

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, 40 and 50 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO
Dec. 19, 1946 (Thursday)
Medford Athletic association Athlete of the Month awards go to Earl Stelle, Nick Greene and Glen Tingley of 1946 Medford high school football squad.

20 YEARS AGO
Dec. 19, 1936 (Saturday)
Nearly 100 Boy Scouts are registered for the 1936 winter encampment at Crater Lake National park.

30 YEARS AGO
Dec. 19, 1926 (Sunday)
The Mail Tribune-Virginia radio broadcasting station will be inaugurated next week.

40 YEARS AGO
Dec. 19, 1916 (Tuesday)
Irrigation of several thousand acres of land on the south side of the Rogue river, between Gold Hill and the mouth of the Applegate, will be accomplished through district organization.

50 YEARS AGO
Dec. 19, 1906 (Wednesday)
Portland's street car system is almost completely tied up by a strike.

What's Your I.Q.?
Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.
1. How many Continental Congresses were there?
2. Were gold and silver, or copper, discovered in the famous Comstock lode?
3. Which, according to Paul, are the "bliding" virtues?
4. Were Dryden, Wren, Bunyan and Leibnitz contemporaries?
5. Do all oaks hoot?
6. Is "Paul's Scariet" a climbing rose, a novel, or a shawl?
7. Did Spenser, Shelley, or Grimm write "The Faerie Queen"?
8. Name the only 3-time winner of the Western Women's Open Golf championship?
9. "Between" refers to "two." what is the proper word to use if there are more than two?
10. In what kind of a shell did "Peter, the pumpkin eater" put his wife?
Answers: 1. Two. 2. Gold and silver. 3. Faith, hope and love. 4. Yes. 5. No. 6. Climbing rose. 7. Spenser. 8. Miredred (Babe) Didrickson Zaharias. 9. Among. 10. "Pumpkin shell."

The "Why?" of Public Office

Mayor Earl Miller will relinquish his office — probably with mixed feelings including considerable relief — in another two weeks.

The mayor chose not to be a candidate for reelection, and to let both the honor and the responsibility of the office go to another. There's enough of both to last most men a long time after a two year term.

As an example, in a recent meeting, the mayor reported that during the past two years, he has attended 569 meetings — other than city council meetings — on behalf of the city. He said he has helped people find doctors in the middle of the night, has counseled people about domestic problems, and has provided a multitude of other "unofficial" services.

GENERALLY speaking, Mayor Miller's term has been a serene one, with few serious problems. This is to the credit not only of the mayor himself, but also to other members of the administration.

The past two years, had the personalities been otherwise, could have been a period of indecision, of dissention, of clashes and uncertainty, for it has been the first two years of a new type of administrative organization. And any such change carries with it the potentialities of trouble.

This is not to say that there have been no differences of opinion, for there have been, and there always will be if democracy is to keep on working. But, generally speaking, the period has been a productive, progressive and peaceful era for Medford.

OVER the years, it has constantly amazed us that there always seem to be people willing to be candidates for city office. (Mayor and councilmen receive the same amount of pay, \$3000.00 annually).

We presume that different people are motivated to seek office for different reasons. But, basically, we have become convinced that in a great majority of cases the prime reason is a sincere desire to be of service to the city in which the individual has a stake in good government.

It's easy to say "Let George do it," and it's difficult to take on a task which brings little glory, lots of work, and no pay. But many American cities have been fortunate in finding enough men who believe the rewards in service and respect are sufficient.

PEOPLE, for instance, like Harold Frye, who began life in Australia, came to this country many years ago, and achieved a modest success as a grocer. Sixteen years ago he became a member of the city council, and has served four full terms.

Harold has never been a "spectacular" councilman. He has seldom if ever pounded the table, or yelled or shouted. But he has been a faithful member of the city's governing body; always trying to see the other side of each problem as it arose, and carrying the ball for his favorite projects — which included this city's park system.

Quietly and without fuss Harold Frye gave uncounted hours of time and effort in service. WHAT did he receive in return? No one can measure this exactly, but we suspect he (in company with the hundreds of others who have done similar jobs over the years) can take a modest pride in what they have done — a feeling of satisfaction in a job well done, a public service well performed.

As the city continues its growth, the demands on the time and energy of a councilman presumably will not be as great under the city manager government as they were before, when each councilman had what amounted to an individual administrative job.

This, we believe, is all to the good — with the council acting as a sort of policymaking "board of directors," and the professional staff handling the day-to-day operations.

But however it turns out, we should keep in mind that the great majority of these unpaid public servants are doing the jobs they are doing out of a sincere desire to be of service. We can disagree with them on occasion, argue with them, even fight with them. But in almost all cases we cannot successfully challenge their motives, or as citizens of the community cease to feel grateful to them. —E.A.

Poles and Indians

Jach Ladislaw, 14, of Lodz, Poland, recently wrote to the mayor of Phoenix, Ariz., a letter which inquired: "I am interested in the living conditions of the peoples which are under your care and I am anxious to know if there are still wild Indians in your state, and if they are locked up in prisons and camps like our papers and books and films show . . ."

Mayor Jack Williams wrote to the Polish youngster to assure him that Indians have a choice of living on reservations set aside for them by the federal government, or anywhere else in the United States, and that reservation Indians have their own police, laws and economic system.

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. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Dangerous Time of Year
To the Editor: The most dangerous time of the year on our highways is approaching — the holiday season.

Last year over Christmas week end, 609 persons died in motor accidents. Another 345 were killed over New Year's. This year there are four days in the holiday week end instead of three and the death rate may be even worse, unless everything possible is done to alert motorists against this Yule tide of needless deaths.

Time and again, the newspapers of the United States have exerted leadership in this public service. A tremendous need exists again this year to back the attack against holiday auto accidents. By far the greatest number of holiday auto deaths last year occurred during hours of darkness, at the end of busy days when festivity fatigue made drivers less alert, slowed reflexes and impaired judgment. This organization asks your help in suggesting these safety points to your readers:

- 1. Driving and alcohol do not mix. The holidays are a time for joy; do not turn them into a time for tragedy.
2. Slow down. Take it easy at all times, as courtesy can save lives. Be sure your driving is adjusted to, and your car is ready for, bad weather.
3. Stay alert at the wheel and stay alive. Stop for a "safety break" and cup of coffee at frequent intervals on long trips, or before starting home at the end of a festive evening.
4. Plan your holiday trip so that you drive when you are rested; don't start it after you have worked or played all day. Non-collision accidents — running off the road — are the greatest single cause of auto fatalities. A major peril of the season is when motorists, and especially students and servicemen, try to drive too far in too short a time so as to be home for the holidays.
5. Finally, remember that up to 70 per cent of automobile fatalities in cities and towns are pedestrians. Walking requires alertness, too.

L. S. Harris, Executive Director American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, Washington, D.C.

Presley: Pro and Con
To the Editor: An anonymous Presley hater from Ashland wrote me a letter instead of putting it in the paper, because they didn't have the guts to show their name. This is what they wrote:

"Dear Sandy, I'll just bet you are cute, and also smart, and are educated above your intelligence. You take in a lot of territory when you say 'We Love Elvis.' You may, but any other with good sense don't. He is nothing but trash. But you and some more like you don't know any better. A pigshave would be a credit to you. Elvis Presley is a disgrace to the country. How silly can you get? Your folks must be proud of you. You sure like to get your name in the paper. It is nice you worship a half-wit. Of course you are proud of it. But the cause of it is, you don't know any better. Write again, you Presley-lover. Hope you have a Merry Xmas."

To the Presley-hater: Yes, I take a lot of territory when I say "We Love Elvis." Three-fourths of the kids in the United States like him, not saying anything about the adults. From the sounds of your letter you are the trash. You probably already have a Pig-Shave. If you ask me you are the disgrace to the country, if anybody is. Yes, my folks are very proud of me, in fact they like Elvis Presley themselves. No, it isn't that I like to get my name in the paper so much, but you have to put it there. You don't honor your name enough to sign your letter. And he is not a half-wit. Yes, I am very proud. Just what of Elvis don't you approve of? I thought that Ashland had pretty decent people but this one has completely flipped.

Thanks a lot. Sandy Bates, 1260 Sunset ave., Medford, Ore.

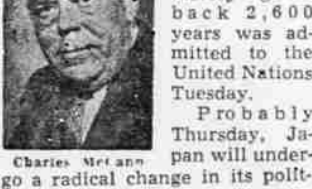
Truckers' License System Simplified
Salem — (UPI) — Truckers traveling in Oregon, Washington and Idaho now are able to secure their license plates through a simplified system, the State Department of Motor Vehicles announced today.

Warne H. Nunn, director, said that under the new plan of registration truckers prorate between the three states will secure all their license plates from their home state.

However, the plates will be issued from the Salem office after a check of records. Nunn said all truckers who were licensed under the probation plan for 1956 have been sent instructions and forms for securing licenses.

Japan's Foreign Policies Under Reassessment; New Leader Due

By CHARLES M. McCANN United Press Correspondent
Japan, Asia's most dynamic country, is about to start an important reassessment of its foreign policy.



The ancient kingdom whose history goes back 2,600 years was admitted to the United Nations Tuesday.

Proably Thursday, Japan will undergo a radical change in its political leadership.

Tanzan Ishibashi, the incoming premier, will then decide Japanese policy toward the United States, Communist China and the Asian-African bloc of nations.

No sensational decisions are expected. But it is fairly certain Japan will adopt a more independent attitude toward the United States and will move promptly to increase its trade materially with Red China.

When he gets around to it, Ishibashi is expected to ask the United States to set a final date for the withdrawal of the troops it now has stationed in Japan.

Since the end of World War II, Japan has been led by a succession of premiers who have based their policy on close cooperation with the United States.

Began Fighting MacArthur Ishibashi, however, takes a more critical attitude toward the United States. As soon as he entered politics after the war, and was made finance minister, he started fighting Gen. Douglas MacArthur's occupation policies.

A change in the Japanese prime ministry has been long pending. Outgoing Premier Ichiro Hatoyama is 73 and semi-paralyzed. Members of his dominant liberal-democratic party have felt that he could not give Japan the forceful leadership they wanted.

Ishibashi is likely to provide that kind of leadership. At 72, he is only one year younger than Hatoyama. But he is in good health, and looks much younger and has decided ideas on a lot of things.

Son of Buddhist Priest Round-faced and serious-looking, Ishibashi is the son of a Buddhist priest. He started out as a newspaper man and became a leading publisher, specializing in economics. He took no part in politics before the war.

When he tangled with American occupation authorities MacArthur purged him from politics, he came back only to clash repeatedly with fellow-members of the Liberal Party. He was thrown out of the party twice. When Hatoyama formed the New Japan Democratic Party, in a revolt against former Premier Shigeru Yoshida, Ishibashi joined him. He re-entered the cabinet under Hatoyama as minister of international trade and industry.

When Hatoyama finally decided to retire, Ishibashi was elected his successor as president of the Liberal-Democratic Party last Friday. That put him in line for the prime ministry.

In The Day's News

At a beautiful farm home in the edge of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania an immensely important meeting is taking place as this is written. The principals are Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States, and Jawaharlal Nehru, prime minister of the Dominion of India.

Let's take a look at the background of these men. President Eisenhower is descended (through several generations) from plain, simple refugee immigrants to the United States. Prime Minister Nehru is descended from rich Brahmins, the highest and most aristocratic caste in India.

NO backgrounds could be more dissimilar. But these men have this in common: They are the leaders of great nations. The United States is great because of what it has achieved for its people. India is great because of what MIGHT BE ACHIEVED for its people.

They have plenty to talk about. THERE is this difference: The United States is great now. India can be great only if her leaders choose the right road for her. She is at an important crossroad now. If her leaders — of which Nehru is the outstanding one — choose the road of friendship with communist Russia, India will go on as a colonial servant, under masters more brutal than her masters of the past.

If Nehru, in whose hands the decision lies, chooses the road of friendship with the United States, India in time can become great and free.

THAT'S about the size of it. In their meeting, both will carry heavy responsibilities. But Nehru's responsibilities are immeasurably heavier. We'll see what we'll see.

Congressional Quiz (Copyright 1956 Congressional Quarterly)
Q—Which President is credited with delivering the longest inaugural address: (a) Franklin D. Roosevelt; (b) William Henry Harrison; (c) Thomas Jefferson; (d) Woodrow Wilson?

A—(b) Harrison's inaugural address in 1841 ran to 8,000 words and took more than an hour to deliver. The day was cold and stormy, but Harrison insisted on riding a horse in the inaugural parade and standing bareheaded while he read his long message. On his return from the Capitol he took to his bed with pneumonia, and a month later died.

LOST HOURS Jackson, Mich.—(UPI)—Trains blocking a single railroad crossing cost Jackson motorists a total of 648,960.000 man-hours annually, according to calculations of the traffic engineering and police departments.

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