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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

Mrs. Missouri May McCredie, resident of Jackson county for 52 years, dies at family home on Old Stage rd. after prolonged illness.

20 YEARS AGO

A. E. Brockway, president of Jackson County Cooperative, and Frank Hull, manager, leave for meeting of cooperatives in Walla Walla.

30 YEARS AGO

John C. Mann elected second vice-president of Oregon State Merchants association, which pledges "opposition to government meddling in business."

40 YEARS AGO

Seats at a premium for Medford-Ashland basketball series; Jimmy Allen, Mervyn Chastain, Gilbert Knips, Williams and Reichstein to start for Medford; Ashland coach bars girls from gymnasium during practice sessions.

What's the Answer?

1. Quemois island in Formosa Strait is nearer to Formosa or to the China mainland, or about equidistant? 2. The average yield of common stocks today is somewhat higher or lower than at their 1929 price peak, or about the same?

S.P. Anniversary

The Southern Pacific's observance this month of the 100th anniversary of the start of construction of its first lines in the west has special interest in this part of the company's territory. It was in February, 1855, that work started on that first small segment—23 miles between Sacramento and Folsom—

THE stretch of rail was projected to tap the rich mining regions of the lower Sierra slopes and link them to shipping on Sacramento's river route to San Francisco. The initial terminal objective was Marysville and it was planned to construct branches later to Coloma and Nevada City, and to San Francisco by way of Stockton.

Financial problems and difficulties connected with shipping rolling stock 18,000 miles around Cape Horn from eastern manufacturing centers brought construction to a halt for a time.

In 1865 the California and Oregon Railroad was incorporated to build from Marysville to Portland. The project was taken over by the Central Pacific, the parent company of the S.P., in 1870 with the right to build north to the California line.

IN the meantime, the Oregon Central Railroad, later known as the Oregon and California Railroad, had been formed by another group of rail-minded citizens at Portland and work started in building south.

Progress on the latter project dragged along and it wasn't until 1884 that the steel reached Ashland. As a result of a topheavy debt load and stockholder squabbling, the Oregon and California went into receivership and in 1887 the line was taken over by the Southern Pacific under lease.

THE California and Oregon had continued to push northward and reached Ashland on December 17 of 1887.

Joining of the north and south rail ends in the neighboring city to the south was completed with much ceremony and celebration. Portland and intermediate Oregon cities to the south were at last linked by rails with the Southern Pacific's California lines and the rugged journeys by stage or ocean vessel were a thing of the past.—E.C.F.

N.P. To Try Light Train

Railroad men, from track walkers to company presidents, mostly learn the business the hard way. Besides actually laboring in the various departments and skills, they come to know and respect the traditions which surround their calling. Perhaps these are the principal reasons why railroaders seem slow to inaugurate or even to accept changes. They learn to do their work in a long-practiced way or with certain machines and they are loath to try something new.

But red ink can be a powerful persuader and continued heavy loss of passenger patronage to the private automobile and to the air and bus lines may explain why at least some roads are planning to experiment with new and more economical type equipment.

THE Northern Pacific railway has purchased two self-propelled diesel cars from the Budd company of Philadelphia which it expects to place in service in a short time.

Starting March 1, one of the units, light in weight and of stainless steel, will run between Spokane, Wash., and Lewiston, Idaho, a distance of approximately 100 miles. The car will accommodate 70 passengers, will have a baggage compartment and will be air-conditioned. The other newly purchased unit will operate between Duluth, and Staples, Minn., starting later in March.

Because the initial cost of this type of equipment is comparatively low, large train crews are not required, and better time can be made than with the old lumbering and heavy standard equipment, it may be that the railroads will be able to offer rates and schedules which will give the air and bus lines some real competition.

THE Northern Pacific's experience with the light equipment will be watched with interest here for the Spokane-Lewiston run, particularly, may serve as an example of what could be done by the Southern Pacific in transporting passengers between say, Grants Pass, Medford and Ashland, and Dunsmuir, Calif., to the south, for connection with main line trains to San Francisco. The distance between the Rogue valley towns and Dunsmuir is about the same as that between Spokane and Lewiston.

At present there is no railroad passenger train service south from this valley, a peculiar situation for a territory which provides a vast amount of freight traffic, boasts three good sized towns and numerous smaller ones along the right of way.—E.C.F.

Blizzards Sweep Western Europe

London (U.P.)—Blizzards swept across Western Europe today from Sweden to Italy and snow whipped by 70-mile an hour winds isolated villages in Scotland for the second time this year. A whirlwind mixture of snow and rain kept Italian and American planes from resuming the search for the Belgian airliner with 29 persons aboard missing since Sunday night. Four of the passengers were Americans. The British Navy alerted helicopters to stand by for another

British Announcement Of Bomb Development Heads News of Week

By CHARLES M. McCANN United Press Foreign Analyst

The week's good and bad news on the international balance sheet:

1. Great Britain, America's closest ally, announced that it intends to start production of hydrogen bombs. It was a momentous development in the nuclear weapons race. The British government, in announcing the H-bomb program, said that the terrible power of this weapon would act as a deterrent to war. Before the British announcement was made, Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson had expressed confidence that the United States was "out ahead" of Russia in the production of nuclear weapons.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS In Washington, the dispatches inform us, major Capitol Hill attention is centered on a bill to hike the salaries of senators and representatives from \$15,000 a year to \$25,000 a year. The bill was passed by the house of representatives, and you can bet your bottom dollar that every senator and every representative was watching it with close attention.

1. France seemed doomed to go through a further period of political instability. Socialist leader Christian Pineau organized a cabinet to succeed that of Pierre Mendes-France, which fell on Feb. 5. But there was no indication that Pineau could stay in office long, or that he could exert any authority as premier.

2. Spain, which has granted the United States defense bases on its territory, complained that it was not getting sufficient American aid. As one of the strongest anti-Communist countries in the world, Spain feels that it ought to be given a bigger share of United States aid.

3. Prime Minister Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of India issued a joint statement saying that military alliances do not increase a country's security. Nasser, who is trying to block the Turkish-Iraqi defense agreement, seemed emerging like Nehru as a "neutralist" who opposes Western defense agreements against Red aggression.

THAT raises another question. How can we get that kind of men into the U.S. congress? This, I think, is the answer: BY BEING MORE DISCRIMINATING IN OUR VOTING AT ELECTION TIME.

SUPPOSE you were hiring a man to mow your yard. In looking over his qualifications, what would interest you most—His ability to get up on a stump and convince you by the power of his oratory that black is white? Or his ability to run a lawn mower?

PERSONALLY, I'm in favor of men who can run our nation wisely, efficiently and economically rather than men who can make me believe that black is white.

I don't WANT to believe that black is white.

THAT brings up an interesting situation much closer home. We pay the members of our Oregon legislature \$600 a year, or \$1200 per biennium (the legislature meets every two years). Out of this sum, they must pay their expenses in Salem while the legislature is in session.

Everything considered, it's pretty small pay. It's a tribute to the quality of citizenship in Oregon that we don't get more small caliber legislators. As a matter of fact, the quality of the membership of the Oregon legislature is VERY high.

THE members of the U.S. congress have the power to set their own salaries. The members of the Oregon legislature do not. We voted heavily against such a proposal at the last election. (As a matter of fact, I voted against it myself, partly as a matter of principle and partly because I didn't think the members of our legislature should be put in the embarrassing position of saying how much money they should take out of the taxpayers' pockets to PAY THEMSELVES WITH.)

HAVING said to the legislature that we don't think it should say how much its members are to be paid, I think we should now take steps to pay our legislators a fair and reasonable stipend.

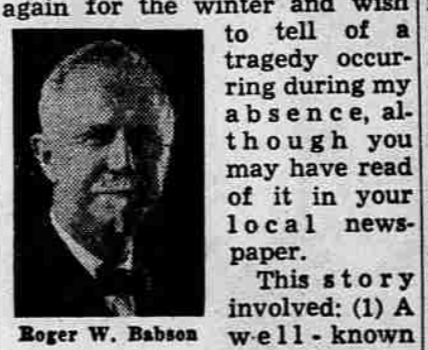
We shouldn't be niggardly on that point. It just doesn't pay. We need good men in our legislature, and we should pay them at least enough to meet their living expenses during the time they work for us.

I'm pretty sure that an initiative measure to pay our legislators a fair and reasonable salary for their services would be approved by a substantial majority of our voters.

PICKLE TO MALENKOV Chicago (U.P.)—The National Pickle Packers Association has voted to award a hand-carved wooden pickle to former Russian Premier Georgi Malenkov. He's been named "Man In The Biggest Pickle."

Babson . . An Amazing Story

By ROGER W. BABSON Babson Park, Fla.—(Special to Mail Tribune—I am back here again for the winter and wish to tell of a tragedy occurring during my absence, although you may have read of it in your local newspaper.



Roger W. Babson

This story involved: (1) A well-known and able lawyer living for many years in our community; (2) Two very respectable and intelligent well-to-do friends of mine; (3) Two wills prepared by the said lawyer; and (4) A "trigger man" allegedly employed to murder one of my above two friends.

Now for the tragedy. The lawyer had apparently drawn up wills for these two friends. When he submitted them to the makers, they suggested certain corrections, asking the lawyer to have the wills retyped, and they would come in again shortly thereafter for signing. Fatal mistakes were apparently made by these intelligent people for not again reading the wills before the final signing and witnessing, and for not initialing each page. Nor did they take the signed wills with them to a place of deposit, so that they might be reread once each year. This would have entailed some bother, but this would have been nothing compared to the trouble which followed.

Importance of Executors In Wills Brought Out The lawyer, or someone, allegedly slipped into the wills a clause leaving him a large sum of money. This could have been done during the retyping before the parties finally signed; or, being typewritten wills, a page could have been rewritten and slipped in after the signing. If, however, each will had been read again, finally signed, and taken home, the tragedy would not have taken place.

The lawyer also made himself the executor of the two wills. This would give him advantage in collecting the money allegedly willed him and for controlling the balance of the money. Yet, to make an attorney executor is a common practice where banks with trust departments are not easily available.

Murderer Now Needed To Obtain Money As the wills had allegedly been "fixed" to leave the attorney large sums of money and he was to be executor, he needed only to wait until one of my two friends should die to get his money. Both were apparently in good health. Hence, if the lawyer were in a hurry for his money, a murderer would seem necessary. To complete the story, I now depend upon witnesses at the trial just ended.

The County Prosecutor claimed the attorney employed a supposedly respectable contractor to secure the "trigger man" to murder one or both of my friends. This contractor who has been appealed, claiming his innocence, is alleged to have employed a Negro to do the killing. This Negro suddenly turned state's evidence.

Owing to the above or other reasons, the attorney was found shot, near the door of his home here in Babson Park, on the morning of June 8, 1954. Whether he committed suicide, or was shot by someone who feared exposure, I do not know. At any rate this death eliminated the attorney from the picture. Thereupon the able County Prosecutor concentrated upon finding the "trigger man" and any others connected with the deal. This was the status when I arrived here recently before the convictions.

Important Questions Asked of Readers Apparently my two friends had a very close call. If one had first been killed, without in any way connecting the attorney therewith, the attorney would have probated the will, collected the money, and legally closed the case. He was supposed to be a brilliant lawyer in our community and, of course, may have been innocent. I leave to God the final verdict.

I tell this story in order that my many readers may ask themselves these five very important questions:

(1) Should I ever sign a paper without reading it before signing? (2) Should I sign a typewritten document without signing or initialing each sheet so that no one sheet can be taken out and changed? (3) Should I leave my will in possession of any single individual, however honest? (4) Should I let a year pass without rereading my will? (5) Should I fail to encourage in every way newspapers, banks, colleges, and information centers to teach about wills and their great importance?

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Ashland JP Court in Remodeled Quarters Ashland—Remodeling of offices for the Ashland justice of peace headquarters were completed this week. Mrs. Nelle W. Burns, the present justice, has moved to the new location at 341 East Main st. The three-room suite includes a courtroom, a room for records and the front office for general business.

DIRTY TRICK South Bend, Ind. (U.P.)—James Barry, 21-year-old University of Notre Dame student, was a little late for a court appearance so he thumbed a ride. He got to court in time for a \$1 fine on a hitchhiking charge by Judge George Farage—the man who picked him up.

Carry Droppings Away Nest sanitation: Perhaps so as not to disclose the location of its nest to any enemy, or for sanitary purposes, most parent birds carry away their young one's droppings as scrupulously as they carry away fragments of eggshells. Next time, if you'll watch a nest closely Mrs. T. R. F., you'll see that at almost every parental feeding, one of the youngsters—usually the one that's just been fed—raises itself and voids. Before the dropping can touch the nest, the watchful parent catches it instantly and carries it away.

Climbing foxes: The question about foxes climbing has been making the hot stove circuit ever since Towser was a pup. Depends on your fox, B.S.A. Now, red foxes seldom if ever climb trees. (I hesitate to use such a positive word as never.) Gray ones do—in fact, they will climb low trees almost as readily as a cat.

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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.

Against All The Tax Bills To the Editor: Have just looked over the nine proposals offered by the legislature to balance the budget. Each proposal either bears upon the power to produce, the power to consume, or money that would be used as capital for the production of wealth.

These proposals remind us of the braintrust of the New Deal days. Not a single proposal would pass the close-up of even a second rate economist. They all attack the basic fundamentals of our economy, and would only temporarily shift the scenery around the same old haggard face. No doubt they all look good on paper to the man on the street, but they all wage war against the forces of natural law and this cannot be done and escape injury.

We have been trying it for quite a spell now, but we simply cannot tax wealth after it is produced, nor can we tax money that is to be used as capital to aid labor and machine in producing more wealth for consumption. Last but not least we cannot tax wealth after it is produced, nor can we tax money that is to be used as capital to aid labor and machine in producing more wealth for consumption. Last but not least we cannot tax wealth after it is produced, nor can we tax money that is to be used as capital to aid labor and machine in producing more wealth for consumption.

Let's face facts. If Oregon cannot balance its budget in 1955, how will it be done in 1965. Our present outlook on taxation will drive industry from Oregon, it will exterminate the middle class, and we will still be wandering in the wilderness.

Earl Allen 176 So. Stage Rd. Medford, Ore.

Rio Grande national forest in Colorado has the highest average elevation of any national forest in the U.S.

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