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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
Aug. 14, 1946
(It was Wednesday)

Construction of a warehouse
at 120-124 South Fir st. for the
American Fruit Growers started
by John and Henry Niedermeyer.

From Arthur Perry's Ye
Smudge Pot column: Threshing
is progressing in the rural re-
gions. Styles in threshing have
changed. The crews no longer
go to work with a lantern and
quit by moonlight.

20 YEARS AGO
Aug. 14, 1936
(It was Friday)

Strange-looking craft seen
circling over city yesterday and
today is the Lockheed Electra
cabin ship owned by Maj. Max
Fleischmann, chairman of the
finance committee of Standard
Brands.

Attorney Porter J. Neff to
preside at Democratic rally
Monday, J. R. Marshall, chair-
man of the Jackson county cen-
tral committee, announces.

30 YEARS AGO
Aug. 14, 1926
(It was Saturday)

The Copco forum, the em-
ployes' club of the California
Oregon Power company, stages
summer party at Rogue Elk re-
sort.

F. M. Wilson sells confection-
ery and cigar store on North
Central ave. to Mr. and Mrs.
J. E. Payette.

40 YEARS AGO
Aug. 14, 1916
(It was Monday)

Iowa people of southern Ore-
gon hold second annual picnic
at Lithia park, Ashland.

From Local and Personal col-
umn: Harry L. Young returns
from a fortnight's vacation on
his Brownsboro ranch.

What's the Answer?
Can You Get 4 of the 7?
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Report

- 1. The Democratic platform of 1948 or 1952 was stronger on civil rights; or were they about equally strong?
2. The Andrea Doria was recently sunk by collision with the Ile de France, an iceberg, the Cape Ann, the Stockholm or the Nantucket lightship?
3. The Suez Canal connects the Mediterranean with the Black Sea, Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean or Persian Gulf?
4. Pres. Eisenhower has or hasn't said he prefers Nixon to any one else as G.O.P. vice presidential nominee?
5. The new Labor contract in the steel industry covers (a) 1, (b) 2, (c) 3, (d) 4 or (e) 5 years?
6. President Nasser of Egypt is over 60, around 50, or under 40 years of age?
7. The 10 states of the "Solid South" have more or less than one-fourth of the votes at the Democratic national convention?

The Answers: 1. 1948 platform was stronger. 2. The Stockholm. 3. Red Sea. 4. Hasn't. 5. 3 years. 6. Several years under 40. 7. Slightly less than one-fourth.

"Having a Wonderful Time"

One thing for sure, the Democrats in convention assembled are having a wonderful time.

They are, we feel sure, having more real fun than the Republicans can possibly have in San Francisco, although as most experts predict, the venerable old pachyderm, may make hamburger of the Democratic donkey in November.

PRESIDENT Truman can be thanked—or cursed—for this entertainment content, depending on one's presidential preferences.

This department has believed Stevenson the Democrat best qualified for the presidency. We stick to that conviction. We hope he gets the nomination and believe he will.

IN FACT most of the arguments thus far advanced against him, in fact are, as we see it, points in his favor.

FOR example, they call him an intellectual, as if somehow a person with brains is an "egg head" and therefore should be barred from the White House. They also object to what they scornfully call his flippancy—his wise cracking—which is only a sense of proportion otherwise known as a sense of humor and a refusal to take himself or anyone else TOO seriously. We would like to see such rare qualities in the White House for a change.

BUT when it comes to basic principles of statesmanship there is nothing purely cerebral or flippancy about Adlai, and as he demonstrated in his fight against the Tidelands oil "give away" in 1952, when the issue is between the General Welfare and "General Motors"—or petroleum, there is nothing soft or indecisive about him. He fought valiantly for the former, even though it meant political defeat in a pivotal state—as it did.

THEN they say Stevenson should not be selected because he is a one-time loser, and thus against Eisenhower would have two strikes against him before the Hot politicking period could even get started.

We admit there is something to this argument, particularly in the field of sports of the fistic variety, but the idea that one-time losers in politics can't win is refuted by the record—the Democratic record.

For example:—

The Democrats nominated former President Grover Cleveland in 1892 after his defeat by Benjamin Harrison in 1888—and Cleveland went on to beat his former conqueror. The Democrats gave William Jennings Bryan the nomination in 1908 after he had been twice beaten, in 1896 and 1900. And the Republicans came back with Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York in 1948 after Dewey's defeat in 1944.

Nor is it too unusual for a man who has been four years out of public office—as Stevenson has—to get the nomination. Take Bryan again. When he was first nominated in 1896, he had been two years out of office, editing a newspaper—he had been defeated for the Senate in 1894. And thereafter, as Irving Stone comments:

Bryan's mind ran in four-year cycles. Filling in the dull and unimportant years between conventions he published a weekly magazine called the Commoner, lectured on the Chautauqua circuit, kept up his vast political acquaintanceship.

Or take John W. Davis. Although he had served in Congress, had been solicitor general, also Ambassador to Great Britain, he spent the three years before his nomination in 1924 as a lawyer, retained by J. P. Morgan and other prominent interests. Take, too, that other "honest Wall Street lawyer," Wendell L. Willkie. Before his pell-mell campaign for the Republican nomination in 1940 he had never held public office at all.

STEVENSON has been out of public office, but he has by no means been out of the public eye. For one thing, after his defeat in 1952 he began to win the solid esteem of his party professionals by helping to liquidate the \$800,000 debt incurred in the effort to reelect him.

"Month after month," Theodore H. White has recounted, "(Stevenson) barnstormed the country, rousing the party faithful at \$100-a-plate dinners, backing the local candidates. . . He spoke not only in the great centers . . . but wherever the party craved help."

Also, Stevenson has been a world traveler. After a tour of almost six months' duration, he appeared on television on Sept. 15, 1953 to urge that the U.S. take the initiative in opening new peace and disarmament negotiations with the Soviet Union.

Two weeks later he reported on his trip to President Eisenhower. The President said that Stevenson's proposal of mutual non-aggression pacts between Russia and the West had "merit" and was getting "serious study" by the State Department. Last year Stevenson made a four-week business-pleasure tour of Africa.

HOWEVER, we fear the circulation of the Mail Tribune in Chicago stockyards district is hardly sufficient to turn the tide in Adlai's favor if the members of the convention—or a majority of them—decide otherwise, and follow the leadership of "fighting Harry" Truman.

We are willing, nevertheless, to crawl out on a limb sufficiently to say this: we predict that if Governor Stevenson is not the nominee, Averell Harriman will not be either.

It will then be, in our judgment, as stated in this department a few months ago—a dark horse—so dark that at the present time, it would take more than a super-telescope and a Hollywood search light to find him.

FINALLY, whatever the outcome at Chicago the Mail Tribune expects to take same in its stride,

without an appreciable increase in its blood pressure. More than that it expects to enjoy the performance—thanks to TV—as much on the final days as the first. And the chief reason will be because of the presence of the twin items of doubt and suspense.

We don't expect to enjoy the performance at San Francisco in anything approaching the same way, for while the change from the Chicago stockyards to the San Francisco Cow Palace—the bovine similarity is entirely coincidental—may mark a superiority in lavishness and high-priced vaudeville, we fail to see how there can be any doubt or suspense as to the final result, and as indicated without these twin qualities there can be no real drama.—R.W.R.

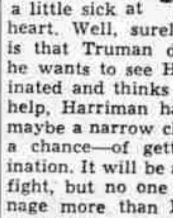
Matter of Fact

By Joe and Stewart Alsop



Joe Alsop

Chicago—These reporters are not among those who count themselves smarter about politics than Harry S. Truman. This modest disclaimer is now in order because Truman's briskly firm endorsements of Averell Harriman seems to have persuaded half the participants in the Democratic Convention that they have a lot more political savvy than the greatest old pro of them all.



Stewart Alsop

Why did Truman do it? They keep asking in a tone of superior wonder, sounding not angry but only a little sick at the heart. Well, surely the answer is that Truman did it because he wants to see Harriman nominated and thinks that, with his help, Harriman has a chance—maybe a narrow chance but still a chance—of getting the nomination. It will be a tough, rough fight, but no one reveals in carnage more than Harry S. Truman. It is a very long shot bet, but Harry Truman has won long shot bets before this. So he yielded to the temptation to do what he wanted to do all along.

Rather early on, the former President decided he wanted the New York governor in the Democratic race this year. He helped to persuade Harriman to declare himself in—which was perhaps not dreadfully difficult to do. Many weeks ago, he told Harriman in plain terms that he was "for" him, in the sense that Harriman was his preferred candidate, better in his opinion even than Adlai Stevenson, whom Truman had also encouraged to make the contest.

THEREAFTER, the question between Harriman and Truman did not concern Truman's preference. The question was whether Truman would make a public fight for Harriman, or would stop at telling those who asked him that he liked Harriman better than any of the others. In a phrase of Harriman's already quoted in this space, the question was "whether Truman would take his coat all the way off or only half off."

The Harriman camp were well aware that they needed all the help Truman could possibly give them. They worked over him at every opportunity, hardly leaving him time to drink a toast in peace when he went to New York for his daughter's wedding, for example. But even on the eve of the convention, neither Averell Harriman himself nor any of those around him actually expected Truman's active, open indorsement, with all its far-reaching, dissension-making consequences.

In the week before coming to Chicago, Truman told the Missouri national committeeman, Mark Holloran, and other Missouri delegates that he was indeed for Harriman. He said he would be pleased if the Missourians stuck to favorite-son Stuart Symington for at least two ballots, to give the Stevenson bandwagon a chance to be stopped. But even on the train to Chicago, Truman told his personal entourage that he intended to maintain a public neutrality.

THAT was his apparent intention, in fact, almost until the opening of his famous press conference, at which he first promised to reveal his choice. It is a fair bet that the last straw of persuasion was laid on the sometimes yielding camel's back of Truman's prudence by Judge Samuel Rosenman, an ardent Harrimanite, with whom Truman conferred just before the press conference began.

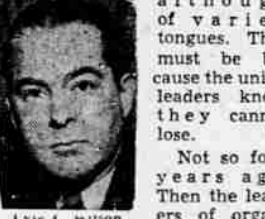
After that, the problem was not what Truman would do, but how he would do it. Streams of Harriman supporters urged a powerful statement. Streams of Stevenson admirers sought to avoid the worst, which would have been a statement hinting that Stevenson was not a "fighting candidate."

In his own suite, just half an hour before giving it to the public, Truman gave his statement for Harriman a trial run among his special intimates such as Leslie Biddle, Charles Murphy and Donald Dawson. He was delighted, visibly exulting over the thing he was about to do. At least half the members of

Labor Confident and Quiet as Democrats Choose Candidates

By LYLE C. WILSON

Chicago—(U.P.)—The voice of labor is strangely quiet in this Democratic National Convention,



Lyle C. Wilson

although of varied tongues. That must be because the union leaders know they cannot lose. Not so four years ago. Then the leaders of organized labor broke fast with the late Alben W. Barkley and broke his heart, to boot. They ate his ham and scrambled eggs at a breakfast and told the Veep to his face that he must not aspire to the presidential nomination.

Labor's leaders would not have him and the veto stuck. They slipped the thumb screws onto Georgia's pride, Sen. Richard B. Russell. With a gentle twist they won from Russell a switcheroo labor policy statement which astonished Russell's conservative supporters in the South. Russell was the conservative candidate in 1952 for the Democratic presidential nomination. His switch helped Russell not at all but it was a bold proof of labor's power.

No Conservative Candidate There is no conservative candidate in this convention. No one even remotely suspected of being unfriendly to organized labor is being mentioned or whispered here as a likely 1956 Democratic presidential nominee.

No need for labor in 1956 to seek the position which led in the 1944 Democratic National Convention to the dispute about "clear it with Sidney." Sidney was the I. Sidney Hillman, a genius of labor organization and politics. He was the brainiest of labor's men and women who headed-up the left wing alliance with Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal.

There was a war on then and FDR was not available for hourly counsel in the party ruckus about whether Henry A. Wallace was to be ditched as the party's vice presidential candidate. It was substantially reported that state and other local leaders seeking the New Deal party line were told to "clear it with Sidney" in labor's control tower atop the Morrison hotel.

Lewis Gave Aid Before that John L. Lewis had advanced hundreds of thousands of United Mine Workers dollars to FDR's 1936 campaign. Labor for years has been both loud and powerful in Democratic councils. The power remains undiminished but labor no longer need raise its voice.

Labor leaders now may even indulge in friendly contests for their special favorites among men aspiring to the party's presidential nomination. Thus, the support of labor is divided in this convention among the presidential contenders or, sometimes, not expressed at all.

Walter P. Reuther, vice president of AFL-CIO, is out for Adlai E. Stevenson, which suggests a reexamination of the charge against Stevenson that he is a moderate who would go back on the principles of the New and Fair deals.

McDonald Likes Harriman The Steelworkers' David J. McDonald wants to nominate Gov. Averell Harriman, of New York. These two, Reuther and McDonald, are the rising men in the big labor combine and one

Let's give the little man the benefit of the doubt. Maybe he thinks Symington, a Missourian (Missouri was a border state in the Civil War) is the man who can do the trick.

As a dark horse (willing but not active, Symington hasn't had much to say on the explosive civil rights issue.

WHAT'S HST up to. Only he himself knows. But— There is general consensus that the civil rights plank in the Democratic platform is the hottest issue in Chicago. If it is too tough, the South may secede from the Democratic party. The hope is for a compromise that will avoid an open break.

McCANN ON VACATION Charles M. McCann is on vacation. His weekly news outlook and daily foreign news commentary columns will be resumed upon his return.

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 concision. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Like Letter From Home

To the Editor: It is a pleasure for me to once more read the Mail Tribune. Many years ago when George Putnam was editor I was a reporter for the Mail Tribune. The paper is like a letter from home.

I am a pensioner. That is the reason I am for Wayne Morse. We spent billions for foreign aid, why should we not support our own citizens?

Charles W. Sherman Montgomery Ranch Kerby, Ore.

Congressional Quiz

(Copyright, 1956 Congressional Quarterly) Q—What city has been the site of more national nominating conventions than any other? (a) Philadelphia; (b) Baltimore; (c) Chicago.

A—(c). The 1956 Democratic convention will be the 22nd national nominating convention to be held in Chicago. Baltimore holds second place with 10 conventions to its credit; Philadelphia is third with seven.

Counsel with Mr. Insurance FRD BRENNAN Phone 2-4940 One of us is a Republican and the other a Democrat. We've both decided to attend the National Conventions—each separately. I'm not worried about losing anything at my convention, but can we insure my wife's "trappings" at her Convention? Yes, we'd do it for you, old boy. MEDFORD INSURANCE AGENCY

Editorial Comment

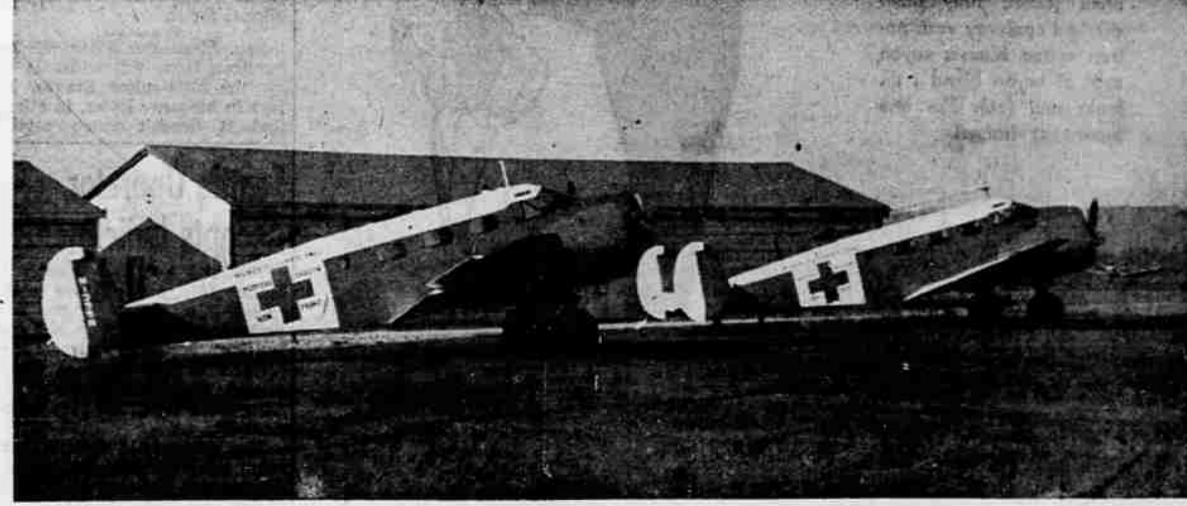
THERE'S ROOM FOR BOTH It wasn't so long ago that airlines were desperately trying to get their costs down to compete with railroad fares, albeit hardly hoping to reach parity and relying on the "luxury" angle to attract traffic.

Now look what happens! With the New York-Chicago rail fare already 10 per cent more than via plane, six major eastern railroads want a 45 per cent increase which will bring the total rail ticket to more than half again as much.

The reversal of the previous disparity not only is proof of aviation's progress. It is symbolic of a generally-changing attitude. Where once it was regarded as a luxury and a sign of wealth to fly, a railroad trip with its private compartments, view cars, nicely appointed diners and more breathing-space between either business or social engagements is looked on by many as a real treat.

Planes fill a real need when speed is of the essence, and the airlines have shown the way in many respects regarding convenience and service. But a rail trip for those not under the compulsion of a time clock is nice, too.

—Oregon Statesman, Salem.



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