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Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson County history from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30 and 40 year ago.

10 YEARS AGO

Aug. 11, 1943

(It Was Wednesday)

Supplementary fire fighting equipment received here from federal government.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column: Reports from the rural regions say some newlyweds were caught unawares recently and ruthlessly shivareed by friends.

20 YEARS AGO

Aug. 11, 1923

(It Was Friday)

L. A. Banks, local agitator convicted of murder, to be sentenced Monday. Motion for new trial is denied.

Price for early tomatoes fixed at six cents per pound here.

30 YEARS AGO

Aug. 11, 1923

(It Was Saturday)

Ice cream wagon horse stages runaway on Riverside ave.

Fair and warmer. High 95, low 54 degrees.

40 YEARS AGO

Aug. 11, 1913

(It Was Monday)

Assistant state highway engineer here to head survey work for new road over Siskiyou mountains.

Chris Hanson appointed county sealer of weights and measures.

Spectacular Auto Crash Kills Seven In So. California

San Luis Obispo, Calif.—(U.P.)—A spectacular auto collision that killed seven persons and injured one seriously was described today as one of the worst accidents in this area's history.

California Highway Patrol officers said it was one of the worst in the history of Santa Barbara county and also rated as "severe" in southern California records.

Four women, two children and one man were killed last night when two cars met head on along U.S. 101, 22 miles south of here and four miles south of Los Alamos.

Dead Identified

The dead were identified as Mrs. Norma Haynie Ragel, 20, of El Monte, Calif.; her mother, Mrs. Jessie Haynie Colburn, about 41, El Monte; Gloria Haynie, 16; Pauline Colburn, 9; William Joseph Wolburn, 7; Richard Bernard Colburn, 2; and Monte B. Myers, 29, Santa Maria, Calif.

In critical condition was Mrs. Ragel's sister, Carol Haynie, 13. Myers was alone in one car and the other victims were in Mrs. Ragel's auto.

HOME HAZARDS

Stratford, Conn.—(U.P.)—After a safe motoring trip in heavy holiday traffic, Peter V. Bedgio and his family had a rousing homecoming. As he drew to a stop, Bedgio was startled when his excited cocker spaniel leaped from the back seat into his lap. His foot jammed down the accelerator and the car plunged through the garage door, out through the rear wall and into a second garage, smashing into another machine. All escaped injury.

While There's 'Ike' There's Hope

And now the Portland Oregonian no longer can take it!

This excellent, though extremely orthodox Republican newspaper, refuses to follow the line prescribed by Senator Cordon who thinks it doesn't matter who owns and operates electric power lines—they will be "operated just the same."

THE Oregonian greatly fears they won't be "operated the same."

In a vigorous and convincing editorial on August 8th, "our favorite morning paper" stated that a recent decision, handing over construction of a Bonneville line from Chemult to Klamath Falls to the California-Oregon Power company, may foreshadow a break up of the entire Northwest "BPA grid."

IT NOT only "may" but "will" unless as has been advised in this department several times, the voters wake up and get busy.

For as Senator Cordon remarks, this is all—quote:

"In line with the thought that private industry should be allowed to do what it can for itself."

He should have added "all it can do for ITSELF, with the aid of an administration that intends to turn over all public-power projects to private power interests, as far as this can be done."

And with public apathy what it is, it doesn't look as though much could be saved, not only in public power, but in land, water and mineral conservation—the latter including federal Tidelands oil.

BUT who cares?

The administration thinks no one does—or at least not enough of the voters to make any difference at the next general election.

As General Eisenhower's personal popularity was a deciding factor in his great victory, the "wise-boys" are confident that same popularity will insure a similar GOP landslide a year hence—regardless of what is done regarding the public vs private power issue.

OF COURSE the worm MIGHT turn. Politically stranger things have happened.

And there is one very puzzling feature about this business.

Only a few days ago in a special message, President Eisenhower explaining why his administration has no definite power policy, as yet, remarked as follows, quote:

"Our basic problem is to carry forward the tradition of conservation, improvement and wise use and development of our land and water resources—a policy initiated 50 years ago under the leadership of President Theodore Roosevelt."

"ANGELS and Ministers of Grace defend us!"

Can it be that General Eisenhower doesn't know what TR's conservation policy was, and what were its inherent and inescapable implications?

Colonel Roosevelt's entire purpose was to conserve national resources for the benefit of his own and future generations, and to prevent precisely what the powers-that-be in Washington are determined to do today—turn everything that isn't nailed down over for the exploitation and profit of private business.

That is the accepted program. No informed observer in Washington, D.C., or elsewhere, for a moment denies it.

WE grant it is a pretty forlorn hope but it might be—please underline the "MIGHT"—that President Eisenhower does understand the true meaning of TR's conservation policies, and when it comes to a show-down he will take, as he has on several other important issues, the enlightened and essentially democratic (with a small "d") view.

We hope so.

And not only for the sake of the country, but for what we are convinced will ultimately be for his own self-interest and that of his party.—R.W.R.

What Is a 'Scapegoat'?

In the recent testimonial to our police department, and its chief, one objection to any disciplinary action was the deep seated aversion to making the head of the department a "scapegoat."

A scapegoat is defined as follows:

"One who is made to bear the blame of the misdeeds of others."

But if to censure, or remove, the responsible head of a department in the public service—or in private BUSINESS for that matter—should be generally accepted as improper, then surely this country, or any other, would be in a terrible fix.

For that is the accepted practice in all lines of activity, political, business, administrative and otherwise.

The heads of the departments are ALWAYS held accountable for what goes on in their departments—or doesn't. Not the individuals below them.

It's up to the heads to produce, or get out.

That isn't making them "scapegoats." That is merely making them responsible.

This sort of talk, like so much that was circulated during the recent excitement is just nonsense.

It misses the point entirely. The point isn't how long Chief McCredie has been in office, or how nice and courteous he is—or what "a nice guy!" But how efficient he is and whether or not so long as he is retained, the people of Medford can get the sort of police administration they are entitled to, and should have.

That is the milk in this coconut and nothing else.—R.W.R.

Crosstown

By Roland Coe



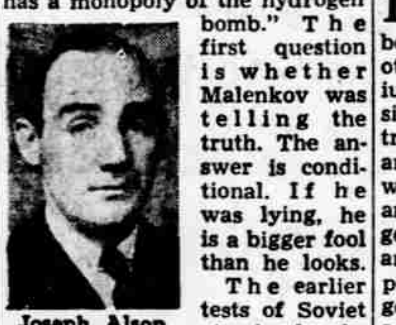
"One blaze is enough, men!"

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

MALENKOV'S BOMBHELL

Washington—Georgi Malenkov has told the world that "the United States no longer has a monopoly of the hydrogen bomb."



Joseph Alsop

—the first in September, 1949, and the second and third in October, 1952—were first announced here in Washington and only confirmed in Moscow.

The Washington announcements were possible because of the American long-range detection project, first established in 1948 at the behest of the present chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Admiral Lewis Strauss.

The principle, if not the practice, of long-range detection is fairly simple. The famous bomb-clouds of the weapons of total destruction rapidly ascend into the upper air, and circle the earth in the stratospheric winds.

The powerfully radioactive particles that the clouds contain can be detected by Geiger counters. Air samples, taken by patrol planes, tell much about the bombs that produced the clouds. Even the scene of the explosions can be located, by seismicographic and other evidence.

It is almost inconceivable that the explosion of a Soviet hydrogen bomb has escaped this system of long-range detection. Atomic explosions can in theory be concealed if the bomb is detonated underground—in a mine, for example. But the essential component of a hydrogen bomb, the very heavy hydrogen, tritium, is a volatile gas which would escape into the air somehow. A method for detecting the most minute particles of tritium in the atmosphere has already been published by Dr. W. F. Libby of Chicago University. Thus concealment seems out of the question.

ON THE other hand, the radioactive cloud takes some days to circle the earth. Analysis of the data produced by long-range detection takes a much longer time—probably two weeks or more. In short, we ought to know whether Malenkov was lying before very long, but our government may not know now.

Since long-range detection is also understood by the Soviets, it has to be assumed for the present that Malenkov was not lying. The next question, therefore, is whether his news is as serious as it looks. Here the answer is again conditional. Unless past American government estimates of the scale and speed of Soviet atomic development have been ludicrously wrong, Malenkov's news is deadly serious, certainly; but it does not justify despair.

Here again, tritium is the key to the problem. The chief limiting factor on an atomic program is the incredibly costly, massive and time-consuming process of uranium separation. How many atomic bombs you have is ultimately determined by how fast you can separate fissionable uranium-235 from the far more common isotope, inert uranium-238. By the same token, the chief limiting factor on a hydrogen bomb program is the need for the very heavy-hydrogen, tritium. How many hydrogen bombs can you have is determined by your supply of tritium, which plays the part in a hydrogen bomb of the paper and kindling in a dampish log fire.

So far as Western scientists know, tritium can only be made in the same reactors which also make the atomic bomb component, plutonium. Furthermore, the manufacture of tritium is fantastically slow and fantastically expensive. Above all, tritium has only about one-tenth the ex-

plosive potential, on an atom for atom basis, than plutonium has.

TRITIUM is not the only component of hydrogen bomb, to be sure. It is mixed with the other heavy hydrogen, deuterium, which contributes explosive power too. The whole contraption has to be triggered by an atomic bomb of great size, which produces the sunlike heats and pressures in which hydrogen fusion takes place. For these and other reasons, the explosive potential of the tritium that goes into the bomb is not an accurate measure of the explosive potential of the completed hydrogen bomb.

The fact remains, however, that inordinately heavy sacrifices have to be made to get the tritium for a hydrogen bomb. You may gain one hydrogen bomb with the power of two megatons, or 2,000,000 tons of TNT. But by using your reactors to produce tritium instead of plutonium, you will lose a large number of atomic bombs with a much greater explosive power. Very crudely and approximately, one hydrogen bomb of two megatons, might cause the loss of 100 plutonium bombs with a total power of ten megatons, or 10,000,000 tons of TNT.

This is a poor exchange at best; for a big atomic bomb is quite big enough to destroy all but a very small number of targets. A nation like the United States, which already has an ample atomic stockpile, can afford to make this exchange of large numbers of atomic bombs for one hydrogen bomb. But a nation whose atomic stockpile is not ample already, will be distinctly short-sighted to make this exchange.

IF OUR intelligence has not ridiculously under-rated the speed of Soviet atomic build-up, the immediate effect of this first Soviet bomb may not be wholly unfavorable to this country. It will allow the Kremlin to boast about its new terror weapon, but it may also delay the over-all Soviet atomic build-up. The "if" above is a very big one; and the problem needs further exploration.

Meanwhile, there is no escaping one point. Malenkov's hydrogen bomb is the final warning. Whatever else it means, it most certainly means that we can no longer be complacent about Soviet air-atomic power. And if we abandon this suicidal complacency, if we face the hard facts of our national situation, the next phase will be a drastic change of national policy.

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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 initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with an eye to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Wants Railroad to Coast

To the Editor: Our legislative body, along with the Highway Commission, all seem to be very interested in a new highway between Klamath Falls and Medford.

Which is a very good idea. But for a real benefit for both Klamath Falls and Medford, why don't they think of a real benefit for both.

We need either a railroad or a good highway to the coast, and a good harbor. Our government made a complete survey, which I worked on, of what is known as the Chetco cove, at the mouth of the Chetco river, for a harbor. It was at that time proven very satisfactory.

There have been surveys from the valley down the Chetco river which would keep from going through bug stations and another state to a could-be wonderful harbor. Also, it would make a wonderful outlet for timber, fruit, etc. Again, it would open up a lot of mining and timber country.

Things may get pretty tough around here, even this winter. Wish our Chamber of Commerce or somebody capable, would try and work on said idea.

The cost of both imports and exports are great at present. Industries cannot operate under present conditions.

Let's everybody study our present conditions, also future prospects.

Frances (Shorty) Hibbard

1302 Salling st.

Medford.

Skid Row is Blamed

To the Editor: Can a community operate and maintain a skid row for the benefit of the veterans and then expect to pass the buck to a few policemen because things don't go right. Why not get to the root of the matter and do away with the booze joints. A more efficient way to take care of the drunks, is not the answer.

C. W. Powell,

Rt. 1, Box 88

Central Point.

Treachery To Blame If Russia Really Has Developed H-Bomb

By PHIL NEWSOM

United Press Foreign Analyst

For two hours Saturday, Russia's Premier Georgi M. Malenkov devoted himself to the theme: "Who's afraid of the big bad wolf?"

Or in this case, "who's afraid of the big bad United States?"

Malenkov said he wasn't because now Russia also has the hydrogen bomb.

It would be a hardened personality, indeed, who did not receive such news with a chill of apprehension. Or pause and reflect that if Russia really has the "H"-bomb, it was born of treachery.

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg died in the electric chair a few weeks ago because they were atomic spies for Russia.

The Disappearance

A brilliant, naturalized British scientist is serving a prison sentence, because he, too, was a spy for Russia. He is Klaus Fuchs. Another, and probably the most brilliant of them all, Bruno Pontecorvo, disappeared from his British laboratory in 1950 and is widely believed to have gone to Russia.

Pontecorvo is believed to have given the Communists a sample of the H-bomb's main ingredient. And then, of course, there is the final agony.

The man who superintended Russia's atomic energy program, Lavrenti Beria, now also has been dubbed "traitor," and has been deposed and already may have been liquidated.

Important Speech

The Supreme Soviet which heard Malenkov's announcement of the bomb, had first heard officially and approved Beria's ouster.

It was, far and away, Malenkov's most important speech, but world leaders who study it may pay more attention to other elements of it than his claim to the H-bomb which, after all, had been anticipated.

It was one of his most beligerent pronouncements and seemed to reflect a switch back to Josef Stalin's "hard line" against the United States.

It also contained the flat announcement that Russia never will permit a rearmad Germany, a clear implication that she will keep Germany divided indefinitely unless unification also means complete neutrality.

GOOD SCRAP

Keene, N. H.—(U.P.)—The Rotary Club here has collected 25 tons of scrap aluminum to finance scholarship loans. Nearly one ton of the scrap was obtained from wrecked planes at the local airport.

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