

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: Jan. 1, 1946. (It was Tuesday) J. C. Penney company purchases Groceria building on North Central ave.

20 YEARS AGO: Jan. 1, 1936. (It was Wednesday) Heavy rains in Rogue valley area usher in New Year.

30 YEARS AGO: Jan. 1, 1926. (It was Friday) Construction of new state normal school at Ashland will start Feb. 1, J. A. Churchill, state school superintendent, announces.

40 YEARS AGO: Jan. 1, 1916. (It was Saturday) Local residents welcome "dry" New Year by sipping whatever was available at end of "wet" year.

What's the Answer? Can You Get a 77? Copr. 1955, Editorial Research Report. 1. In the 1956 session of Congress the Democrats control the Senate, not the House; or the House, not the Senate; or both; or neither?

Man Doesn't Know When To Quit; In Jail Birmingham, Ala. — (U.P.) — George B. Stewart, 26, was in jail Saturday because he didn't know when to quit.

Quo Vadis

"Mr. Anonymous" has returned. And he calls ex-Governor Stevenson "just another egg-head."

All of which seems like old times and removes all doubt—if there has ever been any—that the presidential campaign of 1956 has started.

WHAT interested us most in this offering, however, was the comment on an editorial in this column a week or two ago, explaining to "newcomers" that the term "independent" on the mast-head of this paper meant exactly what it said.

"Mr. Anonymous" exactly that a 'lot of apple-sauce.' "Everyone in Southern Oregon," he adds, "knows that the Mail Tribune will support the Democratic ticket next year as it did in 1952, regardless."

Moreover if we were "honest" we would replace that "independent with Democratic"—though he might allow us to include the qualification "independent" if it would make us feel any better.

That is very generous of our unidentified correspondent, but as he is 100% wrong as usual, the Mail Tribune masthead will remain as it has been for close to half a century. So that concludes that particular argument.

Now as to the facts— EVERYONE in Southern Oregon DOES NOT know the Mail Tribune will support the Democratic ticket next year, for we don't know ourselves.

We grant the probability. But if Senator Lyndon Johnson of Texas, fine gentleman and excellent Democratic senate leader that he is—on a platform of private power over public power, should be the Democratic candidate—the Mail Tribune certainly would not support him.

And if by chance Chief Justice Warren of the U.S. Supreme Court should head the Republican ticket, on a platform of public power over private power—where the former is indicated—and development of tidelands oil for the benefit of the people and public education rather than a few private oil companies—there is equal lack of doubt that the Mail Tribune would then support the Republican ticket.

WE grant such eventualities are unlikely. But stranger—or at least as strange—things have happened in politics—in the past. For example: Who would ever have thought the Democratic party would nominate for President an unknown, long-haired, table-thumping congressman from rural Nebraska for its presidential nominee and on a free-silver ticket, over half a century ago?

Or shortly thereafter who would have believed that President Theodore Roosevelt would desert the Republican party, form a new party, and do everything in his power to defeat and humiliate his long-time friend, and his own selection as his successor, one William Howard Taft?

POLITICS not only makes strange bed-fellows. Politics makes strange and weird tape recording on the tablets of national history. The Mail Tribune is no more committed to support the Democratic ticket next year, than it was committed four years ago at this time to support the Republican ticket, though all the evidence available pointed that way.

Attendance at the two party conventions changed the political views of the Mail Tribune in 1952. That may happen again in 1956. Or it may not. "Mr. Anonymous," or anyone else interested in speculating on such momentous decisions must therefore await the event.—R.W.R.

What's Wrong With Johnson?

Anticipating an inquiry from "Mr. Anonymous" (or some of his friends) as to what the Mail Tribune has against Senator Lyndon Johnson of Texas we herewith explain, that we have nothing against him as an individual, a Senator, or an effective majority leader in the Upper House of the congress.

But we would oppose him as a leader of the Democratic party and as President of the United States, because we don't believe in what he believes in. That's all.

MR JOHNSON believes in "state rights" as many other Southerners do. He believes in the doctrine of nullification as espoused by Calhoun prior to the Civil War, as many other Southerners and many Texans apparently do.

Also, according to what we believe reliable information, the Senior Senator from Texas advocated the Tidelands Oil measure, which handed over billions of dollars rightly belonging to all the people of the United States, to three or four states and eventually to three or four large oil combines.

We believe that this action was contrary to the public welfare clause of the Constitution and involved a great injustice to the American people and especially to the cause of federal aid to education.

FINALLY there is the natural gas bill which would, if passed, free the natural gas companies from all federal control, and allow the private gas companies to profit enormously at the expense of the gas consumers. Senator Johnson is one of the leaders in the effort to put this "give away" over.

SO for these fairly definite reasons we would not be in favor of the Texas Senator as candidate and spokesman of the Democratic party, and if the Democratic convention should decide otherwise, we would look elsewhere for a candidate or a party we could conscientiously support.—R.W.R.

Matter of Fact By Joe and Stewart Alsop

THE DULLES-SHARETT TALKS

Washington—There has been a remarkable amount of false optimism about the foreign situation generally, but no where has the optimism been more false than about the situation in the Middle East.

There have been strong hints, for example, that an agreed settlement between Israel and the Arab states is now in sight. Miracles do happen, of course. But the real story of the negotiations between Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett suggests just how miraculous an agreed settlement would be.

The talks began at the second Geneva conference and continued in Washington. From the very beginning, there was hardly a happy meeting of minds. In the climactic conversation at Washington, Dulles told Sharett that the United States was prepared to consider supplying Israel with at least part of the \$50,000,000 worth of arms Israel has requested, but on certain conditions.

For example, Dulles said, Israel would have to make certain concessions including minor territorial concessions, in return for Arab recognition and agreed peace in the area. Sharett furiously replied that apparently Dulles wanted to destroy Israel. Israel would fight to the last man, he said rather than cede an inch of land won from the Arabs, except on an even exchange basis.

Dulles assured Sharett that he had no desire whatsoever to destroy Israel. But, he said in effect, peace in the area was in the interests of both Israel and the United States, and concessions on both sides would be needed to obtain a settlement. Thereafter a somewhat calmer tone prevailed.

IT WAS finally agreed that Israel would submit its own version of a peace plan, while the Administration would give "sympathetic consideration" to Israel's arms request. Meanwhile, it was mutually and specifically agreed, Israel would do everything possible to avoid further incidents.

This conversation was almost immediately followed by Israel's retaliatory raid on Syria, in which more than 40 Syrians were killed. The raid, which was hailed in Israel as a signal victory, enraged the entire Arab world. It also, apparently, enraged Foreign Minister Sharett since it had been ordered without his knowledge by Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, the leader of the bitterly nationalist "Activist" group in Israel.

Sharett angrily cabled Ben-Gurion that the raid had ruined his chances of getting arms from the United States, to balance the arms the Soviet Union is sending Egypt. At least temporarily, Sharett's forecast has proved to be accurate.

THE SYRIAN raid has had another effect. It has greatly strengthened the hand of those Administration policy advisers who have maintained from the start that no arms should be sent to Israel except on stringent conditions. Egyptian Prime Minister Gamal Abdel Nasser, they argue, is the first Arab leader politically strong enough to make an agreed settlement with Israel. But Nasser cannot possibly make a settlement unless the Israeli are willing to make serious concessions as regards the territorial and refugee problem—concessions which the Israeli have heretofore refused flatly to make.

According to this view, arms should be sent to Israel only if the basis of an agreed settlement is first achieved. Otherwise, the Arabs, who control the economically vital oil in the strategically vital area of the Middle East, will be convinced once and for all that they have no where to turn but to the Communist bloc. This, it is argued, would predictably lead to the loss of the whole Middle East.

THE COUNTER argument is, of course, that this country has no alternative but to re-establish the balance of power in the Middle East, which was upset by the Egyptian-Soviet arms deal. The issue, which has explosive domestic political implications, is being angrily debated in the highest Administration circles.

Meanwhile, all is in abeyance, and this country has no real Middle Eastern policy at all. Add the heavy Communist infiltration in Syria and other Arab countries and the bold bid by Egypt and Saudi-Arabia to take over Jordan's powerful Arab Legion, heretofore controlled by Britain. It is then hard to see much reason for optimism about what has been happening in the Middle East. In point of fact, the highest State Department authorities are now privately admitting that the betting is even on a Middle East war breaking out within four months.

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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.

1956 Forecast To the Editor: According to ancient planetary observations and yearly cycles for the new solar year beginning March 21, the Spring will be dry, cold and disagreeable with a warm summer following a mild winter.

This also will be a leap year and is divisible by four. Easter Sunday is April first. The year will be ruled by the planet Mercury, an intellectual symbol. By coincidence 1956 will be a national election year, too. As a result the best men or women best fitted for each respective position should win out.

The coming year will see many scientific discoveries. Only one total eclipse of the moon, November 18, will be visible in the United States. The summer is due for thunder and rain storms, also a good season for some kinds of fruits. Also a year to be cautious of all kinds of accidents.

Bert Kissinger, 520 Boardman st., Medford, Ore.

Consideration To the Editor: December 25th is the day on which Christians celebrate the birth of Christ. At this time we are imbued with the spirit of giving and are more cordial to our friends, neighbors and relatives. It is also a holiday on which we murder our fellowmen in great numbers on our highways, this year in greater numbers than ever before.

We spend many thousands of dollars annually to provide ourselves with the finest law enforcement agencies and then figure ways and means to have persons appointed or elected who will exempt us from obedience of the law by "fixing" charges made against us.

We spend great sums of money to get more powerful cars. Supposedly this extra power will furnish the surge of sudden speed to avert an accident, but in practically all instances slight pressure on the brake pedal will prevent a mishap more safely and with less adverse nervous reaction to all concerned.

It is believed that if each of us will show the same consideration to others that we feel is due ourselves that our daily life will be more pleasant and our highways less the murder traps they now are.

Our law enforcement agencies try to make our lives more pleasant and safe. We can be more considerate of the rights of all others and we must insist that our courts stop dispensing cut rate penalties and adjust themselves to modern conditions. When we do this we will enjoy more of the blessings of freedom which are guaranteed us by our Constitution.

Dan F. Krotz II, Chairman for Community Service Steelhead Post, VFW Shady Cove, Ore.

Editorial Comment BIRD COUNT In the Christmas bird census taken down at Medford 50 species of birds were noted. This score isn't as large as on the other side of the Cascades where the 1954 check showed 118 species. Klamath seems to be more on the bird flyway than the west side of the mountains. The most distinguished bird observed at Medford was a bald eagle. For the first time starlings were observed—159 of them, which shows how fast they are spreading through Western Oregon. No bird census was taken in Salem, so far as we are informed, so we do not know what the species total for this part of the state is. This would be an interesting and worthy project for local birdlovers to take up. We do know, however, that starlings already have taken up their residence here.

—Oregon Statesman, Salem

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS Numerous additional arrests in Argentina are announced by the Argentine provisional military government—which reports that ten persons have been seized in what is called a new subversive plot.

At the same time, it announces that 125 persons described as "rumor mongers and trouble makers" have been rounded up and confined in an out of the way place in southern Argentina.

WHAT'S happening down there? It's hard to say. There is too much censorship. When censorship comes into the picture the truth gets badly blurred. Whatever IS happening is taking quite a lot of time and involves a lot of struggle.

We'll have to wait and see whether patriotism and love of country or ICH FOR POWER lies at the root of the Argentine troubles.

SPEAKING of censorship— In Brazil, where a similar mystery play is being enacted, the newspapers have to send every page of every issue to the military censors before printing it.

So we have no clear idea of what is going on in Brazil. Maybe a real effort is being made to get better government for the people of Brazil.

Maybe it's another struggle for power.

WHAT'S happening in our own country? It is announced in Washington this morning that a congressional investigation into GOVERNMENT SECRECY is to be continued by a committee headed by Congressman John Moss of California.

Moss has asked the interior and welfare departments, the federal reserve system and the securities and exchange commission why they have been holding back non-defense information by labelling it confidential.

Two years ago, President Eisenhower issued an order limiting the use of the confidential classification generally to defense information.

POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

Bert Kissinger, as the old year waned, wrote the Potluck editor about a 1923 mail order circular he found while rummaging around in an old trunk. Among the special bargains listed were an electric grill stove for \$4.69; a four-heat iron, \$4.95; imported .22 caliber rifle for \$5.65; light poultry fencing, 55 cents a rod; an electric toaster for \$1.48.

It's sort of fun to compare these prices with the ones charged for similar items now. But don't forget that take-home pay has gone up as much or more in those 32 years.

"How long can you keep a ham after it's cooked?" a lady telephoned the county agents office to inquire last week.

The secretary who answered the telephone got all ready with her regular spiel about caring for meat, and she id out, "Even if it gets a little green with mold, you can..."

She was interrupted by the caller: "Maybe I'd better explain. We're making ham sandwiches for a tea, and I want to know if they'll keep from 9 to 4."

The bouquet of pussy willows which a newsroom distaff member brought to the office before Christmas served double duty last week. It was a reminder that spring cannot be too far off—and it was also the newsroom Christmas tree.

Another newsroom worker placed little glass tree ornaments on the branches of the pussy willow, and someone else hung red and white striped candy canes on it.

We think it is probably one of the few "Christmas trees" in town that is beginning to sprout.

A Nichol's Worth of... Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS United Press Feature Writer

Washington — (U.P.) — A lot of folks have as a hobby collecting rag dolls, bean bags and old Bull Durham sacks. But others go in to retail like rare china, tails from the bull ring and well, model trains.

Glenn Parker, executive vice president of Milwaukee's Kalmbach Publishing Co., knows quite a bit about the market in miniature trains. According to him, some are just toys, but a lot of them are not to be played with unless you know a roundhouse from a caboose.

Some run into big money and a kid just can't fiddle with them out of his allowance of paper-peddling scratch.

Can Spend Heavily For example, a man with a mind to could spend as much as \$200 or \$300 or even more for a build-it-yourself engine of his own specifications. He'd also have to spend a few weeks in the basement putting the dang thing together.

Glenn put it this way: "You can go to a dime store and buy a trolley toy train. That would cost you whatever you wanted to pay, something like a dollar for the tin job on up. Or you could go whole hog."

What if the kids never get a chance to play with it. It's a man's toy, the kids can run around and play with their teddy bears and dolls for a lot less money.

If you think the folks who go in for building miniatures are in a minority, you should look at the tab sheet. There are some 20,000,000 of them and they spend something like \$150,000,000 a year on their hobbies.

An Average Guy Glenn says the railroad model fan is pretty much of an average guy. Average-wise he is 33 years old, he owns his own home, and

Oregonians Urged To Use Polio Vaccine

Oregonians were urged Friday to take advantage of their supply of the new polio vaccine by Dr. G. A. Dierdorff, Medford, president of the Oregon Osteopathic association.

The Oregon state board of health warned that unless all eligible Oregonians participated in the inoculations, the "surplus" stock of the vaccine might be transferred elsewhere.

"If an ultra-cautious attitude continues," Dr. Dierdorff commented, "Oregon may face a shortage next summer when the polio scare starts and parents are trying to secure quick immunization for their children."

He pointed out that children immunized now should reach the peak of greatest protection during next summer's polio season. Any child through 14 years of age and pregnant women are eligible to obtain shots. It is estimated there are 510,000 eligible persons in Oregon.

ROTC Graduates May Go Into Army Reserve

More than half the 4,100 reserve officer training corps graduates going on active duty during the next six months will be released to the ready reserve after training, according to the Oregon military district.

ROTC graduates on orders to report during January and February will have their orders amended unless they volunteer or are selected for a two-year tour of duty. Others, due to report later, will receive orders to report for six months active duty for training unless accepted for the longer period.

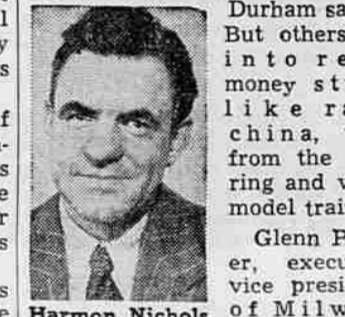
The move will make about 2,300 men available to ready reserve units for assignment as platoon leaders or similar jobs during the last six months this year. The men will complete an eight year obligation in the Army reserve.



Stewart Alsop



Joseph Alsop



Harmon Nichols