



JUDGE HAROLD MEDINA

# Judge Medina Tagged 'U. S. Man of the Year'

By SHERRY BOWEN  
(AP Newsfeatures Writer)

New York—Judge Harold R. Medina, who presided at the year-long trial of 11 top U.S. communists, was "Man of the Year" for 1949.

He has been so named by vote of Associated Press newspaper editors.

The court drama started January 17 and did not end until all defendants were sentenced October 21.

Defense attorneys helped make headlines by their disruptive tactics. They kept the court in an uproar day after day, refused to heed warnings from the bench and, in the end, won jail sentences for contempt.

Judge Medina won headlines early in the trial for his patience in dealing with the lawyers. But in one hectic session he had to call a recess and retire to his chambers for a few minutes to calm his nerves.

It was not patience alone that got attention for the judge. It was also his firmness in insisting that no one, defendant or attorney, would be permitted to benefit from disorder. Warnings were followed by action. Inappropriate testimony was cut off. Side remarks were stricken from the record.

Before the trial, Medina had not been widely known. When he came to the federal bench in 1947 he gave up a \$100,000-a-year practice for the \$15,000 job. He was known as a lawyer's lawyer and had written 15 books on federal law.

When the editors voted for the leading men in special categories, they found that President Harry S. Truman was first in politics; Dean Acheson, U. S. secretary of state, led in foreign affairs; Philip Murray was top man in labor; Henry Ford II in industry; Vannevar Bush, president of Carnegie Institution, was the leader in science.

In literature, Thomas Merton, a trappist monk and author of two best-selling books, was chosen. Ezio Pinza, opera basso turned musical comedy star, got the nod in entertainment.

Fire at the Fairview home, which destroyed the hospital, was perhaps the worst single disaster the community suffered, and it was only through action upon the part of various into a 14-inch pipe and never came out alive.

The fight to save her, the prayers of the world that found print and the final, futile rescue held the nation's headlines for 32 hours.

Kathy, running at play, stumbled into a weed-covered well and the accounts of the fight to save her touched the hearts of millions everywhere. Many editors thought the story was far and away the biggest of the year.

Family quarrels always are the most interesting and usually the most harmless.

The armed services of the United States had one in 1949 and it was such a donnybrook it won fourth place in the annual poll.

It started through charges by top navy officers that the whole concept of national defense planning — planning with Russia in mind, of course — was keyed to the atomic-bomb carrying B-36 and that it was tragically wrong. The increasingly bitter battle, marked by a series of investigations, resulted in the removal of Louis Denfeld as chief of naval operations.

The story picked fifth for headline production was the conviction and sentencing of the nation's 11 top communist leaders, virtually the whole of the party's high command, to prison terms and fines after a 39-week conspiracy trial in a New York federal court.

And the nation's press made a hero out of Federal Judge Harold R. Medina who presided at the hectic trial with patience seldom seen in a courtroom.

The year was not without its share of tragedies — air crashes, an outbreak of sex attacks against small children and fires. The most fearsome was the racing night-time fire that swept flames and panic through the Canadian pleasure cruiser *Noronic* early on the morning of Sept. 17 at her Toronto, Canada, dock. More than 400 scrambled or jumped to safety through the flames but 118 men, women and children died.

It was voted the sixth biggest — and most mass tragic story — of the year.

Seventh and most pathetic of all was the story of a cute, three-year-old kid — Kathy Fiscus, who fell into and was wedged

## ON THE LOCAL SCENE:

### Big News in Salem: Merger, Baldock Plan, Taxicab Case

By C. K. LOGAN

News today becomes tomorrow's history and much of that which holds the attention for a brief period, and which often is widely discussed at the time, fades with the passing of the days and is only recalled with difficulty.

Stories that have the significance of permanency and affecting the greatest number of persons usually are not spectacular and as they unfold are taken in daily stride.

Looking back over the past year, the files of the Capital Journal recall outstanding developments or occurrences in Salem that set aside the period as distinctive from other similar periods in the past.

As a resume of the past twelve months, the Capital Journal is offering what it believes to be the most outstanding of these, reflecting the trend of the times in various activities, though not all are necessarily in either chronological order or sequence of importance.

Merger of West Salem is probably the most outstanding development of the past twelve months and marks a close of suggestions and action over a period of many years, with the accompanying expansion of utilities and municipal government.

Closely connected with the merger and tying in with the development of a greater Salem, is the Baldock plan which includes the replacement of the inadequate Marion-Polk county bridge and the establishment of a complete new traffic plan for the community.

In connection with bridges, the inter-county span at Independence is well under way and will give the Willamette river its only span between Salem and Albany.

Perhaps the most widely-discussed topic for many days and focusing attention upon conditions that are rapidly alarming the entire nation was the so-called "taxicab scandal" which involved 14 men and a minor girl, with court action taken against all but two who yet wait trial. The incident resulted in action by the city council in tightening control over taxi cab operations and operators in the city.

State institutions featured the news during the year with escapes at both the penitentiary and the state hospital (with two of the latter still at large). Character of the former inmates was such as to give numerous residents of the county a severe attack of the jitters.

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employees, and a few of the inmates, that a tragedy was averted.

General construction claimed a great share of public interest during the year with the courthouse the center of controversy, both in regard to the type of the proposed replacement and the desire to perpetuate distinguished early type of architecture.

Practical completion of the new state office building and start on the state highway building in the capitol group is also noteworthy in the construction line.

Also completed in general construction was the new treatment hospital for the state, and the prison cell annex, and two new grade schools to take care of the needs of the eastern and northern portions of the school district. Nearly completed is the capital shopping center. A start on the million dollar apartment project at the corner of Union and Winter streets, highlighted this group of stories.

Preliminary work on the construction of the multi-million dollar dam at Detroit and its place in the ultimate Willamette valley basin flood control program, with re-location of the North Santiam highway, can well be considered in the collection of the ten outstanding stories. Decision was also reached to use existing railroad facilities for transportation of heavy equipment and supplies instead of highways.

The biennial legislature is also important to Salem as well as to the state. This session removed obstacles in the way of merging West Salem and Salem. It was highlighted by the inauguration of Governor Douglas McKay, Salem businessman, former mayor and ex-president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Military facilities and the selection of McNary airport for naval reserve flight training was the result of wide recognition of the excellence of the Salem air field. Radio aerial landing guides are being installed and a new administration building assured. Centered in Salem also is the state bureau of aeronautics search and rescue program with the Salem police pilots offering the use of their plane.

Campaign to increase the facilities of both the Salem General and the Salem Memorial hospital, adding greatly to the number of available beds, got under way with the first of funds available used by the Salem Memorial for extensive improvements. When finally completed, a little more than \$3,000,000 will have been spent for the hospitals.

The state is replacing the hospital destroyed in the Fairview home fire.

Re-organization of the police department was completed with Clyde Warren of Oregon City,

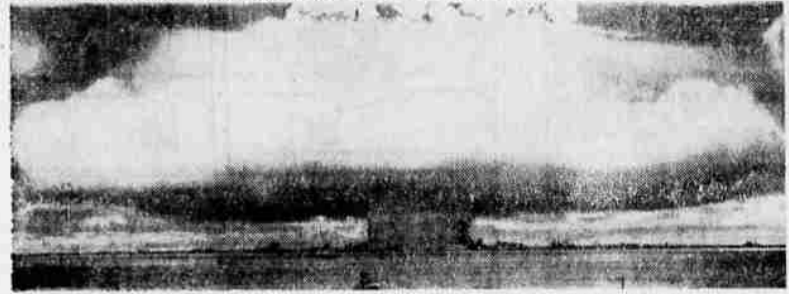
## THESE 10 TURBULENT YEARS



'40—BRITISH RETREAT AT DUNKERQUE —TEARS FOR THE FALL OF FRANCE



'41—PRECEDENT GOES AS F. D. R. TAKES A 3RD TERM



'45—ENTER ATOMIC ENERGY AND A NEW ERA IN WORLD HISTORY



'45—JAPAN SURRENDERS



'41—'DAY OF INFAMY' AS PEARL HARBOR IS ATTACKED



'42—YANKS INVADE NORTH AFRICA

'44—VICTORY PARADE, PARIS



'46—U.N. STARTS WORKING



'47—DISASTER STRIKES AT TEXAS CITY



'48—FELLED BY ASSASSIN, GANDHI IS CREMATED

## YEAR'S HEADLINES:

### News That Russ Had A-Bomb Considered Top Story of 1949

By PAUL R. MICKELSON  
(Associated Press General News Editor)

New York—The biggest headlines of 1949 were black but the subjects were red.

So predominant was the subject of Red Russia and her satellites that seven of the top 10 stories of the news-packed year, selected by newspaper editors in the annual Associated Press poll, dealt with the spectre of the mysterious colossus behind the iron curtain. Topping them all, by a margin as wide as the news was frightening to a war-torn world, was President Truman's announcement that Russia at long last has atomic energy.

On Sept. 23 President Truman called his cabinet into an hour-long session, then he gave out the historic news, comparable only in significance to the announcement of the Hiroshima blast of August 6, 1945. In calm tones, the president said:

"We have evidence that within recent weeks an atomic explosion has occurred in the U.S.S.R."

He did not say it was an atom bomb but the announcement was a fateful portent, confirmed later by Russian leaders, that the Soviets had broken the American A-bomb monopoly on which the non-communist world had depended so heavily.

Did it mean war was closer or more remote?

**ATLANTIC TREATY**  
But for the fear of Russia the number two story of the year never would have happened. It was the signing of the Atlantic treaty.

On October 6, President Truman set in operation a \$1,314,010,000 arms program designed to help provide 14 nations of western Europe, signers of the Atlantic pact, with military assistance against attack.

"We are not arming ourselves and our friends to start a fight with anybody," said President Truman. "We are building our defenses so that we won't have to fight."

Soviet Russia, target of the pact, charged it was aggression directed against it.

**BERLIN BLOCKADE ENDS**  
After 327 days, during which it grew from an infant into the most impressive giant in the cold war, the Berlin airlift was lifted on Sept. 30 and the great glory of its achievement ranked it as the year's third largest story.

The airlift cost 51 lives and more than \$250,000,000 but it did more than hand Russia its most decisive diplomatic setback in Europe since the end of the

**CHURCH-RED DISPUTE**  
Some editors also voted a higher position than eighth for the story of Josef Cardinal Mindszenty in communist-controlled Hungary. His trial for treason incited angry protests from beyond the "Iron Curtain." President Truman denounced the cardinal's conviction as an infamous verdict of a kangaroo (mock trial) court.

**COMMUNIST VICTORY**  
The red hordes all but pushed their hated nationalist foes toward extinction in China and the story was ninth, as repercussions grew louder in Washington where some congressmen blamed the loss to U. S. state department blundering.

**WORKER PENSIONS**  
Labor, involved in the usual assortment of strikes, made some of its greatest gains by winning company-paid pensions, including federal social security, which in most cases totaled \$100 monthly. It was the 10th biggest story, editors voted.

Other top stories included the British pound devaluation, the Hiss-Chambers trial, airline crashes, the suicide of Defense Secretary James Forrestal, the terrible western winter, the Cinderella story of the New York Yankee baseball team, and the Tito-Stalin split, which may produce the biggest story of the new mid-century year.

**REDS SENTENCED**  
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**NORONIC FIRE**  
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**KATHY FISCUS**  
Seventh and most pathetic of all was the story of a cute, three-year-old kid — Kathy Fiscus, who fell into and was wedged

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MONDAY	CHRISTOPHER LYNCH	4:30 P.M.
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