

MEDFORD 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

Dec. 24, 1948 (Friday)
A county jail inmate re-
ceives Christmas clemency,
and is released after serving
three months of a one-year
sentence.

Strong winds this morning
rip a board from a scaffolding
and drive it through the wind-
shield of a car, but the driver
escapes injury.

20 YEARS AGO

Dec. 24, 1938 (Saturday)
Three Medford markets in-
troduce "quick-frozen" foods,
the very latest in modern gro-
cerydom.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye
Smudge Pot" column: "Dear
Kris Kringle: Don't leave any
boy or girl with nothing in
their stockings but their feet."

30 YEARS AGO

Dec. 24, 1928 (Monday)
Local farmers and orchard-
ists hail a soaking rain as the
nicest gift Santa could have
brought.
Because of inclement
weather, the judging of out-
door Christmas lighting has
been postponed to Dec. 28.

40 YEARS AGO

Dec. 24, 1918 (Tuesday)
Trains southbound through
Medford are in two sections
and packed with doughboys
homeward bound for Christ-
mas.
Post office crews just about
get one shipment of packages
to their local destinations
when Train 13 brings in an-
other.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

- 1. Spingerle, a kind of
cocky with an embossed de-
sign, is of French, Swedish, or
German, origin?
- 2. "Xmas" - the shortened
form for Christmas - is a
word of Greek, Italian, or
Latin, derivation?
- 3. At the time of Jesus'
birth, who was King of Jea-
dea?
- 4. How many reindeer does
Santa have?
- 5. The wise men from the
East brought three gifts to
the newborn Infant Jesus;
name the gifts.
- 6. Why did Joseph and
Mary have to take shelter in a
stable?
- 7. What celebration by the
ancient Romans took place at
the same time of year as
Christmas is now observed?
- 8. Why were Joseph and
Mary in Bethlehem at the
time the Infant Jesus was
born?
- 9. How many days after his
birth was the Infant Jesus
given the name Jesus?
- 10. The custom of candles
on a Christmas tree was in-
troduced by whom?

Answers: 1. German. 2.
Greek. 3. Herod. 4. Eight. 5.
Gold, Frankincense and
Myrrh. 6. No room for them
at the Inn. 7. The Sutorialia.
8. To be counted. (Census) 9.
Eight days. (at time of his
circumcision) 10. Martin
Luther.

A Christmas Parable

Labor legislation still languished in Con-
gressional subcommittees, but Santa Claus wasn't
worried about it.

Up at the North Pole, the gnomes and elves
employed in his "open workshop" were all mem-
bers of Arctic Artisans, Local 1. They worked
cheerfully under a contract featuring liberal
fringe benefits for those with whiskers. And they
all had whiskers.

But one day two strangers arrived by dog
sled. "We represent the International Brother-
hood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen
and Helpers of America," they told Santa. "We
have come to organize you."

"Me?" chuckled jolly St. Nick. "But I'm an
employer!"

"Get with it," the men said. "There's no per-
centage anymore in being an employer." They
pointed to his reindeer. "You're the only team-
ster left that hasn't been organized. We need
you."

SANTA offered them mint tea and marzipan
pastries, and after a long conversation he
was persuaded to sign up. "After all," he told
Mrs. Claus, "technically with my sleigh and rein-
deer I am a Teamster anyway. And they told me
I'd be a great asset to their union."

He soon received an envelope from Teamsters
headquarters enclosing his union membership
card and a letter that began, "Dear Brother San-
ta." The letter stated that since the union's treas-
ury was growing so huge the Boss desired a new
safe for Christmas. It gave specific dimensions
for the safe and stipulated that the combination
be secure against federal investigation.

It was a big order, but Santa's helpers could
fill it, even though they had to melt down hun-
dreds of toy trains to provide enough metal. They
finished the mammoth safe on schedule, wrapped
it in gaily colored paper and tied a ribbon around
it.

Then Santa discovered that when the safe was
placed in his toy sack, there was no room left
for any toys.

This would never do. He sent a telegram to
Teamster headquarters, informing them he
couldn't deliver the safe after all.

AGAIN, two men from the union came to the
North Pole - this time by helicopter. They
were heftier than the first pair.

"See here Santa," they said. "There's a clause
in your membership contract says you gotta do
what the Boss tells you. Either you deliver the
goods or we snip off your beard."

Santa knew he had no choice. Without a
beard, he wouldn't be recognized. Children see-
ing him come down the chimney would think
him a burglar and be frightened.

No, he had to deliver the safe. He would
store all the toys carefully away, and next year
there would be that many more for the children.

And so on Christmas eve, frowning with last-
minute misgivings, Santa embarked with the safe
for Teamster headquarters. His reindeer strained
against the heavy load.

AS THEY passed over the rooftops, however,
Santa was struck by unusual sights. Long
lines of men carrying placards trudged through
the streets. Windows normally a-glitter with
Christmas tree lights were darkened.

When they reached Teamster headquarters,
Santa discovered a man with a tommy gun guard-
ing the chimney.

"Take it down to the warehouse," the man
growled. "The Boss is waiting for you."

The Boss dragged on a stubby brown cigar.
"Good," he grunted as Santa pulled up. "We'll
put it in a stockroom for the time being."

"Just a moment," Santa said. "Would you
please explain why those poor men are out in the
cold carrying placards?"

"They're picketing. Don't you know about the
Strike?" And the Boss told Santa all Teamsters
were on strike during the holidays. "It's the best
time of year," he said.

"But why must there be a strike?" Santa
asked. "Why do you want to ruin Christmas for
people?"

"Higher wages," the Boss snapped. "So I can
charge higher dues and put more money in this
new safe you brought me."

Santa stroked his beard for a moment. "Well,"
he said with a twinkle, "I suppose since I'm a
Teamster I must be on strike too. I guess I can't
deliver your safe, can I?"

"Oh yes you can," the Boss said sharply.
"Come on, let's get in unloaded."

BUT Santa gave the reins a vigorous jerk. "On
Dasher!" he cried. "On Dancer!" And the
reindeer sprang upward into the night sky.

They returned at top speed to the North Pole,
where Santa's helpers dumped the safe into a
snowdrift and re-filled his sack to the brim with
toys and good things to eat.

And Santa set out a second time that night.
This time he visited the homes of good children
all over the world, leaving presents just as he
always had.

He couldn't resist visiting Teamster head-
quarters once more, though. The man with the
tommy gun, his coat collar about his ears, was
sound asleep.

Santa dropped his union membership card
down the chimney. On it, he had written: "MER-
RY CHRISTMAS TO ALL." - E. W.

Dennis the Menace



'LOOK! RIGHT THERE! AREN'T THOSE REINDEER TRACKS?'

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

WHERE IS THE EPICENTER?
Paris-The doubts and trou-
bles of the West are so numer-
ous that it is easy to ignore the
signs of something
very like an earthquake
inside the Soviet system.
Yet the follow-
ing recent signs are well
worth pondering:
ITEM: A meeting of the
Central Com-
mittee of the Soviet Commu-
nist party, differing in cer-
tain ways from any such
meeting in the past, where
poor old Bulganin has pub-
licly accused himself of wallow-
ing in "an anti-party swamp."

ITEM: Extraordinarily ven-
omous attacks at this meet-
ing on the other members of
the "anti-party group," and
especially on Khrushchev's
former rival, Georgi Malen-
kov. These attacks, delivered
by both Bulganin and Khrush-
chev himself, appear to fore-
shadow a show trial. Or per-
haps they pave the way for
a simple announcement that
the traitors have received
their just desserts.

ITEM: The sudden dismissal
of the grim Chief of the So-
viet Secret Police, Gen. Serov,
the last Soviet official with
real power that antedated
Khrushchev's consolidation of
power.

ITEM: An even more unpre-
cedented, immensely prolong-
ed meeting of the Central
Committee of the Chinese
Communist party at Hankow.
The unimaginably ruthless
new Chinese "agrarian re-
form," the establishment of
rural "communes," was the
chief topic.

ITEM: The resulting aban-
donment of all official exec-
utive functions by Mao Tse-
tung. This leaves the Chinese
Communist boss in a good
position to blame any subse-
quent trouble on the "errors"
of his replacement.

THE Western experts gener-
ally agree that all these
things happening almost at
once suggest that a major
earthquake is going on, or is
at least foreseen, somewhere
or other in the Communist
half of the world. There is no
other easy explanation of
the world. There is no other
easy explanation of Khrush-
chev's apparent haste to inflict
the most shattering defeat on
the West, since he will be so
much better placed to threaten
Berlin a little later on when
the period of the missile gap
begins in deadly earnest.

By why is Khrushchev in
such a hurry, when there is
no apparent reason to expect
serious trouble within the So-
viet Union? The answer of the
few experts who have any
real familiarity with Chinese
conditions is that the earth-
quake's epicenter is in China?

These men are inclined to
believe that the argument
about the rural communes re-
veals a crisis that can hardly
be resolved until all China
has been bathed in rivers of
blood. There is very little
doubt indeed, to begin with,
that the Chinese have now
reached the point that Stalin
reached during the first five-
year plan, when he collecti-
vized Soviet agriculture. In
other words, the Chinese Com-
munist are unable to finance
their program of forced in-
dustrialization any longer,
without severely depressing
the standard of life. In order
to do this, they must sternly
take in hand the countryside,
where most of China's national
income is still produced.

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Record Pilgrimage

To Holy City Seen
Jerusalem, Jordan—UPI—Of-
ficials predicted Tuesday the
biggest influx of Christmas
pilgrims to the Holy City in
ten years.

They estimated some 6,000
persons would come to the
ancient city of Jerusalem for
the current Western Christ-
mas and the Greek and Ar-
menian celebrations in January.

THUMB FUN

Pueblo, Colo.—UPI—The
Junior Chamber of Commerce
reported that a Pueblo girl
has written Santa that she
will do her best to stop suck-
ing her thumb if he will
leave a cigarette lighter and
ash tray at her house. The
reforming miss said she plan-
ned to take up smoking to
break her thumb sucking
habit.

'Grampaw' Is a Great Man - - - At Least To His Bribed Little Grandchildren

By LYLE C. WILSON

Washington—UPI—I am
Grampaw to a nest of four
worshipping little children,
and it occurs



to me that it is
time someone
started a move-
ment to protect
the very young
from the corrup-
tive influ-
ence of me.
I bribe 'em, buy their love.

Grampaws, as a class, are
scratchy old men who crave
respect and affection but who
have lived long enough to dis-
appoint themselves and their
contemporaries in just about
every way. Expose old Grampaw
to little grandchildren and he
resorts at once to bribery.

The bribery is to arouse in
the little tykes an idolatrous
affection and to convince
them that Grampaw is the
world's greatest man, likely,
next time around, to be nomi-
nated by both political parties
for president.

Unloading the Loot
That is not a far fetched
conception for a little guy or
a little gal who knows Grampaw
will arrive in his car a couple
of times a week and begin to
unload loot.

"Grampaw!" the kids then
holler. They come running
accompanied by the neighbor
kids, of course. The neighbor
kids know that toys and can-
dies are about to be served up
and that they will get their
share.

"Grampaw!" the little ones
chorus confidently as they as-
semble around Grampaw's car.
Hopefully they scan the inter-
ior for packages and con the

old man's pockets for any
promising bulge. If the car
lacks packages and there are
no obvious bulges in grampaw's
pocket, the little ones will try
again.

There will be in their
voices this time, however, an
accusing note, a downward,
hopeless inflection as they
sound off. This signifies an-
xiety and doubt as they get to
the point:

"Grampaw, what did you
brought us?"
According to Plan

That cues their mother, if
she is on the scene, to shush
them all against such forward
conduct. For Grampaw, how-
ever, the cue is to go into his
magician act. He planned it
that way. When the little kids
almost have abandoned hope,
old Grampaw unlocks the trunk
of his car and, presto, the loot
is there.

"Hey, Grampaw," hollers
Barry, "did you brought us
any toys?" Barry's mother
shushes him some more. All
the kids are squealing by now
and the neighbor kids are
opening packages. A small
riot ensues. From this riot, 3-
year-old Connie emerges vic-
tor. Connie wins because she
has no inhibition against
seizing anything she can lift
with which to whack over the
head any brother or neighbor
kid discovered opening a
package she regards as hers.
Connie can lift her father's
little French car.

Peace returns when the loot
is divided. The grandbabies-
Barry, Davie, Connie and
Chris—climb up and over
grampaw, whispering in his
ear and rubbing crackers or
melted chocolate in his hair.
What they whisper are invi-
tations to return for sure to-

morrow and, if possible, to-
night. Grampaw beams. Some-
times they whisper, "We love
you grampaw," and grampaw
kind of squinches up his eyes.
I know it is wrong to buy
their affection and I suspect
that I am warping the child-
ren's characters, making
gold diggers out of them all.
But I'm not going to stop. Not
anyway, so long as I can make
those kids believe I am really
a great man.

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.

A "Thank You" Letter

To the Editor: We have in
our neighborhood two little
boys of 2 and 3 who are at a
disadvantage when out on the
street with the other children
because they do not have tri-
cycles. But through the kind-
ness of the Lady Lions and the
Firemen, each will receive
Christmas morning his own
tricycle, so beautifully redone
as to look like new.

So on behalf of their par-
ents, I am taking this means
to thank all concerned; the
busy parents who donated the
tricycles, the firemen who re-
finished them, the Lady Lions
in general, and Mrs. Lee Mel-
lish in particular, who have
charge of the project. Surely
this is an activity that is
prompted by love.

"He that loveth not know-
eth not God, for God is love."
1 John 4:8.
Anna M. Streed
36 North Peach st.
Medford

Wonderful Years

To the Editor: With so
many youngsters denied the
right-to-work till past their
best years to start learning, it
is so revealing to see how
such problems of the day find
their own answer. Like a few
weeks ago when we chanced
on a 350-head herd of cattle
being brought down from high
mountain summer pastures
ahead of threatening snow.
Such a sizable herd of white-
face in fine condition is not
only a surprisingly pleasant
surprise down here in the
valley, but also proof that
this is still cowboy land.

But there was very little
of the cowboy air and dress
displayed by the following
trail-riders. The ten-year-old
herd boss seemed a bit bored
as was his sister of 7 years
and the out-riders off to the
right, a sister of 3 1/2 years
old, nudging the young weary
stragglers up with the main
herd as she thumped her cow-
pony's ribs with heel and toe,
far short of the stirrups. Back
of them came their mother,
driving a modernized chuck-
wagon.

"Oh yes," she told us later
on as I remember, "the child-
ren have been riding since
big enough to hang onto the
saddle-horn. Now it's getting
to be just another chore. But
I think they still enjoy it, at
least more than some of the
ranch - work they must help
with. And I'm sure they like
to think it's necessary for
them to be in the saddle,
though I'm sure the horses
feel they could do as well
without them. And likely they
could. They surely are of real
help with the ranch - work,
more so as they grow older.
Sure would be hard to get
along without them."

As we drove on, came the
thought of when the years
had fenced these children in,
they would remark to their
grandchildren, "My my, you
kids should be learning to
work as we had to at your
age. We really were lucky,
though we didn't think so
then, for work keeps you out
of mischief and gives you
something worth braggin'
about, which children like to
do and growups too. But
we had time to do what we
liked to do, most of the time.
Work is good medicine for
everybody, young and old,
teaches you value of money,
respect for rights of others.
They were wonderful happy
years."

F. J. Clifford
Route 2, Box 200F
Central Point

Thank You Medford!

To the Editor: I wish to
take this opportunity to thank
the people of Medford for the
support to a successful con-
clusion of the annual United
Medford Crusade.

Many people gave of their
time and contributed a fair
share, then gave generously
again to make up a deficit of
\$7000 in seven days when
they learned of the need.
Their generosity enables the
board of directors to allot the
full requirements of all 26
agencies for another year.

The hard and sometimes
discouraging job of plugging
throughout the campaign on
the part of the people who
did the actual soliciting was
outstanding. The successful
completion of the United Med-
ford Crusade campaign for
the sixth year is another ex-
ample of the terrific job
which the people of Medford
do when the chips are down.

I am proud to be a citizen
of Medford and to have been
a part of this effort.
R. H. Travis
Campaign Chairman
United Medford Crusade

From Farm Home

To the Editor: This is in ap-
preciation, to the residents of
Jackson county, who by their
kindness have made it possi-
ble for us as patients at the
Jackson County Farm home
to be blessed with the wonder-
ful care of our superinten-
dents, Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman.

We likewise feel grateful to
the nurses, culinary and other
members of the Hoffmans'
staff for their never - tiring
efforts to watch over us by
day and night, to assure us
comforts unsurpassed.

Also our sincerest apprecia-
tion to the Jackson county
court, the Jackson county wel-
fare commission and others
for their kind assistance,
to the clergy, bringing to us all
comforting words of Our
Saviour, Jesus Christ, not only
at Yule-tide but throughout
the year, together with the
many pleasant visits by Med-
ford and Ashland civic organi-
zations and others.

May we wish you all a
"Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year."
Speaking for the ladies and
gentlemen of this domiciliary,
most sincerely,
Eugene Cozad Howard
5465 South Pacific
Highway
Phoenix, Ore.

MONEY

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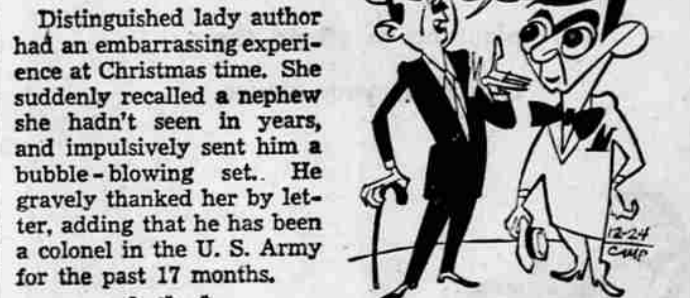
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Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A VISITOR to California asked Eddie Cantor how poor he had
been as a boy on New York's East Side. "I'll tell you how
poor we were," recalled Eddie. "When somebody telephoned
me, I'd say, 'WERE YOU POOR, MR. CANTOR?'"



Distinguished lady author
had an embarrassing expe-
rience at Christmas time. She
suddenly recalled a nephew
she hadn't seen in years,
and impulsively sent him a
bubble-blowing set. He
gravely thanked her by let-
ter, adding that he has been
a colonel in the U. S. Army
for the past 17 months.

Office group singing carols
on Christmas Eve noticed that something was a bit wrong. It proved
to be a recent addition to the staff, recently imported from Mobile,
Alabama. She was singing, "O, li' town of Bethlehem..."

An observation by the Kingfish (remember Amos 'n' Andy?) is
always in order. "Relatives," says he, "is like radishes. Just when
you think you've heard the last of them there they are again."
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Season's Greetings
To Our Friends and Patrons
Wishing One and All a Very MERRY CHRISTMAS
from all of us at
SISKIYOU HARDWARE

C. M. Litwiler
Mrs. Litwiler

May the joyful spirit of Christmas light
the way to many years of health and
happiness for you and your loved ones.
LITWILLER
Funeral Home
Mountain View Chapel
Hwy. 66 at Normal
Office 88 N. Main
ASHLAND
We Never Close
"It is better to know us and not need us,
than to need us and not know us."