

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

Dec. 11, 1947 (Thursday)

The Jackson County rent advisory board recommends rent control be continued for a period of one year past the date set for expiration.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column: "A number of the Older Boys are puffed with pride. Between the Stork and Santa Claus they have been elevated to Grandpawhood."

30 YEARS AGO

Dec. 11, 1917 (Sunday)

American Red Cross 1918 enrollment for Jackson county was announced yesterday as 2079, a slight increase over that of last year.

A colorful display of gift pear boxes from the Wing orchards near this city is being featured this week in the windows of Lipman-Wolfe's department store of Portland, according to Charles A. Wing.

30 YEARS AGO

Dec. 11, 1927 (Sunday)

The Agricultural Council of the Northwest Railroad Advisory board meets at 9:30 a.m. in Portland Dec. 16. The railroads are giving a one-fare rate for the round trip to members and others interested.

Tardiness in the payment of county taxes will be penalized one-sixth per cent a month higher in 1928 than it was in 1927, according to Sheriff Ralph Jennings.

40 YEARS AGO

Dec. 11, 1917 (Tuesday)

This is the last call to men of draft age who wish to escape the draft by enlisting as volunteers. Enlistments in Medford cease Dec. 12.

Ringling of the burglar alarm in the Farmers and Fruitgrowers bank about 8:30 p.m. yesterday created a little excitement. It was discovered later that a slight imperfection in the working mechanism set it off accidentally.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. What bird lays the smallest eggs?
 2. Bible: Which day is generally held to be the most important in Christian history?
 3. What sort of plant is a nomenclature?
 4. Are white shelled eggs nutritionally better than brown shelled eggs?
 5. Codfish do or do not have tongues?
 6. Freesias reproduce from corns or bulbs?
 7. Are Leghorn hats made of Leghorn or any kind of chicken feathers?
 8. Does egg yolk color indicate nutritive quality?
 9. Was Thomas E. Dewey a governor of N. J. or Pa.?
 10. Is India, Canada, or Australia referred to as "down under"?
- Answers: 1. Hummingbird. 2. Day of Crucifixion. 3. One that bears nuts. 4. No. Both are equally nutritious. 5. They do. 6. Corns. 7. No. From wheat straw, grown in Livorno, Italy. 8. No. Nutrients depend on the season and hen's diet. 9. No. Of N. Y. 10. Australia.

Fusion Power

Is the world running out of sources of power? The answer seems to be "yes—and then again, no."

The so-called fossil fuels—oil, gas and coal—will some day, perhaps in 20 years, perhaps 100, be almost gone. There is a limit to the supply, and that supply is being used up at a tremendous and increasing rate. Many scientists and engineers have given sober thought to the problems which are presented by the picture of a world without sources of thermal power represented by these fuels.

THE long-range answer is not contained in the use of nuclear fuels such as uranium, either, for supplies of this are also finite and limited. Atomic energy, as known today, will postpone the day of power starvation, but cannot solve the problem. And it also poses other problems, such as the disposal of huge quantities of radioactive waste materials.

As for hydro-electric energy, which is renewed each year by the cycle of precipitation and river flow, this is nearly a perpetual source of power, but physical limitations will prevent its expansion beyond a certain point.

And it should be remembered that the world's appetite for power is growing at a far faster rate than population itself. It is, in fact, virtually "exploding," and the development of heretofore primitive nations will add to the demand.

ONE potential source of power is the sun itself, but up to this point only limited means have been devised to tap it. This is a fruitful area of research, but by its nature is apt to be limited to those parts of the world where sunlight is freely available the year around.

The big problem, then, is to find a source of energy which in the centuries to come will replace the fossil fuel power sources, and will be capable of almost indefinite expansion to meet the world's growing needs.

Many scientists think it might lie in thermonuclear fusion. Supplies of the necessary fuel, deuterium, a form of hydrogen, are virtually unlimited.

This is the energy which activates the awful power of the H-bomb, just as atomic fission provides the energy for the A-bomb. Atomic energy comes from the splitting of the atom (a sort of explosive process, which, on the atomic level, is similar to TNT or dynamite, on the molecular level). Thermonuclear power, on the other hand, comes from fusion of atoms (which, in turn on the atomic level, is comparable to burning, or oxidation, on the molecular level).

THE scientists themselves do not yet have all the answers to the "why" of energy-release in these processes, but they are learning the "how." And there is promise that before too many more years they will be able to harness thermonuclear power just as they are now beginning to harness atomic power.

But the difficulties which must be surmounted are awesome, even if they are not impossible.

An article in the current issue of the Scientific American gives an idea of the problems, and of the efforts being made to surmount them.

The problems are of a different order than those tackled by mankind before, because of the tremendous and almost unimaginable temperatures, pressures and velocities involved.

FOR instance, it is believed that to sustain a fusion reaction temperatures of about 350 million degrees centigrade will be needed. With a fuel mixture (deuterium gas) at normal pressure heated to this level, the pressure would build to several million times that of the normal atmosphere.

Therefore, some of the basic problems involved are, how to achieve this heat to sustain a self-sustaining thermonuclear fusion reaction without setting off an atomic bomb, how to reduce the pressure of the fuel-gas to about one 10,000th of an atmosphere so that pressures are not uncontrollable at the sustained reaction level, and how to contain both heat and pressure when no materials known today could last for more than a split second in either.

There are other problems, too.

BUT the "container" problem is the most difficult, and new and ingenious techniques are being worked out in an attempt to solve it.

One of these is the so-called "pinch effect," which is based on the fact that a strong magnetic field will deflect charged particles from a straight path, and that under proper circumstances, a high-pressure gas could generate an internal magnetic field of its own strong enough to exclude an externally applied field.

These forces would, in effect, form a "magnetic bottle" to keep the gas from touching anything else, and contain the reaction through magnetic effects alone.

This, the magazine points out, is theory. The practical difficulties to be overcome are tremendous. But scientists throughout the world are at work on them. And they are generally optimistic.

SOME idea of the problems can be gathered from a brief quotation from the article:

"One of the thorniest problems is measurement. It is hard enough to create a hot plasma (gas) in the first place, but to find out what it is doing, once created, is sometimes still harder. Some new measurement techniques have already been developed. To measure the density of a plasma there is a new 'microwave interferometer' using beams of millimeter radio waves as probes. The temperature of the plasma is assessed by studying its x-ray emissions, its radio 'noise' and its escaping particles or reaction products..."

The author concludes that the search for fusion power (and possibly direct creation of electric power, by-passing the thermal transfer process) "is at once the most fascinating, the most difficult and potentially the most important peacetime scientific effort ever undertaken."—E.A.



"OPENED DOOR... WOMAN SAYS, DENNIS MITCHELL YOUR BRAT? I SAID YES... SHE YANKS OFF MY GLASSES... POW!"

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

MAKING THE WORST OF IT



Joseph Alsop

Beirut, Lebanon — Language that can be printed in a family newspaper cannot possibly convey the emotions of an American traveler abroad, on receiving the news of the flat failure of the first American attempt to launch an earth satellite.

This will go down in history as the final, classical demonstration of how to make the very worst of a very bad business. It is painful enough to be humiliated, although a little humble pie may be a useful addition to the American diet after all the phoney, arrogant guff served up for so long by "team" members like former Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson.

But this latest episode has not merely made the United States ridiculous in the eyes of the whole world. It has also greatly increased the dangers of a situation already bristling with danger.

The reason why this humiliating accident has had such an important practical effect can only be understood against the background of the gradual loss of faith in American leadership during the last five years. This is a process that cannot be easily traced. It has gone by fits and starts. It has not been divided into clearly marked phases.

SOMETIMES the Eisenhower administration has been most loudly applauded abroad when it was committing its worst follies, as when the President went to Geneva with the odd purpose of convincing the masters of the Kremlin that America was remorselessly dedicated to peace at any price. Sometimes the American position has been undermined in one part of the world and somewhat strengthened in another, as when the President's handling of the Suez crisis all but disrupted the Western Alliance while earning the extreme temporary gratitude of the Arabs.

But in one way or another, the loss of faith in American leadership has become more and more widespread, until today it may be described as total. The bitter distrust, the really passionate detestation of Secretary of State Dulles is only a part of the story, moreover.

The American editorial writers who still customarily describe the President as one of America's great foreign assets are simply talking through their hats. The moral goodness of Dwight D. Eisenhower is of course recognized by almost everyone. But Doctor Johnson said that the "road to hell was paved with good intentions." And nine hundred and ninety nine in every thousand of America's potential friends overseas are quite openly convinced that the President's chief contribution has been a gigantic addition to the pavement of the road to hell.

THE loss of faith in America's leaders, and therefore in American world leadership, was evident long before the launching of the first Sputnik. But until Sputnik began circling the earth, we still retained one great remaining advantage. The government in Washington was regarded as infirm of purpose, woolly in its judgements and distressingly given to pompous, empty moral preachments. But at least it was believed that the United States as a nation was overwhelmingly strong. And in world politics, strength counts more than anything else.

The real effect of Sputnik was to destroy this last remaining asset, American strength, which had been so grossly neglected through five long euphoric years, was suddenly revealed as inferior to Soviet strength in the most vital area. Soviet strength, which had been underrated by all but a few experts, was suddenly seen to be very great indeed.

WHOEVER in Washington got the idea of remedying this catastrophic setback by the re-

cent, catastrophically unsuccessful, satellite launching ought to have had his head examined at the outset. Belatedly sending up a midget satellite could never have undone the harm already done. Even before the launching, even among very ordinary people in the Middle East, there was open mockery of the smug, complacent American stories about the new American satellite that were coming out of Washington. Even then, the contrast between what we were boasting we were going to do and what the Russians had already done was only too evident.

But the failure in Florida, after the big, slick, unconvincing adman's buildup, has brought the reputation of the United States to the lowest point on remembrance record. In addition to everything that had been lost already, we are now regarded as blabbermouths and bluffers.

This is acutely dangerous for a nation envied for its wealth, forced by history to lead the cause of freedom, and therefore destined to be the chief target of the great Soviet drive to write "finish" to freedom's short, precarious chapter in human history. There is no cure, there is no way out any longer but one alone. Only new men can restore the old faith in America's leadership, the old respect for the United States.

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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

More missile fizzle stuff:

British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan has decided to fly to Paris this week in an attempt to build confidence among pessimistic European NATO members. He will meet with other NATO leaders before the summit talks begin in an effort to allay fears that the U.S. is going to the Paris meeting "empty-handed."

There has been GROWING ANXIETY ON THE CONTINENT since the U.S. satellite launching failure last week.

HMMMMMMMM.

There might be less apprehension on the continent if in the past decade Western Europe had done more to DEFEND ITSELF instead of relying on old Uncle Sam to DO IT ALL, for free.

HERE on the home front the political battle over who flubbed the missile business is getting hotter by the hour.

A while back, as you will probably remember, GOP officials charged that the delay in the U.S. missile program was TRUMAN'S fault because he was President and commander-in-chief of our armed forces from the end of World War II until 1952 and during this period nothing much was done in the way of missile development.

That brought Washington's Democratic Senator Henry (Scoop) Jackson to his feet with his fists swinging. He counter-charged that while General Eisenhower was serving as army chief-of-staff and military advisor to the Truman administration he failed to make any recommendations for missile development.

He adds that during this period Republicans in congress did no pushing for a missile program.

I THINK it might be well to recommend to these leg-biting politicians that they get out their Bibles and read the first nine verses of the eighth chapter of the Book of John.

It was on the Mount of Olives, and Jesus was teaching the people. The Scribes and the Pharisees (who were among the astute of the politicians of those days) were seeking to catch him in a trap.

They brought before him a woman taken in adultery and pointed out that Moses in the law commanded that such should be stoned. "What," they demanded of him, "sayest thou?" John tells the story thus:

Spain Determined to Keep Ifni; More Than Desert Area at Stake

By PETER KNOX

United Press Correspondent

Madrid—Spain is taking no chances in the African enclave of Ifni. It has more at stake than a few thousand square miles of worthless desert land.

Its ancient tradition of breeding a race of tough fighting men, its future in Africa, its foreign policy and, maybe, its economic strength could all be affected by the way the desert war goes.

Spanish officials claim it is going well, and that the 700-square mile enclave carved out of Morocco on the West African coast soon will be firmly under their control again, with the army of attacking Moroccan irregulars beaten back.

But the violence and effectiveness of the first rebel sweep early in the morning of Saturday, Nov. 23, will not be quickly forgotten.

The rebels punched deep into Spanish territory, encircling Spanish garrison outposts and inland villages.

The exact number of troops or airplanes involved has never been disclosed. Spain was believed to have 2,000 to 3,000 troops in Ifni when the trouble started. It probably has double that number now.

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to submit the matter to the league court or some other international tribunal. Spain claims Ifni as a sovereign possession by virtue of an 1860 treaty.

There are various reasons why Spain does not want to yield Ifni. If Spain loses Ifni, it would give Morocco a boost to put on pressure for the return of the strategically important and prized ports of Ceuta and Melilla.

Oil Reports

The Spanish situation in the zone to the south of Morocco, Rio de Oro, also would become difficult. There are persistent reports that oil might be found there.

There also is the question of security. Many Spaniards feel there is real danger of the spread of Communism in North Africa, and that the West needs footholds there to forestall the area coming under Red domination.

Prestige also is involved. Spain has few possessions left.

A series of newspaper articles recently stressed that Spain had developed the country from a "forgotten corner of the world" into a country with hope for the future.

Wilson Suggests Oath In Conflicting Stories On Missile Expenses

By LYLE C. WILSON

United Press Correspondent

Washington — What's wrong with the idea that politicians should be put under oath before telling the voters who, if anyone, goofed on missiles?

To put it as sweetly as their conflicting stories will permit, somebody is fibbing. Vice President Richard M. Nixon and the Republican National Committee hold that the fiber is former President Harry S. Truman.

On the other hand, if Mr. T. is not fibbing, what about Nixon?

'One Large Voice' For Agriculture Said Oregon Need

Milton-Freewater — State Agriculture Director Robert J. Steward said Tuesday night that "one very large voice to speak for all divisions of agriculture is needed in Oregon."

Steward spoke to a Democratic Club dinner.

Steward said two of the ideas stressed to his board when he took office early this year were payroll development, and closer liaison among the State Agriculture Department, Oregon State college, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Oregon administration and the congressional delegation. He called it "the silliest notion I've ever heard of, to operate the Agriculture Department as an island when the interests of agriculture intertwine with those in Washington, D.C."

'Practically Nothing' Done

Steward said "practically nothing" has been done on a cooperative basis between the State Department of Agriculture and USDA, much less locally, and in Congress.

He urged programs of "self help" to