land use and pollution become more critical. This committee cannot overemphasize the importance of developing and abiding by strict rules as far as pollution problems are concerned. Clean air, water, and soil are essential to the health of our citizens.

While not involved specifically with industrial development of the county, this committee strongly urges everyone concerned with the

future of Josephine County to encourage industries to refrain from polluting our environment.

Septic tanks and wells predominate in Josephine County. The need for both improvements at any rural homesite cannot be denied. However, they are not entirely compatible. The availability of sufficient well water is a problem in many areas during the dry season. Conversely, septic percolation and runoff continue to jeopardize health standards of many rural homes during the rainy season. An effort should be made to develop alternatives to the present well-septic tank system where needed.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Regulations in regards to land use and county health codes should be more rigidly enforced.
- The Merlin project (Sexton Reservoir) would be a great asset to the county. The recreational values and domestic use values of this project are much larger now than the originally projected agricultural values.
- Agricultural zoning can accomplish many of the objectives that are concerns of bona fide farmers and rural residents. But it must be done right. Zoning can provide the farmer with protection from the problems of adjacent rural housing which constitutes a noncomplementing use of the land.
- Zoning ordinances should be flexible and subject to change. Zoning should not impose a hardship or serious discontent by unreasonable concepts.
- In zoning throughout the county, the ordinances should reflect both economic and human factors. Current conditions may warrant a desirable change. It is not fair to lock an individual or a group into a noneconomic use of land, no matter how socially desirable it might be.

- The committee recommends that the people residing in areas of common interests be informed of the problems of the area and be asked to take part at the initial planning stages. The residents of the county can help the planning commission to form a final plan of procedure. Public participation will result in a more efficient, effective, and compatible comprehensive plan. Rural approval of the plan is important.

- A cooperative effort should be expended on the part of both private enterprise and government to keep and preserve our "highly desirable natural environment" for future generations to use and enjoy for both economic and esthetic values.

**Josephine County  
Land Use and Ownership  
1964**

Land	Josephine County	
	Oregon Percent	Acres Percent
Urban	.49	.18
Industrial	.16	—
Military	.10	—
Intensive agriculture	6.52	3.00
Dryland farming	3.33	—
Forests	44.84	32.38
Parks	.32	—
Conservation	2.25	.05
Grazing	41.50	6.18
Nonproductive land	.49	8.21
Total land area	100.00	1,040,000 100.00

## Water



**A time for outdoor appreciation.**

The total land area of Josephine County lies within the drainage of the Rogue River system. The Rogue River drainage basin is divided into four subbasins. Nonresidents think that this area has an oversupply of water, or at least a very abundant supply. Residents know from

personal experience that this is not true. Water is a **very** precious commodity and the most in demand of our natural resources. Each year our situation becomes more critical as to water shortages in all aspects, i.e., ground water, reservoir storage, river flow, and creek flow.

With the county's increased population, more demands will be placed on available water reserves. Logging operations have an adverse effect on the watershed-holding capacity of water. Requests for a greater water supply for industrial, domestic, and agricultural uses are increasing. Irrigation districts are finding their distribution systems and policies more complex. A greater effort is needed toward conservation and regulation of our water resources for the compatible use and benefit of all interests concerned. Agriculture, industry and domestic uses are now being pressured hard from the recreational use requirement. Tourism and recreation constitute the second largest industry in the county now and this industry is growing. It is predicted that it will surpass the timber industry by 1975. Water-oriented recreation is of top priority.

### PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS

The problems are quite specific. We are concerned about our ground water, our stream flow,

and our storage facilities. We need more stored water in reservoirs for all of the uses stated in the preceding section.

Our potential has limitations. Such proposed projects as Sucker Creek Reservoir and Sexton Reservoir are suitable and will improve our situation. A proposed recreational lake in Briggs Valley is endorsed also. Improved water delivery systems such as pressure pipeline delivery may be a potential way of conserving our water resource.

The following is a brief summary from the county watermaster's office, which points out related concerns:

A study of the water resources discloses that there is still some need for revision in the area of state law concerning water rights. These rights should be clarified as to priority in order that the agricultural and commercial users be protected. But those who need the water for domestic consumption and sanitation should be recognized. This statement is made with the full realization that ORS 540,140 has been in print for some time. If the land use in this area in the next 10 years continues in the present manner, our greatest use of water will be on 5-acre places. It looks as though eventually a homesite outside the city will consist of one-acre to two-acre parcels.

The ground-water supply in certain areas will not be adequate to support homesites of this size. The drainage facilities in other areas will tend to increase the pollution problem and impair the proper works of septic facilities. A great deal of thought should be given to maintaining pure, adequate supplies of ground water. It would appear that part of the cost of irrigation and recreational and flood-control dams could possibly be charged to a ground-water program. One of the side benefits of storing water and delivering it through earth ditches is that it would tend to increase the ground-water level and help to maintain homesites in areas where it would be impossible otherwise. We have this situation in several areas now. The Kerby area is a good example of this. Bedrock is very close to the surface, and if the water is not running in the Kerby ditch, wells are for the most part not adequate for normal household use.

Irrigation districts will have to change their delivery techniques in those areas where they intend to serve future homesites beneficially. The delivery to the high point of a forty is no longer a solution to the water distribution problem. Water may have to be delivered to each individual landowner, and in a great number of instances water treated for human consumption will have to be delivered in these areas. It appears that a great number of the citizens in the outlying areas near the centers of population do not want to include their lands within city complexes. Because of sanitation needs and the proximity of homesites, it appears that it will become necessary for irrigation districts or water districts to be formed or modified in order that people may be supplied. There is a great deal of ground in the Josephine County area which is presently privately owned or owned by governmental agencies, which is not suitable for raising trees; nor is it suitable for farming. These lands would lend themselves well to homesites, provided water were made available. This would help our ad valorem tax system spread the cost by increasing the value of these lands in the range of \$9 to \$21 to several hundred dollars per acre.

It appears that some hardships may be caused to private citizens under our present rules because of prior government claims to the waters in our area. In some instances the federal government has claimed the water out of hand, and in other cases it has filed on water for future beneficial use of projects. Some of these projects have not been completed and some have been completed but not in the manner first proposed; hereby creating a hardship on others' needs for water.

Our Illinois Valley area is an area where farming and clearing of new lands was effectively stopped because of the closure against filing water rights in 1934. The only new lands which may come under irrigation are those with ground-water sources. The ground-water sources in this area are fairly good. However, as increased use of ground-water is brought about, it appears that there will be a direct effect on the surface water rights in the area and therefore cause additional problems. Our area, for the most part in the dry period of the summer, does not depend on snow pack for its water, but rather stores of water in the soil mantle. Any withdrawal from this soil mantle tends to affect the stream flows. If we

do not set about storing water in our area in the near future, it appears that over the next decade, with the increase in population expected, we should begin to experience difficulty in obtaining ample water for a larger segment of our population. At the present time in Josephine County, to our knowledge, a year has not passed without people who wanted and required irrigation water being **denied** the use of this water because there was not a sufficient supply to meet the needs of all priority dates. If we must prove need, which it appears we must, this is a good and valid argument in this direction. On the other hand, a better argument may be that if we have storage facilities constructed we then may improve our area's livability to a point that those desiring to live here may do so and be assured adequate water supplies for sanitation needs and small tract irrigation. This will not involve changing any of the very basic ideas concerning the storage facilities planned except that perhaps the distribution of these facilities may have to be in pipelines and under pressure instead of in ditches.

In order to be able to study more readily the various problems concerning water, it would be well for the U.S.G.S. branch in charge of Quadrangle map sheets to redo our area from the 1:62,500 scale to the larger scales which are available in other areas, giving us a better contour study of our area.

We should begin a soil mantle moisture study high in our watershed areas to determine whether or not we can gain additional information which would be valuable to us in predicting stream flow and ground-water storage capabilities for future needs.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Rogue Basin Project will be a definite benefit to this area. The committee endorses

and recommends the promotion of each separate division within the overall project. Each project will result in great returns to its specific area.

- Serious consideration should be given to pipeline pressure systems for distribution of water from storage reservoirs.

- There should be closer coordination among the agencies concerned with water distribution and water quality control.

- Stronger enforcement of water quality control is needed.

- The general public should be better educated concerning the preservation and conservation of our water resource in relation to efficient and wise use.

- Closer coordination among recreational, agricultural, municipal, private, industrial, and fishery interests is advisable.

- Future feasibility studies of other possible water storage reservoirs should find favor among the population.

- The Sexton Reservoir (Merlin Project) should be considered from a new standpoint. The agricultural use value is changing and the use benefits for domestic and recreational purposes are much greater than in the original plans.

- The proposed reservoir on Upper Graves Creek to help maintain a suitable water level in Sexton Reservoir for recreational income is considered worthy of careful consideration. The committee realizes that needed construction funds, other than through a federal project, would be a problem at this time. We should not scratch the idea entirely in looking to the future.

# HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

Josephine County's 39,000 habitants enjoy the mild, scenic, dry climate and the opportunity to live close to nature. Thirty-seven percent of its people live in the two incorporated towns — Grants Pass, 13,900; and Cave Junction, 480. Yet a 10 to 30 minute drive will bring nearly every resident to one of 25 public recreational areas or some of the most remote and wild areas in the country. Sixty-three percent live in rural areas, yet only 7.3 percent of the county land area is in farm or rural ownership.

Much land in the county is in private, state, or federal forests. The county is dotted with 1 to 10 acre tract home-in-the-country residents. Daily newspaper ads and roadside real estate signs have an overgenerous supply of undeveloped tracts of land, from one acre on up, prominently displayed.

Less than 1 percent of the rural and urban habitants live on the 80 farms (1964 Agriculture Census) which had a gross income of \$10,000 and over. An additional 298 may be considered part-time farms where the gross sale of farm products is from \$50 to \$9,999.

Most of the farms need off-farm employment to maintain living standards. Many of the poverty cases in the county are rural residents who

like the rural setting and way of life, but do not have the skills nor the immediate opportunity for gainful full-time employment. Approximately 95 percent of the rural population live in a home close to nature, but whose lives, jobs, schools and living habits are urban centered.

The 1960 census reported that 64 percent of the county residents had been born in a state other than Oregon. This percentage has probably increased. The 1968 Josephine County Manpower Resources Study said, "The county population expansion has been marked by a high in-migration flow, particularly from the booming populations of California".

There are few who are prouder than the "Josephinian" about the advantages of his area as a good place to live. Josephine County ranks high on most livability scales but falls down on one extremely important factor. Employment opportunities are in the lowest 5 percent of the 3,135 counties in the United States.

Following is a table of Social-Economic indicators prepared in 1968 by the Office of Economic Opportunity Information Center comparing Josephine County to all the other counties in the United States.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS:	Unfavorable				Favorable			
	Ext	Sig	Mod	Normal	Mod	Sig	Ext	
	*-----*	*-----*	*-----*	†-----*	*-----*	*-----*	*-----*	
Magnitude of poverty			xxxxxxxxxxxx	†				
Severity of poverty				†xxxxxxxxxxxx				
Economic compensation				†xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx				
Economic activity				†xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx				
Family resources				†xxx				
Employment conditions	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx			†				
Educational Achievement				†xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx				
Functional illiteracy				†xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx				
Adequacy of health care				†xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx				
Health status				†xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx				
Sufficiency of housing				†xxxx				
Agricultural prosperity				†xxxxxxx				
	*-----*	*-----*	*-----*	†-----*	*-----*	*-----*	*-----*	
	Ext	Sig	Mod	Normal	Mod	Sig	Ext	
	Unfavorable				Favorable			
Legend				Ext—Extremely				
				Sig—Significantly				
				Mod—Moderately				

The Human Resources committees focused their attention on the people in the county and

the services available to make their lives satisfying, fulfilling, and rewarding.

## Family Stability

Josephine County had a 1968 estimated population of 39,127 which represented 12,100 families. These families continually find life more complex. With this complexity of life has come a lessening of close family ties and a greater need for understanding how to enrich and strengthen family living patterns.

In 1968 332 marriages were registered in the county and 188 divorces. This represents a ratio of nearly one divorce for two marriages.

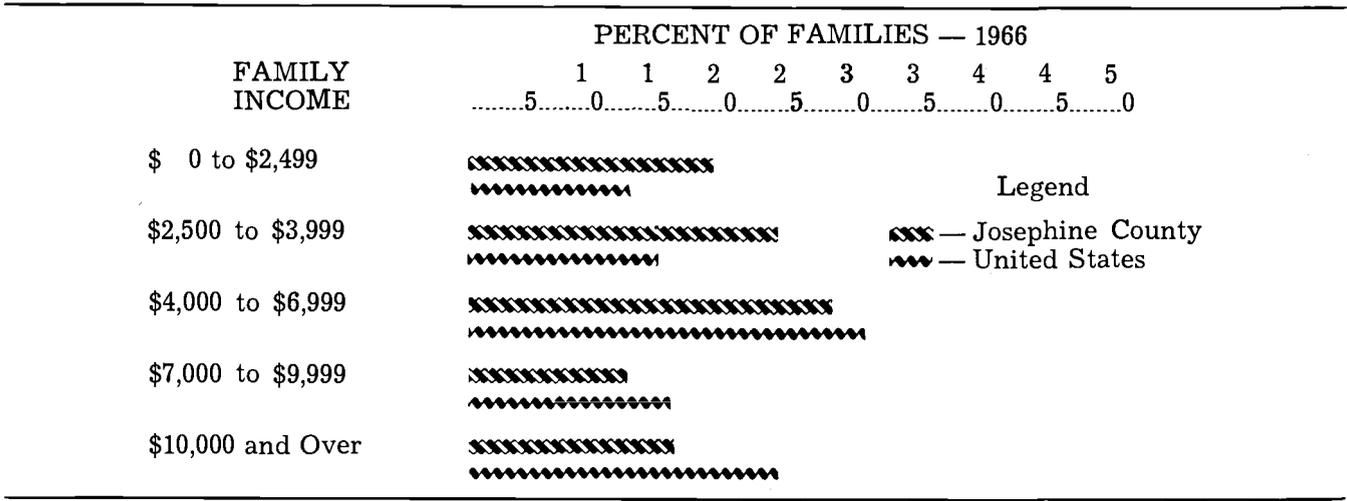
Illegitimate births were registered by 26 unwed mothers in 1967, just slightly under the state average. This, coupled with the estimated statistic that one in six women were pregnant at the time of marriage, would indicate that approximately 84 of the county's 493 births were conceived out of marriage.

An average of 800 families received welfare assistance during 1968. During the winter this is higher because of seasonal employment. In February 1969, 329 cases received direct assist-

ance for Aid to Dependent Children (ADC). Of these cases, 68 had a male in the home. There were 500 cases of old-age assistance, with 176 in nursing home care. Between 50 and 70 children a month are in foster home care. The 1969-70 welfare budget is \$1,553,396.

Unemployment is about 10 percent higher than in neighboring counties. The county ranks fourteenth in Oregon in population, but drops to fourth in incidence of poverty, with 28 percent of families with incomes under \$3,000 in the 1965 estimated census. The net effective buying income of all county residents in 1965 was estimated at \$2,088 per capita, or \$6,338 per household. The state average was \$2,369 and \$7,436 respectively, making Josephine County considerably below the state average.

A percentage distribution of family income in Josephine County for 1966 is shown graphically below, along with the comparable percentages for the United States.



In 1959 Josephine County had a median family income of \$5,220, but by 1966 the estimated median family income had fallen to \$4,815.

Compared to the rest of the nation in 1959, Josephine County had a higher median family income than 77 percent of all the United States

counties. The relative standing of the county fell 21 percentage points by 1966, when its median family income ranked only at the 56 percent level of the counties in the United States, so states the Office of Economic Opportunity Information Center.

Alcoholism is a problem with 876 persons for a ratio of 38.6 per 1,000 population. An average of 4.8 suicides per year were registered from 1963 to 1967, ranking the county sixteenth, or slightly above average in the state.

In 1968, 550 youth were referred to the Juvenile Office. However, slightly more than half of these cases were resolved without involvement of the youth in court processes. The Juvenile Office tries to counsel and work toward solutions without going to court.

A Child Guidance Clinic is in operation, but because of limited staff, is able to deal with only a fraction of the families in need of assistance. The clinic is primarily concerned with screening, evaluating, testing, and parental counseling with families involving children with social and emotional problems. No private facilities are available for counseling other than through a minister.

The higher than average incidence of family instability is believed by authorities to be directly related to the lack of economic opportunity. Financial problems are one of the principal stress factors that result in the breakdown of marriage and family solidity.

### **C O N C E R N S**

- The female labor force rose from 28.2 percent to 34.4 percent between 1960 and 1967. This trend removes an ever-increasing number of mothers from a full-time motherhood role.
- Because of much seasonal employment and many lower paying male jobs, many women seek employment to augment the family income.
- There is a lack of understanding of the changing role of the father when the mother takes employment.
- The lack of preparation of young people to be husband or wife and father or mother contributes to family instability.

- Overextended credit buying puts stresses and tensions in marriage which affect a harmonious relationship.

- Early pregnancy after marriage, particularly for the teenage marriage, brings responsibilities and financial burdens that hinder building a good base for marital stability and happiness.

- The lack of a teen center and recreational and cultural activities for older teenagers was continually expressed as a community problem.

- An increase in the use of drugs and other stimulants causes concern.

- An increasing number of young people reject the normal social economic system and seek personal satisfaction or expression by withdrawing from society.

- Youth and adults need educational programs that train the individual to have a salable skill or to upgrade skills.

- A number of girls become pregnant while still in high school.

- Forced weddings due to pregnancy do not permit the individuals to experience normal courtship nor adjustments to marriage responsibilities in an environment favorable to a good husband-and-wife relationship before entering the mother and father role.

- People live longer, retire earlier, use more labor-saving and time-saving equipment in the home, have fewer responsibilities for children to assume. This situation creates an ever-increasing amount of leisure time for all ages of people. Many adults and youth are unprepared to utilize their leisure time to contribute to their spiritual and bodily well being.

### **R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S**

The committee submits the following recommendations:

- Establish more child-care centers.
- Encourage business and industry to adjust working hours for mothers so they would only work while children are in school.
- Set up classes to give training in family relationship to help husbands and wives understand their role in an ever-changing society.

- Establish preparation for marriage classes in high school and in adult or Extension education classes or programs.
- Place more emphasis on consumer education courses in high school. Sound money management needs to be emphasized as a positive aid to a harmonious marriage relationship. Provide opportunities for adults to enroll or participate in consumer education and money management classes.

- Increase the use of programs and educational information to acquaint youth and adults of the effects of drugs, narcotics, tobacco, alcohol, and other health hazards.
- Increase emphasis on vocational classes in high school and adult education courses.
- Involve youth in planning and directing activities in the fields of their interests.

## Education

Education was considered from two points: One, formal education, which is generally interpreted as the normal school program for youth age 6 to 18 and the other adult, vocational, and informal education programs.

Two school systems are administered in the county. These are the Josephine County Unified School District and the Grants Pass School District No. 7, which operates within the Grants Pass city limits and specified adjacent suburban areas.

The city school system's 1969 enrollment was 4,225 students. The system operates 1 high school, 2 junior high schools, and 7 grade schools. The county school system has 4,063 students and operates one high school in Cave Junction. They contract to send the majority of their high school youth to Grants Pass High School operated by the city system. The county system operates 11 elementary schools and 2 junior high schools. The city-operated high school is approaching maximum capacity. Plans are to build a new county high school in the Grants Pass suburban area. The school system generally operates on a 6-3-3 grade basis, but to balance loads and utilize facilities efficiently, some variations occur.

The individual schools function with considerable autonomy, yet in a planned and programmed pattern so that each school is contributing to the total development and education of the child. The school curriculum is planned to provide a basic foundation and aid in transition from grade, junior high, and high schools.

The curriculum is basically college entrance oriented, with limited vocational courses offered.

An expanded vocational unit will begin functioning in the 1969-70 year at the Grants Pass High School.

Grants Pass High School, with a total enrollment of 1,819 students, has offered vocational courses in agriculture and business education. The expanded vocational courses for 1969-70 include electronics, health education, and industrial mechanics. The vocational program will be a two-year program.

Grants Pass High School had 50 dropouts in the 1967-68 school year. Reasons for dropping out were too difficult subject matter, marriage, and pregnancy.

The Illinois Valley High School had a 1967-68 enrollment of 248 students. It offers vocational courses in agriculture and business. School dropouts in 1967-68 were seven.

One private school, New Hope Christian School, operates for grades 1 to 12. It has a total school enrollment of 140.

No public kindergartens are in operation. Five private-tuition schools are functioning. School authorities estimate that less than 2 percent of the children entering the first grade have had prior enrichment experiences outside of the home.

### OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

There are no colleges, community colleges, or vocational schools in the county. A number of students go to Southern Oregon College at

Ashland (41 miles by freeway), and a very few do commute daily. Eight lower division evening classes from SOC are offered each term in Grants Pass, with 115 different students participating. Many of these students complete their upper division work through residence at one of the state colleges later.

A number of adult education classes are offered and administered by the Grants Pass School System in cooperation with the Division of Continuing Education. Some of these are for personal enrichment; others are vocational or for college credit.

During 1968, 154 adult students were enrolled in commercial improvement courses which included typing (50), bookkeeping (50), shorthand (26) and business machines (28). Two classes are offered each year in welding (48) and woodworking (52). Eight men completed a year of apprentice training in carpentry and one in electrical work.

Sewing classes were attended by 270 women representing approximately 150 different individuals. G.E.D. classes attracted 95 students with approximately 80 percent receiving their high school equivalency diplomas.

Each term 3 or 4 college courses are offered for teacher betterment, with 125 adults enrolled in 1968.

Facilities are available to establish adult classes in any field if a minimum of 12 students enroll. This may be a class for personal enrichment, vocational training, or for college credit.

Additional informal educational programs are conducted by the Oregon State University Cooperative Extension Service. The Cooperative Extension Service is a part of a unique trigovernment arrangement between the USDA, the state land-grant university, and county government. Four Extension agents are assigned to Josephine County by Oregon State University. They are located in the county courthouse. Several agents are specialized and are shared with neighboring Jackson County on a reciprocal basis.

The guiding principle in Extension work is "To help people help themselves." Extension education is also education for action.

Broad objectives of the Extension Service are:

- To increase incomes and make best use of all available resources
- To improve living, home and family environment
- To develop better community living environment
- To develop increased ability and willingness for youth and adults to assume leadership and citizenship responsibilities

Extension agents in the county conduct educational programs in agriculture, family living, youth work including 4-H club work, and community and resource development.

A staff of Extension subject matter specialists at Oregon State University is also available to the people of the county through the Extension office.

The services of the Extension program reach a great many people in the county. A summary of the 1968 activities listed 23,324 consultations by Extension agents providing information, advice, or guidance on problems of individuals, families and farm operators. The Extension Service conducts an intensive program to train leaders who in turn teach or work with small groups. Training was given to 1,009 local leaders.

A complete stock of bulletins on home, family, gardens, and farm problems is maintained from both Oregon State University and the United States Department of Agriculture. Most bulletins are distributed free to county residents on request by telephone, letter, or personal visit. During 1968, 50,945 bulletins were requested and distributed by the Extension office on topics as diverse as "Comparing Cost per Serving to Stretch Your Food Dollars"; "Planning for Retirement"; "Minigardens for Vegetables"; and "Sheep Management in Oregon."

The Extension agents make daily radio broadcasts, produce occasional TV programs, and furnish news articles to acquaint residents about information available, educational and informative meetings being held, and other services.

The Extension Service, through a contract with the Office of Economic Opportunity, administers an employment-training program for low income youth who might otherwise drop out of school and one for school dropouts. The county quota is 17 in-school youth and 6 out-of-school youth and 32 in special summer programs.

## CONCERNS

- Public education at preschool level to provide enrichment and group experiences for preschool children is lacking.
- The present education program at the secondary level is designed to prepare youth for college entrance, but lacks in depth and diversity for those who are work bound.
- The formal school program is inadequate in preparing youth for responsibilities of marriage and family living.
- The general public lacks information about adult education programs and the ease of securing new or additional classes.
- There is a very definite lack of feeling of "comradeship" between school and community.
- Special education classes are available for retarded, educable youth, but no facilities are available for retarded trainable youth.
- Some schools are teaching sex education, but mostly from a biological standpoint. Interpersonal relationships or preparation for marriage and family living are limited, especially for boys. Some is done with girls in Home Economics classes.
- Opportunity for young marrieds to receive training in prenatal and postnatal training dealing with child bearing and rearing is limited.
- Because of limited opportunity for youth to explore and develop attitudes toward vocation or jobs, it is common to take the first job available and make the best of it.
- Opportunity for young people or persons of any age to receive training in family finance, credit buying, and management of income is limited.
- Too few youth are involved in school sports.
- School life, particularly at the high school level, is dictated by the athletic program.
- Athletic and sports programs emphasized in high school are not types of sports that adults can continue to play after graduation. Adults from teen years on up need recreation for healthful living in an ever-increasing sedentary environment.
- Youth involved in athletics are feverishly sought after by colleges and universities, while those with high academic or other talented abilities go largely unrecognized.
- Nutritional and dietary habits of people are not compatible with body needs and living patterns, particularly in the teen and olders years.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee submits the following recommendations:

- Kindergarten or preschool enrichment opportunities.
- Equal emphasis on curriculum to prepare youth for university entrance and those work bound.
- Youth education in family financial management; man's role in marriage, expectations of marriage; and women's role in marriage.
- Information program to acquaint people with opportunities in adult and Extension education programs.
- Promotion of the community-school concept.
- Opportunities for training of retarded trainable youth.
- Classes for parents-to-be.
- Vocational fair or opportunities for youth to explore possible vocational fields.
- Emphasis on academic achievement equal to that placed on athletics.

- Emphasis in schools on individual sports and types of recreation that can be enjoyed in adult life.
- Necessity of teaching that the majority of people live in a sedentary environment and that

living, eating, and recreational habits must be adjusted accordingly.

- Provision of family development education from kindergarten through high school.

## Senior Citizens

The 1960 census listed 3,665 residents in the county 65 years and over, representing 12.3 percent of the population. The county ranked third in the state in percentage of senior citizens. Since 1960, observations indicate that this percentage has increased sharply as more senior citizens have been attracted to the Rogue Valley by its moderate climate and out-of-door opportunities.

The February 1968 Social Security report showed 6,725 persons receiving Social Security. This represented 3,961 retired workers, 832 wives of retired workers, and 517 widows of retired workers totaling 5,310. An additional 170 are on welfare, and an undetermined number are not eligible. Although no recent census figures are available, the above statistics indicate a sharp rise since 1960.

A Senior Citizens Coordinating Service is operated through the City Parks and Recreation Department. The service estimates that 18 percent of this county's citizens are retired. The Senior Citizens Coordinating Service has been instrumental in organizing the Council of Elder Citizens to work toward common goals and to help acquaint the community and services of the needs of this segment of the population.

The Senior Citizens Coordinating office is active in working with senior citizens and their problems. In addition to counseling and advisory services, the staff plans with senior citizens a variety of educational, social, and enrichment opportunities.

Many senior citizens live on very small and inadequate incomes, a situation which has tended to withdraw them from the community and social life. The Senior Citizens Coordinating office has helped to develop resources to better service senior citizens' needs and to acquaint retired persons with the agencies and services available.

Senior citizens tend to have problems in socialization. Many move into the county to retire and are strangers. Others sell their homes and move into less pretentious accommodations but in a different neighborhood, and others become "lost" because they outlived their friends. The result for many is withdrawal from community and socialization, which affects good mental attitudes and healthful living. For many, meal preparation becomes a burden under these circumstances, resulting in poor diet and nutritional problems.

The committee made a survey of 93 retired persons attending a meeting of senior citizens which may not necessarily be a cross section of the senior citizen community, but does present information of interest.

1. AGE		
	Over 60	13
	Over 65	26
	Over 70	28
	Over 75	26
2. SEX		
	Male	43
	Female	50
3. MARITAL STATUS		
	Married	57
	Widowed	32
	Never Married	4
4. Live alone		38
	Live with family or relations	4
	Live with spouse	50
	Children in home	3
5. Own home		67
	Rent home	16
	Rent apartment	6
6. Rental amount	\$20 - \$90	Avg. \$48
	No payment required for housing	45

7. Need change in housing	4
Interested in group housing	
for retired persons	33
8. Cook own meals	87
Eat out	6
9. Drive and own car	66
Use taxi frequently	5
Use taxi infrequently	6
Walk	13
10. AREAS OF PHYSICAL PROBLEMS	
Arthritis	31
Heart	17
Other	20
11. Social Security	66
Old age assistance	25
Other income	32
Receive abundant foods	7
12. INCOME	
Under \$2,500	63
Over \$2,500	22
Over \$5,000	3
(5 not responding)	

### CONCERNS

- No adequate public facility exists for meetings, educational, and cultural programs.
- Senior citizens lack a center.
- No public transportation exists.
- Because of lack of public transportation, many senior citizens continue to drive cars even though of marginal ability.
- Senior citizens on low incomes cannot afford automobiles or taxi fare.
- Many senior citizens are on low fixed income. Rising costs and inflation make respectable living difficult.
- No housing specifically designed for senior citizens, either low cost or other, exists.
- Many senior citizens live in substandard housing and dilapidated or nearly dilapidated housing because they cannot afford better housing or cannot afford to maintain their homes.
- The nutrition and health of many senior citizens is poor to precarious.

- Senior citizens lack information about the services that are available.

- Many senior citizens would like part-time work to supplement income, feel useful or help pass the time, but lack the means of making their abilities and availability known.

- Senior citizens possess a wealth of experience and abilities that are not utilized by the community.

- Many senior citizens live alone and worry about falling or other health problems which may incapacitate them and prevent them from getting assistance.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee submits the following suggestions:

- Provide a community building that senior citizens may use.
- Make low and moderate cost housing available near to shopping and cultural center.
- Establish a central clearing house where persons desiring services may phone for employment of senior citizens.
- Utilize senior citizens to help staff day-care centers.
- Establish a telephone reassurance program.
- Establish nutrition and cooking classes for one or two person cooking.
- Establish nutrition and diet classes to help teach adjustment from working life to retirement life.
- Seek more publicity to acquaint senior citizens with services and programs.
- Publish a directory of public services, including a map.
- Establish legal aid service on ability to pay.
- Establish classes for preretirement planning.

- Provide classes and instruction on simple home maintenance and handyman activities especially for senior citizens.

- Encourage service clubs to consider the elder citizen's problems with the same zeal they focus on youth activities.

## Health

The study by the health committee included several areas (medical, mental, community health service, nutritional, and environmental) to point up some of the health needs of Josephine County. Generally, living conditions are quite healthful. There is a fine Health Department with a health officer who is alert to the needs of the community and keeps in step with advances in the public health field as the budget allows.

The Mental Health Division of the Health Department works toward improving public understanding of preventative programs, therapy, treatment for the disturbed child and counseling for the family, and rehabilitation and treatment of alcoholics.

Vitaly concerned citizens and agencies work toward goals to lessen juvenile delinquency, crime, and drug experimentation, and to promote general health education, rehabilitation of the handicapped, and cope with other social problems. Perhaps not enough has been done to educate people in communication and understanding of each other and the changing values for specific groups living within the county.

There is a known relationship between nutrition and health, and despite the abundance of food and consumer purchasing power, diets and food patterns of many families are seriously inadequate. Malnutrition causes permanent damage to the brain and nervous system.

### MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HOSPITALS

There are 27 physicians and medical specialists, 2 osteopathic physicians and surgeons, 4 optometrists and 18 dentists in Josephine County.

Among the 27 physicians, besides general physicians, there are obstetricians and a gynecologist, ophthalmologists, a pediatrician, an orthopedic doctor, a radiologist, and pathologists.

At the present time two general hospitals with 141-bed capacity exist. Both have been constructed since 1963. Long-term facilities include 4 nursing homes, 4 homes for the aged, 1 day nursery for children and 1 home for retarded boys. The nursing homes have a bed capacity of 275 and the highest percentage of occupancy for any one is 95 percent. Services available at the hospitals are general, dental, and emergency care. A clinical laboratory and X-ray facilities are also available.

Policies in the state of Oregon that have set a 50-bed hospital as a minimum for a community with 25 to 40 thousand population would make facilities appear quite adequate. Long-term care facilities, however, are a little low in number of beds (20-25) provided. The 1964 highest percentage of occupancy for any of these facilities was 90 percent. Josephine General Hospital was also designed to permit future expansion at a minimum cost. It should also be noted that citizens of Josephine County share medical facilities and physicians' services in Jackson County.

### PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Health Department offers a wide variety of services which includes the prevention of the occurrence and progression of disease and disability, public education, and all types of accident prevention. Divisions include administration, health nursing, environmental sanitation, mental health, medical investigation, and the home health agency.

Personnel involved are the health offices and administrator, 6 registered nurses, 1 practical nurse, 2 sanitarians, 3 psychiatric social workers, and a part-time consulting psychiatrist and 1 consulting psychologist. Two assistant medical investigators also serve the county with the health officer.

**Nursing services.** Programs included are outlined as follows:

—Infant and preschool child

1. Liaison for private physician, hospital, parents and home demonstration and direction of child care
2. Hearing-vision testing clinics held in cooperation with O.S.B.H. in Grants Pass and Illinois Valley
3. General health-care supervision

—Health programs in schools

1. Conferences with teachers and individual students
2. Liaison for student, home, and physician
3. Health education, lectures, films, dental health, safety, and personal grooming
4. Inspection and observations
5. Annual testing programs for vision, hearing, and tuberculin test
6. Immunization

—Dental programs with voluntary agencies such as the Kiwanis Clinic program

—Home health care and interpretations and direction of doctor's orders for chronic disease patients, mental and emotional health conferences and guidance for any age group, observations of home conditions, safety hazards, etc.

—Immunization program for general public and international travelers

—Communicable disease activities

—Mental health as related to nursing services

—Public health education and community health agency programs

**Mental health services.** Mental health services established in July 1965 include a psychiatric clinic heretofore known as the Child Guidance Clinic, family guidance and marriage counseling, alcohol and rehabilitation, assistance to families with retarded children, and follow-up programs for persons returned from mental hospitals. Social workers, health nurses, and local professional people combine services as a team to treat all ages in the program. Suicides in Josephine County in 1962 (5-year average) were 19.7 per 100,000. The

Oregon state average was 12.7 per 100,000. During 1966 in Josephine County there were only 5 successful suicides, but on the average there are 8 attempts for every successful suicide. The national average for suicide is approximately 9.8 per 100,000. Los Angeles County has one of the highest rates in the nation, which is 14.5. One suicide which would be statistically normative would cost the county from \$100,000 to \$150,000. This is computed on the basis of the average suicide victim being age 44, having an income of \$5,000, with 3.5 children per family. The total figure would vary, taking into account projected income, tax loss, ambulance, medical services, and welfare needs of the survivors.

**Sanitation.** Sanitation section services cover inspection, sewage and waste disposal, water supply, vector control, and rabies control. Inspections are made for care facilities; restaurants and food services; tourist and trailer facilities; schools; and general sanitation and disposal and water systems.

### VOLUNTARY HEALTH GROUPS

Service clubs — Elks, Lions, Kiwanis, Shriners, and women's clubs—all exist in the county and develop special health projects. Brief descriptions follow:

**Lions and Elks.** "Better Sight" and "Blind" programs. Contributions and collections of old eye glasses and frames are dispensed on a state-wide basis.

**Kiwanis.** Dental clinic for children up to 16 years of age of low-income families (\$3,000-\$4,000). Screening and application crediting is a joint committee of the Health Department, Josephines, and Kiwanis. The Health Department employs a dental hygienist for necessary education. Local dentists contribute half days. Full care, except orthodontics, is given. Kiwanians have expended as much as \$3,000 in a year to the program. Records show as many as 50 patients treated during one month.

**Shriners.** A continuing crippled and bone-disease program for children up to 14 years of age.

**Health Societies.** Health societies such as Red Cross, JANS, Cancer Society, Josephines, Pink Ladies, Gray Ladies, Tuberculosis and Health,

Heart, Multiple Sclerosis, are all active or at least have representatives in the county. All are involved in service and special education for the public. The TB and Health Association is drawing the "Chest X-Ray" program to a close, since only a minimum number of TB cases are detected in this manner. It is now possible to eliminate TB. The Cancer Society activities are centered around fund-raising for bandages and supplies and for education of the public.

Health associations and councils formed in the county to promote and develop specific programs are the Retarded Children's Association, the Alcohol Council, the Mental Health Association, and the Josephine Safety Council.

**Retarded children.** The association is affiliated with the state association and receives the professional guidance from the Josephine County Mental Health Board. The board also hires a qualified teacher for the one retarded children's kindergarten which accepts children ages four to nine years. Kindergarten tuition charged is \$10 to \$15 but does not cover the minimum \$350 monthly to operate the school. Transportation is often difficult for parents outside of the Grants Pass area. A round trip from O'Brien is 100 miles.

Recreation and activities have been developed for the older retarded (10-50 years.) Parents pool transportation and rotate activity responsibilities. Summer camps and weekly bowling sessions seem to be the most successful.

Schools provide 4 classes for retarded (1 city and 3 county.) The city school has approximately 22 students and the county 34. About one half are trainable.

**Alcohol Council.** The programs are either self-supporting or funded by the United Fund, the County Board of Commissioners, the State Board of Health, and council membership fees of \$1.

Programs involved are:

—Public and professional education which provides workshops, seminars, literature, speakers, and referral to sources of treatments.

—Information and referral 24-hour answering service operation. (There is immediate access to medical, legal, spiritual, and AA counseling service).

—Operation and management of Rogue Recovery House, a facility for men. A 50 percent recovery has been recorded.

—Planning and staffing of weekly Honor Court or Probation School for adults and teenagers whose drinking has caused them some legal entanglements. (Out of 199, of which 74 were over 21, there were only 14 repeaters).

—Indirect supervision of the teenagers' self-help program called Judo.

—Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon organizations in Grants Pass.

**Safety Council.** An active organization which offers public educational programs in prevention of poisoning, in bicycle education, defensive driving, first aid, etc. The council includes representatives of many associations, organizations, and businesses and is headed largely by the Fire and Highway Patrol Department.

## NUTRITION AND EATING PRACTICES

The United States Department of Agriculture has made surveys of food consumption over the past 30 years. The 1965-66 survey reports findings by regions. Oregon was a state used in the Western Region. This report showed diets for families were most frequently below the allowances for calcium, vitamin A value, and ascorbic acid.

A survey was conducted to get a sampling of eating practices in Josephine County for both adults and teens. One hundred and forty-one teens recorded and rated food eaten in meals for five days. Home Economics teachers at the Grants Pass High School and one junior high conducted the sampling. Committee members obtained results from 55 adults ranging in age from 20 to 82 years of age.

**Teenagers.** The following shows some of significant results for the 141 teenagers who checked a 5-day meal rating survey.

**Milk and milk products.** About 54 of these teens reported consuming adequate amounts of milk and milk products for the 5-day average. The other 87 reported no consumption to a near adequate intake for the 5-day average. Twenty-

nine of these teenagers reported none or an alarmingly low percentage of milk and milk products consumed.

**Meat and meat substitutes.** Fifty-three of the 141 teenagers for the 5-day period rated consuming the minimum or above of the recommended daily allowance requirement. This would indicate slightly more than half of the boys and girls in this group were not consuming the daily recommended allowance.

**Fruits and vegetables.** Only 15 percent of the 141 teenagers reported adequate intake of vegetables (including potatoes). Forty-nine percent were eating an adequate amount of green or yellow vegetables. Forty-one percent were eating an adequate amount of citrus fruit, tomatoes, etc.

**Bread and cereal.** Only 13 of the 141 teenagers indicated adequate bread and cereal consumption.

Rating	No. of Boys and Girls
Excellent	13
Very good	16
Good	14
Fair	28
Poor	70

**Adults.** Fifty-five adults checked a 5-day meal rating survey (age 20 to 82 years).

**Milk and milk products.** Twenty-one of the 55 adults reported consuming the recommended allowance or more of milk or milk products.

**Meat and meat substitutes.** Nineteen of the 55 adults reported consuming the recommended allowance or more of the meat and meat substitute group. The remaining 36 adults ranged in daily consumption from about one third of needed recommended allowance to two thirds or more. No adult reported eating no protein during the checking period.

**Fruits and vegetables.** Ten adults reported eating recommended daily allowance of fruits and vegetables. Twenty-four percent consumed 75 percent or more of the recommended daily allowance. The remaining 21 adults in the group ate considerably less than the recommended daily allowance.

**Bread, cereal and butter.** Twelve reported consuming adequate bread, cereal, and butter to meet the daily recommended allowance. Thirty reported eating none to 5 percent of the recommended allowance. This group of adults rated their food intake as follows: Excellent, 7; good, 6; fair, 11; and poor, 31.

The amounts of food used in households as reported by USDA were sufficient on the average to provide diets meeting the recommended dietary allowances for calories, protein, calcium, iron, and vitamin A, thiamine, riboflavin and ascorbic acid. The real issue is the great variation of food utilization and individual consumption from household to household. This issue is at the crux of most nutrition educational programs, the school lunch program, elementary and secondary education classes such as Home Economics, and the government-donated foods or "Abundant Food" program. Diets are rated poor when they provide less than two thirds of the allowances for one or more nutrients.

The school hot-lunch program serves the elementary and junior high school level quite adequately throughout the county, but smaller percentages of senior high school students participate because of the short lunch period, accessibility of shopping area and food services, and/or independence exerted by students. Children of low-income families have a problem of being unable to provide the low lunch fee for the entire month. Some provision is made for these special situations by the school administration. Benefits of the lunch program are many, but greater alertness during school is considered very important.

In 1968, 2,590 families received Abundant Food at least once during the year. Not enough has been done to help these families make the best use of the Abundant Foods. The food is excellent quality but sometimes the stigma associated with the surplus food or little knowledge of nutrition prevents the recipients from planning use as wisely as they might to provide good meals.

The Cooperative Extension Service has an agreement with Welfare to provide an educational program on the use of these foods. Tested recipes are prepared and printed by the foods and nutrition specialist at Oregon State University. These materials have been delivered to the Abundant

Food Center since the beginning of Abundant Food distribution in Josephine County. Also, volunteer Extension Home Economics study group members under the direction and training of the home economist serve samples of prepared dishes at the center and counsel and encourage families to better utilize the foods. However, demonstrations on the preparation of the foods and lessons on meal planning have not been possible unless the low-income homemakers are participants in Home Extension units.

It is believed that to be most effective a one-to-one relation has to be established for education for a large percentage of the low-income homemakers. This would necessitate volunteer homemakers in a training program.

The Extension Service offers lessons and workshops which are available to anyone interested in attending them. They have many pamphlets available free on all types of nutrition, for all age groups, and also pamphlets and lessons on preparing foods and spending the food dollar. Correspondence courses are also offered, free of charge, to all willing to take them. Newspaper articles and radio programs are presented regularly by the Extension Service as another educational service for the public. Nutrition and meal planning and preparation are taught annually to approximately 700 homemakers in 20 study groups and to 300 4-H club girls.

Pregnancy miscarriage rates are declining each year, as are infant mortality rates. Doctors and the Public Health Service Department stress proper diets to young mothers-to-be. A Harvard University study shows that 94 percent of pregnant women with excellent diets have babies classified as excellent at birth. The American Medical Association says at any one time about 25 percent of all infants are anemic. The Oregon Board of Health reports that iron is the major nutritional deficiency.

Most of the long-term care facilities in the county have a qualified dietician supervising menu planning and preparation. Older persons who may have less adequate diets are those living alone and having reduced incomes, which means need for reeducation.

Food faddism takes a huge share of the food dollar that could be spent for wholesome, cheaper foods. The merchant of faddist foods seemingly has a great deal to spend on colorful advertising to make his assertions appeal to the public.

## CONCERNS

- The general public lacks information on available health services and health programs in the area.
- Education for both youth and adults in the general field of health is needed.
- Rehabilitation and out-patient care for many physical and emotional problems is quite limited.
- Specific diseases (cancer, alcoholism) still carry stigma for many, causing families not to seek aid or to delay therapy. Public education needs to be upgraded to encourage checkups as well as to learn causes and effects of diseases and help to develop the attitude that mental treatment is no different from medical.
- ⊛ There are too few nurses to develop the nursing service program to its fullest.
- ⊛ Social and health agencies are without a transportation service for the elderly and people unable to pay public conveyance charges to health and other facilities both in the county and out.
- ⊛ County and city recreational programs do not include nursing homes.
- ⊛ Need to revive and expand "friendly visiting" volunteer services for the aged, either in private homes or long-term care facilities.
- Foster homes are needed for older people to provide companionship.
- ⊛ A lack of housekeeping and homemaker service exists in the county. Concern is specifically for those unable to pay a minimum wage for such service. The handicapped, mothers working outside the home, elderly people, and children of homes whose parents have special problems, such as alcoholism, all have unmet needs at times that a homemaker service could alleviate.

- Day-care centers are not available to mothers of preschoolers working outside the home or for mentally retarded children.
- Education should be provided for both youth and adults on the excessive use of alcohol, drugs, and barbiturates.
- Children of families with incomes just above \$3,000 yearly lack dental service.
- Recreation, activity, sheltered workshops, and training programs are not available for the older retarded (10-50) years.
- A census of the retarded should be taken. All parents of retarded need moral support and assistance with these special children.
- A volunteer telephone answering service for suicide prevention and other emotional emergencies should be established.
- Education concerning nutrition and dental care is inadequate.
- Some dietary requirements of teens are below adequate nutritional recommendations. Teenage boys and girls need to improve understanding of nutrition and eating habits.
- No information is available on family nutritional adequacy in the county.
- No countywide cooperative effort has been made in recent years to launch an adequate nutritional educational program. Parents need to be more aware of the kind of nutrition that promotes children's health, mental, emotional, and physical.
- The continuing of many very young marriages may indicate need for an educational program in nutrition.
- Teenagers and adults fear the stigma of overweight and often neglect eating the proper protective foods.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The committee suggests that:

- The public become more aware of all the county health services available.

- A directory with a complete listing of available health facilities, services, agencies, and types of professional personnel be published and put into the hands of distributing organizations, churches, and agencies within the county.
- Educational programs in cancer detection, dental health, smoking and health, and the use of drugs and alcohol be continued and/or expanded as the need occurs.
- Education of both youth and adults in the general field of education be upgraded.
- Recreational and rehabilitation programs and activities through county or city programs be established, particularly for the aged.
- A transportation service be provided, which would include trained drivers who would be available 24 hours a day and capable of driving across the state if necessary.
- Efforts to educate the public of need for foster homes, friendly visiting, etc., for elderly be encouraged and continued.
- Appropriate agencies and professional people establish a homemaker service and training in housekeeping and nursing and develop a community agency to finance the service on a fee based on ability to pay.
- Establishment of day-care centers for preschool children to include several communities of the county.
- The citizenry be informed on symptoms and availability of drugs and appropriate educational agencies continue and expand efforts in the area.
- Assistance be given to the retarded children's association in establishing a sheltered workshop for the older (10 - 50 years), conducting a census, and financing the needs of these special people.
- A volunteer telephone answering service be established for emotional crises, with qualified people for the counseling.
- Dental service be enlarged for children of families with income levels for which the charges cause hardships.

- The Cooperative Extension Service and other public agencies assume leadership in developing dental foods and nutrition education programs for youth, low-income families, young families, senior citizens, and established families.

- Volunteer homemakers be trained to assist elderly, low-income and poorly educated homemakers in utilizing and preparing more nutritious food for their families. It is believed that more can be accomplished on a one-to-one basis.

## Consumer Competence

Education in economics and family finance is relatively missing in the required school curriculum following grade school. For grades 1 - 6 school administration makes available to teachers an excellent course of study by "Science Research Associates" which is complete with guide, recordings, and suggested related art, and other programs. Effectiveness of the teaching depends upon the individual teacher, and practical application lies largely with the example of wise money management in the home. Seniors in high school are required to take a general social economics course; however, the money management unit appears quite limited. The local Retailers Credit Association has furnished resource persons and a film for sections of the study.

Individual teachers in such courses as home economics relate finances to various units of study, but time is a limiting factor. The two high schools average 250 enrollees per year in home economics and each of the three junior high schools approximately 80 girls.

School District 7 employed a director to develop a high school vocational training program. The advisory board includes people of the business community. The program is scheduled to get under way the fall term of 1969 and will be offered to juniors and seniors and those people who have not completed high school up to 21 years of age. The two-year program will provide two-hour classes plus work experience training. A preliminary enrollment for the vocational program showed 750 students of a possible 1,200 juniors and seniors planning to enter the training. The beginning program offered will concentrate in business education, vocational agriculture, and industrial mechanics. Program purposes have been outlined thus:

- to reduce the number of high school dropouts. (Recent statistics are not available. The percentage of dropouts in 1964 was 5% of a senior high enrollment of 2,486.)
- to give preparatory broad-base-background training for job entry.
- to serve young people in financing higher education (technical or college training job experience often leads to seeking more education. A 1962 study of a 15% sampling of the '54 class showed 57% having attended a 4-year degree institution with 13% completing the four years and 7% enrolled in nondegree granting institutions).
- to familiarize people with job availability and opportunities that they may choose better the type of work suited to them individually.

Adult education for the general public offered at the high school has not included courses in family finance because such has not been requested. Extension Service programs are offered in the form of short courses or workshops, correspondence courses, homemaker club projects, and mass media programs. In addition, numerous publications and pamphlets published by USDA and Oregon State University are available to the public.

Programs to help low-income families utilize USDA-donated foods (Abundant Foods) need to be expanded. The present work done at the center by volunteer homemakers through the Extension Service has been of value but does not permit the volunteer or the recipient to concentrate on real learning of food care, preparation, utilization, and consumption for the family. Many homemaker recipients have little knowledge of nutrition and perhaps a very low reading level. It is believed

that the most help can be derived from a one-to-one relationship. Elderly recipients who could probably utilize the food well are often under medical care, and foods received are forbidden because of various health factors.

### BUYING EXPECTATIONS OF FAMILIES

Disposable consumer income has increased each year, although the farm family has less money to spend. The average family has 14 percent of its disposable income committed to consumer credit payments. Consumer credit costs vary from 9 percent to 36 percent.

In June of 1966 "Sales Management," Bill Brothers publication, New York, gave percentages of households and income groups for Grants Pass and Josephine County thus:

1966	Grants Pass	County
\$ 0 - 2,999	27.4	27.5
\$ 3,000 - 4,999	14.3	16.5
\$ 5,000 - 7,999	28.0	30.6
\$ 8,000 - 9,999	11.9	10.8
\$10,000 - over	18.4	14.6

Population projections estimated that 12 or 13 percent of the total 36,000 are 65 years and over. Approximately 6,000 of the citizens are 65 years and older. Social Security beneficiaries in Josephine County number 7,152 as of December 1968, with 2,294 (65-71 yrs.); 2,532 (71 yrs. & over), or a total of 4,826 who are 65 years and older.

The reduced and set income for the elderly generally becomes an important managerial task.

Spending by youth today has reached an all-time high. Statisticians, educators, and businessmen recognize that this spending is having a great impact on the American economy. In 1965, 25 million teenagers (13-19) who comprise 12 percent of population, spent 11 billion dollars of their own money on goods and services. It is estimated that by 1970, 27 million young people will be spending 21 billion dollars. The youth influence on family spending has quite an impact — car type and model, TV, food, appliances, vacations and recreation.

A survey of 134 families to learn about the problems that they faced in buying goods and services for their families was conducted. One hundred and twenty-three recorded by age bracket the age of the principal wage earner. Numbers of persons surveyed in each group were quite evenly divided. The result gives a sampling of every stage of family life cycle.

The break down follows:

Age Bracket	No. of Wage Earners
20/30 . . . . .	21
30/40 . . . . .	27
40/50 . . . . .	29
50/60 . . . . .	18
60/over . . . . .	28 — Total 123

There was some hesitancy in giving the approximate family income; of the 134 answering, 115 indicated income. Again, the number of persons questioned showed good distribution of the various income levels.

Income Level	No. of Wage Earners
\$ 0/1,999	7
\$ 2,000/3,999	15
\$ 4,000/5,999	20
\$ 6,000/7,999	18
\$ 8,000/9,999	22
\$10,000/14,999	16
\$15,000/over	7

A large majority of the families showed more than one wage earner. Families with two earners numbered 74; 28 families said they had three wage earners. There were 21 with only one breadwinner. The indication is that numbers of homemakers working outside their homes to supplement income is greater in Josephine County than the national average.

The check sheet on buying goods and services gave some rather surprising indications. For family clothing a very large majority said the buying was done locally, and almost the same number said they utilize sales at least occasionally to stretch the clothing dollar. Dissatisfaction with clothing purchases was mainly poor construction and quality of fabrics, which may indicate both lack of knowledge on the consumer's part in making the selections and a limited selection offered by the local retailer.

Questions dealing with buying habits showed that the most important influences on buying decisions were newspaper advertisements and friends or relatives. However, 54 percent felt that information from rating organizations such as "Consumer Reports" was important to very important. Other mass media advertising (radio and TV) about as many felt to be unimportant as important. The check would indicate that family members and friends influenced more buying decisions than other influences. Sixty-two percent felt that the retailer should be notified of unsatisfactory purchases.

When making a major household purchase, 74 percent usually compared prices and quality at several places before buying, while 40 percent said they had purchased items from door-to-door salesmen. The food buying practices seemed to show more planning, comparative shopping, and newspaper ad influence, with about 69 percent studying labels of packaged products.

Twenty-three persons indicated that they had experienced unethical sales practices. Of these, nine of them lost money as a result. This is almost 40 percent of the people who suffered a financial loss because of unethical sales practices. This is an indication of the need for informing people of the protection available and helping them become aware of fraudulent procedures.

People in the survey showed they were using all types of credit. The most frequently used were gasoline credit cards, charge accounts, bank loans, and revolving accounts.

The younger people were the ones most likely to use credit. In comparison, of those under 50 almost twice as many used credit as those over 50. For example, 44 percent of families over 50 years of age were using revolving accounts, while 60 percent of those under 50 years of age were using the revolving accounts.

Twenty-one persons are renting homes. Of these, seven were expected to buy or build within the next two years. This is one third of the families who are renting. Could this indicate an interest in housing?

In indicating buying expectations for the next two years, families indicated an interest in home furnishings including carpeting, draperies, and furniture. Painting, both interior and exterior, seems to be popular with families. About one third of the families indicated they were planning to paint. Twenty-three percent of the families are planning to do some remodeling or additions of rooms to their homes.

### **SOURCES OF FINANCIAL HELP AND ADVICE**

The bankruptcy average for the two county areas (Josephine and Jackson) has been given as 13 per month. The average age for the nation is 27 years. In the last 10 years bankruptcy throughout the United States has increased 350 percent. Within two years following bankruptcy proceedings, 80 percent of the cases are estimated to be again in serious financial trouble.

The local Retail Credit Association offers counseling for heavy debt cases. This nonprofit volunteer association, known as "Josephine County Debt Counseling Service," is able to assist and process approximately 30 cases within a year.

The Welfare Department frequently deals with the uneducated person who is often unemployable. These people are helped on the basis of standardized needs which are broken down in categories of foods, clothing, shelter, etc.; however, implementing the budget is up to the individual and requires self discipline to stay on it. Caseworkers will be enabled to give more adequate counseling in the future because of the development of the "welfare team" which includes an assistant worker and frees the caseworker from routine reporting and other distractions.

Banks give counseling only when requested. Such counseling is largely in connection with obtaining loans and how best to finance the loan. A person is considered in excellent financial condition if 30 percent of his take-home pay is in installment buying (home, small loans, etc.); 30 to 50 percent is the average. Over 50 percent would be a poor risk, and the good risk is under 20 percent on financing a home and 20 percent on installment buying. A person under 25 is considered a high risk. Banks find that family

budgets vary so greatly that there is no average. Some people earning \$300 monthly never need to borrow, while others earning \$1,000 monthly are never out of debt. Local banks sponsor an educational trust forum periodically for the public. Attendance and participation is good. Individual topics are considered each session.

Small loan companies like the banks have available counseling but must be requested by the customer. One or two of these will not loan to previous bankruptcy customers. Approximately six companies exist within the county.

Legal aid services free to those unable to pay in the county are quite inadequate. Individual attorneys have given assistance to some welfare cases.

### JOBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, WOMEN, AND OLDER CITIZENS

Available jobs for teens and young people in part-time or summer employment largely center in county board-created park service and apprentice secretarial training; harvesting: beans, hops, haying; retail stores: clerks, box boys, etc.; and forest service jobs. A minimum of domestic work and baby sitting is usually available.

There is no minimum age for agricultural work except in the operation of some types of equipment. Forest service work requires a minimum age of 16.

One disadvantage for some types of employment is that unions demand payment of full dues for young persons.

Jobs for women, other than professional, are largely clerical and sales occupations, service occupations, and bench work defined as shaping, assembly, or repair of small objects and materials.

The Manpower Resource Study of Josephine County for April 1967 showed female employment thus:

Professional, technical, and managerial .....	665
Clerical and sales .....	1,161
Service .....	852
Processing .....	19

Machine trades .....	8
Bench work (Champion, OTP) .....	180
Structural transportation .....	15

From April 1960 to April 1967 the female participation rate in the labor force of Josephine County rose from 28.2 percent to 34.4 percent.

Jobs for women without high school diplomas are fairly nonexistent. The employment office offers counseling and aptitude testing service. The employment office can in certain cases persuade an employer to hire people and train them if aptitude is good.

The Neighborhood Youth Program is an arm of the Office of Economic Opportunity. Qualifications for participating in the program require that the person be 16 - 22 years of age, be in financial need, and be a school dropout or on the verge of leaving school.

Referrals for the program come largely through the Employment Service; however, school personnel, welfare case workers, and probation officers cooperate. Quotas for Josephine County were cut from 10 to 8 and now 6 because of lowering of funds available for OEO projects.

Two types of programs accommodate the youths: In the county "Out-of-School-Program" (high school dropouts from age 16 - 22) 37 youths were enrolled between September 1, 1967, and September 1, 1968. The "In-School-Program" was administered by the Grants Pass School District until September 1, 1967. The quota is 17 and is filled continually from a long waiting list. Hours are limited to 10 a week.

Goodwill Industries has been operating one year in Grants Pass. Goodwill cooperates closely with the State Department of Rehabilitation in assisting the handicapped. A handicapped person is classified as one with physical or emotional problems; thus the screening criteria are not tight. A check of Josephine County has revealed over 500 persons classified as handicapped. During the year of operation 50 trainees have been served. Fifteen have been placed in jobs in local industry, thus off public assistance. Wages paid directly to trainees for production equalled \$20,671.68.

Goodwill's income is derived from store sales, one contract with a local industry, work adjustment fees, membership dues, and contributions.

## CONCERNS

- Young people, particularly boys, are not given adequate education in consumer economics in the school systems in the county.
- Families with financial difficulties have problems in getting financial counseling—either because they are not aware of institutions that are willing to counsel or are unwilling to ask them for help.
- Knowledge about credit—its use, cost, and responsibilities involved in its use—is generally lacking.
- There is little practical application of the principles of managing finances shown children by parents, particularly in families of a low educational level.
- A need exists for unbiased information about goods and services that will help families in making buying decisions. Information also needs to be adapted for the low-income, handicapped, and poorly educated.
- Families receiving donated foods do not utilize the food well to gain more adequate nutrition and lower the total food costs.
- Consumers are unhappy and dissatisfied by some of the unethical sales practices that are being used by transient sellers.
- Many consumers lack the ability to live within their incomes in a time of rising prices for goods and services.
- Families are concerned with spending for cars to compensate for lack of available public transportation in the county.
- The need for taxes and public services is not clearly understood.
- Oregon does not have an adequate fraud protection program.
- Upgrading of skills and vocational training is closely tied in with reading ability to become

eligible for higher income jobs. Many of the handicapped, low-income and uneducated groups have little reading ability.

- A need exists for housekeeper services and day nurseries for homemakers working outside the home or for those attempting to upgrade skills to become employable.
- More opportunities should be available for training for homemakers without high school diplomas to develop employable skills.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee suggests that:

- Schools in the county, both elementary and secondary, be urged to include consumer economics and/or economics, with emphasis on personal and family money management, for every student.
- Youth organizations provide opportunities for young people to learn about money management principles.
- The need for ways of enlarging credit counseling service for people with financial problems be investigated and established.
- Families be encouraged to use the wage earner plan rather than go into bankruptcy (this may mean recommending modification of the wage-earner plan.)
- Legal-aid be investigated to determine how families with financial problems can be helped.
- Unbiased information be made available to families who are making major purchases—appliances, furniture, carpeting, or a home—through the Extension Service and library.
- Information be made available to the public about the fly-by-night dealers who appear in town, to warn them to be careful about buying.
- An educational program on consumer education be planned and conducted in the area for young families in the county.
- Educational programs be planned and conducted to help families understand taxes and public services.
- A tutor service or reading school be established for adults with poor reading ability.

- Methods be explored and workshops or short courses established to assist the low-income, handicapped, and poorly educated, with money management.

- Housekeeper services and day nurseries be established for several areas of the county.
- More educational newspaper articles be promoted.

## Housing

### LIVABILITY

It is probable that the favorable climate, desirable homesites in a rural setting, and recreational uncongested conditions attract people to Josephine County, particularly those who are thinking of retiring in the county. The term "thinking" is used because many after arriving find their retirement income is not sufficient to provide them with the type of living desired. Younger people desiring to establish businesses as well as their homes come without a position or employment and often are not aware of the limited job opportunities. Even the second income for the homemaker who can work outside the home is largely limited to clerical or secretarial skills. Thus much mobility exists.

### POPULATION

The population for the county numbered 36,600 in 1966, or about 22.5 persons per square mile. Ten percent of this population lives on farms, 34 percent in urban areas, and the remaining 56 percent make up the rural-nonfarm population.

### SUBDIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Subdivisions in agricultural areas create incompatibility between the farmer and the new citizens. There is an increase in taxes for the farmer brought about by the sale of a few acres in a subdivision for a high price, a larger share of the cost of additional roads, bus transportation for school children, fire protection, and police protection. At present, according to the county assessor, 10 subdivisions exist in the county outside the city of Grants Pass, with 172 lots created for homes. During 1968, 23 of these lots were sold. Unimproved plots of 5 acres or more are often purchased for future speculation.

The Josephine County Board of Commissioners, looking ahead to planning for orderly growth, has hired a professional planning consultant to work with the City-County Planning Commission. At present a comprehensive plan has been prepared for 300 square miles around Grants Pass, which has 84 percent of the population and 92 percent of the subdivision activity. The growth of the area is now 2½ percent per year, and population doubles at 4 percent growth in 20 years. It is believed that very few citizens are aware of the plan, the forerunner of a zoning ordinance in the county, or the bill now being considered in the legislature, which would give the state the power to do the zoning by 1971.

### HOUSING CONDITIONS, 1960

According to the 1960 census there were 11,059 housing units in the county; of this number 9,816 were occupied, with 933 vacant the year around. Some 10,683 homes had water piped inside, 9,985 had toilet facilities, and 10,062 bathing facilities. The condition of the homes is rated as follows: sound 9,052; deteriorating 1,627; dilapidated 380. The number of these housing units razed or modernized in the past nine years is unknown.

The percentage of homes declared unsound in comparison to Curry, Douglas, and Jackson counties is as follows: Curry 26.1 percent; Douglas 27.5 percent; Jackson 26.2 percent; Josephine 23.7 percent. It is believed that two reasons for poor housing are the mobility of population and the increased valuation and higher property taxes which would result from improvements.

### MOBILE HOMES

#### FROM 8 BY 45 FEET TO 12 BY 65 FEET

There are at least 20 courts or parks in the county providing from 5 to 94 spaces in each. Probably 500 spaces exist. Rent rates range from \$20 to \$55 per month with an average of \$25 or \$30.

Flat rates exist for one or two people. Facilities usually offered and included in rent are water, laundry, garbage removal, storage, and carport or garage. Trailer homes range from 8 by 45 feet to 12 by 65 feet to the expandable, which may be 20-24 feet wide. Not all parks can accommodate the large mobile homes. Many trailer and mobile homes are being placed on individual lots in rural Josephine County. Water and sewage disposal facilities increase the cost of placing a home on a private lot.

The reasons for the rise in production and buying of mobile homes or the package type of construction are the excessive building costs of standard housing and the minimum of upkeep inside and out. Also, special groups (newly married, the retired, and public-assistance families) are caught in the dilemma of finding adequate low-cost rentals or moderately priced homes for purchase.

Mobile homes fill a great housing need for many young marrieds, middle-aged couples whose families are gone, and retired people. The mobile home provides an instant home and furnishings without excessive upkeep and expenses on a limited budget. For older people there is less home maintenance, yard care, etc., as well as the opportunity to locate in an area with people of similar interests. For younger people and wage earners a mobile home fulfills the need of ownership when requirements for housing loans or down payment on a house cannot be met.

## HOUSING EDUCATION

There are few prudent home investors. The buyer, often impressed with Josephine County's livability, fails to check the valuation of the area surrounding his property, study taxes and trends, or check with the Health Department for its approval of existing sanitation.

Generally, young couples shop for already constructed homes. They would like many built-in features and highly attractive finishes, but the payment per month compels them to accept houses that are in some cases poorly built as well as lacking in desired features. This situation may encourage the use of poor quality materials in the hidden parts of the construction of lower priced houses to permit "showy" cabinets and trim.

Almost all of the young people in schools receive no education whatever in home buying or financing. Housing is usually a family's largest investment made in a lifetime. As much as 30 percent of income is spent for housing. In 1960 the United States census showed median family income as \$5,220 and 23.9 percent of the income of all families under \$3,000.

Homeowners, in many cases, lack the understanding of how their property is valued and the tax assessed. Some senior citizens are unaware of the tax relief program on property for which they can apply.

The electrical system of pre-World War II homes seldom can cope with "modern electrical living." Added to the large array of small and large appliances used in today's homes are hand power tools, portable hair dryers, the additional load of color television set, or an extra black and white set.

Information available to families in making housing, equipment, and furnishings investment decisions is largely limited to one architect, builders, and contractors, lumber dealers, and the Extension Service. Builders and contractors more often construct homes to standardized plans and then sell them. However, they do assist individuals by drawing a floor area plan. Lumber dealers keep books for customers but find little use made of them. Often inadequate planning is done for either remodeling or building new. The Extension Service offers short courses to plan and equip areas of the home (kitchens, laundry, etc). Bulletins and house designs are also available to the public which aid in planning and selecting equipment, utilities, furnishings, and landscaping the grounds. Homemakers are given projects pertaining to home improvements from time to time.

## LOW AND MODERATE COST HOUSING

Design and construction of houses in the lower price ranges are influenced by the financing problem. A cheaper home with a smaller loan is often the only recourse left to people.

High interest rates on home mortgages and high discount rates on FHA loans discourage the construction of moderately priced homes selling for \$14,000 - \$20,000. A shortage of qualified

buyers in this price range and the discount on the FHA loan, which would constitute a large portion of the profits, make builders reluctant to speculate.

Low-cost housing for the retired, the elderly, and public-assistance families is lacking. Very small homes and lots represent an investment of approximately \$10,000, therefore, government assistance is necessary.

Welfare recipients at present may have a housing allowance up to \$75 with a family of five or more. If the home is owned (trailer or permanent on site) there is a utility allowance up to \$25. Recipients are responsible for finding their own housing. Often the down payment or fee prior to occupancy is a deterrent in renting more standard housing.

### **P R I D E   O F   O W N E R S H I P**

Home owners and renters (urban and rural) both need to take pride in the appearance of their homes and surroundings by keeping their homes in good repair and condition and the yard and surroundings attractive, free of unsightly rubbish and weeds. In rural areas a number of abandoned buildings exist that have deteriorated to the point of collapse. Abandoned cars also blight the landscape.

### **S A N I T A T I O N**

Because of expanding urban environment, the disposal of human household waste in subsurface disposal fields has become an increasingly critical problem. For the most part people moving into the county prefer being in the rural areas where there is distance between neighbors and a certain amount of privacy. Because of the increasing problems with septic tanks and the accompanying sewage disposal fields, Josephine County, in 1964, enacted a septic tank permit system which requires every resident wishing to install a septic tank within the described boundaries to check with the Health Department and take out a permit. This has been a valuable tool and enabled the sanitarians to work with individuals and the sewage-cesspool licensed workers who are bonded by the State of Oregon to select places conducive to good septic tank functioning.

Josephine County has two sewer districts (Fruitdale-Harbeck and Redwood). The Fruitdale-Harbeck has been in a state of emergency for

four years, which has prohibited installation of additional septic tank systems. The citizens of this area have voted a sewer district plus the assessment which will bring actual physical construction of sewers in this area. The Redwood district is a legally incorporated district, and an advisory board is active in promoting sewer installations.

There are other critical areas of sewage disposal in the county and the Board of County Commissioners through the County Planning Commission has interest in the formation of more districts to solve these problems. One of the major problems outside the metropolitan area of Grants Pass is lack of treatment facilities. The solution involves a large amount of financing, time, and patience.

The procurement of water for those desiring an individual supply doesn't seem to be a major problem. View-site homes may have difficulty because of the depth below ground surface. Some areas are full of bedrock which has to be penetrated for adequate supply. The nuisance problem of iron rust is experienced in some areas.

According to the Health Department there are instances of contaminated water due to poor sanitary seal on the supply. Perhaps the provision of community water supplies would take care of most problems. Five or six such community water supplies do exist outside the city of Grants Pass. When properly maintained, sanitary water eliminates health hazards.

### **C O N C E R N S**

- The proportion of income that low-income residents can spend for housing can only provide inadequate housing to meet minimum family needs.
- A segment of the population is fluid and tends to move in and out of the county. These groups lack interest in their temporary surroundings.
- Special groups on the increase (the retired, single adults and the newlymarried) have special need for more low-cost and moderate-cost, attractive, adequate housing. Young couples need to become aware of costs of owning and maintaining a home.

- The current Welfare Shelter Standard is not adequate to meet existing average rentals.
- No acceptable building code exists outside Grants Pass.
- A comprehensive study of housing conditions, both rural and urban is needed in the county.
- Acceptable zoning laws and building codes outside city limits are lacking.
- Also lacking are sanitary facilities outside city limits.
- Some houses are poorly planned when compared with research standards, are not always well situated on lots, and are poorly landscaped.
- Housing information presently available is not reaching the people who could use it.
- Families need information on home financing alternatives.
- Mobile homes may have the same storage problems as small homes.
- Mobile homes if placed on permanent or privately owned sites often have inadequate water and sewage disposal allowances.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee submits the following suggestions:

- Establish a county or city housing authority. A complete survey needs to be made concerned with low-cost rentals and federal programs to fit Josephine County needs.
- Make a study to create the lowest possible cost housing (packaged or build-yourself units).
- Provide an educational program on planning and zoning.
- Provide an educational program on valuations and house appraisal.
- Encourage the organization of nonprofit housing development corporations which could legally receive funds from federal financing agencies to build rentals, cooperatives, and rehabilitate existing housing. Some of the federal programs cannot be used until such a corporation is formed.
- Promote the development of low-priced multi-unit housing by private interests.
- Construct countywide water and sanitation systems.
- Promote countywide cleanup campaigns and beautification.
- Encourage youth to become involved in assisting elderly home owners with minor repairs, cleanup, and beautification.
- Develop workshops in the areas of house location, planning, financing, and landscaping.
- Urge that mobile homesites and subdivisions utilize more hillside rather than flat tillable land.
- Establish an educational program in the form of adult night classes for mobile home owners, occupants, and prospective owners in order to provide information on selecting and financing (hidden costs, rates of depreciation, and types of costs of loans). This same teaching setup could apply to remodeling and updating older homes.
- Encourage lending agencies to agree on loans for certain building specifications.
- Establish up-to-date building codes which would give consideration to metal siding, etc.

# ECONOMIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

## Livestock

The nature of Josephine County agriculture causes livestock to be basic to the farm economy. Improved pastures are grown on 11,500 acres of land; another 21,000 acres are in unimproved pasture; 15,000 acres are used for hay production.

so heavily weighted toward grass and hay production, it naturally follows that livestock production should be predominantly ruminants and horses.

Since the agriculture of Josephine County is

The following table gives the trends in livestock numbers for about 27 years.

### LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY NUMBERS — JOSEPHINE COUNTY

Category	1940	1950	1955	1960	1965p	1967p
ALL CATTLE . . . . .	12,000	12,400	18,500	19,000	16,500	14,500
DAIRY CATTLE . . . . .	5,700	6,300	7,200	5,200	3,700	3,700
SHEEP & LAMBS . . . . .	1,500	1,700	2,500	1,600	2,000	2,000
HOGS, ALL AGES . . . . .	3,100	3,300	2,200	3,700	500	700
Category	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966p	1967
CHICKENS . . . . .	90,000	80,000	65,000	60,000	60,000	58,000
TURKEYS . . . . .	20,000	20,000	6,500	6,000	14,000	15,000

p — preliminary.

Source: Oregon State University Extension Service and U.S.D.A., cooperating.

The balance between pasture and the production of hay and grain is very heavy on the side of pasture. Therefore, hay and grain must be purchased, and because it must be hauled from other areas, the price per ton is approximately \$10 more than in areas of production. These costs influence the pattern of livestock production.

### DAIRY

Most of the dairies purchase all of the grain and most of the hay they feed. Some dairies grow corn silage or purchase corn silage grown locally. Dairies must sell their milk for the same price received by dairies in areas with lower feed costs. Studies by the Oregon State Department of Agriculture in 1967 found this region to have the highest cost of milk production of any area in the state.

Despite these handicaps, a dairy of adequate size efficiently operated is considered to be one of the better livestock enterprises for the valley. Dairies have become larger in the last 10 years. Most dairies in the county now have around 100

cows. An economic Grade A dairy should plan to produce 750,000 to 1 million pounds of milk annually in order to justify the investment in land, buildings, and equipment needed. Dairies can be successful with only enough land to house the cattle and to provide adequate space for disposal of manure.

### Problems.

- More government control of markets and marketing is expected.
- Research is needed to provide more acceptable products to compete with dairy substitutes. More attractive packaging and serving of dairy products, particularly butter and cheese, are needed. New methods are needed to increase shelf life and keep products in top quality over extended periods.
- For feeds, dairies of the future are expected to use more cubed hay in place of baled hay. The future rations of dairy cows will probably trend toward complete rations. These are mixtures of



**Income from dairy production represents the largest segment of agricultural income in Josephine County. Efficiently operated dairies will continue as major economic enterprises.**

forage and grain fed free choice in order to allow cows time to eat more grain than is possible when being rushed through a milking parlor.

- Mechanization of dairies will continue to increase in the future.
- Replacement heifers are a problem of most dairies. Many dairymen would like to contract with other ranchers to grow out their heifers. This could be a good project for some of the small farms in the county.

**Recommendation.**

- Farmland for the production of feed, hay, pasture, silage, or grain should be considered as a separate enterprise from the dairy operation and be considered for its merit as a feed-producing unit. This land must be used as efficiently as possible. The most productive pasture-management practices must be followed. The high cost of purchasing and maintaining land demands the most efficient use of this resource.

**BEEF CATTLE**

Beef cattle numbers have been generally on the increase. Many of these cattle are on small farms where they are in an uneconomic unit. Keeping cows to raise one calf a year on these small farms is not considered economical. Alternate possibilities suggested are purchasing feeders to utilize the pasture available and selling when the pasture is expended, or purchasing cows and calves to put on pasture and selling both when the pasture is expended.

The committee believes there is a place for purebred cattle production. This enterprise requires a good understanding of the livestock field and should be attempted only by people with considerable capital and knowledge of purebred cattle production and marketing.

Dairy calves are being raised on several farms in the area. These are either bull calves raised for meat or replacement dairy heifers. For those who are willing to provide some very intensive care, this is a good project. Calves need a great deal of attention for the first two months; they also need expensive feed at this time. The number of calves available in this area is limited and is usually less than the demand.

#### **Recommendations.**

- Production of livestock should be based on the economic use of feed produced on the farm or on the economic use of available labor. Purchased feed and labor are both too expensive in Josephine County to allow a producer, dependent on purchased inputs, to be competitive with other more favored areas.
- Livestock production requires knowledge and management skill. It is recommended that people who are planning to enter the livestock-producing field obtain as much knowledge as possible about the particular enterprise. They should seek advice from people who are in the business and from agricultural experts in the area.
- A small livestock enterprise is usually not economical. People considering a new enterprise should think in terms of 200 to 300 cows or the equivalent in other types of livestock. Owners of small operations should consider expanding. The only exception to this would be small herds or flocks kept as a hobby.

### **S H E E P**

We believe there is a place for an increase in the number of sheep in Josephine County. With an increase in the number of small farms and the owners looking for some way to derive income from the small pastures without a large investment, it is thought that sheep could fill this need in many instances. The lambs and wool produced are limited by the amount of forage that can be produced per acre. It is the opinion of the committee that five sheep or one beef cow can be run on the same area.

Some small farm flocks might do well with registered flocks—selling foundation females and yearling breeding rams on either the California or

Douglas County market. These rams must be grown out to good size and be of desirable conformation.

There is considerable interest by the FFA and 4-H in sheep projects. Their sheep show at the county fair has been outstanding, and their market lambs have been well received by the public at the auction.

Another place sheep could fit in is to make use of pasture on the land that has been logged off and seeded to grass and subclover on dryland as well as irrigated land.

#### **Recommendations.**

- Foot rot is a disease that is causing more loss than any other disease; constant attention is required to keep it under control. Worms and liver flukes also must be closely guarded against, as they are abundant on the wet irrigated pastures.
- The return from wool has decreased in the last couple of years, and there is no favorable outlook for it to become better. Therefore, more attention should be paid to producing good market lambs. A larger lambing percentage can be made by flushing ewes before breeding. Good lambs depend on the use of high-quality rams.
- The per capita consumption of lamb is low in Oregon and might be increased by sale of locker lambs and by advertising.
- Predator control is needed as well as improved fencing and precautions against sheep-killing dogs.

### **S W I N E**

Swine growers are handicapped by the high cost of feed and the competition by hogs shipped in from areas where the cost of production is much less. There is room for limited production of market hogs where garbage or some source of inexpensive feed is available.

#### **Recommendation.**

There is usually a good market for weaner pigs. Keeping a few brood sows for the production of weaners will pay for those who are interested in swine if they are willing to develop an efficient swine program.

## HORSES

Horses are an important economic factor in the Josephine County livestock picture. Most of the horses are kept for recreation. The estimated 2,200 horses require feed and tack, and this contributes to the economy of the valley. Quarterhorses, Arabians, Appaloosas, Morgans, and walking horses seem to be the most popular breeds in Josephine County. The climate in Josephine County is good for horses.

Summer forage on irrigated pastures is considered excellent feed for horses, perhaps too good, since horses on lush grass and clover may founder. When pastures are lush, the grazing should be limited to two to four hours a day. Good quality alfalfa hay is available in the area, and this is considered the most suitable hay to feed. Good alfalfa-grass mixtures are also available. Many horses are fed pelleted feed containing hay and grain in the proper proportions.

### Recommendations.

- The market for horses is expected to continue good in the foreseeable future. This committee believes there is a good potential for more horse-breeding farms. Standing stallions for public service have not paid in this area.
- Some shelter should be provided to accommodate the horse when cold rainy days occur.
- There are good recreational facilities for horse users, but more trails, especially in the heart of the valley, are desirable.

## RABBITS

Rabbit fryer production in southern Oregon is around a \$125,000 business. This is the largest rabbit-producing area in Oregon. Markets are available for more rabbits than are produced. There are two rabbit processors who pick up rabbits weekly in the area. They want white pelted 4½-pound to 5¾-pound rabbits.

The mild climate is conducive to growing rabbits. It is necessary, however, to provide for cooling the houses on hot days in the summer and to keep water from freezing in the winter.

### Recommendations.

- Rabbit producers on the committee recommend that people considering rabbit production as a business should study the housing and management methods used by a number of present producers and incorporate the best from each. Quality breeding stock is the first essential, since the rabbits produced for market will be no better than the breeding stocks.
- New producers are advised to start small and expand gradually. This will give them an opportunity to learn the business and prevent heavy debt.
- The Crater Commercial Rabbit Producers Association, P.O. Box 135, Rogue River, Oregon, 97537, is an organization of enthusiastic growers who are willing to discuss rabbit growing with people who are considering this activity.
- People with small acreages should consider raising rabbits rather than large stock or poultry. Mass production of rabbits has not developed at this time to the degree that it is being practiced in poultry and some other kinds of livestock, but this is a potential.

## POULTRY

Poultry farms have decreased in number from 65 in 1954 to 5 in 1968. Income from poultry has declined from \$493,000 in 1966 to \$358,000 in 1968.

The history of the poultry industry in Josephine County has been one of extreme ups and downs, with a steady overall decline to the present. At times there have been several operations of considerable size in laying flocks, breeding flocks, and fryer and turkey growing. However, diseases and market fluctuations in each type of production have taken their toll. Probably the largest factor in the profit squeeze is the ever-rising cost of quality poultry feeds. Other factors are overhead expenses such as labor and unforeseen problems. Only the most efficient managers have been able to maintain any degree of profit. The trend in the poultry industry is toward larger units to take advantage of more mechanization.

The climate is good for poultry production, and plenty of land suitable for poultry ranching is available in Josephine County. If costs can be

brought into line with other producing areas, and if income can be raised, this could be a good area for the poultry enterprise.

#### **Recommendations.**

- A marketing contract before production starts appears to be a prerequisite. This applies to producing market eggs, fryers, turkeys for meat, or hatching eggs for chickens or turkeys.

- Hatching eggs, both chicken and turkey, where the grower has a good contract with a marketing agency, show the most promise of providing a satisfactory return at this time.

- People who are considering venturing into any phase of the poultry business are advised to study carefully all aspects before investing.

## Crops



**An economic unit in many types of agriculture represents a big investment in equipment and land as well as skill in production and marketing.**

The committee recognizes that few, if any, agricultural crops are underproduced in the American economy. Success in crop production depends upon producing crops economically whose quality meets the standards of the intended market.

The production of good quality crops has had a long history in Josephine County. Major crop problems have been related to economical pro-

duction and marketing. The absence of a local processing plant, the distance to markets, uneconomical size of units, and the lack of management skills have hampered crop development.

Gross income from crop production in 1968 was 1.6 million dollars. This income was derived from the production of a variety of crops including mint, hops, potatoes, gladiolus bulbs, hay, tree fruits, vegetables, and berries.

Improvements in transportation facilities, local demand, and the ability to produce good yields of quality products have improved the crops picture in recent years.

The committee considered crop development in Josephine County from the standpoints of the large commercial farm and the small or family farm unit. Particular questions on production techniques and crop potentials should be referred to the county Extension office.

### **Tree Fruits.**

The performance of existing orchards in the county indicates an expansion of acreage would be feasible. Marketing of the fruit would be the limiting factor; consequently, pears would offer the greatest potential for a large acreage increase. Harvested pears could be processed, stored and marketed on a national scale through the established packing houses in the Medford area. Well-managed optimum density plantings on the irrigated river bottom soils and the deeper hill soils would constitute strong production units.

Limited expansion of the acreage planted to cherries, apples, peaches, and other tree fruits would be appropriate. The markets for these fruits are mainly local and in neighboring counties. The ability to have fruit of various kinds through the season is an important consideration. Large plantings of these fruits would not be wise without a sound market.

### **Vegetables.**

Production of summer potatoes appears to be one of the more promising ventures of large tracts of land with suitable soil. Mechanization of this crop has reduced labor to a minimum but has not replaced sound management and financing. Onions may also fit into a similar production and marketing system.

Sweet corn, tomatoes, and other vegetable crops are produced for the local market and the market in adjoining counties. The early market is the most lucrative for these crops. Produce later in the season often finds a glutted market.

Additional development of string beans for processing is hampered by the distance to the cannery, to labor, and to climate.

### **Berries.**

Locally produced strawberries, raspberries, loganberries, and other caneberries are in good demand locally. Growers have found good markets in the adjoining counties and in California. Expansion of the acreage planted to berries is feasible and would provide a potential crop for the smaller farm units. The early fresh market is the most lucrative. Markets should be developed before large berry plantings are made.

The production of certified berry plants could develop into a major crop. Favorable digging weather in the winter months would provide an advantage over the areas now producing plants.

### **Seed Production.**

Vegetable seeds have been produced on a limited scale in recent years. Main items were cucumber, summer squash and winter squash seeds. Since isolation of fields is a major consideration and smaller acreage can satisfy the demand, this area is well suited to production needs.

The production of alfalfa seed and other farm crop and vegetable seeds should be considered.

### **Specialty crops.**

Successful production of hops, mint, and gladiolus bulbs requires highly developed management skills in production and marketing. Considering the investment required for an economic unit in hops or mint, further development of these crops should be attempted only by sagacious people. Although the economic investment is not as great for gladiolus bulb production, production and marketing is highly competitive.

### **Field crops.**

The production of pasture, hay, and silage is an integral part of many dairy and livestock operations. High-yielding varieties coupled with good management are required to obtain maximum production. The production of such crops may be hard to justify on soils capable of providing a greater net return to the farmer.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Agricultural production and subdivisions are not compatible. Home owners do not realize the dust, noise, and odors created by farm production until they live near a farming unit. The committee recommends that a land-use plan and county zoning be instituted to assure the orderly development of the county so that the maximum development of our resources will be achieved.

- Climatically, Josephine County is somewhat unusual. Variety performance varies from that found in other production areas. To maintain and improve the competitiveness of locally produced crops, the variety trials held in cooperation with farmers should be expanded. Since quality pear production has a very definite potential, root stock evaluation trials on the major potential production type soils should be initiated.

- Early marketing of locally produced crops offers the most lucrative markets. Production techniques aimed at earlier production need to be tried and adopted where feasible.

- The production of potatoes and vegetable seed crops has developed promising crops in recent years. New crop development using modern production techniques needs more attention.

Climatic information indicates that Josephine County may be ideal for the production of premium vinefera wine grapes. Production information on wine grapes, seed crops, and other potential crops needs to be developed so that the feasibility of these crops in Josephine County can be determined.

- The damage caused by weeds, insects, and diseases accounts for a major production cost in crop production. Trials using potential pesticides,

including biological control, need to be performed so that economical control programs will maintain the competitiveness of local production costs.

- Labor costs are expected to continue to spiral, and the obtainment of good farm workers is more difficult each year. Mechanization has reduced labor costs in many operations. However, good labor will continue to be a major need. Training of farm workers should be recognized as a need by farm managers. Such training could reduce the cost of labor to the manager while providing a greater return to the workers. The appropriate agencies should be aware of the need and opportunities in this area.

- A better understanding of cost of production for crops produced for local sales is needed so that growers can realize a fair return on their investments. Too many part-time farmers sell at or below costs when the market is weak. This is harmful to the producers and has lingering effects in following years.

- Many people are supplementing their income from submarginal farm units. These units may be submarginal because of factors of size, soil types, irrigation, finances, or time available. The committee feels that a greater income could be realized from this land if it were developed into tree farms with Christmas trees a major crop. A cost analysis sheet available from the Josephine County Extension Service shows a net income per acre per year of \$211 for a plantation planting of a 60-acre field for 8 years.

- Much of the land suited for crop production is in pasture. Owners of such land should consider putting this land to a more valuable use.

## Forestry

Josephine County, totaling 1,047,170 acres, is chiefly a timbered area. Eighty-five percent of the land is classified as forest land. Seventy-two percent of the land is government managed. The Bureau of Land Management administers 31 percent of the land and the United States Forest Service administers 38 percent of the land. Josephine County administers about 4 percent and the Oregon State Department of Forestry about 1 percent.

Only 27 percent of the land is privately owned. Of this, 7½ percent is agricultural land. This committee has concerned itself chiefly with the remaining 19 percent, or the approximate 225,000 acres of land that are privately owned and classified as farm forest land or private woodlot. The interest of the committee was primarily centered around what the small forest landowner can do to derive a better income from his forest as well as preserve it for future generations.



**Tips on raising Christmas trees are enthusiastically received by those attending one of the periodically held farm forestry tours.**

## **P R O B L E M S**

Problems expressed by this committee are as follows:

- The understanding of the tax structure and land assessment as related to farm woodlands.
- The higher taxation of farm woodlands as influenced by the cash value of subdivision and homesite sales.
- A lack of communication between dealers and growers of Christmas trees and buyers from the the California market.
- A lack of good management on the part of many Christmas tree growers or those who have a potential for this product but are neglecting to cultivate their valuable asset. Christmas tree producers have general problems. These include inexperienced cutters and trimmers and labor in general, out-of-state people cutting and wasting or not paying the owner as agreed, the stealing of trees on an out-of-state and local level, and out-of-state cutters taking advantage illegally of a resident permit holder.

On the other hand, Christmas tree production is a moving and rewarding business and recognition is given here for those involved in this enterprise.

In the local market, many of the trees on the lots are poor trees. We have many fine trees in southern Oregon, but because of lack of care by some owners and dealers, California buyers will tend to pass up our area in looking for trees. This is further explained in the section that follows.

## **P O T E N T I A L S**

Potentials are several for the farm forest owner. The primary subject of concern, recognized as the greatest economic potential, is Christmas tree production. This is at present a business of considerable size. However, there are specific potentials to be recognized to further increase the income to farm woodland owners and dealers. The most important is marketing. Many growers have established market outlets. Those who don't could possibly organize a Christmas tree marketing pool. This would allow small producers of 100 to 500 trees or more to pool a load or several loads to a California buyer. California wants more trees, and we have them. Another potential that goes hand in hand with marketing is the cutting of quality trees. This attracts California buyers and will bring higher prices to growers at the wholesale level. It will also set a quality standard for the benefit of the growers in the business.

If thinning of young stands can be encouraged, there is an established market for poles and stakes. An operator at Kerby has machinery to process these materials. California markets are again using grape vineyard stakes and poles of several sizes for several purposes. Railroad companies are sometimes in the market for these products. Other markets could probably be found if production was increased.

Hardwoods present a possible market. However, other than for firewood, the committee could see no real economic use for hardwoods in the near future. It is pointed out that there are problems in relation to flooring manufacture, paneling manufacture and other types of manufacturing. It is not feasible or practical at present to engage in such enterprise. But the demand for firewood on a local level and in California is increasing. In the future a profitable market may develop for this product.

Helping local forest landowners to form an association should be encouraged. All the various interests would be considered, but primarily the association would promote Christmas tree farm management, marketing, and related subjects. This might further develop the farm woodland industry into a larger enterprise than it is at present. There appears to be considerable interest and merit in this idea.

A concluding problem is the increasing need of more rural fire protection in outlying areas. Many areas are protected only by the State Forestry Department, which functions only in summertime. There is little or no protection in winter. Also, the state is not equipped to protect houses. A potential is here for building a larger capability of fire protection for outlying farm woodlot acreages and homes.

## MARKET PRICES OF CHRISTMAS TREES

General Representative Figures Only  
Josephine County, 1968

The following prices are based on the average 5-foot to 6-foot natural tree (wholesale prices paid to the grower for trees in the stockpile at the farm.)

Grade	Douglas Fir	White Fir	Shore Pine	Cedar	Ponderosa (rare)
Premium	\$2.00 to \$3.00	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$1.75	\$3.00
No. 1	\$1.50 to \$1.75	\$2.00 to \$2.25	\$2.00 to \$2.25	\$1.75	

Trees 10 feet to 12 feet in height will sell for \$4 or more. Scotch pine is selling for \$2 to \$2.50, but not many are available now. Sales are just starting, and Scotch pines are highly desirable seedlings for new plantings.

Trucking the trees yourself and wholesaling to a California lot operator will bring in an additional 50c to 60c per tree. Hauling costs, hauling labor, string, etc., are costs to consider in this. Trucking the trees yourself, renting a lot, and selling direct to the retail market makes money for the grower at both ends. In reference to the above grades and prices, on the retail lot the prices received will range from \$4.50 to \$12 per tree, and more for taller trees, in some cases.

"Flocking" the trees on the retail lot is advantageous in many ways in selling and is done by many operators.

Since natural trees are becoming more scarce, the emphasis will be on the cultured tree in the future. Therefore, the potential market price of trees is expected to gradually increase and remain strong and reasonably stable.

In the near future, trees will have to be sheared and cultured on the plantation because wild trees are becoming so scarce. It should be

emphasized at this point that growing Christmas trees is more than just planting trees, waiting 5 to 10 years, and then cutting. A profitable operation will demand constant care during this time. Once shearing starts, it must be continued until the tree is harvested.

A price of 40c to 50c per foot seems to be a standard rate to producers.

### JOSEPHINE COUNTY FOREST LAND

Josephine County is unique in that it includes a county forest which consists of 28,919.03 acres.

This land was dedicated by the Board of County Commissioners in 1941 and 1968 to remain in the county forest classification forever. The only way this classification can be changed is by a majority vote of the people.

In 1968 the gross return from the county forests was \$4.59 an acre, for a total of \$132,875. Operational costs for the same period were \$12,625.

In 1959 a timber management plan for the county forests was completed. This plan showed that 3 million board feet of timber could be cut each year and not deplete the timber resource.

The report also stated that the overmature decadent timber should be cut first. These management objectives have been followed.

Every 10 years a timber management cruise should be run. The immediate goal is to revamp the management plan and reinventory the timber resource. From this reinventory, areas needing treatment, i.e., thinning, planting, seeding, and grass control, will be determined, and management efforts will be concentrated on these areas.

Long-range objectives are to consolidate ownership into four areas of the county and to bring the county forest under regulation, that is, to harvest the amount of timber that will be equal to the net annual increment.

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCERNS

### Christmas tree production.

- Growers of Christmas trees should receive more education on management practices. Many owners are missing an opportunity to realize substantial incomes from their investments (with due credit to stable producers who are progressing with their cultural and management practices).

- The Extension Service should organize a growers' association. The association should keep itself at the local level for local interests. Activities that should be encouraged through an association would be tree-farm management education, field tours, guest speakers, films, market contacts, a Christmas tree marketing pool, poles and stakes contacts, contract-making assistance, demonstrations, and a general group organization with common interests to take advantage of needs and markets that develop.

- Sellers of Christmas trees should make firmer contracts with buyers, and cut "good" trees to hold up the price that can be received.

- Christmas trees should be tagged. This is not only good business but also an advertising method. Tagging will benefit the grower when the tree sells on the lot and will be a credit to the county as a whole.

- Better grading and closer grading and more careful selection of trees should be encouraged. A certain grade of tree should be kept in its own pile.

- The grower should not cut trees too early, yet meet his part of the contract.

- An educational program should be developed to assist new growers, cutters, and graders. Advertising efforts should be made in order to attract more buyers and to enhance the reputation of Josephine County Christmas trees.

- Proper cultural practices and the increased worth of cultured trees should be emphasized and explained to private operators.

- Experienced growers with established markets can help new growers by assisting in contacting market outlets, contributing a small quantity of trees to a pool, teaching management practices on field days, and suggesting and researching shipping arrangements.

- The Extension Service should assist in the areas mentioned above in order to improve the industry for the private owner.

- Owners of cutover land should take inventory of their situation in order not to pass up a profitable potential. Much of this type of land is growing young trees in the 2-foot to 8-foot size category now. By thinning, controlling brush and grass, and shearing, several hundred Christmas trees per acre could be produced and harvested in due time.

### Poles and stakes.

- An educational program should be developed to interest people in taking advantage of their potential assets of farm woodlands.

- More thinning should be practiced to improve the timber stand and to take advantage of this specific market that seems to be growing.

- The committee suggests that instruction be conducted on the operation of chain saws and related matters for the benefit of farm woodland owners.

- Other educational meetings and tours to further promote the application of good management practices would be valuable. These should include the preparation of contracts with logging contractors for cutting big timber on farm woodlands.

- More tax education in relation to farm woodlands would be helpful.

### Hardwoods.

- It should be realized that some people have a valuable resource in hardwoods, but that no real market exists today.
- The firewood potential should be utilized, when possible, by individual owners of hardwoods. There is a possibility of a good California market for this product in the future. This outlet should be considered further.

### Commercial timber.

- There are several thousand acres of overstocked, understocked, and nonproducing lands within the county. These lands are losing a tremendous amount of growth potential and interest return on money invested in the land by not being in full production. Timberland in this county is capable of producing good return on the landowners' investment if this land is fully productive.

- Private landowners own 25 percent of the timberland in the county and yet produce a very small percentage of the total volume. This is partially due to the fact that the private lands have been cut over and presently contain only a small amount of merchantable volume. If all of these lands were properly managed, private landowners could possibly raise their annual cut from the present 10 million to 75 million board feet per year.

- Understocked areas should be replanted to bring them up to adequate stocking, and overstocked areas should be thinned to allow the remaining trees to grow at a faster rate. Tree planting is encouraged wherever practical and possible.

- As the demand for wood products continues to increase, the small landowner will be able to realize even greater returns on his commercial timber.

## Industry



**Industrial development offers the greatest opportunity for the year-around employment and higher income levels for county residents.**

The income generated by industrial activities in Josephine County surpasses that of other economic groups. Continued industrial develop-

ment in the county offers the greatest opportunity for year-around employment and higher income levels for county residents.

Industrial development is recognized by many communities as being highly desirable. The attraction of an industry to a community is highly competitive. Nationally, approximately 85 percent of the industrial growth in a community is derived from companies already existing in that community. The remaining 15 percent comes from industries relocating in the community. Both types of expansion require similar conditions of available land, water, power, and districting. If these needs are not provided by a community, existing industries may focus their expansion efforts on communities better able to cope with their needs.

There is a decentralization of industries from the northeast to the west and south of the United States. Four reasons for this are:

1. High cost of land and labor and congestion existing in the northeast.
2. Lower taxes and better community relations experienced in small communities.
3. Greater stress on market orientation rather than natural resource orientation.
4. Influence of federal government on plant locations due to subsidizing programs.

The topography of Josephine County is such that there is a limited amount of ground available for industrial development. This fact, plus the available water, fire protection, sewer service, and other needs limit the size of industrial plants which could locate here. Transportation facilities by rail, truck and air are good. The Josephine County airport is more than adequate for executive planes, and the easy accessibility to the Medford-Jackson County airport provides excellent facilities for air cargo transportation.

Grants Pass and Josephine County have an advantage over most other areas in livability. The development of industrial economy should not destroy this livability. The county's greatest potential industrial development, excluding the resource-oriented industries, would be with the "footloose" industries where transportation would not be a problem. Several smaller diversified companies would be better for the economy of the area rather than one large company.

Community attitude is a key factor in the selection of a site by a company. The ability to provide the needs of an interested company is imperative. Grants Pass has had a good history in this regard. Industries that have recently located here have shown a receptive attitude to other potential companies. Many of these are located in the Caveman Industrial Park.

The Caveman Industrial Park began with a concept developed by the Grants Pass-Josephine County Chamber of Commerce Industrial Committee in the early 1950's. Since that time a group of people has been attempting to attract new industries to this area. All of the land in the Caveman Industrial Park is now sold.

In 1963 the Josephine County Court initiated the Overall Economic Development Program. This group was organized locally as part of the Area Redevelopment Administration, which was organized on the federal level to help counties with acute employment problems. Each year since 1963 a report has been submitted to the federal government concerning the economic situation in Josephine County.

The committee feels that Grants Pass and Josephine County have industries which have good expansion potentials and a good potential to attract new industries. As pointed out before, industrial development is a competitive field, and a definite course of action should be established. A starting point for future industrial development is to know what type of industries are wanted in Josephine County; then a county plan with restrictions should be developed.

A well-developed master plan with the location of light and heavy industries would be the next step. Industrial companies prefer industrial park sites because of a standard land price and protection. After the plan is developed, education of the people is essential to obtain broad-based support prior to presentation of the plan to the voters. Full advantage of the financial assistance available through the Economic Development Administration in the planning and execution stages of the development should be sought.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

● Our most important resource for attracting new industries and helping our existing industries to meet their expansion needs is the availability of trainable labor. Manual dexterity and basic skills are necessary characteristics of this labor force. The committee strongly supports the vocational training program being initiated through the Grants Pass High School, and the concept of a Rogue Valley Community College which would provide post-high school vocational training. The presence of such training is an important factor in Josephine County's competition for new industry. Josephine County would have a definite asset if we could offer special post-high school vocational training to employees at the request of and by special arrangement with an industry committed to locating here. The committee also recommends close relationships be maintained between industry and administrators and teachers in all vocational education programs.

● The wise use of our land and water is a basic concern of this committee. The development of residential areas with a minimum lot size of 5 to 10 acres, which is required because of health standards, is not in accord with the best use of our land. Effective simplified sewage disposal systems are being developed and refined. Such systems should be given careful consideration by the proper authorities. The land-use plans of our county should be flexible in order to adjust to the opportunities these systems offer in the development of our land. The committee also identifies the acceptance of clean effluent by the public as a social problem.

● Efforts should be devoted to helping existing companies expand their operations into sophisticated plants using the latest technological and management methods.

● The committee recognizes that industrial development is a highly competitive and technically involved area. It is the recommendation of the committee, therefore, that a person competent in industrial development be assigned the industrial development program in the county as his major responsibility. Since personal contacts are invaluable in attracting industries and the people making these contacts must be proficient in all phases of industrial development, this recommendation would be basic to an expanded industrial development program in our county.

This person must also be able to coordinate the information and efforts of the various specialists associated with the developmental agencies and companies in this area.

● Information of interest to potential companies should be provided in a brochure which could be presented to these companies. This brochure should be designed so that it could be revised annually to contain current information.

● A current list of trainable people in the county should be maintained to be available to potential companies. Also a list of people with specific skills who would like to live in Josephine County but cannot because of limited employment opportunities in their specialty area should be maintained.

● The best development of our natural and industrial resources can be achieved through area planning and development. We should not let the traditional rivalry with Medford, which developed through sports, interfere with other activities.

● Additional land needs to be reserved for industrial development. The possible methods of reserving this land need to be explored and the best method initiated.

● Some business and government leaders need to be better informed on the current and future status of industrial development in the county. Regularly scheduled educational programs which would provide this opportunity should be initiated. Such programs would develop a citizenry better qualified to meet the concerns of potential industries.

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## Tourism and Recreation

### L I V A B I L I T Y

Josephine County has a pleasant livable environment. The easy access to and availability of outdoor recreation is no doubt the greatest asset the county possesses. This committee recognizes the many different kinds of outdoor recreation. The goal of long-range planning is to preserve the county's great natural resources for today's generation and for future generations. Also, the further enhancement of the recreational opportunities that we enjoy here in the Rogue Basin and adjacent areas should be a personal objective of each county resident. Such things as littering, wanton waste of fish and game, and the destruction of wilderness are of prime concern to us all. These are the factors that affect the very desirable environment in which we live. Many things make up this setting, and many kinds of people must learn to be compatible if the sensible and feasible management of the several natural resources involved is to be accomplished.

The demands of local residents for recreational facilities and guidance are great. Also, the demands of the tourist who travels through our area or comes to stay several days are very great. The tourist business amounts to many millions of dollars per year and provides part-time and year-around employment.

The recreational potential is large in many respects. Water of any kind and in any form is the crying need of this area, as it is throughout the nation. Sound development and administration of water resources is vital to the economy and desirability of this county.

New people are moving into the area every day. Because of the mild climate, beautiful surrounding, good schools, available water, and relatively low pollution of air and water, Josephine County is very attractive.

The Rogue River and Illinois River and their tributaries are recognized as great attractions and assets from a recreational standpoint. There is considerable use of the river system by local people. There is also a large tourist business, primarily based on river boat trips. Several types of commercial river tours are offered to the public.

The existing county parks system is quite impressive and is heavily used by the tourist sector and local people. It is a growing department of county government and is developing a very fine system.

The Grants Pass City Recreation Department maintains a program of social and athletic activities. This department has plans to expand its program into the outdoor field.

This committee, in recognizing the desirable environment of Josephine County as being a priceless commodity of high esthetic value to both residents and tourists, recommends strong cooperation among all governmental bodies and private interests in preserving its natural assets. The committee also recommends using the county's natural assets to improve the economy of the area as well as to provide for sustained future income and recreational pleasure.

The total income in Josephine County from tourism and outdoor recreation in 1966 was estimated at \$16 million. This figure jumped to \$19 million in 1968. This includes such accommodations as motels, gas, groceries, equipment, tours, river trips, lodging, restaurant trade, transportation, and miscellaneous services.

## OUTDOOR RECREATION

### The Rogue River.

The Rogue River itself is the key to recreational activities in the county. It is recognized as the greatest single asset and attraction. It is being utilized for public and commercial recreation more each year. The most important aspects are the river itself, the scenery, and fishing.

Pollution of the Rogue River system was agreed upon wholeheartedly as the first concern of this committee. Following this is groundwater pollution and then air pollution. The actual contribution of bacterial and oxygen-reducing effluents into the river by the sewage treatment plant of the City of Grants Pass should be investigated. Also, the drainage of toxic materials into the river from various industrial sources, many of which are upstream in Jackson County, needs to be stopped. Some definite steps have been taken in recent years to clean up the river, and some improvement has been noted. Many enterprises and individuals have cooperated in this vital cleanup effort.

Other points of concern are:

- Holding and preserving the natural scenic banks of the river from Savage Rapids Dam to the head of Hellgate Canyon.
- The loss of timber covering and the loss of watershed growth as a result of timber harvest. Certain logging techniques have contributed to erosion, warmer water temperatures, sediment in the water during rainfall, and unsightly clear cuts and roads into areas of scenic grandeur.
- Scarcity of fish. The fishery has been slowly going downhill over the years because of terrific fishing pressure, pollution, warmer summer water, offshore commercial fishery, spawning area damage, and other factors. As our civilization becomes more complex and more activity is

generated in the river and along the tributary streams, the problem will be multiplied many times.

The potentials are many for the Rogue River. If the natural setting, the wildlife, the fishery, and the adjacent environment can be maintained and improved, the guided river trips can increase, scenic trips can increase, the sales of all kinds of water sports equipment can increase, and the use by local residents can increase. The potential is here if we recognize it, respect it, and protect it.

### Recommendations.

The committee suggests that:

- The existing pollution regulations be more rigidly enforced.
- The local municipal sewage control be under the best management possible.
- The natural scenic banks of the rivers be maintained and protected through cooperation among individual landowners and government agencies. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act passed in October 1968 should help to accomplish a portion of this point.
- Zoning regulations in preserving and conserving scenic areas of value along the river be applied.
- A favorable attitude toward the entire Rogue Basin Project be encouraged. The controlled release of "cooler" water from the dams into the streamflow and the production from the big fish hatchery can contribute greatly to lowering the water temperature and improving the fishery.
- The logging practice of leaving a "buffer strip" of trees along the stream channel be adopted more widely. Cutting across small stream channels, destroying the food and cover for wildlife, and removing the natural watershed holding growth has been a disastrous factor in water runoff and soil erosion. This conservative practice of leaving a buffer strip along a stream will improve the situation.
- The river guides be organized as a group in order to be influential and have a strong voice in issues having to do with river administration policy, fishing, and so on. This would help to safeguard their important part of the tourist business. As a highly qualified group that is

seriously affected by various area river issues, they could be most effective by influencing policy making at the legislative level.

● The improvement and regeneration of fish habitat in small streams be established. Much of the fishery has been lost in smaller mountain streams in this county. The committee's recommendation is to build check dams in the creeks which would allow pools to develop and food to grow. This operation is to be followed by a trout-stocking program to provide trout fishery in our numerous creeks. Examples are Taylor Creek, Galice Creek, Jump-Off Joe Creek, Quartz Creek, Slate Creek, Savage Creek, and others.

#### **The Illinois River.**

The upper half of the Illinois River is accessible to the public and is one of the most beautiful of free-flowing streams. The lower half flows through a magnificent and generally inaccessible canyon of rugged wilderness and grandeur.

The potential lies in the ruggedness and present limited access into the area. The committee recommends that the Illinois River be included within the Scenic and Wild Rivers Act of 1968. The greatest value to the area lies in preserving this canyon in a natural state and providing a true wilderness for local and tourist recreation.

#### **Water skiing.**

The county area lacks impounded bodies of water suitable for water skiing. This is a fast-growing outdoor sport, and there is a great need for a local development with this purpose in mind. The only area now suitable is the pool behind Savage Rapids Dam, which is very overcrowded.

The water-skiing group spends considerable money on equipment and needs. Additional income could be made here if more suitable water bodies could be provided.

This very popular outdoor sport should be provided for as new dams and water impoundments are built. Water skiing is not allowed on Lake Selmac. Two proposed sites are the Sucker Creek reservoir and the Sexton reservoir. The recreational value of these potential reservoirs

exceeds any other value. The stored water would be available for industrial and domestic uses as well. The Graves Creek Reservoir should be built to maintain the desired level in Sexton Reservoir by a connecting pipeline.

#### **Horseback riding.**

There are an estimated 2,200 pleasure riding horses in the county area. Riding is the chief recreation of many local residents.

Problems are lack of suitable trails in some areas, lack of suitable staging areas for unloading trucks and trailers, and lack of adequate parking space for these vehicles. There is a great potential here to develop these facilities and make the area even more enjoyable than it is at present.

The committee suggests that:

- Existing old trails be rebuilt and improved.
- New trails be built into some areas.
- Staging areas be laid out at road heads in the mountains in order to provide parking, camping, and unloading space for trucks and trailers. This is greatly needed, especially for organized group trail rides.
- Specific old trails be improved and new trails be built for the benefit of hikers. The demand is increasing for maintained hiking trails for daily trips and longer back-packing trips.

Trails to be considered are Silver Creek and Indigo Creek drainage region; the Chetco Divide trail; the Kalmiopsis Wilderness area; the county line trail; the Illinois River trail; the Bear Camp to Marial trail; the Bobs Garden to Half Moon Bar trail; and the trail system in the Grayback mountain range, providing some high terrain country.

- A horse trail system be developed close to the Grants Pass urban area. The area suggested is the large block of land lying just south of Harbeck Road between Harbeck Road and the Country Club. This is an ideal piece of terrain of forested and brush-covered hills and ravines. There are seven miles of county-built horse trails in this area at present. The committee feels that these trails are a real county asset. The Board of County Commissioners has prohibited motorcycles on the trails, but there has been no enforcing of this rule, so motorbikes use this area all the time. The

committee feels that the area should be set aside for foot and horse travel only and that motorcycles not be allowed.

### **Snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.**

At present there are no snowmobiling and cross-country skiing areas as such designated. These two sports have just recently come into being in this area.

One problem is the lack of access to certain snow areas. There is potential terrain to accomodate these activities. In general, most persons seeking this type of recreation seem to take care of their own arrangements and plans.

The committee does not have any concrete suggestion for the development of special areas for these sports. Roads in the Bear Camp area and in the Grayback-Oregon Caves area offer natural routes to follow. Possibly a few snowmobile trail markers would be helpful. If snow removal equipment could clear parking space to the snow line on roads in the winter, this would greatly aid the increasing number of persons becoming involved in these winter activities. The snow, in normal winters, is not too dependable for planned activities. Therefore, the committee did not feel that this subject should be considered in detail. The idea of a downhill area with mechanical lifts was discussed and dismissed.

### **PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC DATA AND SITES**

Within the boundaries of Josephine County lies a wealth of historical places and records. Individuals have made some effort to preserve these. The history is fascinating and is of interest to the native and to the tourist. Early day mining and logging are especially interesting.

The committee has a deep concern for historical records, items, and places. They are easily destroyed forever by man's progress in a modern society. We have the potential of developing an impressive historical site which would be of great interest to both local people and tourists and would capitalize on a resource that exists throughout the county.

### **Recommendations.**

The committee recommends that:

- Efforts be made by individuals, organizations, and county government to establish, set aside, and preserve historical landmarks and sites.
- Historical and scenic drives be established and marked and tours be conducted.
- Museums and collections of historical pictures, events, antiques, early day mining equipment, and so forth, be encouraged.
- A historical study be coordinated and conducted by some group or agency to pinpoint and establish these very valuable aspects of the area's history. Past efforts of the Josephine County Historical Society are highly commended.

### **PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION**

- Although recognizing the beneficial effects and results of current advertising and promoting efforts by many individuals, businesses, local government, the Chamber of Commerce and others, the committee feels that still more can be done to aid the economy of the area through publicity.
- The installation of from one to several tourist information booths in the Grants Pass and/or county area should be encouraged. Suggested locations are near each freeway exit and on the Redwood Highway; possibly another one near the exit of the Oregon Mountain tunnel coming from California.
- Information relating to scenic drives, guided tours, river trips, historical sites, campgrounds, picnic areas, trails, parks, lodging, laundry facilities, restaurants, maps, etc., should be made available and distributed.
- Several large tourist-oriented signs near main exits on major highways, attractive signs displaying hospitality and information, should be erected.

### **RESIDENT YOUTH**

Relative to everyone's concern of what youngsters, chiefly urban, can do with their free time, many members of the committee feel that the youth activity program under city and county jurisdiction should be expanded. The present program is good and efficiently administered. Approximately 1,500 boys and girls participate in the summer programs.

## COUNTY PARKS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT

There are 21 county administered parks involving 1,567 acres of land. An approximate total of 355,390 persons utilized these facilities to varying degrees and lengths of stay during 1968.

Immediate plans in park administration are to bring to full development all areas currently owned by the county as the need dictates. Future long-range plans are to influence federal agencies to develop their areas in overnight camping and day use. Federal agencies should be assisted in the development of reservoir sites wherever such sites are feasible in the county, whether they be on federal, county, or private land.

It is felt by this department that water-oriented recreation is the greatest need, and unfortunately it is seriously lacking in Josephine County. If we can acquire more lakes and reservoirs similar to Lake Selmac or Howard Prairie, future requirements might be satisfied.

### LOCAL TOURS AND SITES OF INTEREST

- It is recommended that an expanded and publicized program be established for conducted tours of cooperating sawmills, plywood plants, light industrial plants, logging shows, and other attractions. Tour schedules, stipulations, and tour guides need to be coordinated. Motel operators and other interested groups, businesses, or persons should be made aware of this information so that it may be distributed to locally interested parties and visiting tourists.

- The same recommendations are proposed for conducted tours to cooperating dairies, gladiola producers, hop producers, tree farms, and other agricultural enterprises.

- Tours pertaining to natural science should be conducted to major geographical points of interest, such as the migrating salmon, Hellgate Canyon, and others. Particular note is made of the fish ladder at Savage Rapids Dam. This is well known to many local persons, but there are people who are not aware of this interesting site. This natural resource should be more widely publicized, and the parking facilities should be improved so that larger numbers of cars and people can be accommodated.

The youth population is increasing. Natural resources exist that could possibly be developed and utilized for constructive outdoor recreation and education for youth. Existing school facilities could be further utilized.

- A complete youth activity program should be developed.
- This new program should be broader and offer more than former programs.
- Cities and the county should cooperate.
- Some new facilities may be needed. Some existing facilities may have to be put to fuller use. Outdoor natural resources and natural science programs should be developed.
- Consideration should be given by city and county governments to provide money needed to expand present programs and initiate new programs.

### SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior citizens and retired people of all ages with many interests continue to come to Josephine County to live because it has a desirable environment in which to live. The income of Josephine County from social security checks is over \$5 million per year. In 1965, 5,642 persons received \$4,987,000 in social security checks. In 1969 both figures increased proportionally.

We recognize the following needs as well as the corresponding potential, of this group of people: part-time employment, social activity programs, public media communication, transportation, things to see and do, and an activity center.

- The establishment of a senior citizen activity center.
- More consideration from private and government enterprises toward part-time employment, feasible low-cost housing, and the encouragement of outdoor activities.

Perhaps the Chamber of Commerce could be instrumental in these four programs.

### **FINAL RECOMMENDATION**

The final recommendation of this committee is that an overall study be made of all the recreational potential in the county. This study

should be a cooperative effort between private citizens and governmental agencies and should cover all the aspects of potential development and proper conservation. We need to compile a complete inventory of what we have to work with and then study how best to develop the potential for the best multiple use of all interest concerned.

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