

Roseburg Explosion Voted Top News Story

Ashland Forest Fire No. 2 Spot Story of Year

The Aug. 7 explosion which leveled several blocks of the downtown Roseburg area was selected unanimously as the top "spot news" story of 1959 by members of the Mail Tribune's news department.

The story also was selected by press associations as the top news story of the year in Oregon. Although it was not a "local story" in the sense that it happened within the Mail Tribune's circulation area, the explosion had its effect here. Many city and county officials went to Roseburg to offer assistance.

Ranking next to the Roseburg disaster in spot news was the Ashland forest fire, which started the afternoon of Aug. 8 and continued for most of the following week. The vote also was unanimous among the 11 news staff members.

Six of the 11 members of the staff selected school reorganization in Jackson county as the most important news story of the year. Selection of the most important story is based on the effect of the news over a period of time, and the number of residents affected by it.

Other first places votes on the most important story were distributed among the Rogue basin survey, the Talent project and the state's position on recreational uses of county streams.

Human Interest Stories
In the category of "human interest" stories, the news staff selected the hassle between water users and the Eagle Point Irrigation district as the one with the most interest. The story received five first place votes.

The European and Russian trip taken by Dr. Leonard B. Mayfield, Medford school superintendent, received two first place votes for the best human interest story, while Centennial activities received one vote.

Ranking second in human interest was Wilbur Gardner's national campaign to have shoes labeled with the material with which they are made. Other stories which received votes as being among the top human interest stories were the Medford Shopping Center, and Centennial activities.

Other stories mentioned as among the top spot news stories were the Morton Milling company fire and the family tragedy in which a boy killed his father and sister and then took his own life. Visits by Senators John Kennedy and Hubert Humphrey also received votes as being one of the better spot news stories of the year.

Among other stories which received votes as being among the top 10 more important stories of the year were the new Shakespearean theater in Ashland, the county subdivision bill, the Highway 99 freeway development, the Medford Shopping Center, and air and creek pollution.

Following is a month-by-month review of activities in the area during the past year.

JANUARY

Three new county officials, judges take oath of office... Members of Jackson County Bar association pay tribute to retiring Judge Herbert K. Hanna... C. Rease Braley, well-known southern Oregonian, died at home... Councilman James Dunlevy named president of city council... Wilbur Gardner, crusading shoe repairman, informed that bill to require labeling shoes will be introduced in congress... Michael Hanley, prominent rancher, dies in Boise, Ida... Medford police put new radar set into operation... \$32,977 collected for Shakespearean Festival fund... Attorneys for Eagle Point Irrigation district and California Oregon Power company to disqualify Judge Edward C. Kelly in circuit court case of five water users against district and Copco... Hugh D'Autremont, convicted of 1923 Siskiyou train robbery, released from state penitentiary... Dr. Ray Casterline, Medford, named to state board of medical examiners... State Senator Philip B. Lowry urges Public Utilities Commissioner Howard Morgan to decide case of Southern Pacific's abandonment of passenger service between Eugene and Ashland... Contract awarded for clearing Emigrant reservoir area... Stockade to be built at Siskiyou summit... Ashland considers new junior high school... Medford school board authorizes series of meetings with other boards on reorganization... Bids called for grading Highway 99 freeway between Grants Pass and Jackson county line... Mrs. Maxine A. Click indicted for first degree murder of husband... State water resources board

agrees that recreation can be beneficial use of Bear creek, Applegate river and Little Butte creek... Illegal cutting of trees on government land reported... Work starts on new sports center south of Medford... Evans Valley residents oppose school consolidation with Rogue River... Dr. Frank Wilson receives Junior Chamber of Commerce distinguished service award... County court may legally establish separate parks and recreation commission, according to district attorney's opinion.

FEBRUARY

Trial run of Centennial Pony Express goes off smooth... Harold Lee Parker, 41, Butte Falls Star route, killed in tractor accident... Griffin Creek school district ready to start consolidation proceedings... 362 government officials, parents and students take part in Student Government day... School census shows 21,252 children between 4 and 19 years of age... January employment at unusually high level... Prominent Prospect resident, Robert B. Grieve, dies... Medford school board authorizes plans for consolidation for four districts... Mrs. Maxine Click pleads innocent to first degree murder... Medco gives City of Medford old shay locomotive... Steady downpour dampens Centennial parade... High water possible in Rogue and Umpqua basin streams... Angus Bowmer given Ford Foundation grant... 21 drivers cited since recent radar installation... Mrs. Sarah G. Riley, 99, pioneer's daughter, dies... On to Oregon Cavalcade will carry souvenir envelopes... Mail Tribune Managing Editor Eric Allen Jr. receives award from Freedoms Foundation... Denzil Hubert Shiltz, Blue River, and Mabel E. Lilja, Redmond, killed in crash... Applegate Grange holds Centennial pageant... Miss Elaine Kroon, Crater High school senior, and Bob Pone, Medford High senior, win most valuable student contest.

MARCH

Preparations for full-scale study of air conditions in Medford area to begin... Mental health committee plans family counseling agency... Mrs. Harlan Bosworth named Oregon's Mother of the Year... Construction of new Shakespearean Festival theater in Ashland continues on schedule... Sen. and Mrs. John F. Kennedy arrive for annual Roosevelt dinner... New lethal chamber for county dog pound readied... Bill Jess, Eagle Point, reelected president of Rogue River Flood Control and Water Resources association... County court prepares subdivision bill for action... Rogue River Irrigation district discuss plans for reservoir in Agate area... Local stations for air sampling set up... Thermometers are checked for coming orchard heating... Estimated 500 attend Wilson school dedication... Old covered bridge over Antelope creek on Riley dr. dismantled... Berrydale Sanitary sewer approved by Medford city council... Dr. Ira Dell Phipps, 80, dental surgeon, dies at home... Body of 81-year-old Andrew Kolstad found by search party... 2,000 join Centennial association's '59er membership program... Testimony begins in Click trial... Dewey Blackman, 100, dies at Central Point... Mrs. Click found not guilty... Bids to be called on Rogue Valley Manor... Hugh D'Autremont, recently paroled from Jackson County penitentiary, dies in San Francisco... Condemnation suits brought by state highway commission begin.

APRIL

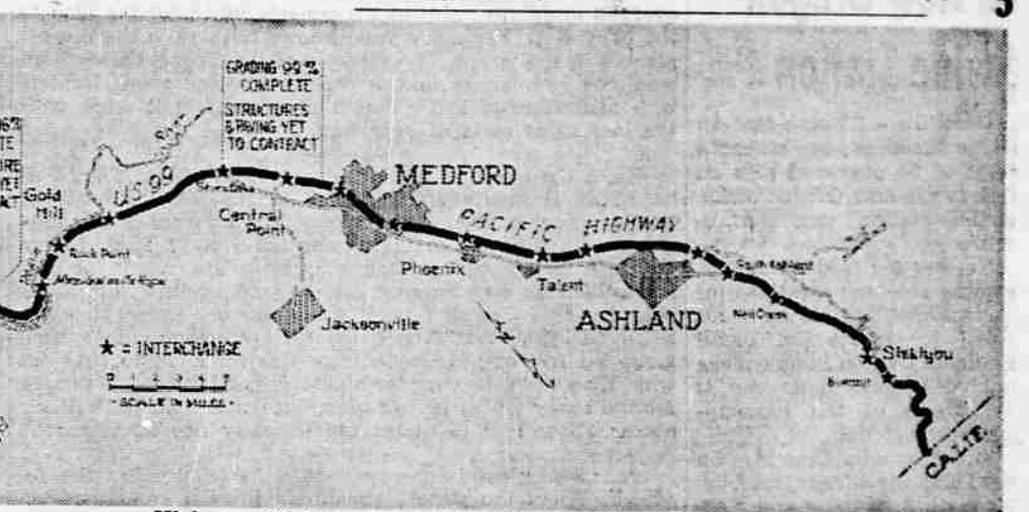
Medford parks and recreation commission discusses plans for West Jackson st. swimming pool... Miss Carolyn Mencke selected for European stay... Rogue River school district voters approve bond issue to finance elementary school construction... Jury awards Joe Allison, Rogue River, \$3,000 for property on freeway right-of-way... Little Frank Allen Hunt and Margaret Stephen rule over Pear festival... Irrigation water supplies said poorest in many years... Consolidation of six school districts approved... Pear festival parade and sports fair scheduled in Medford... Wiley's packing house, Ashland, destroyed by fire... Ray Charles D'Autremont, in penitentiary, petitions district court for speedy trial... State police arrest Leland Duane Benson, 33, wanted for killing in St. Louis, Mo... Harold Dagus Schuck, 22, killed in highway crash... Shopping center expected to provide jobs for 200... J. Russ Acheson hired as assistant superintendent for Medford schools... 6,000 ponderosa pine seedlings planted on Roxy Ann butte and 42 concrete pots placed on downtown sidewalks... Bud damage reported from freezing temperatures... City and county officials speak of smoke problem from orchard heating... Fruit growers discuss orchard heating and air pollution... Wagon train leaves Independence, Mo., for Independence, Ore... Ashland approves bond issue for new junior high school... 1,000 folders inviting people to visit Jackson county sent to Medford Trail Riders wagon cavalcade... Danger of forest fires reported... County court petitioned by citizens objecting to orchard heating smoke... Glenn Jackson named to state highway commission... Vincent Bevis, Hedrick Junior High school principal, dies in Portland... Talent Irrigation district starts use of storage water... County officials meet with budget committee to plan year's budgets... Construction of music and classroom addition at Medford High school expected soon.

MAY

Paul D. and Mary G. Conrad, awarded \$214.75 damages from Eagle Point Irrigation district... Epidemic of flu-like illness reported in county... Robert L. Harworth, new city parks director, arrives... Smoke-reducing program announced by fruit growers committee... Bids opened for Rogue Valley Manor construction... Retiring school superintendent, H. P. Jewett, honored in Central Point ceremonies... Plans approved for further freeway construction... Melvin Cook, Ashland logger, killed in California logging accident... Bear creek pollution discussed at public meeting... Medford School Superintendent Leonard Mayfield selected for trip to Russia... Billy Lee Millard, 2-year-old Ashland boy, dies in hay shed blaze... City planning commission passes subdivision bill... Dedication ceremonies held at Siskiyou summit stockade... Robert Lee Joffile, 24, Butte Falls, killed in motorcycle mishap... Hall research program started in county... Dr. Annie Inskip dies in California... County court appoints new parks and recreation commission... Oregon Sportsmen club seeks anti-pollution law enforcement... Phoenix school patrons defeat consolidation measure... Thirty-nine slot machines confiscated by law enforcement agencies... R and M Construction company low bidder for construction of new Bear creek bridge.

JUNE

Plan to increase off-street parking for shoppers in downtown Medford approved by Jackson County Chamber of Commerce's board of directors... Medford city council awards contract for construction of Eighth st. bridge



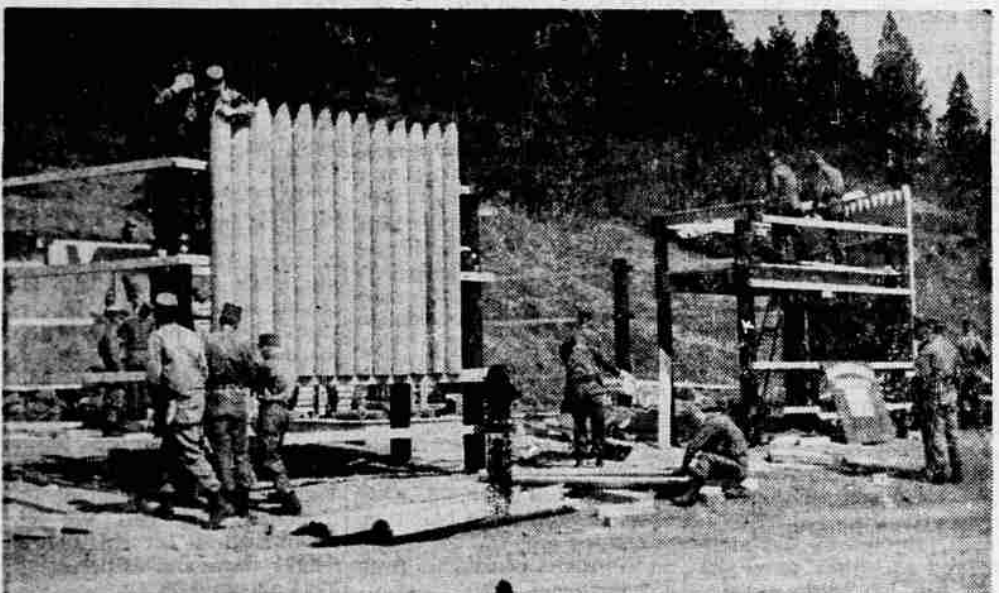
... Highway 99 freeway work outlined ...



... fill material for new bridge approach ...



... air pollution study starts ...



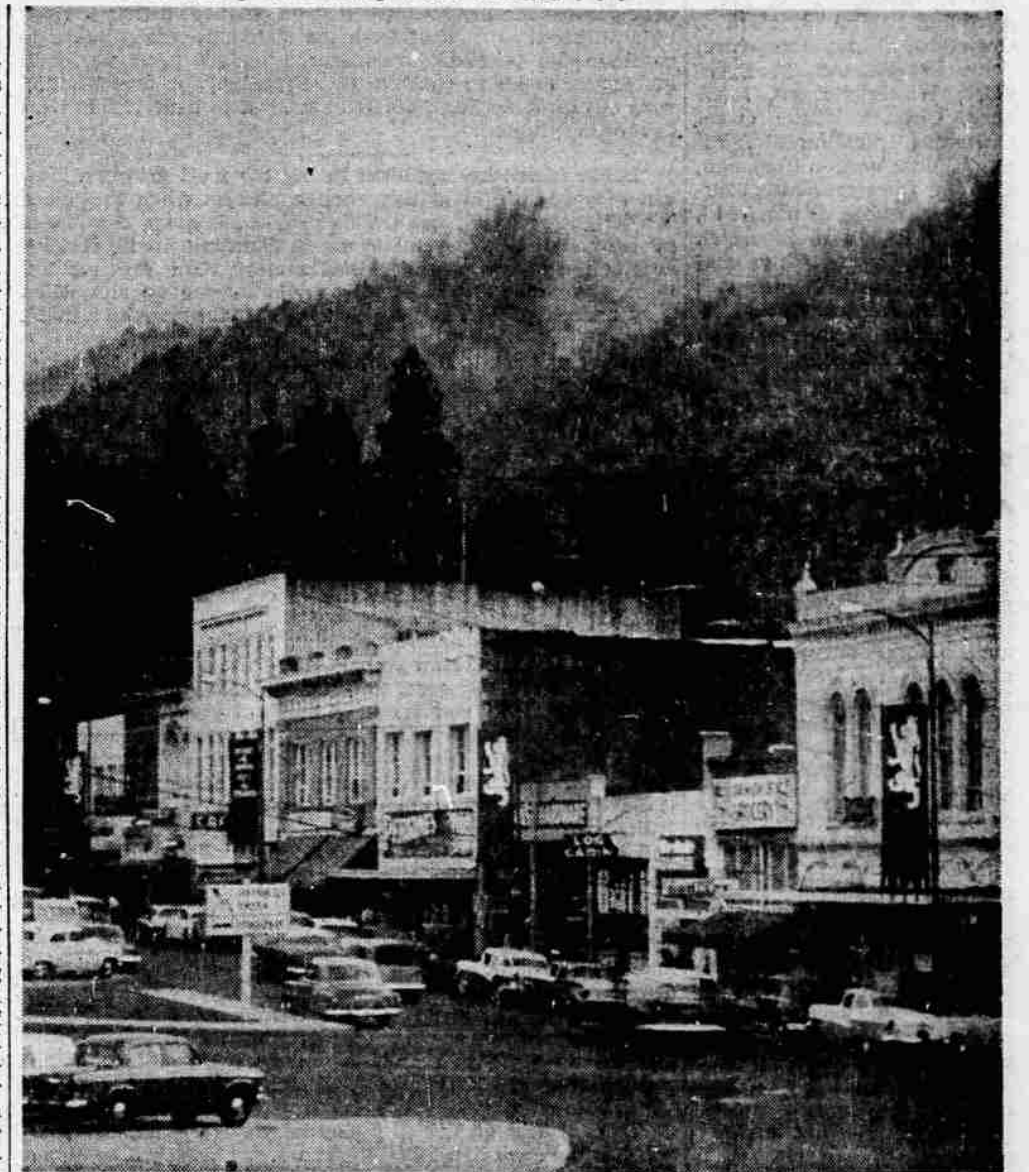
... Centennial Stockade constructed ...



... aftermath of Roseburg disaster ...



... fire destroys Morton Milling company ...



... forest fire threatens Ashland ...



... Medco engine given to city park ...

Jackson county fiscal 1959-60 budget of over \$3.6 million approved... Some sheriff's deputies drive own cars as result of continuing hassle over purchase of new autos... U.S. fish and wildlife service announces opposition to any dams on main stem of Rogue river... County Assessor Ray Schumacher declares Medford and Eagle Point school districts' budgets invalid because of recent interpretation of attorney general's ruling... Medford's school traffic safety education program wins National Safety Council certificate of achievement... Heat wave strikes, several sections of Rogue River National forest ordered closed because of fire danger... Water supply nears critically low stage at both Medford and Talent irrigation districts... Pinehurst residents protest proposed reorganization of their non-high school district with Ashland school district... Assessed value of land, buildings, personal property and utilities reported over more than \$600,000 over last fiscal year... Medford registers seventh straight day of over 100-degree temperatures... Harry Holmes, co-founder of nation's largest fruit packing firm, dies at 68... Pacific Northwest conference on higher education opens at Southern Oregon college... Opening night of Oregon Shakespearean festival season attended by standing room only crowds... Nearly 1,000 men battle forest fire in Siskiyou county... Miner, 76, later arrested for causing blaze... Mercy Flights, Inc., buys two new aircraft... U.S. Army corps of engineers completes study of potential projects for Rogue River basin...

JULY

Purchase of 40-acre county recreation site on Applegate assured by county parks and recreation commission chairman... Swimming pool at West Jackson st. estimated to cost \$90,000... County residents celebrate a generally safe, sane Fourth of July... Medford American Legion post launches drive to raise funds for \$40,000 Veterans Memorial building... Two New Mexico men arrested, admit burglarizing 14 local business establishments... U.S. Army corps of engineers completes study of potential projects for Rogue River basin...

AUGUST

Jacksonville Gold Rush Jubilee opens... Mrs. Esther Lorch, 31-year-old mother of four, charged with murdering William B. Simmons, 62-year-old Camp White veterans domiciliary member... Forest fire in hills threatens entire city of Ashland; rages for two days, eventually covers nearly 5,000 acres... Roseburg downtown area leveled by explosive... Week-long Jackson county 4-H and FFA fair opens... County Judge Earl Miller returns money paid his garage for repair of his county car... Talent teen-ager, Carolyn Tieg, named champion poultry showman and grand champion poultry exhibitor at fair... New shopping center opens on East Jackson st... Medford city council approves plans and specifications and calls for bids for construction of West Jackson st. swimming pool... Kiwanis-sponsored county fair opens as 4-H-FFA fair draws to close... Jackson county planning commission slates public hearing on prepared new interim zoning ordinance... 200 Mexican laborers begin to arrive to relieve critical fruit picker shortage... Morton Milling company plant in Medford gutted by \$400,000 fire...

SEPTEMBER

Jackson County Chamber of Commerce's board of directors considers possibility of constructing new building to house chamber... Unemployment in Jackson county drops to lowest level in four years... Two gunmen rob Safeway food store at Medford Shopping center of \$2,000 to \$5,000... Record total of 36,338 attend plays at Oregon Shakespearean festival... (Continued on Page 7)