

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 Aug. 23, 1947 (Sunday): Horse owners and lovers from Southern Oregon gather at the fairgrounds yesterday for the Ladies' Mounted Troop show.

20 YEARS AGO Aug. 23, 1937 (Monday): Permit organization of a four-state association was completed in Grants Pass Saturday when the Northwest Gladioli association elected officers.

30 YEARS AGO Aug. 23, 1927 (Tuesday): Petitions are circulated for appointment of Miss Alice Hoefs as postmaster in Jacksonville.

40 YEARS AGO Aug. 23, 1917 (Thursday): Company 7 of Medford remains at Camp Stevens to take over steam-heated quarters.

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

Television Broadcast: Industry Has Good Year. Washington — The television broadcast industry had its most profitable year last year with the three major networks taking in nearly half the revenues.

Is Off-Street Parking a Dead Duck?

If one is a bit confused about the situation with regard to the city's connection with off-street parking—if any—one can be excused.

Let's do a bit of reviewing. About a year ago, the city administration drew up an ambitious "capital improvement" program, which it felt was a minimum necessity if the city were to keep up with the improvements required by its growth, actual and potential.

This included four phases—a 10-year program for construction of an arterial (or "through") street system; a storm sewer improvement system, a sanitary sewer improvement system, and a program for the creation of city-owned off-street parking.

THE first three of these passed by substantial margins when presented to the voters in the November election. They will ultimately call for an expenditure of some \$2,150,000. Work has started.

The off-street parking proposal was defeated by a vote of 4,867 to 4,518—a margin of 349 votes out of 9,385.

Why 349 more people voted against the plan than for it has been much debated since then. It may have been the magnitude of the program (more than \$500,000 in bond obligations to be paid out of revenues over a period of years); it may have been a fear of increasing general taxation if revenue were ever insufficient to pay for the bonds; it may have been a misunderstanding of the fact that it was intended to be a wholly self-liquidating project; it may have been a feeling the city, as a city, had no business in the parking business; or it may have been a combination.

WHATEVER the reasons, it was defeated. As a result, it left the city without any organized off-street parking plan. And the city administration, fully aware that this is one of the big problems in all growing cities and not wanting to be left hopelessly behind, began casting around for an alternative.

In long discussions between the city council, the city administration, the city budget committee, and a group of interested downtown businessmen, a new plan, far more modest in its objectives and one all involved felt to be entirely acceptable, was evolved. It called for allocating a total of \$50,000 in the 1957-58 budget for off-street parking. This would come from general fund monies. To make up for this new outlay, meter-types and hours were revised to bring in an estimated \$15,000 additional, and it was planned to revise the business license fee schedule to raise an additional \$35,000.

THE latter plan had been "in the works" for a long time—long before off-street parking was contemplated, for the old business license fee (a flat \$20 per business) was inequitable and of questionable legality.

During public hearings, however, merchants subject to the business license but who would not benefit from off-street parking directly, voiced objections. An attempt was made to meet these objections by creating a rate differential between downtown businesses and those in the area outside the downtown area.

Even this did not meet unanimous approval. Chief objectors were a barber in the downtown area who felt off-street parking would be of no benefit to him, the operator of a nursing home, the operator of several parking lots, and a few others.

THEY kept harping about the defeat last fall of the entirely different and vastly more expensive off-street plan, declaring the voters had decided against ANY kind of off-street parking.

At any rate, members of the council apparently were convinced, and when it came to voting on the new business tax, many of them qualified their vote by declaring they voted "yes" only with the understanding that none of the money raised by the tax would go for off-street parking.

Mayor John Snider, in considering whether to approve this action, came to the conclusion that the business tax increase sought by those downtown merchants who would pay the bulk of it with the understanding it would go for parking, would be unduly hurt of the relatively high rates were collected but not used for purposes which the merchants sought.

In his veto message, he suggested a downward revision, which would accomplish the long-range objective of revising the tax on a more equitable basis. He also urged the council to continue to cooperate in planning for off-street parking.

THE council, after it thought it over, agreed with him, and followed his recommendation for a "revised revision" of the tax schedule.

So, as it stands now, the council is not committed to any off-street parking plan. However, it will have available \$15,000 in parking meter funds which are avowedly for this purpose, and some \$16,000 in increased income from the business tax revision, and although it has more or less indicated it will not use the latter for this purpose, it would be within its rights to do so.

So what of off-street parking? Is it a dead duck? It had better not be, for if the council completely ignores it, it will be breaking faith with the merchants who want it and who stand ready to pay for substantial portions of it; with those 4,518 voters who approved a vastly more ambitious plan, and with the hundreds of others who approve off-street parking in principle, but did not favor that specific plan.

There are a number of possibilities, including organization of a "parking district" as enacted by the 1957 legislature.

But to let off-street parking go is to place another strike against the downtown business area, which so vitally affects the prosperity and tax liability of all Medford citizens.—E.A.



"MAYBE ONE OF THE NEIGHBORS SLIPPED HIM A TRANQUILLIZING PILL."

Babson Eyes Inflation Threat During Fall

By ROGER W. BABSON: Babson Park, Mass.—What is really causing the inflation buildup and how can it be arrested? Among causes suspected are the unchecked wage demands of labor and the government's earlier mistake in pressing for easy-money policies.

The way to check the inflation spiral, many say, is through credit restriction. Certainly, without the willingness of business and consumers to assume debt, there could not have been the kind of spending which has led to the expansion and production seen in recent years. Without these tonics neither production nor prices could have risen as they have.

Gradual inflation may continue to the point where the turnover of money will have finally reached its limit. Should too many businesses or consumers become suddenly pessimistic with regard to conditions, an about-face could occur rather quickly. My personal poll of businessmen gives indications of waning confidence.

Both businessmen and consumers should understand that unbridled spending cannot help but intensify the inflationary threat. It is possible that the only solution is tighter direct government controls for all? But even if both the businessman and the consumer should become frightened by the inflationary spiral, I believe the full effects need not be felt for several months to come.

Despite the current business sentiment, production in June and July about equaled the April and May levels. Employment is up, retail sales are ahead of totals for last year at this time. The factory work week, though slightly longer at latest report, falls short of that for the same period in 1956. The increased number of hours worked pushed weekly earnings in manufacturing up about 80c in June over May to an average of \$82.59, resulting in a year-to-year gain of more than \$3 per week. Construction activity, which had been lagging earlier in the year, is picking up. Chemicals, rubber, and utilities are on the up-trend.

Gross national product has passed the \$430-billion mark. Even with due allowance for higher prices, all of the foregoing suggests continued heavy spending.

Let us not forget certain basic ingredients of our economy. Today, we see about one million new family formations per year, with all the resulting wants and needs. This compares with a figure of 500,000 in 1940. The longer life span of our oldsters is adding a large non-producing segment to our population at one end; while the high birth rates following World War II are creating another big group of dependents at the other end. In the middle are the workers, shrunk in number by the depression of the low birth rate of the depressed 1930's.

Upon this relatively small worker force falls the burden of production. The solution to the problem lies in a vastly increased rate of output per worker—or in a decline of total demand. Stepped-up automation may be the real answer—but this change will come slowly. I therefore conclude that labor leaders hold the reins; they must be responsible for the ultimate results. They, and the politicians who fear them, will surely cause a smash-up unless they stop demanding constant wage increases.

Bonds are selling lower than for over 20 years. This is not a good sign. Stocks are not holding up. Many commodities are slipping in price. Investment sentiment and reported earnings show up well so far. I, however,

believe that readers will do well to take profits and deposit the money in banks where they can get 3 per cent to 4 per cent awaiting a good break in the stock market. Businessmen should gradually get out of debt and prepare for very severe and unprofitable competition during the remaining months of 1957. Either assured peace or another war could start a collapse. I "feel-in-my-bones" that something unexpected may at any time happen. I especially have in mind the fear of either fallout or disarmament. Russia's best defense at the present time is using the threat of fallout in trying to force disarmament.

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Following is a copy of the letter recently sent to Senator Wayne Morse by Dana McBarron, wholesale lumber specialist, of Rogue River: "I am amazed and somewhat downcast that the State Department would allow Moscow to take such a march on them on this Youth Festival now going on."

"I read in the papers where the State Department demands that these youngsters do not go to Peking, and I can just see the headlines in Pravda and the other newspapers amongst the satellite nations stating that our State Department, or the U. S., does not want our youngsters to see the magnificent progress being made in the so-called 'workers paradise'."

"It seems to me that Mr. Dulles has not only done a frightful job of bungling, but the whole unimaginative staff of the State Department, as this Youth Festival could have been turned into a magnificent propaganda display for the free world, rather than against it."

"Had they have had the least bit of foresight, which is exercised by business every day, they would have at least briefed a sizable group of American youth who would answer and refute the many questions that this small delegation is being asked over there. And furthermore, it would not have cost the American taxpayer one red cent."

Eisenhower-Truman 5-Year Feud Shows No Signs of Diminishing

By DONALD J. GONZALES, United Press Correspondent: Washington — President Eisenhower and former President Truman have spoken out individually to try to save the foreign aid program from deep slashes. But the two men still aren't speaking to each other about foreign aid—or anything else.

Observers believe that the feud, after more than five years, is intensifying instead of diminishing. Many efforts to patch up their differences have failed.

Eisenhower made it clear a few days ago that he isn't making any new move to clear up things with his Missouri predecessor. When he called newsmen into his office to make his foreign aid plea, the President talked about how successful the foreign aid program had been since its start back in 1947. "Greece and Turkey," he recalled, "started it."

Truman Not Mentioned: The President did not mention that the aid program was initiated by the Truman administration, or that the Greek-Turkish aid program has long been known as the Truman doctrine. The Eisenhower-Truman split goes back to the days before the 1952 campaign when Eisenhower decided to take a shot at being the Republican standard bearer. This startled Truman, who once pictured Eisenhower as a possible Democratic candidate.

Truman's memoirs bring back a meeting between the two men at the White House in 1948. Truman asked General Eisenhower whether he might ever run for the presidency. According to Truman, Eisenhower promptly produced a copy of one of his letters which read, "The necessary and wise subordination of the military to civilian power will be best sustained when long professional soldiers abstain from seeking high political office."

When Things Got Worse: Confidants of both Eisenhower and Truman believe their split really shifted into second gear in August, 1952. This was in advance of the elections, which Eisenhower won. Truman invited Eisenhower to the White House for a conference. Eisenhower turned down the invitation. He said he wanted to be "free to analyze publicly the policies and acts of the present administration whenever it appears to me to be proper and in the country's interest."

In a long-hand letter, Truman shot back saying, "I'm extremely sorry that you have allowed a bunch of screwball politicians to corer between us." He signed the note, "From a man who has always been your friend and who always intended to be."

The two men have met each other only twice in the last five years—and those meetings were most five years ago. They met on Nov. 18, 1952, at a White House briefing session after Eisenhower was elected, and again on inauguration day, 1953.

As things stand now, it appears that only a real national emergency will heal the rift between the two. Editorial Comment: WHERE THE MONEY GOES: We aren't always against Sen. Neuberger. We're with him, for example, in his stand against cluttering the nation's highways with billboards. And we're on his side in criticism of Portland for grumbling about necessary defense installations in that city.

We also now find ourselves on his side in the four-way wrangle among the Eisenhower administration, the Defense Department, Gen. Douglas MacArthur and himself. The general, now retired and chairman of the board of Sperry-Rand Co., a big maker of instruments used by the military as well as civilian customers, has been backing away at Ike and Secretary of Defense Wilson. They're spending money foolishly and wastefully in the military, the five-star hero of the Pacific and Korean wars says.

It should be recalled that Eisenhower used to be an aide to MacArthur, that Ike didn't like the haughty old-timer then and that the feeling has been mutual for many decades now. But Neuberger, generally a defender of the President's and a proponent of strong, global defenses, pointed out a small set of figures before the senate, without comment. The figures, taken from Defense Department records, are these:

Gen. MacArthur, as a retired top-ranker, is being paid a pension of \$1,070.40 a month, a quarters allowance of \$171 a month, a subsistence allowance of \$47.88 a month, and an unmarked spending allowance of \$418 a month. The government also pays for a furnished office for him in New York and supplies him two "aides," a warrant officer paid \$6,298 a year and a master sergeant making \$5,220 a year with allowances.

Yet the general is not on duty in any way. What use is the interest of the government he could put his assistants and his office to is a mystery. But all these benefits are given to any five-star who retires, whether he hoos his garden or takes a \$100,000-a-year job.

We agree with Neuberger's implication, and we even find the ability to agree with the general, too; there is too much waste in the military.—Capital Journal, Salem.

Letting back to tax structures, what Mr. Cheatham was saying up in Portland the other day amounts substantially to this: In its operations in Oregon, Georgia-Pacific is for all practical purposes a CAPTIVE industry. It has become a captive because of the depth to which it has sunk its roots in Oregon in the way of timber ownership. It can't pick up its quarter of a million acres of timberland and take it somewhere else. It has to stay here and operate as best it can, regardless of whether the Oregon tax structure is favorable or unfavorable.

I think we must all agree that a captive industry, chained to land and unable to move, is less desirable than a FREE industry that is here because it wants to be here and feels that operating conditions, including taxes, are as desirable in Oregon as anywhere else in the country. A free industry, operating in Oregon because it WANTS to operate in Oregon and feels that its operations here are on as favorable a basis as they would be anywhere else, will be in the mood to EXPAND as markets for its products expand. It will be in a mood to EXPAND ITS OPERATIONS IN OREGON.

A captive industry, chained to a tax structure that regards as abominable, will be inclined to do its expanding ELSEWHERE, where the tax climate is more favorable. Basic raw material for the pulp industry is EXPORTABLE. Cordwood and chips are already being hauled hundreds of miles. We have enough pleasant economy (shipping raw materials away for processing elsewhere) in Oregon now. Let's not promote MORE of it by an unsound tax structure.

It's high time for Oregon to give intelligent, thoughtful study to a taxation system that will ATTRACT industry and population instead of scaring them away. We can't afford what Mr. Cheatham terms so bluntly "the worst tax structure in the United States."

Starkville, Miss.—Farmers had a special interest in touring an experimental farm here. The farmers are Choctaw Indians and the farm is their ancestors' old stamping grounds.

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Dr. Virgil H. Mohr: Announces The Removal of His Dental Offices From the Fluhrer Bldg. to 924 E. Main MEDFORD Phone SP 2-2414

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