

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
April 20, 1948 (Tuesday)
Patrons of 15 Jackson county
rural school districts yesterday
approved the measure to
exceed the 6 per cent levy
limitation in the consolidated
budget of the rural school district.

20 YEARS AGO
April 20, 1938 (Wednesday)
Boycotting of aggressor nations
is urged in a resolution
adopted recently by the Applegate
Grange.
From Arthur Perry's Ye
Smudge Pot column: "It now
appears, candidates who
swished into office on the
coat-tails of the president, will
have to do something besides
look wise like a trapped
skunk."

30 YEARS AGO
April 20, 1928 (Friday)
The police and school authorities
have shut down firmly
on the practice of high school
boys raiding semi-high school
social functions in homes.
Medford motorists are reminded
that Medford's first scenic
drive will be officially
opened next Sunday.

40 YEARS AGO
April 20, 1918 (Saturday)
The crop and labor survey
taken in the early spring in
Jackson county indicates the
Jackson county farmers are
doing everything in their
power to materially increase
crop production.
From local and personal
column: "Because of a bad
freight wreck near Drain this
city was without passenger
train service from the north
Sunday, after arrival of the
morning train."

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

1. Playgoers know that
S.R.O. stands for what?
2. Bible: To what did Christ
liken the Kingdom of God, according
to St. Mark?
3. Approximately how much
money was paid to Russia for
Alaska?
4. A fathom is 6, 60, or 600
feet?
5. How should a woman
who occupies the chair at a
meeting be addressed?
6. Molten rock that is
erupted by volcano is called
lava, lava or guava?
7. Name the director of the
Federal Bureau of Investigation.
8. What is the longest river
in Africa?
9. Silkworms feed on the
leaves of what tree?
10. Name the capital of
New Mexico.

Answers: 1. "Standing Room
Only." 2. The mustard seed.
3. \$7,200,000. 4. Six. 5. Madame
Chairman. 6. Lava. 7. J. Edgar
Hoover. 8. The Nile. 9. Mulberry.
10. Santa Fe.

The Press' Calculated Risk

Our neighborly contemporary the Grants Pass Courier, in a rather patronizing lecture to this department declares that an important "commandment of journalism" is not to "assume things are true."

No? Neither the Courier, the Mail Tribune nor any other daily paper in the country—in fact the world — could be published without such an assumption.

The entire newspaper business, from a news standpoint is based upon "assumptions" of truth.

WE HAVE a perfect example at hand. Last week we received a United Press dispatch from Weed, California, that a Central Point boy had been killed in a head-on crash between his small car and a truck, a few miles north of there, and it was reported the small car had been weaving back and forth across the road before the fatal accident.

There was no more reason to doubt the truth of that dispatch than the truth of hundreds of dispatches received that day.

Newspapers just don't hire news services that are not reliable.

THAT doesn't mean mistakes by such services are never made, any more than it means mistakes by a paper's reporters, columnists, correspondents—yes, even editors—are never made.

It merely means that it is a physical impossibility for any daily paper to publish without assuming the truth of the information it receives. Every possible effort, of course, should be made to eliminate errors of ANY kind, but to check each and every item, unless there is some immediate question of its authenticity, just can't be done.

If our neighboring daily practices what it preaches it will go out of business, much quicker than anyone expects—or wishes—it to do.

RETURNING to the above wire dispatch, that "weaving from one side of the road to the other" in the accident story was resented by the young man's family. They said that would mean to a majority of readers the boy had been drinking, whereas, he had never taken a drink; had received honors for his skillful and careful driving, and they wished a correction.

So a further investigation was made. It was established beyond ANY reasonable doubt that the boy had NOT been drinking, his car had NOT been weaving from side to side and the truck driver had never said it had. The exact cause of the crash was, and still is, in doubt.

But a certain amount of harm had been done. And the Mail Tribune at once did everything in its power to correct it.

But, of course, this could not be completely accomplished, which this paper regrets.

WE cite the incident because it illustrates the "calculated risk" that every newspaper must run, if it is going to do its job as it should be done.

It sounds very proper and pious to declare the factual accuracy of a newspaper's wire service, its news staff, its correspondents, etc., should not be ASSUMED, but the plain fact remains, it must be assumed if the paper is to remain in business.

The remarkable fact is not that under such conditions a system of supplying news as promptly and accurately as possible to the people so many serious mistakes are made. The remarkable fact is there are so few.—R.W.R.

Is \$50,000,000 Profit a Loss?

No reader of the Mail Tribune is uninformed concerning this paper's belief the Southern Pacific Railway should resume mail, express, baggage and passenger service with as good or better equipment and under the same conditions that prevailed prior to its abandonment of such service from Eugene, Oregon, to Dunsmuir, California.

It is popular in some quarters to look wise and say:

"You can't expect a railroad to continue to operate at a loss."

THE Mail Tribune submits that the railroad has yet to submit audited statistics that will convince any unbiased person that the railroad in cutting out the "Night Rattler" service saved any appreciable sum, or that with such service there was any net loss in combined freight and passenger operation at ALL.

IN OUR book it doesn't make sense for the Espree to route all of its passenger trains through Klamath Falls.

The SP could increase its revenues and reduce its expenses by routing one of its present three passenger trains through Medford.

What are the commitments of the railroad, and to whom, that cause it to kick the communities on this—its original main line—in the teeth?

IN COURT the railroad cries crocodile tears concerning the great amount of money the railroad is losing annually.

Dennis the Menace



HEY, WHO WEARS THE COP'S CAP? HUH? WHICH ONE OF YOU GUYS IS A COP? HUH? WHICH ONE? HUH?

Yet, in the same breath the President of the SP ADMITS his company's net profits in 1957, a recession year, were greater than in 1956 a "boom" year, totalling—this is after taxes, not before—\$54,507,686! So that's peanuts? Is that LOSING money?

SEEMS to us the Southern Pacific to justify the granting by the people of its franchise to carry the growing volume of profit-making freight originating in this valley, has an inescapable obligation to furnish at least ONE train a day for express, mail, baggage and passenger service between Southern Oregon and other points on its system.—R.W.R.

The S.P.'s Phoney Claim

Before those who have read the above dismiss it as the "same old wheeze", resulting from the Mail Tribune's anti-SP "complex", let it be explained that the undersigned did not write it. It was written by Walter A. Averill, editor and publisher of the "Casa Grande (Arizona) Dispatch" on April 3d, 1958. If anyone wishes a copy they can send a dime and get it.

We have only reduced it, and made minor changes to conform to the local situation.

But we are sure any unbiased person will agree, that the sentiments above are practically identical with the sentiments regarding the "Friendly Southern Pacific" expressed in this department for many years.

And it is fair to assume that the people of Pinal County, Arizona, feel just as the people of Jackson County feel toward this railroad and the way it has kicked communities along its original main line between Portland and San Francisco "in the teeth".

The Casa Grande Dispatch thinks such treatment an outrage just as does the Mail Tribune, the Ashland Tidings, the Roseburg News-Review and as far as we know, every other newspaper in southwestern Oregon except, of course, that stalwart champion of this billion-dollar corporation—and all other entrenched Big Business—the Grants Pass Courier.

NOW just a word about that frequent alibi for the Southern Pacific as noted by the Arizona paper to wit:

"You can't expect a railroad to continue to operate at a loss."

Of course you can't. The answer is the "SP" did not operate at a loss when it ran one passenger train a day between Eugene and Dunsmuir. It would not if that service were resumed.

By its own figures it would still make a net profit on TOTAL operation of over \$54,000,000 a year. And it is total operation that determines any corporation's income, not that of some one minor department in the organization.

FINALLY we are weary of having SP apologists say something like this:

"Why don't you ring off about the 'Friendly SP' you haven't done anything about it and you ought to know you can't."

WE HAVE always ignored this kind of talk because the answer is so obvious.

However as it still persists, we might explain that any newspaper that only continues to support a principle in which it BELIEVES, because the odds of success look slim, is not worthy to be a member of the profession.

This paper believes very strongly that the Southern Pacific's position as a public utility, always placing its passion for an extra buck above its obligations to the people in the way of service in the territory it serves is utterly and completely wrong.

So long as there is any chance whatever of correcting it, and getting the people of Southern Oregon a square deal, this paper will continue to do everything it can, in that direction.

—R.W.R.

Matter of Fact

EISENHOWER'S GAMBLE
Washington — In dealing with the depression, the Eisenhower administration has now pretty firmly committed itself to the happy principle of hoping for the best without preparing for the worst.

It is a comfortable system, if it works. But if you take a long, hard look at the situation in Detroit, as this reporter has just done, you must conclude that the President has embarked on a fairly hair-raising gamble.

This is because the President is clearly gambling on a big improvement in the limping automobile industry, when the change-over to the new models occurs in late summer. The automobile industry customarily chews up a fifth of the steel, nearly two thirds of the rubber, and fantastic percentages of the fabrics, glass, aluminum and scores of other things that this country produces. If the motor industry continues to limp, therefore, other key sectors of the American economy will limp also.

IT IS childish and petty to do what the President recently seemed to do—blame the motor manufacturers for the recession, on the ground that they have misjudged the public taste in new automobiles. The manufacturers have to back their judgment of public taste, after all, with annual investments of hundreds of millions of dollars. They suffer acutely when and if they bet wrong, as they seem to have done this year; and one can only admire their willingness to go on making this sort of bet on such a staggering scale.

But if the President thinks the motor manufacturers bet wrong in 1958, then it is highly likely he is betting wrong, too. For the 1958 models were not designed after the American public's taste for drop-spike jukes began to be sated. They were designed, and the dies for them were ordered at fabulous expense, no less than 18 months ago. Hence the new cars are virtually certain to be continuations and perhaps even exaggerations of the style of car the President seems to think the public no longer wants.

IN other words, the most vital question in the economic future is whether the American public will rush to buy the new cars that will begin to pour out of the Detroit and other automobile factories next September. But this spring, the time payments are not going to be met. They cannot be met much longer out of the reduced income provided by the unemployment benefits. So a great many tens of thousands of additional second-hand cars are highly likely to appear in the already-saturated used-car market, for instance, long before new cars can make new jobs.

Add the snowballing secondary effects of joblessness in the mass industries in cities like Detroit. Add the truly horrifying social effects on the people who are due to lose all they have gained from years of work. The sum of the addition is certainly not pretty. (Copyright, 1958, New York Herald Tribune Inc.)

Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

NORTH AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES

The French politicians who engineered the fall of the Gaillard government seem to have decided to blame the United States for their inability to put down the rebellion in Algeria. Their argument is as follows: The rebellion in Algeria would have been crushed by this time but for the fact that the guerrilla bands are supplied and supported, are aided and abetted across the long frontier with Tunisia. Instead of aligning itself firmly with France in demanding that Tunisia close the frontier and abandon the rebellion, the United States has remained friendly with Tunisia, thus enabling Tunisia to refuse to yield to France. In the eyes of these politicians, this makes us conspirators against the vital interests of France.

In the second stage of intoxication, these politicians believe that our failure to support them unreservedly is due to a very sinister purpose. It is nothing less than that we desire to oust France from North Africa, and from the oil and the minerals of the Sahara, in order to establish an American empire in Africa. This is, of course, the Communist line. But that would not matter much, were it not the line also taken by the extreme Right.

THE answer to the second charge is that with all our human frailties, we are not that stupid. We know, though the intoxicated politicians do not yet know it, that the French North African empire, far from being a desirable possession, is a heavy and thankless liability. The reason the United States is using what influence it has to induce a negotiated settlement is that we dread the consequences if there is no settlement. In our view, M. Sou-

stelle and his Rightist friends are preparing a disaster in which we shall be, though we do not want to be, involved. If they come to power, they will not be able to close the Tunisian frontier by any pressure that can be put upon the Tunisian government. The fact of the matter is that the Tunisian government is not strong enough, does not have the political solidity, to close the frontier. M. Soustelle and his friends can close that frontier only by reconquering Tunisia, and if they do that, they will set fire to the whole of North Africa.

If this happens, it is anyone's guess as to what would be the repercussions inside France. But no one can reasonably suppose that the French nation will like a wide extension of this horrid, cruel, and interminable war.

THE French who have asked us to give them our unqualified support in the Algerian war are asking the impossible. The war has gone on for many years. There is no end to that war in sight. It is a war, we have come to realize, which cannot be brought to an end by military means, and the attempt to reach a military decision is more likely to spread the war to Tunisia and to Morocco than to end it in Algeria. We cannot allow ourselves to be entangled in such folly.

We are bound, therefore, to be the partisans of a negotiated settlement in Algeria within a negotiated agreement for North Africa and the Western Mediterranean. The key to such a settlement lies in the proposition that as the political grievances of the North African countries are satisfied, their economic and social and cultural affiliations with France will cause them to insist upon remaining within the French sphere of influence.

If once national and political pride were satisfied, geography and economics would determine the issue. (Copyright, 1958, New York Herald Tribune Inc.)

POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

An anonymous informant of ours Thursday afternoon overheard two men talking as they walked briskly toward their hotel. One said to the other, "Oh, what a beautiful day! And they said it was raining in Oregon."

Well, it's spring, all right. But we agree with a subscriber who thinks the women's section last Sunday was trying to speed things up a little by carrying a May 13 date-line. "So soon?" she inquired.

Sign on a local laundry: "Have soap, will wash."

And, down at the corner of Central ave. and Fifth st., the Medford police department recently reported the loss of a soap dish.

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 an eye to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words. The letters printed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the paper, in fact the contrary is often the case.

"Fraud" is the Word

To the Editor: In reference to Mr. Parker Bailey's letter, I'd like to inform him that I made my choice a number of years ago. I too wanted to know whether the Bible gave us facts or fiction, whether through it God revealed to the human race His eternal plan and intent.

I was born and brought up in a country where the church was supported by the state. Every child had to learn and memorize a good portion of the Bible as well as the "Apostle's Creed" and the ten commandments. Then after two years of this religious indoctrination we were confirmed and received the holy communion. From then on we were on our own and if we were religiously inclined we would attend church service now and then, which to us was a monotonous affair.

But we too had our little "Billy Sundays" and "Billy Grams." So one day I attended one of these so-called revival meetings, where we were informed that unless we were born anew we were surely lost and eternal damnation was our fate. Well I for one took this seriously and fell in line. After a while, however, the devil started to work on me and I began to doubt. I was confronted with the logical paradoxes of the Christian religion. I began to use my reasoning powers, to analyze and investigate.

Then I said like Robert Ingersoll: It is, but it cannot be. I read his lectures as well as the writings of other non-conformists. Then there I experienced the emancipation of my mind. No more fear of a revenging God, no bended knees, no supplication, no prayers, no heaven, no hell, no purgatory, no devil, no ghosts. Yes, and no worshipping of a so-called inspired book, a book, that in no sense of the imagination could be considered a moral guide, a book that reveals scenes and episodes that shock the minds of all decent people, a book so full of contradictions, that it creates nothing but confusion and strife among its believers, as witness its multitudinous interpretations. Yes "fraud" is the correct definition.

William Krauss, Route 1, Box 373, Gold Hill, Ore.

Criticizes Cong. Porter

To the Editor: Congressman Charles O. Porter's suggestion that this country cease testing atomic weapons might carry more weight if Mr. Porter could suggest how Russia could be made to cease and desist also. Unfortunately, the congressman's proposal, like his jaunts around Central America and his flirtations with communist groups and their affiliates, can do no more than give comfort to every friend of the Soviet Union in America. When is our congressman going to realize that he was elected to represent the fourth congressional district of Oregon, and not the friends of Russia in the Americas? For further evidence of where his heart lies, he recently recommended that our strategic Air Command remove atomic bombs from their planes that are always ready to strike at Russia on a moment's notice if the U.S. is attacked.

Ann J. Lynch, 835 East Main st., Medford.

One of our men was driving down the highway the other day, listening to the car radio. He heard an announcer say: "... And now, baseball from the Pacific Coast league, Los Angeles 3, San Francisco 0 ..."

He said he thought he was dreaming for a moment, but he kept right on, insisting that it was the PCL. Just habit, probably.

One sure way to bring on a cold night, a colleague of ours insists, is to wash the electric blanket. Just like the surest way to bring rain is to wash the car.

An observer we know declares that people must either be sentimental, or else believe in large families. He says a second-hand furniture dealer reports he is unable to get any used baby cribs.

However, he added, people probably lend standard baby equipment from one household to another. And he said, "We can remember when the family bassinette had to be brought back to home base every so often to have the rubber on the wheels retreated."

"Things are sure going to pot," we overheard a friend comment the other day. "First those birth-control pills, and now they're creating life in a test tube!"