

# City Manager Observing 35 Years Service



**KNOWS CITY WATER PROBLEMS**—City Manager Robert A. Duff was water superintendent from 1931 until 1955, and during that time became well-acquainted with the city's water problems. One of Duff's first jobs with the department in 1925 was to assist in designing the first of two water pipelines from Big Butte springs. He is shown above talking to Robert Lee, who assumed the job of water superintendent when Duff became city manager.

## Medford One of Finest Cities, R. A. Duff Says

By GREG NOKES  
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Christmas is a day of special meaning to all people everywhere, but it has taken on an even added significance for Medford's city manager who today is celebrating his 35th Christmas as an employee of the city of Medford.

The city of Medford, its problems and people, have been Robert A. Duff's business since he came here in 1925 to work as a drafting engineer in the city water department.

Thirty-five years is a long time for a man to work for a city. But, if Duff had it to do all over again, he wouldn't change a thing.

He declares: "Medford is one of the finest communities anywhere. Its people are of as high a caliber as I have ever seen. What reason could there possibly be for me to want to leave here?"

**Changes Since Start**

The city has changed a lot since Duff started working for it, and Duff has seen most of these changes.

He has seen the city grow from a town of 5,000 persons to a city of nearly 25,000. He has seen it struggle through depression days and virtual economic collapse, to the wartime Camp White era and the post-war lumber boom, which together did much to get the city back on its feet again.

It takes a special kind of a person to devote his life to municipal government.

He must be willing to stay silent and courteous while irate citizens are heaping unjustified abuse on him or the city government for doing, or not doing, something over which they have no control.

**Answer Demands**

He must answer with a civil tongue when people demand to know why the city has not paved such-and-such a street, nor provided for a more abundant water supply, when the city doesn't have the money to do it.

He must be able to take it for granted that few expressions of appreciation will come from the citizens when a new bridge is built, or city streets repaved.

He must be able to serve the public, listen to his subordinates, satisfy the city council, and even sometimes deal with a misunderstanding press.

He must be a fighter, a diplomat, a negotiator. He must have patience, tact, foresight, hindsight and understanding. He must be willing to do a lot of work for little pay.

**As Drafting Engineer**

Duff first started working for the city in 1925 as a drafting engineer with the city water department, following his graduation that same year from the University of Santa Clara where he received his BS degree in civil engineering.

One of Duff's first duties was to assist in designing the first of the two water pipelines from Big Butte springs.

In 1931 Duff was appointed water superintendent, and he held that position until 1955. From 1951 until 1954, Duff doubled in brass as city superintendent.

Following a special election in 1953 at which time the city voted in the city manager form of government, Mayor Diamond Flynn appointed Duff city manager. He has since been city manager under Mayors Flynn, Earl Miller and John Snider.

**Career With City**

Outside of a summer job with the U. S. forest service in 1925, Duff has spent his entire career with the city of Medford.

Asked why he chose this line of work, and then stuck with it through all these years, Duff replied: "Because there is always a challenge. Problems are continually presenting themselves which need solving. I like to see things grow and I like to see things accomplished."

Things have been accomplished during Duff's tenure with the city, and they are still being accomplished.

Medford's relatively sound financial shape is admired by cities throughout the state.

**Water System Envy**

Medford's water supply system is the envy of cities everywhere.

The city has been growing at a faster rate than most other Oregon cities—16 per cent during the past 10 years.

Medford has established itself as the distribution point for the southern Oregon—northern California area, and its future in this respect appears bright.

And the city's municipal



**MEDFORD IS HIS BUSINESS**—City Manager Robert A. Duff could well consider the city of Medford to be his business. He has devoted his entire adult career to working for the city, coming here in 1925 as a drafting engineer with the water department. Few developments have taken place in the city during the last 35 years that Duff has not been a part of.

airport (second largest in Oregon) has long been an object of local pride.

Duff, to be sure, is not solely responsible for all of this, but he has had a significant role to play in all of them.

But what of the man himself? What kind of a person is Medford's city manager?

Duff is 59; he is married and has no children. His once bright red hair is only now beginning to gray.

**Says Little**

He is a quiet man and says little more than what is absolutely necessary. A newspaper reporter would not consider Duff to be an "ideal" news source. He is hesitant about receiving publicity, particularly for himself, and appears reticent when giving a reporter the facts of a story—no matter how important.

Fellow city employees who know Duff best say they have never seen him lose his temper.

One department head remarked that Duff's patience is amazing. "It would do him good sometime to blow off a little steam and get mad at somebody when they make a mistake—but he never does."

Duff apparently has the loyalty of nearly every city employee, certainly all of those that this reporter talked to. One of the reasons for this, according to a water department official, is that he treats everybody alike and gives them "the benefit of the doubt."

**Not a Politician**

This same official remarked that although Duff seems quiet, he makes friends easily, and people remember him. He explained, "Duff is not a politician... he doesn't make a lot of promises. If he can't live up to what he says—he isn't going to say it."

Neither does Duff actively seek to leave a great personal mark on the city. While city officials elsewhere want to be known to one and all as being personally responsible for erecting a new bridge, building more and better city parks, or overhauling a city's outdated water system, Duff wants none of this.

His subordinates point out that Duff wants simply to provide a good, effective and coordinated government that will give the people what they need, when they want it, and within their ability to pay for it.

**Things Have Been Done**

Things have been done here. There are new bridges, new parks and an expanding water supply system, but they are not considered to be the accomplishments of one man—they are considered to be the accomplishments of the entire city.

Indicative of Duff's desire to provide for a continuity of government services was his engineering of the city's transition from the council-mayor form of government to the city manager form in 1954.

In many cities such a transition is made with considerable confusion and a temporary ineffectiveness of the city government.

Heads of various departments, previously responsible to a particular councilman, now were responsible to one man—the city manager.

**Elected Officials**

Both the city recorder and the city treasurer were elected officials. Under the new form of government, the offices were combined and the city recorder-treasurer was made an appointed official, responsible to the city manager.

Previously, the city superintendent had little power. He could carry out only minor administrative tasks while the city council made almost all decisions, large or small. But a city manager does have power. He is answerable only to the mayor and city council, whose responsibilities in turn,

were limited to policy-making.

Yet the transition in Medford took place so quietly and smoothly that, as one city official remarked, "even the city employees themselves didn't notice a change was taking place." To a man, they credit the smoothness of this transition to Duff.

**Little Social Life**

Duff has little time for social life. The nature of his job and the many night meetings which he must attend prevent this, as he himself points out. However, he is an avid hunter and fisherman, and says the love of the outdoors is one of the main reasons for his remaining in Medford.

It is probable that Duff has made a number of enemies during his tenure as city manager. But, it would be difficult to conceive of a man in his position who could satisfy all of the people all of the time.

Duff said he has never seriously considered leaving Medford, although many attractive opportunities elsewhere have been offered him. He differs from most city managers in this respect, as the majority of these professional city administrators seldom stay longer than five years or so in one city.

Duff has not given any thought to retiring. He says he plans to stay on as city manager for years—at least until retirement age, six years from now.

One city official, who has known Duff for many years, said: "Medford is fortunate to have not only a city manager who is dedicated to his work, but a city manager who is dedicated to the city."

**Initial Exploration of Illinois River Dam Project Nears Finish**

Coquille—The initial exploration phase for a proposed hydroelectric dam project on the Illinois river is nearing completion, according to Bruce Shavere, general manager of Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative, Coquille.

The proposed site of the dam is the Buzzards Roost area on the Illinois river in Curry county. A report on studies of this area were submitted to the board of directors of the cooperative.

In the report it is indicated that the physical characteristics of the site are more favorable than a preliminary survey suggested. A design engineer said, when presenting the report, that the core samples tested show twice the strength necessary to support the proposed structure.

Topographic maps of the reservoir area should be completed and printed in the next few weeks. These maps, together with hydrology studies, unit installation analysis, dam layout and radial adjustment, will make possible a determination of the height of the dam. So far only rough estimates have been available.

**Applied for License**

In 1958, Coos-Curry Electric company applied to the Federal Power commission for a license to construct a hydroelectric project on this stretch of the river. The report was the first step in completing the application.

Next will come an economic height study of the dam together with hydrology studies, unit installation analysis, dam layout and radial adjustment, spillway capacities and fish handling facilities, access roads and transmission layout and cost estimates.

Shavere said completion of these studies will make it possible to determine the power generating cost of the project and will give sufficient information to complete the application to the FPC.

## Duncan Talks To Rights Council On Passing Laws

Ashland-House Speaker Robert Duncan cautioned those attending a meeting of the Ashland Human Rights Council last week against passing too restrictive laws to control hate literature and obscene materials in the mails.

"Every law that is passed takes a little of our freedom away," Duncan said. "And for this reason I advise caution against making too many laws to meet problems we don't like."

"In the sphere of free will we do as we please within the bounds of prevailing custom and obey the unenforceable because it is the thing to do. In the sphere of law we do what we have to do or be punished. Abuses of free will result in laws and eventually if the sphere of free will and custom are entirely taken over by the sphere of law, the result is totalitarianism," the Medford lawyer and legislator explained.

**Meet Them With Truth**

Duncan admitted that he does not know the answer, but perhaps the most effective way to fight ideas people do not like is to meet them with truth and other ideas and not censorship.

The legislator mentioned the different types of hate material such as defamation of the Jewish race and the Catholic religion through mass mailings of literature. Two different classes of this type of literature are originating in the south, one is inflammatory and the other thought-provoking.

"Much as we regret the dissemination of hate literature we have to remember one of the basic rights guaranteed us is the one which says there shall be no law abridging the free expression of opinion," Duncan pointed out.

"Libel, slander and obscenity, of course, are exceptions to freedom of speech, but it is hard to pin down what is obscene in art or literature for each person interprets the same thing differently."

**Protect Individual**

Civil and criminal actions for libel and slander generally protect the individual rather than the group and inadequately at that, Duncan said. In areas of libel and slander some cases are black, some almost white and a limitless variety of gray exists in between, he added.

"As a matter of fact, the charges made by Republicans and Democrats against each other amount to mass slander sometimes," the legislator noted.

## SOC Winter Term Classes Scheduled

Ashland-Winter term registration at Southern Oregon college will be held Jan. 3, the last day to register without penalty. Saturday, Jan. 14, will be the final day for all registration or for the addition of new courses.

Evening classes to be held at the college during winter term include: ceramics (2 credit hours), Monday or Tuesday, 7, 8, 9 p.m., Britt 103; painting (2 credit hours), Tuesday, 7, 8, 9 p.m., Britt 111; orchestra (1 hour credit), Monday, 7:30 p.m., Churchill 207; appreciation aspects of music (3 hours credit), Tuesday, 7, 8, 9 p.m., Churchill 207; problems in education (seniors only, 3 hours credit), Monday, 7, 8, 9 p.m., Churchill 108; applied mental hygiene (graduate credit, 3 hours), Thursday, 7, 8, 9 p.m., Churchill 203; principles and practices in curriculum construction (graduate credit, 3 hours), Monday, 7, 8, 9 p.m., Churchill 203; first aid (3 hours credit), Thursday, 6:45 p.m., gym 101; skating (1 hour credit), Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., at the rink; skate dance (1 hour credit), Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., at the rink; social dance (1 hour credit), Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., in the ballroom; phonetics (3 hours credit), Tuesday, 7, 8, 9 p.m., clinic.

All of the classes may be taken at a cost of \$11 per term hour with a minimum fee charged of \$22. Registration for classes meeting on Wednesdays and Thursdays will be held at the regularly scheduled class time during the week of Jan. 3 to 6.

Classes meeting on Monday or Tuesday evenings will hold their first class during the week of Jan. 9 to 13 at the regularly appointed time. The last day to register for an evening class is at the second regular meeting.

**Lions Club To Pick Up Christmas Trees**

Central Point—The Central Point Lions club will pick up used Christmas trees on Wednesday, Jan. 1, according to Lyle Paull, publicity director for the club.

Paull said persons desiring to have their trees picked up should put them in front of their homes between the hours of 1 and 4 p.m.

Paull said there will be no charge for the service, but if anyone wants to donate to the Lions they should place their donation in an envelope and leave it with the tree.

**Pharmacy Phacts**

From GENE WESTLAND

New discoveries are coming along so fast in drugs that it's often hard to realize that only 20 to 30 years ago the only disease that doctors could prevent with a drug was smallpox. There were many diseases for which there was just no help—diseases that took millions of lives. Now illnesses like lockjaw, polio, typhoid fever, diphtheria and the many nutritional deficiencies are either lessened or conquered by the wonderful new drugs which stop them before they get a chance to destroy lives. You have heard us talk about today's prescription being the biggest bargain in all history. The reasons given above are the proof of it.

To an ever increasing number of friends and customers, McLain's Drug Centre is becoming known as prescription specialists. Prescription filling is our business, so we are glad to be establishing a reliable reputation in our field. Remember, we are located in the center of the downtown business district, 8 No. Central. —Adv.

## Heavy Fog, Icy Roads Cause Several Accidents in Valley

Four persons were injured in one of several accidents occurring in the heavy fog and on icy roads Friday and Saturday morning.

Friday, a mother and her three children were injured when a car driven by the mother, Mrs. Delores Elizabeth Voss, route 3, Box 169M Medford, missed the road at the intersection of the North Phoenix and Barnett roads, took out several feet of pasture fencing, and hit a telephone pole, breaking it off at the base.

The injured children were Lorrie Voss, 5; Stephen, 3; and David, 10 months. All except Lorrie Voss were treated at Sacred Heart hospital and released. The five-year-old girl was reported in good condition Saturday morning. Another child in the car, Denise, 4, received no injuries, state police said.

Foggy weather and icy roads caused accidents Friday

morning at the Tolo overcrossing when several vehicles piled into each other. The road and bridge had been sanded but the cars were traveling too fast for the conditions, state police said.

Drivers were Larry Lee Logghe, 27, Santa Clara, Calif.; George Henry Kitchen, 64, Vernonia, Ore.; Wallace Arnold Gabrielson, 34, Castro Valley, Calif.; and Joel Knox, 43, Bandon, Ore.

Two rear-end accidents occurred within a few minutes of each other Friday morning at the Stewart ave. and Highway 99 junction. Involved in one were truck driver Bert Julius Stals Jr., 44, of 702 Park st., Medford, and Frederick Paul Meyers, 27, Sunnyvale, Calif., and in the second John Milton Cook, 49, Phoenix, and Gene Harold Hillhouse, 20, Sunnyvale.

Later Friday morning, another rear-end collision occurred between vehicles driven by Homer Jackson Hyllton, 54, of 315 Laurel st., Medford, and Charles Francis Daeges, 29, Ben Lomond, Calif., on Highway 99 about a mile south of Medford.

Friday night, a car driven by Hubert Paul Bentley, 24, Grants Pass, slipped on an icy curve near Jacksonville and slid over a bank.

Also on Friday, trucks driven by Franklin Ray Lindsey, 23, of route 1, box 319, Eagle Point, and Eugene Ray Arnold, 29, of route 2, box 495, Gold Hill, collided near the entrance to Burrill Lumber company on Agate rd.

A car driven by Junior Lee Parker, 32, of route 2, box 568X, Central Point, struck two Hereford heifers on the Table Rock rd. Friday afternoon, about 1½ miles south of the Sams Valley highway, state police said. Both animals, owned by the Reter Fruit company, were killed. They were being driven by the ranch foreman, Benny Peck.

**Accidents in City**

Medford city police reported several non-injury accidents Friday.

Adding to the traffic difficulties of icy pavement and foggy weather was removal of wires from the traffic signal control box at Oakdale ave. and West Main st. later Friday night, and the placing of cans in the street in front of the YMCA at West Sixth st.

A Kenworth truck and two trailers driven by Clarence Edward Smith, Portland, ran into a ditch off McAndrews rd. between Biddle rd. and Riverside ave.

A car driven by John Quincy Adams, 2495 West Main st., ran into a ditch at West Main and Jeanette sts.

Donald Thurston Wilmsion, 1407 West Main st., Medford, reported a car ran over his lawn Friday night.

A car driven by Bruce Wellington Moffat, 2178 Spring st., ran off the road near the intersection of Modoc and Hillcrest rds.

Three vehicles were involved in a collision at East Main st. at Crater Lake ave. They were driven by Herbert Clement Ridd Jr., 2323 Arnold ave., Medford; 547 Bessie st., Medford, and by Arthur Hill Shackleton Gilmore, 128 South Keeneway dr., Medford.

Cars driven by Wilma Gertrude McLean, Grants Pass, and John Coleman Norris, 831 Minnesota ave., collided Friday at Eighth and Grape sts., city police records show.

## Seasons of a Bird Watcher



Fall 1960

Anybody that watches birds gets a special pleasure from seeing them around the place where he lives. I am fortunate to live in a favorable spot, so every two weeks I keep a list of the species I see in a seven day period. Any week in the year if I watch I can find as many as 20 species and often over 30. My total for the year on the home place broke all records, with 78.

This goes to show that increasing population and many new houses in the neighborhood haven't reduced the number of birds much. It has cut down, though, on the number of individual quail in the flocks.

New ones seen on the place this year and never before were barn swallows and marsh hawks flying over, and a mountain bluebird which perched in a tree by the church and gave me a good view. As before I saw great blue herons and kingfishers flying over. These birds are easily recognized in flight.

We have a few somewhat unusual observations to record for the fall season. We saw a hummingbird at our penstemon flowers on Oct. 25, which is a pretty late date for this species. Ralph Browning has an even more remarkable late record. He saw a male Bullock's oriole on Nov. 22 as he was going home from high school in Phoenix. J. H. and I saw at least three chipping sparrows on Nov. 28. There are always a few summer birds that linger, but this seems to have been a good year for that.

J. H. was also responsible for another unusual record. On Nov. 13 he saw red phalaropes on a pond near his cabin on the Rogue. This kind of phalarope is an ocean or coastal species and rarely strays inland. Wilson's phalaropes probably nest around Hoover lake in the summer because we often see them there. Phalaropes are interesting birds because they are the feminists of the avian world. The females are the more brightly colored, and the males do all the incubating of the eggs.

J. H. and I were together one fall day when he spotted and identified a rough-legged hawk. After he pointed it out I could confirm that this was what it was. We have been looking for this hawk in our valley for years, and it was quite exciting finally to see it. As a matter of fact I had never seen one anywhere before, but J. H. had seen them in eastern Oregon.

It was on Nov. 7 we saw this hawk, and J. H. saw it again later. This particular trip was one of the best we ever made. When we started out it was a little showery and we thought we wouldn't see much, but we ended up with 57 species on our four hour trip. We saw a lot of ducks on Gardiner Reservoir.

Now the season of our Christmas Bird Count has again come around. We had a little meeting a while ago to plan for it and set Friday, Dec. 30, for our date. We will count birds again in the 15-mile diameter circle centering about a mile south of White City. It includes all of Medford, Roxy Anne, both Table Rocks, the Rogue River from Gold Key dam almost to Dodge Bridge, and a great portion of valley, extending on the west side quite a distance into the hills above Old Military Road.

Phone calls or notes from readers of this column helped us quite a little on last year's count. We located our barn owls that way then, and I think we know where we can find them still. Does anybody know where great horned owls roost regularly, or do they keep moving around? How about screech owls? They are supposed to be permanent residents in Oregon, but I don't recall ever seeing one in the winter.

Another species that readers might help us locate is the slate-colored junco. Oregon juncos are among our commonest winter birds, but there are often one or two slate-colored juncos among the hundreds of the commoner species. I won't attempt to describe them but any one with the aid of a good bird book can pick them out if they come to your feeder, or close to the house. The standard bird book that most of us use is Peterson's Field Guide to Western Birds.

Phone me at SP 2-8860 if you have any of this information to impart. You may call me also if you would like to join us on the Christmas bird count.—T.M.

## Winter Pears To Get Promotion

Winter pears from the Rogue valley will receive their second national advertising and sales promotion campaign of the current season, beginning in mid-January and continuing into February, according to R. A. (Dick) Patterson, general manager of the Oregon-Washington-California Pear bureau at Portland.

The promotion, in behalf of D'Anjou, Bosc and Comice pears, will utilize more than 70 radio stations in 31 of the country's most populated areas. The main theme is "All Good Things Come in Pears."

The fresh pears will be featured as lunchbox favorites and "perfect partners" with meat, cheese and salads. Retailers throughout the country are tying-in with the current advertising campaign, by making use of colorful display and promotional materials, as well as building large displays of D'Anjou, Bosc and Comice pears.

Due to three deaths during the last thirty days in Mrs. Bray's family, we take this opportunity to thank all our friends and patients for the beautiful cards sent to us, and wish all of you—

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dr. and Mrs. Jovett P. Bray

2100 Siskiyou Blvd., Chapel in The Trees

May your Christmas be filled with peace and with something of the calm joy of the very first Christmas.

**HOLY NIGHT**

SP 2-5488

**SISKIYOU**

funeral service

605 Highland Drive

Siskiyou Memorial Park

MORTUARY CEMETERY

MAUSOLEUM CREMATORY

Acme Office Machines

1949 W. Main - SP 3-7964

Remington Rand

605 Highland Drive

Siskiyou Memorial Park

Acme Office Machines

1949 W. Main - SP 3-7964

Remington Rand

605 Highland Drive

Siskiyou Memorial Park

MORTUARY CEMETERY

MAUSOLEUM CREMATORY