

By EVA HAMILTON
 Mail Tribune Staff Writer
 Fifty years ago Thursday, ground was broken for Oregon's Pacific Highway, starting highway construction in this state, which has gained steady momentum since that date. It happened in Jackson County under what the press described that day as "most auspicious circumstances."

reporting the event, read: "West Scalds Bowlby-TouVelle Foes."
Ground Breaking
 The ground breaking was attended by a crowd of 700 persons and the governor's speech was described by the reporter as the "sensational of the day." It charged "disgruntled contractors" with attempts "to get County Judge TouVelle" through false entries in their books to make it appear that he had used his position to secure automobile tires for his own use at greatly reduced prices.

authorities for rigid investigation. "We have known of the attitude of these crooks for over a year," the governor was quoted. "As soon as it was known that Oregon was to have a state highway commissioner, they tried to dictate his appointment and they got just the man they did not want. Then they tried to get to him. It didn't take them long to learn that was a vain effort and now they are trying to get him and the county officials when they find them determined that the people shall get a dollar's value in public work for every dollar spent."
Highway Engineer
 This report gives the definite impression that Major H. L. Bowlby was state highway commissioner but glimpse into history reveals that the highway

commission was not created until 1917 and later in the local newspaper report Major Bowlby is identified as "highway engineer." This was undoubtedly his position on Nov. 28, 1913. Samuel Hill of Maryhill, Wash., was honor guest of the day in recognition of his years of "energetic efforts in behalf of good roads and the example set in building miles of model paved highways traversing his 7,000-acre estate overlooking the Columbia."
 "Jackson county points the way and leads Oregon," Hill declared in response to the plaudits handed him. "His example will be rapidly followed by all," he concluded.
 B. K. Lawson, superintendent of the state penitentiary, attended the ground breaking, having come south to make

arrangements for the convict labor camp. The camp was to provide for 100 convicts who carried out the heavy rock work on the Siskiyou grade, which was not included in the contract.
County Road Building
 Prior to that time, the few citizens left to remember, recall that road building in Jackson

County had amounted for the most part to hauling an occasional load of gravel to fill up the mud holes. This was frequently done by persons wishing to work out their poll taxes, which were then in effect. Those were exciting days however, in more areas than road expansion in Jackson

county, a perusal of the same newspaper reveals. It was the period in which Medford was in the regular itinerary of the best road shows that toured the nation. The coming of the famous Anna Held was announced for Dec. 4 at the Page theater on East Main street at Bear Creek bridge, the theater which

was gutted by fire Dec. 30, 1923. Many of the stars and leaders of the period are unknown to present day citizens. But not the late Judge TouVelle, who gave Oregon its TouVelle State Park at Bybee bridge. His name is known to many thousands who enjoy his gift summer after summer.

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Jackson County people had approved a \$500,000 bond issue to finance highway construction, taking advantage of the 1910 amendment to the state constitution which permitted counties to create indebtedness for road building purposes.
 Contract for grading the new road over the Siskiyou had been let during the preceding week for \$107,534.
 Last Friday, 50 years later, another contract was let for highway construction in the Siskiyou. It demonstrates how times have changed, price-wise. The Slate-Hall Construction Co., Portland, was low bidder with a bid for \$3,512,034 on the Interstate 5 section from the Siskiyou Highway south 2.29 miles to the summit. The bids were opened by the State Highway Department in Salem.

In 1913, Jackson County was the first county in Oregon to take advantage of the opportunity opened up for road construction. Much was made of this fact at the ground breaking ceremonies held near Kingsbury Springs at the foot of the new Siskiyou grade that wintry day in November.

Much also was made of an apparent state controversy which had centered in Jackson County with the late Judge Frank L. TouVelle as recipient of the major barbs.
 Oregon Gov. Oswald West was speaker of the day. He called "a spade a spade" in a manner seldom heard, and less frequently published today.

Front page headlines in the Mail Tribune of Nov. 29, 1913,



START OF HIGHWAY—The late Samuel Hill of Maryhill, Wash., is shown in this photo lifting the first shovel of dirt in the ground breaking for construction of the Pacific Highway over the Siskiyou. On his left in the foreground is former Governor Oswald West. On Hill's left in the front row stands J. T. (Jack) Summerville, who later served as U.S. Marshal in Oregon. On Summerville's left is Ben Sheldon, then Oregon legislator from Jackson County. Directly behind Sheldon stands the late Judge Frank TouVelle. Judge William Colvig, the only man not wearing a hat, is viewing the ceremony over Hill's right shoulder. The man in the raincoat on the far right is believed to be the late George Putnam, then editor of the Mail Tribune. Others present in this particular delegation were Robert W. Ruhl, present editor and publisher of the Mail Tribune; Dr. E. B. Pickel, Senator H. Von der Hellen, J. A. Westerlund, Dr. J. M. Keene, W. H. Gore, W. I. Vawter, Alfred S. V. Carpenter, Porter J. Neff, W. H. Canon, George A. Gardner, A. S. Rosenbaum, C. Y. Tengwald, J. R. Woodford, Perry Ashcraft and F. A. Kittridge. The picture, taken by J. O. Gerking, is from the scrapbook of Lee M. Summerville, Portland, son of the late J. T. Summerville.

PET TALK
 By M. I. L.

SANTA'S REINDEER
 Christmas wouldn't be the same without Santa's spirited reindeer. Children and adults alike love them. The mere mention of reindeer conjures up a picture in every young mind of Dasher and Dancer, Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid, Donner and Blitzen or perhaps simply of Rudolph. When Rudolph was added to Santa's family of eight there were those who scoffed and said he wouldn't last. By now, however, they are convinced he is doing his job well and has become a trusted guide for Santa's team.
 Several years ago Santa was saddened by a rumor which spread through Christmas crowds. Reindeer, according to the rumor are vicious beasts. Santa came to the defense of his team immediately. He assured people that reindeer are not in the least vicious. They are spirited and playful and sometimes their curiosity gets them into trouble, but basically they are shy and gentle animals.
 Reindeer come in two models, the Scandinavian model and its larger American cousin, the caribou. Second cousins, aunts and uncles roam the earth from north to south.
 Most reindeer are easy to tame. That, together with their sleigh-bell sound which their two spray toes make as they trot along a hard surface may account for their connection with Christmas. According to legend Saint Nicholas first rode on a white horse. Folk tales all represent Saint Nick as coming from the north so perhaps that's why he was given the reindeer as his beasts of burden.
 About the turn of the century reindeer first came to live in the Alaskan tundra where they still make their summer home and move to a woodland or mountainous area only as fall and winter come.
 Today it is hard to imagine Christmas without Santa and his beloved reindeer moving through the sky as if by magic. It was Clement Moore who planted this picture into our minds with his famous poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas" written in 1822. Before that time reindeer were not necessarily associated with Christmas. Since then Santa has learned to depend upon his family of whimsical reindeer whose antics keep him amused all year. For each Christmas they put whinsey aside and turn in a top performance on their grand global tour.

Chinese Refuse Kennedy Tribute

WARSAW (UPI)—Communist China, which has continued its attacks on President Kennedy since his death, broke up a Communist-sponsored peace meeting here Thursday by refusing to take part in a tribute to him.
 Peking's reaction to the President's assassination has been in sharp contrast to that of Moscow and the Soviet bloc. Where the Russians and their allies have offered praise and condolences, the Chinese have given scorn and ridicule.
 Two days after Kennedy's assassination, Peking published a cartoon of him captioned "Kennedy Bites the Dust," and it has denounced both the late President and his successor, President Johnson, in broadcasts.

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Maybe Monkey Sign Should Be Larger
KIRBY MISPERTON, England (UPI)— Zoo officials said Friday they have paid more than \$200 to visitors this year compensating them for articles stolen by zoo monkeys.
 Most of the articles were eyeglasses snatched by the monkeys when the wearers bent forward to read a monkey cage sign. "Warning—these monkeys snatch glasses."

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