

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

June 21, 1945: Sams Valley Grange urges Rogue Valley farmers close lakes and fields to Izak Walton league members because the group opposes U. S. Reclamation bureau plans to build dam to provide needed irrigation water.

20 YEARS AGO

June 21, 1925: Saving of \$100,000 to Rogue Valley seen in proposed reduction of transcontinental freight rate on pears.

30 YEARS AGO

June 21, 1915: Economic survey of Rogue Valley pear orchards starts.

40 YEARS AGO

June 21, 1915: Government loses suit in supreme court that Oregon and California railroad violated land grant regulations, and about \$150,000 paid in taxes in past two years is due Jackson county.

What's the Answer?

(Can You Get 4 of the 7?) Copr. 1955, Editorial Research Report. 1. Time for first quarterly income-tax payment this year was extended from Mar. 15 to Apr. 15. Was second payment extended from June 15 to July 15? 2. New York state has a more phones than any foreign nation, right or wrong? 3. The college football team called the Rams is Texas Georgia Tech., Minnesota, Fordham, or Purdue? 4. Waterloo, scene of Napoleon's final defeat, is in Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg or The Netherlands? 5. More than twice as many theaters now operate in New York as 25 years ago, about as many, or less than half as many? 6. Hodgkins Disease affects the eyes, heart, appendix, lymph glands and spleen, inner ear, or bone joints? 7. First man to set foot on the South Pole was Adm. Byrd, Adm. Peary, Dr. Cook, Roald Amundsen, or Capt. R. F. Scott? The answers: 1. No. 2. Right. 3. Fordham. 4. Belgium. 5. Less than half as many. 6. Lymph glands and spleen. 7. Amundsen.

The Peters Case Again

The Bend Bulletin in its comment on the Dr. Peters case, notes that Oregon newspapers tended to overlook this important decision but concentrated upon the decision of the Supreme Court regarding state water control in the Pelton dam case.

The Peters decision was important. But no one would think so after reading the Bulletin's editorial. For the fact that Dr. Peters was exonerated on the charge of disloyalty, his right to reinstatement in the government service upheld, and the blot on his record officially removed, was not even mentioned.

In fact, according to the Bend paper, the only important decision of our highest tribunal in this case apparently was, quote:

I. The government retains the right to fire any person it considers unsuitable for continued employment on security grounds. II. Accused need not be confronted by their accusers.

This is a strange position to take. For the court refused to rule on the constitutional issue of "due process" regarding loyalty dismissals, and until it does the exact limits of such action can't be known—to the Bulletin or anyone else.

Moreover Chief Justice Warren did strongly imply in his decision that the rights of the accused in such cases have been disregarded in the past, while Justice Frankfurter in a previous opinion said:

"The problems of security are real. So are the problems of freedom. The paramount issue of the age is to reconcile the two." It is procedure that spells much of the difference between rule by law, and rule by whim or caprice.

NOT only were the important facts in the case disregarded by the Bulletin, but so were the facts of the Peters record dating back to January 7th, 1949. Dr. Peters was then tried before the Loyalty Board and was given complete clearance.

In 1951 the same charges again were filed and the board again cleared him.

Here were two verdicts of not guilty, in two years, in the same case. In the spring of 1953, four years later, however, the Review Board of the Civil Service commission reopened the case, and maintained the evidence then sustained "a reasonable doubt" of the defendant's "loyalty," so he was dismissed from government service forthwith.

It was this decision that was appealed to the Supreme Court, and which the court overruled, not on constitutional grounds, but because the Review Board had, it said, exceeded its authority.

DR. PETERS' lawyers did not maintain their client enjoyed any special privileges or vested interest in his government job, or that the government had not the power to hire and fire much as it pleases. But they did insist that when a person's loyalty is questioned his entire career is jeopardized, and his dismissal involves such severe punishment, that under the "due process" clause of the constitution he is entitled to certain legal safeguards, which in this case were not granted.

AS before stated we think it unfortunate the Supreme Court did not rule on this important point, but overthrew the decision of guilt purely on a technical error.

However reviewing the entire case, taking into consideration not only the majority but the minority court opinions, and it seems highly improbable that the Supreme Court will fail in the near future to hold that when an individual—or any individual—is accused of being disloyal to his country and therefore deprived of his job, he is entitled, if he so desires, to face his accusers, and have the evidence against him placed in the record.

The fine legal points and red-tape aside, this would seem to be only giving the accused, in view of the gravity of the charge, a fair and square deal. —R.W.R.

Another Hogan?

The defeat of Ben Hogan by an unknown and unheralded "municipal golfer" from the great and corny state of Iowa, has caused a great sensation in the sporting world, and will probably go down in the record books as the "big upset" of the year.

It may be that. But it should not have been unexpected by those who noted this chap Jack Fleck when he pulled off two "birdies" on the last two holes the day before, when he had to do that—or better—to stay in the running. And if further proof were needed his 69 on that Olympic course under pressure the next day should supply it.

Any golfer who under such circumstances, can make such a sensational finish, can, do anything—or almost anything, in that diverting but frustrating game.

HOWEVER does that mean necessarily Fleck, now in his 30's and a pater-familias, will prove to be another Hogan?

He may, but not "NECESSARILY." For we remember many years ago at Pebble Beach, for example, when the then unbeatable Bobby Jones was in his prime ran up against a then "unheralded and unknown." This boy was also from the corn—and Bible—belt, his name being Johnny Goodman.

But Johnny failed to win that tournament, and didn't win very many more important ones, although he was in the upper brackets for a few years.

There are few Benny Hogans hanging around the game of golf—or any other sport—these days or any other day. We are sorry "Bantam Ben" decided to quit so soon after his Waterloo. For we believe he could have still staged a come back in competition and might well have topped his record with 5 open titles, as he hoped to do, instead of only four. —R.W.R.

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

INVESTIGATING INVESTIGATORS Washington — The cloud is still no bigger than a man's hand; but maybe Herbert Brownell, Scott McCleod, Lewis L. Strauss and a few other people had better start thinking about what happened to the prophets of Baal when Elijah's little cloud grew to be a big one.

The cloud in question is the unanimous report by the Senate Committee on Government Operations of a resolution calling for the appointment of a high level commission to review the entire federal security program.

Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson and House Speaker Sam Rayburn mean to pass the resolution through their respective bodies. Rayburn and Johnson have a highly developed knack of getting what they want. Hence the resolution has an excellent chance of becoming law before the end of the session.

MEANWHILE, the circumstances in which this resolution to investigate the investigators was reported to the Senate are highly significant in themselves. In the novel style of the Lyndon Johnson democracy, it was co-sponsored by a Left-Right team, Senators Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota and John Stennis of Mississippi.

It was then studied at prolonged hearings, in the course of which Attorney General Brownell exhibited a marked lack of enthusiasm for the proposed inquiry into his own security practices. The Republican members of the sub-committee studying the resolution, Senators Norris Cotton of New Hampshire, Thomas E. Martin of Iowa and Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, were at first inclined to be suspicious of a measure that looked partisan. But in the end they enthusiastically joined in presenting the resolution to the full Committee on Government Operations.

The two senior Republican members of the Government Operations Committee are Senators Joseph R. McCarthy of Wisconsin and Karl Mundt of South Dakota. No one can suspect either Mundt or McCarthy of any desire for reform in Federal security procedures. What they want, if anything, is a further debasement. Yet even McCarthy and Mundt did not record their hostility when the full committee reported the resolution to the Senate.

THE SIGNS are clear, then, that there are increasing doubts about the federal security program. The doubts are no longer confined to Leftwingers, intellectuals and obstinately old-fashioned persons who cannot quite approve the back-door abrogation of the Bill of Rights. Grave concern is also beginning to be felt by such good, horny-handed, orthodox, corn state Republicans as Senator Martin.

This shift of opinion was bound to come, sooner or later. Essentially, the existing security program embodies a national reaction to the case of Alger Hiss. It was a proper and natural reaction. But the result of the reaction, the security program itself, is neither proper nor natural.

It effectively deprives millions of American citizens of the ancient protections of our Constitution. It has worked horrifying injustices. It has bred among us such novel phenomena as hired informers, officially encouraged poison-pen-letter writers and federal flatfeet who ask people whether their neighbors' garbage includes an excessive allowance of bottles. As presently constituted and administered, in fact, the federal security program must keep the founders of this Republic turning in their graves like so many teetotums.

The Oppenheimer case, the John Davies case and a few other episodes have already disturbed a great many people. But one can predict with confidence that this security program will eventually produce a sort of Hiss-case-in-reverse—a demonstration of injustices and malpractice so final and so dramatic that it will convulse the entire country with strong indignation and generate an irresistible demand for reform. Any one familiar with the program can already detect the stench of such cases coming up, so to speak, through the floor boards.

WHETHER the high level commission proposed by the Humphrey-Stennis resolution will really do the job, may perhaps be open to question. It is to be composed of three groups of four members, chosen by the President, the Vice-President and the Speaker. The Congressional appointees should be well-balanced, but Attorney General Brownell, who wants no serious inquiry, has a chance to pack the Commission through the presidential appointees.

He will make the same mistake if he does so, however, as President Truman made when he called the Hiss case a red herring. Already, the peculiarities of the security program are being somewhat fumblingly investigated by the Post Office and Civil Service Committee of the Senate, and a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Commit-

tee headed by Sen. Thomas Hennings of Missouri is also starting a more promising investigation. Sooner or later, the break will come and the storm of indignation will follow, unless the administration is wise enough to forestall trouble by preparing for careful reform. (Copyright, 1955, New York Herald Tribune Inc.)

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.

Thinks City is High-Handed

To the Editor: As a property owner in the district proposed for annexation, I am very much concerned with the manner in which the city of Medford proposes to "railroad" this plan through.

Question 1: How can it be possible for renters and non-property holders to vote on an issue of this kind? You know and I know how they would vote. These people would naturally reason thus: "Why shouldn't I vote for improvements that will cost me nothing? Also, here is a good chance to wield the whip over my landlord, who has charged me too much rent for years."

Question 2: If the residents of the present city of Medford are charged a flat rate for water, why shouldn't residents of the annexed portion be accorded the same privilege? Many people outside of the present city (including myself) purposely bought in a rural area to get away from high city taxes. If this plan is voted in, a good many of us are going to be forced to sell, because we won't be able to pay the cost of sewers, paved streets, street lighting, police protection, ad infinitum, plus an additional 22.8 mills assessment.

I think this is one of the most "high-handed" plans for collecting revenue for the city of Medford that I've ever heard of. Let's find out ALL of the ramifications of this plan before we vote to the polls, and, before we vote—think! Frank Gaster, 307 Jeanette ave., Medford, Ore.

City Misleading?

To the Editor: Mr. Mayor, a question the voters of Medford are entitled to have you answer. On Friday night June 17th at a meeting held at the Jackson Co. Courthouse auditorium for the purpose of explaining plans and problems involved in the "South Medford" annexation proposal, you were asked:

"Is it true that residents of Medford will vote on an increase over the 6 per cent limitation for the budget at the same time residents outside the city vote on annexation?" Your PUBLISHED reply in the Mail Tribune Sunday, June 19th — to quote the entire item: "Yes. But Mayor Miller pointed out that the city election on financial questions has no direct connection with annexation."

Your reply at the meeting before a large audience was to this effect: In a way, yes. The City's financial abilities are very good and that it did not need any outside financial taxing aid. That the City was the best managed and had the lowest tax rate compared with any of the cities of Oregon. That some \$60,000 increase over the 6 per cent limitation, MOSTLY, was being appropriated on account of the annexation problem.

You forgot to mention that another item on the City's election concerned a 3 mill continued increase through a projected charter amendment. This 3 mill change, if voted in DOES concern the voters involved in the annexation. Mayor Miller — was it you or the Mail-Tribune who is misleading the people? J. W. Stewart, 2715 Pacific Highway So.

(Editor's note: The answer reported in Sunday's story was an accurate condensation of Mayor Miller's reply to the question. The mayor said Medford's tax rate is one of the lowest, if not the lowest of any Oregon city of comparable size, and that the city could operate on revenue from within the present limits. He pointed out that annexation is up to the people within the district, and that the city would have to underwrite costs of annexation for the first few years. The city election to approve

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS Leaving Portland on an official inspection tour that will cover state highways and state parks on the lower end of Highway 30, which follows the Columbia river from Portland to Seaside, Highway 101, which follows the Oregon coast from Seaside to the California border, the Oregon part of the Redwood highway from Crescent City to Grants Pass, and Highway 99 from Grants Pass north.

THE DAY'S schedule goes about like this: Up at 6:30. Breakfast at 7. On the road at 8. The time from 8 until noon is filled with inspection of highway work and state park installations, present and contemplated.

Each day at noon, there is an official luncheon at some town or city. These luncheons have all been planned ahead of time to the last detail. First comes the matter of food, which is excellent — each community vying with its neighbors in serving the specialties of its area.

After that comes a brief speaking session, in which representatives of the community present the hopes and the aspirations of their area in the way of highway and park development and the representatives of the state government discuss plans and possibilities within the limits of the money available.

THEN on the road again. The afternoon is a replica of the morning — inspections and discussions until 5 or 6. Then an official dinner at whatever city the stop for the night has been arranged. The program at the dinner duplicates the program at noon.

The dinner breaks up about 10. That is the routine of each day.

PRETTY soft, you say — touring around at the taxpayers' expense, seeing all the beauty spots of the state and having a lovely vacation. I know it sounds that way. But wait a minute.

The Oregon state highway department spends about 50 million dollars a year. It has from 2,500 to 3,000 employees. These employees are scattered around on jobs all over the state. It is an accepted principle of business that foremen, superintendents and managers must get around all over the place at frequent intervals to see how the work is progressing. That is what management is for. If management SKIPS this important part of its job, progress suffers—and the job costs a WHOLE of a lot more than it should.

When you're spending 50 million dollars a year, a VERY SLIGHT increase in cost can run into a lot of money. So, you see, the taxpayer ISN'T being nicked, instead his money is being saved by careful administration of the spending of it. Hence this particular inspection tour—of which I shall have more to say later in this space.

IT'S QUITE a party. It includes all three members of the Oregon highway commission—Ben Chandler of Coos Bay, Charles Reynolds of La Grande and Milo McIver of Portland—along with Sam Baldock, state highway engineer, C. H. Armstrong, state parks superintendent, and a full staff of engineers.

There are six members of the legislative highway interim committee—Senator McMinimee of Tillamook, Senator Bingner of La Grande, Representative Elstrom of Salem, Representative Littrell of Medford, Senator Leth of Monmouth and Representative Meek of Portland.

It includes three members of the newly created state parks advisory committee, three engineers of the U. S. bureau of public roads and one engineer from the Portland office of the forest service. It is accompanied by three newspaper reporters and the manager of the Oregon Coast Highway association.

WHEN noses are counted, it develops that there are 30 of us. We are to travel in a chartered highway bus. The bus will be accompanied by a state highway department car, which will act as light scouting equipment, permitting engineers and commissioners to linger at construction jobs requiring their special attention, enabling them to spend what time is needed at these points and then catch up with the main body later.

THE BUS is a new departure. Hitherto these inspection trips have been made in passenger cars. The bus turns out to be a splendid idea. It has loud-speaking equipment, which is used to explain to all present the details of all the various activities that are under inspection.

This saves a great deal of time in the dissemination of information about the various projects that are being studied.

exceeding the 6 per cent limitation has no direct connection with annexation. Of \$66,510 in excess of the limitation, \$2,000 is only indirectly connected with annexation. That amount is provided in the engineering department budget to provide for increased personnel necessary for additional work loads for sewer and street improvements requested by residents. The three mill figure is not a "continued increase." The levy, under the charter, cannot exceed 12 mills, but if the \$66,510 addition to the levy is approved, the amendment will be necessary to raise the limitation to 15 mills. Stewart, who was representing the Charlotte Ann Water district at Friday's meeting, lives outside the area proposed for annexation.)

Prisoners Escape From Alturas Jail

Klamath Falls — (U.P.) — Two prisoners escaped from the Modoc county jail at Alturas yesterday and one was still at large today.

Sheriff E. K. Sever said the men were working on a hospital project in Alturas when they made their escape. One of the pair, Nathaniel Harden, 35, held on a reckless driving count, was recaptured last night. The other, Adelle Webb, 30, accused of assault and battery, was believed hiding in the Canby, Calif. area, Sheriff Sever said.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday, 1 p.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day

Employment Rules For Packers Change Effective Aug. 13

Salem—(U.P.)—Fruit and vegetable packers have been notified by the State Wage and Hour Commission that changes in the minimum standards on employment of women and minors in their firms will go into effect Aug. 13.

The commission has rescinded the 1942 order governing the employment of women and minors in packing firms and has brought the firms under regulations of a 1952 order which governs employment in canning, dehydrating and barreling plants. 66-Cent Minimum

The order sets a minimum hourly rate of 66 cents. It provides that women be paid time and a half after 10 hours and double time after 12 hours each day. Women working with perishable products are permitted to work overtime under Oregon's wage and hour law. Minor employment will be limited to a 10-hour day maximum.

Other requirements which will newly affect women and minors working in the packing plants include a 10-minute rest period after three consecutive work hours and a sliding scale of women's overtime pay for hours worked on the seventh consecutive day.

The wage and hour commission is made up of Mrs. Frederic W. Young and Mrs. Mary L. Jackson of Portland, and Henry S. Howard of Eugene, with Norman O. Nilsen, state labor commissioner, serving as executive secretary.

McKenzie Pass Opening Scheduled Thursday

Salem—(U.P.)—The McKenzie pass, closed through the winter months because of snow, will be open Thursday at 8 a.m., W. W. Stiffler, assistant state highway engineer, said today.

The department's plows have been working from either side toward the summit since June 1, and will complete the 24-mile job in time for the Thursday morning opening, Stiffler said.

Consult MR. INSURANCE Fred Brennan Our office money and securities could be burglarized, robbed inside or outside the office, destroyed by fire, taken by employees, or could just plain disappear. Would insurance to cover all such losses cost as little as \$23 per year?

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