

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 and 40 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO
May 3, 1947 (Saturday)
A traffic educational program will be carried on in Medford this summer, according to William Woodford, of the Medford Safety Council.

20 YEARS AGO
May 3, 1937 (Monday)
Thirty-five Medford Gleemen leave for Klamath Falls where they will join the Kiwanis Civic chorus in a concert there.

30 YEARS AGO
May 3, 1927 (Tuesday)
Medford Crater club will be host to the Oregon Cavemen and Umpqua chiefs of Roseburg at a banquet in Medford June 6.

40 YEARS AGO
May 3, 1917 (Thursday)
Medford Red Cross chapter to hold patriotic and Red Cross day May 16 when Oregon's Governor Withycombe is in Medford.

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

1. Prominent in the annals of Wall Street: Friday, Sept. 24, 1869, was designated as what?
2. What is the purpose of soaking a cabbage head down in salted cold water, before cooking?

3. Bible: Of what metal did Solomon build the altar?
4. Which state does Senator Fulbright present in the U. S. Senate?
5. Of what country is Bagdad the capital?

6. Tomatoes contain which vitamin that is needed in the daily diet?
7. For what diseased condition of the brain do the initials D.T.s stand?
8. Is a metronome a dwarf, an Irish fairy, a device for measuring musical time, or a kind of poetic meter?

9. Which is, properly, one word: "in as much or in so far?"
10. "That fellow seems to possess but one idea, and that is the"—is it the "right one" or wrong one?

Answers: 1. "Black Friday."
2. To draw out any insects that may be under the leaves.
3. Brass. 4. Arkansas. 5. Iraq.
6. Vitamin C. 7. Delirium Tremens. 8. Device for measuring musical time. 9. Inasmuch.
10. "the wrong one."—S. Johnson.

House Defeats Bill For Early Remarriage
Salem — (U.P.) — The House Thursday defeated, 28-23, a bill which would have permitted remarriage after three months of divorce. Present law required a wait of six months.

There are some 15 different synthetic fibers on the U.S. market today.

Control of Water

A number of things combined this week to make us think about water.

It rained on May Day. Floods continued in Texas. Weather and farm authorities tentatively and hopefully concluded the five-year midwest drought was over, following record-breaking blizzards and rain-falls. California authorities say that state is using water at an annual rate of five million acre feet more than can be supplied over a period of time from present sources.

And the lead article in the current issue of Harper's magazine says, in effect, "Let's face it. The western U.S. is all either desert, or desert-rim. It can't compete with the east."

A COUPLE of decades ago water was seldom a "news" — except when somebody drowned, or there was a flood.

But with the massive surge of population to the west coast, much of it during and after World War II, water has become recognized for what it is—the west's single most important resource. There just isn't enough of it for all the demands. And the situation will get worse before (if ever) it gets better.

Water is needed for municipal use (including drinking and cooking). Los Angeles pipes water for hundreds of miles for this purpose. It is needed for irrigation, for livestock, to generate power, for navigation, for industrial use, for sport and recreation including fishing.

THE shortage of water in the "Great American Desert" has long been a fact of life, and mankind has resorted to all sorts of tricks and techniques to get along with what he has, and to obtain more.

But the water shortage in the Pacific coast states west of the Cascades and Sierras is of relatively recent origin. Two things account for it—more people, and industrial uses which require vast quantities.

In the Rogue valley we are fortunate, for the limited acreages of land usable for agriculture, the stable water supplies now available, and the fact that no large water-using industries were established here in quantity before the problem was fully realized, combine to make it fairly evident we are not likely to be terribly pinched for water—at least in the same way that, say, Los Angeles is.

MEDFORD'S supply of municipal water is probably equal or superior, both in quantity and quality, to any on the west coast, and is adequate for foreseeable needs.

With the completion of the Talent project, the upper part of the Bear Creek drainage will have much improved, and probably adequate, supplies of irrigation water. The lower part is being served by the Medford and Rogue River irrigation districts, which are now improving their facilities.

There remain the rather large unirrigated areas of arable land in Sams Valley and above Eagle Point. Some day, perhaps, these too will receive better water supplies, provided an agreement on the use of Rogue river water can be reached.

OREGON is the first state to take official cognizance of the multiple demands for water, through the establishment of the Oregon water resources board. This group has powers over water use far in excess of that exercised by many other agencies, and as time goes on, inevitably will become embroiled in controversy as competing needs make known their demands.

But it is good to know that there is such an agency. For water is the basis for Oregon's economy, in one form or another. And only through governmental control of a resource which is too scarce to satisfy all demands can the people be equitably served. It is no longer possible for anyone and everyone to take all the water they want for any purpose whatsoever. It's too important to too many other people.—E.A.

Mercy Flights Anniversary

At this writing, 668 persons have been carried as patients by the planes of Mercy Flights, Inc.

About half of them have been transported at no charge. These have been the men and women who are subscribers to the non-profit organization's pre-paid plan for emergency medical transportation.

This month is the sixth anniversary of the institution of this plan, which not only serves its subscribers well, but saved Mercy Flights.

THE pre-paid plan is the only steady and dependable source of income which the non-profit corporation receives. Charges made for flights by non-subscribers are undependable, and alone could not permit it to continue operation.

When the pre-paid plan was started in May, 1951, the air ambulance service was hanging on the edge of financial disaster. Since then, however, the steady income provided by the subscriptions (\$4 per year for a family, \$2 per year for a single individual) has enabled it to survive, to grow, and to continue making mercy flights—an average of three a week. Most of these carry Jackson county people to Portland or San Francisco for emergency treatment of ailments which can be done better in the larger medical centers.

HOWEVER, as more doctors, representing more specialties, have come to Medford, and as hospital facilities are improved and expanded, more and more of the flights are, and will continue to be, from the surrounding area to Medford.

It is because we firmly believe Mercy Flights renders an important and needed service to all of Jackson county that we call these facts to attention, and urge non-subscribers to subscribe, and subscribers to renew promptly as their terms expire.—E.A.



'PLICE DEPARTMENT? I WANNA REPORT A CEMENT MAN WHO TRIES TO HIT LITTLE KIDS!'

Matter of Fact By Stewart Alsop

DEAL WITH THE RUSSIANS? Washington — President Eisenhower, Secretary of State Dulles, and Presidential Advisor Harold Stassen have all made small, hopeful noises about disarmament in the last few days. It is important to understand what the hopeful noises really mean — and what they do not mean.

To start with the latter point first, they do not mean that there is the slightest prospect of the sort of general settlement which most people think of when they see the word "disarmament." Above all, the hopeful noises do not mean that there is any prospect at all that the terrible new weapons will be controlled, and eventually eliminated from the world, as envisaged in the old Baruch-Acheson scheme.

What the hopeful noises do mean is that there is some faint evidence to suggest that the Soviets may be willing to talk turkey about a mutually advantageous deal—the sort of deal hostile powers have often made in the past. The deal would have two essential, and very important, purposes:

First, it would be designed to close the membership list in the atomic club—to make sure that no fourth country, after the United States, Britain, and the Soviet Union, obtained a stockpile of atomic weapons.

Second, it would also be designed to provide some reinsurance against surprise atomic attack by one side against the other.

ATOMIC bombs, it should be understood, are not particularly difficult to make these days. A second class power with a second rate industrial plant could turn out nuclear weapons if it were determined to do so.

Thus the possibility that some future Mussolini or Peron or Nasser could get his finger on an atomic trigger is perfectly real, and it is a nightmare to the American policy-makers.

It is reasonable to suppose that it may also be a nightmare to the Soviet policy-makers, Eisenhower, Dulles and Stassen are proceeding on that assumption. In London, Stassen is therefore proposing to his Soviet opposite number, Valerian Zorin, that there should be a cut-off date for the production of fissionable material for war purposes as of March 1 next year.

It is also reasonable to suppose that the Soviets may share with the United States and the Western powers a desire for some assurance against surprise attack. It may seem obvious to Americans that this country will not, and Constitutionally cannot, launch a surprise attack against the Soviets. But it is not at all obvious to the Soviet leaders, steeped as they are in communist doctrine, and uncomfortably aware as they are of the ring of American bases surrounding the Soviet empire.

THE evidence that the Soviets may be genuinely interested in making a deal with this dual purpose is not conclusive, but at least it exists. Having first rejected out of hand President Eisenhower's "open skies" proposal for aerial inspection, the Soviets are now talking about limited aerial inspection. Again, having at first rejected Sir Anthony Eden's proposal for progressive "demilitarization" of a similar zone in the center of Europe, Soviet Premier Bulganin has now accepted the proposal in principle.

Above all, the Soviets seem, at least, to be talking seriously, with a minimum of the usual propaganda content. To be sure, the odds against Stassen's negotiating a really solid agreement are still high. Aside from the towering political roadblocks, the technical obstacles are also very great. Even if both sides genuinely wanted to adopt Stassen's proposed cut-off date for atomic stockpiling, for example, it is difficult to see what technique could be used to enforce the cut-off, not only in the three atomic powers, but universally.

BUT it is at least "possible," as the President has said, that a mutually advantageous deal along the lines described above might be negotiated. If it is, it will be a major development. But it is important to understand that it will not represent true disarmament, and above all will not eliminate the threat of atomic war, the major threat to world civilization.

Awful Destruction of Nuclear War Emphasized in Week's News

By CHARLES M. McCANN United Press Correspondent
The week's good and bad news on the international balance sheet:

The dreadful destruction that would be wrought on victor and vanquished alike in an atomic war was sharply emphasized this week.

In Washington, it was disclosed. A. D. M. Arleigh A. Burke, chief of naval operations, told a congressional committee:

"We can destroy Russia now no matter what she does. There is no way she can avoid complete destruction."

But Burke warned also that Russia "either has a capability now or shortly will have of doing the same thing to us."

In Bonn, capital of West Germany, Chancellor Konrad Adenauer told a meeting of North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries:

"Modern atomic war would bring an apocalyptic fate upon the whole of mankind, including the peoples of the Soviet bloc."

There was evidence that Soviet Russian leaders were increasingly aware of the fate that would face their country in an atomic war.

This awareness had been marked by an outburst of threats to NATO countries that they would be destroyed if they permitted the use of their territory for the launching of atomic missiles.

But Russian awareness also seemed to be softening the attitude of Soviet leaders toward an effective system of aerial inspection as an essential part of any disarmament agreement.

In London, the Russians proposed at a meeting of the United Nations Disarmament Committee that areas of the Soviet Union, the United States and Western Europe be opened to inspection.

The Russian proposal was obviously unacceptable in its present form. But it roused hope that the first step toward a disarmament treaty, after 11 years of effort, might soon be taken.

Young King Hussein of Jordan, victorious over his pro-Russian, anti-Western political enemies, announced he would accept a United States offer of 10 million dollars in aid.

The young King made the qualification that no strings must be attached to the offer.

But his acceptance was another setback for pro-Russian Arab leaders and for Soviet Russia itself in its attempt to penetrate the Middle East.

A 5-year-old border dispute flared into a vest pocket war between the little Central American republics of Honduras and Nicaragua.

Honduras complained that Nicaraguan forces — totalling 50 — took over the disputed village of Mococon. Nicaragua complained that the Hondurans attacked Mococon in turn, and that 35 Nicaraguans were killed.

President Luis Somoza of Nicaragua mobilized his army.

President Eisenhower, in a message read to the NATO meeting in Bonn by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, said the United States intends to maintain its forces in Germany at their present strength.

The assurance was given because NATO countries are worried over Great Britain's drastic cuts in defense spending.

Babson Discusses Drought in Midwest

By ROGER W. BABSON Babson Park, Mass.—A sound of rejoicing is today echoing across the western Great Plains.

Mother Nature at long last has shown her more copious rains and heavy snows upon wide areas of that drought-stricken region. As a result, soil moisture conditions in much of the Great Plains are more encouraging than they have been in several years.

Farmers and businessmen living in the Great Plains naturally are greatly concerned as to whether these much-improved moisture conditions are a mere flash in the pan or the real thing. Crops in some instances have been hard hit; valuable topsoil has been blown away; cattle have starved or farmers have been forced to liquidate them for lack of feed; and some people living on the land are facing poverty. Although this five-year drought has been less destructive on the whole than the disastrous droughts of 1934 and 1936, it has been severe. I can well appreciate the mounting hope in many hearts that it may now be ending.

I wish I could give them definite assurance that the worst is over. Perhaps it is. However, I am a statistician and not a weather forecaster — at least not a very good one. Professional weather forecasters tell me that it takes about six months of above-normal precipitation to end a major drought. If so, in this respect at least there is still some distance to go before we can know for certainty that the drought has ended. Incidentally, there are still sizable sections of Colorado, New Mexico, Nebraska, Texas, and Ohio that remain parched. The one sure thing is that over-all moisture conditions have materially improved — the drought is old, and this is another favorable factor. By the law of averages, it should not last much longer.

Whether recurrent droughts will ever cease to plague the western Great Plains is a secret buried deep in Nature's crystal ball. Perhaps scientists some day will come up with something very constructive.

Meanwhile, farmers are learning more and more how to live with droughts and come out ahead or at least break even. They have come a long way in this respect since the Dust Bowl days of the 30's, when about all and only four days for ourselves.

IT JUST could be, you see, that in order to pay the family bills — after the tax collectors have reached into the family pocket and taken out A THIRD of all the money there — a lot of mothers of growing children feel they HAVE to work for wages.

Is it because they PREFER to work for wages? Or do they feel they have to work for wages in order to make both ends meet?

THAT brings up more statistics: In 1956 (last year) total federal, state and local government receipts (meaning tax money taken out of the pockets of the people) amounted to 107.6 billion dollars.

Our national income for 1956 was 343 billion dollars. That is to say, about one-third of our national income is being spent for taxes. Putting it another way, we spend a third of our working days WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT. If we work a six-day week, we work two days for the government.

they could do as "take it lying down," or pull up stakes and migrate to other, more favored areas.

The smart farmer of the Great Plains no longer plows and plants indiscriminately. He now knows the value of soil-conservation methods, of irrigation, of modern farm tools, of contour plowing and terracing, of sowing drought-resistant cover crops where and when needed, and of shelter belts of trees. He also planted to soil-moisture conditions prevailing at the time of planting, and utilizes moisture-conservation techniques and diversified farming. By these and other modern agricultural methods and practices designed to lessen the risk to farmers and crops from drought or other destructive forces, he is making real progress under all conditions.

Trend To Larger Farms These various modern methods of farming and of minimizing effects of droughts or other adverse conditions all point in one direction — toward larger, better equipped, and more skillfully managed farms. The one-man farm even now is as outdated as the "one horse show."

This "farm revolution" has made rapid progress in recent years. There are, for instance, a million more tractors on U.S. farms today than there were in 1950; 131 per cent more pick-up hay balers; 51 per cent more corn-pickers; 39 per cent more grain combines; and 12 per cent more milking machines.

On the other hand, the number of U.S. farms has declined 11 per cent since 1950 — from 5,379,250 to 4,783,021. Yet total farm area has not changed much since then. Therefore, the size of many farms has increased. It is only on these larger, well-managed farms that the full benefits of mechanization and modern techniques can profitably be realized.

Such farms are in a much better position to survive prolonged drought or other adversities than is the small, poorly managed farm. They are here to stay. Farming in America is now "big business."

I, therefore, forecast another relatively good year for most American farmers. They are a God-fearing group. This is a combination of qualities hard to beat, and one America sorely needs today.

Editorial Comment ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS? Should there be annual sessions of the state legislature? This seems to have become a partisan issue in the legislature, with the House of Representatives splitting pretty much along party lines in approving by 37-22 a bill for annual sessions.

Democrats argue that it would be less of a hardship on legislators to go to Salem once a

year for 65 days, while Republicans argue that one session every two years is enough.

The people will decide the issue at the ballot, even though the legislature adopts the resolution.

The resolution proposes annual sessions limited to 65 days. This would be little more total legislative time than present biennial sessions which run to upwards of 100 days in recent years.

Whether two months a year or four months every two years makes much difference to the legislator, as far as hardship goes, seems highly debatable.

Annual sessions, however, might help eliminate some of the hurry to wind up and go home that marks present legislative sessions—a situation which is not conducive to calm and intelligent consideration of legislation. Annual sessions might be helpful from that standpoint.

The cost to the state of annual sessions should not be too much different than the present cost, if the annual sessions are half as long. We don't pay our legislators what they ought to be worth, anyway.

Seems as though annual sessions might be worth a trial. Our present system is in many ways unsatisfactory. Legislators try to do too much in too short a time and people aren't able to keep track of all the things they try to do in one session. Shorter, simpler sessions might be a big improvement.—Astorian Budget.

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