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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
Feb. 4, 1945
(It was Sunday)

Herb Crain, Medford Navy recruiting officer, received discharge and takes over management of service station at Sixth and Grape sts.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column: A patriarch was caught rolling a cigarette yesterday. He said when he first started smoking them 60-odd years ago, they were called "coffin-nails" and his boss lectured him daily on wasting man-power hours manufacturing them.

20 YEARS AGO
Feb. 4, 1935
(It was Monday)

Harvey Field, Bob Cherry, Mary Kem and Margaret Bateman have leading parts in senior high school operetta, "Chimes of Normandy."

Work progressing rapidly on new addition to Mann's Department store on East Main st.

30 YEARS AGO
Feb. 4, 1925

Medford city planning commission discusses plans for construction of new high school.

Hope for rescue of Floyd Collins, imprisoned by slide in Kentucky cave, fades when new cave-ins block rescue efforts.

40 YEARS AGO
Feb. 4, 1915
(It was Thursday)

Herbert Alford, Medford, student at Stanford university, becomes member of singing group on Palo Alto campus.

Hill Taxi service announces plans for installation of daily service between Medford and Ashland.

What's the Answer?

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

1. Have any big cities begun to desegregate their schools in view of the anti-segregation Supreme Court decision last May?
2. Installment credit payments these days are reported to be prompt or delayed, on the whole?
3. The present Congress contains one, two, three, four, five, or more Negro members, or none at all?
4. Texas is larger than England, France and West Germany combined; right or wrong?
5. The base pay for a captain in the Army is nearer $125, $225, $325 or $425 a month?
6. Certain bank stocks are now listed on the N.Y. Stock Exchange; right or wrong?
7. Harley-Davidson was or wasn't an early make of automobile?

The Answers: 1. Yes, several, e.g., Baltimore and Washington. 2. Prompt, on the whole. 3. Three; Reps. Dawson (D., Ill.), Diggs (D., Mich.), Powell (D., N.Y.). 4. Right. 5. It's around $325 a month. 6. Wrong. 7. Wasn't; it was a motorcycle.

TUMBLING CLASS

Donald Day, physical director of the Medford YMCA, has announced that a tumbling class for boys over 9 will start Saturday, Feb. 5, from 2 until 4 p.m. The class will be taught by Ron Collins, a student at Southern Oregon college. Boys may register by phoning 2-6295, or by calling in person at the desk of the YMCA.

Volunteer Bureau Good Idea

Some of the cities in the San Francisco bay area have set up Volunteer Bureaus—clearing houses where persons willing to give some time to community service may register and receive assignments to such projects or facilities as may be in need of help from time to time. This method of bringing together the civic-minded and those who would welcome their services is an excellent one and one which might be adopted with benefit here.

* * * * *

IN ADDITION to the numerous organizations, agencies and groups devoted to year around civic or welfare and relief work there are going on, most of the time, drives or campaigns which desperately need manpower, and womanpower. Almost without exception these movements are worthy, have the sympathetic interest of the general public but attain something less than the objectives hoped for because the limited number carrying the burden simply aren't able to cover all the bases.

In the last few days six or seven such campaigns have either just been concluded, are now under way, or are about to start. Such, for instance, as the March of Dimes, Heart Fund, Aid For Blind, YMCA membership, Boy Scouts 45th anniversary observance, Children's Dental Health Week, and probably others we do not call to mind at the moment.

Too often the leaders in efforts like these are unable to enlist the interest and services of a sufficient number of helpers. Not because there aren't people who would be glad to assist, but because those who might be willing are not contacted and may be diffident about volunteering their services.

* * * * *

IF A Volunteer Bureau existed, possibly as a project of the Chamber of Commerce, anyone having some spare time for such work could make themselves known, specifying the type of service they would prefer or for which they would be best qualified, and when help was needed the project leaders would know where to find it, immediately.

A Volunteer Bureau would be of special advantage in speeding the integration of newcomers with the community life and activities. According to available figures over 3,000 new families moved into Jackson county last year. Many of these were headed by young people eager to demonstrate their capabilities by public service. Too, through their service and the contacts made there would be opportunity to make new friends and achieve a standing in the local scheme of things which might not otherwise come so easily or speedily.

* * * * *

IT MAY be that Medford is not large enough for a Volunteer Bureau or that not enough people here are interested in offering themselves for community service. The only way to find out would be by giving the proposal a trial. If the bureau system worked it could certainly prove a boon to the all-too-few who now carry the major load whenever there is something to be done.—E.C.F.

Hope Monax Was Right

Its just as well that Marmota Monax — Mr. Groundhog, that is—saw his shadow Tuesday for the Rogue River valley is in need of considerable more winter.

* * * * *

IN THE matter of precipitation we are far behind schedule with only 5.95 inches since September 1, 1954, about half what it should be for the season, and unless there is a decided change in the weather before long, summer will find us without enough snow in the mountains or moisture in the ground.

Other sections of the state are mostly in a somewhat similar dehydrated condition. The Portland area, for example, has just passed through its driest and mildest January since the Weather Bureau there started keeping records 81 years ago. Rainfall totaled only 2.8 inches as compared with the 5.43 inches normal for the month. The temperature range was also the smallest on record, the mercury fluctuating only 22 degrees from a high of 52 to a low of 30.

In Medford the temperature was slightly cooler than normal with thermometer readings running between 56 and 22.

* * * * *

OUR present weather is pretty nice, thank you, especially as compared with the southern states' tornadoes, the Ohio valley and Great Lakes region sleet and snow and the bitter cold of most of the plains states and middle Mississippi valley. But we can do with some more winter and most of us sincerely hope Marmota knew what he was doing when he scurried back into his burrow for another six weeks stay.—E.C.F.

Tradition, Progress Collide at Meeting

Waupaca, Wis.—(U.P.)—Tradition and progress collided at the opening session of the Waupaca county board to cause the newly elected sheriff, Floyd Taylor, one of his "most embarrassing moments."

Taylor, following custom, presented the board members with a box of cigars.

The 50 cigars were enough to go around when the board numbered 48 supervisors. But Taylor was short one cigar because he forgot about three newly elected supervisors from the new city of Manawa, who were seated for the first time.

Careless Handling of Livestock Gets Blame

Columbus, O.—(U.P.)—Enough livestock are injured or killed daily on their way to market to furnish one day's meat needs for half a million people, according to C. W. Hammans, Ohio State university farm expert.

Hammans, a marketing specialist, said careless handling of livestock means the loss of about a hundred tons of beef, lamb, and pork each day.

The result, he maintains, is a lower price to the producer and higher costs for the consumer. Bruised meat can't be eaten and extra labor is required to trim it out.

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.

Why Not A Train To S.F.?

To the Editor: I would like to add my opinion to that expressed in your recent editorial concerning the "friendly" Southern Pacific. I would also like to make a suggestion.

A couple of weeks ago I returned on the "Daylight" from San Francisco as far as Dunsmuir. It is a fine train and the trip is very enjoyable, speedy and comfortable — but what a journey from Dunsmuir to Medford! How any self-respecting railroad could offer such transportation is beyond my comprehension. The antiquated bus which meets the train in Dunsmuir takes three and a half tiresome hours to reach Medford. An automobile can easily cover that distance in two hours. Friends in San Francisco and Los Angeles have said to me, "Why can't we go by train to Medford?" I realize that at one time the S. P. did have a train connection in Dunsmuir which was not used much by Medford and Southern Oregon people — but no wonder! It was an uncomfortable old coach which dawdled along, stopping for five or 10 minutes at stations where no one got off or on. Why can't the S. P. furnish a diesel engine and one modern light car which could make the trip in less time and be comfortable and pleasant? Those small stations could be flagstops, I should think—thereby saving time.

I'm sure if more speedy and comfortable transportation were furnished the people of the Rogue Valley would give enthusiastic support to a daytime train to San Francisco. This is the least the Southern Pacific could do in return for all the freight business this region gives them.

Edith W. Braley,
245 Valley View drive,
Medford, Ore.

Play Criticism Unfair

To the Editor: Concerning the write-up in the Mail Tribune of the Footlighter's current play, I would like to give my opinion. I think that the writer of the story was unfair to both the little theater and the people who give their time to work on it without pay.

If he was so "scared" by the play that he couldn't stay for more than one act before forming his opinion, I see no justification in the write-up.

For more than five years, this little theater group has given plays for the community, and some of them outstanding. It seems to me that there has been comparatively few write-ups on these and so when one comes along that the drama critic does not like, a large write-up of its faults is immediately published.

As a final word, I would like to say that the Footlighters aren't trying to be a professional group, they are just showing what they think the community will enjoy in an informal, little theater atmosphere.

Pat Rice,
304 Hamilton street,
Medford, Ore.

She Was Amused

To the Editor: This wench was amused.

Being a simple peasant with limited experience and education, I can only tell you what I saw and heard and felt during the Footlighters presentation of "A Bill of Divorcement."

Funk & Wagnalls Standard dictionary describes entertainment as the art of furnishing amusement or food or a diverting performance. All this in full measure I received. The cast was well chosen, the coffee hot and delicious, and the plot controversial enough to provide interesting post mortem discussion.

There must be a bit of ham in most of us, and an amateur performance, sincerely executed, takes us "over the rainbow" as no commercially interrupted drama can do.

Medfordites! It will be worth your while to forego 20,000 tiny filters long enough to enjoy this delightful evening.

Footlighters—I salute you.
Name on File

P.S.—Remember, E.A., only the ignorant judge a half-finished production.

Court Records

POLICE COURT

Roy N. Colley, no operator's license, $5.
Howard W. Cox, no operator's license, $5.
Dorothy Mae Pitts, failure to yield right of way, $10.
Raymond Eugene Doty, failure to stop for red traffic signal, $5.
Jim Joe Hobbs Jr., failure to stop for red traffic signal, $5.
James Grant Metternick, violation of basic rule, $10.

DISTRICT COURT

Warren W. Kocher, failure to stop at stop sign, $10.
Beverly J. Norum, no operator's license, $7.50.
Billy L. Thompson, violation of basic rule, $10.
Alvin J. Paudois, overload, $20, overload, $43.
David E. Johnson, failure to stop at stop sign, $10.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

Island Rockpiles Long Fought Over By Chinese Forces

Editor's note: In the absence of Charles M. McCann, who is ill, the following special dispatch is substituted for his Foreign News Commentary.

By WILLIAM MILLER
United Press Correspondent

Taipeh, Formosa —(U.P.)— The islands off the China coast have been fought over for centuries by Chinese pirates and warlords.

Economically they are largely worthless rockpiles. But in the long bitter China Civil war they have assumed explosive significance.

The several island chains are strung out along 350 miles, from Amoy in the south to Haimen in the north. All together there are thousands of these volcanic outcroppings. They are inhabited principally by tough Chinese fishermen and goatherds.

Most important of the string of islands are Quemoy in the south Tachen at the far northern extreme of the chain, and Matsu, which is approximately way between.

Served as Bases

All three have in the past served as bases for Chinese smugglers and pirates. And from time to time in China's long and turbulent history they have served as springboards for operations either against the mainland or against Formosa.

Largest and most important from both Nationalist and Red China's viewpoint is Quemoy. It is the cork in Red China's important port of Amoy, in Fukien Province. In Nationalist hands it makes Amoy useless to the Communists. In Communist hands it would represent an important link in the coastal shipping lanes from Hong Kong to Shanghai.

Quemoy is the most heavily defended of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's islands. But it also is the most vulnerable to amphibious assault. It lies only four miles off Amoy and a fleet of invasion junks would have little trouble navigating the calm, shallow waters.

Tachen Like Corregidor

Chiang has three divisions stationed there to guard Quemoy's fine invasion beaches and the relatively flat interior which would be suitable targets for airborne paratroop assault.

Tachen, the extreme northern anchor of Chiang's outpost line, is a Corregidor-like bastion which would be a hard nut for an invading force to crack. On it, the Nationalists have built an excellent network of roads and pillboxes, and hundreds of yards of reinforced concrete underground tunnels running from end to end of the island.

Its weakness is that it is dependent on sea supplies from Formosa 250 miles to the south. Its distance from Formosa makes air cover difficult.

Matsu is similar to Tachen in its defenses.

Other islands of some importance include Yishan, Peishan, Nanchi, Yingshu, Penhuan and Wuchiu.

But these Nationalist-held rock piles are mere satellites to the "Big Three" and whoever holds Quemoy, Matsu and Tachen will of necessity possess them as well.

Is That So?

By Eugene Burns
Ranger-Naturalist

"I love birds and I want to be a good neighbor, especially during sharp winter weather," writes Mrs. T. E. D. "What can I do?"

I can well understand your love for birds, Mrs. T. E. D. I

think everyone has a longing to form a bond with wild creatures, particularly birds.

Though completely self-sufficient during warm weather, birds which remain through the winter are often desperately in need of food and the greatest service you can perform is to feed them, properly, of course.

To derive the greatest pleasure, may I suggest that you set up a window-cafeteria opposite your breakfast table. This will give you and your family a wonderful opportunity to watch the birds at close range.

The table should be a little shelf, extending perhaps a foot or two. To it attach some branches, preferably evergreens, to give it a woodsland touch.

Food Likes Differ

Naturally birds have different likes in foods. The insect eaters, such as woodpeckers nuthatches, chickadees, kinglets, creepers and jays all like suet and other fats, meat scraps, nut kernels, peanut butter, pancakes and crumbled doughnuts.

Graineaters such as juncos, tree sparrows, song sparrows, purple finches and grosbeaks like to eat "chick-feed" or cracked corn, weed seeds, sunflower seeds, squash seeds, screenings from the mill, bread crumbs and cake broken into crumbs.

Suet on Branches

To get birds to come near your shelf and in the habit of taking your offerings, fasten suet to branches of your shelf and to nearby tree trunks. Putting it in the nearby trees will bring the birds within sight of your shelter. Do not be discouraged if they do not come immediately—but within several days, sooner or later, they will find your shelf.

A warning: Take care to place your feeding stations where cats cannot attack your guests.

If ground birds live near you, do not forget them either. During a winter of deep snow and sleet you may help keep pheasants, grouse or quail alive by giving them cracked corn or other grains in a simple lean-to shelter near a hedge or a clump of grass. These birds, of course, must be fed on the ground.

Free: By special arrangement with the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana, my panel of judges will award each week to the reader who sends me the best question on nature and wildlife a complete 30-volume set of this world-famous reference work in a handsome Sealcraft binding. Each week, new questions will be considered. Sorry, I simply can't answer your many friendly letters. Please address your questions to: IS THAT SO: c-o Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

Florence—(U.P.)—Herbert David Pagan, 28-year-old logger from Dexter, Ore., was killed instantly yesterday afternoon when he fell into a double saw at a woods operation 50 miles east of here.

Babson . . . Discount Stores

Babson Park, Mass., (Special to Mail Tribune) One of the most significant lessons business learned in 1954 is that you can't kill competition in a free economy, not even with Fair Trade Acts or Price Fixing. For you, this may mean better quality for less cost in 1955. The automobile is a good example to use in this discussion. Remember the gravy train the average dealer rode from 1946 to 1953? Remember how you had to know Joe and even slip him a few extra bucks to get on a preferred waiting list back in 1948? It was a seller's market; the dealer called the shots and he made plenty of easy money.

Roger W. Babson

Suddenly in 1953 the seller's market became a buyer's market. The consumer was back in the driver's seat because much of the pent-up demand had been satisfied. Dealers who never learned how to make a dollar the hard way wound up in trouble. Some day the stock market will suffer the same experience.

Discount Markets Opened For Used Car Sales

As time went on, new cars began to appear on used car lots at reduced prices. Some manufacturers, after reopening new showrooms ballyhooed "great sales" with discounts of $800-$1,000 on new cars. This greatly encouraged the "Discount Houses." About the same time the National Automobile Dealears Association announced that it would "leave no stone unturned" to eliminate bootlegging and all other practices it considered unfair — but did it turn any stones?

A group of Detroit bankers, studying the industry's plight, found that not one of them had been approached by car or electric appliance salesmen since World War II. Word, however, got around that consumers had the money to buy and were only waiting for lower prices. Finally, dealers woke up and again worked hard for sales. This competition finally broke "price fixing" not only in the automotive industry but all along the line. It became as popular to break "fair trade" as it was to ignore prohibition during Hoover's administration.

Discount Houses Taking Former Places

The automobile dealers were not the only ones losing money. Appliance manufacturers, pen and hat makers, carpet weavers, and many others were in trouble. One prominent discount chain began to sell a "fair-traded" $89.95 vacuum cleaner for $49.95, and still made a good profit. Cries went up from manufacturers who vowed they would buy back every item of their manufacture they found in discount houses. Others wanted government interference to enforce "fair trade" and price fixing to rescue their profits.

The dam broke late last year when General Electric's major appliance division announced it was giving its distributors the responsibility for determining retail prices. With this announcement, big New York City department stores also broke away. They finally decided that they could not stand the competition of the discount houses. These are now provoking the same kind of a furor and revolution in merchandising as did the department stores and dime stores in the nineties. These latter have now become "respectable," and discount houses are taking their former places. Whether here to stay cannot now be foretold.

They, however, are reported to be doing a $25,000,000,000 retail business annually and accounting for about 18 per cent of all retail and 15 per cent of all wholesale trade.

Lesson for Merchants To Learn

It may be the so-called autobile bootlegger and the discount houses have rendered our economy a real service. I do not know, but I can remember how the department stores, mail-order concerns, and the chains started sixty years ago. They have reminded us that whether a manufacturer or his sales agents are wealthy or poor depends on the ingenuity and effort they apply to their work. They cannot expect to always make money by playing golf or going to Florida.

Much of what some businessmen call "unfair competition" may be "lazy competition." Another revolution may be needed to maintain a healthy free-enterprise system. It is this kind of competition that gave us the highest standard of living in the world. Furthermore, unless department stores, merchandising chains, and independents learn to do business cheaper and sell profitably at lower prices, "fair trade" may be doomed. Perhaps self-service will save the day.

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

In the past year, I must have sat in a dozen conferences whose primary objective was to find money for some good purpose. These purposes have ranged all the way from how to get more power for the State of Jefferson, so that we may be enabled to process our raw materials into finished products, thus providing more employment for more people, to how to get rid of algae in Klamath lake.

In a surprisingly large number of instances, somebody has finally made this suggestion:

"Maybe we can get the federal government to put up the money."

THAT is interesting, because it indicates how widespread is the notion that money from the federal government is like manna from heaven — something that comes down from on high without costing anybody anything.

THE Northwest regional office of the National Association of Manufacturers has just completed an illuminating breakdown of President Eisenhower's proposed 1956 federal budget of 62.4 billion dollars.

Oregon's share of this proposed budget will be approximately $696,488,000.

IN cold figures on a sheet of paper, that doesn't mean much, so let's see if we can get a comparison that will make it mean more to us—like standing a man beside a tall chimney in a picture in order to give people an idea of the height of the chimney.

The total appropriations of the Oregon legislature for the 1953-1955 BIENNIUM came to a total of $191,823,384.80. A biennium is two years. The federal budget is for one year.

So—

You see—

Oregon's share of the 1956 federal budget will be nearly SEVEN TIMES as much as it has cost to run the state of Oregon in each of the two years included in the 1953-1955 Oregon fiscal biennium.

That isn't hay.

LET'S put it another way.

In each of the years of the 1953-1955 Oregon fiscal biennium, it has cost us roughly $100,000,000 in legislative appropriations to run our state. Assuming that Oregon's population during this period has been about a million and a half, that means that our per capita cost of running our state has been about $65.

OREGON'S PER CAPITA SHARE OF THE 1956 FEDERAL BUDGET WILL BE $400.

LET'S make one more comparison.

It has cost Oregon about $65 per head to run its state government (as represented by legislative appropriations) in each of the years of the current fiscal biennium.

The per capita cost to Oregon of the INTEREST ON THE NATIONAL DEBT IN 1956 will be $44.

We've watched the steady rise in the federal debt with the comfortable illusion that after all it wasn't costing US anything — that Uncle Sam has to pay the interest on his debt.

The trouble is that WE'RE A PART OF UNCLE SAM.

THE only point I'm trying to make here is that money from Uncle Sam isn't manna from heaven. The only way Uncle Sam can get money is to take it out of our pockets.

Before he can GIVE IT TO US he has to TAKE IT FROM US.

Voluptua Apologizes For Disappearance

Hollywood—(U.P.)—Television's siren, Voluptua, reflected more schoolgirlish modesty than sex today as she apologized for disappearing for 10 hours and said she "never dreamed it would cause such public interest."

The buxom blonde, who was fired from a local TV station three days ago when viewers complained about her sexy gyrations and low cut gowns, said meekly she was sorry to have caused everybody "so much trouble."

Hardened Hollywood observers speculated that her "mysterious" disappearance from her flashy convertible car, which was found abandoned near the beach early yesterday, might be a publicity stunt.

Dad's Day Scheduled At SOC February 19

Ashland—Dads' day to honor the fathers of Southern Oregon college students, has been set for Saturday, Feb. 19, President Don Ferguson of Theta Delta Phi said today.

Bill Mearns, chairman of the event, said that "although Dads' day is the official title given the day, mothers are also being invited to attend the event."

Activities will include a general meeting in the afternoon, a banquet in the evening, a campus tour, and attendance at a basketball game between the Red Raiders and Portland State college.

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