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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

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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

Dec. 29, 1945 (It was Saturday) United Nations organization interim committee announces that permanent headquarters will be in either New York or Boston areas.

20 YEARS AGO

Dec. 29, 1935 (It was Sunday) O. Horner named worshipful master of Medford lodge 103, AF and AM.

30 YEARS AGO

Dec. 29, 1925 Fred Scheffel elected commander of the Medford American Legion post.

40 YEARS AGO

Dec. 29, 1915 George A. Briscoe, principal of Ashland High school, elected vice president of new Oregon State Teachers' association at meeting here.

What's the Answer?

Can You Get 4 of the 7? Copr. 1955, Editorial Research Reports

1. If you buy a fifth of champagne for New Year's Eve, \$0.55, \$1.55 or \$2.55 of what you pay goes for domestic federal excise tax?

2. Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn has come out for or against a big income tax cut next year, or says let's wait and see?

3. Total church membership in the U.S. recently has been steadily falling, steadily rising, or staying about the same?

4. Which of these states has most private motor cars: California, Illinois, Michigan, New York or Texas?

5. The state of Israel is or isn't a member of the United Nations?

6. Dentists in the U.S. have an average net income of about \$5000, \$8000, \$11,000, \$14,000 or \$17,000 a year?

7. Which one president of this century so far lived to be over 80?

The Answers: 1. \$0.55, 2. Says let's wait and see, 3. Steadily rising, 4. California, 5. Is, 6. About \$11,000, 7. Herbert Hoover.

Washington—(U.P.)—The National Coal Association has urged the Interstate Commerce Commission to turn down an application by the railroads for speedy approval of a 7 per cent hike in freight rates.

Did FDR Start Jap War?

The verdict of history is traditionally assumed to be accurate and just.

This is usually true, no doubt, although opinions of historians are not judgments from on High, and being human historians are just as subject to error as other humans. But all in all what reputable historians agree upon regarding events in periods of the past, endure and undoubtedly are generally accepted by literate mankind.

THEREFORE probably statements, recently being circulated throughout the land should not be taken too seriously, because of the fear history may accept some of these judgments as sound and reliable.

For example: it has been brought to our attention that quite a sizeable school of thought in both the U.S. Army and Navy maintain that there was no negligence at Pearl Harbor on the part of the naval and military commanders there. The only negligence was in the White House, where President Franklin Roosevelt turned a deaf ear to all warnings of a Japanese attack, not because he thought there would be none, but because he wanted one, wanted war with Japan as the aggressor and thought that rendering Honolulu a "sitting" duck to his navy, would be the best, and safest way to get it!

IT WOULD be difficult to think of anything more fantastically absurd, untrue and shamelessly libelous than that, yet there are, we are informed, certain Generals and Admirals in the U.S. forces, most of them, now retired—who seriously entertain such views and now then express them.

Imagine what the historical verdict would be regarding the war with Japan and its genesis, if these gentlemen were to exert through their memoirs or otherwise, strong influence upon the historians of the next generation!

THIS, we grant, is an extreme case of the destructive effect of political bias, personal animus and hatred, upon the judgment of a man and events, by those who lived through them, took part in them, and should know better.

Moreover that such statements COULD be made by sane and responsible citizens, in the service of their country or not, anywhere or anytime does give one pause and arouse certain fears regarding the future judgments of the American people and the course they may take, when such a diabolical distortion of the facts is allowed to gain headway, and there is apparently no outburst of an outraged and aroused public opinion against THEM.—R.W.R.

How About Korea?

Speaking of the verdict of history one wonders if that verdict will place the blame for the Korean war, not upon Soviet Russia but upon former Secretary of State Dean Acheson?

According to Republican orators in the last campaign—and it may be true in the coming one—North Korea would have never attacked South Korea if it had then Secretary of State had not declared officially that the United States did not regard Korea as a vital point in its program of Far Eastern defense.

The claim was made that this pronouncement added up to giving Russia the "green light," as far as the conquest of all Korea by the Communists was concerned, and had this statement NOT been made there would have been no attempt to take over all Korea and therefore no war,—with the unavoidable sacrifices in blood and treasure.

WE GRANT a case can be made against the Truman administration and its Secretary of State on this basis, as far as contemporary politics is concerned, but we are not so sure about the verdict of history.

Taking that reference to Korea out of context might have led the Kremlin to believe that if an attack were ordered on South Korea the United States would not aid in the defense of that country by force.

But it is hard to believe that the Kremlin, smart as it is, did not read the full statement. And if this was the case, then it would have been reasonably clear to Russia that under the circumstances existing at the time the pronouncement made was far from being a commitment of "hands off" in case of attack on Korea by the Communists. Secretary Acheson was merely stating the truth about U.S. policy not to invite war but to prevent it. He pointed particularly to the fact that the expressed fears of North Korea that the U.S.A. would aid South Korea to unite the country by force were utterly groundless, that as General Bradley remarked later to fight a war in Korea then would be to fight a war in the wrong place, at the wrong time and against the wrong enemy.

IN OTHER words the point that Secretary Acheson stressed was that America had no aggressive intention regarding South Korea whatever, that Korea as a whole was not a vital factor in its area of U.S. defense in the Far East, and the implication throughout was clear, that if Soviet Russia would withdraw from Korea and stay out, the United States would gladly do the same.

Unless Soviet Russia believed the time had come to take over South Korea, and regarded American aid to South Korea by the U.S.A. in case of such an attack as a remote and calculated risk, it is difficult to believe that this one item taken out of context in the Acheson statement, would have changed her mind, and thus altered the Kremlin policy entirely and changed the course of history.—R.W.R.

Fear of 'Prussianization' of West German Army Expressed

By CHARLES M. McCANN United Press Correspondent

It looks as if it may prove pretty difficult to keep the new West German army from becoming an old fashioned Prussian military machine.



It has been only seven weeks since the first 101 men of the proposed 500,000 man Streitkraefte—fighting force—took the oath of loyalty.

But already a fight is brewing over the question of its control. The issue is whether the Streitkraefte shall remain, as planned, under the strictest civilian authority.

The alternative is to risk the development in West Germany of a militaristic, spirit like that which, under the Kaiser and the Nazis, caused two world wars.

Top Man Suspect Strangely enough, the man who was regarded as the chief guarantee of a democratic army is now suspected of coming under military influence.

He is Theodor Blank, Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's defense minister. Blank is a former labor leader, with an excellent record as an anti-Nazi. He spent six years in Adolf Hitler's army and didn't like it.

When it was decided to rearm Germany four years ago, Blank was named defense commissioner. He was regarded as an absolutely safe man from the democratic viewpoint. He became defense minister last summer.

The law under which the West German army is being formed provides that all candidates for commissions as colonel or general shall be screened secretly by a 38-man committee. This committee can reject any applicant without even giving its reason.

Four Rejected Now it has rejected four men whom Blank personally had selected as among his closest associates in the defense ministry. Two of them are former general staff colonels.

Blank got angry. He disclosed the committee's action himself.

McKay Tells Desire To Stop Traveling

Salem—(U.P.)—Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay says that when his current term as secretary of interior is over he wants to "stop traveling."

McKay, addressing the Kiwanis club here yesterday, said he had more than 70,000 miles of air travel in 1954 and that the total would be greater this year.

McKay said with a grin that if he were in the Army again he would rather be a private than a commissioned officer. "When a man lets them start promoting him his troubles begin," he said.

Explorer of 1673 Figures in Utility Case

Madison, Wis.—(U.P.)—Pere Jacques Marquette, the French explorer who toured the Midwest almost 300 years ago, was a central figure in a utilities case today.

An attorney for the Wisconsin Power and Light Co., arguing before the Public Service Commission, cited Marquette's journal of 1673 as evidence that the Wisconsin river has been shifting for quite a long time.

Father Marquette wrote: "The river on which we embarked is called 'Miskonsing.' It is very broad, with a sandy bottom forming many shallows, which render navigation difficult."

Editorial Comment

MERCY FLIGHTS The value of Mercy Flights has been demonstrated time and time again, but it is always brought home with singular force when emergency conditions prevail.

Last week Gold Beach, on the coast, was isolated and an 11-day-old girl required immediate hospitalization. Mercy Flights in Medford was notified and dispatched one of its new twin-engine Beechcraft ambulances.

The landing strip at Gold Beach was soggy from pounding by rain and covered with silt. Pilot George Milligan reported that the trip was uneventful, except that the plane skidded on the muddy strip and was brought to a stop just a hundred feet short of the runway.

The take off was uneventful and less than an hour after she left Gold Beach, the sick infant was in a Eugene hospital to undergo emergency surgery. Mercy Flights, the non-profit air ambulance service started six years ago, has now made more than 430 flights and has been responsible, we are confident, for the saving of a number of lives. —Ashland Daily Tidings

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

As these words are written, the final grim total for the 1955 Christmas holiday week-end has just come in. From 6 p.m. Friday to midnight Monday, 599 persons died in agony on our highways.

That is an all-time record, exceeding by 43 the previous tragic figure of 553 established in 1952.

SEEKING to minimize the horror of it, someone may ask: How does that compare with the normal, everyday average of traffic deaths on our highways?

I DON'T have at hand the normal, average, year-around total. But we do have available an EVEN MORE interesting figure. December 1 of this year was set apart as SAFE DRIVING DAY. On that day, everyone in America was asked to exercise more than ordinary caution. The purpose was to see if by the exercise of more than ordinary caution the total of traffic deaths could be cut down.

Safe Driving Day covered a period of 24 hours. In that 24 hours 69 persons died in traffic crashes—an average of 2.9 persons per hour.

THERE are CONDITIONS, of course, that must be taken into consideration.

In holiday periods, there are more cars on the road. The more cars on the road, the greater the hazard.

It is a gruesome fact that each year more people die in traffic crashes on our highways than died the year before. But again we must take CONDITIONS into our thinking. Each year we have more miles of road. Each year there are more cars on the roads. The more cars, the greater the risk.

BUT STILL—This moral seems to be plain:

The habits of caution that are necessary to cope with the growing congestion on our highways have not yet been developed. Our minds haven't become conditioned to the new dangers that face us.

THAT leads to this conclusion: On our modern highways, congested with fast-moving traffic, eternal vigilance is the price of safety.

IT ISN'T a new situation. Our pioneer forefathers faced it. Back in the early days on the frontier the Indians were an ever-present menace, calling for rigid techniques of caution.

Those who learned these techniques stayed alive and kept their hair. Those who didn't learn lost their lives or their hair—or both. The situation is getting just that grim on our highways.

THE TRAGEDY of our highways, of course, is that the reckless driver (who refuses to use the necessary degree of caution and skill in his driving) endangers the GOOD drivers, as well as himself and his passengers.

But—The sentry who went to sleep at his post in time of uprising on the frontier endangered the lives of everyone in the village. Vigilance on the part of all, then as now, was the price of reasonable safety for all.

WHAT of the long future? Well, there is HOPE.

On my way to work, I pass a school. I'm continually impressed by the way mere tots pause at intersections and look both ways before starting across. The exceptions to this rule of caution are few indeed on the part of these little ones. They have been

Jury Eavesdropping Brings New Attention To U.S. Trial System

By MARTIN PACKMAN

Washington, D. C.—A promise of administration support, at the coming session of Congress, for legislation to outlaw eavesdropping on deliberations of trial juries has again directed public attention to the workings of the jury system.

President Eisenhower's endorsement, last Oct. 21, of a Justice Department plan to bar listening in on jury discussions climaxed the reaction to public disclosure that University of Chicago researchers, studying the jury system, had used tapping devices to make recordings of federal jury sessions at Wichita, Kan.

Attorney General Brownell said the Justice Department was "unequivocally opposed" to jury-tapping "under any conditions regardless of the purpose."

The Senate Internal Security subcommittee, which held hearings in mid-October on the tapping episode, also denounced the recording of jury deliberations. But several lawyers, judges, and legal scholars defended jury-tapping as an aid to improving the administration of justice.

Need for Study The legal scholars said there was great need for careful study of how jurors function in coming to a decision. The few surveys so far made have underlined the need by indicating that jury members do not always understand legal subtleties in a trial, frequently do not follow the judge's instructions, and sometimes do not carry out their duties as conscientiously as is popularly supposed.

The sixth and seventh amendments to the U. S. Constitution safeguard the right to trial by jury in federal courts, and most state constitutions make similar provision with respect to trials in state courts. But the right to a jury trial may be waived, and such waivers have become increasingly common in some states in civil cases. Many critics of the jury system contend that more extensive waiving of the right to a jury trial would make for more exact and more expeditious justice.

Criticism Cited Criticism of the jury system usually centers on its alleged inefficiency and on the alleged shortcomings of the average juror. The critics assert that the system is wasteful of time, money, and human energy. They contend, moreover, that today's problems often are too complex to be judged by untrained persons. "Jurors," Judge Jerome Frank has written, "are amateurs, and adequate judging is a job for professionals."

Defenders of the jury system, on the other hand, hail it as the essence of the democratic process. A jury verdict, in their opinion, represents the "common sense" of the community. "In the long run," Judge Louis E. Goodman has said, "it is better to have truth determined not by experts but by juries made up of a cross-section of . . . citizens."

Reform Proposals Proposals for reform of court trials range from outright abolition of the jury system to modification of various trial procedures and include steps to better the caliber of jurors. Improving the caliber of jurymen calls in turn for changes in the methods of selecting them. Many legal authorities have advised wider use of paid jury commissioners to select prospective jurors by means of examinations and interviews.

Restoration to judges of powers which they used to enjoy under the common law has been strongly recommended. It is asserted that constitutional and statutory limitations on judicial functions, which reflect distrust of royalist judges by the colonists, are no longer justified. Allowing the trial judge to comment on the evidence has been urged especially; only one-fourth of the states now permit that practice. More extensive use of so-called special verdicts, in which the jury determines the facts by answering written questions submitted by the judge, also has been proposed.

New Chamber Officers To Meet Tomorrow The newly-elected officers of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce will meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow in the chamber office to discuss and outline programs and policies for the coming year.

Otto Ewaldsen, president-elect, will be in charge of the meeting which will also be attended by Vice-President-Elect Bob Root and Treasurer-Elect Clarence Young.

Northern Plains Again Feel Sting Of Cold, Snow

By UNITED PRESS

A new cold wave raced across the northern plains today, threatening new blizzards in Kansas and Nebraska.

The storm blew out of Canada, routed shirt-sleeve weather in Colorado, and caused two deaths on icy highways. Snow overspread the upper Great Lakes region today and temperatures dropped as much as 46 degrees.

Bulletins Warn Special weather bulletins warned of falling temperatures and drifting and blinding snow creating near blizzard conditions in northern and western Nebraska and northwest and north-central Kansas.

The storm should reach its peak in the two states today and tonight, the forecasters said. Motorists elsewhere in the Midwest were warned of treacherous glazed highways.

Meanwhile, the new winter storm knifed into Colorado and Wyoming Wednesday and was blamed for traffic deaths in each of the states.

Snow and Fog Wyoming got one to eight inches of snow and heavy fog temporarily stranded 300 cars. There was up to a foot of snow in the high mountain passes and one to four inches of snow in southwest Colorado.

Minnesota measured up to three inches of snow and highway crews were called out to sand curves, hills, and intersections.

Cold in New England The cold wave routed mild holiday temperatures, sending the temperature skidding from 41 degrees to five below at Minot, N.D. It was 11 below at Grand Forks, N.D., today and a scant one above at Pierre, S.D.

New England also had plenty of cold weather, with the thermometer hitting nine below at Rumford, Me. The sub-freezing weather stretched as far south as North Carolina, where the mercury registered 23 degrees at Greensboro early today.

'Serious Reappraisal' Of Foreign Aid Seen

Washington—(U.P.)—Sen. Walter F. George (D-Ga.), said today he thinks Congress must make a "serious reappraisal" of the foreign aid program next year.

George is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee, which handles foreign aid legislation and would handle any such reappraisal insofar as the Senate is concerned.

Sentiment Said Growing Returning to Washington for the 1956 session of Congress, George told reporters that "sentiment has been growing in Congress that economic aid should be trimmed 'way down'."

The administration recently announced that foreign aid spending for the fiscal year beginning next July 1 will increase by about \$200,000,000 above the \$4,200,000,000 estimated for

the current year. It also announced that Congress will be asked to appropriate \$4,900,000,000 in new foreign aid funds, most of which will be spent in future years. That compares with only \$2,700,000,000 voted by Congress this year.

Telephone Explanations George's first reaction last week to the proposed large increase in appropriations was that he was convinced that Congress would not agree. He has since received telephoned explanations of the administration program from Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and Budget Director Rowland H. Hughes.

"I'm inclined to think that there will have to be a very serious reappraisal of the whole thing," George told reporters today.

He said he did not want to amplify his statement until the administration has explained its program to Congress.

North Carolina Girl Named Maid of Cotton

Memphis, Tenn.—(U.P.)—Patricia (Pat) Anne Cowden, a green-eyed brunette who serves as a private secretary to a Raleigh, N.C., bank executive, was crowned last night as the 1956 Maid of Cotton.

The 21-year-old beauty could only "squeal" and say "I'm thrilled to death" when the judges announced she had beaten out 22 other contestants from 13 cotton growing states for the title which she "always wanted."

Pat, who stands 5 feet, 7½ inches and weighs 125 pounds, also will realize another long dream of travel in Europe.

Revis Jordan, Lubbock, Tex., was named first alternate and Minta Curtis, Mission, Tex., was second alternate by the judges who based their selections on "beauty, personality, training and background" which involves a cotton family.

Coast Highway May Be Open Today

Salem—(U.P.)—The Oregon coast highway was expected to be opened before noon today, the State Highway department said.

But several other routes remained closed, including the Elkton-Sutherlin route, the Cascade highway at Park place, the Corvallis Eastside secondary road and the Umpqua highway was closed by slides.

The Coos Bay-Roseburg highway was closed except to emergency traffic and so was the Power secondary highway.

Chains were required at Government camp and Timberline where snow plows were operating. And chains were advised at Austin. No new snow was reported over night.

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