

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. 26, 1947 (Tuesday). An unidentified youth rescues two others from deep hole in the Applegate river at McKee bridge.

20 YEARS AGO: Aug. 26, 1927 (Thursday). City police today investigate the mysterious departure for San Francisco of three local teen-age girls.

30 YEARS AGO: Aug. 26, 1927 (Tuesday). Ten-year-old Billy West, Central Point, arrived home from a 10-mile-trip to Canyonville.

40 YEARS AGO: Aug. 26, 1917 (Monday). New Medford irrigation district plans on taking water from Beaver creek.

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

1. Earl Long is a political figure in which State? 2. Did the Twentieth Century begin Jan. 1, 1900 or 1901?

Answers: 1. Louisiana. 2. 1901. 3. Joseph. 4. Henry Hudson. 5. No. (from the intestines of sheep). 6. Twenty-one. 7. "The Commander" or "The Guide." 8. Yes. 9. No. 10. "all the day."

Wind Catches Balloon Killing Fireman: Saint Florent Le Vieil, France... Georges Comier, 23-year-old dean of French balloonists, was fatally injured Sunday when an errant gust of wind caught his balloon during his 500th flight.

The phrase "Iron Curtain" was first used by Winston Churchill on March 5, 1946, to describe Russia's barrier around her satellites.

News "Bulletins"

Radio, the demise of which was freely predicted with the advent of TV, has made an amazing comeback. But it has had to change its "format" to do it. The emphasis these days is less and less on big network shows, and more and more on recorded music, brief news broadcasts, and special-event broadcasts.

We do not quarrel with this type of programming — although we do quarrel violently with much of the alleged "music" which the "deejays" seem to feel is attractive. During a recent sojourn among the tall trees, it seemed impossible to switch on the portable without hearing the moans, grunts, howls and wails which pass for songs these days. The rare exceptions, usually late at night, were doubly appreciated.

AS TO the news broadcasts, usually for three or five minutes each hour, they were sufficient to keep one informed whether or not the world was going to come to an end—but not a great deal more.

Either the stations available had no more, or they were missed in the hit-or-miss pattern of listening. There was no commentary, no explanation, no background to put flesh on the bare bones of the news bulletins.

Radio, and its latter-day big sister, TV, are increasingly media of entertainment—some of it excellent, no doubt, and laced with the immediacy and perception which the broadcast media can handle so well—but mostly entertainment, nonetheless.

ONLY twice during the week in the woods did we purchase newspapers—once the Oregonian, once the Eureka Humboldt Times.

In each case, the newspaper lay around camp most of the day, but was picked up and read sporadically, and by the end of the day we had gleaned a fairly comprehensive picture of what was going on.

No one issue of any newspaper—not even the New York Times—gives the complete picture of the day's news. It is physically impossible to do so. But it is so vastly more comprehensive and informative than the sketchy radio bulletins that we were reinforced in our belief that newspapers will always be with us, in one form or another.

Beside, when camping, and when you're through with the paper, you can wrap the fish in it! — E. A.

Mt. Mazama's Explosion

In the country between Butte Falls and Prospect, and in several other sections of the mountains to the east, one can see charred logs imbedded deep down in the dirt. They were brought into view when the road was cut.

These are mementoes of the explosion of Mt. Mazama some 6,000 years ago ("only yesterday," geologically speaking), when the caldera was formed which later became Crater lake.

The event was vividly described in a recent editorial in the Bend Bulletin, penned by Associate Editor Phil Brogan, Oregon's outstanding newspaper-geologist.

IN PART, he said:

The wind was blowing from the west when the initial blasts of Mazama occurred. Pumice billowed thousands of feet into the sky, like anchored thundercaps. The prevailing wind caught the top of the clouds and heaved the mass of ash to the east, where it fell across Klamath mountain and even spread into the Chewaucan valley.

Then the wind changed to the southwest, and the mushrooming clouds tilted northeast toward Mt. Newberry. The fallout of pumice filled valleys near Mazama, smoothed mountain contours and changed the land into a white world. Gradually as the explosion clouds drifted toward the Deschutes the heavier material dropped to the earth. But the finer ash continued north, to cover the present Crescent country.

At the site of Lava Butte, some 10 miles south of Bend of the present, the ash blanket was only six inches deep. But there is evidence that all of central Oregon, and much of northern Oregon and southeastern Washington, received some of the volcanic fallout.

On the "morning after," the entire region for more than 100 miles north of the caldera, above which a giant mountain had loomed, was a desolated land. It does not appear that any animal life could have survived. Near the base of the mountain that was Mazama, avalanches of glowing pumice swept through forests. Charcoal remnants of buried trees are now visible in the upper Rogue valley, and in the Crescent country.

BROGAN compares this "fall out" with the radioactive fallout so much discussed these days, and points out that the volcanic explosion was vastly more destructive than any nuclear explosion so far detonated.

When Mother Nature really lets loose, she makes the efforts of men seem puny indeed, although mankind seems determined to catch up. One hopes he doesn't kill himself off in the process. — E. A.

A Great Summer

The bulk of the fruit harvest is in. The 4-H and FFA fair has come and gone. The hot August afternoons give way to cool evenings, and mornings prove they're almost chilly by the amount of dew on the grass.

Even so soon, an occasional yellowed leaf flutters to the ground, away from its green brothers. The crabgrass isn't growing as fast, and shows signs of approaching death.

This has been a glorious summer in the Rogue River valley. It still is. But with Labor day only a week away, and schools starting soon thereafter; with the days gradually getting shorter; with talk gradually turning to football—these things are proof that summer is fading, slowly, almost imperceptibly, into fall. — E. A.



Matter of Fact

Bonn, Germany — Lingering doubts about the value of political reporting practised at ranges of several thousand miles, are the main reason for this reporter's grimly peripatetic life. It is a bit embarrassing, therefore, to be writing in this smug little capital of West Germany about distant Damascus.

But now, as the immense increase of Afif Bizry's authority indicates, the Soviets have bought into the company in a very big way indeed. Fifty-fifty seems a reasonable estimate of the present split in Syrian voting shares between Nasser and the Kremlin. For propaganda purposes in the Middle East, Nasser will no doubt stay on as the company's front man. Outwardly, Syrian policy will continue to be Egyptian policy. But inside Syria, it is a fair guess that Communist Party Leader Baqdash and Army Chief of Staff Bizry now have just a bit more strength than Ba'ath Party Leader Hourani and his military ally, Serraj.

One wonders immediately what this means in terms of Gamal Abdel Nasser's own relations with the Kremlin. To this reporter, it seems another fair guess that the developments in Syria imply a new decision by Nasser to throw in his lot rather completely and finally with the world bloc headed by the Soviet Union.

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In the Day's News

Modern furniture note: A new "relaxer" chair (put out by one of the nation's biggest manufacturers) not only stretches you out comfortably with you feet in the air but MASSAGES YOU as well.

With the turn of a dial a jigger called a cycloid goes to work and massages your whole body. The action is described as an aid in soothing muscles and nerves that have become "tight" during the day's activities.

U-n-h-a-p-p-y: As this reporter wrote from Damascus in May, the Syrian moderates and conservatives enjoyed the approximate degree of animation of dead fish on a slab. Like dead fish prepared by the fishmonger, they also lacked guts. Hence, the betting, even then, was all for a leftist success in the coup d'etat that one could so clearly see ahead.

The really interesting point about the new Syrian coup d'etat, therefore, is not the fact of a leftist victory. The really interesting point is the indication of a deep change in the lost balance of power between the Syrian leftist parties. The Communists clearly seem to have made important gains at the expense of the extreme left-wing, pro-Egyptian but non-Communists who were formerly in the saddle.

As late as last spring, the two real rulers of Syria were both non-Communists of the extreme left-wing and pro-Egyptian brand. The civil ruler was the able and dynamic ruler of the Ba'ath Party, Ahran Hourani. The military ruler was the head of Army Intelligence, Col. Abdel Hamid Serraj.

At that time Syria's Communist chieftain, Khalid Baqdash, appeared to be very much Ahran Hourani's junior partner. Furthermore, it was authoritative said that there were no Communists in the Army at all, with the single exception of Col. Afif Bizry. Col. Bizry and Col. Amin Nufouri enjoyed great notoriety as the judges who had pronounced death sentences in a Moscow-style "treason" trial of Syrian right-wingers during the winter. Col. Nufouri was further celebrated as the special enemy and rival of Col. Abdel Hamid Serraj.

The main result of the Syrian coup d'etat so far has been the transformation of Col. Bizry, the Army's sole reputed Communist, into Maj-Gen. Bizry, Chief of Staff of the Syrian armed forces, and the further transformation of Col. Nufouri, Col. Serraj's enemy, into Brig-Gen. Nufouri. Deputy Chief of Staff under Gen. Bizry. In Arab politics there are usually meanings within meanings. But surely the most important meaning of these sudden promotions of Bizry and Nufouri is plain enough.

In brief, there has been a sharp change in what you might call the stock ownership of Syria. For a long time now, Syria

Special Wisconsin Senatorial Election Tuesday Seen as Test

By RAYMOND LAHR United Press Staff Correspondent

Washington — If Wisconsin's special Senate election Tuesday gives national political parties their first chance to test political wind directions since the Eisenhower landslide 10 months ago...

The prize is the Senate seat of the late Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, the controversial figure who held it for almost 11 years.

The Republicans expect to win but seem a little nervous. The Democrats are hopeful but recognize that they are underdogs in normally Republican Wisconsin.

Although the state GOP organization tends to be conservative, the Republican nominee is an Eisenhower Republican, former Gov. Walter J. Kohler. The Democratic candidate is William Proxmire from the liberal wing

of his party — a thrice-defeated nominee for governor who once lost to Kohler by a margin of 35,000 votes.

Whatever the result, the trend-hunters in both parties will go to work with slide rules. In Wisconsin last year, Sen. Alexander Wiley, another Eisenhower Republican, was re-elected with 58 per cent of a total vote of 1,523,356 while President Eisenhower was also sweeping the state.

Forecasts reaching the party managers here estimate a much smaller vote Tuesday — in the neighborhood of 600,000. Even that turnout would be higher than was expected a few weeks ago.

One source of Republican worry is the independent candidacy of Howard H. Boyle Jr., a conservative Republican, who figures to subtract from Kohler's vote. GOP leaders are conceding him about 20,000.

Republicans are also nervous about the farm vote in the north-western part of the state, which will be watched closely by the Democrats, too. In that

area four years ago, the Democrats broke the Republican hold on the 9th Congressional seat and elected Rep. Lester R. Johnson, who has twice been re-elected.

Issues At Stake: Democrats also will be wondering whether there is any political payoff in their efforts to develop an issue on inflation and the rising cost of living. They have doubts, however, that the issue was exploited in Wisconsin to the extent that it will be tried in some states in the 1958 congressional elections.

The result Tuesday can have much impact on the Senate where there are now 49 Democrats, 46 Republicans and one vacancy.

A Proxmire victory would provide some insurance against the Democrats losing control before the 1958 elections. A Kohler victory would put the GOP in position to take control if a Democratic senator should die in a state with a Republican governor who could fill the vacancy by appointment.

Republicans have the tie-breaking vote of Vice President Richard M. Nixon to organize the Senate should their membership rise to 48.

Federal Atomic Power Plant Still Doubtful Despite Demo Victory

By A. ROBERT SMITH Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington — When President Eisenhower signed the atomic energy authorization bill into law last week, he made it possible to complete plans for a big dual-purpose reactor at Hanford—but at the same time he made clear his administration will resist to the end the construction of that reactor as a federal project.

The effect of this statement by the president was to throw down the gauntlet once more to Congress, which had just gone through another battle over the government's atomic power policy. This year the Democrats, who favor federally built reactors, won decisively over Republicans who support the administration's preference for private industrial development of atomic power reactors.

The Hanford reactor is bound now to be another major issue in this continuing policy dispute during the congressional session next spring, for by April 1 the Atomic Energy Commission must have completed engineering designs and construction plans for the dual-purpose reactor. They are obliged to do this much with \$2,000,000 appropriated for the planning.

Cost \$100 Million: Eisenhower said he had no objection to federal planning, as long as the construction were turned over to private enterprise. A dual-purpose reactor would cost around \$100,000,000. The prospect of it being handled privately seems remote.

Two questions must be answered before such a reactor can be built: First, will Congress authorize expenditure of \$100,000,000?

But—Money is old fashioned. What we call coined money was invented back about 700 B.C. by either the Lydians or the Ionians. At any rate, it was in what we now call Asia Minor. This money was a rough piece of metal made of gold and silver. It was roughly stamped to indicate its value.

The Chinese were also early makers of coins. They shaped each coin to show what could be bought with it. Some of their coins were shaped like the human body and were called "dress money." These were used to buy clothing.

The Chinese were very early eaters of pork — as you will recall from your reading of Charles Lamb's whimsical Essay on Roast Pig. Presumably the money intended to pay for a pork chop was shaped like a pig.

All this talk about money spots a little story that has just come off the wire. A group of young mothers in Milwood, Mich., is running a money-printing outfit — just like the treasury department.

It is quite legal, and is designed to solve their baby-sitting problems. This "currency" comes in two denominations — a half hour and a full hour. When a mother needs a baby-sitter, she calls another mother and when the sitting job is finished she pays her off with the proper amount of baby-sitting bills. The bills are negotiable and the second mother can use them when SHE needs a baby sitter. And so on.

Use of this baby-sitting currency keeps everything straight so that no mother gets gypped in the transaction. That's what money is for. That is why it is

000 for the reactor; and second, will the administration reluctantly build it if Congress does approve it?

Congress has appropriated funds to start four new dams as federal projects in the past several years over administration opposition, and in each case the dams were put under construction or, in the case of John Day dam, will soon be. In no case did the executive branch of the government exercise its power to veto such federal projects simply by failing to spend the appropriated funds.

The atomic projects may be quite another matter, for the administration is strenuously trying to prevent the beginning of a program of federal atomic power plants — and, with the stubbornness of AEC Chairman Lewis Strauss to give the administration's stand some muscle, it is not inconceivable that even if Congress puts up funds to start the big Hanford undertaking, it might be shelved.

What did the Canadians think? Well, one of them, a top writer on a top newspaper, didn't think much of it. Here's what Bill Ryan, business editor of the Vancouver Province—a conservative newspaper—had to say in his column:

"Canada-United States talks on Columbia River power development have likely hit another roadblock—rather than stimulating in the appointment of former United States Interior Secretary Douglas McKay as United States chairman of the International Joint Commission."

"McKay, say Washington observers, is a private power exponent, and probably lukewarm to any expansion of public power in the Pacific Northwest. What's more, his appointment apparently does nothing to solve the continuing private-versus-public power squabble in the United States, with which Canada's Columbia River hopes seem inextricably bound."

"It is a bleak picture for British Columbia, one virtually without visible solution — unless Canada goes it alone on upper Columbia development. And such a course has its drawbacks since it might provide the United States Pacific Northwest with substantial downstream benefits — free of charge."

So much for Mr. Ryan. There is much talk lately from industry bigshots about the why's and wherefores of Oregon being unable to entice new industry into the state. But every one seems to overlook the primary reason: The Pacific Northwest is rapidly running out of its great fuel—cheap hydroelectric power — and nothing is being done to rectify the situation.

The appointment of Douglas McKay was just another step away from solutions.—Coos Bay Times.

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