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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

Jan. 25, 1945. Octavia Waddell has high score at Medford rifle shoot with total of 376; other top scorers are Max Terzenbach, Lew Conger, Clyde Richmond, and Charles Bottjer.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column: Samples of spring will soon be on tap here. Crows have started cawing at dawn in the suburban areas, while flying as the crow flies.

20 YEARS AGO

Jan. 25, 1935. Transient nabbed by Medford city police for passing counterfeit nickels in local beer hall.

State Sen. George W. Dunn, Ashland, returns to desk in legislature after recovering from being hit by an auto while crossing a street in Salem.

30 YEARS AGO

Jan. 25, 1925. Coach Callison reports that star forward Merv Chastain will not be able to play in basketball game against Oregon from because of illness.

City of Ashland schedules vote on bond issue for purchase of Chautauqua site.

40 YEARS AGO

Jan. 25, 1915. University of Oregon Dramatic club to appear here, with Edison Marshall, Medford, a member of the cast.

From the Local and Personal column: The warm sunshine of Sunday brought out scores of people in the late afternoon who autoed over the paved district. The Pacific highway was a favorite drive.

What's the Answer?

(Can You Get 4 of the 7?) Copr. 1955, Editorial Research Report

- 1. "Peril point" is a phrase used in Washington on car speed, tariff duties, criticism of S. e. n. McCarthy, number of drinks at a party, or low-cut women's gowns. 2. Surgery can or can't help many cases of heart disease? 3. \$50 is the maximum exemption for dividends to one person in the federal income tax for 1954; right or wrong? 4. Which of these gets more snow in an average year: Denver (Colo.), Minneapolis (Minn.), Portland (Me.), Spokane (Wash.), Syracuse (N.Y.)? 5. What was the realm of the Sultan of Swat? 6. From which of these do the Russians commonly make vodka: corn, rye, barley, potatoes, berries, grapes? 7. Duncan Phyfe was a well-known early American painter, newspaper publisher, Indian fighter, cabinet maker, or educator?

The Answers: 1. Tariff duties. 2. Can. 3. Wrong; it's \$50 plus amount up to 2 per cent of taxable income. 4. Syracuse. 5. The baseball diamond (he was Babe Ruth). 6. Potatoes or rye. 7. Cabinet maker.

WEATHER: By United Press. Northern California: Fair except considerable fog late night and morning.

Has The SP Awakened?

Our attention has been called to the fact that the Southern Pacific has decided not to abandon the night-train to and from Portland.

This is nice—and wise—of them. What is nicer is the report they intend to improve the service by putting on smooth, powerful Diesel engines, more inexpensive Pullman rooms and perhaps even going back to the cafe car.

WE hope all this is true. For years the Mail Tribune has urged the SP to stop complaining about its lack of passenger patronage and put on a type of service that would deserve and increase it.

But as the record shows, instead of following this advice the SP higher-ups have consistently ignored it. More than that they have reduced the service under the time-honored plea of economy making it steadily worse—and less deserving of patronage.

Perhaps there is someone in the upper brackets of the passenger service who has awakened to the fact at last that good will is as important to a railroad as penny-pinching, and far more profitable. Also, that the more good-will a railroad enjoys the more freight it gets—and freight literally "pays the freight" in the railroad business.

MOREOVER, if this awakening should prove to be true—in view of the record a certain scepticism in this department might be pardoned—then it won't be long before the painful and tiresome bus-service to catch "The Daylight" is abandoned—and a small and inexpensive passenger service on the rails instead of the overworked highway is substituted, in other words a through passenger railroad service to California is resumed.

Not only would such common sense and needed modernization increase good will for the SP, but it would we are sure, increase SP gross income.

The best way for the SP to prove the Mail Tribune is right—or wrong—would be to try it out—say over a 5-year period!—R.W.R.

Silly Business

Now that the Reds, Pinks and Yellows are out of the state department, how about a drive against the Nit-Wits?

Nit-Wit No. 1 was the originator of the so-called retaliatory move against Russia, for restricting the movements of U.S. citizens behind the iron curtain.

It was decided to do the same here. So Russian citizens have been barred from various cities and counties in the USA, some of the latter it appears however, no longer exist.

But that doesn't seem to worry the state department, the order has gone out and is presumably being enforced, as if we were also running a police-state and had our own iron-curtain!

THE Russians involved carry proper passports, with their pictures thereon, names and addresses, and all are here, according to their claims, on legitimate business, official or otherwise. There is no reason to doubt this.

If they are NOT, does the State Department think Russia would be so stupid as to thus publicize and identify them?

How silly can we get? THE Russians in this country that should be restricted, aren't carrying passports, aren't identified even as Russians, but are incognito, and undercover somewhere. Some of them undoubtedly are American citizens doing the termite act but at liberty as far as this latest order is concerned, to go anywhere they please.

Not that such an absurd and childish action can do much harm per se, except to make us appear foolish. But it does tend to divert government attention from the main business at hand, which is to run down and apprehend, the human termites that are still at work, and not waste energy and time upon the handful of Russian citizens who are properly accredited visitors here and clearly identified as such.

IN fact unlike Soviet Russia we have nothing to hide or apologize for. The more Russian visitors see of this country, and what is going on here, the less satisfied they may be with their police state, and the more they will envy our form of capitalistic democracy. In short it is good advertising, good for our morale and not good for Russian morale.

Those few places here that are out of bounds, not open to the public, and for security reasons shouldn't be, have no more reason to fear these Russian visitors than visitors from France or the Scandinavian countries. In fact an American citizen in good standing, without the proper credentials, can't get inside the outermost gate, much less the inner works, so what could a Russian citizen with his proper visa and photograph, accomplish?

IT is all too silly for words. The State Department officials who thought it up and put it into effect, should be invited to devote their creative imagination and childish fancies somewhere else!—R.W.R.

Army Freeing 12,000 For Combat Units

Washington—(U.P.)—The Army said today it is freeing 12,000 officers and men for combat units by replacing them with civilians. The program will allow the Army to retain several combat units which otherwise would have been shut down because of manpower cuts.



FREED FROM SLAVERY—Pvt. William A. Verdine Jr., 28 (left), of Starks, La., is interviewed by Col. Everett V. G. King, commander of the U. S. Army hospital in West Berlin, after he was freed by the Russians. His health damaged by six years of slave labor in the Soviet Union, Verdine asked for only two things—medical attention and an American cigaret.

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

FOLLOWING: U NU

Rangoon, Burma—The least pretentious and most respectable leader of the new Asia, beyond much doubt, is the man who has led the Burmese people through their hard times.

The gentle manner, the quiet speech, the benevolent expression represent one side of the man—the side that makes him wish to lay down the Premier's office in order to enter Buddhist orders. But there is another side to Prime Minister U Nu—a tough, resilient, realistic and courageous side, as the record very plainly proves.

This reporter was received in the same room, plain house where his partner was also received by the Burmese Premier in 1949. In those days, only six years ago, U Nu had just inherited office as a result of the assassination of the entire Burmese cabinet. And in those days, U Nu and his young government truly ruled only the barbed wire entanglement in which they lived outside Rangoon. All else, including much of the city itself, was in the hands of the Communists and other groups of insurgents.

Now, however, the barbed wire is down at last. The Communists are on the run and the other insurgents are at the end of their tether. Burma is on her feet as a nation. Immense problems remain to be solved but there is the wonderful hope in the air that is compounded of Burma's new freedom and even newer self-confidence. And so U Nu has a magnificent achievement to look back upon.

But he does not look back (except that he remarked with a grin that he hoped the reporter's partner had not thought the Burmese government was panicky in the barbed wire days.) Instead U Nu looks at the world around him, the disordered Asian world whose threatened upheavals are the real danger to Burma's future.

HE HAS just returned from Peking, where he dared to praise American good-will and American good intentions in his main public speech to the Chinese Communists. Just as he said things in Peking that had not been heard there since the Communist conquest, he now said things about China which Americans will find hard to swallow.

In brief, U Nu described the Chinese Communists as passionately fearful of "encirclement" by American bases; as firmly convinced that the ultimate American aim was to attack their regime; and as being ready, for these reasons, to fight in order to avoid this "encirclement."

While U Nu made it rather plain that he did not think these Chinese fears well founded he also indicated that their existence ought to be treated as a practical fact of Asian politics. He added that he had received the most solemn assurance from the Peking leaders that they would respect the integrity of their Asian neighbors. And these assurances, he said, he had to believe until there was proof to the contrary.

If this had been all, one would have put U Nu's analysis of Chinese policy down as the grave-yard whistling of the leader of a small country who hurries to be convinced by a big neighbor's smooth talk precisely because the danger is so great. But this was not all.

Instead the discussion turned to a coolly dispassionate analysis of the situation in South Asia. Being a sensible man, U Nu believes the Viet Minh will win Southern Indochina in the end. He expects a Viet Minh victory in South Viet Nam to place Cambodia and Laos in situations of great danger. He foresees that a Communist victory in Laos and Cambodia, and above all in

strategically placed Cambodia, will lead on to a Communist victory in Thailand. And as the man who outwaded the Communist party in Burma, he quite clearly views this political chain reaction with intense distaste.

Like India's Jawaharlal Nehru racially, culturally and politically allied to China, and the Laotian and Cambodian peoples, racially non-Chinese, culturally Indian, and politically anti-Communist, should become the great divide in Southern Asia. He did not deny, however, that preventing a crossing of this divide would be a difficult business.

HE DISCUSSED the problem with calm practicality, with special reference to Cambodia. The first thing, he said (and with real insight) was to free Cambodia of the last vestiges of French colonialism, in order to give the Cambodian people a true sense of independence. After that, he added, India and Burma too ought to assume a serious political and moral responsibility for Cambodia's future, establishing the closest links with the Cambodian government.

He was reminded, however, that there were also grave practical problems to be solved. Only extensive economic aid would render Cambodia independent of South Viet Nam, to which she has been tied by France in every possible way. Only the hardest and toughest kind of military guaranty could give the small Cambodian nation the self-assurance to defy the great military power of the Viet Minh, and to concentrate on building their own future. And this aid and this guaranty had to come from the West.

To these propositions, U Nu assented. But he asked whether a military guaranty of Cambodia was possible without the transformation of Cambodia into an American military base, which would immediately arouse China's fears. The reporter ventured to reply that if India and Burma were indeed willing to assume the chief political and moral responsibility in Cambodia and the rest of South Asia, the American government ought to see that this was a far better bargain than the acquisition of politically untenable military bases. And this seemed to please U Nu.

What he said should also please the policy makers in Washington. For if there is any way to halt the terrible chain reaction that threatens to begin in South Asia and end by engulfing the world, the job must be done on the principles that U Nu quietly but clearly sketched out.

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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 an eye to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Predicts Inclement Weather To the Editor: All indications point to Spring as right around the third corner of our open winter. A "new" moon Sunday at 5:06 p.m. also in zodiac sign, Aquarius. Unfortunately, the saying, all weather prophets are fools and all weather signs fail, have some merit.

As a virtual rule, weather changes follow the moon's changes, from "new," first quarter, to "full" moon. The sign Aquarius meaning water literally, is in reality an air sign of the solar zodiac.

Only about ten more days until the proverbial "woodchuck" makes his appearance to determine the weather following the next six weeks from Feb. 2. We only surmise that we are destined for some more future inclement weather before March 21 when the vernal equinox arrives on that date.

Bert Kistingner, 520 Boardman St., Medford, Ore.

Increase in Defense Spending Not Likely in Formosa Situation

Washington—(U.P.)—Defense officials said today the new military risks now foreseen in the Formosa area can be met without stepping up defense spending or expanding the armed forces.

The American military machine, they said, is today a far cry from the force suddenly cast into Korea in mid-1950. In a steady and expensive 4 1/2-year buildup, it has been made ready for global war or what may unfold in such a hot spot as Formosa.

Reaction To Request That was civilian and military reaction at the Pentagon after President Eisenhower asked congressional authority to use U.S. forces "is necessary, to defend Formosa and other Chinese Nationalist islands important to Formosa."

Authorities granted that military spending would shoot up if an expeditionary force of several Army divisions had to be moved into battle with the Red Chinese at some later stage. In that connection, House Democratic Leader John W. McCormack called on Mr. Eisenhower to reconsider cuts ordered in Army size.

Ika Against Sending Troops Administration policy, however, is against involvement of U.S. ground forces in Asia and there was no suggestion that they might be used in

the present situation. Not were there any suggestion yet that Army cuts might be eased.

Military men here considered that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek had adequate ground strength in his 20 or more divisions with their ample American equipment.

Pentagon leaders called the U.S. forces well prepared to meet a test under Mr. Eisenhower's policy of building strength for the long haul instead of for crisis periods.

Armed Forces Doubled The country's military strength today is built around more than 3,000,000 in uniform, twice as many as in mid-1950.

The Navy, carrying the load in

the Formosa area, operates 1-100 ships including 406 warships, roughly double its mid-1950 strength. It has double the number of large aircraft carriers operating and a fleet of modern jet aircraft.

The Air Force, which could be called into action quickly in the present situation, has 120 wings compared with 48 in mid-1950 and is building toward 137. It has 14 wings and numerous squadrons in the Far East including a wing of B-36 Superbombers on Guam.

The Army, a 10-division force at the time of Korea, now has 19 divisions and the new and enormous firepower of atomic weapons.

Trial of Yugoslav Communist Leaders Strange Business

By CHARLES M. MCCANN

United Press Foreign Analyst

The trial in Belgrade of two high ranking Yugoslav Communist leaders is a strange business.

Here are two men charged with high crimes against the regime of President Tito. They veered sharply from the party line and defiantly refused to get back on it.

In Soviet Russia, or in any other Communist-ruled country, Milovan Djilas and Vladimir Dedijer would have been dead long ago.

Secret police would have seized them, probably from their beds in the early hours of some morning. They would have been

Belgrade—(U.P.)—Two top Yugoslav Communists charged with spreading "subversive propaganda" were freed early today after a district court sentence.

The men were Milovan Djilas who was sentenced to 18 months and Vladimir Dedijer who drew a six-month sentence. They were placed on probation for two and three years.

During their periods of "good behavior" they must avoid arrest and, presumably, avoid giving any more interviews to the foreign press which express criticism of the government.

WALKED TO TRIAL The two Communist deviants walked together to the district courthouse Monday for the opening of their trial. The five judges at first announced the trial would be public but suddenly changed their minds. Even then, relatives of the two defendants—Djilas' wife and mother, Dedijer's brother and sister-in-law and a few others—were permitted to remain.

IT IS the situation: Red China (in violation of, course, of all the rules governing civilized relationship among nations) is holding an undisclosed number of Americans in prison. In effect, it is HOLDING THEM FOR RANSOM.

WHAT is the ransom money that will eventually be demanded will be American consent to RED CHINA'S MEMBERSHIP IN UNITED NATIONS.

THERE is angry talk in Washington to the effect that if their relatives do accept the Chinese offer to permit them to visit the hostage prisoners they will themselves be seized and held as ADDITIONAL HOSTAGES.

That one is inclined to doubt. It isn't that the Chinese Reds wouldn't stoop that low. A Communist will stoop to anything to get what he wants. A more probable surmise is that they hope the relatives of these Americans who are held in Communist prisons can be so broken by the sight of these Americans who are held as hostages in savage hands that they will plead with their country to PAY THE RANSOM MONEY and obtain their release.

WHAT shall we do? Shall we stand pat and firm and see these Americans suffer the fate that so often in history has been suffered by hostages held in savage hands?

Or shall we submit and pay the ransom money? Or shall we go to war to save them?

IT is one of the gravest questions of our time. It is GRAVE because if all out war gets loose again it could mean the end of the world.

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