

Movement Starts to Develop Roxy Ann Park

Potential Seen By Interested Medford Groups

By ERIC WENTWORTH
Mail Tribune Staff Writer
Orchardists, miners, cattlemen, horseback riders, hunters, sight-seers, naturalists, radio hams, soldiers on maneuvers, policemen—all have used Roxy Ann butte at one time or another.

Roxy Ann, rising to a height of 3,584 feet on the skyline east of Medford, is believed named for Roxanna Baker, an early settler, in 1854. The city of Medford acquired 1,700 acres of it for recreational purposes in 1930-200 acres from the Lions club and 1,500 from the federal government.

Approve Park
On April 18, 1933, the city approved establishing the property as a park in memory of constable George J. Prescott.

Prescott, on March 16 of that year, was shot and killed by Llewellyn A. Banks, orchardist, editor and political fanatic. Banks, who reduced Jackson county's government practically to a shambles behind his Good Government Congress, had threatened on several occasions he would resist arrest.

Prescott approached his residence on March 16 to serve a warrant charging him with the theft and destruction of county ballots. Banks shot him as he stood in the doorway.

Secure Development
With the park named for Prescott, the city set about securing its development. The county extended a road into the area. Then crews from the civilian conservation corps arrived, pitched their camp and embarked on an ambitious building program.

Picnic facilities in two areas and road improvements with pull-outs for observing the fine views, which are the park's finest feature, were constructed. But other plans—for a community center, an amphitheater, an administration building—had to be set aside when the CCC program was curtailed. These plans have languished since in file drawers at city hall.

Study Asked
In 1956, the state highway commission was asked to make a study with an eye to including Prescott park in the state park system.

The commission carried out the study, but turned down the park's acquisition "due to limited state-wide interest, and the amount of expenditure required to improve the park and roadway which cannot be justified by the anticipated usage."

But limited as its state-wide interest may be, Roxy Ann has continued to loom high on Medford's horizon. Recently, a new movement has begun to fulfill its potential as a recreational area.

Lead Names
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Garner of the Welcome Wagon club have led this movement. They have approached Medford officials at city hall, the city parks and recreation commission and the county court. City and county officials met with the Garners on Feb. 19 to discuss what might be done.

Two arguments brought out at this meeting were the area's rapid population growth and the prospect of many more tourists during the Centennial year.

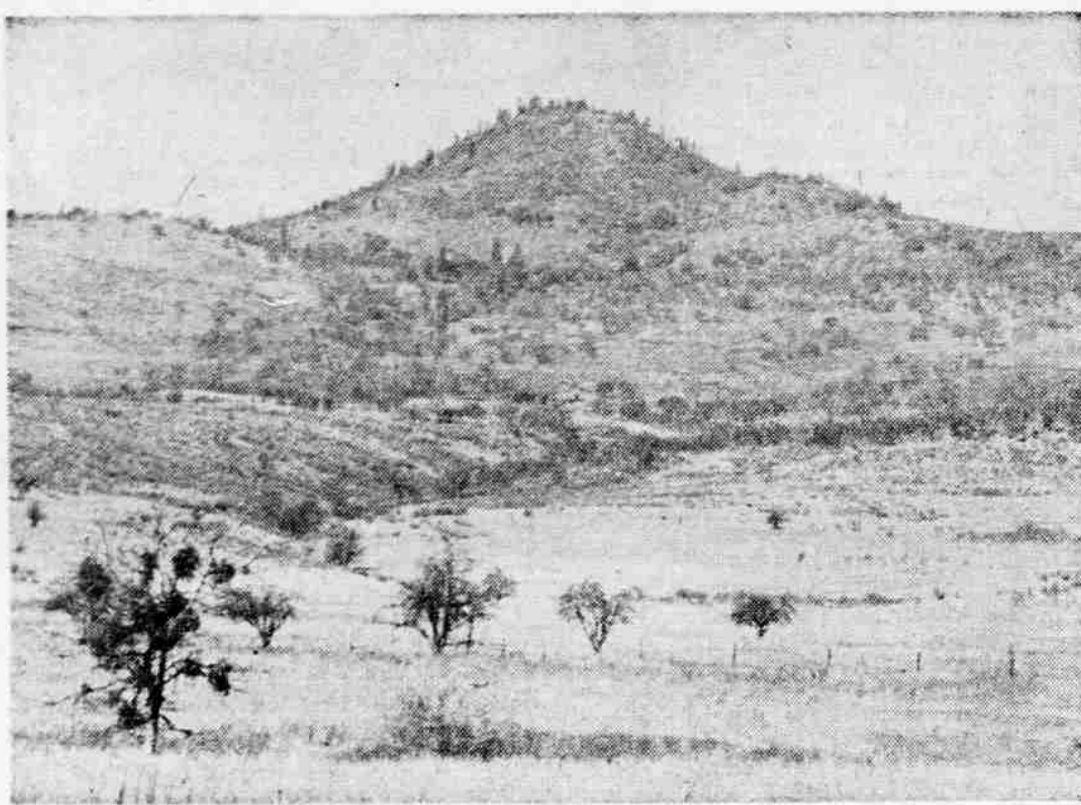
Rehabilitating Prescott
park would appear to be a challenging task. The state in 1956 estimated it would cost \$110,000—primarily for road surfacing—to accomplish it.

Include Restoring
The state's estimate, aside from the roadwork, included for the most part simply restoring existing facilities to their proper condition. The state report also included an estimated requirement of \$3,850 for annual maintenance.

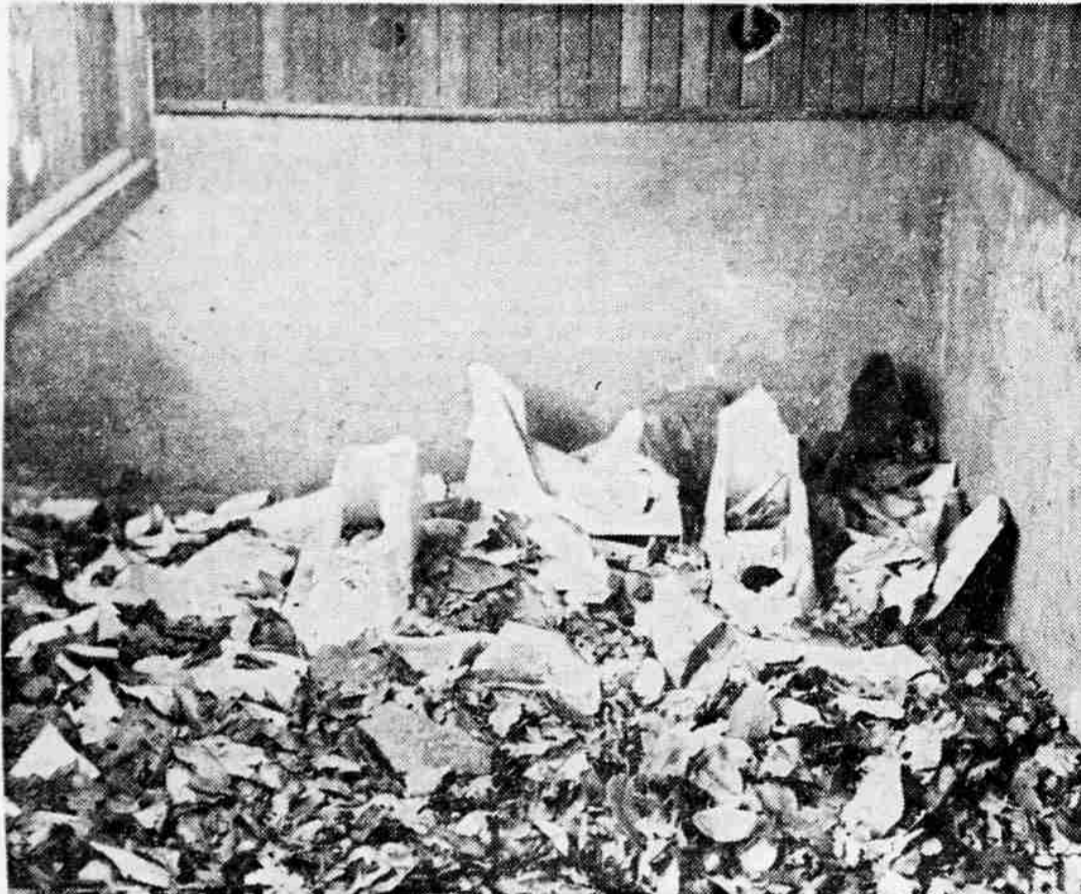
While the city has erected a metal fence around one picnic area to prevent cattle from entering, the other area has definitely suffered from bovine trespassing. Some picnic tables are in good shape. But rest room facilities and other plumbing are out of commission. Bridle paths said to once exist are obliterated by vegetation.

Three radio aerials with equipment racks are located near the summit. One belongs to the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association, a second to the Jackson county sheriff's office and the third to the California Oregon Power company.

It is generally agreed that the park should remain as much as possible in its natural



ROXY ANN—Named for an early valley settler, this butte with the beautiful views is once again being considered for recreational development. A road that is dusty in



SIGNS OF NEGLECT—Scattered leaves and shattered crockery in a Prescott Park restroom attest to lack of maintenance. Picnic area facilities constructed by CCC crews in the mid-1930s are generally in need of rehabilitation or replacement.

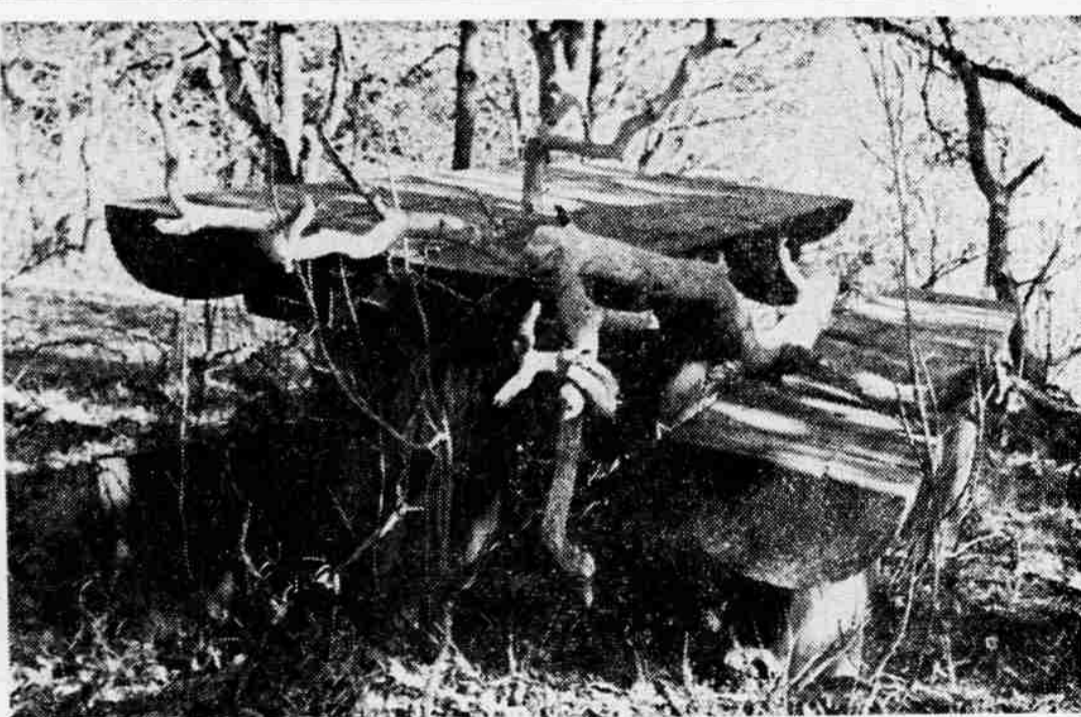


TABLE TALK—Some picnic table in Prescott park are still serviceable. Others would be with minor repairs. If roving cattle, poison oak and human vandals can be kept from the picnic areas, and the facilities re-

stored to good condition, more people might get out of their cars, relax under the trees and enjoy nature at closer hand than through a windshield.

state. Yet three of nature's own villains have limited its popularity—weather, poison oak and rattlesnakes.

Roads Dusty
Dry summers make the park's roads unpleasantly dusty. Wet winters, on the other hand, cause pot holes and slick mud.

City crews periodically provide gravel where the road has been eroded. Recently they cleaned out roadside ditches and culverts as well. But a "bad road" remains one of Roxy Ann's drawbacks.

Susceptibility to the ravages of poison oak vary from person to person, but those who do not happen to know their personal tolerance are generally loathe to experiment. Some may be infected without even touching the plant.

Warn of Snakes
The city itself advertised the rattlesnakes last summer with a large warning sign. They are perhaps not numer-

ous, but they are known to frequent water sources—such as those in the picnic areas.

The net result of the poison oak and the snakes is that many visitors to the park, especially in the summer, prefer to enjoy the scenery from the safety of their automobiles.

Still another problem is the need for adequate supervision. Beer cans are nearly as numerous as wild flowers in some places. Occasionally vandals overturn benches or smash rest room crockery.

Discharging Firearms
Discharging firearms—at beer cans and bottles or at unfortunate wild animals—would have to be stopped. And cattle that now graze freely in pasture and picnic area alike would have to be kept excluded.

Eugene Garner, for one, believes these challenges can be met. He said last week that the Welcome Wagon club has received encouragement and support from such groups as the Siskiyou Pioneer Sites Foundation, the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, the Southern Oregon Experiment station and Southern Oregon college.

He has expressed hope that development of the park can proceed under a master plan guided by a committee com-

prising representatives of all interested groups.

Agrees To Work
The county court has already agreed to do a certain amount of grading and oiling on the road in order to keep bumps and dust at a minimum during the Centennial Year summer.

Next, Garner believes, the two existing picnic areas and their rest room facilities should be put in good shape again.

As for the poison oak, he states that three years of bombardment with various sprays can drive it from the picnic grounds and roadsides. As a longer range strategy, he said that planting trees could be effective.

Garner said he does not believe rattlesnakes on Roxy Ann's slopes are numerous enough to constitute a hazard.

Variety of Projects
Aside from these basic needs, he has ideas for a variety of projects. He said he understands teenagers drive their cars into the park, form them in a circle with the radios on and stage impromptu dances.

Garner envisions a community center and amphitheatre for dances, youth ac-

Individuals Are Guests at Annual Turnabout Party

Camp White—Thirty six individuals and 204 various organizations of Oregon and southern Oregon were honored at the annual "Turnabout Party" given by the Camp White Veterans administration Domiciliary, Friday, February 27.

Manager Henry C. Herzog, in presenting the certificates of appreciation, called to the attention of the audience which filled the theater, the fact that, "To give ones' self for the benefit of mankind is an art. . . . Your genuine sympathy, your friendly desire to help, serves to remind us of the tremendous power of just being human. . . . For your unselfish devotion to our members, to your community, and for the faithfulness of your service, we give our deepest thanks."

Other speakers included Frank J. Glonning, chief of special services; Mrs. Lelia Birch, volunteer associate, Cliff Hyde, member, Herzog was assisted in the presentations by Banks I. Paul, assistant manager, and Dr. A. S. Anderson, chief medical officer.

Musical Numbers
Domiciliary members presented 11 musical and vocal acts.

Marian Cech, representing the Daughters Union Veterans and American Gold Star Mothers, topped the list in hours devoted to the Veterans Administration Voluntary Services with 2,500.

Lela Lamb and Polly Offutt of the American Legion auxiliary and Bertha Bardwell, American Red Cross, each had 1,000 hours.

Certificates for 500 hours were awarded to James I. Cassal, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Lela Lamb, American Legion auxiliary; Hazel Ramsey, Veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliary; Lillian Williams, Veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliary; Frances Flinn, American Red Cross; Ruth Gordon, American Red Cross; and Mary Parker, American Legion auxiliary.

Receive Certificates
Seven volunteers received certificates for 300 hours. They are Bessie Aldridge, Faye Allison, Marie L. Bowling, all of the Veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliary; Margaret Eakin, American Gold Star Mothers; Lela Lamb and Lorena Leach, American Legion auxiliary, and Emil B. Kroeger, Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks.

Those receiving certificates for 100 hours included Gladys Blackford, Florine Hughes and Marie Wilcox, American Legion auxiliary; Victor Eakin, unaffiliated; June Goff, Helen Watson, and Jennie Smith, Blue Star Mothers; Harry Leuty, Veterans World War I; Evelyn M. Peabody and Dora Stanton, Veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliary; Frank Clayton, Military Order of the Cooties; William E. Ricken, Salvation Army; Hazel B. Anderson, Elizabeth Johnston and Josephine Widner, United Spanish War Veterans auxiliary; Opal Cox, Veterans World War I auxiliary, and Grace Jones, unaffiliated.

The United State accounts for 24 per cent and Rhodesia 36 per cent of the world's total iron ore reserves, according to the Twentieth Century Fund.

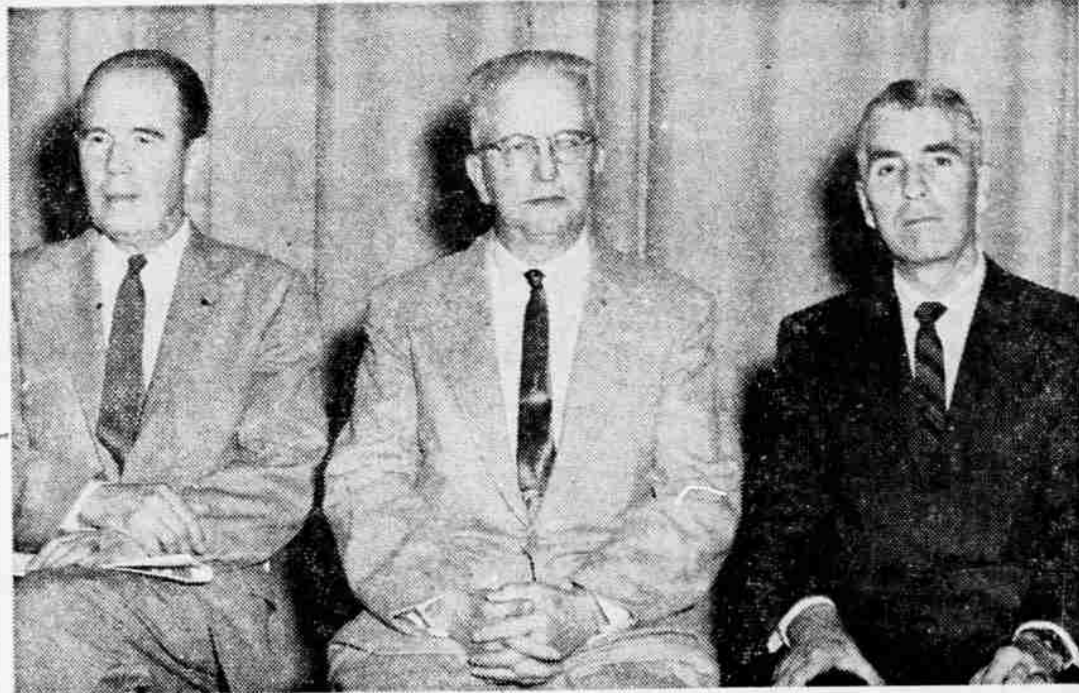
activities, church services, concerts and a variety of other social and cultural programs.

He believes a caretaker should be provided, who would live in a cottage erected in the park. This caretaker, he says, could be responsible for running a food and soft drink concession as well.

Other Possibilities
Other possibilities might include an archery range, a supervised rifle range, a riding stable and bridle paths, and an amateur observatory. He said the observatory might accommodate students with homemade telescopes at first and later include more elaborate facilities.

Orchards have been planted on Roxy Ann. Coal miners have tunneled into its flanks. Hunters have roamed its thickets, and nature lovers have studied its flora and fauna. During World War II, soldiers from Camp White established an observation post atop it for firing 155mm howitzers.

A considerable potential for recreational facilities serving Medford and other communities in this area appears to exist. "What we need," Garner believes, "is picks and shovels, dollars and enthusiasm."



MANAGERS—VA Domiciliary Managers on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Camp White veterans home were present for the incentive awards to employees. From the left, they are Paul Hatton, who opened the station in the fall of 1948, remaining as manager until July, 1953; Eugene K. Ricker, who held the reins for the five succeeding years, and Henry Herzog, recently named manager, who assumed the duties Jan. 1. Both Hatton and Ricker, upon their retirement, established their homes in Medford.



NEW BUILDING—This new building, located at 246 East 10th st., Medford, will house the office of Real Estate Agent Harry B. Marshall and his wife, Jeannette Marshall, Medford attorney. Open house will be held at the new quarters between 1 and 6 p.m. today. Above, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall discuss plans for landscaping the grounds around the building. The couple formerly occupied joint offices in the Brophy building, Medford.



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Everybody Loves Nasturtiums

The nasturtium has leaves that are shaped like a shield. In fact, the early botanist that gave the flower its name was apparently struck by the startling similarity and considered it apparent to name it "nasturtium" which means "trophy" in the Greek language.

It is peculiar that such a popular flower should have no common name, but such is the case. Originally it came from Mexico, but it has been raised extensively in Peru and Chili for many centuries. This hardy annual will thrive on poor soil and yields an abundance of showy flowers under the most adverse of conditions.

50 Varieties

There are about 50 varieties, and many colors have been developed by the botanist and horticulturalist. We have both dwarf, or low growing plants, as well as climbers that clamber to some height. In tropical America the nasturtium grows wild and it is from this wild stock that the domesticated varieties have been developed. Ordinarily they have weak stems that are rather like many of the succulents, although the plant belongs to the water-cress family.

The flower, itself, is shaped like the hat that was worn by Peter Pan, or like that which commonly adorns the head of the Swiss yodeler. We say the flower is "spurred," but the spur could as easily be the nodding feather in the hat of either of these romantic people. With a spur, and leaves shaped like a shield, the friendly flower is equipped by nature to ride a floral path to unusual popularity, and it has done just that, for everyone loves the nasturtium. It occupies a prominent part of any garden and a warm spot in a flower-lover's heart.

Since Great-Grandma's Time
These simple flowers have been a part of American gardens since our great-grandmothers first enclosed a little

TALKS TOO FAST
Sherman Oaks, Calif. —UP—Robert Eugene Eschbach, 26, arrested on suspicion of holding up a supermarket, denied knowing anything about the stickup. "I'm strictly a burglar," he protested.

area back of the house for a flower garden. Quite often she selected a fresh, crisp leaf from the plant and placed it in the jar before she poured the jelly into it. During the following winter the family enjoyed the delicate flavor of nasturtiums whenever the delicious jelly was served.

Nasturtium seeds, finely chopped, impart to a vegetable salad a subtle aroma and an elusive flavor that is indistinguishable, but delicious. After enjoying this unusual ingredient in a salad, we can partly understand the Chinese people's practice of pickling nasturtium seeds and serving them as spicy delicacies. I am beginning to believe that the man who said, "Clever, these Chinese," knew whereof he spoke.

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Local Hospitals Are Accredited

Rogue Valley and Sacred Heart hospitals have been accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, Dr. Kenneth B. Babcock, commission director of Chicago, has announced.

The hospitals are among about 7,000 throughout the country, its possessions and Canada eligible for accreditation.

Omission of a hospital from the list does not necessarily mean it had failed to pass an accreditation survey. The accreditation program is a voluntary one, he pointed out, and only those hospitals which request surveys are visited.

Dr. Babcock said surveys, all physicians, rate a hospital on certain basic requirements. They include a safe physical plant free from fire hazards; proper supervision and review by the medical staff of the clinical work done; maternal, infant and anesthetic death rates that are not excessively high; adequate medical records; ethical practices; investigation of all tissue removed at operation; mortality rates that are within reasonable limits; proper nursing care; proper administrative and medical staff organization.

The commission is an agency established by five organizations to conduct the hospital survey and inspection program initiated by the American College of Surgeons in 1919. The Joint commission started operations in 1953.

HUNT BABY ELEPHANT

Berlin—UP—East Berlin officials were on the lookout today for a stray baby elephant. East Berlin's zoo director reported in the newspaper B.Z. Am Abend Friday that Kosko, the zoo's little elephant, had disappeared mysteriously. He gave no details, but said all attempts to locate the animal so far had been unsuccessful.

Slander Suit Nets \$1 Damages

Eugene—UP—A Lane county circuit jury Friday awarded damages in the amount of \$1 to William Huey, Eugene attorney, in a slander suit against former county district attorney Eugene C. Venn in which Huey sought \$50,000 general damages.

Huey had charged Venn with slanderous statements in a speech Venn made while district attorney Aug. 10, 1956, at a public meeting here. Huey originally asked \$100,000 punitive damages in addition to the general damages but that was withdrawn after the trial began Tuesday.

Circuit Judge P. K. Hammond of Oregon City presided over the case. The jury deliberated for five hours and returned the \$1 verdict at 5 p.m.

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