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ROBERT W. RUIHL, Editor. HERB GREY, Advertising Manager. GERALD LATHAM, Business Manager. ERIC ALLEN, Jr., Managing Editor. EARL H. ADAMS, City Editor. HARRY CHAPMAN, Telegram Editor. RICHARD JEWETT, Sports Editor. OLIVE STARCHER, Society Editor. DALE ERICKSON, Circulation Mgr.

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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. 17, 1946. (It was Saturday). An application for a permit to erect a \$20,000 addition to the junior high school denied by Oregon district Civilian Production administration.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column: F. Luy, the Antelope cowboy, has returned from wherever he has been.

20 YEARS AGO: Aug. 17, 1936. (It was Monday). Pear shipments from Rogue valley, for the first week of the harvest, total 203 cars.

Power of vision is discussed today by Dr. W. H. Hermitage at the weekly luncheon meeting of the Kiwanis club in the Medford hotel.

30 YEARS AGO: Aug. 17, 1926. (It was Tuesday). There is no more live and up-to-date city in Oregon than Medford, according to C. M. Kidd, president of the Jackson county building and loan association.

Greatest galaxy of horses ever seen in this area will compete in the speed program at the Jackson county fair, Medford, Sept. 15-17, according to Sid Brown.

40 YEARS AGO: Aug. 17, 1916. (It was Thursday). First car of Rogue River barrels to be sold at auction was sold Thursday at an average of \$3.22 for blue triangle and \$3.16 for red triangle.

From Local and Personal column: Mr. and Mrs. Otto Klum returned last night from a short outing in the hills.

What's the Answer? Can You Get 4 of the 7? Copr. 1955 Editorial Research Report.

1. More shares of stock are owned by American men or American women, or is it about 50-50? 2. The U.S. is or isn't one of the signatory nations to the treaty banning germ warfare? 3. The names of four Presidents contained a doubled "oo." They were the two Roosevelts, Hoover and who? 4. Geneva is the capital of Switzerland, or its largest city, or both, or neither? 5. Who in the Bible ate grass as an ox: Samson, Goliath, Nebuchadnezzar, Herod, Pharaoh, Delilah or Judas? 6. What did Czolgosz, Guiteau and Booth have in common? 7. Socialite Ellin Mackay married Baron von Cramm, Arthur Miller, Leopold Stokowski, John Astor, Winthrop Rockefeller, or Irving Berlin?

The answers: 1. More by men (but there are more women stockholders). 2. Isn't 3. Nebuchadnezzar. 4. Neither. 5. Nebuchadnezzar. 6. They shot U.S. Presidents. 7. Berlin.

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.

County Anachronism

The Medford city administration has operated under the city manager plan of government for more than a year and a half now, and, generally speaking, it has proven to be highly successful.

As those involved in the mechanics of city government become more and more used to it, and to the division of responsibility necessary for its success, it can be expected to be even more satisfactory.

Which leads to this question: If a professional manager is good business for the city, would it not be good business for other units of local government—the county, for instance?

THE answer (as in so many other fields of human affairs) is not a clear-cut yes or no. It is "Maybe," or "Yes, if . . ."

It has not been tried in Oregon, although both Clackamas and Lane counties have voted on it twice—with negative results each time. One of the difficulties has been in the state's enabling act, passed in 1945 at the request of, among others, the League of Women Voters, which sets up rigid, detailed and limiting requirements which the voters have been reluctant to meet.

It has, however, been tried in a few other sections of the country, and with some success.

BEFORE possible new forms of county government are considered, however, perhaps it would be well to decide whether or not the present form is satisfactory.

We think it is not. Aside from the judicial officers, there are 10 elected officials (county judge, two commissioners, sheriff, assessor, treasurer, county clerk-recorder, surveyor, district attorney and school superintendent). This results in a diffusion of both authority and responsibility, and any credit or blame is difficult to pin down. (We know of one woman who had a problem which she took to the courthouse; she saw the county court, she was referred to the sheriff, the health department, the county engineer and finally wound up back at the court again, and never did get any satisfaction.)

AGAIN, the county is a "creature of the state," a creation of the legislature, primarily set up to perform functions of the state government. Over the years counties have been granted or have assumed other purely local functions, but the county court remains an administrative body, with little if any legislative power.

This is in contrast to the cities, which in 1906 were granted substantial powers of "home rule."

The county court, composed of three men independently elected, is an unwieldy body unsuited to administration. Its functions can be exercised by two of the three members, which historically has not infrequently resulted in friction and jealousy.

SINCE the system was set up nearly a century ago, it does not reflect the growth of the cities, the piling up of "fringe" problems, the present rapid means of communication and transportation. It lacks flexibility and the power to deal with urgent problems in a forthright manner.

Rates of pay for both elected and appointed officials have been below comparable rates in other fields, thus tending too often to attract, not top-flight personnel, but those who look on their jobs as sinecures. Time after time, a county election race has been, to the voter, a choice of the less poor of two candidates, rather than an enthusiastic endorsement of one good man over another.

THE easiest thing in the world is to sit tight, and to "get along" with the status quo.

But imagination and experimentation and vision are needed if our needs in government are to be met. In the field of county government, these have been notably lacking.

We see no reason why we cannot profit by our experience in other areas of government and apply it to the anachronistic and creaky and unresponsive—but vastly and increasingly important—field of county rule.

SOME of the questions we should be asking ourselves may well be:

Would not a single, paid professional, trained in government, meet our needs as a county executive better than three men, whose ability in government administration is often catch-as-catch-can? Do we really need 10 elected officials, all quasi-autonomous, to run the major offices? Or would appointed officials, responsible to an administrator, who in turn was responsible to an elected board of commissioners, be more responsive to modern methods and present day needs? Should a greater measure of "home rule" be extended to the counties (which are widely diversified in character in Oregon) to permit them to legislate for their own peculiar problems? Would it not benefit the people of the state if the legislature were to make experimentation in county government a bit easier?

WE don't really know the answers to these questions, although we have a hunch each of them could logically be answered "yes."

What we do know is that county government in Oregon today is not meeting the needs of the people of the farms, of the fringe areas, of the fast-growing cities. It is too irresponsible. It is too inflexible. It is too prone to "pass the buck" to the legislature, to the cities, and to other sections of the county government itself. County officials too often forget that the business they transact is the business of the public, and that the public is entitled to know what they are doing, and why, and how.

The first step toward making any progress lies with the people, in pondering the problem. The next lies with the legislature, in taking action to solve it. —E.A.

Installment Sales Both 'Old Man' Truman 'Goes Down' With Harriman's Political Ship

By ROGER W. BABSON Babson Park, Mass. — My grandson, Rober Babson Webber, is much interested in the study and relationship of future consumer purchasing to the books which people now read, the phonograph records they now buy, and the movies they now attend.



Roger W. Babson

He feels that these may be good barometers of future business changes. Recently he has been calling to my attention that a best-selling record has been the song "Sixteen Tons." This is a song of a man working in the mines, whose job was to dig 16 tons of "number nine coal" every day and who bought all his supplies at the company store. Although he worked for years, he never could get out of debt. Having been taught that all debts should be paid, he prayed to St. Peter to give him more time before "calling me home." My grandson feels that one reason this record has had such a big sale is that it represents the feelings of millions of consumers who are heavily in debt to some store.

Of course, consumers have a perfect moral right to borrow in order to enjoy automobiles, refrigerators, radios, and probably television sets. There is no moral reason why a working man should not be entitled to use credit—as well as his employer—even though this is a custom which did not prevail 50 years ago. Probably modern advertising has been the force to bring about this change; now even conservative banks, which scorned such consumer borrowing a few years ago, are soliciting it.

Must Give Credit The "Five and Ten-Cent" variety stores have built up a huge business on an all cash, no delivery, and now self-service basis. There will always be a field for such stores, but to operate successfully, they must get the benefit of huge buying power through large chains. A great many consumers, however, demand credit, delivery, and more personal attention. Naturally, they must pay for these privileges, and if the local merchant

doesn't grant them it is very difficult for him to continue in business. Also I understand that selling on installment tends to bring the customers back to the store every month, thus stimulating further sales.

Make Business Conditions

Business conditions are not determined by bankers or politicians or even by the leaders in your community. Now, my grandson's important question today is whether consumers are getting tired and want to rest, or whether they are still determined to "keep up with the Joneses." Probably almost every reader of this paper is anxious to do both, and for a time this will continue to be possible.

With a further increase in retail sales, if, however, the tide changes and retail sales fall off, the retailer will buy less from the manufacturer, the manufacturer will reduce the number of his employees, and the purchasing power of the country will decline. This could develop into a very serious vicious circle.

I see no sign of this at the present time. In fact, if it should come now, Congress would take immediate steps to check it. Probably the proposed tremendous new road-building campaign is partly to insure continued prosperity, in case there should be a severe slacking in installment sales, new building, and the automobile industry.

What Shall We Do?

We should not suddenly abandon installment purchases. But we all—whether merchants or consumers—should avoid getting into the pessimistic mood of the poor fellow digging the "sixteen tons of number nine coal." Certainly our appropriations for advertising should continue, as advertising is the life blood of business. On the other hand, it may be wise for consumers to avoid further debt and for merchants to put more emphasis on cash transactions.

I have often suggested to merchants that they have a price differential between cash and installment sales, but they tell me this is practically impossible. It seems, however, that the merchants associations could prevent the situation from becoming worse. In the meantime, I throw out the question of what would happen to retail trade, general employment, and our present prosperity if 50 per cent of the

The United Press tabulation at that hour already showed Adlai E. Stevenson an easy winner with more than 100 votes to spare and more coming his way by the hour. Mr. Truman continued publicly to insist his man could win. The manager of Harriman's pre-convention campaign was Carmine DeSapio, boss of Tammany Hall and well on the way to being boss of the Democratic party in the state of New York.

DeSapio invented Harriman, politically. He picked him as a 1954 long shot to run for governor and put him across by a whisker. Sen. Irving M. Ives, the Republican candidate, could not have been defeated by a little green man from Mars with two heads.

Tammany Boss DeSapio is a practical politician. Ives' 1954 surprise when Harriman came in first was nothing to the surprise of the reporters who clustered around DeSapio here Thursday to inquire into the political double talk sounding from Harriman headquarters.

"Harriman is in," DeSapio declared. "That's the way it's going to be. There are no doubts about it." He didn't even smile. If he winked, DeSapio's dark glasses concealed it. It was like that for two days

around here, Harriman spokesmen conceding defeat only to switch under pressure from someone to insist publicly that their man still would win. This strategy of running out a hopeless attempt was attributed to Mr. Truman and a lot of folk would like to know what the little man from Independence has in mind.

He already had hurt Stevenson's chances to defeat President Eisenhower by tagging him publicly as a sure loser, shy on some qualifications for the White House. Mr. T. amended that later to say that Stevenson might win with help—help, that is, from Harry S. Truman.

There is some question now whether Stevenson will seek or would accept Mr. Truman's campaign aid. He didn't care for it in 1952, which is what first turned Mr. Truman against him. He may not care for it this year, either.

The Republicans have been planning to make their campaign attack this year in large part against the Truman administration and Mr. Truman. Events here have cleared Stevenson of the charge that he is Mr. Truman's kept man. Some persons believe the Truman bolt was a good break for Stevenson—and Stevenson may be among those believers.

Communications

View on McKeon

To the Editor: I am enclosing a letter from the Sunday Oregonian that seems to be a good answer to Pat Graham's letter in the Sunday Mail Tribune, regarding Sgt. Matthew McKeon. It shows the difference between reasoning with the mind, as George Coleman does, and reasoning with the emotions as Pat Graham did. Graham's type of reasoning is usually erroneous. McKeon was not on trial for drinking.

Mrs. F. S. Gold Hill (Name on file)

The letter to the Oregonian is reprinted below: Save the System

To the Editor: In reply to your editorial of Wednesday, there are a few facts I would like to add to the controversy.

To the people who think Sergeant McKeon got off easy, what more would you do to a man who has had his career taken away from him, who has been stripped of all honor, rank, and privilege, who now has to spend nine months in a military prison? Believe me, nine months in a military prison is equal to five years in a civilian jail. Do they think a firing squad would bring back those boys? I think the punishment fits the crime and the crime is negligence.

If Sergeant McKeon had marched his men down a highway and some of them had straggled onto the road and been killed by a truck, he would still be responsible, because a marine is always responsible for his men, but would that be justification for forbidding drill instructors to march their men by highways? I think not.

Then neither does what happened to Sergeant McKeon make a just reason for making marine boot camp easier. To change a system that has worked for almost 200 years is to do injustice to a service that has served its country faithfully in peace and war and to the thousands of men who have gone through this type of training and are better men because of it.

Men are killed from time to time in training accidents in all branches of the service, but this is not the fault of the system. It is usually due to human error, and that is with us all the time. Don't let one accident change the shape of a system supported by an overwhelming majority of the men who have been through it.

George Coleman, 959 Lee St., Oswego.

Matter of Fact By Joe and Stewart Alsop

CIVIL RIGHTS AND MR. WILKINS

Chicago—Because civil rights is the one make-or-break issue at this convention, Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, is a key figure here. He is also an interesting man to talk to.

Wilkins is a thin, soberly dressed Negro of 55, with an oddly boyish face. He is a decorous man, mild-mannered, intelligent, highly articulate, carefully reasonable. Most of the time, he talks like a learned professor of sociology. But once in a while you sense the intensity of feeling behind his carefully chosen words.

Here, for example, is Wilkins, in his best professional style, on how change will come to the south: "Areas of racial reaction will so isolate themselves in their philosophies and practices that great external and internal pressures for change will automatically be generated."

But here is Wilkins when the bitterness breaks through the schoolmasterly style. "No other people would have endured so long being stomped on and kicked and humiliated."

THE bitterness is only occasional, and Wilkins clearly makes a great effort to control it, to be patient and reasonable. "I'm not in favor of taking a baseball bat and beating anybody's brains out," he says. "If there's ever any violence down South, the Negroes won't start it. They never do. The Southerners talk about sending Federal troops down there to enforce desegregation. You won't find a single Negro leader who's ever said anything about Federal troops."

Desegregation, Wilkins explains, again in his professional style, has become the great symbol-issue for all Negroes. "We see it as a status issue—whether we are going to remain second class citizens forever. The feeling of status permeates the whole of Negro life from one end of the country to the other."

Then the professional manner breaks down again, when he talks with a grin about "that Judge Brady down South who says we're a criminal race only two generations from eating cockroaches." The grin is not a

gay grin. And there is a real, fierce, bitterness when Wilkins talks about the economic pressures brought to bear on Southern Negroes who support the NAACP: "They'll take a share-cropper, a poor country Negro tied to the land, and kick him out, and have no shame in starving him."

ONLY a few city blocks from where Wilkins sits in a hotel coffee room on Chicago's handsome waterfront, the Chicago Black Belt begins—mile after mile of it, scarious slums for the most part, crowded sometimes three and four to a room with Negroes.

The outcome of the current pulling and hauling on the civil rights issue could determine who is to be the next President of the United States. Yet in the crowded hotel bedrooms and the echoing amphitheatre of this convention city, the issue has taken on a curious unreality. The civil rights debate has centered on using the dread words, "Supreme Court," in the civil rights plank, which is precisely like arguing about how many angels can dance on the head of a pin.

Indeed, they are not really concerned with the meaning of the words written into the civil rights plank. They are thinking, instead, of the delicate balance between the delegates of the South and the delegates of Michigan or Minnesota; between Southern votes and the votes of Harlem or Chicago's Black Belt.

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