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Davy Crockett, Bum

A chorus of editorial voices in Oregon has welled up in the last week, expressing a variety of responses to the news that Davy Crockett was a bum.

This outburst has been motivated by an article in the current Harper's magazine which engaged in the grand old American tradition of debunking folk heroes.

WE can't resist joining the chorus, for, though we have enjoyed Walt Disney's creation of a hero named D. Crockett, we've had a sneaky hunch all along that that's just what it was—a creation of Walt Disney.

The overwhelming juvenile response to this synthetic hero has been a fad, similar to the Hopalong Cassidy, Roy Rogers, and spaceman fads, and will wane, we presume, as quickly. Meantime it has filled the resounding air with the strains of a catchy tune, has filled the neighborhoods with the sharp crack of plastic "Old Betsy" long rifles, and caused a spate of bad jokes.

HERE are significant portions of the Harper's article. Read 'em and weep (or rejoice):

The historic truth is that Davy Crockett was a juvenile delinquent who ran away from home at the age of thirteen, to dodge a well-deserved licking by his father, a country saloon keeper. For three years he bummed around Baltimore, scratching a living in various ways he never cared to talk about.

Since work was distasteful to Davy, he became, in turn, a backwoods justice of the peace who boasted about his ignorance of law; an unsuccessful politician; a hack writer, heavily dependent on some unidentified ghost; and—here this, Junior—a violinist.

WE suspect that these historically-substantiated heresies will have little effect on the bear-grinnin' set, and that the Davy Crockett mania will run its course, to be succeeded in due time by some other folk figure, who will then be pressed into service to sell as many cases of breakfast cereal, sleazy costumes and plastic toys as did the juvenile delinquent from Tennessee.

Let us not mourn his passing when it occurs, and we may as well welcome, with resignation, his successor. It's all part of growing up—and smart merchandising.—E.A.

William Shakespeare, Author

A leap from the illiterate frontiersman to the Bard of Avon may be fantastic, but is a pleasant one—particularly in view of the festival of William Shakespeare's plays which is only a few weeks off in Ashland.

William, too, has been the subject of debunking which may or may not be true. The Bard, whose legend goes further into history than does Davy's, is less susceptible to accurate checking. But this does not deter the theory-makers, who have ground out all sorts of plausible explanations that Shakespeare, the man, was just as literarily limited as Davy Crockett, and that credit for his plays in truth belongs to Francis Bacon, the Earl of Oxford, or somebody else.

SHOULD this worry us? Not at all. The fact is that Shakespeare is not renowned for the legends surrounding him, but for the solid works of his (or someone else's) pen. These can be seen, read and savored, and as far as enjoyment goes, it matters not a whit who did the writing.

Unless and until the authorship is proven otherwise, the plays will go on being read and performed under the name of William Shakespeare. And "The play's the thing."

THE secret of Shakespeare's appeal is in his essential timelessness, with lessons and morals for today, as well as for yesterday. Could not this speech (from Much Ado About Nothing) be taken as a commentary on the Davy Crockett-Hopalong Cassidy fads?

Seest thou not, I say, what a deformed thief this fashion is? how giddily 't turns about all the hot bloods between fourteen and five and thirty? sometime fashioning them like Pharaoh's soldiers in the rechy painting, sometime like god Bel's priests in the old church-window, sometime like the shaven Hercules in the smirched worm-eaten tapestry . . .

Sometimes it seems a pity that Shakespeare can't sell cereal and toys, too. But then he'd be a fad more virulent than the annual fever at Ashland, and would soon die. We prefer him as he is, taken in small, periodic doses; not the mammoth portions served up on radio, TV and in the neighborhood play-yards.—E.A.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION... NEWS PAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

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 July 11, 1945... Robert Rucker installed as president of Medford Junior Chamber of Commerce.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column. Reports from the hills and lakes state the mosquitoes are as big as panthers, and four times as hungry.

20 YEARS AGO July 11, 1935... Harvesting Bartlett pear crop in Rogue valley to start about Aug. 15, a month later than last year.

Temperature reaches 86 in Medford; monthly average below normal with unusually cold weather for this late in summer.

30 YEARS AGO July 11, 1925... Dayton, Tenn., July 11—(AP)—Prosecution counsel in the Scopes case hold that admission of expert testimony of scientists and theologians would convert the trial of the Dayton biology instructor into a joint debate on science and religion.

Stephen A. Mather, director of National Park service, outlines enlargement program for Crater Lake National Park including paving of roads.

40 YEARS AGO July 11, 1915... City council calls hearing on subject of rebonding Medford for \$750,250.

July folder of Southern Pacific's Shasta route includes advertisement on visiting Crater Lake.

What's the Answer? Can You Get 4 of the 7? Copr. 1955, Editorial Research Report

- 1. The new agreements in the auto industry for guaranteed wages for 26 weeks do or don't require changes in many state unemployment pay laws?
2. Most infants taken for adoption through the "black market for babies" are illegitimate; right or wrong?
3. Number of movie theatres over 1953, or decreased, or stayed the same?
4. The first President to live in the White House was Washington, John Adams, Jefferson, Madison or Jackson?
5. More persons of Jewish stock live in the U.S. than in any other single country; right or wrong?
6. Chop suey originated in North China, South China, Hong Kong, Japan, India or the U.S.?
7. A "spritzer," in current slang, is a jallopy, unfaithful wife, heavy better, heavy drinker, swindler, or drug addict?
The answers: 1. D. 2. Right. 3. Increased. 4. John Adams. 5. Right. 6. The U.S. 7. Swindler.

French Legionnaires Desert in Suez Canal... Cairo, Egypt—(U.P.)—Police reported today that 64 French Foreign Legionnaires deserted ship in the Suez Canal. They were en route to Morocco from Indochina.

English Singer Denies Romance With Aly Khan... London—(U.P.)—A husky-voiced English songstress denied reports today of a romance with Aly Khan, ex-husband of actress Rita Hayworth.

HOUSING PROBLEM... Providence, R. I.—(U.P.)—Although this city is one of the oldest in the nation, it boasts no 17th century houses. Roger Williams settled Providence in 1636. The oldest house in the city—the King farm house—was built in 1705.

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

BISON IN A HANGAR

Washington—One of the most significant and curious pieces of intelligence to come out of the Soviet Union in a long time concerns the production of the famous Bison airplane.

The Bison, or T-37, is the Russian equivalent of our own intercontinental jet bomber, the B-52. In brief, the Soviets produced the Bison prototype by gathering all the persons concerned into a single huge hangar at their Ramenskoye base outside Moscow and keeping them there until blueprints had become aircraft.

United States Air Force authorities somewhat ruefully accord full credence to this sidelight on Soviet production methods. Furthermore, they estimate that it took only eight months from the approval of the Bison blueprints to the moment when the first Bison rolled out of Ramenskoye's special construction hangar in July, 1953.

By then, the Bison had reached the stage of in-line production. Flights of ten Bisons at a time were observed over Moscow this May. The Air Force officially estimates that the Soviets are now each month producing from fifteen to twenty of these bombers which can strike from Russian bases, without refueling, at the industrial heartland of the United States.

IN CONTRAST, work on the American intercontinental jet bomber, the B-52, began in 1947. Blueprints were approved and the first experimental contracts were let to the Boeing company in 1949—the moment crudely comparable with the first in the Ramenskoye hangar. Construction proceeded thereafter, with the air staff in the Pentagon, the Air Materiel Command at Wright Field and the Air Research and Development Command which was then in Washington, all intervening at frequent intervals.

Two years later, this majestic but dispersed process produced its grand result. The first prototype, the XB-52, which was used only for ground-testing, rolled out of the Boeing plant in Seattle in November, 1951. And nearly three years had passed from the letting of the experimental contract to the completion of the first prototype to take the air, the YB-52, in March, 1952.

The YB-52 was flown that April. Thereafter, two further years elapsed before the B-52 went into line production in August, 1954. By May, 1955, when the Soviets showed their ten Bisons over Moscow, the Air Force had approximately 30 B-52s. In sum, planning of the B-52 began eight years ago and actual construction began six years ago. Planning of the Bison probably began four years ago and actual construction began less than three years ago. The B-52 entered squadron service in June and the Bison entered squadron service this month.

NOR is this the only melancholy contrast that needs careful thinking about. By this spring, our B-52 production had reached the planned peak of ten planes per month. Then the Moscow overflights aroused public opinion and Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson reluctantly asked for funds to finance an increase of B-52 output. Secretary Wilson's request will take some time to get results. Our B-52 production will rise to 13 planes per month, as against the estimated Soviet monthly production of 15 to 20 Bisons.

In other words, Soviet aircraft "lead time"—the all-important interval between the planting of the seed and the final harvest of finished aircraft—is about half of our lead time in America. Even in the category of aircraft on which all American strategy depends, and even after the American effort has been intensified under severe public pressure, the experts think that the Soviets are now out-producing this country by a narrow margin.

The grim efficiency of the rough and ready methods is typified by that hangar at Ramenskoye, and by our habit of pouring our resources into ermine-lined Cadillacs while the Soviets concentrate the world's second industrial economy almost fully on war production. These explain the fact that the Soviets are now seizing the lead in the air that used to belong to the United States. This is both a

major scandal and a bleak threat to the survival of the nation. It demands more detailed consideration.

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IS THAT SO?

With all today's talk about rockets, space ships and superjets, isn't it about time to check up on the worlds beyond us? So here goes for a short quiz on our solar system. Get 80 per cent and you're ready for sky-rocketing; if 60, you'd better dust off some outer space literature; if less than 40, brother, you'd better stay at home.



1. What star is nearest our earth?
2. When you arrive at the moon, will there be earthlight—as we have moonlight here?
3. Which planet has the hottest temperature?
4. When does the earth come nearest the sun?
5. Where was atomic energy used long before World War II?

Answers:
1. Our sun is the nearest star, by far. The next one is some 25 trillion miles away. As for size, it's around average although there are many stars thousands of times larger and thousands of times brighter.
2. Yes, there is earthlight on the moon. The sun's light, striking the earth and its atmosphere is reflected back into space and part of this reflection hits the moon. You can prove this when you look at a brand new moon—besides the bright crescent the rest of the moon can be seen dimly. That dim part is caused by earthlight.

3. Mercury. The temperature of the side which faces the sun is about 700 degrees Fahrenheit.
4. Surprisingly enough, in January. Early in this month the earth is about 3,000,000 miles closer to the sun than in July. As for our seasons, these are not due too much to the nearness to the sun but rather to the tilt of the earth on its axis.
5. Man wasn't first to discover atomic energy—the sun has been using it right along—and we have been benefiting by it. The sun's radiation is the result of the conversion of hydrogen atoms to helium atoms. Needless to say, the amounts of energy released are incredible.

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)
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 true-life nature adventure, or the best nature observation, or 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 submissions will be considered. Sorry, I simply can't answer your many friendly letters. Please address your letter to: IS THAT SO? care of Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

Stranded Ship Freed By Tugs

Astoria—(U.P.)—The freighter Santa Adela, aground since last Thursday in the Youngs Bay mud flats, was pulled free yesterday through the combined efforts of three tugs and the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Yacopa.

The grain-laden vessel was free at 2:43 p.m., and proceeded to dock at Astoria for a damage estimate. If no damage has been done she will continue en route to Central and South American ports. Otherwise she will put back to Portland for repairs.
The ship had been wedged in the mud near the mouth of the Columbia river, since she tried to put to sea from Astoria Thursday.
Bunker oil and water were removed to lighten the ship but she resisted all attempts by the tug Salvage Chief to pull her free until Saturday when she moved slightly and developed a 15 degree starboard list.
Finally, by a method of scouring the channel with propeller wash and then pulling with the tugs, the vessel came free. Several hundred spectators had gathered on the shore to watch the operations.
The first Cliff House at San Francisco was erected in 1858.

President Moves Far in Decision To Meet With Soviets at Geneva

By LYLE C. WILSON United Press Correspondent

Washington—(U.P.)—President Eisenhower has moved far in three months from faint hope to cautious confidence that something solid will come of next week's Geneva meeting.

As recently as mid-spring, Mr. Eisenhower opposed the meeting. Then Prime Minister Winston Churchill was pressing for it again with a British general election coming up. The only crackling issue British Socialists could raise against Churchill's Conservatives was a demand that the Big Four heads of state meet quickly in search of peace.

The French government was under like popular pressure for a spectacular international effort to ease Western Europe's dread of atomic war.

Former President Truman got his fill of summit conferences at Potsdam as the war in the West ended in 1945. Thereafter he cheerfully offered to meet the late Josef Stalin anytime the Communist boss would come to Washington. Mr. Eisenhower was less severe.

He always said he was willing to go anywhere anytime in search of peace. But in March and early April, the President thought the time had not come. He wanted deeds, not words, in proof of Russian good faith. On March 23, in response to Churchill's urgings, the President said there was no more than "faint hope" that something valuable would come of a meeting with the new men in charge of the Kremlin.

At the most, Mr. Eisenhower was thinking then in terms of a meeting of foreign ministers which might lead in time to the meeting of the heads of state which Churchill so much de-

sired. The British in mid-April called their election for May 26.

By May 10, Mr. Eisenhower had been convinced, and the British-American-French invitation went forward to Moscow proposing a Big Four meeting at the summit.

"There has been a growing sentiment throughout the world that some good might come from such a conference," Mr. Eisenhower told his news conference the next day. "Such a meeting would probably result in at least some clarification of the air."

Faint Praise At Best That was faint praise, at best. There is nothing in that language to show that the President agreed with world sentiment that the Big Four should now meet. On the contrary, Mr. Eisenhower made it fair to believe he agreed to the meeting more to appease Western European public sentiment than for any other reason.

That was especially true of the British public. Announcement of the Big Four invitation destroyed any hope the British Socialists may have had of turning the Conservatives out. The President would not weep if his legitimate policy decisions helped his old friend, Sir Winston Churchill, and tripped up a political party committed to Socialism, an "ism" for which Mr. Eisenhower does not care.

That's how the United States got into the act. The situation has changed. Mr. Eisenhower is optimistic. Now he says "there obviously has been a some change" in the Kremlin's attitude which could "have a fine effect on the entire situation."

Chances Are Better Recently he said: "I personally believe from what I learned in San Francisco, (at the United Nations anniversary) and through my talks, that the chances were better than I thought they were three months ago."

That is a long way from the "faint hope" of last March. Not all of the State Department experts go along with the President. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles seemed to be more hopeful than the President was last March, and now to see a somewhat less rosy situation than the one visioned by his boss.

The President and his party take off next Friday for Geneva to learn the hard and only way what the intentions of the Soviet Union really are. Perhaps in the back of the President's mind is the awesome thought that here lies a chance to rise even higher than in his wartime crusade in Europe.

If U. S. Sent You GEO. N. TAYLOR If you went to England as our ambassador, you would carry a letter to give you standing with their government. Just so, when Christ came to this world, He must have proof that He for God. His miracles were proof as when He turned the water into wine at the marriage in Cana of Galilee. This beginning of miracles did Jesus and His disciples believe that He had a message from God.

Jesus was right in giving these miracles as signs—For the Jews require a sign.—1st Corinthians 1:22. So for three years Jesus gave them miracles—signs. And they believed that He had a message from God. It was a message of love and backed by deeds of love. God changes not. Today receive Christ as the Lord and Saviour who died for your sins and God gives you eternal life. Then by Bible and prayer go ahead—This message sponsored by a Scappoose dairyman and family. adv.

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As We Live

By ELIZABETH HURLOCK, PH.D.

Don't Make Hasty Decision About Marital Breakup Hasty decisions are usually regretted as time passes. When the decision affects the happiness of a number of people, it should be made only after careful consideration of the problem from every possible angle. That is the advice I am giving the wan who wrote:

(Q) "My wife and I have been having trouble for the past few years. I think she is overworked because we have two young children and that keeps her tied down to the home. She is fretful and cross when I come home from work and I guess I have gotten pretty sore at her many times because of her martyr attitude. The other night, when I came home from work, I found the house empty and a note saying she had taken the children to her mother's home and had no intention of returning. She suggested that I sell the home and furniture so I could give her money to live on at her mother's. I have worked hard to buy this home and furniture, but I can't afford to send her money and

The chances are that you could not get what you put into the house or the furniture. Then, if your wife changed her mind later, it would mean starting out from scratch and paying more than you received for the present house and furniture.

Wait for a reasonable time, six months or a year, before selling. In the meantime, you might be able to rent the house furnished to someone and this would enable you to send money to your wife without cutting you too short.

You will find it expensive to live apart, even for a short time, and you may not be able to do this on your salary alone. If, after a year, your wife does not change her mind, that will be plenty of time to decide to sell and divide what you get with her.

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MM Officials, Union Reach Understanding

Portland—(U.P.)—M and M Plywood company officials said yesterday an understanding had been reached with union representatives whereby operations would resume at the company's five plants while strike issues were being settled.

Mediator LeRoy Smith, who called the meeting in an attempt to settle the 10-day-old strike, said the agreement provided that "the company will operate its plywood plants on identical terms and working conditions as existed as of June 30, 1955, and that negotiations on disputed issues continue for the next 30 days."

Although union locals must still ratify the accord, it apparently paves the way for reopening of plants at Portland, Albany, Lyons and Idanha, Ore., and Eureka, Calif.
Some 1500 company employees struck July 1 after M and M refused to renew an old contract without certain modifications.
The baby hippopotamus weighs about 100 pounds at birth and can swim before it can walk.

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