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NEWSPAPER 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 Feb. 24, 1946 (It was Sunday) Medford water commission decides not to receive applications for water users outside the city limits.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column: The Older Girls are cutting pussywillows, switch length. They are used to touch up the living room, instead of Junior.

20 YEARS AGO Feb. 24, 1936 (It was Monday) Snowfall in valley is heaviest thus far this year; follows warm springlike weather.

Jackson county farm outlook conference appoints committee to study farm tax problems.

30 YEARS AGO Feb. 24, 1926 (It was Wednesday) Ashland Chamber of Commerce members discuss possibilities to make facilities for tourists.

Supervisors of southern Oregon national forests discuss fire and administrative plans for coming year.

40 YEARS AGO Feb. 24, 1916 (It was Thursday) Old Moore hotel and building on West Main st. at Fir st. to be removed for modern office building.

Utah-Idaho Sugar company officials in valley discussing sugar beet crop next year.

What's the Answer?

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

- 1. Requirements for voting in presidential primaries are alike in many states holding them, or are different in all?
2. Oldest US city is Santa Fe, Boston, St. Augustine, New Orleans, Key West or Williamsburg, Va.?
3. Dr. Paul D. White, heart consultant to President Eisenhower, says bicycling is good or bad for most middle-aged to elderly men?
4. Greatest corn-producing state is Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska or Ohio?
5. Which member of the Eisenhower Cabinet resigned as a state governor to take the Cabinet job?
6. A human being has run a mile in less than four minutes both indoors and outdoors, only outdoors, or only indoors?
7. Lt. Gen. Doolittle (ret.), former Air Force ace, is now with Bulova Watch, American Machine & Foundry, Remington Rand, Shell Oil, or Continental Can?

The answers: 1. Different in all. 2. St. Augustine. 3. Good. 4. Iowa. 5. Interior Secretary Douglas McKay of Oregon. 6. Only outdoors. 7. Shell Oil.

SP Replacing Signs Along Right-of-Ways

Southern Pacific right-of-ways will have new "sharply visible reflectorized" signs in the near future, according to W. D. Lamprecht, general manager.

On Public Service

There seem to be plenty of candidates for state and federal offices this year. Sadly, however, this situation doesn't seem to apply to the local county races—at least not yet.

THERE should be at least two candidates for nomination for each office from each of the two parties. But as of this writing, there is only one primary contest for the Republican nomination for county commissioner, and in several races no candidates at all.

THE WAY we see it, there are two major drawbacks. One, and possibly the most serious, is the necessity of putting on an election campaign, letting the voters get acquainted with the candidate and his ideas and plans.

THE COUNTY is a multi-million dollar per year business. And the administrative heads of a multi-million dollar corporation certainly can expect to receive more than the \$4,800 or \$5,000 which we offer those who are responsible for administering the county's business.

THE OTHER objection is the fact that the financial rewards are relatively small. Why should a man or woman who has been successful in business life ask for the headaches of public service at a salary far less than that to which they are accustomed?

THE RESULT, stated bluntly, is that some of the office seekers are older men who see in public service a sort of semi-retirement, carrying with it a modest stipend and not too much work.

THERE ARE, of course, exceptions. It may not even apply to a majority of the offices in question. But there certainly is a trend that way, not only in Jackson county but all through the state.

OUR system of county government is outmoded and inefficient at best. And when it fails to attract the best possible people, the result leaves something to be desired.

WE wish the system could be changed to attract young, able and vigorous people with a sense of civic responsibility.

BUT until then, we shall have to place our chief hope in the fact that some people are willing to make the sacrifices—financial and otherwise—of seeking public office simply out of a sense of duty to the community in which they live, and a desire to be of service to their fellow-citizens.—E.A.

Capital Punishment

IN GREAT Britain the House of Commons is the supreme legislative authority. Last week it voted to end, tentatively and experimentally, the use of capital punishment in British prisons.

IN DOING so it joined an increasing number of nations which have abolished the death penalty, including Belgium, The Netherlands, Portugal, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, part of Switzerland, and most Latin American countries.

SIX of the 48 states in this country have abolished the death penalty. Oregon, between 1914 and 1920, was prohibited by initiated amendments to the state constitution from imposing capital punishment.

IN THE COURSE of our reportorial duties, we have witnessed two executions in the gas chamber in Salem. They are experiences we would be loath to repeat. The cold and deliberate taking of a human life—even one which is taken legally, and which is of little value to society—is nothing to be viewed lightly.

THE fact that much of the Western world is divided over the imposition of the death penalty shows that it is still a live issue. The vote of the House of Commons could well start a reexamination of the social values of capital punishment.

MANY sociologists and modern penologists feel that the death penalty is unnecessary. There is no marked difference in crime rates between areas which do and which do not have capital punishment.

THERE are two basic reasons for putting a prisoner to death—the protection of society, the removal of an offender—on the one hand, and as punishment, a deterrent—on the other. Either purpose could be as well served by life imprisonment, under proper safeguards.

SO perhaps it would be safe to say that the only real reason it is kept on is the motive of retribution—the "eye for an eye" philosophy of the Old Testament. We fail to see how it can still be justified under any civilized and enlightened system of thought.—E.A.

Question

What quirk is it in human nature that makes some kids think they are superior beings when they indulge in petty meanness that any moron could do if he didn't have better sense?—Oregon Statesman, Salem.

HAZARDOUS WORK Ogdén, Utah—(U.P.)—USO director Helen McDonald says the organization's success is heart-warming, but she's having trouble filling the rank of junior hostesses. In a six-week period, 10 left to be married—five of them to servicemen they met at the USO.

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS The motel, which is an American institution that is beginning to spread over the world like cokes and jazz music, is just arriving in Mexico in a serious way.

As one comes south, they get scarcer. At Navajao, well down in the state of Sonora, there is a very good one. At El Carrizo, at the far southern edge of Sonora, there is a new one, built right out in the desert and designed strictly for overnight stops.

At Los Mochis, just over the line in the state of Sinaloa, there is a motel. It competes for business with several established hotels in the town and holds up its end of the competition quite nicely, apparently filling up first.

AT CULIACAN, the capital of the state of Sinaloa, there is a motel that seems to have hit the jackpot. It has been full on advance reservations all through the month of February. It is new and attractive, quite in the American manner, and competes most successfully with the hotels in this city of nearly 50,000.

AT Mazatlan, one of the Mexican west coast's most popular beach resorts, there is a new motel out at the northern edge, and it stays full in spite of the fact that the established hotels are all down on the beach.

IT IS needless to add, of course, that Americans are the mainstay of this burgeoning motel business. They are accustomed to them at home. Then there is the undoubted fact that motels are easier to get into and get out of—and in a foreign country, speaking a strange language, that means quite a lot.

IN entering a motel, the only person you have to speak to is the owner or the desk attendant, and in leaving you don't have to speak to anybody at all if you don't want to—for down here, as in our own country, the pay-in-advance custom is well established.

AND the motel owners, not being dumb, see to it that the person at the registration desk speaks English.

SINCE Americans are coming into Mexico in an ever-increasing flood and since so far they tend to display a preference for motels, it is a safe prediction that a lot of new motels will be built in Mexico in the next few years—especially on the west coast.

A MOMENT ago I mentioned reservations. They were a burning issue last week and the week before. There was a reason for that. It was fiesta week and in Mexico fiesta week is SOMETHING.

All the natives come into the towns from all around and dance and sing and stroll in the plazas and strum their guitars and throw confetti and talk and laugh and have the time of their lives in a joyous and charming way. Almost nobody seems to get too much tequila or cerveza and everybody has a bushel of fun.

IT goes on for about a week and finally comes to a much-regretted-by-all end on Ash Wednesday.

Babson Discusses Locations For Employment, Investment

Babson Park, Mass.—During these cold winter months, I get many letters asking where to locate to get an easy living. Frankly I do not know of any such locations.

Every one of our 48 states and 3 territories has its advantages. The South is very attractive during the winter season; but its summers do not encourage ambition and progress.

The Pacific Coast has a wonderful climate; but it is becoming overpopulated by job seekers. New England leads in educational facilities; but it is handicapped by high-cost power and by its distance from both raw materials and markets.

The Central West appears to be the surest place to make a living; but it holds few speculative opportunities—not so many as does the Southwest, such as Texas. Two hardy young people with self-control could probably save money easiest in Alaska; while Washington, D. C. would be the most difficult place to lay up savings.

Unfortunately, the saying "Easy come—easy go" applies to every part of our great country.

What About Big Cities? I advise young people not to settle in our biggest cities. This advice applies especially to large seaboard cities such as Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Los Angeles, and even San Francisco.

Because of the automobile and the trek to the suburbs, these cities are going through changes which are difficult to forecast. Frankly, I believe young people make a mistake in settling there.

WHILE these light-hearted people were having a light-hearted and carefree time during the fiesta week they were also using up hotel space so that there wasn't enough to go around.

The end result was that the tide of Americans flowing in in search of sunshine and warmth was hard put to it for a place to sleep.

EVERYBODY was sitting tight where he was and phoning frantically for reservations at the next place—and there was a catch to that. The Mexican government telephone line was so swamped that every morning it took about five hours to catch up on the calls that had accumulated overnight and meanwhile new calls were pouring in all day.

IT WAS rugged while it lasted and it lasted all of a week. But come Ash Wednesday and the end of fiesta time the situation cleared up and I don't think anybody has had much trouble since. The tide of Americans continues to flow, but I haven't seen anybody sleeping in the street.

UP Correspondents Forecast Events Which May Be News

United Press correspondents look ahead at the news that will make the headlines.

Look for Israel to get some American jet fighter planes and other weapons now that Saudi Arabia is getting those 18 tanks. The government authorized the tank shipment, then stopped it, finally gave it an OK.

First of all, the "pro's" of fluoridation point out how beneficial and economical this measure would be to children's dental welfare. Yet, in all fairness, can we enforce fluoridation upon all, irregardless of its beneficial claims? If so, shouldn't we also enforce religion upon all, in view of its proven advantageous qualities? Let's ask ourselves, "Is fluoridation the solution to this problem?"

V. K. Krishna Menon, India's roving ambassador, is expected to reach the United States about the end of the month. Insiders report he may bring a new "East-West peace plan" drafted by him and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Rome diplomatic circles are sure that American Ambassador Clare Boothe Luce is headed for a new State department assignment. She's flying to Washington to prepare for the visit of Italian President Giovanni Gronchi on Feb. 26.

Rome believes she will talk over a new job. Also that she'll give up the Rome job in time to take part in the fall election campaign.

LOW-COST PLANE Mayfield, N. Y.—(U.P.)—Owen S. Billman is a firm believer in "do-it-yourself."

Three decades ago, doctors endorsed aluminum ware, today we are warned of its detrimental tendencies. What error will be discovered in fluoridation 50 years from now? True, we learn by trial and error, but must everyone be subjected to these experiments?

Very few companies are now building new factories in these large seaport cities; instead, many of them are building new factories in interior cities.

The above advice is wholly apart from the possibility of the big cities bombed in case of World War III. Although such a war is not now in sight, the best authorities seem to agree it is inevitable sometime. It, therefore, might be unwise now to buy property in one of these big seaboard cities or even in the immediate suburbs.

Every company with securities listed on any stock exchange sends an attractive report each year to every stockholder—even the owner of only one share. This report shows where the company's plants or factories are located.

Invest your money in other cities than those mentioned above. In short, I would not invest in the electric or gas companies of any of these big seaboard cities. It may be possible to protect certain of our interior big cities from bombs dropped by airplanes.

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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 initial for publication is permissible.

Speaks for Mothers To the Editor: Thank you very much for your editorial regarding fluoridating the Medford water supply.

The mothers of small children have a rather difficult time stealing a few moments to put pen to paper but our praise and our thanks are sincere.

I am only one of many mothers in Medford who thought that Medford would automatically adopt a program that had proven beneficial to so many and harmful to no one.

God Given Freedom To the Editor: Since you stated in your editorial that you do not fully understand the violent and explosive reaction of some who oppose fluoridation, I'd like to offer a partial clarification of the "why" of all this opposition.

The prevailing sin of ignorance is that we generally indulge in edibles pleasing to our palate, rather than consuming nutritious foods which are profitable to our whole being.

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Dental Caries and Food

To the Editor: My Readers' Digest came yesterday. I began leafing through it but stopped when I came to "Hunza: The Happy Land of Just Enough."

I began reading avidly and came to this paragraph: "There is only one doctor in Hunza—except for an occasional foreign medical man, who visits to marvel at the Hunzuku's phenomenal freedom from diseases."

Let us compare this record with our own. Dr. N. Phillip Norman, M.D., of New York City in Fundamentals of Nutrition for Physicians and Surgeons in the Journal of Orthodontic and Oral Surgery, Nov. 1947, writing about the physical unfitness of draftees in World War II as compared with World War I, states that rejections were 14 per cent higher even though standards were lowered.

The Mail Tribune has published much sound material, including Eric Allen's excellent editorial of Feb. 17. It is hard to improve upon the latter. I would only suggest E. A. respond to Vern Shangle's challenge of his cost estimate by summarizing the figures obtainable from the water department.

That fluoridation does reduce tooth decay appears now so well established that many opponents no longer bother to try to disprove it. Rather they fall back on the old bugaboo, rat-poison.

Or they claim that fluoridation causes an increase in sundry ailments, such as the horrid sounding fluorosis. Or they claim it is a diabolical plot of the big aluminum and chemical manufacturers and/or socialists and/or communists.

Or they claim that fluoridation could achieve it by adding tablets to their own drinking-water. I haven't space here to answer these arguments in detail. But they have been refuted time and again by highly competent authorities, whom I will be glad to cite.

Let me remind Vern Shangle and others: That the Multnomah County Medical society approved fluoridation of Portland's water; that fluorosis amounts at the worst to slight white spots on the back teeth, harmless and discernible only by an expert, when normal fluoridation is in effect, and that what is poisonous in a large dose may be beneficial in a small dose—iodine, for example, or common table salt.

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The MEAT CENTER advertisement with prices for JOWL BACON, ROAST, STEAK, and SLICED or SLAB BACON.