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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
Sept. 12, 1948 (Sunday)
Alf Dyrnes, young Norwegian tenor and vocal teacher, has arrived in the valley and will offer local voice pupils lessons.

Medford city councilmen convene at noon tomorrow to discuss calling for bids on the Camp White trunk sewer.

20 YEARS AGO
Sept. 12, 1938 (Monday)
A good crop of Newtown apples is expected this year.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "One school of economists holds there will be an autumn business upturn. Another school figures there will be an autumn business upcurl."

30 YEARS AGO
Sept. 12, 1928 (Wednesday)
Thanks to rain showers, the ban on deer hunting has been lifted.

The city council has agreed to sell surplus Medford water to the Berrydale area.

40 YEARS AGO
Sept. 12, 1918 (Thursday)
Three patriotic songs are to be featured in the Mothers' day "procession of song" on Sept. 21.

From 2,200 to 2,400 men of Jackson county between 18 and 45 years of age began registering for the draft today.

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

1. Who wrote, "Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise?"

2. Which is colder, zero degrees Fahrenheit, or zero degrees Centigrade?

3. Who was King Solomon's mother?

4. In England, a faucet or spigot is called a—?

5. A famous Notre Dame football coach lost his life in an airplane crash in 1941; who was he?

6. Which is heavier, copper or steel?

7. The tail of a decapitated snake will continue to wiggle until sunset; true or false?

8. According to legend, who rode horseback naked through the streets of Coventry, England?

9. What is the name of the hard rubber disk which is used in playing ice hockey?

10. Who is called, "The Father of Medicine?"

Answers: 1. Benjamin Franklin. 2. Fahrenheit. 3. Bathsheba. 4. Tap. 5. Knute Rockne. 6. Copper. 7. False. 8. Lady Godiva. 9. Puck. 10. Hippocrates.

PLANS U.N. APPEAL
Cairo—(UPI)—The National Liberation Front, a leading Algerian rebel organization, said Thursday night it would appeal once again to the United Nations General Assembly to condemn the colonial war and conquest that France is waging against Algeria and appeal for recognition of the right of the Algerian people to independence.

End Capital Punishment

Elsewhere in today's Mail Tribune appears the last in a series of three articles concerning capital punishment.

The subject is of special interest to Oregon voters this year, for at the general election on Nov. 4 they will vote on a proposal to abolish the death penalty in Oregon. Murder is the only crime for which the death penalty is prescribed in the state constitution.

The proposal is a simple one, to amend the constitution by repealing Sections 37 and 38 of Article I of the Oregon constitution.

SECTION 37 says:

"The penalty for murder in the first degree shall be death, except when the trial jury shall in its verdict recommend life imprisonment, in which case the penalty shall be life imprisonment."

Section 38 simply reverses provisions of laws repealed when the death penalty was reinstated in 1920, after having been abolished in 1914.

The repeal of these two sections would have the effect of leaving it up to the legislature to determine what penalties should be provided for murder and other major crimes.

BUT, if the two are repealed, the legislature would have two things to consider, the first that the people of Oregon voted against the death penalty, and the second that another section of the constitution, Section 15 of Article I, says:

"Laws for the punishment of crime shall be founded on the principles of reformation, and not of vindictive justice."

The death penalty surely comes under the heading of vindictive justice, and by no stretch of the imagination can be considered reformation.

Thus a vote in the fall election against the death penalty would in effect be just that: a virtual end to capital punishment in Oregon.

AS we see it, those who favor the death penalty do so for one of three reasons, or a combination:

1. The Old Testament rule of "an eye for an eye"—that is, for revenge or vindictiveness.
2. The idea that the death penalty serves as a deterrent to murder.
3. That death to a murderer is the only sure protection of society from a repetition of the crime.

Much as one may disagree with the first point, it is difficult to argue with, for it is an emotional, not a rational, position. And one can argue until blue in the face with an opinion based on emotion, and never get anywhere.

THEREFORE, the death penalty is to be argued on a reasoned basis, one must consider the second and third points, of deterrence and protection.

If, in fact capital punishment does discourage murders, then there is something to be said for it. But does it?

We have nowhere seen any statistics which show that it does. The statistics we have seen, in fact, are inconclusive. Some states which have capital punishment have a relatively low homicide rate; others have a high rate. And vice versa. In states where it has been abolished, there has been no surge of the homicide rate.

SINCE the evidence is inconclusive, it follows that the death penalty makes little difference as to the homicide rate in any particular state, and that other factors—social, sociological, and environmental—must be the deciding ones.

As to the third point—protection—death will of course prevent a murderer from striking again. But there are other ways. "Stand-by" laws enacted last year by the legislature to take effect if the amendment passes provide that a man convicted of first degree murder would serve a life term, and not be eligible for parole for 15 years, instead of the 7 years as at present. (The law also provides an exception to the death penalty ban—in the case of a man serving a life term who commits a murder).

There is the added fact that in Oregon, no one convicted of murder and released on parole has ever been returned to prison for a crime of violence. Prison and parole authorities have found that murderers actually are among the best parole risks.

THOSE who oppose capital punishment do so largely on five bases:

1. It serves as no effective deterrent to murder.
2. There is always the horrible possibility (one that has been proven in many instances) that an innocent person will be punished irrevocably.
3. Administration of the penalty is unequal—poor men cannot put up a long and costly legal battle.
4. Juries and judges vary, some sentencing murderers to life imprisonment, others to death, and this non-uniform administration defeats the whole purpose of the death penalty. (Over the years, Oregon has executed fewer than 1 per cent of its convicted murderers.)
5. It is as morally wrong for the state to take a life as it is for an individual.

GRANTING point 1 (and on the evidence we believe it valid), then the second point is the strongest in our mind. Innocent men HAVE died. And as long as death is the supreme penalty under our inexact system of justice, they will continue to do so.

Close behind are the two points dealing with inequality. And under our system, inequality is injustice. One man should not die for a crime while another, equally guilty lives, no matter what the reason.

As for morality, this point is again unarguable, as is the opposing "eye-for-an-eye" position.

The weight of the tangible evidence—that capital punishment is no effective deterrent, that there is always the possibility of an innocent man being executed, and that the death penalty is not always applied with equality—convince us the state of Oregon should end its use.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



"IMAGINE SOMEBODY WANTIN' TO TAKE AN AFTERNOON NAP?"

Washington Report

By William S. White

MEMO FOR MR. MUSKIE
Washington—This column might be called a memo for Mr. Muskie.

Gov. Edmund S. Muskie of Maine has become that state's first popularly elected Democratic Senator in history with his overwhelming victory over a sitting Republican Senator, Fredrick G. Payne.

All present portents suggest that this loss of a seat on the Republican side in the first of this year's Senate and Congressional elections will be followed by several others. If the Democrats are on the march even in Maine—of all places—it must be assumed that they are on the march elsewhere.

Thus, a good many new faces—mainly Democratic faces—may be seen when the Senate reconvenes in January. At all events, there will certainly be one, that of Edmund S. Muskie.

Mr. Muskie, therefore, might find it helpful to know some things about the place to which he is coming—certain unwritten rules in the club he is joining. These, while not exactly top secret, are perhaps not universally known. Possibly interested, too, might be the thus-far unknown number of other freshman Senators who will arrive, with him, in the chamber on the northwest side of the Capitol.

THE extraordinary nature of his feat in Maine—and it is all of that—will do him no harm in the Senate. But, to be honest, it will do him no particular good either. There are a dozen ex-governors already in residence, so to speak, in this club, not to mention an ex-cabinet officer and an ambassador.

Any new member—whatever his distinction and whatever his future prospects, even if these prospects should seem to involve a chance at the Presidency itself—will run into certain unvarying realities. In the Senate he is quite definitely "a new boy," even though he may have been a very powerful and very rugged old boy in the state from which he comes. Officially, he holds all the rights and privileges held by the old members. Officially and actually, his rights are much more restricted.

HE is entitled—theoretical,ly—to talk as often and as long as the senior members. He will, however, be most unwise if he proceeds on any such assumption. In practice he will be expected to be

quiet for at least two years while the Senate is taking his measure. If he is not quiet, nothing will happen to him openly, but subtly unpleasant things will be transpiring all the time.

A man breaking the unspoken code by pressing himself too far and too soon will discover, for example, that the Senate is strangely inattentive to any of his speeches and oddly cool to most anything he proposes.

There will be many occasions when he will greatly need the help of his older colleagues—especially when he wants to get through more or less local or special legislation for his people. This kind of assistance is not readily obtained by a new Senator unless he has behaved in what the Senate thinks is the way proper to a newcomer.

MOREOVER, the new Senator is expected to adopt in his committee work much the same unaggressive attitude that he is expected to show on the Senate floor. He must not be too ready to ask questions or to make any sort of demands. His is to reason why; but not to act, ever, as though, it were do or die. No where on earth is the advice "take it easy" more applicable.

For this place, the Senate, is a very strange place. Men's power there usually is not really related either to where they seem to be going politically or where they have already been. Far more simply, it is based upon what they are and, above all, how they fit in.

A man can be a halting speaker, from a little state with practically no national importance politically, and still be a Senate powerhouse. He can be a striking orator, from a large and critically important state which he may hold in the palm of his hand, and still not be too significant in the Senatorial forum.

In this place it is personal character and personal attitudes that make personal influence. And, right or wrong as it may be, there is no possible way successfully to buck the system.

MAY VISIT U.S.
Tokyo—(UPI)—Phibun Songgram, former Thai prime minister who has been living in exile in Japan, may leave for the United States Sunday, informed sources said today.

Portland—(UPI)—The Legislative Interim Committee on Mental Retardation has called a meeting here for Saturday at 1 p.m. to investigate recent criticism of Fairview Home.

Stans said the deficit would be \$12,000,000,000 for the fiscal year which began last July 1 and ends next June 30. Must Decide Soon

Democrats May Gain 21 Seats In Fall Election, Wilson Says

By LYLE C. WILSON
United Press International
Washington—(UPI)—By rule of thumb based on last Monday's state of Maine election, the Democratic party should gain at least 21 seats in the House of Representatives in next November's polling.

The Democrats gained one seat Monday in Maine's 1st District which has been represented by Republican Rep. Robert Hale since Jan. 3, 1943. Hale was defeated by Democrat James C. Oliver by nearly 8,000 votes of approximately 106,000 cast.

Of all the Republican seats in the present House, Hale's was won two years ago by the least margin. His bulge over Oliver in 1956, as determined by a House committee, was 111 votes. Maine's 1st, therefore, was notable after 1956 among what politicians call marginal districts.

A marginal district is one in which the winner obtains 55 per cent or less of the total vote. Thirty-eight Republicans hold such marginal seats in the present House. Fifty-one Democrats from 28 states won marginal district elections two years ago.

It is among the marginal seats of the opposition that each party always expects to make its principal gains, if any. Shifts in the balance of the political substructure are felt first and most forcibly in these see-saw districts.

The difference between Hale's margin of 111 votes in 1956 and Oliver's bulge of 8,000 last Monday suggests that a movement is underway in the basic political substructure of the United States. It is a movement in the direction of a big Democratic victory next November, the Democrats having already gained one marginal Republican district with 20 to 59.

States in which Republican representatives hold marginal seats are widely scattered including, of course, the South. In addition to Maine, they are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington and West Virginia.

There are 233 Democrats, 198 Republicans and four vacancies in the present House. A 21-district loss would reduce the Republicans to 177 seats and increase Democratic seats to 254, excluding the members returned from the current vacancies.

The Low Point
That would not be a low point for Republicans in the House. Democrats held 322 seats, Republicans 102 after the 1934 congressional elections in which the GOP first felt the impact of FDR's New Deal coalition of Democrats and leftwingers. The remaining seats were held by left-wing splinter parties.

Worse was awaiting the Republicans, however. They were able in 1936 to elect only 88 U.S. representatives. That was the year in which FDR won the electoral votes of 46 states against Alf. M. Landon of Kansas. It enabled James A. Farley to wisecrack: "As goes Maine, so goes Vermont."

The Republican party has not achieved a solid political success in 30 years, not since 1928 when Herbert Hoover was elected President and Congress was maintained in Republican control. FDR's political magic hexed the Republicans. He made of the GOP a minority party and so it remains, as will be demonstrated by the polling Nov. 4.

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.

From State Fair
To the Editor: The Oregon State Fair commission and management wish to express, through this medium, their very sincere gratitude and appreciation to the people of this area who participated as exhibitors, workers and patrons of the 1958 Greater Oregon State Fair.

It is our deep conviction that the Oregon State Fair belongs to the people of Oregon and that its success or failure depends upon each citizen's efforts. This year the State Fair commission tried to present a bigger and better State Fair than ever before, with reorganization and a "new look." The response to our efforts has been gratifying and we hope that you too have liked what you saw.

The next step is to do even better in 1959. In order to accomplish this we need the help and support of all of you and we shall be pleased to receive any suggestions for improvement.

Oregon State Fair
Commission
By Marguerite E. Berg,
Chairman
Salem, Ore.

On Capital Punishment
To the Editor: As many of our voters know, there is to be a measure on our ballots in November to provide for abolition of capital punishment in Oregon. Now, I will not dwell on whether or not a guilty person should be executed or whether the state or, shall we say, the people, have a right, morally, to execute a condemned person.

My only purpose in opposition to the theory of capital punishment is to insure that an innocent person is not executed. There have been many cases of persons executed for crimes they did not commit, only to have evidence crop up, perhaps many years later, which indicated their innocence.

Most newspaper readers have read, over a period of several years, of the efforts of Caryl Chessman, condemned to die in the California San Quentin prison gas chamber more than nine years ago, to escape the death penalty. Some evidence, whether admissible in court or not, has been cited to indicate that Chessman was not guilty of the crime for which he was convicted. There is a lot of evidence, however, which clearly shows him to have committed many robberies, and clearly it would be a very poor policy to permit a man of his type to go free. However, I do not believe that he, or anyone else, should be executed for a crime that he did not do.

Of course, I am in no better position than any other person in Oregon, or elsewhere, to say whether or not he is guilty.

But to return to the situation in Oregon, I intend to vote for abolition of capital punishment in Oregon in the November election. Perhaps in that way I can help to insure that no one will be executed for a crime of which they are innocent.

In the case of Billy Junior Nunn, I feel that he definitely is guilty, but recognize the very slender possibility that he could be innocent, in spite of his confession and trial and conviction.

I expect I'll raise a stink over my ideas in the matter, but I think it better to have a person serve time in prison than to execute them. You can always turn a person loose from prison but no one has devised a means of bringing them back from the grave.

Floyd R. McCabe,
Mt. Pitt Star Route,
Butte Falls.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

As this is written, Red China has backed off from her warlike attitude in the Formosa straits area. The guns that have been battering Quemoy Island have been silent for hours and Red Chinese Premier Chou En Lai has called on the United States to resume talks on the ambassador level to keep the peace.

We welcome the idea of talking instead of shooting and the White House issues a statement in which it says the American ambassador in Warsaw (Warsaw is in Poland and Poland is a Russian communist satellite) "stands ready to meet the Chinese Communist ambassador there promptly" to resume talks on the Formosa dispute.

WHY in Warsaw?
Well, we don't have direct diplomatic relations with the Chinese communist government. But we have an ambassador in Warsaw and the Chinese communist government has an ambassador in Warsaw, so it is diplomatically possible for the two to get together and talk things over.

We emphasize only that in the talks we will not be a party to any arrangement that would prejudice the rights of our ally, the Chinese Nationalist government. The reason for that reservation is that we mustn't let our ally lose face. That would be equivalent to losing face ourselves.

In this ruckus with Red China, keeping face for everybody is tremendously important.

WHAT is Red China gunning for?
Red China wants to be CHINA so far as world affairs—including the United Nations—are concerned.

What are we gunning for? That is simple. We are gunning to get the shooting stopped.

WHAT will we do?
I expect that over the long pull we will come around to recognition of the fact that as a world power Red China IS CHINA. After all, facts are facts. We might as well face them and learn to live with them. If we try to insist that the island of Formosa (which is about the size of Vancouver Island) IS CHINA and that all of the vast Chinese mainland that has been conquered by the reds IS NOT CHINA we will be flying in the face of history. China has been repeatedly conquered, and history tells us that in the long run the conquerors have come around to be accepted by the world as CHINA.

MANY of our troubles—now that we have risen to be the world's No. 1 power—arise out of our general unwillingness to face facts in the world at large.

There IS DEMOCRACY, for example. We think everybody should have a democratic government JUST LIKE OURS. The plain fact is that a whole lot of people over the world don't want a government just like ours. And a whole lot of more people over the world aren't capable of handling a government like ours.

Over most of the world—the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the enlightened nations of Western Europe being about the only exceptions—people are accustomed to being TOLD what to do and more or less PREFER to be told what to do. They aren't ready yet for a form of government like ours and probably won't be ready for centuries.

AS LONG as we hold that naive idea we'll probably be in for trouble. In World War I, for example, we insisted that the world must be made safe for democracy—meaning our particular brand of democracy. Instead it lifted the curtain on a series of ideological despots that brought on World War II—Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin, etc.

I find it hard to escape the notion that it's high time for us to begin to learn to live and let live in the world. Otherwise we will run the risk of burning up our energies and our resources in an effort to make the world over according to our particular pattern.

Research Center Said Due Portland
Portland—(UPI)—Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.) said here today that he has received renewed assurances that the University of Oregon Medical School would receive a Federal grant of \$1,250,000 later this month for construction of a medical research center in Portland.

The state would be required to match the grant on an equal basis.

Neuberger said he had been assured by Chancellor John Richards of the State System of Higher Education that the state's share of the project "will have a very high priority listing."

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

PIERCE HARRIS tells about a kindly country parson who had just married a young couple and had a parting word for the groom: "Bless you, my son. You're at the end of all your trouble." A year later, the groom returned to moan, "What a year I've gone through! And you're the one who told me I was at the end of my trouble."

"So I did, Son," soothed the parson, "I just didn't tell you which end."

One of the masterpieces of literature is Gibbon's voluminous "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." And what did England's Duke of Gloucester (brother of King George III) say when, in 1781, author Gibbon presented him with the just-published work?

"Here, according to Gibbon's diary, were the good Duke's words: 'What? More of those damned, fat, square, thick books? Always scribble, scribble, scribble, eh, Mr. Gibbon?'"

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