

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.

10 YEARS AGO

Jan. 1, 1946 (Wednesday) Plant failure of California-Pacific Utilities company stops flow of gas to homes on west side of town yesterday.

20 YEARS AGO

Jan. 1, 1936 (Friday) Expressions of gratitude continue to be received here for aid extended to the people of Bandon, the coast city destroyed by forest fire last September.

30 YEARS AGO

Jan. 1, 1926 (Saturday) Sale of War Eagle Mining property, 20 miles northeast of Medford in the Beagle and Sams Valley district, to a Chicago syndicate, is announced.

40 YEARS AGO

Jan. 1, 1916 (Monday) December had a total precipitation of 1.71 inches, making the total for the year 1916 14.51 inches compared with 25 year average of 25.6 inches.

What's Your I.Q.?

Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.

- 1. Did most ancient nations observe the custom of celebrating New Year's Day by festive rejoicing? 2. Were the Persians, Christians, or Romans the first to celebrate New Year's Day by exchanging presents of eggs? 3. Was Dec. 25 ever celebrated as New Year's Day? 4. The Jewish New Year is reckoned from the first month of Tishri (Sept. 6-Oct. 5): Is this their ecclesiastical or civil year? 5. Does Egypt have one, two, or three New Year's Day celebrations? 6. The Chinese celebrate all their holidays for the year at one time: Is this at the beginning of the New Year? 7. Which day in France is more festive: New Year's Day or Christmas Day? 8. The world's most colorful New Year celebration is held in which country: Japan, Thailand, or China? 9. Does Greece observe New Year's Day on Jan. 1? 10. Are gifts to children in Italy given on Christmas Day or during the New Year celebrations? Answers: 1. Yes. 2. Persians. 3. Yes. In Anglo-Saxon England. 4. Civil year. 5. Two. The Christian and Moslem. 6. Yes. 7. New Year's Day. 8. Japan. 9. Yes. 10. New Year celebrations. On Epiphany (day of the Three Wise Men).

Another Suit for Libel

We can sympathize with the Eugene Register-Guard. It has been sued for \$600,000 by a circuit judge who claims he was defamed, degraded, humiliated and libelled to that MODEST sum.

THE Mail Tribune was sued for \$100,000 libel several years ago—so many in fact that the dollar then was worth about twice as much as it is now—and the MT had about half as much borrowing power.

It was, we thought at the time an ABSURD and purely vindictive charge, and still think so. For the paper was not sued for anything it had said editorially or in its news columns, the damaging item was a single word in a communication to the paper, signed by the writer who was a well known and responsible citizen (now deceased) who was at the time active in Republican politics and working hard;—he was a hard worker and 100 percent partisan in every cause in which he took an interest—for the new High school site on the west rather than the east side of town.

The term used in the communication was "pettifogger". It applied to certain proponents of the east-side site, and it not only passed the editorial blue-pencil but passed the proof reader, as mild and innocuous as compared with certain terms in general circulation hereabouts during that heated local campaign.

But the citizens thus designated were lawyers and they knew better. A "pettifogger" it seems was and is what the legal profession calls "libel per se", for it meant, and presumably still means (quoting the dictionary) "an inferior lawyer who uses petty, mean, cheating methods." WOW!

That taught the Mail Tribune editorial staff a needed lesson. It has never been forgotten moreover: Never use a word, editorially or otherwise without first knowing its exact meaning and all the implications thereof.

Even so, the editorial staff then functioning, was confident no jury would ever award any such sum to the gentlemen in question, or one half of one percent, if any, of such an amount under all the circumstances existing.

HOWEVER, the libel action was duly filed, the papers served, and the Mail Tribune decided—as no doubt the Register Guard will have to decide—that it could not take a chance by allowing the action to go by default.

SO, the then M.T. attorney took over and after several months of demurrers and legal motions, etc., etc., allowing the aggrieved gentlemen-of-the-law to cool off somewhat, the latter, probably then agreeing in general, with the opinion of the editorial staff previously held withdrew the suit. Everybody shook hands and the incident was charged up to local politics, too highly stimulated adrenal glands and forgotten.

BUT the bill for various court actions and legal services was not and could not be forgotten.

We can't recall the exact cost of the libel suit to this newspaper, but we remember clearly it took us over 6 months to pay it, via various and sundry installments, and careful economizing.

WHICH brings us to the point of this offering namely:

We don't know what if any grounds the plaintiff in this Eugene action had or has for filing a suit for such a flattering sum, but if the case should be brought to trial and the jury should—as we predict it will—return a verdict of "not guilty" then the costs should be charged against the disgruntled plaintiff not against the newspaper.

Otherwise the principle of "black mail" would be upheld and sustained. For by merely threatening to file, or actually filing such a suit, the newspaper realizing the cost of defending it, regardless of its merit, might well be impelled to save money by reaching a settlement out of court, and that would in all probability be what the plaintiff was after in the first place.

WE TRUST the above will not call for a contempt of court citation or a suit for vicarious libel! There is one thing for sure, we have not used that term "pettifogger" above since and so long as the MT is under its present management it never will be—AGAIN! In the letter-box or elsewhere. —R.W.R.

It "IS" the Climate

We will let the prophetic and pontifical Mr. Babson consult his crystal-ball and tell the waiting world what the year 1957 is going to be—and not be.

He was one of the few "wise men" who called his shots correctly back in 1928, and he may be 100% correct this time.

As far as the present writer is concerned he hasn't the slightest idea what will transpire in the next twelve months and has no desire to guess.

The undersigned ONLY HOPES Lady Luck will be as active as in 1956 and the Weather Man won't be. (PERIOD!)

PERHAPS there have been worse years climatically since General Grant slept in Grants Pass—it's a fine place to sleep they say—but if so we made no record of them. The final two months of '56 have been particularly obnoxious.

We did not expect much sunshine or entire absence of rain, but we also did NOT expect, no sunshine at all, wind and snow, floods and above all this eternal reprehensible and perpetual fog! (Another-period please).

Influential Committee in West May Have All Western Senators

BY A. ROBERT SMITH Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington — The most influential congressional committee as far as the West and the territories are concerned is expected to be composed entirely of westerners for the first time in history when the 85th Congress is organized early in January.

This is the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, which handles all irrigation and power bills, public lands and Indian problems, mining and all territorial issues from statehood on down.

Until a few years ago nearly a third of the 15 members of this blue ribbon committee were non-westerners. But one by one the southern, eastern and mid-westerners have been shifting to other committee posts.

Reason for Shift One big reason for the shift is the big controversy over the disposition of the tidelands or off-shore oil lands has been settled by Congress. Bills to grant title to these lands to the coastal states were handled by the Interior committee year after year until one was finally passed into law early in President Eisenhower's first term.

As long as this legislation was pending, senators from such states as Texas, Louisiana and Florida held tight to their seats on the committee and gained seniority in the process.

These same senators took generally conservative attitudes toward many other bills that came up in the committee, from Hells Canyon to statehood for Alaska and Hawaii. Often their votes against such legislation was a

Matter of Fact

By Joe and Stewart Alsop

Johnson and THE LIBERALS Washington—The much-heralded "revolt of the Liberals" in the Democratic party has turned into the dampest of damp squibs, at least for the time being. The main reason it is a damp squib is to be found in the person of Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson, the dominant man in the new Senate, and about the most interesting figure on Capitol Hill.

Already Johnson, together with House Speaker Sam Rayburn, has briskly squashed the proposal advanced by the party liberals for an "advisory com-

mittee" to guide Democratic policy. Now the attempt by the same liberal forces to knock out Senate Rule 22, led by Senators Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota and Paul Douglas of Illinois among others, is to be squashed in its turn.

The net effect of Rule 22, of course, is to make it virtually impossible to break a filibuster. The 1956 Democratic platform is explicitly committed to eliminating the Rule, and the Northern Democrats in this instance have been joined by a number of Republicans, like Vikes of New York, Potter of Michigan, and Kuchel of California. But the highest current estimate of the anti-Rule 22 vote is 30. Johnson opposes the attempt to knock out Rule 22, and what Johnson says goes.

PART of the reason for Johnson's extraordinary influence is personal. The Northern Liberals like Johnson and respect him—it is as simple as that. Take the case of Senator Humphrey, who made his national reputation when he forced a strong civil rights plank on a reluctant Democratic convention in 1948. In the last two sessions of Congress Humphrey, who entered the Senate with the reputation of a wild man of the left, worked very closely with Johnson, becoming in the process an intimate personal friend. Unlike Douglas and others, Humphrey did not tell Johnson in advance that he meant to join the "Liberal revolt."

As a result there has been a slight chilliness between them. But there is reason to believe that the main reason Humphrey did not discuss the matter with Johnson was that he suspected the persuasive Johnson would talk him out of it. And after the

WE SHALL leave the final statistics to the Weather Bureau where they belong but with this warning:

If the Weather Man doesn't do a better job in the coming year than in the passing one, then we suggest a sabbatical year for him in the everglades of Florida, and moving Medford bag and baggage to the top of Roxy Ann or the upper reaches of the Applegate river as soon as arrangements can be made. Do we hear a "second?"—R.W.R.

critical factor in the outcome at the time.

Responsible for Bill Sen. Russell Long (D-La.) was principally responsible for bottling up the high Hells Canyon bill in this committee during much of the 84th Congress—and that bill came out to the floor only after he transferred to another post. Sen. George Smathers (D-Fla.), was and continues to be one of the most articulate opponents of statehood—but he, too, is gone to another committee. So is Sen. Price Daniels, (D-Tex.) an ex-member since his election to the governorship of the Lone Star state.

The three vacancies on the committee are expected to go to two Democrats—probably Senators-elect Frank Church of Idaho and John Carroll of Colorado—and one Republican—Sen. Gordon Allott (R-Col.).

If this lineup materializes, it will mean the 15-member group will be composed entirely of western senators for the first time. It will be headed by Sen. James E. Murray (D-Mont.), providing the Democrats have sufficient votes to control the Senate and thereby gain the important chairmanships of committees.

Two Members The Pacific Northwest already has two members—Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), who has served as chairman of the subcommittee on territories; and Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.). Idaho is already represented by Sen. Henry Dworshak (R). The importance to western states of this committee is illustrated by the prospect of Idaho's other senator, Frank Church, taking a seat on it.

Both of the senators from Wyoming and Nevada also sit on this committee. While California, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona

leftwing Americans for Democratic action, which has been instrumental in sparking the "Liberal revolt," called for Johnson's ouster, Humphrey took great pains to assure Johnson of his continued support.

PERSUASIVENESS is one secret of Johnson's power. His genius as a Parliamentarian is another. Another is his infinite capacity for taking pains. Within 24 hours of the recent election, Johnson had telephone calls from newly elected Democratic Senator to congratulate him personally, and to chat about the forthcoming session.

But another reason why the Liberals have no real stomach for a fight with Johnson is the simple fact that on most issues he is one of them. On civil rights and oil, a Texan can only vote one way. But on issues like the Minimum Wage, Public Housing, Public Power, Farm Aid, and so on, Johnson stands foursquare with Humphrey, Douglas, and the rest of the Northern Democrats.

Moreover, Johnson derives immense prestige from the simple fact that the Senate stayed Democratic under the "moderate" Johnson, while the "Liberal" Adlai Stevenson was murdered at the polls. Yet Johnson, for all his power and prestige, is caught in a dilemma.

WITH his central position in the party hierarchy, with his Liberal record on many issues, Johnson will be an obvious candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1960, if his health hold out. His friends do not believe that this thought displeases him. Yet Johnson is also up for renomination in Texas, where he has numerous enemies, in 1960.

In the coming years, it will not be easy for Johnson to make a record which will please his Texas constituents without finally alienating the Liberal forces which exercise a veto power at Democratic conventions. And the Northern Democrats who staged the abortive "Liberal revolt" are also faced with a dilemma—the same dilemma in reverse.

For they have read the election returns, and they are unhappily aware that the minority groups which have been solid for the Democrats in the North—especially the Negroes—are slipping over to the Republicans. This is why the "revolt of the Liberals," however much the Liberals may like and respect Johnson, may not turn out in the end to be quite as dead as it looks now. At any rate it will be interesting to see how the agile and brilliantly astute Johnson handles the situation in which he now finds himself.

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all have one senator each on the roster.

If Alaska and Hawaii should become states during the 85th Congress, one senator at least from each of these new states would doubtless request a seat on this committee. Because while statehood, their most important bill, would have become law, they would then be in much the same position of the western states in having a great stake in the progress of legislation affecting resource development.

Editorial Comment

EDUCATORS GO IF WAGE LOW

The unofficial news that our favorite professor in our favorite institution of higher learning in Oregon will leave next year for a higher paying job in another state brings home painfully the urgent need for more funds for higher education. The loss of this professor, recognized worldwide as an authority in his field, follows other losses in a pattern which can be described only as an exodus. Our finest professors and our most promising instructors and assistant and associate professors are leaving for greener fields to be found in many other states.

Oregon cannot afford these losses. At the same time, it cannot afford to match the highest competitor, but the state's only hope to keep good educators lies in doing the very best it can for them, which is considerably more than is being done now.

Chancellor John Richards has appealed for \$47,569,395 in state money from the 1957-58 Legislature. This is over \$14.5 million or 44 per cent more than the 1954-55 Legislature granted and it is money that won't be easy to raise. But the greatest effort must be made to meet the need.

It is not only the loss of educators which threatens the state, although this, to us, is the greatest peril. There are other considerations such as the growing increase in enrollment and the boom yet to come, the fact that we are even now budgeting less than is needed just for current education costs, and the fact that the economy is now somewhat inflationary and money does not go so far as it used to. A greater increase in enrollment even than what is expected or a marked inflation could just about ruin higher education in Oregon if there were no corresponding increase in the budget.

We don't expect miracles from the Legislature, but we expect improvement in education budgeting.—Coos Bay Times.

FREIGHT RATES

The freight rate increase awarded last week to the railroads puts the bite again on the farmer of the Northwest. When rail rates go up he gets it, and from two directions. This latest increase of 5 per cent will increase the farmer's shipping costs on grain approximately 3 1/2 of a cent per bushel. He must absorb that. He can't add it to the price he gets for his grain.

That isn't the extent of the farmer's loss, however. The manufacturer who supplies the farmer with machinery and other products adds the freight rate increase to the cost of those products. All things the farmer uses will cost more. The net effect of this double-edged assault is to reduce the farmer's income.

This is a situation that will continue to exist until there is a sufficient population in the Northwest to consume the farm produce of the region. Recognizing the situation does not, however, make it any more palatable for the farmer of the Northwest.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

DISCRIMINATION

Senator Richard L. Neuberger advises that he and Congressman-Elect Charles O. Porter will attempt in the next congressional session to secure repeal of the 3 per cent federal excise tax on freight shipments. The senator contends the tax bears too heavily on Oregon shippers, largely because of the distance between Oregon and great markets.

The senator has a handful of facts to back up his contention that the tax is discriminatory. He points out, to cite just one example, that the freight charges on a carload of lumber amounts to \$675, if the lumber is shipped from Atlanta to Pittsburgh. The but \$410 if the lumber is shipped from Atlanta to Pittsburgh. The Oregon shipper must pay 40 per cent more—not only 40 per cent more in freight charges, but 40 per cent more in tax. The senator says that's discrimination. And it sounds like discrimination to us, too.

We hope Oregon shippers who are concerned about this problem will keep the senator's office supplied with ammunition for his battle to keep Oregon's economy healthy. Politics should be forgotten in this connection and the Republicans and Democrats alike should work together to secure a better break for Oregon products.—Eugene Register-Guard.



SOVIET SHAKEUP—Maxim Soburev (top), top Soviet economic adviser, was fired as head of State Economic Commission and replaced by First Deputy Premier Mikhail Perukhin (bottom) in major Moscow shakeup. Perukhin has been ordered to step up Russian production and streamline Soviet industry.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

It seems reasonably certain that in the California legislature that is due to assemble shortly redivision of the state's water will be the No. 1 issue. This is the situation:

The bulk of California's water originates in the northern counties—that is, the counties lying north of say Sacramento. The bulk of the state's NEED for water lies south of Sacramento.

The problem is to determine how much of the northern counties' water is SURPLUS and therefore can be spared to the rest of the state. The problem is complicated by the fact that present no one knows what the future needs of the counties where the bulk of the water originates will be.

UNDER existing law, the counties of origin have a prior right to the use of the water originating within their borders. It seems certain that at the coming session of the legislature an effort will be made to limit this prior right. The battle will develop over the terms of the limitation.

IT WOULD be difficult enough at any time to engineer a re-division of California's water supplies that would satisfy both the far north, where the bulk of the water originates, and the areas to the south whose water needs seem to be limitless.

But this year it will be harder still. The reason is that presently California is facing a drought that might turn out to be a bad one. Red Bluff reports the worst drought in 80 years. Grass that a year ago was green and lush is now dry and sparse. In the past two months, only .28 of an inch of rain has fallen at Sacramento. In the same period, San Diego has had only .18 of an inch—3.73 inches short of normal. The whole San Joaquin valley is far short of normal rainfall.

Los Angeles county has had a bare .46 of an inch since July, as compared with a normal of 4.4 inches. With a possible drought in the offing, people will be apt to be a lot more particular about a reshuffle of the state's water supplies than they would have been last year, when the big news was the flood situation.

UP HERE in Southern Oregon and far Northern California, we believe as firmly as anybody could believe anything that precipitation in the form of rain and snow is a NATURAL RESOURCE. We think that if anybody wants to use our water HE SHOULD COME UP HERE AND USE IT.

We think it would be the rankest kind of injustice to take our water away from us to be used by people in areas that don't have water enough to go around. Sunshine and year-around summer weather are natural resources that have been responsible for much of Southern California's spectacular growth. It isn't possible, of course, to MOVE sunshine and year-around summer climate. But if it were possible, we are quite sure up here that Southern California would resent bitterly any attempt on our part to move them UP HERE.

WE WANT it clearly understood, of course, that if and when it can be proved that over the long years of the future we are going to have more water than we need for our own development we will be willing to share our surplus with those who don't have enough water. But we don't know yet what our future water needs will be. Until we do know, we shall be in no position to bargain about disposal of our "surplus" water.

Animal Disease Class Scheduled

Eagle Point — A 10-week course in "Control and Prevention of Disease With Farm Animals," the first adult education class to be offered at Eagle Point High school, will begin in the new vocational agriculture building Jan. 3 at 8 p.m.

Classes will be under professional instruction of Dr. E. M. Hanawalt, D.V.M., Central Point, and will meet once a week for two hours. Subjects will include symptoms in diagnosis of foot diseases, internal parasites and foot diseases. Movies, lectures, question sessions and farm demonstrations will be used in the course.

Registration will take place at the first class meeting, but late registrations will be accepted if there is enough room in the class, it was pointed out.

There will be a five-dollar charge for the 10 sessions. Of this amount, \$3.50 will be for tuition, one dollar for refreshments and 50 cents for complete supplements of Dr. Hanawalt's notes.

Additional information may be obtained from Darrell Stanley, vocational agricultural advisory board chairman, or Nat Eitel, vocational agriculture instructor at Eagle Point High school.

Threatened Strike Called Off Today

Portland — (U.P.) — A threatened strike by AFL-CIO iron workers in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana today has been called off. The threat of a strike in the near future still remained however, as the executive board's action only canceled the strike deadline.

Spokesmen said the deadline was cancelled, pending a meeting of the full district council Saturday.

About 3500 members of the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers are involved in the dispute over wages.

Extension of Time Granted in Fong Case

Salem — (U.P.) — An extension of time until January 31 was granted the Multnomah county district attorney's office to file its brief in the case of Sherry Fong, who is under life imprisonment sentence for the slaying of her teenage baby sister.

An appeal to the state supreme court from her conviction has been filed by Mrs. Fong. Briefs were filed by her attorney's several days ago.

She was convicted by a Multnomah county jury after a stormy legal proceeding for the slaying of 16-year-old Diane Hank, in Portland in 1954.



Counsel with Mr. Insurance FRB BRENNAN Phone 2-4940 SORRY, NO POLICY! We don't have a policy to cover the breakage of NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS. But we do have a sincere desire to wish each of you A HEALTHY, HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR. MEDFORD INSURANCE AGENCY

WATCH FOR NORFIELD'S JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE! BEGINNING FRIDAY, JANUARY 4