

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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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 Dec. 28, 1944 (It was Thursday) Jackson County Circuit Judge H. K. Hanna reported seriously ill in Portland.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column: The OPA, by its surprise change in ration point values, is accused of "confounding the housewives." Reports from all over the nation say the housewives are now "confounding the OPA"—and how!

20 YEARS AGO Dec. 28, 1934 (It was Friday) Soloists at Jacksonville Presbyterian church musical program include Henry Niedermeyer, Florence Hunsaker, William Joe Nee, Alena G. Nee.

Circuit Judge H. D. Norton gives jail sentences to two men picked up in Christmas eve raid on "Midnight club" in King's highway district.

30 YEARS AGO Dec. 28, 1924 Miss Dortha Florey wins \$50 prize in Medford Better Home Lighting contest.

Plans announced for paving of Crater Lake road from Medford entrance to Annie Spring.

40 YEARS AGO Dec. 28, 1914 Rogue River Public Service corporation doubles its force of workmen in effort to speed completion of plant at Gold Hill.

F. S. Carpenter offers \$10 for first sack of sugar made from locally grown beets.

What's the Answer?

(Can You Get 4 of the 7?)

- 1. Practically all the money received from Christmas savings clubs is used to buy Christmas gifts; right or wrong? 2. Public elementary school teachers get higher average salaries in Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon or Wisconsin? 3. The U. S. consumption of beer works out to about 25 pints, 25 quarts, 25 gallons, or 25 barrels a year for each adult? 4. Egg prices now are relatively high or low for this time of year, or about normal? 5. Maximum weights for trucks are fixed by Congress, the President, each state for its own roads, the Interstate Commerce Commission or the U. S. Commerce Department? 6. Auto supplies account for much more or much less than half, or for about half, the business of auto-supply chain stores? 7. More persons in the world profess Christianity than any other single religion; right or wrong?

The Answers: 1. Wrong; about one-third goes into savings; 2. In New York; 3. About 25 gallons per year per adult; 4. Relatively low; 5. By each state for its own roads; 6. Much less than half; 7. Right.

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Socialism versus Communism

We hope some of our ultra-conservative contemporaries will look up the definitions of socialism and communism before the New Year gets into high gear. So many of them confuse the two terms, and don't know what either of them mean in the first place.

Socialism this group keeps maintaining is a synonym for communism. If they are not identical, they are at least brothers-under-the-skin.

Congressman Ellsworth started this ball rolling several years ago and it has been gathering the moss of ignorance ever since.

Perhaps the new congress can do something about it. We hope so. For to go on this way, confusing socialism with communism and using both, not as political terms, but as partisan epithets, is a stupid business and a destructive one.

THERE is, of course, a striking similarity between socialism and communism theoretically as both favor the means of production and distribution be owned or controlled by the government.

But there the similarity ends, as socialism in England and communism in Russia today demonstrate.

If further proof were needed the opposition of socialists the world over, to communism and vice versa, should supply it. If the two parties had identical purposes, aims and methods they would join and go to it.

As the perennial leader of socialism in the United States, Norman Thomas has often pointed out, communism means today's Russian communism, the methods of which are as hostile to American socialism, as the theories of Hitler's Nazism or Mussolini's Fascism. All true socialists, Thomas has asserted, will fight such forms of tyranny to the death.

SO IT is to be hoped that when some of the more choleric members of the "Old Guard" flair up over President Eisenhower's new program of increased social-security payments adding over 10,000,000 to the rolls or radical reductions in the protective tariff, they will think before they speak—they can call it more socialism or communism if they wish, but they can't—correctly, at least—call it both!—R.W.R.

Was "T. R." a Socialist?

Along the above line we note that the Los Angeles Times—than which in the circles of political reaction there is none such—lauds Secretary of the Interior McKay for his valiant fight against "socialism" and especially commends his opposition to "Democratic-Socialistic" theories of the conservation of our natural resources in general, and Tidelands oil, in particular.

The Times, in other words, brands former President Theodore Roosevelt as a "socialist" and the US Supreme Court as devoted to anti-democratic and socialistic principles of government.

For the principles of conservation as advocated by TR are the same principles opposed by Secretary McKay; and if the new laws concerning Tidelands oil, particularly the oil in the Outer Continental Shelf, are fair examples of this valiant fight against "creeping socialism" then the highest court must be controlled by socialists.

Logic allows no other conclusion.

BUT such a conclusion is absurd, of course.

The opposition to such progressive social and economic programs in the realm of promoting the national welfare is not what we object to — many don't like them—but the claim that it is a fight against socialism—and so often the charge, by implication at least, that socialism is merely communism under another name — that sort of thing is irritating and foolish.

This is not a question of semantics so much, but a question of fighting our political battles with real weapons and in the realm of facts, instead of phoney ones in the realm of make-believe and sham.

As above indicated, perhaps the new session of the congress, can do something about it.—R.W.R.

Some "Comeback"

Speaking of "come backs" the history of Charles A. Lindbergh should encourage anyone interested along that line.

Only 10 or 12 years ago Lindbergh dropped from the niche of No. 1 hero and recipient of the Congressional Medal, to being forced by the President of the United States to resign his commission as a member of the air reserve and go into retirement.

President Roosevelt at the time compared him to Vallandigham, the leader of the "copper-heads" during the Civil War, when he (Lindbergh) opposed US entrance into the war against Germany. Today "Lindy" is a Major General, on a secret mission for the Secretary of Air H. E. Talbot and one of the most valued and trusted experts on aerial warfare in the country. The reason — Lindbergh's ability in the realm of airplane construction and air combat, his essential honesty and courage. "You can't keep a good man down."

Q.E.D.—R.W.R.

Motorist Astonished To See Persuing Plane

Vernon, B. C. (U.P.)—A light plane, piloted by Joe Garrett, made an emergency landing on a highway near here Sunday night and crumpled the back of Albert Werner's car.

The motorist told police he glanced through the rear window of his car and was astonished to see an aircraft sputtering along behind. "It seemed to be following me and I couldn't get away from it," Werner said.

Burglar Tripped Up By Hole in Shoe

Oklahoma City (U.P.)—Leonard D. Munnell faced a burglary charge today because he had a hole in his shoe.

Police said they first suspected a man who lived in the same rooming house with Munnell of committing a \$33.85 cafe burglary. But they found tracks leading to Munnell's room were made by the same shoe with a hole that had left prints in the mud outside the cafe.

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

CANALSIDE DANGERS

Saigon, Indochina — Across the busy canal there was a barracks. One could tell it was a barracks because the Communist chiefs of the Viet Minh



Joseph Alsop

army enforce strict, if primitive, rules of personal hygiene, which brought out the whole company of men inhabiting the little palm huts to soap and scrub themselves in the muddy canal water, morning and evening at appointed hours.

The soldiers were preparing for the public ceremony that would take place before their embarkation to join the big Communist armies in the North. There was singing. There was a gymnastic exercise. And the high point was a long, elaborate, propaganda dance miming the fall of Dienbienphu or some other Communist victory.

Of the five man dance team, three members were graceful, slender Vietnamese. One was stocky, deep eggplant colored and performed his steps with a marked stamp — most probably a French colonial soldier from the Ivory Coast. And the bright blond head of the fifth dancer marked him as a captured German member of the Foreign Legion who had been successfully re-educated. They danced well, and passing sampanloads of villagers stopped to watch and applaud.

I was not supposed to be in the independent Viet Ninh state, which still survives in southern Indochina. Having got there, I was not supposed to see anything. But I was allowed to take the sun on the little pier in front of where I was being held under a gentle house arrest. And from my pier, I too darted occasional cautious glances at the dancing soldiers.

It was the dance team, perhaps illogically, that first brought home to me the formidable character of the Viet Minh achievement. For where would you find a more threadbare Communist propaganda trick than this too obvious demonstration of the brotherhood of "Peace Fighters"?

AND yet where would you find a better proof of the Viet Minh success than these dancers, perfecting their performance with trained enthusiasm, and including two of the mercenaries brought there by the French to Indochina to destroy the Viet Minh? What careful organization and what power to inspire emotion, must have been needed to produce this single trivial result of five posturing, chanting young men, who were so obviously convinced and delighted by their solemn humorless Communist dance!

A far longer report would be needed to describe the Viet Minh methods in details but two sets of facts will help to convey their remarkable character. One of the questions I asked the high Viet Minh officials who came to talk with me before deciding to

let me go home again, was how they managed to provision the very large army in their zone without making it a burden to the peasantry.

They replied, that it had really been very hard until two years ago, when the inflation of the Viet Minh currency had forced the substitution of rice taxes for money taxes. The changeover had really gone very well—were Dr. Vinh, the local former secretary of the treasury, smiled as George Humphrey might have smiled over the passage of last year's new tax bill.

The average tax of just over 20 per cent of rice production had not proven too burdensome for the villagers. The inflation had been immediately rolled back, so that the exchange rate of the Ho Chi Minh piastre dropped from 150 down to 40 to one. And rice storage, which they had been very worried about, turned out to be no problem at all.

Government granaries were of course out of the question because of the danger of French air attacks. So when the taxes were paid in, the peasants' patriotic associations in each village nominated certain trustworthy villagers to hold the government grain. That way, the treasury, like everything else in the region, was ideally dispersed.

THE army too was normally dispersed as well as kept on the move. When a company entered a village, the company commanders simply presented the necessary rice receipts to the village grainholders. The government rice was paid out again to feed and pay the soldiers; and that was that, except when troops were being collected for a big offensive operation. Then the peasants of the surrounding region would be asked to transport extra government rice to the main concentration points. How primitively simple, yet how marvelously efficient! And what rigid discipline, and what general loyalty must have been needed to make such a system work without cheating or pilferage by soldiers or villagers! As to the existence of this discipline and belief, the bleak statistics of the life of the men I chiefly talked with gave proof enough of that. All might have been living comfortably or even richly as city bourgeois. All were living as poor peasants, although at least two were very high officials of the Viet Minh state. All got approximately the same state salaries—enough rice to eat plus a little fish and vegetables.

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To them, it had been fully worth it. Smiling a little thinly, Dr. Vinh remarked to me just before we parted "We started from zero. In 1945 when I joined the resistance, we had nothing, nothing. And now we have almost everything and it will not be long before all Viet Nam is ours." He was, alas, only too probably bang right.

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PEDALING AROUND—Just to prove he can still do it, California's Governor Goodwin J. Knight pedals a bicycle once around the Capitol to show newsmen his trim cycling form.

Eyes of Western Powers Turned To Colombo Conference

By CHARLES M. McCANN United Press Foreign Analyst

Five Prime Ministers who represent about 535,000,000 people are the principals in the conference of the so-called Colombo powers which started today in Indonesia.



Charles M. McCann

It happens that all of the countries represented — India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma and Indonesia — recognize Communist China.

The relation of the Red Chinese regime with the West, the imprisonment of 11 American airmen as spies, the status of the Chinese Nationalist government and the Southeast Asia Pact against Communist aggression

are sure to be discussed. It happens also, however, that all five Colombo powers have emerged from colonial status to independence since World War II.

The feeling that the great Western powers are "colonialists" and that they do not belong in Asia is still strong, and the old issue of colonialism probably will be the really big topic in the conference.

Asia-Africa Talks Proposed Premier Ali Sastroamidjojo of Indonesia is the chief sponsor of a plan to hold a great conference of Asiatic and African countries in Indonesia next spring.

Any such meeting would be pretty sure to turn into an attempt to form a bloc of anti-colonial nations, and it might mark another step in the trend toward "neutrality" in countries which want to be aligned neither with East nor West, as East and West are viewed in this country.

All the prime ministers deny they are neutralists or that they want to form any bloc. But the actions of some of them point that way.

Today's conference is being held at the health resort of Bogor, 30 miles south of the Indonesian capital of Djakarta. The countries represented are called the Colombo powers because they first got together at Colombo, Ceylon, last April.

Interest in Red China In this country in the Bogor conference will center, naturally, in anything that may be said about Communist China.

Two of the five premiers, Jawaharlal Nehru of India and U Nu of Burma, have just returned from visits to Peiping. Nehru enjoys especially good relations with the Red Chinese regime, and some hope is held he may be helpful in the attempt to free the 11 Americans the Reds are holding.

Two more of the premiers, however, have visited the United States recently. They are Sir John Kotelawala of Ceylon and Mohammed Ali of Pakistan. Pakistan, alone of the Colombo powers, joined the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. Neither is likely to agree to any proposal—if a proposal is made—which would help the Peiping regime at the expense of the West.

Communicable Disease Total 33 Last Week

The total number of communicable diseases reported to the Jackson county health department Christmas week was 33, the department reported.

Nine cases of chickenpox were listed; two cases of infectious hepatitis (in Central Point and Ashland), two of strep throat, four of Vincent's angina, three of virus enteritis (all in Medford), seven of influenza, and single cases of pneumonia, undulant fever (Eagle Point), rheumatic fever, scarlet fever (Medford), German measles and infectious mononucleosis.

A Nichol's Worth of . . . Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS United Press Features Writer

Washington (U.P.) — What's new in Washington:

John Foster Dulles, the secretary of state, might lay claim to the dubious honor of being the most absent-minded character in the government.

The secretary is well traveled. He also is a great loser — loser of sex, undergarments and other incidentals of the well traveled man. He has left a trail around the world of forgotten handkerchiefs and dirty socks, which he loses one at a time. According to his staff, he gets a lot of the items back—prepaid.

The Veterans Administration gave a \$325 "bonus" to Mrs. Mona Capparell, a former WAC, who now works in the local VA office. Mrs. Capparell, an insurance premium review clerk, thought it silly for the vets to fill out a whole bunch of multiple copies when applying for insurance. Mrs. Capparell concluded that all of this could be done in single copy. She figured all of the dictating, transcribing, and so forth could save the administration between \$22,000 and \$23,000 a year. And most likely, it will.

The Army News reports that it is costing \$8,127 a year to have German guards keep a lookout 24 hours a day at a European supply dump. Soldier guards for the same post would cost more than \$25,000 a year.

According to the railroad people Santa's No. 1 helper was the engineer and his train crew. And the Post Office Department backs up the statement with the information that more than 5,500,000,000 pieces of mail, plus a lot of packages were moved up and down the coast and across

the country by rail. That doesn't take in the airlines.

More than 200 mail cars, packed to the ceiling, were needed to take the load.

There is a tavern in our town which has what it likes to call a hangover cure. There hangs a sign on the bar which says: "Two aspirins, tomato juice, small size, black coffee and deepest sympathies—25 cents."

Aim Too Good; Man Hits Wife With Arrow

Bridlington, England (U.P.)—Big Chief Beaver, 32, a bow-and-arrow stunt man who claims to be a North American Indian, wounded his wife in the chest during a vaudeville performance last night because his aim was too good.

The blindfolded chief shot steel-tipped arrows at a two foot square board held by his wife, Marie, 22. One of the arrows passed through a hole made by a previous shot and hit his wife in the chest, inflicting minor injuries.

The audience thought it was part of the act and laughed as the curtain fell.

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