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

10 YEARS AGO
March 27, 1947 (Thursday)
J. Carlisle Crouch, chief ranger of Crater Lake National park, is promoted to assistant superintendent of Blue Ridge parkway.

20 YEARS AGO
March 27, 1937 (Saturday)
Tickets for the Shrine benefit dance Monday are being sold at the Oriental Gardens, according to Paul B. Rynning, chairman.

30 YEARS AGO
March 27, 1927 (Sunday)
The visit of V. T. Jackson of Roseburg, grand master of IOOF of Oregon, to Medford has been postponed.

40 YEARS AGO
March 27, 1917 (Tuesday)
Blossoms of earlier varieties of fruit trees are advanced enough to be injured by frost, according to extension agents.

What's Your I.Q.?
Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.

1. Which state touches only one other?
2. If cassino is the name of a card game, what is a casino?
3. Bible. Was Abraham born in a great city?

Answers: 1. Maine. 2. In Italy, a kind of country home. 3. Yes. Ur. 4. George Washington's mother. 5. Evergreen tree. 6. No. 7. Spaniard. 8. Missouri. 9. Bible. 10. Captain.

OTHER SIDE OF BENCH

Thomaston, Ga. — (U.P.) — Judge John McGhee, who started his law practice 25 years ago, thought Junior Sparks, brought before him on a moonshining charge, looked familiar. McGhee checked to learn where he had seen Sparks before and then sentenced his first client to serve 12 months or pay a \$250 fine.

School Equalization

The Oregon State Senate on Friday will consider Senate Bill 64, the so-called "key district" bill for statewide school equalization.

The measure is not a simple one, exactly, although its objectives are clear and can be stated concisely. It attempts to put into effect the constitutional mandate for the state to "provide by law for the establishment of a uniform and general system of common schools."

We are perhaps too prone to think of the public schools as exclusively local in character. Constitutionally, however, the responsibility lies with the state, which has delegated its authority to the local school boards and administrators and, to a large degree, local taxpayers.

ABOUT 10 years ago, the state recognized its responsibility for school support, and set up the Basic School Support Fund, which provided for \$50 per census child per year—at that time about one-half of the cost of "basic" education. Later the amount was raised to \$80, where it remains today. Because of increases in costs, the \$80 today provides less than 30 per cent of the "basic" education.

There is in the legislature a proposal to increase this amount from \$80 to \$120—a 50 per increase which would bring the state's contribution up to about one-half of basic education costs again.

The original intent of the basic school support law was to equalize educational opportunities and tax costs throughout the state. The school support fund was distributed on a formula designed to accomplish this.

OVER the years, however, due to fluctuations in property valuations, the formula got further and further "out of line," to the point where today the richest districts, best able to afford good schools, are receiving a disproportionate amount of the school fund.

It is to correct this that Senate Bill 64 was written. It was prepared over a period of several years by a group of school men and others.

Without going into the technicalities of how the measure would operate, it can be stated that it would call for uniform taxation throughout the state on a millage basis to provide a "basic" education for all children.

If, in any locality, this millage would not raise sufficient funds to provide the basic requirements, the state fund would be apportioned to the less-fortunate districts on an equalization basis.

THIS is the controversial crux of the measure, which also has other provisions regarding distribution of parts of the total school fund.

It has been opposed by Portland educators, and by a few in eastern Oregon, who would not receive proportionately as much money under the proposal as they now do.

(Recently a Klamath Falls group was asked why they opposed the measure. They replied "We oppose it on principle. It would cost us \$500,000. And that's a lot of principle.")

Both Portland papers have editorialized against it. But the fundamental principle of a uniform system of common schools is written into our constitution, and the principle of equalization has long been a part of our school laws.

SENATE Bill 64 is designed to bring these principles into practical effect in the state today. It is probably not a "perfect" bill—little legislation can be called perfect. But it is a product of years of study by highly competent people, designed to do a job which needs to be done if Oregon is to continue to maintain her historic standards of public education.

If it is granted that the constitutional mandate for uniform common schools, and the precedent written into law for equalization, are to be followed, then SB64 appears to be the approach which should be taken.—E.A.

More Government Jobs

Officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are appearing before a House subcommittee on manpower utilization to explain why they need a requested increase of 25 per cent during the next 15 months in the department's work force. They should have no great difficulty. The Soil Bank set up by Congress last year, with an annual \$1.2 billion to distribute among farmers, probably accounts for most of the additional jobs.

Other departments and agencies may have more trouble in convincing the congressmen that they need more hands. The Eisenhower budget, now under attack from many quarters, calls for an increase of 73,000 federal employees. Rep. James C. Davis (D-Ga.), chairman of the House subcommittee, says that would add \$360 million to the government payroll. He suggests that the time may be at hand to put an over-all ceiling on government jobs or even to reduce them by 10 per cent. "The situation confronting Congress today calls for action over and above the ordinary," he said.

During the first two years of the Eisenhower administration 200,000 employees were separated from the federal payroll. This compared with 140,000 added during the first two years of Franklin D. Roosevelt. The firings were labeled reductions in force (RIFs) but Democrats in Congress complained that job holders of their political persuasion were being rolled out of office on the slightest pretext. Civil employees of the federal government now number about 2.5 million, as against 3.8 million at the end of the war in 1945.—E.R.R.

Admission of Spain to NATO May Be Sought Soon by U.S.

By CHARLES M. McCANN United Press Correspondent

The United States soon may propose the admission of Spain to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Spain's admission to the great European alliance against Communist aggression is favored by the Eisenhower administration.

Spain itself is eager to join. It would be surprising if President Eisenhower and British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan did not discuss the question in their talks in Bermuda last week.

Britain and France long have opposed Spain's admission to NATO. But it has been reported recently that they have changed their minds.

At a time when some other NATO countries are trying to reduce their armed strength as an economy measure, Spain's addition to the 15-nation alliance certainly would strengthen it.

Urged by House Group The House of Representatives

Foreign Affairs committee on March 18 unanimously approved a resolution calling for the admission of Spain.

The resolution, which is awaiting passage by full House and Senate, was proposed by the State Department. It said that the department should "continue to use its good offices toward the end of achieving participation by Spain in the NATO organization."

Britain and France have been cold toward Spain partly because of his totalitarian rule. But Franco is about as anti-Communist as anybody could be. That is one thing in Spain's favor. Franco has an army of about 300,000 men, and could mobilize about 2 million if another war broke out.

The United States signed a military agreement with Spain on Sept. 25, 1953. Under this agreement the United States is constructing four big air bases and one naval base in Spain.

Franco Can't Apply

Franco can not apply for admission to NATO. But there is no doubt he would join enthusiastically if asked.

Aside from the fact that Spain's entry would give NATO a needed lift at this time, there

is the country's important strategic position to think about. Sheltered behind the formidable Pyrenees Mountains, it might become the last allied bastion in Western Europe if Soviet Russia's Red armies swept across Europe.

Spaniards also point out that, if Spain joined NATO, its Canary Islands off the northwest coast of Africa might provide an additional allied air base. The United States has big air bases in nearby Morocco. But that newly independent country may become politically unstable in wartime.

There is to be a big meeting of NATO foreign ministers at Bonn, capital of West Germany, on May 2. It could be that Secretary of State John Foster Dulles will raise the question of Spain's admission then.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Weather shenanigans: The worst blizzard in 30 years is sweeping the Middle West... Eight states are affected, with the worst tie-ups in Kansas and Nebraska... It is estimated that 7500 highway travelers are marooned... Drifts up to 18 and 20 feet high clog nearly all the highways of Nebraska and Kansas and parts of Colorado and New Mexico... Trains are stuck in the snow all over the area... The blizzard is moving eastward and heavy snow is forecast for parts of Iowa, Missouri, Indiana and Lower Michigan.

Pretty rugged?

Wait a minute.

The greater part of this area lies in what the headlines have been calling the 1950's Dust Bowl. Much of it is drought riddled. When the snow deposited by the blizzard melts, it will do immeasurable good. There's a lot of water in 15 and 20-foot drifts.

Often people fail to count their blessings—clashing them, in the discomfort of the moment, as trials and tribulations.

WHEN news of the blizzard hit the Chicago Board of Trade this morning, wheat prices dropped. A lot of people will class that as a calamity.

Well—

Whatever else it is— It's the law of supply and demand in action. The blizzard, bringing added insurance to a large area of the nation's bread basket, will bring bigger crops of wheat instead of smaller crops of wheat.

THE pity of it is that instead of being CONSUMED these bigger crops of wheat will be stashed away in the already bursting warehouses, thus adding to the headaches of the taxpayers.

That's what comes of politics gone hog-wild.

IN THE MONTHLY publication of

the soil conservation service, issued by the department of agriculture, a Boise, Ida., official of the service appeals to farmers and other people to PROTECT hawks, eagles, falcons and other birds of prey.

He says: "The fast hawks, such as the prairie falcon, that are capable of catching game birds, feed very heavily on ground squirrels, bull snakes and other creatures that sometimes prey upon game birds and their eggs... A family of falcons, for example, catches enough destructive reptiles and mammals each year to far outweigh the few game birds they may catch while hunting over an area."

He adds that these birds, including even the much-slandered eagle, are victims of what he calls "some of the wildest of fictions."

WHAT he means is that we suffer grievous evils because WE KNOW SO MANY THINGS THAT AIN'T SO.

That goes for politics as well as birds of prey.

IN CLOSING, I'd like to call attention to a sweet-looking, white haired old lady in New Hampshire who has a war on with the Boston & Maine railroad. She says it's a scandal that the way the soulless corporation runs the road lets the windows of its passenger coaches get dirty. By doing so, she insists, the company prevents the tourists from seeing the lovely scenery of New England.

But— Instead of PROMOTING A LAW to compel the railroad to wash its windows oftener— She takes a bucket of water and a washrag and goes down to the station every morning and washes the windows herself! (There is talk of tossing her in the clink.)

IT'S GOOD to know there are a FEW rugged individualists left in our land of the free and the home of the brave.

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Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

BERMUDA

Our knowledge of what went on at Bermuda is, as this is written, very meager, and so it is likely to remain until we have the commentary from London and Washington by men who have been talked off the record.

Yet it would be surprising if anything surprising comes out that is not already indicated by the official communiqué.

This says, if I read it correctly, that the basic Anglo-American Atlantic alliance for the defense of Western Europe is intact and quite solid. The reduction of military forces which the British are planning to make is to be compensated by the American offer to supply new high powered weapons, such as guided missiles.

Beyond this basic alliance, which is also the core of NATO, the old partnership is, as they say in diplomacy, fluid. For the Pacific and for Japan and as far south as Vietnam, there is no partnership but rather an American sphere of influence. In the Middle East and in Africa there is not a concerted policy. There are fairly well defined common purposes, and there are commitments, which are not rigid or very strict, to consult. But there are very considerable differences of opinion as to what the situation really is and considerable differences as to what we ought to do.

WE MAY say, I think, that at Bermuda the British conceded that Western policy in the Middle East should for the present follow the line laid down by the President and Secretary Dulles. This acceptance of American leadership was not, however, unreserved. Whatever may be said of Britain's loss of influence in the Arab world, it is a British vital interest to have access to the oil of the Persian Gulf area. Although there were no warnings or threats of any kind, there was a distinct implication at Bermuda that Britain would follow American leadership in dealing with the Arab states as long as, but no longer than, its vital interests are not sacrificed.

WE OUGHT NOT, therefore, to allow the world to think that we have abdicated our own responsibility and are leaving everything to Mr. Hammarskjöld. For it is only as we accept the responsibility of restoring our power to bargain with Nasser that Mr. Hammarskjöld can be expected to negotiate successfully.

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A most important consequence of Bermuda is that the President and Mr. Dulles, having been conceded the right to lead and to administer their own rather than an agreed policy, have now become definitely responsible for the consequences. They are already responsible, as a result of their one-sided pressure, for the security of Israel. Beneath the bland and polite surface of the Bermuda communiqué, one can read that they have acquired the same kind of responsibility for the security of British, indeed of Western European, vital interests in the canal and the oil of the Middle East.

THE problem of negotiating with Nasser is, we have come to realize, inordinately difficult because, as things have developed, we have deprived ourselves of the power to bargain with him. We have given him a guarantee that we will not use force. We have given him specific proof that we will not allow Britain, France and Israel to use force. We have conceded that the U.N. has no independent authority and that it can act only with his consent. We have given him reason to believe that there is little likelihood of our agreeing to use sanctions against him. On the other hand, we have very little to offer him as a reward for substantial concessions.

Under these conditions it is unfair to expect Mr. Hammarskjöld to wring from Nasser the concessions which Nasser is under no pressure to concede. The Administration is well advised, no doubt, to try to negotiate with President Nasser through Mr. Hammarskjöld. But we must never lose sight of the fact that while Mr. Hammarskjöld may be the most acceptable negotiator, he has no bargaining power of his own beyond that which the United States possesses.

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Heavy Snow Blessing To Farmers in Iowa

Editor's note: The blizzard which paralyzed the Great Plains came as a blessing to many drought-stricken farmers. In the following dispatch, an Iowa farmer tells what it meant to him.

Creston, Iowa — (U.P.) — The gigantic spring snowstorm put drought-stricken Southwest Iowa farmers in "pretty good shape for spring planting," a farmer said today.

"That moisture will help a lot," Harold Cochrane said. "We got a little over two inches of moisture out of it and most of it will sink right in."

Two weeks ago, Cochrane reported the ground was so dry in this area that farmers digging in the holes had to pour water into the holes to enable them to dig out the dirt.

15 Inches of Snow

Then the spring storm hit, dousing the area first with rain and then burying it under a snowfall that measures up to 15 inches.

"I sure was glad to see that moisture," Cochrane said, "although I didn't care much for the way it came," adding that his farm buildings were flanked with 10-foot drifts.

"But," he said, "When you're in the shape we were in, I guess you have to be satisfied with second best."

A good spring rain would have been better, he said. Before the storm hit, he said farmers need a two or three inch gentle rain to put the ground in good shape for planting.

Just About Same

"We'll get just about that out of this," he said. "We got about one inch of rain before it started snowing. Then we got 10 inches of snow and that should give us

about another inch or so of moisture."

He said most of the melting snow will soak right into the ground because the frost was gone and little water would run off.

The snow was melting fairly fast as temperatures stayed above the freezing mark.

Three-year Drought

Cachrane farms 160 acres and has been hurt by a three-year drought. The Geological Survey reported several weeks ago that the drought situation in this area would become "very acute" unless there was above-average rainfall this spring.

"We still need good spring rains" for a good crop, Cochrane said. "But this moisture sure will help quite a bit and we should be in pretty good shape for spring planting."

Iowa Agriculture Secretary Clyde Spry said "for a certainty, the snow will give crops a good start" in the drought area.

It would cost "one million dollars to pump this much moisture over the farm land through irrigation pipes," he said.

ONE FOR THE BIRDS

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — Mrs. Beverly Jurman, 29, won a divorce Tuesday after she told the judge her husband, William, 35, "flew into a great rage because our baby lovebirds scattered seeds on the kitchen floor."

TV OR NOT TV

Muskegon, Mich. — (U.P.) — Guy Stiffler thinks one of his neighbors doesn't like television. Stiffler complained to police on Tuesday that someone had climbed onto his roof and cut the wires connecting his TV set to its antenna.

Plan For Tomorrow
An ever increasing number of the prudent and thoughtful are finding it well to plan today for the inevitable needs of tomorrow.

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