

Luepke Way

Mr. C. F. Luepke was a businessman and dedicated public servant. He owned and operated the Luepke Hardware Store for thirty-five years. It was located at the southwest corner of Main and State Streets in Medford.



(Photo from Zeit Collection)



(Photo by Loretta Kuse in 2008)

Mr. Luepke served as Medford's sixteenth mayor. He served consecutive terms for 24 years from 1922 until 1946.



Mayor Luepke on the Job in 1922
(Photo – Courtesy of the Taylor County Historical Society)



Tourist Camp in Medford
Painting by Walter Kuse

At the beginning of his term, he was interested in promoting tourism. People came to Medford to enjoy the Black River and then camp nearby. A tourist's log house had been built at the Medford City Park. A real estate agent, Herman Koehler, and Mr. Luepke talked with tourists to find out what they wanted and needed.

Tourists' Conveniences

A number of conveniences have been added at the tourists' log house at the Medford City Park. A sink, donated by John Kostner has been installed. A rustic background for electric lights has been put in place on the ceiling. A pile of firewood has been provided and the comfort of tourists has been looked after in every way. Herman Koehler and **C. F. Luepke** have been talking to tourists from time to time to get their point of view on what a tourists' camp ought to be, with the result that the Medford camp is gradually becoming one of the best. (Taylor County Star-News. August 24, 1922.)

In 1931, Walter Kuse was asked to prepare a fishing scene carved from wood, to be used in a window display scene in the **Luepke hardware store show window**. It was used to advertise fishing equipment for local people and tourists.

In 1936, Mr. Luepke served on a committee that helped Mr. Charles E. Martin make application for having a new federal building, the Post Office erected.

Mr. Luepke was one of the charter directors for the Medford Federal Savings and Loan now known as Time Federal. He served on the board for the State Bank of Medford for forty-two years and was president of the board for

several years. He retired from the board in 1962. He was a member of the United Methodist Church.

Mr. Luepke was very active in the Commercial Club. On September 15, 1953, the Commercial Club became the Chamber of Commerce. "The motion to change the name of the club was made by a member of long standing, who was instrumental in establishing the club in Medford back in the early 20's. He was **C. F. Luepke, past city mayor**, charter member and first president of the club." (Swan, p. 185)

Mr. Luepke was born April 27, 1876, in Spencer and lived to be ninety-four years old. He was very active until late in life. His first wife, Susan, died in 1921 and his second wife Irene died in 1958. He spent the last two years in the Memorial Nursing Home.

(Note – Luepke was pronounced Lip' – key.)

Sources With References to the Luepke Family

Taylor County Star-News. August 24, 1922, Vol. XLVII, No. 21.

Swan, M., and Swan, S. (1974). 1874-1974 Centennial Medford Area Historical Album. Culbert Swan Productions, pp. 175, 179, 185.

Star News, May 7, 1931

Star News, December 24, 1970.

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