

Medford Mail Tribune
Overseas in Southern Oregon
Breaks The Mail Tribune
Published Daily Except Saturday by
MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE CO.
27-29 North Fir St. Phone 2-6141

Another "Jinx" Year?

The Sunset highway, from Portland to the Oregon coast, is a far more attractive route than it was in 1945, when the last of three great fires roared over the hills of the "Tillamook burn."

In that year the sky was muddy with smoke. The highway wound down canyons that were bare, scorched earth and ashes. Flaming snags burned against the skyline. The charred carcasses of wild animals could be spotted occasionally. Truckload after truckload of men were carried to the firelines, and came back with grey, dirty, exhausted faces.

Last week, as we drove again over the spot where 12 years ago all was smoking ruin, we saw greenery in all directions. The only signs left from the big burns were still-uncut snags and vast reaches of small evergreens—the "reproduction" so laboriously planted.

THE Tillamook burn, as a whole, is one of the greatest areas of forest fire devastation in the world. The first of the three burns was in 1933, when the "last log out" before a dry-weather shut-down scraped over a rotten root, ignited a spark, and set the forests aflame, burning 250,000 acres. Other fires made the 1933 total on state-protected land 340,000 acres.

Six years later, in 1939, fire again broke out in the burn. That year it covered 189,000 acres. Other fires brought 1939's total to 308,000.

Another six years later, in 1945, the Tillamook area caught fire again, this time with 180,000 acres covered, with a state total of 210,000.

And in another six years, in 1951, while the Tillamook burn escaped with only 35,000 acres, huge fires elsewhere brought the state total to 132,000 acres.

THIS year, 1957, is another "jinx" year in the every-six-years pattern. The years in between, while some of them were bad fire years, were not as bad.

Will the "jinx" continue? Will the six-year pattern repeat? Will 1957 be another disaster year?

These are questions which foresters are asking themselves a trifle uneasily. They are posed, among other places, in the "Forest Log," publication of the state department of forestry.

The Log points out, though, that from 1933 to the present, the acreage burned during the jinx years has been progressively smaller—first 340,000 acres, then 308,000 acres, then 210,000 acres, then 132,000 acres. By projecting that, they calculate that if the jinx strikes again, some 65,000 acres of state-protected land is due to go up in flames.

IN NON-"JINX" years, the pattern has also been one of generally decreasing acreage burned. The average from 1940 to 1944 was 19,000 acres; from 1946 to 1950 it was 14,000, and from 1952 to 1956 it was up again, to 17,000.

These figures reflect several things: a more complete system of access roads, to permit transportation of men and equipment to forest blazes more rapidly, improved systems of lookouts and communications, better techniques and equipment for fire-fighting.

One of the most important, however, is an increased awareness of the destruction which fire in the forests can cause. Loggers are more carefully trained and cautioned; some crucial wooded areas are closed to general use during high-hazard conditions; and the public—including campers, fishermen, hunters, tourists and picnickers—is constantly reminded of the fire danger, and asked to help.

THE sad fact is that a majority of forest fires are caused by men—who are careless with logging equipment or methods; who unthinkingly toss away a match or cigarette; who leave a smoldering fire.

If we get through 1957's fire season, which has already started and which will last until the heavy rains of fall, without 65,000 or more acres burning over, it will take cooperation of all the protective agencies and of every single person who enters the woods. Only in this way can we "Keep Oregon Green."—E.A.

The Urge To Organize

Whenever an American is confronted by a problem, his first reaction seems to be to form an organization to deal with it. We are convinced that this nation has more organizations per capita than any society in the history of the world.

This is either good or bad, depending upon the way one looks at it. There are organizations which we feel are wholesome and constructive, and others which are stupid, unnecessary or even vicious.

IT IS possible that the U. S. Constitution, the First Amendment of which protects "the right of the people peaceably to assemble," is in part responsible for this American characteristic.

This is coupled with the age-old custom of uniting with others in efforts to do things which individuals cannot do alone.

Government in all its forms and shapes is, of course, a gigantic complex of organizations through which we govern ourselves. But entirely aside from that, no American—not even the lonely prospector, or isolated farmer, or skid-road bum—can escape the effects of the urge to organize, which keeps America's business at work, its society in relative balance, its civilization alive, and its people busy.

WHATEVER one may think of organizations in the abstract (and we often think there are too darn many of them engaged in too darn many needless and even undesirable activities), no one can deny they can and do exert tremendous influence.

And much of that influence, thank the Lord, is good. It will be a sad day if Americans ever lose the urge to join forces to accomplish what they think is right and important and for the public good.—E.A.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION
MEMBER
Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

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
June 23, 1947 (Monday)

Two buildings, a store and service station, burn at Shady Cove. From Arthur Perry's Ye Cove. Smudge Pot column; News reports from northern California say the driver of a small car forced a freight truck with trailer off the highway. No effort is being made to catch the offender, and pin a medal on him.

20 YEARS AGO
June 23, 1937 (Wednesday)

Al Littrell, chairman of retail merchants committee of chamber of commerce asks all stores to close for the air carnival from 1:30 to 4:30 Friday. Oregon Fire Chiefs association holds three day convention in Medford.

30 YEARS AGO
June 23, 1927 (Thursday)

Seventh day for boys in Company A at Camp Clatsop leaves them still apprentices at digging claims. County court appoints viewers to view the proposed Cobleigh road near Butte Falls.

40 YEARS AGO
June 23, 1917 (Saturday)

Oregon State Motor association planning trips to Crater Lake, advises tourists to plan trip now. From Local and Personal column. Not only is there a short crop of cherries in southern Oregon, but in the Willamette valley as well as in California.

What's Your I.Q.?

- 1. Did an Italian, Greek, or Moor put forth the earliest recorded theory that the earth was round, as like a sphere?
2. Gifts of wood are most appropriate for the fifth, tenth, or fifteenth wedding anniversary?
3. Bible: ... whosoever maketh of himself a king, speaketh against Caesar. The penalty for the foregoing was death—for what crime?
4. Who founded the original Standard Oil Company?
5. Is "yew" the name for a female sheep, an evergreen tree, or a personal pronoun?
6. Is the average longevity of women in the U. S. greater or less than that of men?
7. During what war was Josephus Daniels the Secretary of the Navy?
8. On which sea is the city of Danzig?
9. Have "valuable," "valued" and "invaluable" the same specific meaning?
10. "And though hard be the task, / Keep a stiff upper lip" Was this line introduced in a poem by a man, woman, or adolescent?
Answers: 1. Greek (Pythagoras). 2. Fifth. 3. Treason against the Roman Emperor, John D. Rockefeller Sr. 5. Evergreen tree. 6. Greater. 7. World War I. 8. The Baltic. 9. No. It is of great value (valuable). A valued friend. It is invaluable (above value). 10. Woman, Phoebe Cary.



"DAD SAYS THAT GUY WAS IN THE CIVIL WAR. THAT'S BEFORE YOU WAS BORN."

Matter of Fact

The U.S. Takes the Lead
Florence, Italy — As this reporter seeks to sort out the general jumble of impressions left by a long Middle Eastern journey, one fact stands out above all others.



Outside the close policy making circle, very few people seem to have noticed it. Even among the highest American policy makers, one suspects that the implications have not as yet been fully thought out. None the less, this enormous fact is there, staring us all in the face so to speak. The fact is that the United States has now assumed full, direct responsibility for protecting the vital interest of the West in the Arab lands.

ON the one hand, the decline of British power left our allies without the strength to protect their own Middle Eastern interests. That began to be clear during the Iranian crisis, precipitated by Doctor Mossadegh. It was proven to the whole world, once and for all, in the fiasco at Suez.

On the other hand, President Eisenhower's special handling of the Suez fiasco made it necessary for the United States to take up the Middle Eastern burden without a moment's delay. By this intervention, the President in effect told our trans-Atlantic allies, my way of safeguarding your interests is better than yours!

THE very fact that the figure of tough old Nuri Pasha is clearly discernible behind the Eisenhower Doctrine also speaks volumes about the way the American policy makers propose to discharge their new responsibility in the Middle East. For Nuri Pasha had always, until Suez, been far more closely linked to Britain than to America. In the eyes of London, he was the prize "good Arab"—to use Sir Anthony Eden's not very fortunate phrase.

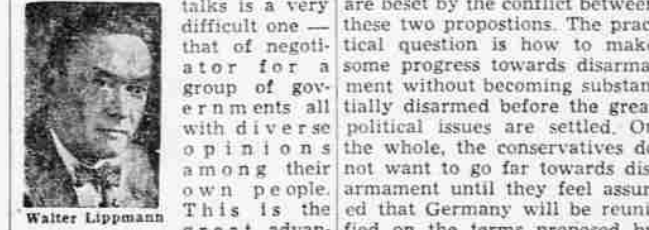
IN effect, the United States is now playing the "good Arab" game. American power and American influence are being lavishly used, in other words, to rally, draw together and strengthen the Arab leaders friendly to the West. And American power and influence are also beginning to be used to weaken the Arab leaders like Egypt's Nasser, who show themselves the West's enemies.

IN several vital respects, we are better equipped than our allies were for this game which we have now taken to playing. We are not afflicted with the viceregal manner and outlook which too many British diplomats and Middle Eastern policy makers conserved from the days when British policy in the Middle East was backed by the Indian army.

Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

Stassen and the Western Allies
The role Mr. Stassen has to play in the London disarmament talks is a very difficult one—



There is reason to think that the four leading powers on the Western side—Great Britain, France, Germany and the United States—have not come to a full understanding on a fundamental question. This was revealed last week, I think, in the letter which Mr. Macmillan sent to Marshal Bulganin.

Speaking of a Soviet proposal for "immediate full-scale reduction in the armed forces of the major powers," Mr. Macmillan said that his government could not agree to that unless it were at the same time "assured of parallel settlement in the political field"—particularly a settlement which could end on Western terms the division of Germany.

WHAT we have here are two propositions: The first, that extensive reduction in armaments cannot be agreed to until there are political settlements of the great world problems; the second, that among all international questions the one where there is the most need of progress is disarmament.

THE net of it all is that armaments are no longer the mere reflections, as they were in the past, of the political tensions among the powers. Because of the galloping, indeed runaway, technological revolution, the race of armaments has become not a secondary but a primary problem. That is why Mr. Macmillan, we may take it, when adhering to the traditional position that armaments must reflect the political situation, went on to declare that something must be done about armaments even though nothing is done about the political situation.

That something, which most needs to be done is what, if I have understood him correctly, the President advocated in his press conference. It is to work out an agreement with reasonable guarantees which will be in the nature of a standstill in the race of nuclear armaments.

Down below the Tehachapi, where anything can happen (and frequently does), the Los Angeles Joint Board of Hotel and Restaurant Employees is considering something new in the way of bargaining objectives—a pre-paid legal care plan financed by employer contributions to cover all the legal needs of the 21,000 members of the unions involved.

IT would all be wonderful, of course, for the law schools. They'd get a RUSH of students, eager to cash in on the now business that would be created. But what about the taxpayers, who put up the money to keep the courts going? Unfortunately we're all taxpayers—in one way or another.

FOR example: Suppose your neighbor has a tree growing just inside his property line. Come the fall of the year, its leaves drop on your property and you have to rake them up and burn them or hire them hauled off.

IT would be a wonderful, of course, for the law schools. They'd get a RUSH of students, eager to cash in on the now business that would be created. But what about the taxpayers, who put up the money to keep the courts going? Unfortunately we're all taxpayers—in one way or another.

ALERT SCOUTS
Omaha — Four Minneapolis youths were convicted of petty larceny after two Boy Scouts complained that they stole their lunch and camping equipment and drove off. The Scouts, having no pencil or paper, scratched the license number of the car in the dust.

POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

With all the talk about radioactivity and nuclear fallout these days, our proofreader found an item from an old copy of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, circa the turn of the century, with the headline: "Find Radio Activity in Surface Water."

The date was only a couple of years after Mm. Marie Curie and her husband discovered radium, and were working on the problem of radioactivity of natural substances.

The weather last week was gorgeous — there's no doubt about it. Naturally, it produced several cases of sunburn — including one for a youngster of our acquaintance who went on a fishing trip wearing a pair of blue jeans which had two large holes, and who returned free of sunburn everywhere except on his knees.

There's one of those "naming" contests in progress, and the daughter of a friend of ours, who happens to be a professional photographer, won one of the weekly contests, and received, as a prize, a certificate for a small camera, to be obtained at the shop of a competitor of her father's.

Well, she blithely collected her camera (despite the fact that she has a more expensive one provided by Daddy), and then tried to sell it to Pop at the retail price. He balked, for he has identical cameras in his shop, which he can obtain at the wholesale price. All he'd offer her was what the camera would have cost him. She declined. So she let small brother shoot a roll of film, and then, since the camera worked fine, offered it to Dad again.

This time he lowered his offer. Claimed that one roll of film made it a "used" camera. We haven't heard yet who has won this financial battle.

The only reason we're sorry that John Snider got himself elected mayor is because he then stopped writing the "Little Daisy" ads which ran for several years in the M-T.

He exercises his "sense of humor" in other ways, now. While presiding at a dinner meeting the other night, he announced, "We have a little surprise tonight. We're giving away a 1957 Thunderbird, and the winning ticket number is 2073." The 100 guests present grabbed for their tickets to check the numbers. There were no numbers.

There have been several shifts in assignments for ministers in this area lately. One of them was tendered a farewell reception not long ago, and during the course of it he was presented with a gift from men of the church.

The minister, in expressing his thanks, remarked that perhaps it was a hint that he didn't spend enough time in preparing his sermons, but one member declared that the gift might be a reminder that the sermons weren't brief enough. The gift? A "brief" case.

Civil Aeronautics Positions Available

John L. Williams, Civil Aeronautics recruiting officer, will hold interviews Thursday for people interested in electronic maintenance or airways operations positions in Alaska.

He will be stationed at the state employment service office, 119 North Oakdale ave., Medford.

The positions' pay minimum gross salaries of \$6,300, including territorial allowance and regularly scheduled overtime. Higher salaries depend on qualifications of applicants. Liberal vacations are allowed, in addition to retirement and sick leave benefits and transportation to and from Alaska and CAA subsidized housing, officials pointed out. There are also possibilities of promotions and salary increases.

IN addition to airways operations and electronics maintenance personnel, there are also vacancies for graduate electrical, civil and electronic engineers.