

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

Published Daily Except Saturday by MEDFORD PRINTING CO. 27-29 North Fir St. Phone 2-6241

Subscription Rates: By Mail—In Advance: Per Copy 10c. Daily and Sunday—One year \$12.00

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

Flight of Time

Medford and Jackson County History from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30 and 40 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO

July 18, 1946 (It was Thursday) About 2,000 persons attend the first open air concert by the city band, directed by I. A. Mirick, at city park.

20 YEARS AGO

July 18, 1936 (It was Saturday) Maj. Max C. Fleischmann was a Medford visitor yesterday, landing at the airport in his Lockheed Electra, specially equipped cabin plane.

30 YEARS AGO

July 18, 1926 (It was Sunday) Active construction on annex of Community hospital scheduled to commence tomorrow under the direction of H. I. Stuart and son, local contractors.

40 YEARS AGO

July 18, 1916 (It was Tuesday) Medford saving about \$72 per month under the contract with California-Oregon Power company, according to a report recently compiled by the city electrician.

What's the Answer?

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

- 1. Has any state chosen its presidential electors by Congressional Districts within the last 100 years? 2. Most Americans carrying insurance for hospital expenses do or don't carry it also for surgical fees?

Which Way Is North?

North, from any spot on the face of the earth, is the direction toward the North Pole. At the South Pole, every direction is north. Since about the middle of the 15th century, mankind has used a magnetized needle to determine which way north is (or south, in the southern hemisphere). This is possible because there are north and south "magnetic" poles, or magnetic focal areas, which attract the needles.

BUT THERE are difficulties in this—and not all of them have been solved by science. For instance, the magnetic poles are not the same as the geographic poles—in fact are hundreds of miles away.

Because of this, compasses in most parts of the earth do not point directly north, but only approximately in that direction. In Jackson county, the difference between true north and magnetic north is about 19 or 20 degrees, out of the 360 degrees on the compass. Only in the lake states and down through Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and South Carolina is the difference, or "declination," approximately zero.

AS IF THIS weren't confusing enough, the amount of declination varies over a long period of time, and yearly, and to a lesser extent, daily. In Jackson county, it can change as much as 2 1/2 degrees during one year. It can also change during magnetic storms, or because of local conditions.

Also, the areas of uniform declination are not uniform in shape, size or much of anything else. There are isolated spots in some areas of uniform declination where a compass can be quite a few degrees off. East of Lakeview is one such spot. The average declination in the area is 19 degrees east, but within a hundred-mile radius readings of 5.7, 32.4, and points in between, have been made.

Compass readings accurate to a hair are not as important in traveling on land as they are in ocean navigation. For the average outdoorsman in this area, it would be safe and close enough to use a 19 or 20 degree east declination in getting out of a "lost" situation.

THE SCIENCE of magnetism is as ancient as history, and the Greeks were familiar with the properties of the lodestone.

Despite this, less is known, very likely, about what magnetism really is and how it operates, than is known about the inside of the atom. But it is vitally important to today's civilization, for without magnetism electricity—the lifeblood of today's electronics age—could not be generated.

Scientists are hard at work exploring the mysteries of magnetism, its relationship to gravity, and the odd and thus-far unpredictable things it does, and there is reason to believe that they are making progress.

From behind the cloaks of military security, business secrecy and scientific verbiage, one gleams hints of fabulous developments on the way. Ancient alchemy's "lodestone" may be the clue to the culture of the 21st century.—E. A.

Costly Refuse

The state of Georgia recently passed a law which provides a maximum \$1,000 fine or a year's imprisonment for dumping rubbish along the highway.

A deadpan report we have seen says there has been "a noticeable reduction in this type of offense" since the law was passed.

THE STATE of Idaho has no penalty, and there state authorities say the stuff is getting higher and deeper.

Oregon has a law which prohibits the dumping of junk along public roads and highways, but it is a difficult one to enforce, for unthinking people in a fast-moving car are difficult to spot or to trace.

But it's no laughing matter, even for those people who don't particularly care if roadside beauty is spoiled. Those who DO care don't like it a bit, and according to one insurance company, the cost of cleaning up the thoughtless ones' messes ranges between \$15 and \$50 per mile per year. This makes it every-one's business.

OREGON'S highway commission, with which we sometimes agree and sometimes disagree, has done good work in seeing to it that green barrels are spotted at strategic locations along the highways, where there is room to turn off. It is the work of but a moment to stop long enough to drop in an accumulation of trash.

But we have nothing but contempt for the rude and revolting habit of dumping garbage, paper, beer bottles, cans and similar refuse along the rights of way.

Perhaps things are getting a little better, slowly, as a continuing program of education and appeal takes effect. But one wonders when he reads of a report from Oregon on those trash barrels: "It has been necessary to relocate some of the barrels due to local residents filling them with garbage." —E. A.

Water Hazards

The weather has been hot. And it is, therefore, natural for youngsters to seek relief in cool water.

But there should be a word of warning—irrigation ditches and Bear Creek are not safe. They are dangerous for two reasons: The threat of drowning in swift, unfamiliar and unsupervised waters, and the danger from disease.

We urge parents of youngsters who are swimming-bound to know where they are going—and to veto trips to the polluted and dangerous creeks and canals of the lower valley.—E. A.

Nehru's Comment on Russia's Satellites Surprisingly Critical

By CHARLES M. McCANN United Press Correspondent

Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru has come up with a surprisingly critical comment on Soviet Russia's satellites.



Charles M. McCann

Often he seems blind to the glaring faults of Communist regimes. But during his visit to West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer this week, Nehru found fault with Russia for keeping its grip on eastern European countries.

His criticism was indirect. It also was mild compared to his free-swinging criticisms of Western policy. Nevertheless, it was clear.

Nehru was asked at a press conference in Bonn whether, in his opposition to "colonialism," he found that system operating only in non-European countries.

"Isn't there colonialism in Europe?" his questioner said. "If a person hopes for freedom for overseas colonial countries, surely that must hold true for colonialism also in central and eastern Europe?"

Nehru replied that the word colonialism is used in two senses. It took its meaning from the

colonial system of the 19th century, he said.

"This particular meaning, I think, does not apply to the countries referred to in eastern Europe," he continued. "One can say that they stand under a certain domination. Perhaps they are under the control of another country."

Opposed To Force "I certainly think that every country should have the full opportunity to be free. But how is a different matter. I also think that force should not be used."

If Nehru thinks that every country should have the opportunity to be free, he certainly means Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and the rest of the countries Russian Communism holds in subjection.

Nehru is conferring today and Thursday with President Tito of Yugoslavia and President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, fellow neutralists, at Tito's Brioni Island retreat on the Adriatic sea coast.

That issue of the Soviet satellites is pretty certain to come up for discussion between Tito and Nehru.

The Tito viewpoint Tito has some views of his own on the satellite question. Yugoslavia itself was a satellite until Tito's break with the late Josef Stalin.

The Kremlin itself now agrees with Tito's view that "different paths to socialism" are possible. That is just what Titoism means. It is pretty clear that, with Stalin being downgraded, Tito

hopes to increase his personal influence in some of the Soviet satellite countries, especially in Bulgaria and Romania. There are indications that he would like to be the leader of a Balkan bloc of Red states. They would still be tied to Moscow, but more loosely.

From Nehru's statement on colonialism, it appears that he might go along with Tito's viewpoint that a spread of Titoism among the satellites would be fine.

First Warship Sunk By Bomb From Air Just 35 Years Ago

Washington—It was 35 years ago this Saturday that "Billy" Mitchell proved for all time that bombs from planes could sink a modern battleship. This was the former German "Ostfriesland." It had survived the great naval battle of Jutland in World War I, was protected by many compartments and heavy armor, had even been called "unsinkable."

Assistant Chief of the Army Air Service William L. Mitchell after the war vociferated incessantly, before Congress and in the press, that battleships had become outmoded because airplanes could sink any "in existence or that could be built." He was fighting, generally, for much greater stress on air power in our defense system and, specifically, for a separate Air Force of equal status with the Army and Navy.

Tested Claim Congress finally allowed Mitchell's claim to be tested against German warships that had been turned over to this country. On July 13, 1921, his airmen sank a destroyer in 19 minutes with 300-pound bombs. A cruiser, the "Frankfurt," several days later succumbed to a shower of 500-pound bombs. But the Navy brass said, "Wait till they come up against the real McCoy."

They came up against it on July 21, off Hampton Roads, Va. A large part of the Atlantic Fleet was on hand. So were naval, military, and Congressional dignitaries. Seven planes made a run at the "Ostfriesland" with 2,000-pound bombs, the largest then in existence. And in a little over 20 minutes, before the seventh bomb had been dropped, the battleship was under the waves.

Continued Crusade Nevertheless, a joint board reporting on the tests averred flatly: "The battleship is still the backbone of the Fleet." The Army and Navy heads, both civilian and military, came out for only a little more attention to the plane as a weapon.

Mitchell continued his crusade, was court-martialed in 1925 for insubordination, was suspended for five years on half pay, resigned from the service, in 1946 was awarded, posthumously, by Congress a medal "in recognition of his foresight in the field of American military aviation."—Editorial Research Reports.

35 Disease Cases Reported Last Week

Thirty-five communicable diseases were reported to the Jackson county health department for the week ending July 13, according to Dr. A. Erin Merkel, public health physician.

Cases reported were measles 15, Medford four, Phoenix four, Ashland three, Gold Hill three and Rogue River one; trench mouth one, Ashland; chicken pox six, Medford three and Trail three; influenza two, Medford; infectious hepatitis two, Eagle Point and Ashland; mumps four, Ashland two, Medford and Eagle Point one; and infectious mononucleosis one, Ashland.

New York's Philharmonic symphony orchestra is said to be the third oldest in the world and is the oldest in the United States.

In The Day's News By Frank Jenkins

More on these American boys of ours: Seven-year-old William Daniel Enger is in a San Diego hospital this morning suffering from serious burns because he climbed an electric company's supposedly boy-proof fence yesterday and touched a copper bar at a substation in the enclosure.

The bar carried a high voltage. The contact caused a short circuit that automatically cut off the current and saved his life, but his shirt and some of his trousers were burned away.

It was a close call, but it is believed that he will recover.

WHY did he do it? I wouldn't know, but I'll risk a bet. I'll wager he did it because the fence was a CHALLENGE. By its height and the tightness of its construction, it said to him: YOU CAN'T CLIMB ME.

It was a dare. He took it.

Editorial Comment

A WELL-SPENT \$42 The old saying that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure can be reworded in Bend.

Here \$42 worth of prevention has been worth hundreds of dollars worth of cure.

Last December Police Chief John T. Truett grew weary of using so much time trying to stem the flow of bad checks through the business houses of the city.

The merchants were losing money by the hundreds when these boomerang documents circled back into their tills marked "no account here" and such. A good many passers were arrested but most of them disappeared like the morning dew.

The chief had some placards printed for use in the stores. The placards informed strangers that finger prints would be required of anyone wishing to cash a check. The merchants placed the placards in prominent spots, usually near the cash register.

Most honest people are not fussy about finger prints but a crook shuns them like a burnt child shuns a fire.

Today, Chief Truett was asked for the results of his \$42 expenditure. The records show there have been only three bad check complaints since January 1.

The merchants are ahead hundreds of dollars, the prisons have fewer inmates, many other cities are now following Bend's example.—Bend Bulletin.

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.

Mosquito Plague

To the Editor: We have read some surprising and unusual statements in the Mail Tribune, but one that we believe would take the rag off the bush was the one by Dr. Merkel, that there were "fewer mosquitoes than usual this year."

It seems evident that the doctor has not been out in the Table Rock district.

Since the article was published, several have expressed their desire to take the doctor for a 15 minute walk through some of our fields and pastures some evening about sunset.

And if that wouldn't convince him that we have mosquitoes by the millions, he might talk to a few of the mothers of young children and babies that are being tormented day and night by an unnecessary nuisance and health menace, and who are very unhappy over the intolerable situation.

It is not a very wise policy neither politically nor economically, to keep people too unhappy too long, and it would seem pertinent that our Board of Health do something to eradicate this nuisance and health menace.

John L. Nealon, Route 2, Box 279, Central Point, Ore.

IF E shouldn't have done it. The achievement wasn't worth the risk. But let's take a look at this challenge business. The modern jet fighter is a challenge. By its blinding speed and its unbelievable mechanized complications it says plainly to every prospective pilot: YOU'VE GOT TO BE GOOD IF YOU'RE TO BE MY MASTER.

That is a dare. Tens of thousands of American boys take it.

SUPPOSE they weren't willing to accept the challenge. Suppose Russian boys WERE willing.

In that event, Russia would conquer us and we'd become slaves. We'd have security, of course. The security of the slave is the nearest approach in this world to guaranteed security. If the slave does his master's bidding, he will be taken care of. But who wants security at the cost of FREEDOM?

I'M not arguing that we should encourage our American boys to go out and take every fool dare that comes along—such as climbing 1000-foot towers to see how it looks from the top looking down, and getting over the protective fences that are placed around dangerous modern installations such as electric substations.

Things like that are admittedly silly. The achievement isn't worth the possible cost. Somehow, I think, we must provide BETTER challenges, more REWARDING challenges. Better ways of spending leisure time than climbing high and dangerous towers and getting over protective fences just to see if it can be got away with.

Certainly we mustn't crush out the spirit of adventure in our youth. To do that would be to bring to an end the America that we and our forefathers have known.

Siskiyou County Assessment Listed

Yreka—An assessed valuation of \$37,406,690 was announced Monday for Siskiyou county, an increase of \$1,387,915 over last year despite fire and flood damage, and a drop in livestock production.

County Assessor L. D. Taylor said about half of the increase, \$605,000, came from increased assessments on Southern Pacific Land company timber lands.

"Most of the remainder," said Taylor, "about \$250,000, came from increased Tulelake farm land values."

The assessor said the gross county valuation was \$39,295,725, with \$1,869,105 in exemptions, and an estimated \$15,500,000 from the public utility roll for a total of \$52,906,620.

Taylor pointed out that most of the fire damage would show in next year's roll, since millions of feet of burned logs now being salvaged will be removed from next year's roll on March 1.

Area of Hawaii is slightly larger than Rhode Island and Connecticut combined.

Vodka n' Tonic advertisement featuring Smirnoff vodka and a glass of tonic. Text includes: 'So smooth it leaves you breathless', 'Smirnoff the greatest name in VODKA', '30 Proof. Dist. from grain. Ste. Pierre Smirnoff (Div. of Heublein), Hartford, Conn., U.S.A.', 'Since 1818'.

Wee Willie Winkie Hitches a Ride cartoon advertisement for Yellow Pages. Text includes: 'PERHAPS THE YELLOW PAGES WILL HELP ME REST INSTEAD', 'FOR TAXICABS IT PAYS TO LOOK IN THE "CLASSIFIED" PART OF YOUR TELEPHONE BOOK', 'I'M TIRED OF RUNNING THROUGH THE TOWN SAYING "IT'S TIME FOR BED"', 'Used by 9 out of 10 people as a guide to those who sell or serve Pacific Telephone', 'Find It Fast In The "Yellow Pages"'. Includes illustration of a taxi driver and a person in bed.