

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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Flight of Time: Medford and Jackson County History from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30 and 40 years ago.

40 YEARS AGO August 2, 1915: These hundred German prisoners of war and 320 Mexican nationals to help in pear harvest, according to County Agent Robert G. Fowler.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Hunting Pot Column: The deer hunting season has opened in California in certain areas. Reports say most Oregonians will wait until the season opens at home to be erroneously shot for scores of points than they have.

30 YEARS AGO August 2, 1925: Seven Medford men named to Jackson county planning board.

50 YEARS AGO August 2, 1905: Records show only three grass fires called answered by fire department in July, fewest in department's July history.

From Local Personal Column: The affiliated trades have established an office at Smith hall, 128 North Grape st. They will have a representative in the building from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. every day to handle all business that may arise.

40 YEARS AGO August 2, 1915: Great Dane, dog of local doctor, teaches self how to avoid muzzle law by slipping muzzle off and putting it back on when policeman approaches.

Water Users' association has signed up 11,329 acres of land for irrigation.

What's the Answer? Can You Get 4 of the 7? (Oppr. 1955, Editorial Research Report) The average U.S. family spends more every year on medicines and drugs, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or auto repairs? What highly important business has a high concentration in Hartford, Conn.? All 59 signers of the Declaration of Independence were born in this country, right or wrong? Doctors and dentists may be drafted for the armed forces up to the age of 25, 35, 45 or 55? A king now sits on the throne of Spain; right or wrong? The thistle, with its prickly leaves, is the symbol of Ireland, Canada, England, France, Scotland or Mexico? Noah's three sons were Ham, Shem, and Japheth, Enos, Abson, Methuselah or Japheth? The answers: 1. Alcoholic beverages. 2. Insurance. 3. Wrong; 8 were foreign-born. 4. Up to 45. 5. Wrong. 6. Scotland. 7. Japheth. TOUGH BROTHER Princeton, Ind. (U.P.)—James C. Stevens, Princeton, was treated at a hospital for a bite on the head. He said he was feeding his "fame" rabbits when one jumped atop him and bit.

More Double-Talk

We are getting a trifle weary of Congressman Ellsworth's self-righteous alibis for voting against every liberal proposal that is offered in the Lower House.

His recent approval of removing all government control of natural gas, contrary to the judgment of US Supreme Court, is only one of many examples.

Instead of frankly admitting this action was in favor of the Natural Gas Promoters, and in line with his longest established policy of disregarding the public interest where private interests are concerned, our Representative in congress, maintained that he voted as he did, because he refused to abandon principle, for political expediency.

HAD he been politically motivated he would he claims, have voted for federal regulation of the natural gas business, but being opposed to "government interference" in the realm of private enterprise, he voted against it.

This may lose him votes, he thinks, for some may claim the absence of federal regulation will increase gas rates to the consumers and profits to the producers unjustly. As usual, however, where private profits are concerned, Mr. Ellsworth can see no basis for such claims, as again as usual he goes down the line as the GOP business-as-usual command dictates.

CONGRESSMAN Ellsworth is only correct in one particular.

He may lose votes. For his action will, without any question, open the gates to unrestricted natural gas speculation and exploitation, and tend to make the sky the limit as far as prices to the consumer are concerned.

BUT as in other political directions, this sort of thing can't go on FOREVER. One of these days the worm will turn.—General Intertia will be demoted and denounced, and the people—a majority of them at least—will pay some attention to the voting record of their veteran Representative in the Lower House and decide at the polls that they want no continuation of it.—R.W.R.

The SP Beats 1-Horse-Power

The mourning in Roseburg over the defeat of the "Pony Express" by the SP "Night Crawler" is understandable—no one likes to lose a race—but it is not very logical.

For what does Roseburg want, along with Medford and Ashland? A continuation of SP passenger service, not its discontinuance.

And according to the reliable Oregonian, not only did the "Night Crawler" arrive in Roseburg on time—but on the straight stretches the specially pepped up engineer hit it up to "50 miles an hour and went around curves like a "whip-lash."

SO WHAT?

Well one of the major claims of the SP has been that the Eugene-Ashland section is so circuitous, hilly and out-of-date that no proper passenger service can be rendered anyway.

THE race demonstrated the complete falsity of this claim.

"Fifty miles an hour" and making the curves "like a whip-lash," shows what the SP could do if it really wanted to, and with its present equipment and the same old allegedly impossible road-bed.

Imagine what it could do if it would spend a small bit of its \$70,000,000 annual profit for one of these new single-unit streamlined super Diesel trains, such as are in regular service today in Spain, and have been tried out by the NY, NH & H, between Boston and New York with such outstanding success?

The run between Portland and Medford could be made easily in four or five hours, and undoubtedly on the present road bed, and at greatly reduced overhead as well as time.

HAD the SP demonstrated it couldn't even beat a type of horse power transportation that has been outmoded since shortly after the Civil War, there might be some basis for its contention that the old "Shasta Route" as far as passengers are concerned, is out of date.

But to win the battle at "50 miles an hour," and defeat the one-horse power advocates by nine minutes, knocks all that sort of propoganda into the well known cocked-hat.

The fact that the SP can give Southern Oregon decent passenger service if it so desires, and far better service if it wishes to spend some of its income, is the lesson the defeat of the pony express clearly brings out.—R.W.R.

Democratic Congress, Republican President

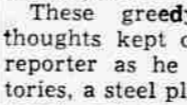
As the first session of the 84th Congress adjourns, no one can say that the national interest has really suffered because the Congress was of one party while the President was of the other. In fact, the two had collaborated more closely on foreign affairs than in 1953-54, when Congress as well as the President was Republican.

Several days before the Congressional elections of 1954, the President had averred that a Democratic victory would present "innumerable obstacles" to progress, and would replace "certainty and confidence" with "uncertainty and confusion." Several days after the election, he confessed that he had gone too far in warning the voters against a "cold war of partisan politics" if they elected a Democratic Congress.

He was right the second time.—E.R.

Matter of Fact By Stewart Alsop

It would be nice to own a factory in which the workers never struck; worked very hard for six straight eight-hour days; left the factory only when their work cards were countersigned by the management, and earned their minimum subsistence pay on a piece-work or speed-up system.



Stewart Alsop

These greedy capitalist thoughts kept occurring to this reporter as he toured two factories, a steel plant in Dnepropetrovsk and a tractor factory here in Kharkov. The steel plant was like a scene from Hell, with the terrible heat of the open hearth furnaces and the endless clanging of metal on metal.

In the first place, the four points listed above applied to both factories, as they do to every factory in the Soviet Union. This reporter asked a member of the tractor factory whether the workers might not think about striking for a 40-hour week, for example.

The manager looked genuinely astonished. "But why should they strike?" he asked. "If they have any complaints they can always discuss them with the management."

Second, there was a marked and visible difference between the newly developed class of managers and the manual workers. In both factories, the managers all wore clean white linen smocks but the difference went deeper than that. The managers were almost all engineers and party members and they were differentiated also by their bearing and manner of speech.

"You see," this reporter's interpreter remarked, "nobody bows or scrapes before the managers—as though this lack of servility would astonish the visitor from the land of capitalism."

THIRD, in both factories the average pay was about the same—800 to 900 rubles a month, according to the management, which is a universal average for Soviet factory workers. Put this in dollar terms, and you get some surprises. The official exchange rate is four rubles to the dollar. (The rate is wholly artificial but accept it for purposes of argument.) You then have an average monthly wage of \$225—not high for an American worker, but not impossibly low. But consider the prices the Soviet worker has to pay.

Suppose, for example, an American worker, living on \$225 a month had to pay \$250 for a second hand suit, or \$80 for a pair of boots, or \$2.50 for a pound of fatty meat (when he could get it), or \$850 for a television set, or \$1.50 for a single cucumber.

In short, when you consider the real purchasing power of his wages, it is astonishing that the Soviet worker manages to live at all. It is true, of course, that the Soviet worker pays very low rent and no doctor bills. It is also true that he is not expected to support a family—his wife is just as important an earner as he is.

Even so, it is clear on the face of it that the Russian worker lives below what would be regarded in the United States as the minimum subsistence level. Yet it would be the worst sort of folly to conclude from this that the Soviet worker is ripe for revolt, or that the Soviet industrial system is on the verge of collapse.

It is reasonable to assume that the factories this reporter saw were the best in their area. But they were clearly not built just to impress foreigners. And they were clearly turning out a lot of steel and a lot of tractors.

As for the workers, they were certainly husky and healthy, and they were certainly working hard. Those whom this reporter chose at random to talk to seemed just as eager as everybody else to propagandize the stranger on the peculiar glories of Soviet life. Propaganda is, in fact, an important part of the Soviet industrial system.

Both factories were festooned with vast white-on-red banners, bearing quotations from the Marxist great and slogans like "WEN YOU HAVE PROMISED TO EXCEED YOUR NORM, YOU MUST DO IT."

ONE official explained the theory behind these exhortations. He agreed that the workers simply disregarded them. "But," he said, "the words are present in their minds, although they do not know it." It is apparently no accident that Dr. Pavlov, who invented the theory of the conditioned reflex, was a Russian. At any rate, whether thanks to Dr. Pavlov or not, the ruthlessly exploited Russian worker is unquestionably producing more and more.

His rate of production is, to be sure, still statistically far below the American or even the

European rate. But it is also statistically true that the rate of Soviet industrial production has risen rapidly since the war and continues to rise. The sight of these two factories, with their thousands of hard-working, low-paid, propaganda-ridden, totally disciplined workers, served for this reporter to turn a meaningless statistic into a vivid reality. (Copyright, 1955, New York Herald Tribune, Inc.) This is the third of a series of reports which Stewart Alsop brought out of Russia when he left Moscow before the Geneva conference.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS Early the other morning the teletype threw all its watters into something of a tizzy by spitting out the news that later in the day President Eisenhower would make a VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

WOW!!! Was that something! It gave us all the shivers. Being professionals, we knew that according to all the accepted rules "very important" news would have to be BAD news.

THE politically minded among us promptly jumped to the conclusion that the announcement would have to do with Ike's plans for next year—that is to say, will he or won't he run.

But—That conclusion didn't jibe with the more or less accepted rule that "very important" news (the kind of news that gets spread all over the front pages under heavy headlines) has to be very bad news.

Among the professional Republicans, of course, a statement from Ike that he WON'T RUN would be bad news of the first magnitude. But among the professional Democrats it would be hailed with joy almost uncontrollable.

IT THEN occurred to us that maybe the Russians had accepted without reservation Ike's dramatic Geneva proposal. But the teletype spiked that a little later with a bulletin to the effect that the "very important news" would not concern anything that took place at the Big Four session.

WHEN it came, this was it: "President Eisenhower has approved plans for launching planned artificial earth satellites. These satellites will be unmanned globes designed for purely scientific purposes."

A LITTLE later the teletype came across with the word that the satellites will be about the size of basketballs. They will circle the earth once every 90 minutes—at a speed of 18,000 mph. They will carry ONLY instruments for collecting scientific information. No guns or bombs—YET. They might remain up for days or weeks, then disintegrate and fall back down. They are still in the planning stage, but government scientists say they think the first of the satellites can be launched in TWO years.

Oh, YES again. The project is expected to cost two billion dollars. The White House says information obtained from the project will be available to all nations—including Russia.

WHY is all this so important? Well, what is little tends in these days to become big and what is big tends to become bigger. These little melon-sized affairs could grow into ballooned affairs. Unmanned now, they might later be MANNED. With tiny instruments now, they might later carry big and complicated instruments. Among other things, they might carry instruments with which atom-bomb-carrying robots might be GUIDED ACCURATELY to pin-point targets—the Kremlin, for example. Or Washington.

Assuming, that is, that the people of this earth are nutty enough to go on planning and developing instruments for their own destruction.

SO—You see—It was quite a bit of news at that.

ONE minor detail in conclusion. When the teletype first chattered out the story, it said the satellites would be UNMANNED. Later, with a very red face, it blurted out a correction. The word should have been UNMANNED, it explained. Even robots make mistakes.

Highway Commission Schedules Meeting

Salem — (U.P.) — The Oregon State Highway Commission today announced it will hold its next regular meeting in Portland Aug. 11 and 12, for the purpose of receiving bids on 32 projects estimated to cost \$4,100,000.

Government Hits Firms Chiseling On Contract Work

Washington — (U.P.) — The government has blacklisted more than 6,000 persons and firms since beginning its drive to eliminate chiseling on government contracts.

Last July, the General Services Administration — the government's housekeeping agency — began to keep a list of private firms that engaged in underhanded dealings on government contracts.

GSA doesn't decide which persons or firms are trying to make a fast dollar through fraudulent practices, but it gets reports from government agencies having business with private contractors.

From this information it set up a blacklist for the confidential use of all government contracting officers. This master blacklist prevents an unscrupulous contractor, barred by one agency, from working his wiles on another.

Those on the dishonor roll are barred from getting government contracts for definite periods of time, usually three years.

Employees Inform The 6,000 names actually represented about 2,000 "cases," the spokesman said, since the list includes the names of the one or more persons who own or operate the business as well as the firm name.

There also is a second list of about 4,200 names called the "refer" list. These names have been referred for investigation before a contract will be awarded.

Baron I. Shacklette, director of GSA's contract compliance branch, said most of the information about crooked bidding or contract chiseling comes from employees of the firms involved. "They're scandalized when they see something crooked going on," he said.

"The way the average citizen looks at his government is unenviable," Shacklette said. "The employees apparently think it's all right for one commercial firm to outwit another, but they seem to have mother instincts when it comes to the government."

Shacklette said 60 per cent of the complaints reported in connection with government contracts prove to be unfounded. He also said very few government contracting officers have been found to be unscrupulous.

"But when one of them is," he said, "he certainly makes headlines."

Petition Asks OLCC Files Be Made Public

Salem — (U.P.) — Marion county Circuit Judge George Duncan was expected to rule after 10 days on a petition by Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton to force the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to make public its files on an investigation conducted by Gov. Paul Patterson.

The petition was presented yesterday. Judge Duncan sustained a demurrer by Robert F. McGuire and Howard I. Bobbitt, Portland attorneys who conducted the investigation. They were named defendants in the petition.

The investigation centered around allegations that some OLCC employees had accepted gifts from liquor distributors.

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.

Thank for Wheel Chair To the Editor: We would like to use this as a way to express our appreciation and simple but heartfelt thanks to our many friends (too numerous to mention all) who have been so kind to us during my husband's illness.

They have helped in so many many ways, too numerous to name, but mostly we would like to use this way to thank each and every one of you who so generously gave money to purchase this beautiful wheel chair. So will all of you accept our heartfelt thanks and God bless all of you.

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Gann 2928 Table Rock Rd. Medford, Ore.

Mississippi Voters To Nominate Governor

Jackson, Miss. — (U.P.) — Voters in Mississippi are naming their choice for the governor's office today.

There are five candidates in the Democratic primary — each one a foe of racial integration.

Some 400,000 votes are expected but only about 20,000 by negroes. Party officials in one county have warned Negroes that any ballots they might cast would prove worthless.

The candidates are four men and one woman. They are seeking the office now held by Governor Hugh White, who is prevented by state law from succeeding himself.

Observers predict the outcome will not be decided until a run-off three weeks from today. The nomination is the same as election in Mississippi—a one-party state.

Pine Tree Mariner Docks at Portland

Portland — (U.P.) — The Pine Tree Mariner—one of the two vessels to be converted into passenger liners for Oceanic Steamship company by Willamette Iron and Steel company—has docked in Portland.

The second vessel in the \$26,000,000 conversion project, the Free Mariner, is scheduled to arrive later this week. Both vessels have been docked in Oakland, Calif.

The WISCO contract is the first major shipbuilding work to be done in Portland since the end of World War II. Regional Director Daniel Goldy of the U. S. Labor Department's employment service, predicts the conversion contract will employ enough men to remove Portland from the federal government's "critical unemployment" list and bring it to the "moderate surplus" classification.

New Executive Takes Over Engineer Office

Portland — (U.P.) — Lt. Col. Francis G. McBride has taken over his duties as executive officer for the Portland District, Corps of Engineers, the engineers announced today.

Col. McBride succeeds Col. David S. Parker, recently named assistant district engineer. He has served with a military advisory group in Holland for the past three years.

Cannibal Insects Aid Cane Crops From Louisiana

Washington — (U.P.) — Go easy with the fly swatter in Louisiana canefields; you may snuff out two bits worth of cannibalistic insect which is aiding the sugarcane crop.

In a larva-eat-larva operation, the Agricultural Research Service has introduced \$6,000 worth of Caesarea-born parasitic flies — at the rate of five for a dollar — to help control infestations of the sugarcane borer on plantations near Houma.

The flies — Amazona Metagonyistylum minense and Cuban Lixophaga diatraea — instinctively deposit their eggs at the entrance of holes the borers make in sugarcane stalks. The eggs hatch almost immediately. Each fly larva moves into a hole, penetrates a borer larva, and feeds on its living tissue until full grown and ready to emerge from its cocoon as an adult fly.

The end result is death to the borer and a new generation of parasites ready to lay more eggs to kill more borers. Low-cost Control Entomologists Ralph Mathes and L. J. Charpentier of the Sugarcane Field Station at Houma said that after two years of research the parasites hold promise as a partial and low-cost means of borer control. A year after a group of parasitic flies had been released on one plantation, they had achieved 75 per cent borer control. New generations of the flies had migrated as far as two miles from the original release point.

Aerial dustings of sugarcane with insecticides costs about \$9 an acre. Mathes and Charpentier hope the parasitic fly method can give considerable borer control for about \$1 an acre.

The parasites are produced in quantity in a laboratory in Trinidad. The Cuban and Amazon flies are gathered there where technicians perform Caesarean operations on the female flies and take the hatching larvae from them, one by one, with a small brush. This operation is coordinated with development of laboratory-grown borer larvae to serve as food. Each fly larva, placed on a borer host, begins to feed at once.

After seven to nine days the larvae are ready to be shipped by air mail to buyers. When the adults emerge and mate, they are released in sugarcane fields, about five to an acre. They're ready for work.

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Consult

MR. INSURANCE Fred Brennan Your insurance folder shows persons hurt in falls on slippery sidewalks or waxed floors, tripping over garden hoses or toys, being hit by a bicycle, baseball or golf ball, bitten by a dog, etc. Does a mere \$10 premium cover an entire family's liability for all such accidents?



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