

Crescent City--Frontier With A Future

Population Grows; Industry In Boom

Crescent City Envelope
By DAVE WAY

Eureka and Humboldt county can hold no monopoly on progress and industrial development in northwestern California. For Crescent City and Del Norte county have increased by a third in population and mushroomed in industry during the immediate postwar period.

Figures show at least as great an expansion as does the Arcata-Eureka area to the south.

Crescent City which contains 30 per cent of the estimated 7000 people in the county is in a measure still provincial in outlook.

However, there is a large progressive group of citizens led by the Crescent City Chamber of Commerce which also promotes the county as a whole. Recently the chamber raised \$4000 to hire, Hahn, Campbell and Associates, planning engineers, to make an industrial survey of the county similar to the project completed for the Humboldt County Planning commission last year.

From the survey, the chamber will publish a 30-page brochure for distribution as a promotional piece. The booklet, called "Frontier with a Future" will be used in an extensive national advertising campaign to lure additional industry to Del Norte.

The chamber, also on its own hook, appropriated some \$1200 to obtain a federal census of Crescent City to enable the city to obtain a greater share in the state's tax money distributed on the basis of population to cities and counties.

One of the biggest recent strides accomplished by local citizenry was the establishment of air transportation.

AIR SERVICE STARTS
On September 1, Southwest Airways inaugurated feeder line service connecting Crescent City with Medford on the north and Eureka on the south three times daily.

With the development of the multi-million dollar harbor project, people from Crescent City fully expect to see large ships enter the harbor within three years.

Only black spot on the improved transportation front is the lack of rail transportation. Everything must be moved by truck or air at the present time to the rail head at Arcata.

30 MILLS OPERATING
Lack of rail transportation, while undoubtedly a dampening effect on wide-open expansion, has not held back development of the lumber industry which now includes nearly 30 mills and produced 53,723,000 board feet in 1946.

Agriculture value has trebled in seven years and is now pegged at \$1,767,562. Most of this farm income is from dairying and stock raising which accounted in 1947 for \$1,276,271.

The tourist business, although currently in a slump because of a gasoline shortage which has actually failed to materialize, is also prosperous.

Because of the incredulity of a large number of travelers when they look out into the harbor at the wreck of the "Emidio," the first ship torpedoed by the Japanese during the war, a large plaque telling the story will be placed on the beach by the chamber.

Two years ago, the lily bulb industry reached its heights in Del Norte. It brought a large number of people in to settle from the outside drawn by nation-wide publicity.

BULB BUSINESS FADING
But then the business folded. Many people went out of business when supply suddenly and devastatingly caught up with demand. As a result this year, demand far exceeds supply. This may result in a re-activation next year if the market holds up another 12 months.

The most spectacular project now under way at Crescent City is the re-modeling of the harbor by the U. S. Engineers. The army has already completely leveled one island which was used as a rock quarry and now has opened up a new quarry, constructing a rail line to carry the huge rock to the harbor.

This project has used up most of the money appropriated by congress for the harbor this year which will pose an additional problem in raising money to continue.

Privately, however, local officials have been assured that sufficient funds will be available to carry the project through to completion.

FISH BOATS PROTECTED
The inner harbor will contain a large berthing space to handle some 130 fishing boats. This haven is sheltered by two breakwaters—one leading to Whaler Island from shore and the other

bogus radio report had a ship sinking off the coast. Most residents of Crescent City do not look with favor upon this type of publicity and many times the stories were grabbed by bay area and news service writers and exaggerated well beyond the limits of truth. This has irked the populace no end.

The problem created by the burning of the court house has resulted in the re-establishment of county offices in the Veterans Memorial building.

It appears likely that the county will not get its new court house, although the supervisors still hold out some hope for getting money through the \$90,000,000 post-war reconstruction bill passed by the state.

The best bet appears to be a remodeling of the memorial building to house the county offices. The lack of space was made even more acute, recently, with the establishment of a health service operating out of Humboldt with local quarters in the veteran's building.

HOSPITAL INADEQUATE
Like most communities, Crescent City has a hospital problem.

The Seaside hospital was built in 1931 by George Owen Knapp and was run as the Knapp hospital until 1946 when it was sold to the county. It is now operated by the Del Norte county Local Hospital district.

It has a rated capacity of 29 beds but has been increased to 36. The hospital facilities will be expanded in the near future, however, with the construction of a tuberculosis ward, an infirmary and a nursing home. The third floor of the present building will be altered to allow 15 more beds.

The overall picture for the expansion and development of Crescent City and Del Norte county is bright despite the natural isolation and lack of a railroad.

Its natural resources are great, particularly in timber and, as the lumber industry grows, more supporting business and industries will be established in Crescent City and other parts of the county to serve an expanding populace.

When Manuel first became a member of the council in 1931, the city was \$212,000 in the hole and tax delinquency had reached the unheard of heights of 64 per cent. Warrants had to be registered.

The debt was obliterated by a municipal bond which is still being paid for. Tax delinquency has dropped to 2 per cent.

There are only eight people on the city's full-time payroll which allows the city to run on a budget of \$29,000 a year. About \$18,000 is raised by a tax rate of 99 cents.

STREETS IN FAIR SHAPE
Although no street work is underway at the present time Crescent City's street problem is not great. Streets are in better than average shape and far better than the average in Eureka.

Like Eureka, city council meetings are generally poorly attended although it would be hard to find a community anywhere that takes its politics more seriously.

Crescent City elections are always hot. One of the hottest issues in the June election was a licensing ordinance which was defeated on referendum largely through the efforts of the Del Norte Taxpayers association.

A segment of the populace was unhappy with a recent action of the council in appointing Charles H. Thunen to a post on the council after Thunen, an incumbent, was defeated at the polls by Steward Woodworth. An appointment was necessary when Woodworth was transferred by his company to Ukiah.

Generally speaking, however, the council runs the city in a smooth manner which apparently does not incur much enmity from opposing groups. Some of the more progressive groups believe that the council does not move fast enough in the direction of progress, pointing to the lack of endorsement by the council of the special federal census ordered by the chamber of commerce.

Manuel indicated that the attitude of the council at the time was that the additional revenue brought in by the census would not defray its cost in the remaining two years until the regular census is held.

The court house, burned to the ground earlier this year, created a **POLITICS GET HOT COURT HOUSE BURNS**

Occasionally, the Crescent City political scene erupts from more than a backyard fight and makes headlines all over the county.

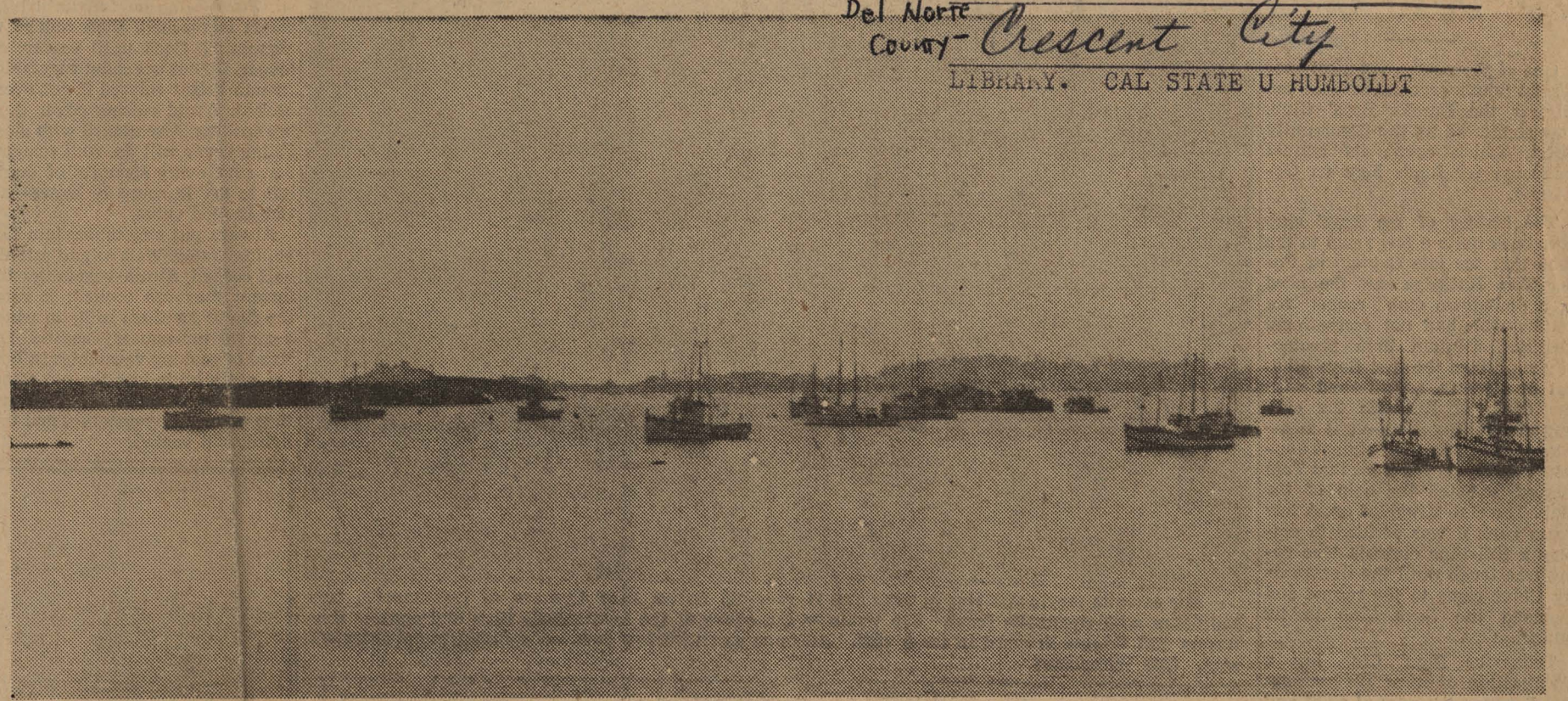
This was particularly true of the Glover-Blackerby election race two years ago which resulted in Glover's election and the elimination of slot machines in Del Norte county.

For a city its size, Crescent City has attained more than what most people would consider as its share in publicity for an area of its size.

There was the "gold rush" which brought newspaper men from all over the west. The sherriment but failed to materialize. iff's election made the front pages when violence was reported in a problem in county government. Then, a few months ago, a

Del Norte Studies Horse Race Problem

SMITH RIVER — Robert McClure, Del Norte's county fair manager, stated at a recent meeting of the fair board that if racing is to return as an attraction of



Portion of Crescent City fishing fleet lies in shelter of breakwater to left which leads out from Whaler Island. New inner harbor will be constructed to right.



Businessman-Mayor A. T. Manuel works at his station.



Highway 101 runs down Crescent City's main street. The streets are in much better shape than Eureka's.

Crescent City 20-30 Club Will Present Drama

CRESCENT CITY—The 20-30 Club is in full swing with preparations for their coming play, "The Drunkard," a fast-moving "meller-drama" where right wins over wrong in the end, and the villain gets what's coming to him.

Bob Ames is cast as the villain, by name of Lawyer Cribbs, and is as mean as they come. Bill Parker is the Drunkard. However, before the play is over he sees the light and switches to Pepsi-Cola.

Louie Tosio is the hero who saves the day every time he gets a chance. Tom Brown, president of 20-30, is the bartender who supplies the necessary evil, which the story is all about.

The entire club will take part in the play, which will be presented for two performances in Crescent City late in October. The club also plans to present the play in Brookings, Smith River, Arcata and Eureka.

The 20-30 club held a dinner meeting at the Lauff Hotel last Monday.

Republicans Map Campaign Strategy

Plans for the Dewey-Warren presidential campaign and the Scudder for Congress campaign were laid at a meeting of the Republican Central Committee Friday night in the new Republican headquarters in the old Bank of America building at 4th and E streets.

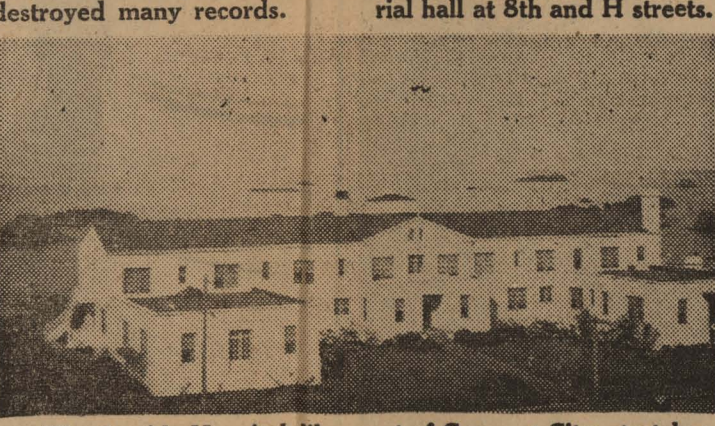
Several members of the Republican Central committee were present, as well as a number of prominent Republicans in the county.

Mrs. Henry Rohner represented the Republican women's division for a report on what Republican women have outlined. William Kennedy, head of the Scudder for Congress committee, reported that basic plans are well laid for the campaign. Kennedy said he was gratified with the number of Democrats who have signified their intention of supporting Hubert B. Scudder.

Milton Huber, chairman, opened the meeting and asked for a report from Charles Barnum, chairman of the Dewey-Warren committee of northern California.



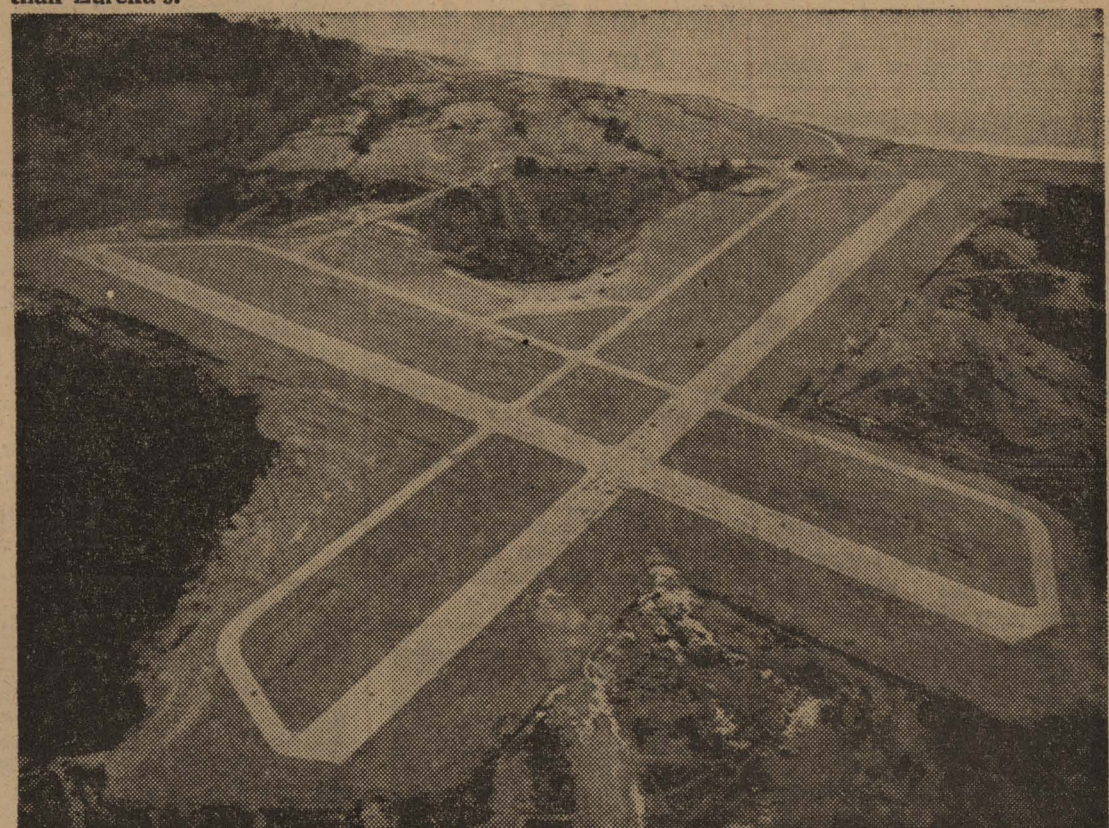
The job of Mrs. Emma Cooper, Del Norte county clerk, was made doubly hard by the burning of the old county court house, which destroyed many records.



The Seaside Hospital, like most of Crescent City, stretches beside the shore.

the fair, the first obstacle to overcome is the raising of \$15,000 for the purpose of meeting any deficits which might occur.

In 1941, McClure claims, wagering amounted to \$9000, the largest amount ever handled. With the fair association's share about 8 per cent, it is impossible with such small handles to pay purses



The landing strips of the Del Norte county airport stretch out beside the beach. Southwest Airways recently inaugurated flights here.



Shown above is a view toward shore on the breakwater which stretches from Whaler Island

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