

# Seven Homicides, Centennial Rate High In Top Ten Stories Of Year



SLAYINGS TOOK HEADLINES during 1952 with a total of seven for the year and four within a two-week period. Above, former District Attorney Robert Davis and a deputy sheriff investigate shotgun slaying of John H. Jenkins last May 12. (Staff Picture.)



JOHNNIE RAY returns to Roseburg following his successful climb to stardom. Home to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Ray who lived at Roseburg at that time, Johnnie wanted some of "Mom's Home Cooking." (Staff Picture.)

## Ike's Election Rates Top In National News Roundup

**By WARREN BENNETT**  
**AP Newsfeatures Writer**

The biggest news story of 1952 was the election of Dwight D. Eisenhower as 33rd president of the United States.

The year marked achievement of another VE-Day for the much-decorated war hero. The first came May 7, 1945, with victory in Europe over the Nazis. The second occurred last November 4 with victory on Election Day over the New Deal standard bearer. Ballots not bullets decided the issue, in the second "great crusade."

In his march to the Presidency, the 62-year-old general carried every objective. He rolled up more popular votes than any other president in history (33 million); he cracked the Solid South (Va., Fla., Tenn. and Tex.), and swept the Republican Party into control of both houses of Congress. He carried 39 states with 442 electoral votes to his opponent's nine states and 89 electoral votes. It was one of the greatest personal triumphs in political history.

Stories which just failed to make the Top 10 classification were, in order, the epidemic of prison riots, floods in the south and Midwest, N.Y. Yankees' fourth successive world series victory, new labor leadership caused by the deaths of Murray and Green, and the nationwide polio epidemic.

**A Constitutional Question**

Labor disputes in key industries generally depress the whole national economy. The steel strike this year affected not only national security but the whole structure of economic controls.

Late last year and this spring the United Steelworkers of America (CIO) four times postponed strike calls backing up demands for wage increases, a guaranteed annual income, union shop and other fringe benefits.

Pitted against each other were Philip Murray, CIO president and head of the steel union, and Benjamin Fairless, head of U.S. Steel Corp., and spokesman in negotiations for the industry.

On March 20, the Wage Stabilization Board announced its decision. The union accepted the terms but the steel industry refused unless permitted an increase in steel prices. The union was set to strike but President Truman in a nationwide radio and television broadcast denounced the steel firms for failing to accept the WSB decision and announced he was seizing the mills for the government.

Mr. Truman declared he was acting in the public interest during a national emergency under the war powers granted him in the Constitution. The Supreme Court of the United States, in a precedent-making 5-3 decision, declared the presidential seizure illegal.

A 54 day steel strike followed ending on July 24, but not before the warlock had cost the nation an estimated 18 million tons of steel.

For the U.S., the Korean war already has lasted longer than World War I. This country alone has suffered more than 126,000 casualties—more than the combined total of casualties in U.S. history except for the Civil War and World War I and II.

Hopes rose as President-elect Eisenhower made a trip to Korea full of a campaign pledge but the deadlock continued in truce talks at Panmunjom and in the U.N. where the latest compromise attempts were spurned by Russia. One issue—voluntary return of prisoners—was all apparently that delayed a cease-fire but the U.S. said it could not, in honor, agree to abandonment of that principle.

**Ike Versus Taft**

Rivalry between Eisenhower and Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio, brewing all spring through primaries and state convention skirmishes, exploded on television screens across the country with the opening of the GOP convention in Chicago. Millions of voters saw for the first time a camera's eye view of a fight to the political death.

London's bells tolled the death of King George VI February 6 while the Princess Elizabeth was substituting for her father on a royal tour. The news caught up with her in Africa and she hastily flew home to ascend the throne of Britain.

**Man Against the Sea**

The story of Captain Kurt Carlsen of the Flying Enterprise is a throwback to the days of heroic adventure. The world cheered the gallant skipper fought to save his crippled ship from the grip of North Atlantic. The arctic continued two weeks until on January 10 the ship foundered, with Carlsen leaping overboard just before it went down. The captain came home to a hero's welcome which embarrassed him mightily.

This year was the last of a whole generation of Democratic control of the federal government. Probes of government agencies such as the Internal Revenue Bureau turned up evidence of corruption and laxity. The revelation gave Republicans two of their campaign slogans: "the mess in Washington" and "It's time for a change."

**New Democratic Star**

Gov. Adlai Stevenson was virtually a political unknown outside his state of Illinois before the Democratic convention in Chicago. When it was over, Stevenson was the Democratic candidate for president. He conducted a new kind of campaign in which humor played hob with the nation's political center of gravity. Stevenson won 26 million votes, more than any ever given a loser.

Undoubtedly the most dramatic single incident of the presidential campaign was the appearance before a national television audience by GOP Vice candidate Richard Nixon to give a personal accounting of a private expense account donated by fellow Californians for his use as a senator.

It was a year of violent deaths in Douglas County in 1952.

In rating the top ten stories of the year, the News-Review news staff gave the county's seven homicides top spot, thus shoving the county's 100th birthday celebration down to second spot.

The year also saw election highlights with some nationally known political campaigns appearing in Roseburg. In fourth spot rests the unparalleled school expansion in Roseburg and other districts. Notable achievements have been made in industrial progress and in road and highway construction.

**Seven Homicides** — Seventy-year-old Daniel Webster Smith of Camas Valley fatally bludgeoned John Henry Jenkins May 12 with a shotgun in the first such occurrence in some two years, and started out the year of violence. Smith in his first-degree murder trial claimed that he didn't remember what happened — didn't know whether he shot Jenkins or not. A Circuit Court jury found him guilty of manslaughter. He drew a 10-year penitentiary term.

Next was the confessed slaying of Mrs. Alice Craven July 27 near Tenmile by Carl James Corder. He admitted shooting the woman by a lonely logging road with a .22 caliber rifle. He later pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison.

Then came October with its record of five homicides.

Thomas Bouse admitted drowning his 40-year-old wife in the bathtub Oct. 8 and exactly two months later was sentenced to die in the gas chamber.

Bouse's attorneys attempted to prove temporary insanity but a Circuit Court jury found him guilty of first degree murder — and gave no recommendation for life imprisonment, thus sending the 50-year-old defendant to the gas chamber.

A few days later, Oct. 12, Thomas R. Debolt and L. C. Parker were dead of stab wounds. Mrs. Mary Jewell testified in court she stabbed Parker in self-defense, and a jury acquitted her. Lemmons said he jabbed once with his knife at Debolt and didn't know whether he hit him or not. Found guilty of manslaughter, Lemmons got 12 years and a \$750 fine.

Two cases are still pending trial. Ezra J. Staggs is held on a second degree murder charge in slaying of Hill Estrada, Oct. 20.

The case that presented the most mystery was the death of Georgia Lang, whose unclad decomposed body was discovered Oct. 30, in a ditch north of Oakland. Investigation revealed the 19-year-old brunette had last been seen with a sailor and civilian, later identified as Chester D. Crabbe and John Coffield. The two men were eventually rounded up. Both admitted being with the girl April 9, the night she disappeared, but denied killing her. The case is expected to be presented to the Grand Jury next year.

**100th Birthday Celebration** — The Centennial fete was the biggest celebration the county ever saw. Ruled over by not one but two queens, Barbara Peterson and Mrs. Eva Lane Waite, the event was climaxed with a three-day Labor Day weekend pageant, the work of thousands of Douglas County citizens. The event rested in the planning stages for more than a year and in the development stage for another eight months before the final curtain fell on the 100th birthday pageant.

Horace Robinson, head of the University of Oregon Theater, directed the pageant; Lowell Rhoden headed a Centennial board of governors. Citizens from all over the county participated in promotion and carrying out of the event.

Music for the pageant was written by Pulitzer prize winning Composer Gail Kubik. The pageant was preceded by a Queen's Ball, a "100 Years of Progress" parade and a radio show headed by Breakfast Clubber Mel Venter and his group. The program was carried throughout 11 western states.

**Elections** — A particularly intense political campaign, for both the primary election May 16 and the general election Nov. 4, brought some famous personalities to Roseburg.

Among those here to make a bid for the nomination in the primary election were California Governor Earl Warren for the Republican nomination, and Senator Estes Kefauver for the Democratic slate. Gov. Paul Dever of Massachusetts campaigned here on behalf of President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower. Vice-president-elect Richard Nixon under fire in an \$18,000 donation fund controversy, made a whistle stop speech here just before the Nov. 4 general election.

On the local scene, Republicans scored victories in almost every office and many offices will see new faces next month. Cal Baird defeated incumbent O. T. Carter in the sheriff's office in the primary election and went on to victory over Democratic nominee Al Hughes in the general election. Also victorious were Elmer Metzger for county commissioner, Percy Croft for mayor of Roseburg, Paul Geddes for state senator, Harris Ellsworth for U. S. representative, John Amacher and V. T. Jackson for state representatives, Charles Doerner for clerk, replacing Roy Agee who declined to run again after 23 years, Oliver Johnson for county treasurer, and L. L. Powers for coroner. A straw vote for a proposed county library passed.

**School Expansion** — Voters in the consolidated Roseburg School District 4 favored a proposed \$1,425,000 school expansion program by a two-to-one vote March 14 in approving a bond issue. The school board had proposed the improvement to ward off rapidly overcrowding conditions in the Roseburg school system.

A new shop building is going up at the Senior High School, while an addition is planned for the near future for Rose Grade School. Another school is planned for the North Roseburg area while other miscellaneous improvements within the district are being carried out or planned, among them a Fullerton physical education building and a Riverside addition.

Overcrowding conditions forced the Roseburg School District to notify other districts to the south that it could not accept high school pupils from other districts after next fall. That led Dillard, Tenmile, and Lookingglass Districts to approve a consolidation and on last Dec. 22 pass a bond issue for \$500,000 to construct a high school. Green District, which last year turned down a proposed consolidation with Roseburg tried it again Dec. 22, and approved the measure, as did Roseburg district.

Other notable school improvements included a \$380,000 program for a new high school at Glendale and a new grade school in the Myrtle Creek district at Tri-City.

**Roads and Highways** — Letting of major highway contracts to open up comparatively isolated Douglas County and Southern Oregon rates among the top news developments of the past year.

The State Highway Department, through the approval by the legislature of a \$40,000,000 bond issue, has launched a program for major improvement of Douglas County's nearly 100 miles of Pacific Highway, beginning near the Lane-Douglas County line, and extending south to connect with new construction at Canyonville.

Under construction is the Divide-Anlauf section and the first phase of the Anlauf-Rice Hill relocation, which will by-pass Drain to the east. The second phase of this section will probably be contracted early in 1953.

South of Rice Hill, from Chenoweth Park to Deady, the highway relocation is under construction, by-passing Sutherland and Oakland to the west. Scheduled for contract in 1953 are sections of the Deady-Shady Point highway, extending through West Roseburg. The program calls for eventually continuing the highway south over Roberts Mountain to Myrtle Creek and Canyonville.

In addition the North Umpqua Highway has been completed to Idley's Park, and contracts continue the new construction another 25 miles to Steamboat, eventually to open up the heart of the forested area of Douglas County to Diamond Lake, and with access roads being extended up Little River and Steamboat Creek.

Work is continuing on the Sutherland-Ellikton highway, with the letting of new contracts, and on the



CAMPAIGNERS for President of the United States were plentiful in Roseburg this year. From left, they are Gov. Earl Warren, of California, Senator Estes Kefauver of



Tennessee and Vice-president elect Richard M. Nixon. (Jenkins)

Coast Highway south of Reedsport. County projects are expanding and improving numerous highways.

The most noted — and controversial — has been the planned route from Sutherland to the North Umpqua. That the road is needed is agreed upon. The exact route to follow presents the issue.

**Industrial Progress** — While Douglas County's economy showed a slight tapering off, industrial progress continued mostly in the lumbering field, but shows possible development also in the mineral field.

Outstanding among industrial developments was construction of the Roseburg Lumber Company's plywood plant at Winchester in early spring and its recent sale to Evans Products has been of marked interest. The advent of the vast Evans interests in this area lends possibility to further expansion. Operations are expected to resume in January.

While several smaller mills over the county have been built, they are more or less offset by closure

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CENTENNIAL THEME is typified in this float from Dixonville which appeared in the Centennial parade last August. The 100th birthday celebration rated the No. 2 story of the year. (Jenkins)

## Day By Day Roundup Shows Plenty Of Activity

**JANUARY**

3—County Clerk Roy Agee announces he's winding up nearly a quarter of a century in the office.

14—State game commission tentatively approves limitation of angling on North Umpqua to all but artificial fly.

15—Oakland development club protests location of proposed Sutherland to Lone Rock road as originally set by County Court.

16—County Court answers Oakland protest, says route selected "will better serve the areas affected."

20—Snow blankets county, snarls traffic. Sleep in auto with motor running proves fatal to William Pruitt, Myrtle Creek.

26—Songster Johnnie (sob) Ray returns to Roseburg for rest and some of "Mom's home cooking." At Myrtle Creek five-year-old Paul VanOstlen killed in hit-run accident. James Phillips, 21, faces negligent homicide charge in connection with accident.

28—James Phillips pleads guilty to negligent homicide, hit-run, given eight years in penitentiary and fined \$5,000. Mill accident kills Earl Victor Stratford.

**FEBRUARY**

4—Sheriff's aero squadron joins in search for lost Roseburg-bound airplane. Roseburg City Council okays north and west Roseburg storm sewer projects. County Court defends placement of proposed Sutherland to Lone Rock road at meeting of Oakland Development Club.

6—Delores Poole, Roseburg, killed in California auto wreck.

8—John Loosley hired as Roseburg city engineer.

13—Dr. Howard Ferguson adjudged guilty of reckless driving in taking stricken infant to Eugene hospital.

14—Log truck operator, James Laney, seeks injunction against court suit.

15—Sen. Thomas Parkinson announces he'll not seek another term in state legislature.

16—District Attorney revises county log hauling regulations.

18—Vernon John Gosso, who failed in a spectacular jail break attempt in county jail last year, tries again at State Penitentiary and fails.

23—School Board announces proposed \$1,425,000 school bond election will be held March 14.

26—Action launched on master recreational development program for North Umpqua area.

28—County clerk's office announces growth in population has brought about creation of six new voting precincts. D. E. Nickerson, logger, killed on Rock Creek Road.

**MARCH**

3—City Council orders razing of Lane Hotel.

8—B. G. Dowty killed in auto accident.

14—Voters approve 1,425,000 school bond issue by two-to-one vote.

17—North Roseburg areas ask for annexation to city.

22—Lumber dry kiln at Tiller mill destroyed by \$170,000 fire.

24—Mrs. Mary Wolcott and infant son, Kevin, killed in auto crash near Yoncalla.

26—Mrs. Annie Hazel Moody killed in auto truck collision.

Paul S. Elliott announces his resignation as city school superintendent over difference in policies.

31—Norman G. Vredenburg killed in near Myrtle Creek woods.

**APRIL**

9—Georgia Lucille Lang reported missing.

10—Matt Gyetie, spy for the FBI in Communist party, talks at Roseburg.

17—Three day state convention of Job's Daughters opens in Roseburg.

18—Walter J. Pearson, state treasurer, opens Democratic party rift by attacking "Sweetland Group" and particularly National Committee man Monroe Sweetland who sat only four seats away.

22—North Roseburg voters turn down proposed annexation to city.

24—Logging accidents kill Kenneth Dice and Earl Merlin Harwood.

25—Wayne Elroy Claflin killed in logging accident.

29—M. C. Deller appointed school superintendent to replace Paul S. Elliott who resigned. City Council adopts Daylight Saving Time.

30—Umpqua Hotel sold to Portland group. Robert G. Davis announces resignation as district attorney.

**MAY**

4—Citizens protest West Roseburg sewer assessments, city council promises investigation.

5—County Court announces \$66,000 has been budgeted as the county's half of the Winchester Bay improvement finances.

11—Horace Laramore killed near Oakland in train-truck collision.

12—California Governor Earl Warren visits Roseburg on campaign tour. Daniel Webster Smith admits shotgun slaying of John Henry Jenkins in first of seven homicides.

13—Logger, William Emel, killed in woods. Daniel Smith charged with first degree murder.

14—Ken Morgan, Drain accountant, jailed on charge of libeling Robert Gile in printed throw-away sheet.

15—Senator Estes Kefauver campaigns in Roseburg.

16—Cal Baird defeats O. T. Carter in primary election race for nomination for sheriff.

30—Robert G. Ulbricht, dies of injuries.

31—Robert M. Stults appointed new district attorney.

**JUNE**

1—Auto crash kills G. S. Perault of Oakland.

3—City budget fixed at \$311,705.

6—Philip B. Goings, logger, killed by tree. Ranch home of Harold McKay leveled by fire. Winston Dillard residents approve fire district.

18—Dan Smith found guilty of manslaughter in shooting of John Henry Jenkins. Winston logger, Orval Armstrong, killed in accident.

Roy H. Wells killed near Toketee.

20—Daniel Smith given 10-year penitentiary sentence. City voters turn down budget proposal.

21—Douglas County Rodeo opens.

23—School District Voters approve school budget of \$404,000.

24—Umpqua Divide area combined for Gerge Dunkin, accused of slaying of state policeman.

**JULY**

2—H. O. Pargeter resigns as county Republican committee chairman.

Claude B. Dickens killed in logging accident.

8—Harry A. Whitson, Dillard, drowned.

9—City budget again turned down at polls.

10—Myrtle Creek sawmill burns, loss placed at \$100,000.

13—Logging accident kills Louis Handy. Charles Hoop killed in highway accident.

14—Taxpayers League criticizes city budget.

20—A. L. Kookan and J. J. White drown in Umpqua River.

22—Third time's a charm, city budget meets approval of voters.

24—Camas Valley logger, Joe Johnson, killed fighting fire.

27—Roseburg couple, Mr. and Mrs. J. Harrison, drown at north Tenmile Lake.

27—Carl James Corder gives up, admits shooting of Mrs. Alice Craven, faces first degree murder charge.

**AUGUST**

1—Mel Venter gang arrives in Centennial program. Ted Mazac ousted as city police chief.

2—Barbara Peterson named Centennial Queen.

3—Donald Martin drowns in South Umpqua near Tiller.

4—Mrs. Aurabelle W. Wiker dies in auto crash.

5—Falling tree kills Norman S. Atwood.

7—Tax levy for Roseburg announced at 71 mills.

15—Stanley Olson announced new Roseburg police chief. Vernon Jackson killed in logging mishap.

19—State sues E. K. Wood lumber Co. for \$469,000 damages in Vincent Creek fire.

20—Irl Ira Mays crushed under truck.

22—Robert Stults named DA candidate in Republican meeting.

23—Carl James Corder pleads guilty to second degree murder in slaying of Mrs. Alice Craven, gets life term.

24—Eva Lane Waite named Centennial Dowager queen.

30—Three day Centennial Pa-

geant opens. Charles Gordon Snell dies in auto crash.

**SEPTEMBER**

2—John E. Marks killed in auto-train crash.

5—Car-truck crash fatal to Mrs. Cora Chancellor.

17—Mrs. Betty Cox killed in log truck accident.

19—V. R. Sanders killed in mill accident.

20—Richard Nixon visits Roseburg in campaign.

24—Hanna Development Co. officials inspect Riddle site for huge mining project.

25—Bert Rogers killed in truck upset.

28—Eldon Boerster and M. Teubner die of auto accident injuries.

**OCTOBER**

1—Medical society honors Dr. George E. Houck of Roseburg.

2—George Erickson and James Tumblason announce resignation as principal and vice-principal of Roseburg High School.

3—Harry Jacoby new principal of high school. Stanley Wallace killed in auto crash.

7—Planned million-dollar access road program announced by BLM.

8—Thomas Bouse admits drowning wife, Ethel Bouse, in bathtub, faces first degree murder charge.

12—Edward Frank Muller killed in highway crash. L. C. Parker, Thomas R. Debolt die of stab wounds. Mrs. Mary Jewell Gilpin, and Charles J. Lemmons killed in Drain auto mishap.

20—Hill Estrada fatally stabbed in brawl. Ezra J. Staggs held. Roseburg Lumber Co. announces closure of mill, operations to be shifted to Dillard.

23—Glendale votes \$330,000 for new high school.

27—Roseburg draft board announces resignation to protest classification of local dentist.

30—Nude decomposed body of Georgia Lucille Lang found in ditch north of Oakland. Police conduct investigation.

**NOVEMBER**

4—County voters select Baird for sheriff. Amacher and Jackson for Representatives. Metzger for commissioner, Geddes for Senator, Durrcher for clerk, Croft for Mayor, Johnson for treasurer and Powers for coroner.

9—Margaret E. Vice killed in highway crash. Chester Crabbe arrested in connection with Georgia Lang death.

12—Grand Jury indicts Thomas Bouse, Ezra Staggs, Mary Jewell Gilpin, Charles Lemmons on murder counts. John A. Roush killed by falling tree.

13—John William Coffield, second suspect in Georgia Lang case, gives up at Salem.

**DECEMBER**

1—City Council approves one-way street grid.

5—Jury finds Thomas S. Bouse guilty of first degree murder in wife slaying, death penalty mandatory.

7—Judge Wimberly sets Bouse execution date at Jan. 16.

9—Twelve-year-old Laurett Alice DeRoss killed on North Umpqua Highway; De Ray Carr, 17, held on negligent homicide charge.

11—Mrs. Mary Jewell Gilpin acquitted in slaying of L. C. Parker.

18—Charles Jefferson Lemmons found guilty of manslaughter in slaying of Thomas R. Debolt.

22—Green School district consolidates with Roseburg, Dillard district votes \$500,000 in bonds for high school.

**ORDER TO MOVE**

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia asked Britain to vacate its embassy building within three months and move to another elsewhere in the capital. Soviet authorities offered another building.

