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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
Feb. 2, 1948 (Monday)
State Representative O. H. Bengtson of Medford is in Washington, D. C., in an effort to save the Camp White hospital.

30 YEARS AGO
Feb. 2, 1928 (Thursday)
Failure of the Overbeck and Cooke, brokerage firm in Portland involved a number of Southern Oregon people including several in this city and in Ashland.

40 YEARS AGO
Feb. 2, 1918 (Saturday)
A meeting of representative women from nearly every community in Jackson county was held Friday in the office of the home demonstration agent to lay out plans for war emergency work.

What's Your I.Q.?
Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.
1. What do these have in common: ageratum, alyssum, amaranth?
2. Bible: Pentateuch contains how many books?
3. Are persons with large heads more intelligent than others?
4. Did the North American Indian aborigines eat oysters?
5. A mid-west city has the letter K as the middle letter of its name, and the first three and last three letters identical; what is its name?
6. Who is the patron saint of the family?
7. On what island did Napoleon Bonaparte die?
8. In Jewish and medieval popular belief, who was Lilith held to be?
9. In what Eastern State is the so-called "Underground Pentagon"?
10. For what sport were the Marquis of Queensbury rules devised?
Answers: 1. They are flower-bearing plants. 2. Five. 3. No. 4. Yes. 5. Oskosh. 6. St. Joseph. 7. St. Helena. 8. The first wife of Adam. 9. Maryland; (at Raven Rock Mountain, 65 miles away from Washington, D.C.). 10. Boxing.

Can Democracy Survive?

We have been looking over an article on American Civilization recently which presents a new idea. At least it is new to us.

The author claims the major threat to this country—and the survival of free democracy—does not come from outside our borders, but inside.

It does not come from Soviet imperialism, but from national inertia. To support and document this claim, attention is called to the fact that but for the sinking of the Lusitania by Imperial Germany, the United States would never have awakened to the "Germany Über Alles" danger and today the Kaiser—or his descendants—would control the world—at least the western world.

AGAIN when "Madman Hitler" rose to power the American people failed to realize their peril, and had Japan not staged her "Pearl Harbor" Hitler would today have supplanted the House of Hohenzollern as monarch of all he surveyed.

Now the country and western civilization are threatened by the greatest peril in history, but had "Sputnik" never been fired into orbit, the people of this country would have absolutely refused to have recognized the challenge and met it. As it is only a few—mainly "egg-head scientists"—are aware of the gravity of the situation, and in lieu of another "Lusitania" or "Pearl Harbor" the writer fears the "noble experiment" of a free democracy will end in defeat and disaster.

WELL, as observed, it is a new idea to the undersigned, and rather an interesting one. But as we view it, it is like the proverbial piece of Swiss cheese—full of holes.

In the first place it is entirely speculative. The author doesn't know—no one CAN know—what would have happened in 1914 and 1939, IF what did happen had NOT happened.

For the sake of argument let it be assumed that the Lusitania had never been sunk, and von Tirpitz had agreed to Woodrow Wilson's ultimatum and in good faith discontinued unlimited U-boat warfare.

Without that warfare and the U.S.A. could Germany have brought France and England to their knees?

We don't believe so. It was the U Boat that was winning the war, not the Kaiser's "Luft-waffe" or shock-troops.

But that, too, is plain conjecture. So why base this argument—or any other—on what CAN'T be known, when there is so much that CAN be?

The Kaiser was beaten, Hitler was beaten, the United States played an important, and perhaps a decisive, role in both victories. Also it did take some time for Uncle Sam to awaken to the reality of his peril. But he did awaken, in time to do the job, and for that let us all be duly thankful.

THIS is not to maintain there is no validity to the claim that old General Apathy is one of the major threats to the efficiency and success of American democracy. Nor deny that this threat is particularly serious today in view of the Russian challenge for the control of the world—and some claim the control of outer space.

BUT the point is—at least as we see it—that you can't have your cake and eat it too, in this field anymore than in any other.

As has often been pointed out in this department, on the basis solely of getting things done, properly and in the shortest possible time, a strong and ruthless dictatorship such as communist Russia's, is clearly superior to a "government of by and for the people" such as we in America have.

By the nature of things a democracy has to go slowly. Also by the nature of things, a dictatorship with absolute control of the police, the army, the navy and the air force at any time does not have to.

Soviet Russia could declare war tomorrow, if Khrushchev and his pals so decided. But unless this country were attacked, President Eisenhower could no more declare war, than he could fly to the moon—and in view of recent scientific claims, the latter would be easy in comparison.

BUT what does Communist Russia pay for that advantage?

The answer in a word is—SLAVERY—the people of Russia completely regimented and absolutely ruled, down to the smallest detail of their lives, by "One Man," aided and abetted by a select group of ideological gangsters—all responsible to no one.

However, if that form of government proves to be more efficient than free democracy, won't it, in the raging competition between nations, eventually triumph?

There, brethren, IS the question! Khrushchev says it will.

Uncle Sam shaking his head vigorously says "by cracker it won't!"

And naturally all Americans—or almost all—agree with Uncle.

SO DO WE. It is with us, however, not a matter of any knowledge but of faith—faith that there is so deeply imbedded in the human race, regardless of color, creed or previous condition of servitude a passion so strong for freedom, liberty and the dignity of the individual, that no form of government denying these things can long endure. In

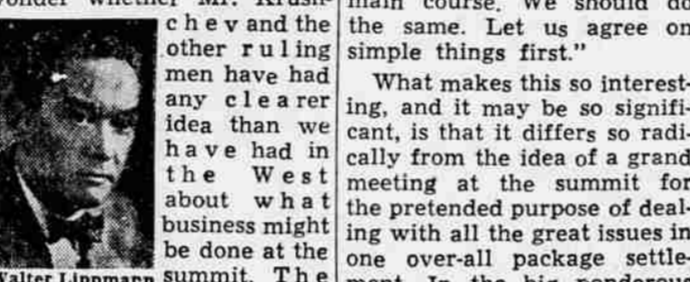


YOU TOLD ME TO BE NICE TO JOEY, DIDNT YOU? WELL? DIDNT YOU?

Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

MR. K AND THE APPETIZERS
What has been coming out of Russia recently makes me wonder whether Mr. Khrushchev and the other ruling men have had any clearer idea than we have had in the West about what business might be done at the summit. The



Kremlin, to be sure, has published a list of proposals it would like us to accept. And we, in turn, have put out a list of proposals which we say that the Soviet Union ought to accept. But the common characteristic of the two lists, if each is regarded as a whole, is that both are based on the idea of unconditional surrender—the Russian on the surrender of the West, and our list on the surrender of the Russians.

This must be known to Mr. Khrushchev and his colleagues, and therefore the question is why he keeps on calling for a meeting at the summit when on the face of the public record there can be no agreement reached when we get there. The answer to this question may be that as long as the West stood opposed to a meeting, as long as Mr. Dulles just didn't want to negotiate with the Russians, the Kremlin had a free ride for its propaganda. The Soviet Union wanted to negotiate for peace. Mr. Dulles did not want to negotiate for peace. Who, then, was the hope of the world? Could anything have been easier?

But, once the Western position began to unfreeze, as it has been doing since the NATO meeting in Paris in December, the Kremlin has been having to face the practical problems of a meeting at the summit. I am inclined to wonder whether this does not account for what Mr. Khrushchev said to the NATO Ambassadors at the cocktail party in Moscow on Monday.

HE SAID, in his off-hand but calculated manner, that negotiations should start with the simple issues before rail transportation, it summarily discontinued its Ashland-Portland passenger trains on the Siskiyou line. The schedule was slow, the equipment old and outmoded. The railroad refused to seriously consider the use of modern equipment and improved schedules.

The inadequate Oregon statutes on the regulatory powers of the public service commissioner left this area almost helpless to oppose the railroad's discontinuance of the passenger trains. While we are pleased that SP continues to be one of the prosperous railroads of the nation, we remain distinctly unhappy over its failure to make a reasonable attempt to provide this area with a passenger train service. — Ashland Trainings.

Editorial Comment

DEPLORES SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEGLIGENCE
The SP president, in a statement commenting on the system's earnings and problems says, "Frequently local groups oppose attempts to modernize our operations and necessary approvals of state regulatory commissions are often difficult to obtain, but it is unrealistic to keep running empty trains which serve no public need."

That's an interesting statement, especially in view of efforts in Southern Oregon to have the SP resume passenger train service over Siskiyou line. We believe everyone wants the railroad to enjoy a profitable operation, but also they want it to fulfill its public service obligations. In the case of Southern Oregon, where the railroad enjoys a complete monopoly on

other words in spite of the high efficiency materially of the "police state" it has within itself, as has often been said, "the seeds of its own destruction."

THAT we believe. But we also believe that such faith must be accompanied by "works"—by deeds—by throwing General Apathy overboard and realizing the free world is in a battle for its life—for survival—and we can't muddle along under the good old baner of "Business As Usual" and expect that battle, automatically or easily, to be won.

—R.W.R.

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

THINGS TO COME
Bonn, Germany—Germany, France and Italy joined together in a single, supra-national major power, and fully equipped with the whole panoply of modern war-including nuclear weapons—that is beginning to be discernible here in Bonn.



None of the three governments concerned has made a clear decision to take this new direction which can so radically alter the whole power-map of Europe and the Western world. Even in the German government, where the impulse originates, there is quite extensive disagreement about the desirability of the new direction.

Yet the German, French and Italian governments, almost unnoticed, have set their feet upon the road. With no fanfare, with no public discussion, they are marching down the road together. For several highly practical reasons, one suspects they will not find it easy to turn back later on.

THE obscure organization that marks the new direction is called the German-French-Italian Military-Technical Committee. It appears to be the brainchild of German Defense Minister Franz Josef Strauss, a singularly tough and brilliant butcher's son with a singularly sharp perception of modern power-realities. Its ostensible purpose is to "coordinate" and "standardize" weapons design and production in Italy, France and Germany.

Unlike the other numerous bodies that are supposed to coordinate and standardize the weapons of the NATO forces, the new Franco-Italian-German committee really seems to be doing its job. At a recent Bonn meeting Strauss, French Defense Minister Chaban Delmas and Italian Defense Minister Paolo Taviani reached agreement in principle on a new, very fast, lightly armored, heavily armed tank which they think will be greatly superior to any current American tank design.

Germany will manufacture the engine and chassis. France will provide the armor and armament and complete the assembly. The engine and chassis are also designed for use in weapons carriers, special command cars, mobile light rocket-launchers, and so on. Parts of some of these other vehicles will be produced in Italy. The result, if all goes well will be a whole family of tanks and other military vehicles produced by the combined efforts of France, Italy and Germany, and used as standard equipment in all three national armies. Other, similar results are expected with other weapons types.

IF ONE takes a long view, however, it is pretty obvious that the march down the new road is likely to continue. On the one hand, the French are determined to become a nuclear power, yet they lack the resources to do the job alone. On the other hand, despite the deep doubts everywhere felt in this country, Germany will not long be content to be the only major Western nation without nuclear weapons.

The Franco-Italian-German power-merger foreshadowed by the Military-Technical Committee is the obvious solution. It may be a bit staggering to find France considering this kind of collaboration with Germany, after all the water that has flowed under the bridges of history. But the stream of history has many unexpected turnings. And there are other, even deeper reasons for eventual Franco-German nuclear collaboration, which must be examined in a further report.

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 initial 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.

Thank God for R. R. V.
To the Editor: In answer to B. P. (name on file):

Somehow, I feel you have misconstrued the phrase "write 'em and invite 'em." At least, that's the impression I have from your very irate letter of Jan. 29. What "those guys" on TV mean is that we should all invite our rich friends and relatives from other parts of the country. I mean the ones who are living in the "lands of plenty" like California, Washington and all points East. They make terrific wages in those places, I understand, and everybody is simply rolling in foldin' money. It should be no problem at all for them to afford to visit our "poor, down-trodden" valley and drop some of their extra wealth to us "peasants."

Don't you agree? As for the furniture and other factories, they also are loaded with those. In fact, the whole country is positively "polluted" with the darn things. It's really a crying shame that Medford has such nasty, clean air.

Having just returned from a visit in Mexico City, California and various places, I have but one sentiment to offer at this point, Rich or poor, what ever I may be, thank God I live in the Rogue Valley and the U.S.A.! G. Farfan 723 South Newtown Medford.

Trust In God
To the Editor: It seems odd to me for a nation to stamp "Pray for peace" on our mail, and state "In God we trust" on our coins, and then spend \$30 billion for the upkeep of our nation, and \$40 billion

POTLUCK (By M-T Staff and Contributors)

We've been reading a neighboring daily newspaper with more-than-usual diligence recently, since they took a smugly superior crack at the M-T for a couple of typographical errors that crept in.

We acknowledge the errors (remember those "14-year-old boys" we reported as being arrested for illegal discharge of firearms?), but are confident that sooner or later we'll catch the teasing paper in something just as silly.

One of our staff members orders eggs from a poultryman in the county, and they are delivered periodically to the office.

Our man, whose feasts of absent-mindedness sometimes awe his fellow workers, on occasion forgets to take his eggs home the same day they are delivered, and his colleagues are awaiting the day that some of the eggs hatch out in the well-warmed room, covering us all with baby chicks.

In anticipation of that time, one of the gals took down those two little paper birds we mentioned last week, and placed them atop the current egg-crate. This amused HER, even if it didn't amuse HIM.

The heavy rains of the last two weeks have brought problems for many people—not least of them the employees of a bank and finance company in one of our smaller communities. Sewers under the bank backed up, forcing the relatively numerous bank employees needing the use of a restroom to cross the street to the finance company, where the two or three workers generously shared theirs.

Not everything seen in the sky is a Sputnik, flying saucer or meteor. Our Illinois Valley correspondent, Helen Bittel, writes that reports of a falling, flaming object recently near Smith River, Calif., alerted a coast guard cutter, the sheriff's department, and a number of individuals to be on the lookout for unidentified flying objects.

The alert was called off when it was discovered that the bright flashes were caused by a local chicken farmer who used a flare gun to scare off seagulls.

There have been various reactions to the M-T's new column, "Diary of a Bird Watcher." Some people, who are less interested in birds than in other, less exotic occupations, wonder why we print it. They would understand if they heard the enthusiastic comments of those who ARE interested in birds and other beauties of nature. One new fan of the column reports that he has sighted what he thinks was a pair of eagles on his property near Phoenix—huge birds with wingspans of about seven feet. His only doubt was about their beaks. Do eagles have yellow or gray ones, he wanted to know.

An almost-6-year-old was telling her mother about going to the dentist for some tooth work for the first time. "It hurt a little when he put the needle in," she said, "but I didn't say ouch, I couldn't!"

Telephone operators, like other humans, like to chat with each other during their spare moments. The other day a group of them had a lengthy and serious discussion regarding their respective husbands. Their socks seldom matched, and they prefer their eggs soft-boiled.

One of the county extension agents is still snorting about the remarks made by a "so-called cowboy" in one of the nationally televised programs, who remarked that a horse should be rubbed down all over every night with horse liniment.

The agent curtly remarked that would be one way to make a pretty lively horse of an old nag.

The story's going around the courthouse about the county official who has been muttering to himself about filling out the forms for employees' withholding taxes. Some of the employees think this is a form of poetic justice, for the official is one of those concerned with handling county tax payments.

A recent remark by an observer of the contemporary scene may not be true, but sometimes it SEEMS true: "Every time three Americans get together, they elect officers."

Another expert advises "psychodrama" in which delinquents act out their "aggressions" for psychologists to analyze. Others say TEAR DOWN THE SLUMS.

TELETYPE chatter: Authorities are in sharp disagreement over what to do about the current wave of juvenile delinquency. One expert says commuting fathers (who live in the country and work in the Big Town) should spend more time at home. Another expert advises "psychodrama" in which delinquents act out their "aggressions" for psychologists to analyze. Others say TEAR DOWN THE SLUMS.