

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson County History from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years ago.

30 YEARS AGO Dec. 24, 1946 (Tuesday) Rogge Valley Country club is host to 190 young people at an all-college dance honoring students home for the holidays.

20 YEARS AGO Dec. 24, 1936 (Thursday) Paul Menegat, principal of the Medford Junior high school will address a conference at the annual Oregon State Teacher's association convention in Portland.

30 YEARS AGO Dec. 24, 1926 (Friday) The 1926 candidate for the hand carved medal for the champion eater is George Brown, erstwhile and capacious mascot of the local fire department.

40 YEARS AGO Dec. 24, 1916 (Sunday) Bulk of the valley's million dollar fruit crop comes from the small percentage of irrigated orchards, it is reported.

40 YEARS AGO Dec. 24, 1916 (Sunday) The Medford DeMolays are planning a big dance to see the Old year out and the new year in next Friday.

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Well Loved Day

What is Christmas? It is many things to many people. It is the most universally loved and observed Christian holiday around the world. It has accumulated the greatest body of customs, traditions and legends of any holiday. It is a time for happiness and sharing, for the gathering of families, for thankfulness, for worshipping God and His Son in churches and in homes and in the heart.

CHRISTMAS is the oldest of the holidays still observed. Its origins antedate the birth of Christ, in pagan festivals marking the winter solstice. And many other of the customs and traditions which make Christmas a beloved season are pagan in origin. They have been adopted and adapted to be appropriate to what is, at heart, a Christian festival.

The Christmas tree is one of these. Teutonic in origin, it was given sanctity by a Christian missionary in the middle ages, and now forms one of the central symbols of the day in many lands — even in some where the straight, green little firs and pines do not grow.

Christmas candles may have had their origin in pagan sun-worship, but have been adopted as a symbol of Christ as the light of the world.

EVEN the date of the birth of Christ is in doubt, but December 25 has been observed as His birth anniversary for so long that the actual month and day no longer matter. Some Christian peoples celebrate Christmas in January. The time is not important; the event is.

First observance of Christmas grew up probably in the 300 years following the death of Christ. And ever since it has grown in luster and affection through the addition of the customs of the lands in which it is a high point in the year.

Universally it is a time for music, for church-going, for feasting and merrymaking. It is the occasion for an odd combination of reverence and hilarity that only the delightfully illogical race of humans—combining worship with wassail, sentiment with commercialism, generosity with acquisitiveness — could ever develop or understand.

IN Switzerland, legend has it that cattle kneel in their stalls at midnight in honor of the Christ child.

In The Netherlands, children leave straw in their wooden shoes for the reindeer of St. Nicholas.

In Armenia, celebrants eat boiled spinach on January 6 (their Christmas eve) because of the legend that Mary ate that food the night before Jesus was born.

In England, the Yule log flames through the holiday season and the last, unburned remnant is saved to start the Yule fire the following year.

In Poland, Christmas eve is a fast day, but as soon as the first star appears, feasting and merrymaking begin.

IN Yugoslavia, the second Sunday before Christmas is Mother's day. Father's day is the next Sunday. French Canadians feed their cats well before Christmas, for it is regarded as an omen of bad luck if a cat meows on Christmas eve.

In Russia, children go from house to house demanding candy or other treats—much as children do elsewhere on Halloween.

In Czechoslovakia, tradition calls for young women to place a cherry twig in a glass of water on December 4. If it blossoms before Christmas eve, it is a token that she will marry within the year.

In Latin America, a large earthenware jar is filled with candy, and children are blindfolded and each given a turn at hitting the jar with a stick. When one succeeds in breaking it, the candy showers down and the child is the neighborhood hero for the day.

THROUGHOUT the Christian world, certain foods are associated with Christmas.

In America, a turkey or ham traditionally graces the table.

In England, mince pie is a Christmas treat, and the roasted boar's head with an apple in its mouth is circulated at great dinners.

In Germany, marzipan is made into all sorts of shapes, and colored to look like roast fowl, hams, vegetables and fruits.

In France, spiced gingerbread, Strasbourg pie and black pudding are traditional dishes.

In Italy, Magi cakes, fried eels, melons and a variety of meats are served at Yuletide.

A Christmas pig is roasted in Poland and Serbia.

AND so it goes around the world. Every land celebrates the day in its own way. But the central theme is the same—reverence and joy.

Even the disenchanting are softened at Christmas. The president of the National Council of Churches remarked recently:

"... Each year as the holiday approaches, somehow the message of God breaks through to us. Every year the miracle is the same: Scrooge goes into hiding, the idea of giving replaces the idea of getting; the irreligious go to church; radio and television change their tune and program..."

He appealed for people to keep their hearts open all year around, not just at Christmas. We wish they would too, but doubt that they will. Christmas wanes, and by the time the needles drop from the tree and the toys are put away, the "work-a-day" world is back again and the magic has faded.

But that is later. Tomorrow is Christmas. May yours be a merry and happy one.—E.A.

Mollet, Eden Ride Out Storm Following Mid-East Invasion

By CHARLES M. McCANN United Press Correspondent Prime Minister Anthony Eden and Premier Guy Mollet have succeeded in riding out the storm aroused by their invasion of the Suez Canal Zone.

Both men have faced critical parliaments in debates on events of the last few weeks and have won votes of confidence.

Any immediate threat to Eden's retention of his post seems to have been dissipated.

But his personal position as Britain's leader undoubtedly has been weakened. So has the position of his Conservative Party.

Mollet, however, has come out of the debate in the French National Assembly stronger, if anything, than he had been.

It is a somewhat ironical situation. Eden has Majority Eden's Conservatives have 345 of the 630 seats in the House of Commons. They are assured of being in power until the spring of 1960 in the normal course of events.

Eden himself might, of course, be forced out by pressure from members of his own party, to be succeeded by another Conservative. Or the government might decide to call a general election on some big issue which is thought would give it an advantage over the Laborites.

But the government could be overthrown only by the defection of a big group of Conservative members of Commons.

Mollet, on the other hand, is strictly a minority premier. His Socialist party won only 95 of the 697 National Assembly seats in the election of Jan. 2, 1956. The Communists won 144 seats, and control another six held by fellow-travelers.

Mollet rules as the head of a shaky coalition of moderate parliamentary groups. It could be overthrown at any time on a vote of confidence.

When Mollet took office last Feb. 1 as France's 22nd postwar premier, it was predicted he would not last long.

But now they are saying in Paris that Mollet is sure to remain the leader longer than any of his predecessors. Henri Queuille, who stayed in office for one year and 12 days back in 1948 and 1949, holds the post-war longevity record now.

No Replacement Mollet's strength is that there is nobody to take his place. As the Assembly stands, any government which took office would need the votes of either Mollet's Socialists or the

Communists. The Communists are unwelcome bedfellows in any possible combination. And the Socialists would hardly support any coalition which overthrew Mollet.

Both Eden and Mollet face a lot of troubles. One of Eden's is Cyprus. Mollet's big problem is Algeria.

Britain has just announced a proposed constitution which would give Cyprus some measure of home rule. Both Greece, which wants Cyprus, and Turkey, which does not want Greece to have it, take a dim view of it.

Mollet is awaiting a good opportunity to announce a new plan by which he hopes to end the Algerian revolt, which has been bleeding France since it broke out Nov. 1, 1954. But the plan will provide that Algeria remain a part of France. It is questionable whether the rebels will settle for anything less than outright independence.

United Press correspondents around the world look ahead at the news that will make the headlines.

Blockbuster The Senate Investigating subcommittee is quietly getting ready for blockbuster hearings in the early spring on labor racketeering. Investigators have been digging into the background of the New York hoodlums implicated in the acid-blinding of labor columnist Victor Riesel.

But that phase of the spade work is described as only incidental to the main investigation, which has threads leading to most of the country's major industrial centers.

Times Have Changed A few years ago it would have been incredible. But you can look for the appointment next spring of a German general as commander in chief of the North Atlantic Treaty ground forces in Central Europe. He's Lt. Gen. Hans Speidel, chief of the armed forces section of the West German Defense Ministry and one-time chief of staff to "Desert Fox" Field Marshal Erwin Rommel. Insiders say Speidel is a near-certainty for the post, now vacant. The appointment is being delayed to permit the West German Defense Ministry to reorganize its top army command before Speidel leaves.

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Mrs. Luce Pays Last Visit To Italian Head Rome (UPI) — Retiring U.S. Ambassador to Italy Clare Boothe Luce paid a farewell visit Sunday to President Giovanni Gronchi. She is scheduled to leave for Washington Dec. 26.

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control, some parents are unable to meet this obligation. If theirs were the only youngsters who needed help from outsiders, our delinquency problem would never have become so acute. Unfortunately, however, thousands of mothers and fathers have constructed a barrier of neglect and disinterest between themselves and their children. Herein lies the core of the problem.

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Matter of Fact

IT'S UP TO FOSTER Washington — At the NATO meeting in Paris, the British and French representatives in effect told Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, "it's up to you."

Thereby meaning United Nations troops. The pattern is so clear. The American government impulsively took a leading role in rescuing President Nasser without asking him for a single commitment of future cooperation. And now Nasser, who has played his own relatively weak cards with a skill worthy of a bridge master, has pretty well gained control of the head; and he is not going to cooperate.

ON TOP of this, Nasser some time ago mounted an all-out attack on the Western governments of his enemy, Nuri Pasha, in Iraq. The cutting of the trans-Syrian pipeline, which automatically cuts off most of Iraq's oil income, is part of the attack.

In order to strengthen Nuri's position in Iraq, the British government has been beseeching the State department to bring the United States into the Baghdad pact. But the decision has now been made not to join the pact (which was Secretary Dulles' idea in the first place) because joining would mean trouble in the Senate.

The arguments against joining the Pact are obvious, but the arguments against doing the positive things that would have left us with a few high cards—the Suez and Syrian games with President Nasser. Arguments against positive action are always plentiful. But suppose all these games are lost, at Suez, in Syria and in Iraq. What then are we to say to our allies? And what will they say to us after their most vital interests in the Middle East have at last been destroyed?

(Copyright 1956, New York Herald Tribune Inc.) Plans of religious and historical importance in Jordan include the enclave in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Amman, Jericho, The Dead Sea, Samaria, Hebron, Jerusa and Petra.

IN THESE circumstances, the British and French, and the Israelis too, rather understandably argue that the responsibility for safeguarding their vital interests has now passed to us. This means, in effect, that by hook or by crook, through the United Nations, by prayer or by pressure, the American government has got to get four essential things done in a reasonable time.

First, the canal itself must be rapidly cleared. Second, the broken pipeline from Iraq across Syria must be restored to use within reasonable time. Third, President Nasser must be persuaded to accept a system of Suez canal management offering at least modest guarantees to the users. And fourth, passage of Israeli ships through the canal must be guaranteed in particular; and arrangements must be made for the Gaza strip that will protect Israel against future attacks by Egyptian guerrillas.

But the signs are very clear already that getting these things done is going to be inordinately difficult, if not actually impossible. In our dealings with President Nasser, we have imitated the kind of bridge player who runs out all his aces in the first leads, and so leaves the opposition in total control of the hand thereafter. We have pressured the British and French into doing the same.

ONLY the Israelis have obstinately insisted on keeping at least one ace in hand. They have refused to evacuate the Gaza strip until they have something a little more solid to go on than President Nasser's frequent, warm but highly unspecific professions of good will to the American ambassador in Cairo.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian government is plainly in no hurry to get the canal open as rapidly as possible. It has been taking the position that negotiations about the future status of the canal cannot even begin until the United Nations force has actually left Egypt.

Qualified Egyptian spokesmen have further insisted that free passage of the canal by Israeli ships cannot possibly be permitted — although this will amount to defiance of the United Nations. And spokesmen of the Syrian government have said that the oil pipeline cannot be repaired while "there are foreign troops on Egyptian soil."

JOY to the World GEO. N. TAYLOR Joy to the world; the Lord has come. The girls in training in the Mission Hospital in Africa have that joy. Yesterday, they ran wild in the jungle. Today they work in uniforms in wards and surgery. Sundays the truck drops them off two by two and the healthen kids pile out of the jungle for the teaching. The hospital itself had 90 some converts the first 11 months this year.

You believe down in your heart that Christ died for your ever last sin? Then stand on it that God has your name in his Book of Life. Now daily, by Bible and prayer, grow up. This message sponsored by a Scappoose family. —adv.

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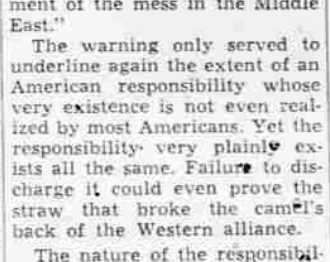
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