

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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ROBERT W. RUIH, Editor
HERB GREY, Advertising Manager
GERALD LATHAM, Business Mgr.
ERIC W. ALLEN, Jr., Circulation Mgr.
DALE ERICKSON, Circulation Mgr.

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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. 16, 1948 (Thursday)
Eight white swans are reported on the Hoover ranch on Butte creek, being possibly fugitives from Portland. Medford votes today on the \$685,000 school district bonding measure to finance additional classroom facilities.

20 YEARS AGO

Dec. 16, 1938 (Friday)
Harry and David, after conceiving the Christmas gift package idea five years ago, have "taken the Rogue River valley Comice pear out of the dog house and placed it in the drawing room." From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "Ohio chestnuts are on the market. They are the kind that pulls themselves out of the fire."

30 YEARS AGO

Dec. 16, 1928 (Sunday)
Pruning demonstrations are to be held in various parts of the valley under the auspices of the county agent's office. Southern Oregon Fotovox, backed by some dozen Medford business and professional men, is incorporated for talking movie ventures.

40 YEARS AGO

Dec. 16, 1918 (Monday)
The city council lifts Medford's ban on church and theater gatherings, but dances are still prohibited and flu masks must be worn at all times. Ashland reports an increase in its grain crop.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

- 1. What is the principal religion of the people of Indonesia?
2. Was Lorado Taft a well-known actor, sculptor or playwright?
3. The Grammos mountains are in which European country?
4. An army led by what Carthaginian crossed the Alps to invade Italy in the Second Punic war?
5. What was the relationship between Johann Strauss and Richard Strauss?
6. In which harbor is Bedloe's island?
7. The Zeiss camera lenses are well known—are they produced in Switzerland, Germany, France or Italy?
8. Who wrote the verses about the characters Wyken, Blynken and Nod?
9. Name the highest mountain peak on the North American continent.
10. Who wrote the novel, "Old Curiosity Shop"?

IN SELF DEFENSE

Atlanta—UP—Merchants are hoping to head-off vandals who annually chop down and carry away decorated Christmas trees along Atlanta's famed Peachtree Street by offering free (but unadorned) trees to citizens unable to afford them.

Smog at 'Nuisance' Level

The state sanitary authority reports that in Medford the level of air pollution occasionally reaches the "nuisance" level.

The report was based on scientific samples. We could have told them the same thing without the scientific samples, but we're glad to be backed up by the authorities.

When one can park a freshly-washed automobile in the downtown area in the morning, and find it in the afternoon covered with a fine silt of ashes, we are convinced the "nuisance" level has arrived.

THEREFORE, we are indeed glad that the city plans to go ahead with a more extensive field survey of the area. This will be done jointly, with the authority furnishing the equipment and professional guidance and analysis, and the city furnishing the manpower, the part-time efforts of a city employee.

Such a field survey, more extensive and comprehensive than the spot sampling, should provide a sensible analysis of the problem facing the city, and an indication of what can be done about it.

THE CLEAR Rogue Valley air has always been one of its greatest beauties and attractions, and we have hated to see the encroachment of smog—some days so bad one cannot see the range of hills across the valley.

We're still not as bad off as the Los Angeles area. (Mrs. N. M. Chandler of 742 West 14th st., Medford, recently sent us some clippings from the Van Nuys News. One headline read: "Smog Seizes Valley Area in Merciless Grip for Four Days; Health Peril Acute on 'Black Monday.'")

But we do have an air pollution problem, and it probably will get worse before it gets better. Now is the time to start to work on it. — E. A.

Tool of the Trade

Two Oregon editorial writers last week turned their thoughts to the principal tool of their trade, the typewriter.

One of them, Ken Holmes of the McMinnville News-Register, reviews the many ways in which the ability to use a typewriter is almost a necessity, and comes to the conclusion that typing classes should be pre-requisites for college entrance.

He says: "We are living in a typewriter world, and we might as well awaken to the fact and make typing a fundamental subject of study much earlier than we do now."

HOLMES also points out that Dr. John L. Rowe of the business education department of the University of North Dakota has experimented with teaching typing to fourth-graders, with considerable success.

He quotes Rowe as saying: "I think the child who goes through school knowing how to type learns faster, picks up grammar, spelling and punctuation easier, finds homework less work, improves his muscular coordination . . . Well, I could go on."

Personally, we learned to type in the seventh grade. And it was a good thing, too, for our handwriting was (and is) about as legible as the average doctor's prescription. We figure we've turned out something more than 100,000 words in the past six months — which adds up to a monumental case of writer's cramp if done by hand rather than by machine.

FORREST Amsden of the Coos Bay World also talked knowingly about typing, but he was in a somewhat philosophical mood, and rambled on about the use of different colored paper (he switches frequently to avoid monotony), different machines (ditto), and the need for a typewriter for newspaper writers rather than secretaries.

He'd redesign the keyboard, leaving out some of the symbols for which he has little use like % # & @ etc., and substituting others more frequently used. He says:

"One gadget we'd like is a —, or long dash, which is frequently substituted in news style for the comma. When typers want to indicate the — for a printer (who has a — on his Linotype) they must strike the — twice. If he had a — on the typewriter, just think of all the finger movements a — fan would save in a week!"

AMSDEN rejoices that some machines have recently added a .

"Old-fashioned typewriters (and almost all typewriters you'll find in a newspaper office are very old-fashioned) you had to hit an ' and then back up and hit the . in order to get an exclamation point. Now you can just ! ! ! away for all you're worth!"

Be that as it may (and few newspapermen use the ! very often), we think the typewriter people do pretty well. There are a few improvements which, we suggest, would be even more welcome than the ! .

We'd like a typewriter that spells better than this one, for instance. — E. A.

Hawaii Should Be a State

With Alaska due for the 49th star any day now, we see no reason why Hawaii should not have the 50th—and during 1959. It would be singularly appropriate—from Oregon's standpoint—to have the islands become a state on the 100th anniversary of Oregon's own statehood. Hawaii should be admitted, and soon.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



"WHEN YOU PICKED ME UP, YA BUSTED A COUPLA PIGEON EGGS I FOUND IN THE PARK."

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

We Are?

To the Editor: Why do you hide things that should be placed on the front page, you place them way inside your paper.

About the article "High Schools Too Easy," in Sunday's paper, Dec. 15. That should of been on the front page, and you should write your Editorials on a subject like that till you get some action, as only through your paper could any good come to change the outdated school system we now have.

And some sort of segregation to keep those with a poor IQ away from those that want to study and get ahead.

Instead you write about Senators' Differences, Social Security, and of all things, you are taking sides with something I don't think is any of your business. Married people should take correspondence courses, or stay single till they have their education out.

And you say the "World" is wrong, in upholding decency, and backing the school board in their ruling.

YOU ARE THE KIND THAT BACKS JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.
W. O. Burns,
3761 South Pacific Hy.
Medford

Second The Motion?

To the Editor: Regarding the results of the recent election—First, I want to thank the majority who voted down this ill-advised amendment. Secondly, my views as to why they voted as they did—numerous comments before the election brought out the following facts: The average citizen wants fair play, honesty and all the facts before he will give his consent to any measure on the ballot.

Many questioned the need for a special election a few weeks after a general election, especially after being told that five to seven years had gone into the measure, plenty of time to place it on the November ballot. Many statements and figures which could have been more exact were given as vague promises, guesses and estimates. This, and more, left too many doubts in the voter's mind and he would have none of it.

We, of the Citizens' Committee, are not against Off Street Parking. We are against the manner in which it was proposed and the fact that those wanting it most—the downtown merchants—are attempting to ring the already overburdened taxpayer in on a business venture that should be established and run by private or cooperative enterprise.

We feel that the need for more off street parking is not presently at the critical stage but we can foresee the time in the next two to five years when such space will be needed. Could not the many businessmen in the downtown area, form a "cooperative" to create their own parking lots in the near future? Each store, business and property owner could invest \$100, \$500 or more, depending on its size, into a "pool" to be banked drawing interest until it is large enough to buy property and establish one or more parking lots of its own, the profits from this to revert to the pool and eventually more lots as needed. The merchant is thereby taking care of a problem that is essentially his at no risk to the taxpayer. Oddly enough, the taxpayer would eventually pay a good share of this

Arguments pro and con required retirement at 65 were: For: Removes employees declining in efficiency. Prevents workers from working beyond their own ability. Avoids favoritism. Opens channels of advancement for younger men. Encourages preparation for retirement because there is a definite date to look forward to. Ties in with Social Security which starts at 65.

Against: It costs 25 per cent less to retire a man at 68 than at 65; 45 per cent less at 70. The employee is better off after 65 than before. A person 65 may be physiologically 80 or 40. Most workers don't want to retire in good health. Young men don't need retirement of older workers as an opportunity to advance. There is no dearth of opportunity.

Where older, experienced, worker specialists were placed in public employment offices, placement of oldsters rose from 18.2 per cent to 20.1 per cent in six months.

We cannot afford to lose the productivity of those able and willing to produce. Already there are too many non-producers, drones, leeches of various types on our society, economy. Businessmen, bankers — everyone — must become interested in this subject. A flexible, higher normal age retirement can save 25 per cent of pension costs and add billions to productivity, to say nothing of the independence and social values to millions.

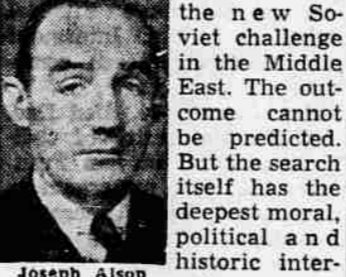
John E. Gribble
139 Kenwood ave.
Medford

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE

Cairo — Gamal Abdel Nasser's government has just begun to search for the right response to the new Soviet challenge in the Middle East. The outcome cannot be predicted.



But the search itself has the deepest moral, political and historic interest. As this correspondent has perhaps tiresomely insisted in recent reports, the entire Middle Eastern pattern has now been radically transformed by a sharp change in the Kremlin line for this area. No longer content with sup-

porting the anti-Western drive of Nasser's Arab nationalism, Nikita Khrushchev has now ordered the Arab Communist parties to enter into an open, direct power competition with the Nationalists.

Thus far, the Communist challenge to Nasser's nationalists centers in Iraq. Yet the new Kremlin line plainly applies to the whole area — all the Arab lands that Nasser claims to lead and to inspire. As already indicated in this space, the Kremlin's adoption of this new line, and its at least temporary success in Baghdad, are causing something very like consternation here in Cairo.

THE consternation is only natural. From the moment when Soviet arms were provided for the Egyptian Army, Gamal Abdel Nasser has depended very heavily on the Kremlin's support.

The Egyptian development program has achieved striking successes against heavy odds, and the Egyptians themselves have made great efforts. But the Soviet development credits to the United Arab Republic, amounting to only a little less than \$350 million for Egypt and Syria together, also constitute a considerable item in the balance sheet. Still another considerable item is the special Soviet credit of only a little less than \$100 million, recently granted for the famous Aswan high dam project.

More important still, there is the simple fact that both the Egyptian and Syrian armies are now completely and fairly lavishly equipped with Soviet weapons. Some expert foreign observers maintain that this fact alone must be decisive. In reality, Nasser has done his best to prevent his Soviet arms contracts from turning into a mortgage on his independence, insisting for instance, on buying several years' supply of spare parts for all weapons purchased. Yet the source of their weapons must still influence Nasser's soldiers, and through them Nasser himself.

FOR these reasons, many foreigners and not a few Egyptian observers think that Nasser is too entangled to be able to respond to the new Kremlin line. This is evidently the theory of Nikita Khrushchev. The new line was first tentatively sketched in the Syrian coup d'etat of the summer of 1957, when Nasser's situation was temporarily much weakened. Then the new line was applied with full force in Iraq (where the Communists are now openly anti-Nasser). Simultaneously, the Kremlin offered Nasser the Aswan high dam as you might offer a dog a biscuit for being good.

The role that the Kremlin has allotted to Nasser is very plain. While the Communists seek to fasten a and extend their grip on the Eastern Arab lands, which just happen to be the oil-bearing lands, Nasser is to remain passive. As a reward for remaining passive, he will receive generous further support. With this support, he is to continue his power drive, but into North Africa, the Sudan and Central Africa.

It must be added that the initial Cairo responses to the new Soviet challenge is not encouraging. Maybe it is because the habit is now so rooted here of blaming the

Voters have shown they simply will not countenance any hint of a subsidy, such as the proposed 25 per cent diversion of all parking meter funds if additional money were needed to amortize the Medford bond issue.—Grants Pass Courier.

WANTED: OLD PARROT
Norwich, England—UP—The local theater company advertised today for an old parrot to play a role in "Treasure Island."

"No young parrots need apply, since the young ones only peck at stranger's ears and repeat everything they hear," said production manager Gerald Batty.

ELECTED TO UPI
New York—UP—Frank Tremaine was elected a vice president of United Press International at a meeting of the board of directors Monday.

Washington Report

By William S. White

Headquarters U.S. Army in Europe, Heidelberg — This is a bleak Christmas season for 250,000 American troops in Germany, but there is no fear or even excitement in this most professional military force under our flag.



The running crisis over Berlin, from which the Russians are trying to drive us sooner or later, means both much and little here. It means much to the American commander, General Henry H. Hodes, in the sense that it poses a keen problem for him. A man of massive calm and still, impersonal eyes, he is the reassuring picture of the imperturbable and unimaginative pro as he awaits the outcome of negotiations over Berlin. He is neither brooding nor in any visible way is he troubled.

Will there be a war over Berlin now or a little later? He weighs the question. He tabulates the degree of chance on both sides and then he says: "Can't tell. If it comes we are ready."

BY the soldiers themselves, and indeed by the West German civilians hereabouts at least, the issue is hardly ever discussed. The soldiers, of whom about 40 per cent are old Army hands, go about their drab business with the touching and unintentionally gallant unconcern of all old-time Army hands.

Our tanks are ceaselessly patrolling the 435-mile East

wicked West for all imaginable troubles, almost including the occasional cloud in Cairo's winter sky. At any rate, incredible as it may seem, the West is also being blamed here for the Communist successes in Baghdad.

Even such a cool-headed and sophisticated man as the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Dr. Mahmoud Fawzy, suggested to this reporter that the American and British Embassies in Baghdad were "collaborating" with the Iraqi Communist party, in order to "divide the Arabs."

IN TRUTH Nasser may play the role desired by the Kremlin in the end. It is the easy course to adopt, and some of his advisers will think it is the best course, at least for the time being. In contrast, it will be very difficult indeed for Nasser to fight all-out against the new foreign intrusion into the Arab lands, if only because the Arabs have had their bellies — full of "Western imperialism" but have never tasted the sterner Soviet brand.

There is only a single fact, indeed, to suggest that a firm response to the new challenge is still possible despite all the difficulties. It is possible because Gamal Abdel Nasser himself knows that failure to respond to the challenge will mean the doom of his grand ambition to free the Arabs from all "foreign interference." the end of his own hopes for Arab unity, and his own eventual transformation into a mere Soviet client and agent.

The question is whether Nasser will act on this knowledge of his. He believes he cannot act on it if he must fight what he calls a "war on two fronts," against the West and the Soviets at the same time.

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German and Czechoslovakian borders that form the Iron Curtain in this area. Four thousand of General Hodes' picked troops are in West Berlin, a little American island surrounded by a vast Communist sea. Behind that curtain nearly half a million Soviet troops and 95,000 East German Communist troops are confronting us, according to intelligence reports at this headquarters. Back of all these are 542,000 satellite troops, standing from Poland down to Bulgaria.

On the Western side are West German, British, French and Italian troops, though all together they obviously are no match for the legions to the east. The heart of Western defense and the heart of Hodes' command is in the American Seventh Army.

BUT there is no alert on and none will be put on. There is, as Hodes says, no need for that. For our troops in Germany it is always a time of alert. They accept this as businessmen living in the suburbs accept the necessity of the daily commutation train. It is an annoying thing, but it is life.

Those at home who believe our people in Germany "never had it so good" are not well informed. This headquarters city is perhaps the prize assignment and it is hardly a gay vacation place.

The gloom of medieval Heidelberg now is like the dark forest of childhood dreams. Cloud banks scowl from the frowning hills, the rain falls in an endless twilight. Our headquarters are in angrily ugly stone buildings, with a prison severity that only the Germans could have managed it. Our command is housed in captured German barracks and the sullenly colored German flag hangs alongside our own over a gray and sodden parade ground.

WE PUT up this alien flag, with all its associations for one who remembers German 14 years ago when German guns were blazing against us, because now the Germans are our allies. We must have them as allies and they must have us. The fact that the Russians have made this necessary is not the least of all their international crimes, for it is not a pleasant thought that we must maintain this alliance as beyond any doubt we must.

And it is not pleasant that the German civilians seem so unconcerned about Berlin, because they know that if war comes we, who once helped defeat them, must now defend them.

Yes, both sides "get along," but the message to one observer from German eyes is this: "Yes, you Americans are not much, but you are here." And so we are and must continue to be, even though this is not the world's happiest place to be, this gaunt, gray Heidelberg in the rain.

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