

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

May 27, 1946

(It was Friday)

Workmen will complete repair of a 90-foot break in the Medford Irrigation district flume this afternoon, according to J. M. Spencer, district manager.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column: "Fall footwear soon on hand"—(SF Chronicle)—No place for it.

20 YEARS AGO

May 27, 1936

(It was Wednesday)

Attention to state health regulations was called today by Dr. L. D. Inskeep, city health officer, as he reported an outbreak of whooping cough.

A crew from the Umpqua national forest starts work on clearing west entrance to Diamond lake.

30 YEARS AGO

May 27, 1926

(It was Thursday)

One of the largest rattlesnakes ever captured in Jackson county was brought to the city last night by W. M. Wilkey, 124 King st.

A program with large variety of numbers will be presented to the Jackson Parent-Teachers' circle on the Jackson school lawn.

40 YEARS AGO

May 27, 1916

(It was Saturday)

J. R. Buckmaster brought to this office today a branch from one of his early cherry trees, showing the ripened product.

Plans for a small sawmill and box factory in Medford being arranged by E. C. and W. L. Welch of Rogue River and Asbestos.

What's the Answer?

1. In the Democratic convention four years ago the Florida delegates were mostly for Ke-fauver, Stevenson, Sen. Russell (Ga.) or Harriman?

2. The new world distance record for point-to-point glider flights is (a) 153 miles, (b) 395 miles, (c) 416 miles, or (d) 531 miles?

3. Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia made a state visit in mid-May to Egypt, France, Great Britain, India, or Russia?

4. New regulations for handling security cases have been adopted by the Air Force, Army, Navy, or all three services?

5. More men than women, more women than men, or about as many women as men die of myocardial infarction (heart attacks)?

6. India is the largest, and the U.S.A. next to the largest, republic; the republic with the third biggest population is Brazil, Indonesia, or Pakistan?

7. A peavy is a breaker boy in a coal mine, a spiked pole used in logging, a small outbuilding on a farm?

The answers: 1. Russell. 2. 416 miles. 3. France. 4. Army only. 5. About as many women as men, according to studies at Washington U. Medical school. St. Louis. 6. Indonesia (pop. 81 million). 7. Spiked pole.

Spokane — (U.P.) — Dalea P. Cornwell, 19, Spokane, has been arrested by FBI agents on a charge of attempting to derail a Union Pacific passenger train near Boardman, Ore.

"Bill" Gates

In referring to the passing of William A. Gates at Palm Springs last Friday, we can say that he will be mourned by a host of friends, young and old, without being charged with using an old familiar cliché.

We are sure that many, indeed, will feel a deep and personal loss, because Mr. Gates was a kindly man with a vast capacity for friendship; easy to meet and to know.

OLD timers will miss him because Bill Gates was, himself, an old timer. Whenever a receptive ear was at hand, he loved to indulge in nostalgic memories of early days in the Rogue River Valley, when he entered the automobile business with his brother, the late C. E. "Pop" Gates. That was back in 1915. Five years later he pioneered the self-service food business in southern Oregon with Bill Lydiard.

YOUNGSTERS, too, have lost a friend in Bill Gates, who always had a cheery greeting for them in his store or on the street. One of his most satisfying activities was helping to plan and finance an annual Christmas turkey dinner for children of the Valley, with an assist from the Salvation Army.

ANOTHER thing is certain. William A. Gates will be missed in civic and business circles of this city. Being a gregarious man he enjoyed participation in clubs and fraternal orders, yet always seemed to have the time and energy to do his bit for the community he loved.

Long a sports enthusiast, Bill Gates never missed the opportunity to help along his favorite sport, baseball, and athletics in general.

SINCE early manhood, Mr. Gates was an avid reader, a home-spun philosopher, and indulged in such unusual hobbies as Egyptology and archaeology. In recent years he extended his many interests to the study of religions, and to enjoy speculation and contemplation along these lines he frequently sought the solitude of remote and scenic roadways of the Rogue River Valley, a habit known to few of his close friends.

IF... There would happen to be an Elks club in that heavenly place the Koran calls the lofty towers, or in Omar Khayyam's bowl they call the sky, there "Peoria Bill" Gates is most likely to be with his cronies of yesteryear—Smudge Pot Perry, Judge Kelly and the rest of them, in friendly argument and spinning tall yarns over 3-cushion billiard, snooker and rummy tables.

After a long, busy and useful life this would be, we believe, the reward Bill Gates would want and appreciate most of all.—H.G.

Oregon Democrats Lead but . . .

Monroe Sweetland of the "Oregon Democrat" is naturally delighted with the present Oregon registration totals which show the Republicans falling behind the Democrats by 23,350—this has only happened four times in over a quarter of a century.

What does it mean? The "Democrat" interprets the switch as follows, quote:

"This means that the people of Oregon are fed up with the GOP special interest government at both the state and national level. The 1954 election which gave Oregon a Democratic Senator and Congresswoman indicates that the trend away from GOP is a long-term one. It shows the Democratic trend is running deep."

Perhaps the "Democrat" is right, but looking over the state record in this registration department, we have our "douts." For example—

The Democrats have exceeded the Republicans in registration only four times; twice in 1950, once in 1951, and this year.

Yet only in 1954, when the Republican registration exceeded the Democratic, did the Democrats win important national offices.

And during the period of Democratic "FDR" and Governor Charles Martin control, when Oregon went Democratic with great consistency, the Republican advantage in registration was highest. In 1932, for example, there were 295,000 registered Republicans to only 122,000 Democrats.

HOW COME?

Well, there is only one answer we can see, to-wit:

The important thing is not how the people register but how they VOTE. And they don't vote—and in Oregon at least, they won't vote—on strictly party lines. The hard-core partisans in both parties of course will, but the people who decide 90% of the elections—the independents—won't. They will put the man above the party, just as Senator Morse has always put principle above politics.

If the party Big Shots in Salem, or in Washington, D.C., don't like this there is nothing they can do about it, for that is the way it always has been in this state, and that is the way it is always going to be, judging by the record.

CALIFORNIA is even a more striking example of this repudiation of vote-the-ticket-straight principle. For several years the Democrats have outnumbered the Republicans by large majorities down there—at one time nearly two to one, yet when it came to voting the Republicans have won ever since the FDR era, and today the Grand Old Party controls every important political office in the state but one.

IN THE RECENT Oregon primary although more Democrats had the right to vote than Republicans, more Republicans did vote, while approximately 40,000 registered Democrats voted against Wayne Morse the party nominee for the senate, and the

strongest man the party has had to offer the electorate in over a generation.

Just why this should be, we don't know. But there it is, and as we see it, it is a wholesome and healthful sign.

For if there were not in both parties many voters who when it comes to election day refuse to follow the party lines, and vote as their judgments and consciences dictate, the majority party would always win, and a virtual political dictatorship would result.

THE Oregon Democrat concludes:

"Thus Oregon Democrats must now turn to the difficult job of getting out the vote . . . A big turn-out requires tough, diligent precinct-work by legions of party workers. Only in this way can the Democrats win the election and capture the key offices. Only in this way can we earn the right to govern."

This is true and entirely sound party doctrine. The only difficulty is, how to do it.

We fear the majority—or at least the determining minority—will pick and choose this coming November very much as they have, for so many years, in the past. The 100% regulars in neither party will like it, but what can they do about it? Nothing, the record of both parties indicates.—R.W.R.

A Sham Battle

What would happen if Senator Neuberger should announce after the Chicago convention that because of the platform stand on the negro and civil rights he could no longer consistently support his party but would resign and join up with the Republicans?

Would all the papers in Oregon—or almost all of them—howl as they are now howling, about the sanctity of party regularity and the utter criminality of placing what one believes is right, above what one's party stands for?

Of course not. There wouldn't be a sound of protest, and in some GOP sanctums there would be broad smiles and genuine applause—the latter perhaps, slightly muffled.

WHAT BETTER evidence could any fair-minded person wish, than this, to demonstrate the hubbalooboo about apostasy, treason and scuttling the ship-of-state-for-personal-aggrandizement, as far as Wayne Morse is concerned, is a lot of noise and fury—signifying nothing but a pious fraud—pique, pride and outraged partisanship?

OR LET it be imagined that Senator Byrd of Virginia, who has never been a Democrat by conviction but only by inheritance, should announce at the same time that he would leave the Democratic party and join the Republican, would there be loud outcries of rage and resentment in Republican ranks, here, there and anywhere in GOP circles?

Again, of COURSE not. Well, if it is NOT wrong for a Democrat to turn Republican, why is it not only wrong but an unpardonable sin—a capital offense—for a Republican to turn Democrat?

We trust before the campaign is over this question will be answered. Meanwhile, some of the more enlightened Republican editors, admit there was nothing wrong in our senior Senators action, that he had a perfect right to change parties in mid-stream so to speak, but they can't forgive him for voting with the Democrats when he was elected as a Republican, and before he registered as a Democrat.

What is so wrong with that? It is done every day in both houses of congress. If that were not true, the Eisenhower administration would be helpless, for with the Democrats in numerical control, the GOP could get no legislation whatever passed. In short, from the standpoint of party regularity—our government is in constant flux.

So, it is all very silly, as we see it—this attempt to defeat Senator Morse not on his excellent record of over a decade; not on principles and policies in which he believes; but solely because he dared to transfer his allegiance from one party to another, and as a member of the opposition dared to criticize his former party chieftain, on the basis of tactics which he believed to be wrong. That is the time-honored privilege of the opposition and all free American citizens.

THE combination to "get" Morse or else, is tremendously powerful; will, in sharp contrast to the Oregon Senior Senator—have unlimited funds, and of course they may win.

But as far as anything in the future, and particularly in politics can be certain, they will never win on this specious plea of party regularity and partisanship inviolate alone.

AS THE registration records noted above demonstrate, the people of Oregon admire independence in others, insist upon it for themselves, have great respect for public officials who hew to the line of principle letting the chips fall where they may, and no respect at all for those who demand they "vote the party ticket straight," regardless.

If the old pachyderm is to have his way again, he will, we believe, have to think up something more convincing and effective in favor of replacing the Wayne Morse type with the Doug McKay type in the U. S. Senate, as representative of the State of Oregon, for six more years, than he has to date.—R.W.R.

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.

Memorial Day

To the Editor: "Here dead lie we because we did not choose 'To live and shame the land from which we sprung. 'Life, to be sure, is nothing much to lose; 'But young men think it is, and we were young."

These lines could be from the spirit of a soldier who died in battle. Though living survivors of battles dated as far back as Chickamauga, Gettysburg, San Juan Hill, Manila Bay, Chateau Thierry, Belleau Woods, etc., are old men now, at the time the fallen ones of those named places did fall "they were young," just as those of Anzio, Corregidor, Inchon Harbor, and the Yalu River.

In the 88 years from 1868 to 1956, Memorial Day has been a day to honor our soldier dead. Many other scenes of battle could be added to those I have mentioned. To members of the Disabled American Veterans, almost every place named brings back memories of buddies who fell on those battlefields. Among our members are those whose memory of Korea are still fresh, and there are those who remember the Spanish American War as if it were only yesterday. Men who face battle together grow as close as brothers. All of us who survived those battles will remember and mourn those of our former comrades in arms who are with us no more.

There are few people whose memories do not need jogging occasionally, even concerning things they want and intend never to forget. Frankly, we of the DAV are determined that the American public shall not forget the disabled veteran. This could seem a selfish motive, but it is far from that. We are comparatively fortunate, not only because we did come back alive, but because, though a great many of our number have sustained amputation of limb, or loss of eye-sight or hearing, and other handicaps, we are still able to work for the benefit of those even more badly disabled veterans who need our help.

On Memorial Day of 1956 we of the DAV renew our pledge to our fallen comrades that their brief lives and untimely deaths shall have counted for something. The lives that have been lost cannot be recovered, but they should, and must, be the basis of a greater glory and a firmer peace for the nation whose struggles demanded their sacrifice.

Pat Graham, Adjutant and Service Officer, Jackson County Chapter No. 8, Disabled American Veterans

Clean Politics

To the Editor: In the May 21 issue of the Tribune, the Right Honorable Frank Jenkins made a few statements which I must question.

He says "It was a clean, gentlemanly, sportsmanlike contest," the last primary election being in mind, "in the best Oregon tradition and there seems to be no reason why Oregon Republicans can't get together behind McKay to defeat Senator Morse—who, as expected, won the Democratic nomination decisively."

Was he deaf, dumb, and blind when the Honorable(?) McKay was running off at the mouth throwing vilification and vituperation at the Senator? It may be he was, but I doubt it very much.

To me, McKay showed his extreme littleness and his lack of good manners during the whole of the campaign. In my book, NO MAN who stoops to such means to sneak into public office is anywhere near worthy of any public office of any kind.

If our friends, the Republicans, stoop to accept such a man they show that they, too, are just as unprincipled as the high post of a Senator. As for me, I should rather vote for a yellow cur as to vote for a man of such caliber.

On May 15 Jenkins also says: "Our political system, of course, tends to tear down confidence in our leaders because arousing fear and distrust of the INS is the only way for the OUTS to GET IN. And we can't keep the INS in forever. That leads to too much power held in too few hands too long" which is dangerous."

We know quite well that he was sneering at the long tenure of the Democrats in Washington. He completely forgot that the Republicans have had a stranglehold on the state of Oregon for, at least, one hundred years. How will he justify that? Does he think we Democrats do not read our state history?

That history is a sordid affair. And we Democrats quite agree with Mr. Jenkins that the Republicans have been in office too infernal long, and should be thrown out for a hundred years. I am seeking no office, but I

POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

Clifford Lewis, a local accountant of good reputation, has acquired the nickname "Mailboat," we are assured on good, though anonymous, authority.

Our informant reports that Cliff, with a couple of other Medford businessmen, was fishing from a boat near the mouth of the Rogue river recently, when he hooked into a good-sized salmon, and started tussling with the creature. At this point the upriver mailboat, which also carries passengers on the trip to Agness from Gold Beach, came by. It hoisted to, and the rails were lined with passengers who cheered the fisherman on and snapped pictures until he landed his fish.

And another fisherman, Bob Gilstrap, was telling us about the amazing speed and convenience of aircraft to fishermen. He and Ed Gordon were fishing in the Rogue the other day, a couple of miles upstream from the mouth. And only about 45 minutes or so later, Bob reports, he was at home on his back porch, chatting with a neighbor.

Ed flew over on a combined business and fishing trip. Flying time, Medford to Gold Beach: 30 minutes; Gold Beach to Medford, 35 minutes.

Errors in typography are not the only hazards faced by the people who put out newspapers for a living. Even pictures can lie, sometimes—or at least be doggone misleading.

We received one not long ago which showed an attractive matron standing in front of a lamp. The wire from the lamp showed up in the picture and made her look exactly as though she had a tail.

We saw another one—in an upstate paper, fortunately—which showed a proud father holding a baby. The neatly folded handkerchief in his (the father's) pocket showed up in the picture looking exactly like a cigarette dangling from baby's lips.

There have also been cases where pictures have shown flowers growing out of people's heads, and where people appear to have three hands. So far (knock wood!) we've had none showing anyone with two heads.

One of our lesser hazards, however, is in stories which are brought in where people are identified by the last name only. This, a colleague remarks, is most frequent in the case of school teachers, and

not infrequent in the case of ministers—such as Mr. Smith, Miss Brown or Rev. Jones.

Everett Acklin of Ashland writes to tell us about stopping in a Medford service station to make a telephone call to Ashland. The station had one of those tube affairs across the driveway, which rings a bell as a car drives up. The bell was particularly loud, Mr. Acklin reports.

He placed his call with the telephone operator, who asked him to deposit 15 cents. Just then a car drove across the tube and the bell rang, (bong!! bong!!) loudly.

"For heaven's sake, what did you drop in that coin box?" the operator demanded.

A local editorial writer recently held forth on "The Urge to Exercise," and was rewarded with a note from a fellow-worker which approved the sentiments "because too many people are going to seed in the head and atrophying in the extremities."

Another anonymous informant (we've got LOTS of them) reports on one of our faithful and efficient correspondents, who writes of doings in the Applegate valley. She was observed at a large dinner gathering recently, and it was noted that she suddenly quit taking notes, and started frantically handing out note paper to those around her.

It turned out she had discovered that one of her table neighbors was a top-notch office secretary, and another was a former newspaper reporter and society editor. Why, she concluded, should SHE take notes?

By an exceedingly roundabout channel we have learned that a New England newspaper published the following announcement: "In case you find mistakes in this paper, please consider they were put there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone, and some folks are always looking for mistakes."

We don't quite believe it, but it's as good an excuse as any, and better than some.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Champ-lin (he's the Medford chief of police) became parents of their second daughter last week. The baby was a few days later than the predicted date, and the chief was doing considerable sweating during the early part of the week.

He attended the banquet for a new ly-naturalized citizens Wednesday evening, and later in the evening was heard to remark that he was awfully glad to welcome the new adult citizens, but he sure wished his own new citizen would hurry up.

And we have been told of another baby story, about a daughter being born to Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Lane, who live on Coal Mine rd. Our informant calls the baby the "Naughty Lady of Shady Lane," because her parents live on the Shady Lane Ranch.

A salesman dropped into the office on business the other day. He left after making his pitch, leaving his hat. He returned to retrieve it a few moments later, and became engaged in conversation with one of the staff members.

During their chat it developed that he wasn't used to wearing a hat, and frequently forgot it. Why did he wear one now? Well, his company ran a test not long ago, ordering half its salesmen to wear hats, the other half to go hatless.

After a stated period, a statistician figured out the salesmen with hats sold more than the hatless ones. ALL salesmen for the firm are now under orders to wear hats.

We know of a couple that started off on a vacation not long ago by taking their pet dog to the kennel for safe-keeping while they were gone. The dog delivered herself of a new puppy en route to the kennel, and the balance of a full litter immediately after arriving there.

Susy Lisenbee, 6-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Lisenbee of Central Point, has been to quite a few baby showers with her mother, and is sort of an old hand at it—at least for one of her age.

The other day, however, she attended her first bridal shower, which was given for her cousin, Miss Marilyn Bohnert, bride-elect of James F. Rice, Myrtle Point. The shower was held at the Lisenbee home.

After Marilyn had opened nearly all her gifts, young Susy spoke up in some apparent disappointment, and said, "Mother, she hasn't gotten a single baby gift yet!"

Pasadena, Calif. — (U.P.) — Mechanical-minded students at California Institute of Technology Friday took apart a small foreign car and reassembled it as a prank on a basement stairway of a university building.

Congressional Quiz

(Copyright, 1955 Congressional Quarterly)

Q—Seven of the 10 men currently serving in President Eisenhower's Cabinet are the original appointees named by the President when he first took office. Can you name the two Cabinet posts that have changed hands during the Eisenhower

Administration (the third is vacant)?

A—Secretary of Labor and Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. The first Eisenhower Labor Secretary, the late Martin P. Durkin, resigned Aug. 31, 1954, and was followed by James P. Mitchell. Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, first HEW Secretary, resigned July 13, 1955, and was succeeded by Marion B. Folsom. Interior Secretary Douglas McKay resigned March 9. He has not yet been replaced.

am very much interested in clean politics, which seem to be absent in Oregon. A. L. Unger, 634 Pennsylvania Ave., Medford, Ore.