

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. 23, 1947 (Monday)

A total of 170 buildings placed on sale at Camp White by the war assets administration; included are storehouses, mess halls, guard shelters and towers, administration and recreation buildings, latrines, sheds and miscellaneous structures.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column: "The tax muddle in Oregon indicates what the state needs is candidates for the legislature who will put up bonds they will not serve if elected."

20 YEARS AGO: Dec. 23, 1937 (Wednesday)

Work starts on tearing down the residence bordered by South Riverside ave., 13th st. and South Central ave. for Piggy Wigly supermarket.

"Old Saint Nick" is busy preparing for his annual visit for children at the Salvation Army Thursday.

30 YEARS AGO: Dec. 23, 1927 (Friday)

About 500 children attend annual Christmas tree program at California Oregon Power company.

Dairy problems discussed by experts from Oregon State college at a meeting at Ashland city hall of dairy farmers from Ashland and nearby districts.

40 YEARS AGO: Dec. 23, 1917 (Monday)

About 1300 recruits added to local Red Cross membership as a result of recent drive in Ashland and vicinity.

From local and personal column: "An Army sergeant was taken off a train here while en route to his home for Christmas furlough after he became sick with measles, according to local medical authorities."

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

- 1. The Dneiper river is in Bulgaria, Rumania, Soviet Russia or Poland?
2. BIBLE: Who labored 14 years to marry a woman of his choice?
3. The name for a shrimplike seafood is p-n?
4. At the close of World War I, Alsace-Lorraine were returned to what country?
5. In what Chinese province is the city of Harbin?
6. Where did the Wright brothers make their first airplane test flights?
7. What is the national flower of England?
8. Correct the following: "He hadn't but one suit of clothes."
9. What is a "Soap Box Derby"?
10. Was William H. Steward Secretary of State under Jackson, Lincoln or McKinley.

No Cause for Gloom

The year 1957, somehow or other, seems to be drawing to a close almost before it got started. Do years always seem to go faster than the years before? "Time," a respected editorialist reminds us, "is neutral, indifferent to man's employment of it." So, when we attempt to characterize a year as "good" or "bad," what we're really doing is describing whether mankind made good or bad use of the neutral and indifferent year.

ON THIS basis, 1957 hardly merits a "good" rating. The quarrels of nations continued and got more acrimonious. Advantage in the cold war shifted to the Communist bloc of nations, largely because of the giant strides made by Russian scientists in the race for space.

The President's illness cast a pall of gloom over the nation, not entirely dispelled by his apparently quick recovery.

The booming economy began showing some thin spots. Unemployment climbed, and the panicky stock market reflected men's uncertainties.

The failure of America's much-touted "Vanguard" missile was a blow to our prestige, and caused such a flurry of denials, accusations, claims, counter-claims and just plain, stupid comments that one wonders if anyone knows what's going on, or why, and is inclined sometimes to doubt America's essential good health and stability.

CLOSER to home, the picture was somewhat better. But here, too, there were gloomy spots.

The lumber market limped along all year, with prices far below those of recent levels. Several small mills closed, some of them permanently, others for varying periods of time. The ranks of those without jobs climbed.

But as the end of the year neared, there were a number of more cheering developments.

The lumber market began showing its first signs of stability in many months. It wasn't on the upgrade yet, but forecasts for 1958, because of increasing building activity nationwide, and other factors, were cautiously optimistic.

The orchards of the valley produced an excellent crop. Not a record-breaker, exactly, but a good one, and prices were satisfactory to good this year.

The gift pack, now nearing its end, is probably the best in history. One major packer so described it, and others confirmed that their chief difficulty was in supplying the demand.

IN NOVEMBER, for the second straight month, the sale of U.S. savings bonds in Jackson county exceeded the total for the same month the preceding year—a sure sign that economic conditions are better than lots of people think them to be. This was near the end of a year where each other month was down.

The voters of the Medford school district expressed their confidence in the future by overwhelmingly approving a big bond issue for construction of new school facilities.

The United Medford Crusade, for the fifth straight year, exceeded its quota, and collected more than \$123,000 for the support of those agencies and organizations which do so much to maintain the morale and health of a community.

After a slow start, hampered by heavy fog, Christmas shopping in Medford took a sharp upturn, gladdening the hearts of merchants who otherwise had come through a year less good in many respects than the preceding two or three.

AND what of the future? No one can predict it with any accuracy, but an optimist can see signs that good things lie ahead.

Irrigation water shortage problems in the three principal irrigation districts are nearing an end, as progress on their rehabilitation work, and on the Talent project, proceed.

Valley folk are closer than ever before to agreement on the necessity and practicability of an overall development plan for the valley's water resources.

There is hope that stumpage prices will fall, and the lumber market will pick up, enabling mills again to make a decent profit and employ more people.

Better transportation is in prospect, with the continuing improvement of Highway 99, and the probability that improvement of the trans-Cascade, Lake of the Woods road, will begin soon.

We see no cause for gloom about our future.—E.A.

Bus Company Fails

Another experiment in mass transportation is failing, we are sorry to note. Up in Roseburg, a bus company has notified the city council it is going out of business after only a few months of operation.

The company was organized this year to take the place of an earlier firm, that also failed. The new one made use of low-cost, low-maintenance Volkswagen buses. But even with these, patronage was not heavy enough to break even.

With growing congestion in downtown areas, transit systems are a partial solution—but only if people will patronize them.—E.A.

BLM May Withdraw Land for Cinder Use

Portland — A proposed withdrawal of 80 acres of public land in Oregon Grazing District No. 5 in Crook county for use by the Bureau of Land Management as a source of cinders for road material was announced today by Virgil T. Heath, Oregon State Supervisor for the bureau at Portland. The land is located about seven miles west of Prineville and is being used for grazing live-



"I'M ORDERIN' A BALE OF HAY. DON'T YOU 'MEMBER? I'M GETTIN' A PONY THIS WEEK!"

Matter of Fact

By Stewart Alsop

THE ICBM THAT ISN'T Washington—When is an ICBM not an ICBM? The conundrum is prompted by the proud Air Force announcement that the Atlas inter-continental missile had been successfully fired.



The firing was certainly a notable achievement. There should be no mistake about that. Sending a thing weighing a hundred tons, twenty feet higher than Cleopatra's Needle, and stuffed with incredibly complex equipment, through space for five hundred miles or so, is nothing to sneeze at. Since serious work on Atlas started only in 1954, the Air Force and the Convair company which is the prime contractor for the "beast," (as it is known among those who work on it) can no doubt take a bow.

Yet the question remains, when is an ICBM not an ICBM? And the answer is that the Atlas missile test-fired last week is not an ICBM. It has about the same relationship to an operational ICBM as a five-year-old old boy has to a full grown man. And it is important to understand this, lest the Atlas firing is used to lull the country back into the slumberful sleep which it was enjoying before the Sputniks so rudely awakened it.

The "beast" that was fired last Wednesday is, in the words of one who knows, "just a helluva big rocket." A true ICBM is a lot more than a "helluva big rocket." To be sure, the initial stage of an ICBM is just that. But getting the "helluva big rocket" into space is only the first, and in some ways the easiest part of the job of creating a true ICBM.

CONSIDER what the Air Force and the Atlas people still have left to do. First, they must marry the second stage missile to the "helluva big rocket," and what is more difficult, they must arrange for an amicable divorce between the two. The divorce must take place hundreds of miles in space, at a speed totally unimaginable to the finite human mind. The divorce must be so smooth and friendly that the second stage will continue on its predetermined course without being deflected so much as a hair's breadth from its predestined target.

The nose-cone of the second missile must then swoop down from space through the atmosphere towards its target, like a meteor. But unlike most meteors, it must not be burnt up on the way by the friction of the air, which covers our earth like a protective blanket.

The problem of getting the warhead in the nose-cone down to earth without burning up is the problem of "atmospheric re-entry," of which the President talked in his "chins up" speech on November 7th. The President was conned—the word is not too harsh — into claiming in that speech that "our scientists and engineers have solved" the re-entry problem, and into showing the nose-cone of a Jupiter missile to "prove" it.

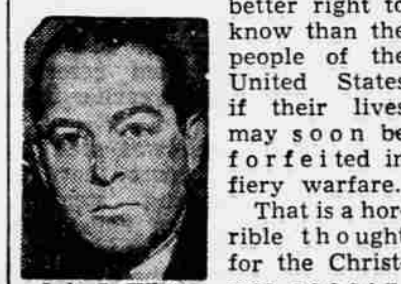
IN FACT, the problem has not really been fully solved at all, certainly not as regards the ICBM. The problem of re-entry revolves entirely around the speed at which the nose-cone enters. The nose-cone the President so proudly displayed to the television audience re-entered at less than 10,000 miles an hour. An intercontinental ballistic missile, to achieve its vast range of 5000 miles or more, must travel at speeds greater than 15,000 miles an hour. It is a very rough rule of thumb that the problem of successful re-entry just about doubles with every additional thousand miles of speed.

So that is another hurdle that must somehow be overlept before we can claim to have an ICBM that really is an ICBM. And perhaps the toughest of all the hurdles ahead is truly accurate guidance. For the range of destruction even of a hydro-

Wilson Says Administration Is Suppressing Important Facts

By LYLE C. WILSON United Press Correspondent

Washington—A fair question to President Eisenhower right now would be: Who has a better right to know than the people of the United States if their lives may soon be forfeited in fiery warfare?



Lyle C. Wilson

The question arises, however, because of considerable evidence that the administration is

suppressing some national defense facts of appalling importance.

These facts are believed to be contained in what is called the Gaither report drafted by a committee headed by H. Rowan Gaither Jr., a San Francisco attorney. It is a roundup on the comparative production and striking power of the United States and the Soviet Union.

The Gaither report is top secret. The President has refused to reveal its contents to the Senate Preparedness subcommittee. There has been, however, the inevitable leak. Over the weekend, the Washington (D.C.) Post and Times Herald printed a copyrighted story asserting that the Gaither report portrayed the United States in the gravest danger in all its history.

The paper said the report foresaw inevitable catastrophe for the United States and its men, women and children. Catastrophe is a chilling word. Its dictionary meaning is: The final event, usually of a calamitous or disastrous nature. There is something especially grim about that phrase: The final event.

And, if the United States is, as reported, in a period of its gravest danger, then what great trials and personal tragedies does the future hold for the American people and how soon shall they be expected to come to pass.

It is no reflection on the Washington Post and Times Herald to report that the last satisfactory way of presenting such complex information and ideas to the public is through what commonly is known as a leak. Leaked news is unofficial. The reporter who obtains and writes it usually has less than the time desirable for study of a complex document.

Communications

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 an eye to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Protest Against Wrecking Yard

To the Editor: Medford was presented a Wrecking Yard for Christmas, to last for 365 days of 1958. Your esteemed councilmen, Jones, VanSickle, Dunley, Bradford and Meyers are the ones to thank.

John Dellenback, attorney for the citizens (with homes around the gift) gave the council a complete history of this residential area, starting early in 1952 when the adjoining property owners had placed on county records, restrictions reserving their properties, (comprising more than 100 acres) for residence purposes. The area joins the Rogue Valley Heights Subdivisions (approximately 400 acres) at Corona Avenue, near Highway 62. The County Court in 1952 went on record to say they would not approve a wrecking yard license in this area.

This area was annexed to the city early in 1957 as Class I residential, and the application for wrecking yard was approved by the council at a November meeting, no notice of its consideration was being given to residents of the area. The residents contacted Mayor Snider and their councilmen to learn what had taken place, after hearing a radio announcement reporting council action. December 5, representative residents and the attorney attended the council meeting, and requested that the council hear objections to the wrecking yard in the area. The council consented to hear objections at the meeting December 19th. The council reaffirmed their approval of the license application December 19th. Three people at that meeting favored the wrecking yard, a man, and a man and wife. Twenty or more property owners present objected through their counsel, plus a petition from the rest of the owners, totalling over 85 residents of the area, and 22 residents from nearby areas.

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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

As you may have heard, we are supposed to be in the midst of a business recession—a kind of catch-or-breathe, get-our-second-wind period in which people are letting go of their money a little less freely.

Hmmm. Let's see. Home Bowl officials have just disclosed that 3,500 tickets offered in a public sale, conducted by mail for the first time this year, were snapped up like free dollar bills.

Remaining ticket requests, running into upper bracket numbers, are being sent back to disappointed fans whose checks got in too late.

MORE along the same line: Forty-Niner fans who can't get tickets for Sunday's big play-off against Detroit will be hitting the road Saturday. Thousands of Forty-Niner boosters are expected to go to spots outside the so-called "black-out" area to watch the game on television.

Most of them will go to Reno on special chartered planes and buses. Others will journey to Sacramento, Chico and Ukiah.

STILL more of the same: It is currently reported that the broadcast will cost the Reno TV station \$1,100 — which sum is said to have been put up by the Reno business district.

The donors are alleged to believe that 10,000 visitors will be attracted to the Biggest Little City in the World to watch the game on television. It is estimated that they will spend \$100 each over the week end.

Ten thousand times \$100 totals up to a million dollars, which is quite a slug of new business.

THE moral seems to be that if you offer people WHAT THEY WANT they'll buy — recession or no recession.

John Benson, Box 1175, Medford, Ore.

TAKE it or leave it. But—

Those of us who live in the 11 Western states shouldn't ignore the fact, brought out by the census bureau, that our area is growing TWICE AS FAST as the rest of the country.

A fur trading post established by John Jacob Astor in 1805 at Astoria, Ore., was the first real U. S. foothold in the Pacific northwest.

U.P. Correspondents Look Ahead at News

By CHARLES M. McCANN United Press Correspondent

United Press correspondents around the world look ahead at the news that will make the headlines.

Inside Labor

AFL-CIO insiders report that two or three more labor unions may be charged with corruption before the new year is very old. The charges will be filed labor sources say, after new hearings by the Senate Rackets committee.

Worry

Privately, American diplomats in London are very worried about British grass-roots reaction to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization meeting in Paris. Many Britons are asking whether their alliance with the United States is worth its possible cost in this missile age.

Dulles vs. Stassen

And by the way, Washington reports that the results of the Paris meeting won't reduce the friction between Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and Presidential Disarmament Advisor Harold Stassen. Backstage reports are that Stassen was purposely left off the American delegation because Dulles was determined to put all-out emphasis on missile bases.

Sports Outlook

America should win a Davis Cup singles match from Australia for the first time in three years in this week's play in Melbourne. But the huge silver trophy is expected to remain "Down Under" for another year. The Australians have shut out the Yanks 5-0 in each of the last two challenge rounds.

perior, flew in the following day.

Thaw

Look for a spate of nuclear weapons information previously withheld from the public. After the Russians launched Sputnik I, the Defense Department put out non-classified information on missiles faster than it could be digested. But the Atomic Energy commission is forbidden by law to tell the taxpayer anything about the size, weight, look and composition of A bombs and H bombs. The administration wants the law changed to permit release of more information.

Tito

European diplomats no longer say that President Tito's attack of lumbago was diplomatic — an excuse to keep away from last month's Bolshevik anniversary in Moscow. He really is seriously ailing. His activities have been cut to a minimum. But fairly trustworthy reports say that the veteran Yugoslav leader is improving and should be able to return to Belgrade from his Adriatic retreat by spring anyway.

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