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Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson County History from the files of the Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30 and 40 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO
March 7, 1942
(It was Saturday)

Butte Falls high school basketball team defeats Westport, 39 to 28, to win state Class B championship.

From Arthur Perry's. Ye Smudge Pot column: No arrangements have been made for observance of All Fooled Day, April 1, as everybody has been too much already.

20 YEARS AGO
March 7, 1952
(It was Monday)

Medford Attorney Edward C. Kelly files for Democratic nomination as state representative from Jackson county.

President Herbert Hoover approves Red Cross request for five million bushels of wheat to be used in South Dakota drouth area.

30 YEARS AGO
March 7, 1922
(It was Tuesday)

Jackson county veterans of World War I receive $25,000 in state bonus checks.

Medford city council reduces tax on interurban passenger buses from $60 to $10 a year; estimate buses bring 150,000 persons to Medford annually.

40 YEARS AGO
March 7, 1912
(It was Thursday)

Greater Medford Garden club announces plans to "teach rudiments of agriculture" to school children and to cultivate all vacant lots in the city.

Over 30,000 United States troops held in readiness near Mexican border in case it becomes necessary to intervene in Mexican rebellion.

Wasco County To Seek Compensation For Bridge Loss

The Dalles — (U.P.) — A delegation headed by County Judge Ward R. Webber of Wasco county left here Friday for Washington, D. C., to seek compensation for the county's loss of The Dalles bridge.

Construction of the bridge has been halted by condemnation action of the federal government. Judge Webber said the cost to Wasco county of the halt in construction will accrue at the rate of about $250,000 annually.

Talks Scheduled

The delegation authorized by the county court includes District Attorney Donald E. Heisler and Col. Ralph Tudor of San Francisco, the county's consulting enginner. It will confer with Oregon's congressional delegation in a series of talks to begin Monday.

The group will seek funds from Congress to compensate the county for additional costs of relocation of the bridge, and to speed completion to meet the needs of The Dalles dam construction.

WEATHER
By United Press

North California: Showers Friday with snow in mountains, not much precipitation extreme north; fair Saturday.

Thankful for Camp Word

Word from Senator Guy Cordon that Camp White contracts will be awarded about April 15 brings to an end the long-drawn-out and unsettling speculation here as to what the army intends to do with the former training facility and it also promises something of a spring boom for this part of southern Oregon.

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WHILE the proposed $6,000,000 expenditure for utilities, roads, railroad spur and buildings is considerably less than first talked, there is, as near as we can determine fairly general agreement that the lesser figure is entirely sensible and will put things in shape so that rapid expansion may be possible in case of emergency.

It is also felt here that the decision to hold the reservation to 1,300 acres is a wise one as farming and other activities presently being carried on in the area will thus suffer a minimum of dislocation.

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THE decision to make Camp White a "stand-by" installation, the definite word as to amount of expenditure and especially the clearing up of the question of amount of acreage involved are very welcome developments thankfully received by most of those concerned in this region.—E.C.F.

Passing of the Buffalo

Probably few of the many who stop to look at the small herd of buffalo grazing near the highway on John Day's Blue Moon ranch north of Central Point give thought to the fact that the animals are among the pitifully scarce and widely scattered remnants of a species which once numbered many millions—the most numerous of any large animal known to man.

About a year ago Day obtained six head of the picturesque bison from the Black and White ranch in Klamath county where they had been raised by the late Chet Barton, the ranch owner, as a hobby.

F. J. Clifford, Medford naturalist and writer, who has made an extensive study of the buffalo's tragic history, is author of an interesting article in the current issue of the Oregon Historical Society's quarterly. According to the naturalist part of the information in his article was obtained from older Indians with whom he became acquainted over a period of some fifty years, and part came from Jeff Riddle, author of a book on the Modoc war.

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CLIFFORD says he determined that no wild buffalo were ever seen this far west, but that buffalo bones were found by early settlers in the Big Bend country of Washington and south into Oregon. The last wild buffalo, that is animals which have existed in their natural habitat up to the present time, are in the Pelican river country in Yellowstone National Park.

Following are excerpts from Clifford's piece in the quarterly:

There were an estimated 65,000,000 bison on the North American continent when old Jim Bridger and other hardy adventurers to the west first gazed on the big wooly beasts. The main herd roamed that vast sea of grass known as the Great Plains, a mighty pasture 1500 miles long by 500 miles wide between the Mississippi river and Rocky mountains. Fringes of the herd extended to Buffalo, N. Y., and gave that city its name. From there, scattering bands of buffalo went south to Kentucky, across the continent to the deep reaches of Texas and northward to the Great Bear lakes region of Canada.

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The bison appeared to be increasing in numbers until the arrival of the white man but so great was the heedless killing of them which began in the late fifties and continued to the winter of 1882, none could be found the following spring where thousands had been known to be the fall before. They were considered an extinct species, so complete was their disappearance that spring.

Hunters of bison for their hides, hump meat and tongue, were generally known as buffalo runners. Greed for quick money to flaunt before the stay-at-homes back east was a strong urge in the dangerous and hard work.

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The mass killing was not confined to the western prairies or to the people there. It started with the slaughter of scattering bands of bison in the eastern states. Those same hunters later scurried west with the latest type of breech-loading rifles. They came from all walks of life, the rich and the poor, the schooled and the unschooled. They also came from the nobility of England, clad in yellow leggings and other sports clothes which earned them the name "yellow legs."

The killing of bison reached such proportions that by 1874 the great southern herd was divided into two parts, several hundred thousand of them retreating to the vast reaches of Texas below the Arkansas and Canadian rivers. The federal government made this a dividing line below which no white man could hunt. But such a decree did not stop the hide, hump and tongue hunters. Neither did the loss of scalp and life of some deter others from the dangerously hard work. Hunt they did, until there was practically none of the wooly humpbacks left. The hides of cow bison brought from $2.50 to $3.50; bull hides $2 or less.

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The first rifles used on bison were muzzle loaders with half inch bore. Repeating rifles could be had in the late sixties of 45-70 caliber, 45-90 and the largest of 45-120-550 which was accurate up to 300 yards.

The kill increased to such proportions that buyers refused to name a price. Hides were stacked like cordwood along the Missouri river, waiting for a boat to take them to St. Louis. Around 1870, the hides were stacked at the loading places of the Union Pacific and Northern Pacific railroads. The stench of those hides which had been torn from the carcass by a team of horses, which brought much flesh with the hide, was almost beyond human endurance.

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With bullhides bringing almost nothing, the hiders turned to cow hides which found more ready market for robes, overcoats, caps and mittens. When most of the buffalo cows were killed off there could be few calves and this spelled the finish of the bison.

—E.C.F.

Ready To Work Again After Body Smashed

Fitchburg, Mass. — (U.P.) — A young Finn displaced person is ready to work again after almost every bone in his body was broken more than a year ago when he fell 110 feet from a feed mill roof to a railroad track.

Paul Orva, 26, had a compound fracture of the jaw, three smashed vertebrae, a compound fracture of the left upper arm, a tear in the covering of his spinal cord, a broken right pelvis, both ankles smashed and both bones of his lower left leg were broken. He was paralyzed from the waist down.

Leaning lightly on a pair of cane-crutches and aided by a leg brace, Orva was ready to work after being rehabilitated at a center in Boston which specializes in helping to prevent injured persons from becoming helpless invalids.

Crosstown

By Roland Coe

"Mac has more news than any barber in town. He's got a direct wire to the beauty parlor upstairs."

Matter of Fact

by Stewart Alsop

THE TAFT GAMBLE

....Concord, N.H.—Sen. Robert A. Taft is certainly among the shrewdest professional politicians in the United States. And, when, against the advice of all those around him, Sen. Taft entered his name in the primaries here in New Hampshire, he may well have made one of the most brilliant political moves of his career.

Stewart Alsop

His chief rival, General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, has one immense asset. This is his immense appeal to the mass of the voters. It is this asset—and it is really just about Eisenhower's only asset with the hardshell Republican professionals — that Taft undoubtedly hopes to weaken fatally in the primary voting here next Tuesday.

For Taft can reasonably hope to run a very close second to Eisenhower in the preferential primary—the "beauty contest" as it is called here. He can even hope, with luck, to win this contest, and thus seem to puncture, once and for all, the "myth" of Eisenhower's greater popularity. The fact is that Taft is in a peculiarly enviable position here. For he and his backers have carefully cultivated the notion that he has entered the New Hampshire primary with all the cards stacked against him, in an admirable spirit of derring-do. In fact Taft has all sorts of political aces up his sleeves.

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GEN. EISENHOWER, for example, has the enthusiastic backing of such conspicuous Republican figures as Gov. Sherman Adams, former Gov. Robert O. Blood—both of whom are running as Eisenhower delegates—and Sen. Charles Tobey. But the powerful political organization of that agile operator, Sen. Styles Bridges, is worth the backing of all these put together. Bridges is maintaining in public a rather smug attitude of neutrality.

Yet it is significant that Bridges became Senate minority leader with the indispensable help of Sen. Taft, and that he is considered here a sure bet for a place in any Taft cabinet. It is significant also that Bridges' former assistant, Wesley Powell, who almost beat Tobey in the 1950 primary with Bridges' silent help, is the leading Taft delegate candidate. Bridges also has a most intimate understanding with "The Manchester Union Leader," a powerful New Hampshire newspaper several degrees to the right of "The Chicago Tribune." This paper, which blankets the state in its morning edition, is violently pro-Taft and anti-Eisenhower.

Taft has, moreover, the immense advantage of appearing in the flesh, complete with crushed felt hat, baggy pants and reassuring manner, while Eisenhower remains an admirable but rather dim phantom thousands of miles away. Despite such assets, most of the Eisenhower delegates—say ten out of fourteen—are expected to win. This Taft defeat has already been pre-advertised as a Taft victory. But the triumph the Taft forces are really hankering for is a close vote, or even a Taft majority, in the preferential primary.

For such a result would seem to knock into a cocked hat the claims for Eisenhower's superior vote-getting powers. In fact, it would mean nothing of the sort.

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IN THE first place, the perennial Harold E. Stassen is entered in the contest, and will undoubtedly draw some votes from Eisenhower. But a far more important factor is the very nature of this primary vote. As elsewhere, the voters who take the trouble to vote in a primary compose the hard core of their party. In the hard-fought Dewey-Stassen contest here in 1948, fewer than half the Republicans who later voted in the election bothered to vote in the primary.

Eisenhower's principal strength is not, of course, among the hard-core Republicans. It is among the independent voters and disgusted Democrats — the "mugwumps," as Taft calls them disdainfully—who are demonstrably essential to Republican national victory. And here in New Hampshire primary voters usually represent a hard core of a hard core. New Hampshire's famous town meetings coincide with Primary Day, and thus the rural and small town Republicans vote in force, while the more independent-minded city voters sit on their hands. And New Hampshire's rural Republicans are about as conservative a body of voters as are to be found anywhere in the nation.

Under such circumstances, a good majority for Eisenhower will be a downright miraculous tribute to his universal popularity. Yet a Taft defeat here will not much hurt Taft, as this outcome has been written off in advance by Taft himself. And a Taft majority in the preferential poll will be interpreted as a catastrophic setback for Eisenhower, while if Taft runs a close second, this will be hailed as triumphant proof of Taft's strength with the voters, even in Eisenhower-minded New England. In short, it is difficult to see how Taft could lose much here, and very easy to see how he could win a great deal. This is why Taft's entry into the New Hampshire primaries, bold to the point of foolhardiness as it seemed at first, may be the shrewdest gamble he has ever taken.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer; although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initial for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Schoolyard Hazard

To the Editor: As everyone will remember, a year or two ago in Los Angeles two children were killed on schoolyards that had hard surface.

In this month's Reader's Digest and Woman's Home Companion there are articles telling of these accidents and many other very serious ones due to hardtopped playgrounds.

In Medford on some of our schoolgrounds there are hard surfaces. What do we intend to do about it?

I would suggest that our Parent-Teacher associations and the public in general, both in Medford and Jackson county, think this over pretty seriously. Now is the time to correct this hazard and not wait until some child is critically injured.

I, for one, would rather have my child come home with mud on his clothes than with a cracked skull.

If we need more janitor service to keep our schools and playgrounds clean, let's hire two in the place of one. It would be money better spent than if it were spent for accident insurance, lawsuits, etc.

Let's make the step now to make our playgrounds safer before there are broken bones and possibly broken hearts.

M. R. L.
(Name on file)

Words on Checkbook Dispose of Estate

Memphis, Tenn.—(U.P.)—M. F. Fanduward disposed of an estate valued at "more than $10,000' with 15 words written on the cover of a checkbook.

It was Fanduward's will, which read: "I leave everything I own to my wife, Annie, to do with as she pleases."

Eisenhower's Political Creed

On Communism: Loyalty and the Outlook for Peace

By KEVIN McCANN
President, Defiance College
(These articles are based on the book, "The Man From Abilene," by Kevin McCann, to be published by Doubleday & Company.

In his public and private pronouncements, General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, an implacable foe of Communism, and never one to minimize its threat to American survival, expresses doubt that Russia will embark on a global war at this time.

He foresees that if the West will establish systems of collective strength, to bring about an equilibrium with Soviet power, the cold-war situation "would merely become a simple struggle between two ideologies and not a struggle on one side backed up by frightening power that particularly upsets the nations close by. We would be content to trust the decency and justice of our cause and its appeal to people in the long run."

On the home front, he has urged elimination of subversive elements "in the fair, just, decent American way."

The penchant for calling anyone a Communist is "a behind-the,Iron-Curtain trick," Gen. Eisenhower has declared, pointing out that Communists themselves apply the Fascist label to all who do not share their views. He holds:

Let Us Eliminate Elements

"Let us not be stupid enough to fall into that grave error here. Let us eliminate subversive elements—but let us do it in the fair, decent American way and not just call Communist anyone who may be a little brighter than ourselves."

"Because disloyalty is an offense of the most profound import," he told the Boy Scouts at their Valley Forge Jamboree on July 4, 1950, "we must be especially careful to avoid hurling the charge of Communist against any who may merely disagree with us. Respect for our own free system requires that we speak and act against others with restraint until factual evidence establishes guilt."

He set down his feelings about loyalty oaths during an interview as President of Columbia University:

"Before appointing a man to our faculty I would want to know all there is to know about his background. If I found he was a Communist, I would not appoint him. On the other hand, I certainly do not believe our faculty members should be subject to special loyalty oaths.

Three Education Institutions

"When we think of the education of our youth, we think of three institutions: The family, the church and the school. We don't ask for special oaths from the parents; we don't ask for special oaths from the minister; then why ask for a special loyalty oath from the teacher?"

In his first year at SHAPE, Gen. Eisenhower met many persons who questioned him about the imminence of war with Russia. His answer:

"Suppose you and a dozen of your friends constituted the Politboro within the Kremlin. You control all decision of war and peace for the Soviet masses. At home, you are entrenched in power; within the Russian borders there is no threat you need fear, no group that can despoil you of your dignities, your luxury apartments, your automobiles and planes, your retinue of servants. Within the last few years you have seized, beyond the Russian frontier, an industrial and agricultural empire whose complete absorption will strengthen you at home and abroad and increase even further the wealth you enjoy. Your hold there, however, is not yet secure. Millions in Poland and eastern Germany and Czechoslovakia and Hungary and the Balkans accept your bondage in sullen silence, awaiting the first moment when they can lunge desperately at you and your supporters.

Can Answer Question

"So situated, will you risk your position and your future against the Allied armies and navies and air fleets whose present stature is only a faint index to their overwhelming might should the nations that now muster them be resolved into a cold-blooded and avenging unity by your attack? I think I can answer the question for you.

"So situated, you—of course—would hesitate at the irrevocable decision of war. You might hope that your armies could cross the Elbe and some of your divisions might probe forward to the Rhine. But the Channel and the Bay of Biscay and the Western Mediterranean would be beyond your grasp.

"As your armies faltered before the Allied wall; as units from the satellite countries mutinied, deserted, straggled away, your lines of supply and communication would be destroyed by air attack; your own cities would be battered; the Black Sea might easily become an Allied lake.

Would Rally Forces

"To the woods and morasses of Poland would throng patriots, armed by air, commanded by parachute-dropped leaders, able and eager to purge their land of everything Russian. The Balt and Czech and Hungarian towns and villages would rally guerrilla forces to harry you. Unrest at home would follow, and each day your power, your prestige, would shrink. In that light—confronted by a stout Allied line, before you and on your flanks—you, or a Russian, would hesitate at going to war deliberately."

Gen. Eisenhower has never softened his warnings about the Communist menace. In a letter to a friend in Chicago in November, 1950, he said in part:

"We, as Americans, face a deadly danger for a very simple reason. Communism, both ruthless in purpose and insidious as to method, is using the traditional imperialistic designs of Russia and the present physical strength of Asia and Eastern Europe to promote the Communistic objective of world revolution and subsequent domination of all the earth by the Communist party, centering in Moscow."

Appeasement Ruled Out

He had ruled out any appeasement of the Kremlin:

"By no juggling of words or twisting of ideas can a citizen of this country justify an alliance with the forces of dictatorship and Communistic enslavement."

And upon his installation as President of Columbia he pledged:

"The facts of communism . . . shall be taught here—its ideological developments, its political methods, its economic effects, its probable course in the future. The truth about Communism is, today, an indispensable requirement if the true values of our democratic system are to be properly assessed.

"Ignorance of Communism, Fascism or any other police-state philosophy is far more dangerous than ignorance of the most virulent disease."

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Babson Airs Recent Stock Market Breaks

By Roger W. Babson

Babson Park, Fla., March 7—(Special to Mail Tribune)—The 1951 dollar is worth only 38 cents when compared with the 1913 dollar of 100 cents. World War I inflation brought the 1913 dollar down to 50 cents in 1920. Post-World War I deflation took it back to 59 cents, while the depression of the thirties raised the value to 79 cents in 1933. Today's dollar is worth only 53 cents when compared with the 1939 dollar. What caused these changes is beginning to bother Wall Street.

Roger W. Babson

The present downward cycle of the dollar started in 1933 when President Roosevelt depreciated the dollar by lowering its gold content, in order to try to drive prices up in the depression. The Gold Reserve Act of 1934 cheapened the dollar by 41%. At that time the dollar was worth approximately 75 cents when compared with the 100 cent dollar of 1913. World War II accelerated inflation through high wages, strong demand for goods and services, and the shortage of such goods and services. Furthermore, the post-World War II era, characterized by its shortages of goods and buying scares, continued the spiral.

Two major contributing factors undermining the post-war dollar are labor unions and price support. Through continued pressure labor leaders have been making wage demands in excess of an increase in the work output per man-hour. Price supports have been such that in 1950, when we were in the midst of a boom, only six out of seventeen support crops were selling above parity. These supports are undermining the dollar because they strike at food prices. Wall Street is realizing that this kind of prosperity is one of "make-believe."

Wall Street Getting Scared of Inflation

A little inflation may seem like a good idea to some of our economic planners. It is more of an opiate than good economic sense. Cheap money at first deceives people into thinking they are better off than they really are. The more of it they use, the harder it is to stop; and once you try to stop, the after effects are disastrous. Recognition of this is a primary cause of the recent break in stock prices. Although Wall Street wanted inflation two years ago, it now is frightened of it.

The various kinds of security that have been hardest hit are old-age pension plans (both private and government), schools and colleges, hospitals, churches and the like. Investors at last have come to believe that inflation creates more tragedies than deflation. This is evidenced by the increased demands made each year by the various Community Funds.

Cheap Dollars and Totalitarianism

Communists resort to the cheap money-inflation philosophy. They find it effective dope. The great Englishman, Lord Maynard Keynes, wrote shortly after World War I, "Lenin said that the best way to destroy the capitalistic system is to debauch the currency. By a continuing process of inflation, governments can confiscate, secretly and unobserved, an important part of the wealth of their citizens.

"This attack against savings strikes not only at security but at confidence in the equity of all existing corporations. Those to whom the system brings windfalls . . . become profiteers who are the object of hatred by the masses who the inflationism has improverished. As the inflation proceeds, the real value of the currency fluctuates wildly from month to month . . . and . . . all permanent relations between debtors and creditors become utterly disordered so that legitimate business degenerates into a scandal and a lottery . . ."

Present dollar business profits, plus fictitious inventory gains, plus inadequate depreciation charges, plus the huge dollar salaries and consequent illusion of prosperity have already drugged too many investors into thinking they are really prosperous. Wall Street is beginning to shudder when it thinks of the ultimate outcome!

Earthquakes Jar Main Japan Isle

Tokyo — (U.P.) — Earthquakes shook the main Japanese island of Honshu Friday, but caused little damage.

The first quake was felt in Tokyo and Yokohama at 6:15 a.m. MST and the second at 12:37 a.m. They were the second and third quakes to rock Japan in four days. The second quake caused a 400-yard-long railway embankment to collapse near Fukui. Power was disrupted at Kanazawa and Fukui. It was restored after an hour at Kanazawa.

The second quake, centered in the Japan Sea, shook all of central Honshu. It was rated "strong" at Wajima on the northwestern tip of the Noto peninsula but was felt only lightly in Tokyo and Yokohama.

3 More Days

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