

# General Election Rated Top Local Story of '56

## Talent Project, Floods Also Get High Ratings

The 1956 general election was selected unanimously as the top local news story this year by members of the Mail Tribune's newsroom. It was the only story to receive a unanimous rating.

The general election Nov. 6 included office races on the state, county and city levels, as well as various measures, including Medford's capital improvement program, the latter itself placed among the top 10 local stories of the year.

**Talent Project**

Six of the nine newsroom staff members picked the Talent project as the second top story, while the other three rated it third. Early in the year, \$2,400,000 was authorized to start the project, and in late summer and early fall actual construction got under way.

Last February's floods, the threat of floods early this fall, and continuing interest shown in some form of flood control for the Rogue river basin was rated second by three members of the news staff, while five rated the flood story third and one fourth.

**Improvement Program**

Medford's capital improvement program was rated the fourth ranked story of the year by five staff members, one rated it third, and one each fifth, sixth and seventh. The program includes an arterial street program, and improvement and extension of sanitary and storm sewers.

Interest shown in location of a Highway 99 freeway through the Rogue valley was rated the fifth ranking story by six staff members. Two rated it sixth and one eighth.

**Variety Noted**

Staff members varied considerably in rating other top local news stories of the year.

One picked annexations to Medford as fifth among importance, while three rated it sixth, one seventh, two eighth and two 10th. The annexations were the southeast area, Kenwood-Grandview, and attempts to annex the Berrydale area north of Medford in addition to smaller annexations which required no election since 100 per cent of the property owners requested annexation.

Rogue Valley Memorial hospital's fund raising campaign and start of construction was rated fourth by one staff member, sixth by two, eighth by three and 10th by one. The national park service's Mission 66 program, which will provide \$4,000,000 worth of improvements at Crater Lake National park during the next 10 years, received eight votes for ratings in the top 10. One staff member placed it fifth, one sixth, two seventh, two ninth and two 10th.

**Other Stories**

Other news stories which received votes for rating in the top 10 included the Billy Junior Nunn murder case, Vice President Richard Nixon's visit to Medford, expansion programs by Columbia Utilities company and the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company, expansion of facilities at Southern Oregon college, annexations and consolidations to the Medford school district, the foggy weather, the city retaining a planning consultant, and the story of two Medford Boy Scouts injured in a fall down a bluff along the lower Rogue river area.

The story which was rated as the most interesting, but not necessarily the one which will have an effect on the development of southern Oregon, was

the story about the Stumbo family closing a section of Highway 99 north of Grants Pass.

**Ratings Vary**

Five staff members rated the Stumbo story as the most interesting, while four others rated the story about the Boy Scouts being injured along the lower Rogue as the most interesting.

The story about Medford High school boys appearing at school one day in Bermuda shorts, and the porcupine eradication contest in Jackson county received almost the same number of votes for the third most interesting story of the year.

Other stories which received votes for being among the most interesting of the year were shots for polio and the foggy weather.

**JANUARY**

Interior department approves contract for Link river dam operation . . . Barneburg hill site chosen for Rogue Valley Manor retirement home . . . Mrs. Blanche Lyman, administrator of Jackson county welfare department, discharged by the state commission . . . Walter Hoffbaur, 507 Holly st., Medford, elected secretary-manager of Talent Irrigation district . . . E. C. Ferguson, 64, managing editor of the Mail Tribune since 1928, dies . . . Rogue Valley Memorial hospital campaign starts . . . Fire destroys mill at Talent Saw Mills, Inc. . . Flood damage to Rogue River National forest installations estimated at \$62,000 . . . Dr. Lloyd L. Sanders, Medford dentist, dies of heart attack . . . Support for control of Rogue basin flooding is demonstrated . . . President Eisenhower asks nearly \$3,000,000 for projects in Jackson county; \$2,400,000 is for Talent project . . . Residents southeast of Medford vote to join city . . . New east side fire station planning authorized . . . Keith Gildegard and Robert Allen, of the Medford police department, and George Milligan, chairman and founder of Mercy Flights, honored at Safety council dinner . . . Non-profit corporation formed for flood control in the Rogue basin . . . John Pletsch elected president of county planning commission . . . Richard L. Henselman wins Distinguished Service Award . . . County assessor's office disclaims any error in computing tax rates this year . . . Final estimate on flood damage in Jackson county, \$914,495, sent to state, federal agencies.

**FEBRUARY**

Murder - suicide results in death of James Frank Denham, 45, and his wife Bessie May, 47 . . . President sends to congress \$381,500 improvement program for Crater Lake National park . . . Donations to Rogue Valley Memorial hospital fund exceed goal . . . Douglas McKay endorses Rogue flood control survey . . . District attorney opposes motion to dismiss five remaining indictments against Hugh D'Autremont . . . Ten-year through-street program in Medford presented to city council . . . John S. Hawkins, 80, of Camp White, and Mark Eugene Smith, 7, Gold Hill, killed in separate traffic accidents . . . James L. Pultman appointed administrator of Jackson County Public Welfare department . . . City planning commission appoints committee to study zoning in southeast Medford area . . . Medford school board approves payment of \$11,875 for future high school site . . . Nathan Douthitt, Crater High school student, and Nancy McKeown of Medford High school, candidates

for Elks Foundation scholarship award . . . County court declares emergency from flood . . . Mayor Earl Miller calls for early implementation of city's storm sewer system . . . More than 6 inches of snow closes several schools and causes power shortages . . . Josephine and Jackson counties apply for federal financial aid in repairing flood damages.

**MARCH**

Curtis Neshelm named state forestry department district warden for southwest Oregon district at Medford . . . Seven proposals for legislation on Medford fringe area problems presented to state legislative interim committee . . . Record breaking snowfall blankets Medford . . . Mrs. Sarah Bevins Wing celebrates her 103rd birthday in Ashland . . . Pedestrian killed when struck by car on Highway 99 near Talent junction . . . Lloyd Wilson Burley, 58, Eagle Point, and William Curtis Morris, 25, route 2, box 733, Central Point, killed in three-car collision on Crater Lake highway . . . Council abandons plan for charter amendment creating assessment districts in the city . . . Robert G. Fowler, Jackson county assessor, dies . . . Medford Mail Tribune observes 50th anniversary . . . Extended area toll-free dialing service and establishment of a Phoenix-Talent exchange approved by public utilities commissioner . . . About 350,000 board feet of timber and dry kiln unit destroyed by fire at

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**MAY**

Sheriff Howard Gault hurt in car accident . . . Billy Junior Nunn, 27, Klamath Falls, arrested in Alturas, Calif., in connection with murder of Alvin William Eacret . . . Medford budget committee recommends submission of a \$60,000 off-street parking program to voters . . . Petitioners seek competing rail road services here . . . Medford budget committee increases by \$630 the proposed salary for an administrative assistant for city manager . . . Medford planning commission recommends to city council that Genesee route rather than Hillcrest route be favored for proposed freeway in this area . . . Frank P. Farrell resigns as city attorney after 27 years . . . House appropriations

committee approves funds for Talent project . . . \$208,000 for building fish screens at Savage Rapids dam cleared by house of representatives . . . Several hundred Shriners' hold spring ceremonial in Medford . . . Sam Hersh named campaign chairman for United Medford Crusade . . . Mrs. Alex (Ruth) Sparrow, long-time resident of Jackson county and well-known civic leader, dies . . . Billy Junior Nunn attempts escape from county jail . . . Medford budget committee approves city's general fund for fiscal year . . . Billy Junior Nunn pleads innocent to first degree murder charges . . . William A. Gates, 78, president of the Groceries Super Food markets, dies in Palm Springs hospital . . . More than \$3,000,000 for Jackson county irrigation, reclamation and fish screening jobs is contained in the administration's public works bill passed by the house . . .

**JUNE**

County budget committee approves \$2,636,818.47 budget for fiscal year 1956-57 . . . Diplomas presented 270 graduating seniors at Medford High school . . . Two Medford Boy Scouts, Ben Blachly and Tom Turpin, injured in fall from a bluff near the mouth of Silver creek . . . A total of \$4,328,000 will be spent at Crater Lake National park under 10-year "Mission 66" program . . . William Edwards, Medford, takes sweepstakes award in National Catfish Derby here . . . Mrs. Lucille Brock, chief observer for the Medford Ground Observer Corps, honored . . . Jackson county expected to have a surplus of \$638,147 at the end of the current fiscal year . . . Medford city council tentatively approves 10-year \$1,656,100 arterial street program . . . Total levy of \$1,404,257.38 for the year 1956-57 approved by county rural school board . . . Leslie J. Gibson, 48, and Ernest Heaton, 44, killed in sawmill, logging accidents in county . . . State game commission signs option to purchase 160 acres of land in the Camp White area for a public hunting area . . . Andrew Hawver, chief appraiser in the personal property department of the Jackson county assessor's office, announces resignation . . . About 150 Medford residents attend open house at the new east side fire station . . . Columbia Utilities Company plans inauguration of direct long distance dialing in near future.

**JULY**

County budget approved, raises given to six elected officials and 20 other county employees . . . Porcupine eradication contest starts . . . Stephen Robert Bishop, 19, Jacksonville, killed in airplane collision in Grand Canyon . . . Rogue River dynamite blast breaks store windows . . . \$618,158 general city fund budget approved . . . Eight hurt in accident on Butte Falls

Scout council . . . Local people feted in Forks of Salmon . . . Lightning storm starts fires . . . 4-H, FFA fair begins . . . Denmark exchange student arrives . . . Valley storm hits pears, starts fires . . . Carolyn Mae Hedges, 3, Medford accidentally electrocuted . . . Central Point rural fire district officers and volunteer firemen quit . . . Talent project approved by irrigation district water users . . . Crews bring 20-acre fire under control . . . McAllister appointed to state supreme court . . . Infant temporarily gone from home . . . Carl McMillan guilty of drunken driving in fatal car accident . . . Jackson county gets second highest BLM remittance in state . . . Pear crop in "good shape" despite storm damage . . . Interior secretary speaks at GOP jamboree . . . Prison escapees fly here in stolen plane.

**SEPTEMBER**

Population figure on signs near city limits to change . . . Harvest of D'Anjou pears under way . . . Deadwood tunnel contract awarded . . . More money expected for county this year . . . Two new directors named in Central Point rural fire district . . . Republicans outnumber Democrats by 2,598 . . . Opening of new schools in District

rd. . . Biggest D'Anjou crop in several years expected . . . County road workers on 40-hour week . . . Response to polio vaccination campaign gratifying . . . Scattered hail, power failures reported . . . Forest receipts total \$1,753,273.75 from O and C land . . . Scouts spend night in woods at Camp McLoughlin . . . Robert Boyer state Democratic central committee head . . . Fire covers 70 acres of brush, grass in Tolo . . . 72 participate in Civil Air Patrol simulated air rescue here . . . Warren James Ellis, 13, Butte Falls, dies of accidental hanging . . . City traffic ordinance amendments adopted . . . Mosquito spraying in progress . . . Fire hazard said serious . . . CD exercise starts . . . Central Point boy drowns; Ashland man dies in crash . . . Richard Krupp resigns as Central Point rural fire chief . . . Tax valuation ratio reduced 7 per cent . . . Billy Nunn found guilty of first degree murder . . . County ends fiscal year with \$2,908,779.

**AUGUST**

Shakespearean festival opens in Ashland . . . Record low 44 degrees reported . . . Rogue Valley hospital construction starts . . .

6C postponed . . . Robert Boyer resigns as county Democratic head . . . Student totals up six per cent in Medford school system . . . Youngster steals, scatters Central Point mail . . . Third polio case reported . . . Crater Lake lodge, dining room close . . . Medford has wettest year . . . Motorist robbed, car stolen by hitchhiker . . . Two youths accused of Jacksonville blast . . . Two apartments damaged in blaze . . . Henry Owens quits TID board . . . Big SOC expansion set . . . Fourth polio case reported . . . Larry Sheehan new Democratic central committee head . . . Supreme court grants execution stay for James Norman Jensen . . . Air mail service in 30th anniversary observed in Medford . . . United Fund drive starts . . . Opinion may change registration set-up . . . Mart suffers burns rescuing children . . . 14,388 students enrolled in county schools . . . 31,087 voters registered . . . McAllister resigns from law firm here . . . SP hearings end . . . Work starts on bowling lane addition . . . Look-outs taken from national forest posts . . . SOC enrollment increases reported . . . Health educator quits . . . County employee fatally injured on Dead Indian rd. . . John Mannelly starts as assistant in BLM office . . . Main peach varieties harvested . . . Safe taken from feed store . . . Transient found dead near theater.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC HEARING  
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club building contractors named . . . Two men arrested during burglary . . . Bear Creek bank project completed . . . Opposition to withdrawal of land voiced by mining interests . . . Thanksgiving day services scheduled at churches . . . 11 take citizenship oaths . . . Hearing on property rezoning in southeast Medford called . . . Installation of Christmas decorations starts . . . Withdrawal of land in Cascades asked . . . Dollar volume in building increases . . . Jaycees sponsor decoration contest . . . Seven contractors bid on Howard Prairie dam job . . . Eugene K. Peters leaves for project in Washington, D.C. . . . Better than average pear crop

**NOVEMBER**

Cattle rescued from along Rogue; heavy rain threat eases . . . Central Point boy held for damaging mail boxes . . . Highway commission to study east side freeway route . . . Pedestrian killed on Front st. . . John Snider elected mayor; Democrats take most county offices; fluoridation defeated . . . Petition signed protesting freeway in Medford limits . . . Large unemployment increase results from storms . . . Berrydale residents make second attempt to annex . . . Dr. Charles T. Sweetser dies . . . Fog blankets Medford . . . Gift fruit packing in full swing . . . Mary Pat Lucy named new extension agent . . . Airport zoning rule adoption recommended . . . 24 witnesses heard at hearing on Rogue flood control . . . Girls' Community

**DECEMBER**

William McAllister Supreme Court Justice

John Snider New Medford Mayor

Gilbert Gutjahr City Manager's Assistant

Students in Bermudas Among the Most Interesting News

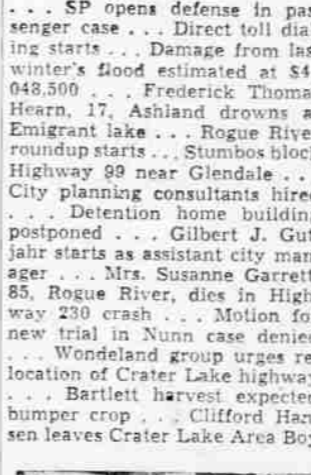
Landis-Shangle Photo



BOY SCOUTS INJURED  
Returned to Medford



WILLIAM McALLISTER  
Supreme Court Justice



JOHN SNIDER  
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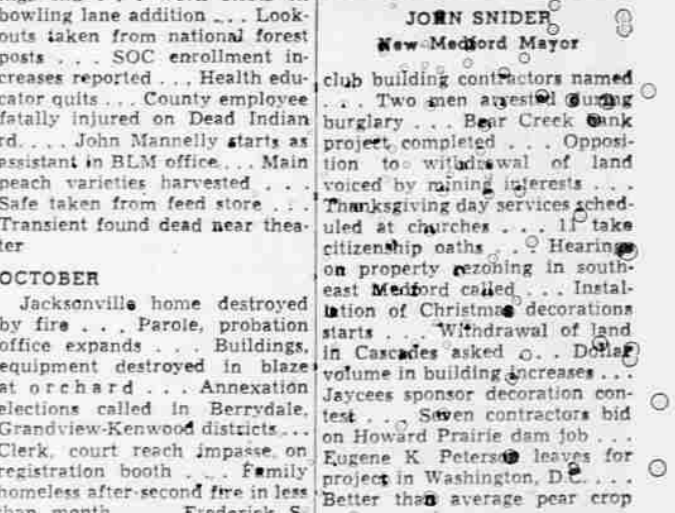
GILBERT GUTJAHR  
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accident . . . Body of Melvin Claire Humphrey, 71, Jacksonville, found in creek near Jacksonville . . . Two health department employees quit . . . Autopsy called in death of Medford man in city jail . . . Donna Timber Products dry kiln destroyed . . . O. H. Bengtson for district attorney when move starts . . . Robert Lee Skinner, 5, Talent, fatally shot in accident . . . Sen. Wayne Morse talks here . . . Earthquake tremors reported . . . North entrance, rim road closed to Crater Lake . . . J. Paul E. Morgan suffers slight heart attack . . . Reclamation bureau announces nine construction jobs, including some in Talent project . . . U.S. Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.) talks here . . . Sacred Heart hospital fully accredited . . . Gov. Elton Smith visits . . . Tacoma man, Charles Clark, hired as senator . . . Construction starts on Phoenix city sewer system . . . Search ends for Copper resident, James Kennedy . . . Sen. Richard Neuberger (D-Ore.) talks here . . . Hearing on flood control held . . . Carl Everett Weiner, 47, formerly of Camp White, found dead in alley . . . Bear Creek route for freeway favored at hearing . . . Rainfall in form totals 1.62 inches . . . Vice President Richard Nixon spends night in Medford . . . Candidates fair draws big crowd . . . Two inches of rain reported in storm . . . Bear Creek spill watershed plan under way . . . Jonas T. Davis, founder of Davis Transfer company, dies . . . Tiller-Traff road open after 5 1/2



WILLIAM McALLISTER  
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JOHN SNIDER  
New Medford Mayor



GILBERT GUTJAHR  
City Manager's Assistant

STUDENTS IN BERMUDAS  
Among the Most Interesting News  
—Landis-Shangle Photo