

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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Flight o' Time: Medford and Jackson County History from the files of the Mail Tribune 10, 20 and 34 years ago

10 YEARS AGO TODAY: March 27, 1940. (It Was Wednesday) O. H. Bengtson, local attorney, decides not to enter republican primary for district attorney post.

Midget auto races to be held at fairgrounds this summer.

Fifteen republicans and five democrats filed to date for county positions.

County tax collections to date total \$520,754 or about the same as last year.

High water hails search for Louis R. Loesch, Table Rock district, believed to have drowned in Rogue river.

20 YEARS AGO TODAY: March 27, 1930. (It Was Thursday) Sams Valley high wins Southern Oregon Normal school basketball tournament.

Valley orchardists urged to soak trees with present irrigation water overflow.

Pear acreage here increased with 1,200 new plantings.

Only 280 dog licenses issued in county so far this year.

34 YEARS AGO TODAY: March 27, 1916. (It Was Monday) Ladies' Aid of Presbyterian church elects Mrs. Volney Dixon as president.

E. M. Wilson, Medford, announces candidacy for assessor on republican ticket.

Albert Glenn Hewitt, Medford, and Miss Bertha Alice Martin married at Grants Pass.

COMMUNICATIONS: Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer

To the Editor: I was surprised with the result of the amateur contest. Maybe if our boys could have sung as flat in spots as the winner tooted on his cornet, he would have registered a notch higher on the applause meter.

In Portland it will be the same coronet, perhaps the same applause meter but what about the audience? Gonna take them along too?

Mrs. Mae McElhoe Shady Cove, Ore.

Two Construction Men Die In Alaska Mishap

Anchorage, Alaska, Mar. 27—(U.P.)—Two construction men were killed and 12 others injured when a special passenger train plowed into a four-car speeder hauling them back to camp after the day's work.

The dead were Wesley Benzen, 36, Dawson, Mont., and Patrick A. O'Brien, 42, formerly of Storrie, Cal.

The Amazon River system is the largest in the world. The amount of land drained by this system is equal to an area about 5/6 the size of the United States.

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Editorial Correspondence

New York City, N. Y., March 22—As predicted shortly after the Hiss verdict, the Republicans are going to make Communism one of the major issues of this year's campaign.

Last night Senator Wherry of Nebraska again demanded the resignation of Secretary of State Acheson, while Mr. Gabrielson, chairman of the GOP National committee, declared the Democratic administration is honeycombed by Reds and fellow-travelers, while President Truman did everything in his power to prevent Alger Hiss coming to trial—which makes, according to the GOP theory of guilt by association—Mr. Truman at least a "Pink."

Perhaps this is smart politics. Popular feeling against Russian Communism is running high and the Republicans might be missing a bet if they failed to try to capitalize on it.

But if the issue should be handled exclusively by Republicans of the Wherry, Gabrielson—and McCarthy)—type the effort might well prove a boomerang.

For there is a limit to what the American people as a whole will take. And no political dodge is more threadbare than the ancient and discredited one of building up a straw man and then knocking it down.

Factually that is what this attempt to pin the communist label on the Democratic party would be—that and nothing else.

No informed or sane person, regardless of party, believes for a minute that President Truman, or his administration, have any interest or sympathy with Russian communism, totalitarianism or any other "ism."

The Democratic party is—and for a generation has been—more to the left than the Republican party.

And there have been fellow travelers like Alger Hiss and Miss Coplon, in the Truman administration.

But what country in the world has been entirely free from communist infiltration during the past quarter century? Not one.

And there is no question there has been less in this country than anywhere else in the world.

Moreover, if the Wherry-Gabrielson-McCarthy line is followed the Democrats might be given material for a counter-attack, that could be devastating.

At the present writing, for example, Senator McCarthy has failed to sustain a single one of his charges against the administration and particularly the state department. Unless something very unexpected develops he promises to be one of the most thoroughly discredited muck rakers and irresponsible mud slingers the country has ever produced. Such a record won't bring in any votes.

When he tries to prove President Truman did everything in his power to prevent Alger Hiss being brought to trial, Gabrielson isn't much better.

Does Gabrielson maintain that had President Truman wished to aid Hiss, he could not have done so? Unless the GOP chairman has some evidence which has not been produced, there is every reason to believe that the White House in no way interfered with the energetic prosecution of Hiss. Throughout the trial, it was apparent in innumerable ways that the U. S. Attorney General, appointed by the President, was going all out to get his man.

A far better issue for the Republicans would be federal economy, an end to deficit-financing, a determination to balance the budget. Here the Democrats have a poor record and there appears to be slight chance of a better one. In this area the Republicans—as the "better business men's" party—would be on solid ground.

There were the Horse Show, the Dog Show, the Auto Show, the Sportsmen's Show, and now comes the annual Flower Show. A marvelous exhibition, like those preceding, but one serious defect regarding all—or nearly all—New York offerings of this kind—too many people, too crowded and therefore difficult to see anything without shoving or pushing, and as a result getting shoved and pushed. A periscope would come in handy or a step-ladder packed around by a caddy.

The amazing feature of the Flower Show was the so-called "cottage gardens." To the writer they looked more like "palace gardens," with real grass lawns, babbling brooks, stone walls, growing flowers and shrubs of "infinite variety" and color. Most extraordinary of all were the flowering trees, some reaching nearly to the mezzanine floor. Imagine the labor and money involved, and everything will have to be taken out during the coming weekend. As before stated this town never does anything by halves.

We note the house appropriations committee has given J. Edgar Hoover a \$4000 boost in salary bringing his annual salary to \$20,000 and has also allowed him 700 more FBI operatives. A good investment! And when one thinks Baseball Commissioner Happy Chandler gets \$65,000 a year for what he does—and doesn't do—Edgar H. seems sorely underpaid.

We are surprised that King Leopold of Belgium should hesitate about abdicating in favor of his son. Being a king these days is tough enough under the best circumstances. But when a country is divided as Belgium is, it is difficult to understand how any person of intelligence would wish to force his way onto the throne. Such a course is not only dumb but extremely dangerous—not only for the king but for his country.—R.W.R.

OUT OF THE WOODS: By Jim Stevens

From Jersey Woods: I have a reader in New Jersey, where much west coast lumber is sold. His name is Don Stetson, and he is a woodsman of Allendale, who commutes to New York for his daily labor. You may be interested in what he's doing with a partition that was built into his home originally; between living room and dining room.

Like millions of others, Don and his spouse—and the family pup—knew themselves an appetite for more space and more light. The idea of L-shaped living room with dining space at one end, an increasingly popular feature of new homes, took strong hold with them.

So the Stetsons, in the way of free and enterprising Americans in all quarters of the country, began to spend their spare time with the homes and gardens magazines and the newspaper building pages. What they came up with was a simple deal of combining a wood beam—douglas fir, of course, from a New Jersey retail lumber yard—with steel plates to modernize their living and dining rooms for more light and more space, and to do it beautifully and economically. A teamwork job of steel and lumber.

The missus and I have a similar problem. So have four neighbors. May be you—Your Money's Worth.

But first, there's another point to be made on anything that has to do with home repairs and remodeling and where wood is the material of the job. It came to mind in the reading of a recent steel industry advertisement which declared that steel costs the consumer five cents a pound, on an average. What else comes at so low a cost? That was the question of the ad.

My answer, after a rough survey, is that at today's retail cost, the lumber in the average home that is going up today costs four cents a pound or less.

I'd say less, because back in 1939 I had it carefully worked out that lumber cost the retail consumer less than a penny a pound. I then urged the advertising of lumber on that basis, instead of the old way of merchandising it at so many dollars per thousand feet, even when the consumer was taking only 30 feet or so away under his arm. Maybe it was a fair idea. Any-

how, the steel people are using it. In any case, this lumber, once it is logged, milled, transported to retail yard and building site, and then framed and otherwise brought into the being of a family residential dwelling—then this lumber is worth real money. It is the bones, flesh, muscle, skin, scalp, of the average home. Maintain its health, and its values last.

Most of all, the values can be increased, through remodeling. As Done in Jersey

The Stetsons decided on a big, beautiful modern living-room layout. First thing was to place temporary "jacks" on the first floor and below in the basement. The partition came out. Then the problem was to make a strong enough bridge across that new open space for the second floor load.

A steel I-beam was first considered. But that was costly, difficult to install, and tough to rig up for good appearance and gracious living. The Stetsons kept thinking. Eventually they came up with the idea of a steel plate on each side of a wood beam, the whole boxed in with trim.

An iron works was called up. "Okay," was the answer. "Flitch plates is what we call such a rig. They're standard practice."

And so weight and bulk were avoided, as was excessive cost and poor appearance. The strength of steel on edge, bolted flatwise to two sides of a wood beam, makes a secure bridge support for the second floor, and the Stetsons have a more than modern living room with dining space. The ceiling joist openings above the beam are filled in with fairswork boards to make recessed shadow boxes for miniature china and other charming doo-dads—all mighty, mighty pretty.

What it cost, Don hasn't told, or what appraised value the job may add to the house. He just wrote me about it, as my New Jersey reader, along with telling how wonderfully douglas fir takes orange shellac to produce handsome wood interiors.

More fun in spring.

The first basketball game was played in 1891 with a peach basket and a soccer ball. Today, this fast-moving sport attracts more spectators each year than any other sport in the United States.

Crosstown by Roland Coe



"I don't like toeless. My feet keep slipping through the ends."

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS: General Eisenhower (who, by the way, is one man in public life whom I personally trust unqualifiedly) says in New York:

"America has already disarmed to the extent—in some directions—EVEN BEYOND THE EXTENT—that I, with a deep concern for her present safety, could possibly advise."

He added: "This has happened in spite of the fact that a war of aggression remains of constant threat to peaceful nations."

IS like too scary? Listen to this: "Taipeh, Formosa—This Chinese Nationalist capital stirred uneasily today over reports that Russian experts are STREAMING TO THE AID OF RED CHINA."

"Nationalist reports tell of an influx of Russians into mainland areas opposite here."

THE Chinese Nationalists, concentrated for a last stand on the big island of Formosa, using the remnant of the air force we helped them build up, have been battering the Chinese Reds pretty badly in recent weeks.

That can go on ONLY AS LONG AS RUSSIA IS WILLING TO PERMIT IT TO GO ON. Whenever Russia decides to come to the military aid of her Chinese communist brothers, the remnant of Nationalist China that still holds out on Formosa will be crushed as easily as we crush a spider underfoot.

IF, as and when Russia decides to do that, shooting war will start. Things like that are what Eisenhower is talking about.

THE latest in flying saucers: In Rome, Giuseppe Belluzzo, one of Italy's best-known scientists, says:

"Types of flying discs were designed and studied in Germany and Italy as early as 1942—Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini were interested in these instruments... there is nothing supernatural or Martian about flying discs... they are simply rational application of recent technique."

He added: "It is my opinion that SOME GREAT POWER IS LAUNCHING DISCS TO STUDY THEM."

TAKE it or leave it. That's about all we can do with most of the stuff we get these days.

IN conclusion, let's flash back for a moment to Eisenhower. After mentioning the "constant

A-Bomb Tests May Be Delayed Until 1951; H-Bomb Seen Ready

Washington, Mar. 27—(U.P.)—The Eniwetok A-bomb tests probably will not be held until the spring of 1951, congressional sources said today, raising the possibility that the first United States hydrogen bomb may be ready for trial when the tests finally are staged at the western Pacific proving ground.

In announcing the forthcoming tests last November 29, the atomic energy commission did not say when they would be conducted. It said merely that:

"The department of defense and the atomic energy commission have advised the president that a new series of tests of atomic weapons is planned at the commission's proving ground at Eniwetok atoll in the Marshall Islands."

Not Till Next Year: Reporters were told then that the tests probably could not be held before this spring. Apparently, however, they will not be held until next year.

Whether an H-bomb will be ready by then cannot, in the total absence of official information, be stated. But private scientists familiar with atomic technology have told the United Press they see no reason why the first crude version of the hydrogen weapon could not be put together this year.

In its November announcement, the AEC said the new Eniwetok tests will be carried out by joint task force three, commanded by Lt. Gen. Elwood R. Quesada for the air force. It is composed of army, navy, air force, and commission personnel.

Small Staff: Quesada has assembled a small staff which is headquartered in the old wartime navy building on Constitution avenue. His deputies are Brig. Gen. Herbert Loper of the army, Rear Adm. Tom B. Hill, and Dr. Alvin C. Graves of the Los Alamos, N.M., bomb science laboratory.

Brig. Gen. John K. Gerhart of the air force is Quesada's chief of staff, and Maj. Gen. Robert M. Lee, tactical air commander, will be in charge of air operations at Eniwetok.

A private construction firm is now at work building new and improving old installations at Eniwetok, and the army has sent a detachment to prepare communications, housing and other facilities at the atoll in advance of the task force.

Navy Participating: The navy, too, has been participating in the preparations—a fact which was spectacularly brought to light last week by an explosion and fire aboard a net tender en route to Eniwetok.

But there has been no indication that joint task force three is anywhere near ready for the big push to the Marshalls, and one Washington source said the tests could not be held in the next month or so, even if they had been scheduled for this spring.

And if they cannot be held this spring, the task force would have to wait a year to be sure of getting the best possible weather conditions.

First In 1948: The first tests at Eniwetok were held in April and May of 1948 when A-bombs Nos. 6, 7 and 8 were exploded. Out of those tests, it has been reported, emerged an atomic weapon six times more powerful than the wartime models.

The conventional A-bomb has since been further improved, and scientists have expressed the private opinion that it may be nearly 10 times as violent as the 1945 version.

The first H-bomb is expected to be two to 10 times as powerful as the most potent existing uranium or plutonium bomb. If it works at all, that is—and competent scientists feel sure it will.

11 Timber Tracts To Be Sold In Area This April

Seven tracts of timber in Jackson county, two in Josephine county and two in southern Douglas county are among the 40 parcels of timber from O. and C. and public domain lands in western Oregon which the bureau of land management will offer for sale from April 17 to 20, according to E. K. Peterson, Medford district forester.

Two of the tracts in Jackson county will be sold by oral auction at the district office in the city hall, Medford, on April 17.

One of these, which is located at the end of Cobleigh road north and west of Butte Falls, includes seven million board feet, mostly douglas fir, appraised at \$64,500. The other tract, which includes three million board feet of sugar pine and yellow pine, two million board feet of douglas fir and one and one-half million board feet of white fir, is located in the Jenny creek area north of Lincoln, and is appraised at \$70,000.

Sealed Bids Due: On April 18 sealed bids will be accepted in the regional office on five additional tracts in Jackson county. Two of these, mostly ponderosa pine, are located along Jenny creek south of the Greensprings highway; one tract is appraised at \$13,500 and the other at \$12,400. A tract of 100,000 pine and 90,000 douglas fir, which is offered for \$1,500, is located a few miles north of Rogue River. Another, consisting of 665,000 incense cedar only, appraised at \$2,000, is located on a section of land in the Butte Falls area. The other tract, consisting of 110,000, half pine and half fir, is on the Upper Big Applegate.

The two tracts in Josephine county which will be open for sealed bids include approximately 650,000 pine and fir on Swede Basin road north of Hayes hill, and 275,000 fire-killed pine and fir in the Blue creek area along the Redwood highway adjacent to the California-Oregon line.

threat of a war of aggression," he said: "This threat will continue as long as ONE POWER (obviously Russia) builds and maintains a military machine beyond the recognized needs of reasonable security."

Then he added: "IT IS FAR BETTER (for us) TO RISK A WAR OF POSSIBLE ANNIHILATION THAN TO GRASP P E A C E WHICH WOULD BE THE CERTAIN EXTINCTION OF FREE MAN'S IDEAS AND IDEALS."

Do you go along with him on that? I do. As between living under such a thing as Russian communism and being dead and done with it, I'll take being dead.

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