

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
Everyone in Southern Oregon
Reads The Mail Tribune
Published Daily Except Saturday by
MEDFORD PRINTING CO.
27-29 North First St. Phone 2-6141
ROBERT W. RUHL, Editor
ERNEST R. GILSTRAP, Manager
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GERALD LATHAM, Circulation Mgr.
An Independent Newspaper
Entered as second class matter at
Medford, Oregon, under Act of
March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
By Mail—In Advance:
Daily and Sunday—one year \$12.00
Daily and Sunday—six months 6.50
Daily and Sunday—three months 3.50
Daily and Sunday—one month 1.25
By Carrier—in Advance—Medford,
Ashland, Central Point, Eagle Point,
Jacksonville, Gold Hill, Phoenix,
Shady Cove, Rogue River, Talent
and on motor routes:
Daily and Sunday—one year \$15.00
Daily and Sunday—six months 8.00
Daily and Sunday—one month 2.50
All Terms Cash in Advance

Official Paper of the City of Medford
Official Paper of Jackson County
United Press—Full Licensed Wire
MEMBER OF AUDIT BUREAU
OF CIRCULATION
Advertising Representative:
WEST-COAST PUBLISHING CO., INC.
Offices in New York, Chicago, De-
troit, San Francisco, Los Angeles,
Seattle, Portland, St. Louis, Atlanta,
Vancouver, B.C.

**NATIONAL EDITORIAL
ASSOCIATION**
MEMBER

**NEWSPAPER
PUBLISHERS
ASSOCIATION**
1931

Flight o' Time
Medford and Jackson County History
from the files of the Mail
Tribune 10, 20, 30 and 40 years
ago.

10 YEARS AGO
April 18, 1922
(It was Saturday)
Medford service station em-
ploys girls to sell gasoline in
effort to alleviate manpower
shortage.

From Arthur Perry's Ye
Smudge Pot column: Jackson K.
Frost appeared Friday and Sat-
urday morns in the orchards and
was warmly received.

20 YEARS AGO
April 18, 1902
(It was Monday)
Jackson County Chamber of
Commerce informed that Med-
ford entrance to Crater Lake
National park will be plowed
open in few days.

Evans Valley school closed for
two days after thieves steal mo-
tor which operates lighting plant.

30 YEARS AGO
April 18, 1922
(It was Tuesday)
Successful Chautauqua season
for Medford "assured" with sign-
ing of "not less than 12 sessions
for term of six consecutive
days."

Medford city council passes
ordinance "licensing cows whose
milk is sold within the city
limits."

40 YEARS AGO
April 18, 1912
(It was Thursday)
Quotation from Ashland Daily
Tidings reprinted in The Mail
Tribune: "Who said Medford?
Medford—Medford—Let's see.
Looking at the map we find such
a name attached to a burg just
below Phoenix. It is a little place
with very big pretensions."

Play in Medford called off
when Miss May Bloom, well-
known actress, trips in local
opera house and "suffers a very
severe fall."

COMMUNICATIONS
Letters to the Editor must bear
the name and address of the writer
although under certain circum-
stances the use of a pen name or
initial for publication is permis-
sible. The Mail Tribune reserves
the right to edit all letters with-
out to clarification and con-
densation. Letters submitted for pub-
lication must not exceed 400 words.

The Blue Ledge Railroad
To the Editor: In The Mail
Tribune's "Flight o' Time" there
have been several references re-
cently to a proposal, back in
1912, to build a railroad to the
Blue Ledge mine.

What ever happened to the
project?
Isn't it high time to develop
such a resource as the nearby
Blue Ledge copper mine now
that copper is needed? Mining
could supplement our lumber in-
dustry and help to support our
new and growing population.

Bert Kissinger,
233 South Riverside Ave.
Medford, Ore.

WASN'T THERE AT ALL
New Haven, Conn. —(U.P.)—A
policeman testified that Ray-
mond Leonard, accused of driv-
ing under the influence, indignantly
demanded "Why did you
get me out of bed?" when he was
arrested. Actually, the officer
explained, the arrest was made
in Leonard's automobile some
distance from his home.

The Blue Ledge Dream

In a letter to the editor on this page Mr. Bert Kissinger asks what became of the proposal made in 1912 to build a railroad from Medford to the Blue Ledge copper mine. Such a line would have permitted development of the big copper deposit and would have added a needed industry for this region, he points out.

The Blue Ledge is located about 35 miles almost due south from here, just over the California-Oregon line, in Siskiyou county. In the same general neighborhood there are three other copper mines, the St. Albans, Bloomfield and Copper King.

SUCH old timers as we have consulted have been somewhat hazy as to what stymied the railroad project so we dug out The Mail Tribune files of forty years ago in an effort to learn the facts.

On April 1, 1912, there was great enthusiasm in town, according to a front page item in the newspaper. A mass meeting was called for that night at the Medford theater and The Mail Tribune called upon the people to "Smite the rock of our natural resources that a stream of revenue may gush forth."

The next day the paper chronicled the fact that citizens attending the mass meeting had with "enthusiasm and earnestness" endorsed the project, pledged themselves to subscribe the \$75,000 necessary to start construction, and appointed committees to take the matter in hand.

A letter from Robert S. Towne, of New York, then owner of the mine, was read at the meeting. In it Towne stated that if a road was built he would at once develop and operate the mine, guaranteeing a minimum output of 2000 tons of concentrates per month.

An editorial in the same edition stated that Medford had waited ten years for the Southern Pacific to build a branch line to the mine, without result and that "The railroad to the Blue Ledge must be built—and Medford must build it."

A FEW days later fifty of Medford's leading businessmen formed an automobile caravan for an all-day trip to the mine. They were shown through the maze of tunnels and shafts and they also inspected the natural caves, discovered when branch tunnels were dug.

On the same day another editorial urged building of the railroad explaining that a quarter of a million tons of copper ore had been blocked out and that over a million dollars worth of development work had been done at the mine. "People of Medford must and should build this railroad. It is idle to hope the Southern Pacific ever will," the editorial concluded.

A GROUP of Rogue River Valley University Club members visited the Blue Ledge on April 29, 1912, and became so enthused that a "Blue Ledge Club" was formed to further development of the mine and construction of the railroad. The new club included Dr. J. F. Reddy, Lincoln McCormack, W. M. Colvig, John Hall McKay, E. W. Huntley, A. Conro Fiero, A. S. V. Carpenter and Leonard Carpenter, P. S. Steenstrup, George Kramer, Stanton Griffith and Harry Hicks.

Another mass meeting was held on May 23 at which the Blue Ledge road and other matters were taken up. The Mail Tribune's account of this gathering quoted Dr. Reddy as stating that if Medford would actually undertake the fight to secure the road and show its good faith by raising a subsidy of \$70,000 with which to start the work, that it could be secured. He also said he believed that the Southern Pacific would assist in building the line.

Next reference to the plan was in an editorial on July 25 when the Southern Pacific was criticized for its alleged disinterest, the editor concluding that "Southern Oregon will secure a railroad to the Blue Ledge or the coast only when its citizens start to build one themselves . . . No one is generously going to hand us one on a golden platter."

WITH a couple of hot elections and other matters to distract the public mind, enthusiasm for the Blue Ledge railroad seemed to wane considerably during the summer for there was no mention of the project until September 5 when an editorial appeared advocating construction of a line to Crescent City. In this there was the charge that "Experience has conclusively demonstrated that the Southern Pacific will do nothing for Southern Oregon that it is not forced to do," and that "The Blue Ledge proposal proved for once and all that no matter what the inducement or the gain in prospect, no branch lines will be constructed or favored, unless competition forces it."

Shortly thereafter the promoters apparently turned their attention from the Blue Ledge to a new project—a railroad to Crescent City. On September 19 a company was formed to push the new plan and an unspecified sum of money was subscribed and arrangements made for a survey for right of way and tonnage possibilities.

IN DECEMBER an editorial mentioned the fact that Grants Pass was going ahead with plans to float a \$200,000 bond issue to build a railroad to Crescent City and a line from Medford to connect with the Grants Pass line was advocated.

Grants Pass eventually went farther with railroad plans than did Medford for the Climate City actually started construction. Only a few miles of rail were laid, however, and eventually the project fell through.

The Blue Ledge mine has remained undeveloped all these 40 years. The ore is not of sufficient richness to warrant heavy expenditure for its handling at prices which have prevailed, and transportation is still lacking for shipments in large volume. E.C.F.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
Ike takes New Jersey—as he was expected to do. On the basis of the vote counted as this is written (better than 90 per cent of the total) he gets 60 per cent of the Republican vote cast. Taft gets 37 per cent.

Poor Harold Stassen gets a measly three per cent.

WHAT does it mean?
Suit yourself as to that. Senator Taft, an experienced campaigner, takes a cheerful view of it. "It was maybe a little better than we expected," he tells friends in Detroit.

John D. M. Hamilton, the red-headed fireball from Kansas who didn't do so well with his proteges back in the days when FDR was sweeping the board every time he ran for president, goes farther out on the limb. He says: "Eisenhower has made a miserable showing in New Jersey." Hamilton is managing Taft's Eastern campaign.

Quite a few of Taft's upper-brass backers say it was a "moral victory" for the senator. "Moral victory" is a claim we're all inclined to make just after we have taken a shellacking.

GENERAL EISENHOWER himself is strictly non-committal. His only comment is about the relatively light balloting in the New Jersey primary. "Weren't they expecting more than a million votes?" he asks the Paris correspondents when they show him the figures early today.

The Paris dispatch adds: "He had no other remarks to make, except to repeat that he will make no political statements until after he retires from the army on June 1."

A WORD here about the "light" vote. (The dispatches tell us it was raining in New Jersey yesterday. As between doing their duty as citizens on election day and GETTING WET, quite a lot of people always choose to stay dry.) Anyway, large or small, the vote in New Jersey was interesting.

On the basis of reasonably complete returns, Eisenhower has 360,293, Taft has 215,453 and Stassen has 21,144. That adds up to a grand total of 596,890 Republican ballots. Senator Kauffman, running alone on the Democratic side of the presidential primary, gets 140,000.

Back in 1948, the year when Harry Truman circled the whistle stops and "gave 'em hell" and dragged a resounding victory out of what then appeared to be certain defeat, Dewey got in the traditionally Republican state of New Jersey 981,124 votes and Truman got 895,455. Total ballots cast in New Jersey in that year (including Progressives, Prohibs and Socialists) amounted to 1,945,555.

That is to say:
In New Jersey primary (presumably) 60.8 per cent of the Republicans who voted for Dewey in 1948 took the trouble (rain or no rain) to turn out and VOTE FOR REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES.

Of the Democrats who voted for Truman in 1948, only 15.6 per cent were interested enough to get out yesterday and vote for a Democrat for president.

I HOPE that is significant. It could be. If it is, it means that in New Jersey at least Republicans are steamed up and interested and full of vim and vigor and enthusiasm (remember they braved the rain to vote), whereas the Democrats are apathetic and dispirited.

The reason I hope it is true is that I believe the only way to clean up the mess in our federal government is with a new broom that will sweep all the closets and the cubbyholes under the stairways and the corners out CLEAN.

POOR old Stassen! I wonder what happened to him. And I can't help wondering if Oregon back in 1948 had anything to do with it.

If you will dig back into your memory, you will recall that in 1948 Stassen was going great guns until he came to Oregon for that week-long debate with Dewey on what to do with the communists. He had me convinced. I was going to vote for him as the Republican candidate for president.

That staggering week in Oregon changed my mind and I voted for Dewey.

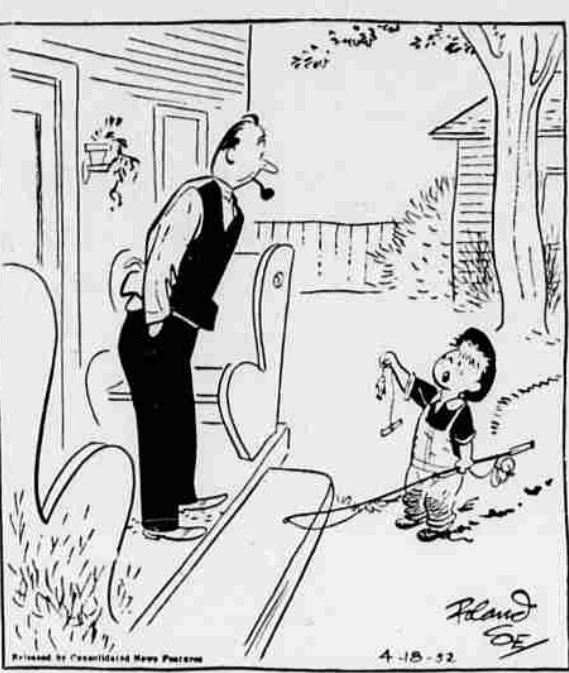
IN THAT miracle week in Oregon, Dewey HAD EVERYTHING. He had fire. He had enthusiasm. He had sincerity—FIGHTING sincerity. He was magnetic. He was wonderful. He was the perfect picture of a perfect candidate for president.

But—almost from the moment when he crossed the borders of Oregon on his way out—he became a dud. He was a dud from there on until election day. Maybe the historians will tell us someday what happened in that strange week in Oregon back in 1948.

It cooked Stassen's goose, too. I think we'd better wait until our Oregon primary next month before making up our minds as to how the presidential cat is going to jump this year. The big

Crosstown

By Roland Coe



"You oughta see the one Bobo Bastow caught! Almost twice as big as this!"

Babson—Business Outlook

By ROGER BABSON
Babson Park, Mass., April 18—(Special to Mail Tribune)—As my readers know, I have thus far been pretty blue about the prospects for business up to election time next November. But, as I told in my release on unemployment last week, President Truman's decision to pull out of the race has changed my outlook. I feel more optimistic now.

When I was a boy in Gloucester, Mass., my father ran a store. He often said to me: "Roger, it isn't how much money people have in the bank that makes them buy my merchandise—no sir, it's how they feel." That was good advice in 1900, and it is still good.

Just take a look at what's happened in the last year. You will remember that the bureaucrats and the brain trusters in Washington were warning the nation that a new wave of inflation was just ahead—that there soon would be big shortages again. That was only 12 short months ago. Did these shortages show up? They did not. Why? Because the people who do the buying decided to save more and buy less. The government statisticians could measure inventories, but they couldn't figure out people's feelings.

Business and Public Both Holding Back
In my opinion, business and the public have both been holding back from making decisions and buying until after the elections. Now, however, with the President making his historic "shall not run" decision, all that is changed. There is a widespread feeling that nearly all of his possible successors would be more kindly disposed to business. A feeling of relief has spread through the country from one end to the other.

Now, this feeling is not something you can measure in black and white. You can't put it into a graph. But, it is the kind of thing that will make a man go out and spend a little more money than he would have before. Just a month ago he may have told his wife that "there'll be no new car this year." Today, however, he may feel that things aren't so bad after all and say: "There is enough in the bank for a rainy day; so, with election prospects looking brighter, why not now enjoy the

boys in the upper political echelons aren't paying us much heed, but if 1948 is any criterion Oregon is potent stuff in the business of president-making and president-breaking.

NEW BASE COMMANDER
Seattle —(U.P.)—Cmdr. Victor A. Johnson will take over as commanding officer of the Seattle coast guard base next month, Rear Adm. N. H. Leslie, commander of the 13th Coast Guard district, said Thursday.

Heliographing (sunlight flashed by mirrors sometimes a hundred miles away) was introduced in 1885 by a young lieutenant named John J. Pershing, later commander-in-chief of the American Forces in World War I.

Meet the Candidates

Editor's note: This is one of a series of statements furnished by candidates for local office in the primary election May 16. They are being published by The Mail Tribune as a free service to the candidates, and for the information of readers wishing to inform themselves of candidates' positions relative to their candidacy.

By H. F. COPE
Republican, for County Treasurer

As a candidate for the Republican nomination for county treasurer in the May primary, I wish to state for the benefit of the voters that as a teacher in the public schools, office worker, chemist, salesman, or just a plain citizen of the community, I have always held, in all my work no matter where employed, that honesty and integrity are basically important. As a student and instructor in business and professional subjects, I feel confident that I could perform the duties of the office I am seeking both capably and efficiently. I shall earnestly solicit your support in both primary and general elections.



H. F. COPE

County School Office Secretary Resigns

Mrs. Jonas Cox, Talent, secretary of the Jackson county schools office, has resigned from that position effective May 10, it was announced today by Alf B. Mekvold, county schools superintendent. Mrs. Cox has been affiliated with the schools office for the past six years.

Following her resignation, Mrs. Cox and her husband plan to leave Seattle May 16 by ship for a three-months vacation in Alaska. They also plan a trip to northern California to visit relatives late this month.

Named to succeed Mrs. Cox is Mrs. Treasure McNeill, Ashland. Mrs. McNeill, who has been employed in the Southern Oregon college registrar's office for the past two years, will start work in the county office April 28. In addition to her work at SOC, she also has experience in various types of business offices. Mekvold stated.

NEWS TO HIM

Hartford, Conn. —(U.P.)—When Stephen H. Millard was appointed to a state commission he didn't decline the assignment—in fact, he didn't know about it. It wasn't until a month later that state officials learned Millard had moved to Albany, N.Y., nearly a year before.

Plant & Rummage SALE

APRIL 18 & 19
309 EAST 8TH ST.
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
First Christian Church

STATE WIDE AMATEUR CONTEST

MEDFORD ELIMINATIONS
SATURDAY NIGHT, MAY 3
MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

AUSPICES
Marine Corps League, Dept. of Oregon
Can You Sing, Dance, Play an Instrument?
This May Be Your Big Opportunity.

Entries selected to represent Medford, will be taken to Portland, for three days the last of July, to compete with youngsters from all cities in Oregon. The one named State Champion at Portland will get a wide assortment of prizes, including 7 glorious days in Hollywood. You will travel both ways in a United Air Lines Sky Liner, television and radio appearances, one year's supply of clothes for either a boy or girl, along with a host of other surprises. All you have to do is write Marine Corps League, Dept. of Oregon, Room 16, Brophy Bldg., Medford, Oregon. We will make it easy for you to get on the program.

TONITE! "Arsenic and Old Lace"

The VINING REPERTORY

AT THE Lithia Theatre
ASHLAND, OREGON
TOMORROW!

claudia
Romantic Comedy of Modern Marriage!
Starring ELMARIE WENDEL KITTY INGLE
On Stage AT 8:30 P.M.
Reserved Seats: \$1.80 & \$1.20, Unreserved 60c
Tickets On Sale in Medford at Pruitt's and at Purucker's

THE BROADWAY HIT
"Good-bye My Fancy"
Tonight April 18, 19 - 21 - 22 - 23
FOOTLIGHTER'S THEATRE
FAIRGROUNDS
Adults \$1.20 Children 50c

ALDERBROOK CAFE
Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner
Sandwiches - Refreshments
8 A.M. to 8 P.M.
Satisfied Chicken or
Broiled Steak Dinner \$2.00
including hot biscuits and ho-made pies
A MEAL YOU'LL REMEMBER
Drive one mile West of Gold Hill on Hwy. 99, turn North on hard-surfaced Sardine Creek road (often referred to as the Mystery House Road) about 1 mile beyond the Old Oregon Museum.