

School Fire Safety

The horrible and tragic Chicago fire, which took the lives of 90 people, had a much greater personal impact on many people than most disasters because of the fact that each parent of children throughout the nation could immediately put himself in the place of those in Chicago.

He could visualize to himself the infinite grief, simply by thinking what it would have been like if the fire had been in his own child's school, instead of far away.

And many people must be wondering, "Could that happen here? Is my child's school safe?"

NO ONE, of course, can say flatly that such a tragedy cannot happen in Medford. But one can say that the conditions leading up to the fire are not the conditions in the Medford public school system.

Every precaution is taken to protect children and teachers in case of fire. These include an intensive fire-drill training period at the first of the school year, when youngsters are given repeated instruction in how to evacuate a building, through differing routes, and in orderly procedures designed to prevent panic.

These are followed by drills throughout the year, not less than once each month, to keep the students alert and familiar with how to get out of a building safely.

(The high school here can be completely evacuated in less than three minutes — all 1,280 students. In the junior high schools, the times range from a high of 1 1/2 minutes to less than a minute. And in the elementary schools the fastest time so far this year is 23 seconds at West Side school; the slowest time — during the first training drills — was two minutes, at Washington and Jackson schools. Barring explosion, no fire could get a serious start in these times.)

THE schools are inspected regularly for fire hazards, not only by principals and janitorial personnel, but also by the city fire marshal.

New schools are constructed according to state standards, which take into consideration the safety of students, and the elimination of built-in fire hazards.

The older schools have, in addition, had renovations, and in each case fire safety features have been emphasized in such added construction.

Fire safety instructions are provided all teachers and principals at the start of each school year, and all are required to be familiar with them, and know what their duties are both in the case of fire drills, and of fire itself.

IN THE new schools, it can be stated that there is very little hazard at all of any student being caught in a fire. They are low schools, of fire-resistant materials, and in many cases each room has a direct exit to the outside. In other cases available exits are close at hand.

In older, higher schools, a sufficient number of exits have been provided that no group of students ever should be caught without a way out of the building.

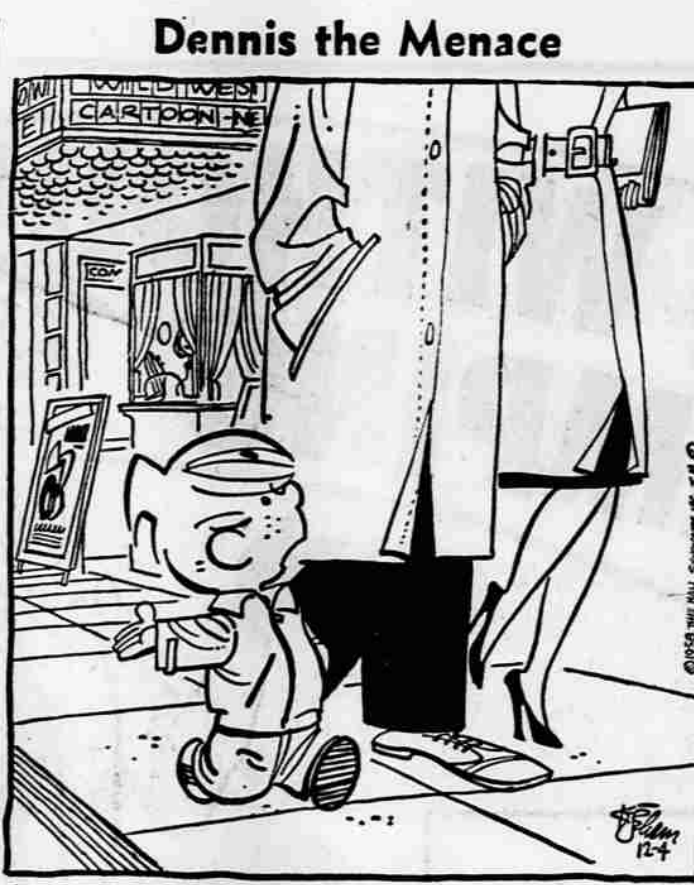
Boiler rooms in all the new schools, and in most of the old ones, are separated from the buildings themselves. And in all cases they are provided with safety walls.

WE PRAY, with all parents, that fire never strikes any of the schools here — or anywhere else.

But if it were to happen, we can be confident that youngsters in the Medford school system are trained, that their teachers and administrators are alert to the problems, and that virtually every precaution is taken to insure their safety.

Children's lives are too precious to be threatened by lack of precaution, both in training and in construction and design.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



"HOW COME YOU PEOPLE ALWAYS WANNA SIT 'WAY BACK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PLACE?"

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

ON KASSEM'S SHOULDERS

Baghdad, Iraq—By the most practical test, the new leader of Iraq, Brig. Abdel Karim Kassem, is now a more significant Arab leader than Gamal Abdel Nasser himself. Kassem, rather than Nasser, now has the burden of deciding, almost singlehandedly, on the future course of events in the troubled Middle East.

There is a simple reason why this quiet, serious Army officer, catapulted from obscurity into supreme power by a single bloodstained day of revolution, now carries such a heavy burden. The final Middle Eastern choice will almost surely be made here in Iraq.

This country is the first objective of the Kremlin's new Middle Eastern strategy. The Communists are working all-out to gain effective control of Iraq. If the Communists succeed here, there is nothing much that Nasser can do about it. Moreover, this kind of development here will automatically and very gravely endanger Nasser's own "Syrian region" and affect Egypt too.

KASSEM, in contrast, can do everything about it, if he only wishes to and will only act in time. That is the essence of the new situation in the Middle East, where personalities always have so much extra power to shape events.

It will not be easy for Kassem to insure true independence for Iraq and thus block the Kremlin's new Middle Eastern strategy. Since the revolution here, the Communists have emerged as the dominant organizers of the street crowds which always play such an immense part in Arab politics. They have just gained leadership of the students. They are taking over the embryo Iraqi labor unions. One can also be certain that the Communists have their command posts inside the government, simply because of the way the government was formed. It had a double origin, in Kassem's Free Officers Movement in the Army, and in the clandestine "National Front Committee" secretly set up by the opposition parties after Suez. The former committee members of the three non-Communist parties can be easily identified in the ministerial line-up. It is unquestioned that the former Communist committee member is also in the line-up somewhere. Trying to identify him is a popular local guessing game.

THE finger of probability points straight at the influential Minister of Economics, Ibrahim Kubba. This formidable man stoutly denies that the finger is pointing in the right direction. But Kubba's policies are plainly designed to reduce Iraq's Western economic ties, and to bring great numbers of Soviet and satellite technicians into Iraq in the fairly near future. Then, too, the Communists are actively trying to get a grip on the Kurdish population of northern Iraq—and the Kurds can be much more dangerous than the Baghdad street crowds. And finally, and by no means least important from a human standpoint, the Communists have been the grand organizers of the cheers for Kassem. They staged the huge demonstration when he took his stand against the drive for union now with Egypt by Col. Aref. This long list of points in the Communists' favor makes pretty easy reading. But in Arab politics, certain other

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. The letters printed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the paper. In fact the contrary is often the case.

Dirge and Epitaph

To the Editor: The following dirge for the Republicans is recited to Chopin's "Funeral March." (I think that's the gloomiest, "Funeral March of a Marionette" and the muffled drums' sad beat. The Republican party laid him down and his eyes grew dead dim. He had cold feet and the tremors of death shook him in every limb.

"I have 'nointed myself with workers' fat and supported every sleek fat-cat and committed every sin. And the goblins will get me if I don't watch out, so fast that I won't have time to shout in the fix I am in. The worms they creep in and the worms they creep out, they're sporting my eyes and my temples about. The Devil is wagging his spiked tail and I know he'll get me without fail. He has cloven hoofs and a pitchfork, too, with which he'll jab me through and through. What ever can we Republicans do? If you hear a voice disconsolate, you'll know it's me bewailing my fate when the Republicans disintegrate as I know they're going to do. London, Hoover and Eisenhower gave the Kiss of Death in my last hour. Knowland with his right-to-work surely was an awful jerk. It's even got into our Attic, Alaska, too, is Democratic. The sin that we did by the hundreds we are paying for one by one. And we'll all be seized in the whirlwind — for the Republicans are done."

Edith Y. Ingle,
338 Bessie St.
Medford.

(P.S. — With no apologies to Eugene Field, Robert Southey, Kipling, et al, I have just as much right to murder the English language as the Madison Avenue boys.)

Wants More Information

To the Editor: Offstreet parking. Why two such words create so much confusion and bewilderment on the part of the administration and those proponents of the issue?

A lengthy article in the Mail Tribune by Dr. Kinney West has been read carefully, but it contains no information that would assist the voter in evaluating the issue. It deals primarily in generalities with the idea that the voters must place their confidence in those backing the issue.

The article in your issue of Dec. 2 by Councilman Van Sickle follows the same line, full of generalities, but gives no specific information that would assist the voter in arriving at a decision in the matter.

In the letter of Mr. Ray J. Schumacher in your issue of Nov. 26 are listed five specific items which are vital to a sound evaluation of the project. He does not deal with generalities but lists specific information that the voter is entitled to before being asked to cast his ballot.

I still say Mr. Schumacher was right when he said "the cart before the horse."

A property owner talked to me yesterday about this matter, and the gist of his conversation was typical of the conversations you hear daily, to wit: "I own property here and would I not be a fool to vote for something when I do not know what I am voting for? I am not going to simply accept their say-so that the proposition is o.k. I want the facts before I vote or my answer will be no."

So why not put the proposition to the proponents of the measure in this way: Show your confidence in the voters by giving us all the information necessary for an intelligent appraisal of the issue before we are asked to vote, then if your proposition has merit and we are convinced it is sound and for the best interests of the city as a whole (and not the chosen few), we will give it our support. If we do not consider it a sound

Vanity, Health Basic Reasons For Diets; Precautions Told

By HELEN B. SHAFFER

Washington — Vanity is the most powerful propellant when it comes to putting women, even men, on a reducing diet and keeping them there.

But human beings of both sexes who have reached middle age are beginning to realize that cutting calories off the daily diet may do more than satisfy the ego. Chances are, doctors and insurance companies say, that it will also make for better general health and a longer life. The caution is always added that persons who weigh too much should take off the excess pounds under medical supervision. Trick diets may do them more harm than good.

President Eisenhower's coronary attack three years ago dramatized the high incidence of heart disease in the United States and stimulated medical research in that field. Special attention was given to the relatively high level of fat in the American diet, and it was recalled that wartime surveys had shown less coronary disease in countries where fatty foods were in short supply. Research has continued, but what part fats may or may not play in bringing on heart attacks is not yet certain.

In any case, obesity is closely associated with a number of major degenerative diseases, including diabetes and cirrhosis of the liver in addition to heart trouble. Even moderate overweight puts a burden on vital organs. However, nutritionists warn that medically unauthorized tinkering with basic eating habits may lead to injurious physical deficiencies.

Interest in reducing diets first took hold in the 1920s. It was sparked, not by concern for health, but by the longing of many women for flapper figures. Reducing to the point of emaciation was aided by such fad eating schedules as the Hollywood 18-day diet. Consisting of little more than orange or grapefruit, egg and melba toast, with an occasional minute piece of lean meat, the Hollywood diet was said to guarantee loss of a pound a day. The chief faults of this and other fad diets were that they lacked necessary nutrients, did not still the pangs of hunger, and failed to establish good eating habits that would keep weight down when dieting ended.

Most recommended reducing diets restrict consumption of fats, starches, and sweets and emphasize proteins like lean meat and eggs along with leafy vegetables and fruits. A few years ago the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, developed a diet with a low protein content. Proteins stimulate the appetite, so it was hoped that by cutting down in that quarter dieters would escape the gnawing hunger that causes so many to give up in despair. But early hopes that a safe and painless method of reducing had been found were disappointed. Worry about the ill effects of a protein deficiency caused hoisting of the old warning of a need for strict medical supervision.

Food faddism is an ancient weakness of man. Many wise men have held peculiar ideas about what should be eaten or not eaten. Galen, early Greek physician, believed that fruits caused fevers. Cato the Censor thought that cabbage protected against disease. George Bernard Shaw and Mahatma Gandhi were vegetarians. Sylvester Graham, 19th century temperance reformer, gave his name to a whole-grain wheat flour. Horace Fletcher, advocate of

thorough mastication, persuaded a wide following to chew each morsel of food at least 32 times.

Many food faddists, however sound or unsound their ideas, have been high-minded idealists. In quite another category are the unprincipled individuals who spread misinformation about food and health for their own private gain. Modern food quacks make money on the lecture

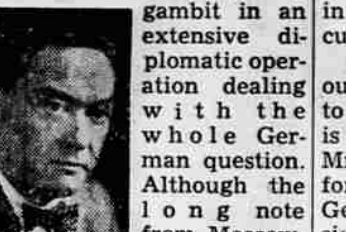
route by scaring their listeners into buying the books, pamphlets, and "health foods" they offer for sale. Yet the food-regulating government agencies find this kind of quackery difficult to expose and suppress. The best answer to food frauds, they say, is public education. One of the first lessons is to beware of door-to-door peddlers of products to fortify the normal diet.

Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

FROM BERLIN TO GERMANY

Each day makes it seem more likely that the Soviet move in Berlin is the opening gambit in an extensive diplomatic operation dealing with the whole German question. Although the long note from Moscow, which was sent last



Thursday, makes specific proposals about the status of West Berlin, its general tenor and the text around the proposals suggests very strongly that the Soviet government looks upon West Berlin as an instrument for raising the whole question of Germany.

For there can hardly be any illusion in Moscow that the Western powers will refuse to evacuate West Berlin and to leave it surrounded by the Red Army and with its communications in control of the East German government. The proposals about Berlin are a talking point, not a serious offer. I say this because Mr. Khrushchev has already said in his press conference that the six months time limit would not be rigidly adhered to if promising negotiations were under way. And if promising negotiations are not under way, precautions have already been taken to see to it that nothing portentous happens if authority is transferred to the East German government. Mr. Dulles has said that we might let East German officials stamp the documents.

All in all, then, there is no instant crisis and we are at the beginning of a long game in which the distance runners will do better than the sprinters.

IT IS not probable, I think, that on the whole German question there will be any really serious negotiations for the next two years. For a serious negotiation would be one in which at the end of the line the Soviet Army would agree to withdraw from Central and Eastern Europe and back within its own frontiers. It is reasonably certain that the Soviet government has not convinced itself that it can withdraw its army without running a very great risk of an anti-Soviet and an anti-Russian explosion among the satellites. Yet, at the same

time, there is good reason to believe that the Soviet government lives in dread of another Hungary, and realizes that there is a great risk in the continuing military occupation of Eastern Europe.

On our Western side a serious negotiation is not likely to begin soon because policy is made by Dr. Adenauer and Mr. Dulles. Their terms call for the liquidation of the East German state and the extension of the frontier of NATO to the Polish border. This is literally and exactly a demand for the unconditional surrender of the Soviet Union, and it is not a negotiating position.

IT IS reasonable to assume that the Soviet operation in Berlin is addressed to the German successors of Dr. Adenauer and to the American successors of Mr. Dulles. That is why the gambit in Berlin is only the beginning of a long game. Unless all signs fail, Dr. Adenauer's successors in West Germany, though they are as anti-Communist as he is, will move away from his absolute position to one in which negotiations with East Germany and with the Soviet Union can take place. If and when this change occurs in Germany, the American successors of Mr. Dulles will have to change our position.

On the long view, perhaps the greatest risk we are running at present is that we shall become alienated from the Germans who will succeed Dr. Adenauer. The risk is greater than we realize. For our official policy, and the authoritative voices which are raised in this country on the German question are, so it seems to me, curiously out of date, curiously unaware of what the rising political generation are like.

Before we make any more resounding pronouncements about the German problem, we would do well to explore the situation in Germany with a fresh eye and an open mind, and to ask ourselves whether it is still true what was true when Truman and Acheson, Eisenhower and Dulles formed our established German policy.

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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. 4, 1948 (Saturday)

Medford Trail Riders plan an old-fashioned dance at their Hillcrest rd. clubhouse to night.

Local Red Cross officials ask more Christmas gifts for disabled veterans at Roseburg's veterans' hospital.

20 YEARS AGO

Dec. 4, 1928 (Sunday)

Capacity audiences attend the Junior high school's production of "Rumpelstiltskin."

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "Everybody is over Thanksgiving, and the country sausage no longer tastes like turkey."

30 YEARS AGO

Dec. 4, 1928 (Tuesday)

Bert Anderson and A. W. Pipes of Medford buy the Mansfield ranch up the Rogue river 30 miles from here.

Ashland plans a "Hi-Lites" celebration in honor of the new dam for the water system, the new street lighting and the Christmas opening.

40 YEARS AGO

Dec. 4, 1918 (Wednesday)

Walter Frazier, who recently applied for overseas YMCA work, is to be sent to Siberia. A Portland YMCA official is in town to help organize a county work program.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. A fatuous person is stout, rich, or foolish?
2. What is the name of the science that treats of coins and medals?
3. Which rank is next to an admiral in the U. S. Navy, Rear Admiral, or Vice Admiral?
4. Does the name Jonasson denote a type of thermometer, precision gauge, blocks, or offset screwdrivers?
5. The sun is larger than the earth: true or false?
6. Which one of these surnames is most common in the United States—Jones, Brown, or Smith?
7. Correct the following sentence: "We must keep this secret between you and I."
8. What is the name for the Army bugle call for "lights out"?
9. To which European country do the Madeira Islands belong?
10. Edmund Dantes was the hero in which novel by Alexander Dumas?

Answers: 1. Foolish; 2. Numismatics; 3. Vice Admiral; 4. Precision gauge blocks; 5. True; 6. Smith; 7. "We must keep this a secret between you and me"; 8. Taps; 9. Portugal; 10. The Count of Monte Cristo.

Auto Crash Injuries

Fatal To Youth, 14

Portland—UPI—A 14-year-old boy died Wednesday in a Portland hospital of injuries suffered Tuesday in a two-car collision.

Douglas Josephson was injured when he fell out of the car to the pavement when the accident occurred.

The death was the 38th traffic fatality of the year for Portland.

Happy Dieting

With the Thanksgiving feasting behind, and the calorie-laden temptations of Christmas ahead, one's thoughts turn to dieting—or, at least, the thoughts of the estimated 40 per cent of the American public which either diets, or is "careful" about what they eat.

Elsewhere on this page is a carefully researched article which tells the latest theories about diet — the fact that the "crash" or "fad" diets are not in good repute among doctors, and the fact that a slow, careful loss of weight is far safer and, in the long run, more effective, than a short-range diet designed to cut off pounds fast.

A DIET which is "guaranteed" to lose 10 (or 15 or 20) pounds in a short period of time is tempting to one who watches the depressing figures on the scale, day after day.

But, even if the "guarantee" works out, doctors say that valuable nutrients frequently are lost during the period of the diet.

And, from a practical standpoint, when one finishes a crash diet, one often is so hungry that the old eating patterns of too much food return, and all the weight loss is regained in nothing flat.

MEDICAL thinking, while it varies, generally now recommends a de-emphasis (not a complete absence) of fats, starches and sweets, which can be slowly effective over a period of time without ill effect.

Others recommend, particularly for those who are overweight, but whose weight has not changed over a long period, a very minor cutting down of the daily calorie intake — perhaps as little as 50 or 100 calories a day. This is enough to be slowly effective, yet does not seriously disturb the familiar patterns of eating, and thus is easier to keep up than a "starvation" diet.

Happy eating!—E.A.

Israel, Syria Swap Accusations

Jerusalem —UPI— Israel charged today that Syria turned its heavy weapons on half a dozen border settlements in the Huleh Valley Wednesday, touching off the heaviest artillery duel since the 1948-49 Palestine war.

In Damascus, a Syrian army spokesman blamed Israel for the "surprise aggression." He said the Syrian bombardment which started "several fires," was ordered in retaliation for an Israeli attack.

The only reported casualty was an Israeli shepherd killed in the burst of small-arms fire that heralded the heavy attack.

BANS BULLFIGHT

Tallahassee, Fla.—UPI—Florida Atty. Gen. Richard Ervin ruled Wednesday that bullfights are illegal in Florida even if the bull is not harmed. Ervin advised the city of Tampa that a circus should not be allowed to carry out a scheduled match between a man and a bull, although the circus promised not to harm the bull in any way.

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