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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
Nov. 29, 1944
(It was Wednesday)

Articles to be auctioned a War Bond premiere at Craterian theater include full case of pineapple, 100-pound sack of sugar, leather brief case, wool blanket, electric iron and 25 gallons of gasoline.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column: Even with the shotgun shell shortage all over the land, "unloaded" shotguns are claiming victims.

20 YEARS AGO
Nov. 29, 1934
(It was Thursday)

Medford and Washington high school of Portland battle to 6 to 6 tie in state championship football game played in mud at Multnomah stadium in Portland; Bill Bates scores Medford touchdown.

Jackson county taxes to be down about $15,870 from 1933 levels, according to County Assessor J. B. Coleman.

30 YEARS AGO
Nov. 29, 1924
(It was Saturday)

Medford Masons feast on 200 pounds of Alaskan reindeer meat at local banquet.

Medford city council votes to purchase Stutz fire pumper for fire department.

40 YEARS AGO
Nov. 29, 1914
(It was Sunday

From the Local and Personal column: A new bridegroom living on Beatty st. last night greeted seranaders with a club when they gathered in his front yard. One woman seranader was hit across the chest with the club. This incensed the seranaders, who chased the groom back into the house. He then defied the seranaders to "give me a ride," and announced "I will not stand the treats or anything else." The seranaders then disbanded.

Great excitement caused in lobby of Medford's Nash hotel by woman guest smoking a cigarette.

What's the Answer?

(Can You Get 4 of the 7?)
Copr. 1954, Editorial Research Report

1. State "fair trade" laws bind all retailers to a price agreement signed by one with a manufacturer, or only retailers signing the agreement?
2. The U. S. is or isn't a full-fledged member of the eight-power 1954 Southeast Asia Defense Treaty?
3. Which two of these are not golf clubs frequented by Pres. Eisenhower: Cherry Hills, Winged Foot, Washington municipal, Augusta, Burning Tree?
4. Boxing recognizes four, five, six, seven or eight different weight classes?
5. Which President was administered the oath of office by his father?
5. Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman heads the Boy Scouts of America, the international Y.M.C.A., the 4-H Clubs, the Moral Rearmament movement, or a big U. S. university?
7. Haggis is a dish of England, Armenia, Ireland, Mexico, Scotland, or Russia?

The Answers: 1. All retailers, whether they sign or not. 2. Is. 3. Winged Foot and Washington municipal. 4. Eight, starting with flyweight, bantamweight and featherweight. 5. Coolidge. 6. Moral Rearmament. 7. Scotland.

Unhappy Prospect

Unless members of the 1955 legislature, which meets in about six weeks, wield a bigger budgetary ax than they are expected to do, they're going to wind up with a monumental headache similar to the one so familiar to all householders: How to pay the bills?

Financially, Oregon has been living on "borrowed time" for a number of years.

* * * * *

DURING the war, when thousands of workers came swarming in to the state to build ships and do other wartime jobs, Oregon's income tax collections swelled unprecedentedly. Giant reserves of cash were built up, despite an extremely liberal tax rebate system.

At one time this reserve amounted to more than $70,000,000.

But as income tax collections became smaller after the war, as the cost of running a state increased (like everything else), and as tax rates continued unchanged for all the years after 1940, the reserve got smaller and smaller.

Each successive legislature was content to postpone that fiscal headache as long as possible.

* * * * *

THIS time, though, it looks as though the legislature is simply going to have to face facts — the state's capital reserve is about gone. The Oregonian in an editorial Sunday estimated it would be only about $8,000,000 by the time the new fiscal year starts next July 1.

"A conservative estimate is that the legislature meeting in Janunary must raise around $50,000,000 from taxes not now being levied to avoid a deficit in the 1955-57 biennium," the Oregonian says. "Possibly, the prospective deficit will be nearer $70,000,000."

* * * * *

THE editorial goes on to explain that while the state has not collected property taxes for a long time, property taxpayers are paying heavily, just the same, to support local government, principally schools.

"Property taxpayers in Oregon will pay, in the single fiscal year 1954-55, a total of $134,905,338—a 10 per cent increase over last year. Of this total, $84,100,000, 62.3 per cent, will be in local school taxes. Double that for the biennium," the Oregonian continues.

* * * * *

ELSEWHERE on this page appears a story about why school taxes are up. It costs more these days to provide education for our children. The average annual cost this year in Jackson county is $313 per child, compared to $240 in the years 1948 and 1949.

As has been remarked in these columns before, school taxes, as long as they are wisely spent, are the last things any of us should be complaining about, because good education is probably the best investment any of us can make for future generations.

* * * * *

BUT this doesn't lessen the problem of the legislators, who have to face the fact that property taxes for local school and governmental purposes are about as high as they should, or can, go.

What they have to be concerned with, then, is how to pay for the operation of the state government. If income taxes at their present rates won't do it, and if added property taxes are not to be considered, what remains?

* * * * *

WHAT remains, of course, is a sales tax — or something like it with a different name.

And here the legislators are faced with another fact: The voters of Oregon have repeatedly, and decisively, defeated proposals for a sales tax. They are apt to do so again.

* * * * *

THERE is an added complication to the problem. If the legislators decide not to do much of anything about the problem, they will, in effect, be deciding in favor of automatic increases in property taxes.

For the state law provides that property taxes be levied, and it is only in the flush war and post-war years that they have not been collected.

As the Oregonian puts it:

> If it (the legislature) does not find other tax sources to meet a deficit . . . the state levy on real property—inoperative since 1940 because of the income tax surplus—will go back into effect, automatically, to the extent of 6 mills (actually the levy will range from 5 mills in some counties to 9 mills in others). Add this to the local property taxes for counties, cities and school districts, and the result is painful.

* * * * *

AS far as the legislators are concerned, the result is painful no matter how it is viewed.

It would be exceedingly difficult to decrease state expenditures by any marked degree, for most of them, the biggest ones, are pretty well fixed — for school support, institutions, (hospitals, prisons, etc.), and welfare.

Somebody's going to have to pay. And for the legislators to make the decision is going to be almost as painful as doing the paying.

A 1955 legislator's lot is not a happy one.—E.A.

Kernels Found Glued To Winning Corn Entry

Chicago— (U.P.) —The world's winning "corn king" entry because several kernels had been glued into place on the cob.

biggest farm show was rocked today by disqualification of the

Arnold and Paul Karsk, brothers from Pecantonica, Ill., had been chosen to share the corn king title at the International Hay and Grain Show.

But their entry was disqualified after two Indiana exhibitors complained that several kernels had been glued into place at the butt end of the cob.

The disqualification raised a ruckus similar to that of last year when the grand champion steer was disqualified in the International Livestock Exposition for being over age.

SUGGESTED BIBLE READING

The American Bible Society, the Medford Ministerial Association and the Medford Council of Church Women are cooperating in sponsoring daily Bible reading in the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The suggested scripture reading for today is:

Psalm 37.

Matter of Fact

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

The President And The Bomb

Washington — Again and again in recent month, President Eisenhower has reverted to the theme of peace, so that he sometimes seems almost obsessed by the word itself. In a recent short speech, for example, he referred to "peace" nineteen times in twelve brief paragraphs.

Stewart Alsop

According to those who should know, this is not propaganda, or politics, or just talk. Ever since the Eniwetok tests, the almost intolerably cruel facts about the new type hydrogen bomb—especially the bomb's terrible radioactive side-effects—have impressed themselves more and more deeply on the President's mind. Thus when he says that, "since the invention of nuclear weapons . . . there is no alternative to peace . . . "he means just what he says.

In other words, like Sir Winston Churchill, who reached the same conclusion earlier, the President is now convinced that some way short of appeasement or surrender must be found to avert the horrors of hydrogen war. Thus, long before French Premier Mendes-France spoke, the President had already decided to seek a "meeting at the summit" provided certain essential pre-conditions were met.

Joseph Alsop

The reasoning behind this decision is reportedly about as follows: In the first place—or at least so the intelligence estimates reaching the President's desk indicate—this country will have a decisive advantage over the Soviet Union in terms of nuclear power for a period of three to five years.

This advantage is measured, not so much in terms of bombs as in the means of delivering bombs. This country has now turned out its 1000th B-47 medium range jet bomber, and the very long range B-52 is not at last really beginning to roll off the production lines. The Soviet equivalents—the TU-39s and the TU-37s—are hardly beyond the prototype stage. Or so, at least, the intelligence people assure the President.

IF the intelligence is correct, the meaning of this three to five year period is interpreted rather simply. During this period, this country can knock the Soviet Union out while the Soviets cannot knock this country out. There are, obviously, two ways to use this period of grace.

One way is to force a preventive showdown while the advantage still rests with us. But, as the President has publicy said, he flatly rules out this course. He reportedly refuses to discuss the possibility of preventive war, even in private, and even on a hypothetical basis. As of today, this country would be badly hurt in a nuclear war, and our allies probably destroyed. But this is apparently not the chief reason for the President's refusal to consider preventive war. He finds the mass killing required in a knock-out blow at the Soviet Union profoundly morally abhorrent.

The only other rational alternative to a preventive showdown is negotiation. This is the course the President has chosen. As he has been at pains to make clear, he does not believe that communism has changed its essential nature.

Yet intelligence and diplomatic reports have given him some reason to believe that the awful characteristics of the new type of hydrogen bomb—which the Soviets were the first to explode—is at least to some extent influencing Soviet policy, just as it is influencing American and British policy.

Malenkov's public statement that a nuclear war now means "the end of civilization" has been repeated in private in even stronger terms by other Russians, notably by V. M. Molotov at the Geneva conference. And the statement, after all, is true—and the Soviet rulers have every reason to know that it is true.

The President hopes for no grandiose settlement, no true peace, but a kind of freezing in position, based on the realities of power. "A you-stay-in-your-backyard-and-we'll-stay-in - our-backyard agreement, with mutual destruction the penalty for straying," was the way one policy-maker phrased it. The President himself calls what he has in mind a "modus vivendi." A most serious effort to negotiate such a way of living together is thus very likely to be the next act in the world drama. If the effort fails, our policy can be recast while we still retain the nuclear advantage.

SO runs the reasoning. There are dozens of difficult questions which could be asked about this seasoning, notably the questions which Sen. Knowland has already asked about the evident dangers of a policy which accepts an "atomic stalemate."

Yet it is impossible not to sympathise with the President, as he wrestles earnestly with the cruel dilemma imposed by the cruel new weapons. "I sometimes wonder," wrote the late Sen. Vandenberg to his pastor, just before he died, "whether the wit of man is competent to deal with this murderous discovery." And the discovery was, after all, very much less murderous in those days than it is now.

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High Winds Bring Irish Prosperity

Connemara, Ireland — (U.P.) — High winds and raging storms spell disaster for many, but for the men of rugged Connemara, on Ireland's western Atlantic coast, they mean prosperity.

In the coastal village of Kilkieran, 40 miles from Galway, an industry has been developed which thrives on bad weather. Alginates Ltd. produces seaweed meal and pays out up to $30,000 a year to the residents for seaweed used in the process.

The weeds are called sea rods, known locally as Slatai Mara (sea sticks) and grow in deep water. Nature is the harvester. When the Atlantic is churned by storms the weeds are thrown from the sea bed and washed ashore along the western seaboard. The hardy residents of Connemara gather the rods and dry them in the open air. Then they cart them to the factory where they are paid $14 a ton.

The collection of rods is organized by the government's lands department in conjunction with the factory.

In the Kilkieran factory, the rods are processed and the finished products exported to Scotland, to reappear in various shapes and forms — paint, glue, sausages, paper and many other things which one would not ordinarily associate with the weeds of the deep.

Negotiators Active In Chrysler Dispute

Detroit — (U.P.) — Negotiators made a final attempt today to stave off a strike which could wreck Chrysler's comeback bid in the automotive sales field.

State and federal mediators joined Chrysler officials and CIO United Auto Workers officers in the final effort to settle issues which could idle as many as 100,000 employees.

Some 30,000 UAW members employed in the Chrysler automotive body division were ready to strike at 7 a.m. tomorrow unless settlement is reached.

Among issues involved are charges of assembly line speedups.

Brazil is the largest South American country in size and is 250,000 square miles greater in area than the United States of America.

In The Day's News

These words are written on the morning of Thanksgiving Day in the Year of Our Lord A.D. 1954, in the midst of a technological revolution that is daily adding to human life new comforts, new luxuries, new leisure —AND NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.

I suppose before the day is over some grumpy pessimist will growl to himself:

"I'd like to know what I'VE got to be thankful for in these days."

LISTEN, sir:

ON THE FIRST THANKSGIVING DAY THE PILGRIM COLONISTS GAVE THANKS HUMBLY AND GRATEFULLY THAT THEY WERE STILL ALIVE.

HERE is a remarkable thing:

On that first Thanksgiving Day, the Plymouth colonists and the Indians in whose midst they had settled JOINED TOGETHER IN THANKSGIVING.

The whites contributed of what they had—among other things, the produce of their gardens. The Indians brought wild turkeys and venison as their share. Working together, they spent days preparing the feast. They spent three days in feasting and prayer.

Then the Indians returned to the forest and the white colonists returned to their tasks. They had joined together in amity and friendship and they parted in amity and friendship.

TWO able men came together at Plymouth colony. They were Massasoit, the Indian chief, and Governor Bradford, of the whites.

Massasoit and his tribesmen taught the whites new ways of planting crops (including putting a dead fish in each hill of planted corn to serve as fertilizer) and where and how to catch fish in abundance.

Governor Bradford and his people taught the Indians the ways of civilization, including the use of better tools.

AS time went on, a good trading business grew up between the colonists and their Indian neighbors. The Indians sold beaver skins and other furs, which the colonists were able to sell at a good profit to English traders. They paid for them with hoes and axes and good warm English cloth and such—products of the white man's industry, which added to the Indians' comfort and helped to raise their standard of living.

That is what honest trade does.

THIS mutually beneficial friendship and cooperation between the whites and the Indians at Plymouth began in 1621. Having faith in each other—the kind of faith that is founded on mutual good works—Governor Bradford and Massasoit made a treaty of friendship that lasted until 1661, a period of FORTY years.

That's what sound and honest and able leaders WHO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN EACH OTHER can do for their people.

IT is interesting to speculate as to what might have happened all the way across our continent, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, if there had been Massasoits and Governor Bradfords on BOTH SIDES. I like to think that if such had been the case the whites and the reds would have merged gradually and naturally and amicably and all the bloody and terrible massacres on both sides would have been avoided.

Sound and honest and able leadership is a WONDERFUL thing.

HOW came it about that this era of friendship and cooperation between the whites and the reds that began in the early days of Plymouth colony was ended?

It's a sad story. Eventually, the king of England gave permission to various English adventurers to establish trading posts northward along the shore of Cape Cod bay. These men were rough and ready fellows who were MORE INTERESTED IN HEAVY PROFITS THAN IN GOOD CITIZENSHIP

They wanted to get rich quick, and didn't care much how they did it. They stole and they lied and they cheated. That ended the era of peace and good will.

ONE more question:

How came it that the whites and the reds got along so amicably and happily at the BEGINNING?

That, too, is an interesting story.

The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth in September. That winter the colony was swept by a strange disease that carried off 44 of their number. All those terrible months they lived in deadly fear of the surrounding Indians. What they didn't know was that two years earlier an unknown disease HAD KILLED OFF MOST OF THE INDIANS.

What happened, you see, is that at Plymouth in the spring of 1621 the two races, the reds and the whites, came together in the spirit of humbleness and tolerance that follows mutual adversity.

NEARLY 2,000 years ago Seneca the Stoic wrote:

"Fire is the test of gold; adversity is the test of strong men."

Some 14 centuries later, William Shakespeare wrote:

"Sweet are the uses of adversity
"Which, like the toad, ugly and venomous
"Wears yet a precious jewel in his head."

Tax Study Group Lists County Hikes in School Expenditures; Reasons for Increases Given

The annual cost of educating a child in Jackson county public schools went up approximately $93 during the four-year period from 1948-49 to 1952-53, according to figures compiled by Oregon Business and Tax Research.

The total average expense per child for 1948-49 was $240 in Jackson county. By 1952-53, this had increased to $313, according to OBTR figures.

The non-partisan taxpayer association breaks the figures down this way:

Costs Shown

In 1948-49, the Jackson county total cost per pupil in average daily attendance included $148 for instructional salaries (including superintendents and supervisors), $15 for transportation, and $76 for other current expenditures.

By 1952-1953, these costs have risen to $192 for instructional salaries, $17 for transportation, and $103 for other current expenditures.

Despite the $93 increase in total current expenditures, Jackson county's costs rose less than that of some other counties during the four-year period.

In 1948-49, Jackson county's total current expenditure per average daily attendance was the 13th lowest in the state. Lowest on the list at that time was Crook county, in sparsely settled central Oregon, with a total expenditure of only $197.

Eighth Lowest

In 1952-53, Jackson county's total current expenditure per average daily attendance was eighth lowest in the state. Washington and Multnomah counties tied for the lowest-cost spot with expenditures of $291 per pupil.

Jackson county exactly held its own during the four years in comparison with the statewide county average. Jackson county was $6 below the state average of $246 for 1948-49, and was still $6 below the state average of $319 in 1952-53.

A breakdown of the total current expenditures for the 1952-53 year show that Jackson county's instructional salaries made up 61 per cent of the total cost, compared with 62 per cent for the state. Jackson county's transportation costs were 5.4 per cent, compared with 5.9 for the state, and the county's other current expenditures were 32.9 per cent of the total cost compared with nearly 32 per cent for the state average.

Less Than Others

Jackson county's 1952-53 annual total current expenditures were less than those for three of its neighboring counties. The figures are, Jackson county, $313, Josephine county, $336, Klamath county, $344, and Douglas county, $327.

Despite the large areas included in some Jackson county school districts, transportation costs in Jackson county are much less a factor in total costs than they are in some parts of the state. For the 1952-53 year, transportation costs in Oregon ranged from only $3 in Multnomah county, to $117 in Sherman county.

Average daily attendance, on which these figures are based, increased drastically in Jackson county from 1948-49 to 1952-53. In the four-year period, they went up from 9,311.4 to 11,405.6. Total current expenses during the same four years went up from $2,238,175 to $3,573,158.

Medford District

Figures for School District 49, which includes the Medford public schools, showed these changes for the period from 1948-49 to 1952-53.

Average daily attendance up from 3,198.7 to 4,257.0. Total current expenses up from $697,589 to $1,056,098. Total current expense per ADA up from $218 to $248. Instructional salaries per ADA up from $152 to $175. Transportation per ADA down from .8 to .7. Other current expenses per ADA up from $64 to $71.

Statewide, the cost of education in the public school system increased nearly 30 per cent in the four-year period, with the average daily attendance increased nearly 30 per cent in the four-year period, with the average daily attendance increasing from 216,487 to 254,769. The increase in total current expense of operating the state's public schools was from $53,381,047 to $81,517,990.

Salaries Up

Officials in the state Department of Education are quoted by Oregon Business and Tax Research as explaining the increased cost of education as being due in large part to increased salaries for teachers, plus an increase in the cost of transportation.

With an eye to the future, OBTR estimates that Jackson county will need new school commentary classrooms and 64 sectruction amounting to 78 elemondary classrooms in the period starting last June 1 and ending in the 1959-60 school year. Cost of these new classrooms is estimated at $3,606,482.

This estimated cost includes new plants, additions to existing plans, remodeling of existing plants, equipment, new sites, enlargements, and improvements.

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Box That Talks

GEO. N. TAYLOR

—"It Speaks our own Yeo words." So said Grandma Pan of the Yeo tribe, there in Asia. And she drew up a stool to listen to the strange words of the strange God who loves all the Yeo people and sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to save them from their sins. This Son of God can also save the Yeo people from the fear and worship of evil spirits. The box gave it all in Yeo words and Grandmother took it all in. How silly of the missionary to ask if she understood it. And the kiddies and the men came close to hear.

World-Wide: — God gives eternal life to the Yeo people as well as to us Americans. And with eternal life, God gives new ways, days, hope and cheer to all who possess Christ in their heart as God the Saviour who died for their sins. This Message sent by a family of Beaverton, Ore. —Paid adv.

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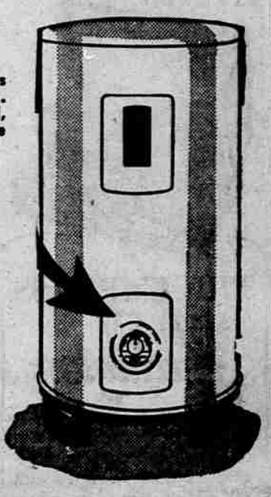

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