

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

"Everyone in Southern Oregon Reads The Mail Tribune"

Published Daily Except Saturday by
MEDFORD PRINTING CO.
27-29 North Fir St. Phone 2-8141

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An Independent Newspaper
Entered as second class matter at
Medford Oregon under Act of
March 3, 1897.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
By Mail—In Advance: Per Copy 10c.
Daily and Sunday—One year \$15.00
Daily and Sunday—Six months \$8.00
Daily and Sunday—Three months \$4.25
Sunday Only—One year \$4.25

By Carrier—In Advance—Medford,
Ashland Central Point, Eagle Point,
Jacksonville, Gold Hill, Phoenix,
Shady Cove, Rogue River, Talent
and on motor routes:
Daily and Sunday—One year \$18.00
Daily and Sunday—Six months \$10.00
Daily and Sunday—Three months \$5.50
Carriers and Dealers—10c per copy
All Terms Cash in Advance

Official Paper of the City of Medford
Official Paper of Jackson County
United Press—Full Leased Wire
MEMBER OF AUDIT BUREAU
OF CIRCULATION

Advertising Representative:
WEST-HOLIDAY COMPANY, INC.
Offices in New York, Chicago, de-
troit, San Francisco, Los Angeles,
Seattle, Portland, St. Louis, Atlanta,
Vancouver, B.C.

1957 PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

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

Sept. 15, 1947 (Monday)
Pickets of International Association
of Machinists withdrawn from
Medford auto dealer establish-
ments.

Water Superintendent Isaac
Coffman of Jacksonville asks
residents to use city water for
household purposes only.

20 YEARS AGO

Sept. 15, 1927 (Wednesday)
Six special trains carrying
CCC men to homes in other
corps areas for discharge will
leave the Medford district in the
next few days.

Loyal Order of Moose will
hold its 1938 state convention
here, Dr. George S. Jennings,
dictator of Medford lodge, an-
nounces.

30 YEARS AGO

Sept. 15, 1927 (Thursday)
According to present plans,
Col. Charles A. Lindbergh will
leave Portland about 9 a.m. Fri-
day and arrive in Medford about
11 a.m.

"The Legend of Sparkling Wa-
ter," a booklet put out by the
Medford city water commission,
is ready for distribution.

40 YEARS AGO

Sept. 15, 1917 (Saturday)
The Utah-Idaho Sugar com-
pany submits proposition to
Medford Commercial club for
establishment of sugar factory
in the Medford-Central Point
section to replace the present
Grants Pass factory.

A barbecue will be held at
noon Wednesday as part of the
county fair, directors announce.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. Is the Grand Coulee Dam higher or lower than Niagara Falls?
2. Which prominent American actress is a member of a family of Alabama statesmen?
3. Bible: The "Sermon on the Mount" is to the New Testament as what is to the Old Testament?
4. Name the daily publication that contains the proceedings of the Congress.
5. Which State of the U.S. touches only one other State?
6. In which city is the famous Cafe de la Paix?
7. How many of the four U.S. Presidents sculptured at Mount Rushmore, N. D., can you name?
8. Independence Day in the United States is celebrated on what date?
9. Does "luxurious" imply a profuse growth of foliage, flowers, or whiskers?
10. "All I know is what I read in the papers." Which beloved person popularized this phrase?

Answers: 1. Higher, more than twice as high. 2. Tallulah Bankhead. 3. "The Ten Commandments." 4. Congressional Record. 5. Maine. 6. Paris, France. 7. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt. 8. July 4. 9. No. It implies luxury. "Luxurious" implies a profuse growth. 10. Will Rogers.

Slow But Sure

The railroad problem and the segregation problem have one thing in common.

A satisfactory solution, for the country as a whole, is going to take time.

"The Old Guard dies but it never surrenders."

Just as there are Southerners who, as long as they live, will never accept the constitutional principle of race-equality; so there are railroad leaders who will, as long as they hold office, never admit that in the public-utility field, there are other obligations than making money—the obligation of rendering proper public service for just one example.

AS HAS often been pointed out, however, in spite of the deplorable doings at Nashville and Little Rock, there is a change, slow but sure, in the direction of a better relationship between the whites and the blacks south of the Mason and Dixon Line. This is particularly true among the former, realizing it is as true today as it was two thousand years ago that "if a house be divided against itself it cannot stand."

In other words eventually there must be one law for all the citizens of this country, regardless of "race, color or creed", if the democracy we claim is to endure—and it is as much to the ultimate self-interest of the South as to the North, that this goal be reached as soon as circumstances, tolerance and human nature permit.

THE situation is not as grave, of course, in the railroad field but there is a certain similarity.

As remarked there are railroad leaders who will never abandon the assumption that rail transportation in the utility field is their exclusive property, to do with as they please, and as far as public convenience and necessity are concerned, the "public can be damned."

But their number, slowly, but we believe surely, are decreasing. Not that all the R.R. "royalty" have suddenly become social-workers and started to sprout wings. But more and more of them have, we believe, begun to WONDER—to follow their trade slogan and to hesitate as they "stop, look and listen."

WE HAVE in mind, particularly, the recent action of President DeButts of the Southern (NOT Southern Pacific) railroad.

As generally known the Interstate Commerce Commission, as usual whenever a group of important railroads make a request, recently granted them a generous increase in rates.

We are indebted to the Oregon Journal for the following explanation of the action the Southern Railway President took and why, quote:

The 4 per cent increase in rates which the Interstate commerce commission recently authorized for the country's railroads is in effect, but the Southern Railroad company will have no part of it.

So significant are the grounds upon which Harry A. DeButts, president of Southern Railway, refrained from putting into effect the higher rates that it seems surprising no other railroad shared his views. His railroad's cargo, service and territory are similar to that of railroads in our region.

"The Southern did not ask for the rate increase," DeButts explained, "and does not intend to raise any rate where it would result in pricing us out of the market and thereby reduce our net income."

Like railroads of this region, the Southern has put millions of dollars in better service, but its president unfortunately is alone in his resolve to protect that investment by not raising freight rates. He has explained that his company is testing its "theory that the service potential we have built into our system by the expenditure of hundreds of millions in recent years will enable us to handle volume at existing rate levels and still result in a satisfactory net return on the money invested in our properties."

Pres. DeButts sounds convincing in his conclusion, "We feel that the constant upward spiral of freight rates is pricing out of the market. Careful analysis of our traffic records in recent years supports us in this belief . . . If we are on the right track, and we are sure we are, our low rates will regain freight traffic from other modes of transportation which got it from us with low rates at a time when ours couldn't be lowered to meet competition."

IN SHORT, just as it is to the self-interest of the South as well as the North that the gospel of race-discrimination and hatred be abandoned, so it is to the self-interest of the American railroads that the gospel of greed and "the public be damned" be abandoned.

As the Journal remarks, the only regret is there are not more railroad heads like President DeButts, who have the same enlightened view as to the best way to "protect their INVESTMENTS."—R.W.R.

Who Said "Propaganda"?

We stressed the fact in a recent editorial that this defiance of federal authority by Governor Faubus of Arkansas over school integration, might well prove to be "another shot heard around the world" only it would be fired against American democracy not to uphold it.

We received a complaint from one subscriber that this was mere "Yankee propaganda", unsupported by any evidence or facts.

If this be true, then we can only say the American press north and south, must be controlled by the most amazing conglomeration of misguided, misinformed and prejudiced nit-wits, with which the profession of journalism has ever been burdened.

FOR as far as our observation goes there has not been ONE important newspaper in the country that has failed to call attention to this deplorable phase of the Little Rock incident, while a poll of the press from England to Russia and on to Australia, is an unbroken chorus of amazement, indignation and anti-American sentiment.

In fact the reaction abroad has been more im-



"A RANCH HOME? WHERE THEY GONNA KEEP ALL THEIR COWS AN' HORSES AN' STUFF?"

Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

DRIFT INTO DISORDER

Something in the nature of a tacit understanding seems to have been reached between Gov.

Faubus and the Administration. It is that the issue between them is to be resolved by judicial proceedings carried on slowly and with great deliberation. The Department of Justice is avoiding any move which would soon precipitate a showdown between the Governor and the Federal power. It is no doubt hoping that this will bring about a cooling-off period, during which something will somehow be arranged to make a showdown unnecessary.

The Governor, for his part, has declared in the statement he published on Monday that he does not in principle oppose and mean to resist integration in the public schools of Arkansas. Moreover, he has said that he will accept the results of the final judicial ruling. It is understood that in the meantime he can use the National Guard to keep the Central High school segregated.

IN THE whole field of the Negro's advance to civic equality, it is a wise general rule to avoid letting issues reach a point where there has to be a showdown. But unhappily, in the Little Rock case, the Governor himself has acted to force a showdown between himself and the law of the land. We are in a situation where, if we avoid a showdown with the Governor, we have in fact given in to him and condoned a violation of the law. The nation through its Federal Government is placed in a position by the Governor where it must choose between upholding and surrendering its authority, he having left open no middle ground of compromise.

It is a most unhappy affair.

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date and 100 per cent denunciatory than this department expected.

While here at home even as well informed and responsible a news commentator as Marquis Childs has this to say about the destructive impact of the "little war in Little Rock", quote:

Some estimate of the damage done to America's position in the world by Arkansas' Governor Orval E. Faubus is evident in reports now coming in to various government agencies of the way in which the governor's rebellion has made page one news in Europe, Asia and Africa. The propaganda advantage the governor has given the Communists by throwing troops around the Little Rock high school to keep out Negro students is immeasurable.

It could not possibly be bought with money, in the view of officials who are appraising these reports, no matter how much gold was circulated through the Communist apparatus in North America.

There is an awareness here in America of the contrast between Faubus' irresponsibility and the way in which integration is quietly taking place in many areas of the South and in the border states. But this corrective is missing in the reports that appear abroad.

In Europe and Asia particularly, the impact of a photograph of armed troops holding back a handful of young Negroes from entering a public high school simply cannot be exaggerated. The explanation—that this is the reckless act of one ambitious official in a community that had been ready and willing to accept integration—never catches up with the drama recorded by the camera.

What so many Americans have apparently begun to forget is that in the struggle between East and West everything that happens inside the United States is of immediate interest all over the world. We are not alone, and the meanest action of a few irresponsible fanatics in Alabama is page one news in Asia.

The tragedy of Arkansas coincides with the special meeting of the United States general assembly to consider the action of Soviet troops last November in brutally destroying the free government in Hungary.

While it is altogether irrelevant, the distraction provided by Governor Faubus is convenient for the Communist bloc at this moment.

Faubus will pass into oblivion and the union will stand. But the consequences abroad will be felt for a long time to come.

We wish our anti-Yankee subscriber would please cut out that quotation and put it in his scrap-book for future reference!—R.W.R.

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

YOU CAN'T FORCE FARMERS

Brzeg, Poland—In this little Silesian town with a name half-way between a sneeze and a curse, the old German population was driven out, Poles poured in only 12 years ago. The transformation has been radical; and it is nowhere more apparent than in the fall-en house of the town's rich man of the German times. The ornate, hideous stucco is cracked and peeling. The once-manicured lawns are shaggy. The grand drawing room has become a meeting place for farm managers. For this is now the Head-



Joseph Alsop

quarters of the Brzeg Union of State Farms.

This reporter and his interviewer were led to the State Farm Headquarters by tourist happenstance, as a result of a casual roadside meeting with a band of peasants who were lifting a poorish potato crop. But Poles, apparently, would not be surprised or discommoded by the arrival of visitors from the other side of the moon with a lunatic interest in the state of Polish agriculture.

AT ANY rate, the burly, intelligent young Director of the State Farm Union, Fryderyk Lyczak, greeted us like long-lost brothers. So we spent a long, happy day among manure piles, in cow barns and in piggeries, learning what has happened to farming in the county of Brzeg. A lot has happened, and almost all of it has been good since Wladyslaw Gomulka set Polish farming free in October a year ago.

The 10,000 acres of Director Lyczak's State Farm Union are of course state-owned and state-managed to this day. But the great change in Poland has meant almost as much to this state enterprise as to the thousands of Brzeg County peasants who have got their own land back from the detested collectives.

It did not matter whether one talked to Director Lyczak, who is a Communist and certainly owes his first appointment to the Party; or to his agronomist, Jerze Ochman, a serious, older man with a deep love of the land and no love for politics; or to the farm managers who are also Party members or to those who were not. The story was always the same.

"Now that we've got rid of the damn crazy system before October," Lyczak burst out, "we can do the kind of job our land deserves. And it is wonderful land, I tell you that."

"We don't have to grow any more damned corn because it's the line to grow corn; only corn for silage now is our system!" —"By next year we won't be using the best wheat land in Poland to grow potatoes for pig-feed because it's the line to increase pig production!" —"No more destroying the land with foolish planting programs; better crop rotation and more cattle to meet our country's need for milk and our land's need for manure; that's where we're heading now!"

SO THEY exulted, even in this state enterprise, because Gomulka's decentralization has set them free to do a good, sensible job of work. To be sure, the eight farms of the Brzeg Union range from big, prosperous old manors to insane patchworks of unrelated bits of land put together by the bureaucrats of the past.

The worst of the farms is so unsuited to large-scale mechanized production that Lyczak is boldly planning to return the land to peasant ownership. The best farm is primitive by American standards. With 34 tractors in his machinery sheds altogether, Lyczak still needs no less than 500 regular farm laborers and 300 season workers at seed time and harvest on his 10,000 total acres. But you could almost see Lyczak, Ochman and the others rolling up their sleeves for the great task of bringing up their farming operation to the most modern Western level.

"In the German times," said Ochman, "our land produced 45 quintals of wheat per hectare. We'll do two-thirds of that this year, which is a lot better than last year. But let us not get up to 45 quintals again, when we have fertilizer enough, I'm going to be a very disappointed man."

FURTHERMORE, these men of the state farms were also unanimous about the results of the other, far more important aspect of Wladyslaw Gomulka's land reform. These have been dramatic. With 10,000 acres in the Star State Farm Union, Brzeg County used to have 30,000 acres in collective farms and only 25,000 acres in private plots. Today, only a single small collective of about 400 acres survives the holocaust of last October.

Since October, the animal population of the county has already increased by at least 50 per cent. The area plowed has gone up by a probable 20 per cent. The milk-collecting station in Brzeg town, which could never collect anything like its planned capacity in the past, is now desperately struggling with an actual glut of milk which it cannot handle. And so it goes.

"There is nothing like the Polish peasants' passion for the land," said Ochman over a final cup of coffee in his simple apartment. "Just set a Polish peasant free to farm and he'll farm 'til he drops. If we do a good job with our state farms, I think our peasants will enter voluntary cooperatives later on, because this Silesian land really repays large-scale mechanized agriculture. But you can't force farmers; you can't force farmers."

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POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

We have referred here upon occasion to the blue-doored lawyer's office which is occasionally mistaken for a lounge. Well, sir, the top dog in the office called in some elation the other day to keep the record straight. A lady had wandered in, he claimed, under the mistaken impression that the blue door was that of the First National bank.

A local police lieutenant escorted his 6-year-old son to the registration day for first graders last week, and reported that the lad's teacher is a recent college graduate, unmarried and very good looking. The lieutenant said that when he found he couldn't fit behind the desks, he went back to work.

The planning commission the other night was discussing whether or not lights should be allowed to illuminate certain signs. Commissioner Don Root, a father, interjected that "the two spotlights I'd like to see put out are those darn carnival lights. Every time my kids see those . . ."

What is a revue and what is a review? Consultation with a dictionary indicates the Jackson County 4-H clubs may be running a sort of burlesque show. Official 4-H publications use the word "revue" in "style revue," to designate a review of clothing creations made by members.

Municipal Judge Noreen Kelly was seen the other morning leaving a coffee house after a morning refresher, then suddenly dashing back to pay for it. One of our colleagues was led to inquire, "What is the penalty, judge, for forgetting to pay entirely?"

"They should know better" department: Two people who were seen recently walking along a main highway with their back to oncoming traffic. You can get killed that way, friends.

Capt. Carl Cover, USNR, has been a friend of Cmdr. Rodney Keating, USNR, for some years. So when Cover, here with the governor recently, was introduced as "Colonel Cover," the judge, sure he'd caught Emcee Jennings Pierce in an obvious error, corrected him: "Captain Cover," he said loudly. What he didn't know was that Governor Holmes wanted Cover for a military aide, found that some obscure law prevented the governor from having a naval aide, and so commissioned him a colonel (the equivalent rank) in the Oregon National Guard. Rod's face still gets a little red when he's reminded of it.

Speaking of Judge Keating, he reports that on several occasions gasoline had been stolen from supplies from his ranch on Valley View drive. So he obtained a small drum, filled it with gasoline, added some sugar, and left it near the rest of the gasoline. He said he's heard since, via grapevine, that a distant neighbor has been complaining of tractor trouble because some blankety-blank so-and-so had put sugar in his gas.

An anonymous friend reports that she paused last week to let a funeral procession pass. Following closely behind, she says, so close as to look like the last vehicle in the procession, was a truck carrying away dead animals.

On the desk of one of our co-workers rests the office's community coffee pot. The occupant of the desk, who usually presides over the coffee-making, burned the tips of her fingers on it slightly last week. She obtained some burn ointment from the first aid kit, and rather than mess her fingers all up, applied small amounts of it to the keys of her typewriter used by the burned fingers.

Another burn victim came to the office last week—a woman who is especially safety-conscious, who has worked for many years for the Red Cross, and who can recite safety maxims at the drop of a matchbook cover labeled "close cover before striking." It seems she had been lighting candles on a birthday cake with paper matches, and did NOT "close cover before striking."

One young man who works here sometimes occupies a desk chair which faces a window, and sometimes he gazes out the window, through the venetian blind slats, while waiting for inspiration to strike. After such a contemplative pause the other day he reported soberly that airliners coming in for a landing at the Medford airport descend two venetian blind slats between the First National bank and Acme Hardware store.