

Assassination, Mt. Ashland Ski Area Among Top Stories of Year

Features **MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE** Sports

MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1963



A sign was placed in the hillside for John F. Kennedy on his flight over Rogue Basin Project sites.



The eclipse of the sun in July left half-moon shadows of the leaves of trees.



Pipeline installation was the first step in bringing natural gas to Southern Oregon.



Work progressed on Interstate 5 over the Siskiyou; other freeway sections were opened.



Construction of resort facilities on Mt. Ashland was pushed toward opening late in year.



Valley girls train for 50-mile hiking craze, which died out soon after it started.



Radio Station KDOV was leveled by fire, one of the major ones in Medford during 1963.

The assassination of John F. Kennedy was the top news story of the year, and it left its impact in Southern Oregon. The sobering effect of the assassination upon the public just before Thanksgiving, the resulting memorial services throughout the area, and the period of mourning was listed as one of the top local news stories of general interest during the year.

No one local news development during the year was listed as the top one by Mail Tribune news department personnel, however. Votes for the top local story of general interest were divided between the effect of the assassination and the development of the Mt. Ashland Ski area.

Each of the two events received three first place votes. Developments in the Rogue Basin Project received two votes for the top general news story of the year.

Other First Place Votes Noted

Other first place votes went to small pear crop, which was about half the normal harvest; the effect of Oregon's tax problems locally; the dismissal of a Grants Pass police officer and the resulting reaction by Grants Pass residents; and the Oregon Shakespearean Festival and Peter Britt Music Festival.

The top "spot" news story of the year was the attempted extortion earlier this month of Allan Perry, manager of the Medford Branch of the U.S. National Bank of Portland. The story received six votes for first place.

Four first place votes for the top "spot" news story went to the Russell Osborne case in Ashland. Osborne was found dead in his apartment, and in September Harold James Bi-beau was sentenced on a manslaughter charge in connection with Osborne's death.

Fires Also Receive Votes

Other first place votes for the top "spot" news story of the year went to the fire which leveled radio station KDOV south of Medford and to the fire which destroyed the interior and contents of Building Materials, Inc., 944 S. Central Ave., Medford, just before Christmas.

In the feature-type story category, the events stemming from a proposal for a by-pass of Jacksonville of Oregon 238 received six of the 12 votes cast in the poll. Events in Medford's Sister City program received four first place votes as the top feature-type story.

Other feature-type stories which received first place votes included one of two local Boy Scouts attending an international jamboree in Greece and stories about the eclipse of the sun visible in the area.

Top Stories Are Listed

The three top stories in each of the three categories with the number of votes are:

General news (stories which have a continuing effect or impact on the area):

1. The effect of John F. Kennedy's assassination and Mt. Ashland Ski area development (three votes each).
2. Development of Mt. Ashland (six votes).
3. Developments in the Rogue Basin Project, highway construction in the area and effects of Oregon's tax problems (each received three votes for third place).

Spot news (stories which make headlines at first, but which are soon replaced by other news developments):

1. Extortion attempt (six votes).
2. Russell Osborne case, fire at KDOV and extortion attempt (three and four votes).
3. Fatalities on the area's highways (six votes).

List of Feature-Type Stories

Feature-type (stories which appeal to the human aspect or are amusing, but non-violent):

1. Jacksonville highway by-pass (six votes).
2. Eclipse of the sun visible here (six votes).
3. Zip code numbers adopted by post office department, Jacksonville highway by-pass and 50-mile hikers (each received three votes).

Many other stories which developed during the year received votes for one or more places in the list, but those listed are judged the top ones in their category by members of the news department.

(A month by month review of activities in the area appears on page 2B.)



The new Safeway store in the Medford Shopping Center is among new buildings during the year.