

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

Published Daily Except Saturday by MEDFORD PRINTING CO. 27-29 North Fir St. Phone 2-6141

Subscription Rates: Daily and Sunday—One year \$12.00; Daily and Sunday—Six months \$6.50; Daily and Sunday—Three months \$3.50

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE MEMBER

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 August 9, 1945: Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smodge Pot column: The bomb (atom) itself is a holy terror. Its force can knock off a man's hat at 10 miles.

20 YEARS AGO August 9, 1935: R. I. Stewart and Sons awarded contract for construction of new sewage disposal plant.

30 YEARS AGO August 9, 1925: Summer School of Art closes art show at Ashland Junior high.

40 YEARS AGO August 9, 1915: Showers of meteors over United States tonight predicted by University of Missouri professor of astronomy.

Congressman F. H. Gillett, Springfield, Mass., visits Crater Lake.

What's the Answer?

Can You Get a 77? COP. 1955. Editorial Research Report. 1. U. S. soldiers abroad can be tried in foreign courts for offenses committed on duty, off duty, both or neither?

ACCESS TO WED: London — (U.P.) — Columbia Pictures announced today that thrice-married actress Eva Bartok will marry Austrian actor Kurt Jurgens at Schlei, near Munich, Germany, Saturday.

Entirely in Character

Some people are surprised that the Southern Pacific defied the order of the Public Utility Commission of this state to continue its rail service between Ashland and Portland, and rescind its order of discontinuance pending a public hearing.

WHEN the almighty dollar is concerned, the Southern Pacific has no regard for the public and not much regard for the law. It considers itself and from its very beginning always has considered itself, a law unto itself.

Senator Hiram Johnson ended that "rule or ruin" policy in California many years ago. And the Public Utility Commission of that state a year or two ago reasserted its authority by denying the SP request to drop its local noon trains between San Francisco and Sacramento because it claimed they were losing money.

BUT it may be different in Oregon. As this is written the appeal of Oregon's Public Utility Commissioner to the courts has not been acted upon.

But it is hard to see how any court could properly sustain the railroad in this high-handed and arbitrary action. If it does and the decision is sustained by the State Supreme Court then our Public Utility Commission might as well be abolished, and the seal of the state handed over to the mighty SP with a blanket permission to do as it pleases!

AS the lawyers for the commission stated this defiance of "due process of law" on the part of this billion dollar corporation was surprising.

Our prediction is that as matters proceed, the legal department of the Oregon PUC will be due for many more surprises, as it deals with this "public be damned" corporation.—R.W.R.

"The Baby in Diapers"

The current Colliers runs a page "ad" showing a baby in diapers, striding forward with the aid of helping hands with one chubby foot nearly touching the following arresting caption:

"WHOSE ELECTRIC BILLS WILL HE HAVE TO PAY?" There follows this argument, quote: "Is this youngster going to grow up to pay a lot of other people's electric bills—just as you do today?"

The "ad" is signed "American Electric Light and Power Companies."

IN OTHER words if no more public power projects are built this young man, when he grows up, will have to pay less and less for his electricity.

Carrying this argument to its logical conclusion, if all the present public power projects like Grand Coulee, Bonneville and TVA were abolished and "America's Electric Light and Power companies" were given a 100 per cent monopoly, down would go the electric bills and this promising bambino would probably buy himself a two-tone Cadillac, as a result of having the burden of "paying the electric bills of 4 billion businesses and homes" taken from his shoulders.

WELL, WELL, well, — what NEXT!

The only trouble with this argument is there is no evidence to support it. Public power in the realm of multiple federal projects on our larger rivers may be as wicked and unAmerican as the A.E.L.&P. private companies maintain—or they may not. But one thing about them can't be denied. That one thing is:—WHEREVER they have been established, electric rates have come down, and industrial development and material well being in the areas served, have come up—in many instances sensationally.

IN THIS advertisement, in fact there is one surprising feature, to-wit: The matter of electric rates to the consumer is brought up. Usually this is noticeably skipped, in anti-public-power propaganda.

For example in this Hells Canyon decision, the private power company enthusiasts, have stressed the fact that this construction by the Idaho Power company won't cost the taxpayers anything, while a high dam would cost them \$350,000,000 in federal funds.

It is known that the Idaho Power company, financed in Boston, has to date charged one of the highest rates for its output in the far western area. And this little boy in diapers if he should settle in Idaho will have to pay the price this company decides upon.—R.W.R.



CONFERENCE OPENING—Seated at opening session of "Atoms for Peace" conference at Geneva are (left to right): Swiss President Max Petitpierre; UN Secy. Gen. Dag Hammarskjold; Conference President and noted Indian scientist Dr. H. J. Bhabha, and Professor Walter G. Whitman of the U. S. They are seated at the President's tribunal.

Matter of Fact

RUSSIA IN RETROSPECT—II Editor's note: This is the second of a series of reports summing up Stewart Alsop's experiences in the Soviet Union, which he brought out with him from Moscow.

Moscow—There are two very simple facts, taken together, that provide the main clue to the much discussed internal problem of the whole Soviet system. The first is the fact that Moscow is on about the same latitude as Labrador, Hudson Bay, or Sitka, Alaska.

In other words, the Russian land mass is very far north. This in turn means a dangerously short growing season except in the most southerly parts of Russia, and no real growing season at all in the north. And this is why, even with the best agricultural system in the world, and despite the immensity of the Russian land area, it would still be difficult to grow enough food for the Soviet population.

The second fact is that the whole Soviet system is squarely based on ruthless exploitation of the peasantry, in order to provide the capital for industrial expansion. The way it is done is essentially very simple. The state pays the collective farms artificially low prices for what they produce. The state then sells the farm produce for as much as ten times what it paid.

Put these two facts together and you see why the Soviet agricultural crisis, about which the world has heard so much, is no new thing, but something inherent in the system.

THE CRISIS has been going on ever since Stalin forced collectivization on the peasants in the early 30s, starving some 3,000,000 people in order to achieve it. Stalin did so, not simply out of wanton cruelty, but because he recognized that collectivization of the land was essential in order to sweat the peasants for the capital for industrial expansion and for funds for the war machine.

Essentially, the collective farming system is an attempt to apply the Soviet method of industrial production to agricultural production. The Russian peasant has "norms" to fulfill, just like a Russian factory worker.

But a sick calf is not like a piece of machinery. You cannot use a mechanical approach to biology because biology is not mechanical. One result of trying to do so is the collective farms are cursed with bookkeepers, bosses, overseers and all the trappings of bureaucracy. Overall, it requires six or seven Soviet workers on the land to produce what one American agricultural worker produces.

Add the short Russian growing season, less the continuing voracious demand for funds from Soviet industry and the Soviet war machine, and it is easy to see why the Soviet agricultural crisis is permanent.

In statistical terms, the crisis is easy to describe. The Soviet population is growing at a rate of about 1.5 per cent a year, and farm production is increasing at a rate of only about one per cent. In the long run—the very long run — this could be a formula for mass starvation. Moreover, the rate of increase in farm production has only been maintained by all sorts of temporary expedients.

FOR EXAMPLE, grain and potato crops have long been emphasized at the expense of livestock, since grain supplies far more calories per acre than meat. But this process has now reached the point of no return, with the livestock population of Russia lower than before the Revolution. Again, the system of

Witness Describes Seeing POWs Thrown From Korea Barracks

New York — (U.P.)—A witness testified today that he saw Sgt. James C. Gallagher mistreat two fellow American prisoners of war in Korea and throw them to their deaths in the sub-zero cold. Sgt. Donell Adams, 27, Cottonwood, Ala., testifying at Gallagher's court martial on charges of murder and collaborating with the Communists, said the 23-year-old Brooklyn soldier dumped the two dying men through a barracks door "like a bartender bawling a drunk."

The two victims were identified as Cpl. John William Jones, Detroit, and Cpl. Donald Thomas Baxter, Waukon, Ia. The incidents allegedly occurred in prisoner of war camp No. 5 in Pyoktong, North Korea, in February, 1951.

River Frozen Over A second witness, Sgt. Edward T. Smith, 24, Fresno, Calif., now stationed in Toule, France, corroborated most of the testimony given by Adams. He said Gallagher grabbed the ailing prisoners and tossed them from the room "like a sack of spuds."

Smith testified that it was 40 degrees below zero outside at the time. There was snow on the ground and the nearby Yalu river was frozen over with six to eight feet of ice, he said.

Asked when he saw the two men again, Smith said it was the next day when he saw them being carried on a stretcher to the camp's "death house."

Unable To Move Smith testified that there was sufficient heat inside the barracks to keep the men alive and that none of them died of freezing.

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, and an eye to clarification and condensation must not exceed 400 words.

SP Was Subsidized

To the Editor: Regarding the SP railroad passenger transportation, Portland to Dunsmuir, this service was subsidized, both freight and passenger, by the people through the government by a grant of land along both sides of the railroad survey. The bill called for exchange of all bill pooled for exchange of all bill pooled within the original grant beyond the grant boundaries. The grant land was to be sold for \$2.50 per acre to the public for the purpose of raising money to build the railroad.

The most valuable of this land was disposed of for values below those intended. However, during this earlier period, the timber was a good investment, and all stands of full sections of larger lumber in the timber belt of Oregon and California became the property of future lumber companies, thus provided the funds for building the railroad.

All other land within this grant was withdrawn from the market probably because to pay taxes on this unsold land would, during the coming years, be unprofitable, rather than profitable, though they contested the people's right of confiscation by not fulfilling the agreement as to the grant.

Through parts of southern California, the company voluntarily relinquished a portion of the grant as desert land, non-supporting of railroad or man. Later, however, these lands became desirable, and were being taken up by the people. The RR reapplied for land grants. Huntington and one of California's U.S. senators managed to renew the land grant, and they, with state officers, ran the settlers off the land.

My interpretation would be that the railroad belongs to the people, and that the RR gets the revenue for running the enterprise. In the days of its inception, Chinese labor was cheap, so the cost of its construction was not hard on the pocketbook. My guess would be that the railroad owned some bus stock. I am not alone in this belief.

George L. Huff P.O. Box 105 Gold Hill, Oregon

Needed By Invalids

To the Editor: I sure hope they can arrange to keep the passenger train service going from Medford to Portland. It would be awful for sick people to go without this train service. I think the State of Oregon could pay the railroad enough so they could afford to run this train and keep it going.

My sister came home here in 1945 from Nebraska. I went up to Portland on the night train and met her at the train in Portland, and she stood the trip on the train from Portland, but could not have stood the trip from Portland on an old bus. I think it would be a big drawback to this country if this train is stopped.

Frank Griffing Box 484 Central Point

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS As this is written, America's emotions are deeply stirred by the case of Eugene Landy, 21-year-old honor graduate of the U.S. merchant marine academy who was denied a naval reserve commission because his widowed mother was once a Communist.

On the face of what we know—which is very little—it doesn't seem fair to us that the sins of the parent should be visited upon the child.

At any rate, Landy hasn't lacked influential friends. Sen. Herbert Lehman, a noted (and, I think, a sincere) liberal, is demanding a full report on his case from the navy. Sen. H. Alexander Smith of New Jersey—a professional liberal, but a fair and able senator—took up the case at once and has just notified Landy that the navy will reconsider his application for a commission.

Senator Smith's statement is confirmed by Navy Secretary Thomas, who has just announced that he will review the case fully and impartially.

IN situations of this sort, it's so hard to judge when we know so little of all the circumstances. I think it will be better to withhold judgment until we know more of the facts.

VISITATION of the sins of the parents upon the children is an ancient human tragedy. Euripides referred to it some four centuries before the birth of Christ when he said in one of his Fragments: "The gods visit the sins of the fathers upon the children."

In Merchant of Venice, some 20 centuries later, Shakespeare used almost the same words: "The sins of the father are to be laid upon the children."

I hope the time may come when human beings will be so tolerant and so fair that each of us will be judged upon HIS OWN RECORD.

SPEAKING of ruckuses: Canada's army and air force have developed a difference of opinion over who should have control of ground-to-air missile programs.

The army is reported to consider missiles just another form of artillery and thus are the army's responsibility. The air force argument is understood to be that air force is responsible for all air defense, including not only interceptor planes but ground units firing missiles.

I expect the common, ordinary Canadian won't care much WHO saves him from invading enemy bombers—in case Canada should be invaded. His chief interest will lie in BEING SAVED.

FRENCH Premier Faure tells the French national assembly in Paris that France's living standard will DOUBLE in the next ten years if economic progress in the country continues at the present rate.

How come the present satisfactory rate of economic progress? Well, the French seem to have quit quarreling and GONE TO WORK.

WEATHER note: On the nation's weather front, showers and cooler air have brought some relief to the HEAT STRICKEN regions of the Midwest.

But many parts of the Eastern and Southern sections of the nation are still SEZZLING in hot and humid weather.

PRETTY rugged? Wait a minute. Listen to Mr. Dun and Mr. Bradstreet, the noted business prognosticators: "Retail merchants are smashing all prior records for mid-summer business. Despite SEZZLING temperatures, retail sales for the week just ended were at the HIGHEST LEVEL EVER ATTAINED at this time of year."

"All major areas of the nation racked up better sales records than in the comparable week last year. Merchants in resort areas enjoyed the biggest tourist-business on record."

WE grumble about the weather, but when all's said and done we take it in stride.

Advertisement for Commercial Insurance Agency featuring a portrait of Mr. Fred Brenner and text: 'Almost every business or industry has unusual, specialized risks that need insuring. Many insurance agencies have neither the experience nor range of policies to handle such unusual risks. I am told that the Medford Agency well-comes rare insuring situations and has Lloyds of London, and Surplus Lines to handle them. Is this true? For Information Call MEDFORD INSURANCE AGENCY Phone 2-4940'