

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
Published by MEDFORD PRINTING CO.
Daily Except Saturday
Subscription Rates:
By Mail—In Advance:
Daily and Sunday—six months \$7.50
Daily and Sunday—three months \$4.50
Daily and Sunday—one month \$1.50

Ye Smudge Pot
By Arthur Perry

Warning against any "over-optimism" by the people for an early ending of the war, have been sounded by high Washington officials.

This is the week before election and one of great oratorical agony. Candidates will implore the voters to "keep their shirts on", "hold onto their horses", and "watch their blood pressure", without doing the same themselves.

"Who will get to Berlin first? Eleanor" (Newport (Ore.) Review)—Sounds logical but not likely.

Sen. Truman, New Deal vice presidential candidate, denies he was ever a member of the Ku Klux Klan. Many believe Sen. Truman because he did give the 1920 answer. It was "I do not belong to the Klan, but from all I hear it must be a fine organization".

THRILL OF A LIFE TIME (The Dallas Chronicle)
"And now it is Sheriff Sears who discovered the cley to the express robbery. Multnomah's sheriff can prove an alibi, for he has been rattled ever since he led the K. of P. parade three weeks ago." (50 Yrs. Ago Col.)

Yesterday many farmers were driven to town by the rain, their wives, or oldest boy.

The election of Gov. Dewey, GOP standard bearer, would cause "misgivings" in all foreign lands, a commentator notes. It is none of their business. No matter who is chosen next Tuesday, Congress will have the final say about the distribution of beans and cash in Europe in the post-war period.

WHY BRING THAT UP? (Bend Bulletin)
"From the headquarters of the ninth service command at Fort Douglas, Utah, come suggestions for the observance of hallowe'en and from Washington suggestions about paper saving. The Fort Douglas release even provides recipes. Question to the fort's publicity man: "Don't you know there's a war on?"

The Hallowe'en havoc wreaked so far on the community lacks zip and zest. However, soap marks on business district windows will be removed promptly and not left up longer than a circus poster.

There are now more republicans than democrats registered in Oregon. This is a hopeful sign, as the trend this year shows the republicans will vote republican with gusto, as has not been their habit since 1932.

Bill Frouty, the veteran movie reel cranker of the Craterian, now sports a watch as a reward of 20 years of watching beauties kiss, kick and kill film queens, or get hit with a barrel stave. The timepiece is as far from anything produced by Mr. Ingersoll, as it is possible to get. Congrats William.

DANGER FOR THE SKY
South Bend, Ind.—(U.P.)—Mrs. Cora Downing suffered only head lacerations when a flower pot fell from the fifth floor of a building and hit her while she waited for a bus.

The Independent Vote

A week from today is "E" day. How many voters here in Southern Oregon, and in the country, at large, have not yet decided how they will vote? We wish we knew. But we don't. Here, however, is our guess: The number is not large comparatively speaking, but it is far larger than is usual such a short time before a presidential election.

AND the reason is—as we see it—the situation is such a complicated one. There are so many factors to be considered. It is so hard—we are speaking now of the independent, not the partisan voter for whom of course the question was decided at birth—to decide just what is best and what isn't. And that is all that interests the genuinely independent voter.

He—or she—doesn't give a hoop about the party, or the platforms, or the table-thumping speeches, but he—or she—does care a lot about what will be best for the country, not only this month and next, but for this year, and next year and for TWO YEARS after that!

SO it IS difficult. For not only is there the war to consider, but there are so many other matters, some the products of that war some not, which will vitally affect the welfare of this country and all the people in it, for many years to come.

There is the difficult matter of post-war reconstruction and economic readjustment for example, which looking forward for four more years may well be the outstanding problem—rather than the war—of the administration which is to take office this next January.

WHICH party, which candidate, is best qualified to handle THAT? And the war? Is the political complexion of the White House so important that a change next January would in any REAL sense, impair the marvelous war machines which are driving slowly but relentlessly on to Berlin and Tokyo?

That is the Democratic implication. Some of the more ardent New Dealers maintain (in effect) that not the country but the Democratic party is fighting this war, and for the party to lose political control would be equivalent to a major allied catastrophe.

Of course that is nonsense—worse than nonsense. And the independent voter knows it. But just how MUCH a change in administration WOULD affect the war he—or she—doesn't know, and very likely scores of them, right here in Medford, will spend considerable time during the rest of this week, trying in their own minds, very conscientiously to find out.

SO more than ever before perhaps in recent American history, the independent vote in this election is a vote in a state of flux and will be right up to the final bell. Also, more than ever before that independent vote, small as it may be, compared with the two major-party votes, may well hold the balance of power, may well be the deciding factor in the final result.

When The War Ends

Regarding one point, there has been practically no disagreement in this campaign, namely: Were there no war, the Roosevelt administration would be thrown out of office by a landslide vote. We have heard about as many Democrats as Republicans, admit the truth of that statement. Just what does it mean?

IT means that the American people, as a whole, want a chance in Washington—want it badly—and if it were not for the war they would insist upon it NOW. But the war gives them pause. And that is all that gives them pause.

Had the war ended before election day, nothing could have saved the Roosevelt administration. And when it does end—this year, next year, or the year following—what will be the situation if President Roosevelt be reelected?

The American people will have a man in the White House and a party in control they DON'T WANT! Had they the powers the people of England have, for example, they would then overthrow the government in a general plebiscite. But because a four-year term under our system can't be abridged, this would be impossible. The Democrats would be in there to stay, nothing could get them out short of four years.

IN other words the country would have for at least two years, perhaps longer, and during a period when domestic policies would far overshadow in importance foreign policies, an administration in control, which had lost the confidence of the people, undoubtedly the support of the congress, and would be not only tired out and generally discredited but powerless to act effectively in any direction.

THIS picture of the future is not fantastic. It is not only entirely probable, but as we see it, practically inevitable in the event of choosing four more years of the Roosevelt administration. It is a factor we are certain the independent voters at least will give the most careful consideration before they finally mark their ballots on November 7th!

SPEEDUP ORDERED IN PRODUCTION OF INFANT GARMENTS

Acute Shortage in Underwear for Children Between Ages of 2-14 Years

(Copyright, 1944. By United Press)
The nation is experiencing a shortage of children's clothing so severe that in five leading cities it is virtually impossible to clothe completely a child from the stocks of leading retail stores, a United Press survey disclosed today.

Merchants in Boston, Atlanta, Chicago, New York, and San Francisco reported such a scarcity in diapers that some expressed wonderment that there hadn't been a unified outcry of distress from new parents. Baby shirts and socks also were scarce and in all cities it was said to be impossible to buy at retail complete layettes.

Undies Lacking
The most acute shortage was in underwear for boys and girls between the ages of two and 14. In all five cities it was reportedly unobtainable. Children's pajamas were practically non-existent. Knickerbockers and little girl dresses were estimated by some merchants at as low as 15 per cent of the demand.

Last week the War Production Board ordered speedup production and distribution of about 30,000,000 pieces of infant and children clothing between Dec. 1, 1944, and Feb. 28, 1945. The order made available to manufacturers 40,000,000 yards of specified cotton materials, such as broadcloth, flannel, denim, poplins, and prints. The order was aimed particularly at providing a supply of low-priced items which, according to the United Press survey, had all but disappeared from the market.

Merchants attributed the shortage to lack of materials and manpower. All cities reported that parents were accepting the shortages philosophically as one of the inconveniences of wartime living. The same layettes were being used by successions of babies, being passed from one family to the next through many friends. Older children were being outfitted similarly in hand-me-downs. Mothers were wanting to make underwear, shirts, and dresses on their own sewing machines had created shortages in plain cotton cloth.

Prices Creep Up
The merchants interviewed acknowledged increases in prices over the prewar levels despite OPA price ceilings. New York merchants gave these examples: Children's sweaters detailing for \$5 that formerly sold for \$2.98, boys' suits formerly selling for \$25, now selling at \$35 to \$40, a dozen dresses for small girls that before the war cost \$9.25 wholesale, now costing \$15.

A Chicago merchant said he had a stock of girl coats, size four, at \$42.50 that were "almost identical" with coats he sold before the war at \$20. A San Francisco department store buyer said \$3.50 now was the popular price for a girl's dress. It used to be \$2.25.

An official of the Atlanta branch of the office of civilian requirements said \$1.25 now was the lowest level for children's garments. Before the war it was 50 cents.

Seek Agents Of Marijuana Ring

Gary, Ind., Oct. 31—(U.P.)—A search for 141 agents of a nation-wide marijuana ring centered in six cities and engaged in selling the narcotic to teen-aged users was launched today following arrest yesterday of 12 alleged ringleaders by Gary police and federal narcotics agents.

Capt. Peter Billicek of the Gary police department said 14 more leaders were sought here. In addition, 40 agents were sought in Detroit, 30 in New Orleans, 20 in New York, 25 in San Francisco, and 12 in St. Louis, he said.

Chicago, Oct. 31—(U.P.)—The shoe industry came up today with a wartime solution to the leather shortage—shoes made of a mixture of air, water, gas, salt and a handful of chemicals.

These elements are being blended into a plastic, transparent or opaque, styled for comfort, yet beautiful enough to make a debutante's eyes sparkle, designers said at the opening of the national shoe fair.

Color and plastics will be the twin keystones of the 1945 spring season, the exhibition of shoe styles indicated. Lemon yellow, chartreuse, blue, red, purple and lime appeared singly and in contrast on soles, or in splashes on uppers, giving a new flash to footwear no longer under the war-imposed color limitations.

From industry's laboratories have come the developments in vinyl plastics, creating a two-way trend affecting postwar manufacturing of men's, women's and children's shoes.

American Doughboys Hit Philippine Beach



Men and ammunition pour from LST's and LCIs lying off beach near Tacloban, capital of Leyte, as American troops, led by Gen. MacArthur, invaded the Philippines, to average Corregidor and Bataan. Photo by Tom Shafer, NEA-Acme photograph for War Picture Pool.

PLASTIC SHOES SEEN SOLUTION IN LEATHER LACK

Chicago, Oct. 31—(U.P.)—The shoe industry came up today with a wartime solution to the leather shortage—shoes made of a mixture of air, water, gas, salt and a handful of chemicals.

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J. R. Price, of the Union Carbide and Carbon corporation's consumer division, said that "the role of vinyl plastics in shoes from the buyers' viewpoint will be more than aesthetic."

"Children's scuff-proof shoes and men's plastic-treated work and sport shoes are industry's answer to a public still harassed by airplane and jeep stamps," he said.

This versatile plastic can be fashioned into an evening slipper to resemble silver-spun glass and in an afternoon pump and handbag ensemble to resemble patent leather. It is made of vinyl resin powder mixed, plasticized, and pigmented to a dough which after going through a roller comes out as tissue-thin sheets.

At present millions of these sheets go to war. A display at the shoe exhibit showed uses ranging from waterproof seamless gun cases, cable coverings and shatter-proof glass to base hospital supplies.

Daily Weather Report

Forecast: Medford and vicinity: Partly cloudy with showers tonight and Wednesday; slightly warmer Wednesday.
Local Data:
Temperature a year ago today: Highest, 55; lowest, 32.
Total monthly precipitation, 1.12 inches; deficiency for the month, 2.3 inches.
Total precipitation since September 1, 1944, 9.2 inches. Deficiency for the season, .08 inch.
Relative humidity at 4:30 p. m. yesterday, 92%; at 3:30 today, 98%.

Who Was To Blame?

To the editor: The president in his New York and other speeches blamed the republicans for being responsible for the failure of the country to be prepared for war when Japan attacked the United States. From 1933 to and including 1941 the president had an overwhelming "yes-yes" New Deal congress that did his bidding as obediently as a school boy. Let us look at the record:

The membership of the house of representatives for the following years was as follows:
1933-35 DEM. 313 REP. 117
1935-37 DEM. 322 REP. 103
1937-39 DEM. 333 REP. 89
1939-41 DEM. 262 REP. 169
1941-43 DEM. 267 REP. 162
1943-44 DEM. 222 REP. 209

The membership of the senate for the same time was as follows:
1933-35 DEM. 59 REP. 36
1935-37 DEM. 69 REP. 25
1937-39 DEM. 75 REP. 17
1939-41 DEM. 69 REP. 23
1941-43 DEM. 66 REP. 28
1943-44 DEM. 57 REP. 19

Down to 1943 each session but one he had more than a hundred majority in the house. Each session of the senate excepting the present congress he had from 23 to 58 majority and the responsibility for the failure of the country to be prepared for war is distinctly the president's responsibility.

There were but two occasions when the congress declined to be obsequious enough to do his bidding. One was when he vetoed the bill that was passed granting relief to the veterans of other wars; the other was when it declined to assist him in packing the supreme court. That was a dose too nauseating for even the docile democrats to swallow, and Senators Glass, Wheeler, Burke, Byrd and many other Democratic senators declined to take it.

He shudder even at this time to think what would happen to any country lawyer if he attempted to pack a jury in order to get a favorable decision in his case.

From 1935 down to the actual outbreak of the war with Japan, Ambassador Grew, the president's own ambassador to Japan, repeatedly advised the president of the purposes of Japan to take the Philippine islands and to attack the United States; but he never told the American people about it and the first they definitely knew of the hostile purposes of Japan was Pearl Harbor.

After Japan sought to conquer China the president loaned millions of dollars out of the United States treasury to China to defend herself against Japan; and at the same time he permitted millions of tons of scrap iron and thousands of tons of oil to be shipped to Japan to be used in his fight against China. Acts of duplicity that have scarcely been equaled in the history of the world! Doubtless a lot of this scrap iron was afterwards used to shoot down American soldiers and sailors at Pearl Harbor and a large percentage of the oil was used to completely destroy the American navy at Pearl Harbor.

Yet with all this information the president had, and the American people did not have, he now accuses the republicans of being responsible for the failure of the country to be prepared for war. It was the president's responsibility to advise the country of its danger but he did not do so; and it is his responsibility for this country not to have been prepared for war at Pearl Harbor, and thousands of American soldiers and billions of dollars of American property are the price which American homes and American property interests have paid for the president's failure to inform the country and to have suitable preparations for war. He failed to tell the country in 1936 and 1940 of these grave dangers because he thought if he did so that he might lose his candidacy for the presidency each of those times.

To him it was more necessary to be elected president than it was to guard the destiny of his country and the lives of the young men of his country.

The result, sorrow and suffering in thousands of American homes, disabled young men and monumental debt that the great-grandchildren of people now living will be required to pay. Who was to blame for these delinquencies if not Franklin D. Roosevelt? (Name on file)

Agricultural experts say there are more than 200 races of stem rust fungus, just as there are many varieties of wheat, oats, barley and rye.

Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson Co. History from the files of the Mail Tribune 10, 20, and 34 years ago.

TEN YEARS AGO TODAY
October 31, 1934
(It Was Wednesday)
Dionne quints are baptized at Callander, Can.

Los Angeles vote purge is ordered halted by court.

Debate between Mrs. Roosevelt and woman candidate for congress is called off.

Additional police to curb Hallowe'en pranks tonight.

Occasional rains. High 72, low 53 degrees.

Jackson county utility corporations dwindle in value past year.

Radical candidates main center of interest in Coast states as election nears.

Twenty Years Ago Today
October 31, 1924
(It Was Friday)
Floods are feared in Willamette Valley and Coos Bay district as rivers rise. Grants Pass streets are flooded by heavy rain.

Henry Ford endorses President Coolidge for re-election.

Tax levy is cut two mills in Jackson county.

Rain. High 57, low 37. Moisture 2.14 inches. Heavy rains deter Hallowe'en celebrants. All rain records in county are broken. Three feet of snow at Crater Lake.

County fair lost \$733.33 finance report shows.

Medford high team leaves for game at Marshfield tomorrow.

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS AGO
October 31, 1910
(It Was Monday)
Suspects arrested in Los Angeles Times dynamiting.

Teamsters Union of New York threatens strike.

"When the Sunset Turns the Ocean Blue to Gold", illustrated song is held over at the Isis by popular demand.

Closing time for Sunday Too Late to Classify 5:30 Saturday afternoon—Please remember.

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NEW kind of ASPIRIN tablet doesn't upset stomach
WHEN you need quick relief from pain, do you hesitate to take aspirin because it leaves you with an upset stomach? If so, this new medical discovery, SUPERIN, is "just what the doctor ordered" for you.

not irritate or upset stomach—even after repeated doses.
Tell this out to remind you to get Superin today, so you can have it on hand when headaches, colds, etc., strike. See how quickly it relieves pain—how fine you feel after taking. At your druggist's, 15¢ and 39¢.

