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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
April 25, 1947 (Friday)

Medford Health group launches 1947 campaign against cancer under chairmanship of Mrs. John S. Day.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column: The song of the lawnmower and the cussing of its operator, is again heard in the residential areas.

20 YEARS AGO
April 25, 1937 (Sunday)

First annual all-school fair will be held in the high school gymnasium Thursday and Friday, according to E. H. Hedrick, superintendent.

With four commercial building remodeling and moving projects planned for the near future, Medford and vicinity enters greatest construction period in seven years, according to City Building Inspector Frank Rogers.

30 YEARS AGO
April 25, 1927 (Monday)

Medford is asked to raise $750 for flood relief in the Mississippi valley, according to B. E. Harder, president of the First National bank.

Medford and vicinity is still in midst of an unseasonable warm spell, which began Saturday, and has had a maximum of 80 degrees.

40 YEARS AGO
April 25, 1917 (Wednesday)

First National Bank of Medford subscribes for $75,000 of new government treasury certificates being issued for war purposes.

Floyd H. Hart, second lieutenant, Coast Artillery corps, Oregon National Guard, is activated to U.S. aviation service.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. In 1831 the Hudson and Mohawk railroad was opened in which state?
2. Is it possible to determine the race of a man by microscopic examination of a cross section of hair; true or false?
3. BIBLE: Was Mariamne, daughter of Alexander the Asmonian, a wife of Herod or Herod the Great?
4. What does a soldier mean when he says he is being shipped home on T.D.?
5. Name the world-famous composer of many of America's best-loved songs, including "Old Man River" and "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes."
6. The largest island of the West Indies is ——?
7. Which President said: "Speak softly and carry a big stick"?
8. What rank do U. S. Naval Academy cadets receive when they graduate?
9. Is it appropriate to use "Say!" as an exclamation to draw attention, or introduce a remark—as, "Say! that's fine"?
10. Du Maurier's famous prescription for keeping a husband: "Feed the "b——e."

Answers: 1. New York. 2 True. 3 Herod the Great. 4. Temporary Duty. 5. Jerome Kern. 6. Cuba. 7. Theodore Roosevelt, (Minnesota State Fair, Sept. 2, 1901). 8. Ensign. 9. No. 10. "Brute."

Police Under Scrutiny

On July 20, 1953, an editorial in this space had some harsh things to say about the Medford police department.

A man had died from a skull fracture after having been confined in the city jail for two days. Subsequent investigation revealed he had received no medical care before or during his imprisonment.

This newspaper took the position that the police department had been in the wrong. It also demanded a thoroughgoing investigation of the department's methods and procedures.

The county grand jury studied the situation. So did a special city council committee, which brought in a skilled investigator. So did the veterans administration.

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THE ultimate result was a shake-up in the police department, the appointment of a new chief, and a revision of methods, procedures and standards, including training of officers and the treatment of prisoners.

Allegations of police brutality were made during the investigations, but were never proven. Suspicion remained, even after changes were placed in effect.

As a result, the department has been under close public scrutiny ever since. And, in the eyes of this newspaper, it has earned, the hard way, a new reputation for efficiency, fairness, and respect for the rights of individuals.

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IF A CASE ever arises again where evidence shows the police department to be in the wrong, this newspaper will not hesitate to again demand the full facts to be told, if necessary through the grand jury.

The police department is too close to the citizens to permit any deviation from the "straight and narrow"—and often difficult—path of even-handed law enforcement to long continue.

To our knowledge, no such case has been shown to have occurred. As with any police department, no matter how good, complaints have been made. In each instance which has come to our attention, we have checked it carefully. Some have been the result of misunderstanding. Some have been from chronic complainers, or "cop haters," or those who have been arrested for various offenses repeatedly, and carry a grudge against the department.

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A LETTER printed on this page earlier in the week insinuated many things about the police department.

It made no flat charges against any individuals, which might be libelous. But it conveyed the implication, without making any statements which could be proved or disproved, that certain unnamed members of the department are vengeful, brutal and liars, and that this is known to the responsible administrative officers of the department.

If these insinuations were well-founded, we would be among the first to yell about it. We are convinced, however, they are NOT well founded. They are in the same category as the hoary "Have you stopped beating your wife?" question.

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THIS is not to say that the Medford police department is perfect or beyond reproach. It isn't. No organization of 30 or so human beings is, or very well could be. Despite the best training, the closest supervision, the highest degree of screening of job-applicants, it is possible that isolated instances of improper actions could occur.

There is no evidence to show they have—but they are possible. It is for this reason that the department must, and will, remain under constant public scrutiny.

Meanwhile, we will continue to believe the evidence we have seen, and continue to see, that the police department is operated with a high degree of efficiency, responsibility and morale.—E.A.

Comet in the Sky

As this is written (on Thursday) we are still just a bit in doubt as to whether that streak of light in the sky Wednesday evening was the comet Arend-Roland.

But what else could it be?

Assuming the conclusion will be borne out by observation and by astronomers who know about such things, it is a rather exciting thing.

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NOT since 1910 has mankind had the chance to observe such a display of celestial fireworks. There are plenty of comets swimming about in the universe (Arend-Roland was the eighth spotted by astronomers during 1956 alone), but those that are large enough, and come close enough, to be seen by the naked eye are few and far between.

The next scheduled visitation of such a clearly visible visitor from outer space is in 1986, when Haley's comet is due back again.

But smaller comets are fairly common. Four are due to make their swings around the sun this year, one next year, three in 1959, and an even half-dozen in 1960. No one knows when a previously-unobserved comet might come by—as did Arend-Roland.

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THIS comet in the skies is not as large as some. Donati's comet, which visited the center of the solar system in 1858, had a tail that reached halfway from the horizon to the zenith.

Haley's comet makes its swings in from outer space each 76.02 years, and was first noted in 240 B.C. Others have shorter periods, and some have longer ones. Donati's comet has a period of about 2,000 years.

By the time Arend-Roland has left us, astronomers probably will be able to predict when it will return again—if ever. Comets, we are told, are often unpredictable.—E.A.

Babson Discusses Florida Settlement

By ROGER W. BABSON

Babson Park, Fla. — Nearly every day I get letters from people asking if I would recommend locating in Florida. My answer is "No" if you are hoping to get something for nothing; but "Yes," if you are "retiring" and receive a pension check from the North each month or have sufficient income of your own.

Roger W. Babson

Although lacking in a number of important natural resources, Florida has an abundance of sunshine, plenty of water, large amounts of phosphate, and sufficient limestone for cement. It can compete with California and sections as a mecca for tourists, vacationists, and retired folk. I am told that more than 2,000 people come into Florida each week intending to settle here. Many live on pensions or annuities or income from investments, and therefore have no need to seek employment. Others do need jobs, but not all can find them today.

In my observation, it is rather difficult to get a job in Florida unless you have special skills which the state's few industries can use. However, efforts to get natural gas by pipeline from Texas are now on the verge of succeeding. I predict that parts of the state will have natural gas by the summer of 1958. When the supply of this fuel is assured, industry should move into Florida at a very rapid pace.

Real Estate Boom

Mild climate has always been an attraction to prospective buyers of land for homes and businesses. Now that atomic energy is to be an added attraction, I forecast an even further boom in Florida real estate. The present boom will be far different from the "boom and bust" of the 1920s when sellers and buyers alike when just plain crazy. Sharp real estate operators, whose methods are questionable cannot be eliminated entirely, but Florida does attempt to curb land and stock frauds.

I am bullish on well-located Florida homes which are already built. I do not hesitate to advise those interested to buy a house, or a lot, in an already settled community. However, I urge prospective settlers in Florida or those anxious to buy land there for investment or speculation to proceed very cautiously. Before buying lots in a new subdivision, you should first see them. Florida offers plenty of opportunity to those who are alert to its possibilities and willing to work hard to get ahead. At this time it is not a good place in which to speculate.

Industrial Sites

Florida's lack of oil, coal, and waterpower has been a serious handicap to the development of heavy industry. Actually, light industry has been moving into the state at an increasing rate. Many industrial concerns in the North and Middle West ask me how to go about buying land for industrial use in Florida. My first anwser is to buy for cash only, and to use the same common sense they would use when buying land in their own home state. Second — buy something which they feel sure they could rent or sell promptly if they cannot use it themselves.

Florida is growing fast. Where good land in a settled community can now be bought cheap, I advise buying it; but I have a word of caution for those who are in the market anywhere for land for office buildings, factories, or apartments. Plan for much more parking space than you feel you will ever need. The success of business ventures in any state will depend largely on ease of access and parking facilities. Provide ample parking for employees, customers, and suppliers. In less than twenty years, I predict that the present number of registered cars will be doubled.

Citrus Business

After spending some 35 winters in Florida. I believe an experienced and hard-working citrus industry has prospered. It should do better in future years as new and less expensive methods for cultivating, picking, extracting, shipping and preserving the flavor of fruit juices are discovered.

However, do not let citrus prosperity lure you to Florida to grow fruit unless you know something about the business or are prepared to have your interests cared for by an experienced cooperative citrus organization. Also be sure you invest in a frostproof grove that can furnish you a 20-year record. Don't buy new groves now. Look before you leap.

Jordanian Crisis Tops Week's Foreign News in Importance

By CHARLES M. McCANN
United Press Correspondent

The week's good and bad news on the international balance sheet:

The struggle between young King Hussein of Jordan and the anti-Western, pro-Communist political leaders who threaten his throne assumed such critical importance that the United States was involved.

Charles McCann

President Eisenhower and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles announced that they regarded the "integrity and independence" of Jordan as vital.

The United States aircraft carrier Forrestal, two cruisers and 11 destroyers sailed suddenly from the French Riviera, under emergency orders, for the eastern Mediterranean.

In Jordan itself, Hussein mobilized his army and declared martial law to thwart any leftist attempt at a coup.

There were indications that Soviet Russia, facing internal economic difficulties and the possibility of further trouble in its East European satellite countries, might be seeking better relations with the West.

Soviet Premier Nikolai A. Bulganin sent an 8,000-world letter to British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan expressing Russia's desire for good relations.

Belief strengthened that Russia might soon make one step toward better relations by making concessions which would get the United Nations disarmament conference in London started toward some agreement.

President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt issued a formal declaration on operation of the Suez Canal Zone. Under the declaration Egypt would continue to exert complete authority over the canal. But Nasser made some important concessions to the Western countries which use the canal.

One was that Egypt would agree to international arbitration of complaints against its canal operation.

The United States, despairing of agreement with Nasser, had called a meeting of the U. N. Security Council on the canal issue. But after publication of the Egyptian declaration, the United States indicated it would accept Nasser's terms as a temporary arrangement.

The Eisenhower-Dulles statement on Jordan constituted an implied invitation to King Hussein to seek American aid in keeping his throne and maintaining the independence of Jordan.

This statement in effect was the first offer to invoke the new Eisenhower Doctrine aimed at Communist aggression in the Middle East.

Actually, Communist aggression was not part of the Jordan picture. But because Hussein's enemies are pro-Communist, and because Russia is meddling in Middle Eastern affairs, the young king could ask for American military aid, in the form of weapons, to strengthen him.

Further, the Eisenhower-Dulles statement constituted a warning to Russia and to Egypt and Syria, which are encouraging Hussein's enemies, to watch their steps.

Matter of Fact

By Stewart Alsop

Amman, Jordan, April 23 — As these words are written, the situation in this tortured little kingdom is again poised on a knife edge.

Stewart Alsop

The question now is whether the pro-Egyptian forces and their Communist allies will attempt a counter-coup in the immediate future. Such an attempt is clearly regarded as possible, since young King Hussein has been working feverishly all day to perfect his dispositions for controlling any rising against the government.

The reasons for thinking that a counter-coup may now be in the making are simple indeed. On the one hand, there is the "Voice of the Arabs" from Cairo, which has acted as the conductor of the orchestra in the Baghdad Pact riots and all the similar disorders here.

The "Voice of the Arabs" initial reaction to the dramatic events of ten days ago was quite remarkably prudent. But yesterday, this loudspeaker for Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser began to attacking King Hussein, charging plots against the Jordanian people "in the palace." And today the broadcasts are saying that the Jordanian Cabinet King Hussein glued together with such difficulty will fall within 48 hours.

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MORE serious still, the "Voice of the Arabs" is also piously declaring that the rage of the Jordanian people can no longer be contained, and must shortly find expression in violent public demonstrations. This is the familiar signal for the Egyptian agents and communist organizers to lead the mobs into the streets.

On the other hand, what amounts to an ultimatum has now been presented to King Hussein and his Cabinet by the so-called National Steering Committee. This organization is dominated by the small hard core of Jordanian communist leaders, but it also indicates extreme Left wing nationalists of the Baath party and other men of the pro-Egyptian factions.

The National Steering Committee met last night in the communist stronghold of Nablus. Resolutions were adopted demanding the dismissal of the present Cabinet; the restoration to their former commands of all the disloyal Arab Legion officers who have fled or have been dismissed; the expulsion of the American Ambassador and military attache, and the immediate rejection of the Eisenhower Doctrine.

THESE demands amount to a suggestion that King Hussein hand over his country forthwith to the Egyptians and their communist allies. Today the resolutions were presented formally here in Amman, and a campaign of pressure has now begun to persuade members of the existing Cabinet to resign their posts.

The question is still very much open, however, whether all these menaces and incitements are simply psychological warfare, intended to test the nerve of the King and his Cabinet and the loyalty of the Arab Legion. The betting, so far as one can see, is about even either way, with the factors affecting the betting about as follows:

The swarms of Egyptian agents which infest Jordan and the cooperating communist organizers are undoubtedly able to command the street mobs here in Amman and in the towns such as Jerusalem, Nablus, Rammallah and Jericho on the west bank of the Jordan river. The west bank is in fact sharply pro-Egyptian and largely dominated by the Baath party and the communists.

There is no knowing, either, whether the nerve of the present cabinet will hold. Despite his serious stomach ulcers, the Prime Minister, Hussein Khaldi, is a stout-hearted man. He told me yesterday, "My health may break but my nerves will not!"

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BUT the Cabinet has a very weak point in the person of the Foreign Minister. Suleiman Nabulsi, who headed the pro-Egyptian government that the King dismissed two weeks ago.

The state of the Arab Legion is a question mark of vital importance. On the one hand, the officers disloyal to the King have now been removed. Three brigade commanders are in jail, and a good many others have been relieved and given "leave." On the other hand, it is very early days yet for the Legion to have recovered unity and discipline after all the unsettling and dramatic events of the last weeks.

Reviewing the position within Jordan, therefore, one would bet rather heavily on the Egyptian counter-coup being launched without delay, if only in order to anticipate the moment when the Arab Legion will again become a fully efficient force. But there is one major factor outside Jordan which must influence the betting very greatly.

In brief, upwards of 10,000 troops of the Iraqi Army are stationed at the pumping station H3 on the oil pipe line close to the Jordanian border. These Iraqi troops are several times more than a match for the 4,000 or so Syrians who have been stationed in the north, within the Jordanian border, since the period of the Suez crisis. The Iraqis are fully ready to come to King Hussein's aid. And King Saud of Saudi Arabia has placed his 3,500 troops, also in Jordan in the south, under King Hussein's personal command for the duration of the emergency.

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KING HUSSEIN has already let it be known, in very positive terms, that he will call in the Iraqis to restore order if the Egyptians and their adherents in Jordan make this necessary. In case a counter-coup is attempted, the first step will be a declaration of martial law. If the Arab Legion then fails to get the situation in hand again, the Iraqis will be called for. And if King Hussein abides by his determination to call for the Iraqis if need be, the Egyptian counter-coup can almost certainly be defeated.

Such are the calculations that Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser must make when he takes the big decision that now lies immediately ahead for him. The temptation is very great.

The deterrent is extremely powerful. If it were not for the deterrent, the situation here would not be balanced on a knife edge; it would now be going over the edge. But as matters stand Nasser's decision (and the decision lies wholly in his hands) is utterly impossible to predict until the situation has ripened further.

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Editorial Comment

THE WAY TO CUT TAXES

More than anything else there is need for this nation to stand out among all the nations of the world as the proponent of peace, not an exponent of a continuing never-ending arms race. The United States has the know-how and the strength, it has the faith and assurance to do something tangible to stop this race to war.

Why not a start at a five billion dollar slash in war spending for the federal budget ending June 30, 1958? We would like to see half the slash made up with aid to schools, slum clearance and increased old-age benefits. We would like to see the other half used to cut federal taxes, by increasing the exemptions allowed every taxpayer.

There could be no single more effective cut in federal outlay than this, a world-wide assurance that this great nation is ready to enter into an era of world peace rather than a futile race toward World War III.—Coos Bay Times.

HENRY L. CORBETT

Henry L. Corbett, who succumbed aboard the S.P. Cascade train Monday night en route from Santa Barbara to Portland, lived a long and very useful life. Grandson of two of Oregon's distinguished business and banking leaders in the period of its early expansion, Henry W. Corbett and W. S. Ladd, he had both deep loyalty to Oregon and a high sense of civic responsibility. A staunch Republican, he served as state senator from Multnomah County and twice was elected President of the Senate (1927 and 1935). He was turned back (1930) in a bid for the Republican nomination for governor. He was a member for many years of the Port of Portland commission.

His business interests were varied, centering largely in Portland real estate. For a number of years he was a director of the Southern Pacific railroad.

His influence in Oregon affairs was pervasive, exerted quietly, and marked by a broad understanding of the course of events at home and abroad. His passing leaves a great gap in the informed, responsible leadership of Oregon.—Oregon Statesman, Salem.

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Compact outside, king-size inside, the 1957 Rambler is actually roomier than the average of the other cars in the low-priced field. There's ample room for six husky six-foot adults to ride in comfort in a Rambler.

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