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HERB GREY, Advertising Manager
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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
Jan. 20, 1949 (Thursday)
The Evergreen bus line's application for extension of local service is heard here by the public utilities commission.

20 YEARS AGO
Jan. 20, 1939 (Friday)
The Medford fire department's new electric siren is satisfactory after a series of trial blasts.

30 YEARS AGO
Jan. 20, 1929 (Sunday)
Three revival meetings are now under way in the city.

40 YEARS AGO
Jan. 20, 1919
Sgt. Paul Leonard, first of the five Leonard brothers to return from the war, arrives here from France.

50 YEARS AGO
Jan. 20, 1909 (Wednesday)
Engineer J. S. Howard completes defining new boundaries for the city of Medford.

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

- 1. Does a kettledrum have one or two heads?
 - 2. Complete this saying: Love me, love my ---
 - 3. In which State is Hialeah race track?
 - 4. A plot of land devoted entirely to growing apples, is called an ---
 - 5. The green Mountains are in Vermont; where are the White Mountains?
 - 6. How many wings do bees have?
 - 7. What is the smallest number of hooks required to string a clothesline across a yard five times?
 - 8. In what style of architecture is the gargoyles used for ornament?
 - 9. Who lost strength after his hair was cut?
 - 10. Is a "speedball pen" used for horse training, baseball practice or drawing?
- Answers: 1. One. 2. Dog. 3. Florida. 4. Orchard. 5. New Hampshire. 6. Four. 7. Six. 8. Gothic. 9. Samson. 10. Drawing.

JAIL UNFIT
Madisonville, Tenn. — (UPI) — County officials are considering construction of a new jail. Judge James Witt has declared the old one unfit for human habitation.

Whiskers' Progress

Now about this matter of beards . . . They're sprouting out everywhere. No longer is one startled to see one going along the street. And this is no purely local phenomenon, either, for reports from other parts of the state show the same thing.

In Salem, Editor Charles Sprague a couple of weeks ago speculated about beards, concluding he was going to let others do the growing, and more recently reported he received two sorts of response, the first a widespread opposition to the idea of growing centennial beards on the part of the state's editors, and a "surge of beard growing unlike anything seen here since the city's centennial."

THE editorial page of the Oregonian was one on which the beards got short shrift. That newspaper's editorial sounded as though it had been written by a man who secretly wanted to grow a beard, but whose wife won't let him. In part, it said:

"Let us have one centennial celebration free of beards, gingham dress and sunbonnets and bewhiskered vigilantes horsing around with kangaroo courts for those who do not wish to play childish games."

We'll go along on the kangaroo court stuff and similar assorted nonsense. But as to the beards (and even gingham), we join with Editor Sprague's tolerant view—"Let the fur fly" so long as it is on a purely voluntary basis.

THERE is some question, as a matter of fact, whether or not growing of beards is a strictly accurate way in which to celebrate the centennial, for researchers have dug out the fact that in 1859 most men in the Oregon country were clean-shaven, and it wasn't for several years that the United States became a bewhiskered nation. Maybe the Civil War had something to do with it.

Vic Fryer, a columnist on the Capital Journal in Salem has done some research (or had it done for him) on the matter, and reports as follows:

"It's a little bit difficult to pin down the dates, but beards apparently became suddenly popular in the early 1860s after being almost completely out of fashion for many years. . . . In two years between 1860 and 1862, the beards staged a sudden comeback. Lincoln was beardless when elected in 1860 but wore a beard when inaugurated in 1861. General Grant and General Lee both suddenly sprouted beards at the outbreak of the Civil War in that year, as did Jefferson Davis, Stonewall Jackson and most generals and may men on both sides.

"Of course the situation in the Oregon country was a little different. Prior to the big migration of the 1840s, there were only a few trappers, fur traders and missionaries in the area, most of whom probably wore beards because of the difficulties of shaving in the wilderness and, possibly, because of the lack of members of the fairer sex to note whether they were shaven or not.

"When the population of Oregon was more than tripled by the great migration of 1843, presumably the settlers, being from the beardless East, were mostly beardless themselves.

"So, although the work load of getting a start in the untamed territory and the lack of social necessity of shaving may have encouraged some settlers to raise beards, it seems probable that there were more beardless men than bearded ones in 1859.

"And, since the population of the entire state at that time was roughly that of Salem now, it would take little studying to figure that there are probably thousands more beards in the state today than 100 years ago."

A MAN with beard experience, Bob Ingalls of the Corvallis Gazette-Times, rather likes the idea of beards. He says:

"We here in Benton county can testify that the growing of beards can add a lot of fun to a centennial celebration. We can also testify that they soon become tiresome and a nuisance.

"It might be well for the state committee to recommend that beards be grown during certain dates and leave it up to the men of the state to comply if they so desire. We would hate to see any kiddie stuff of local vigilante committees who fine or make a hapless guy sit in the stocks or a log jail for failure to comply. The Centennial should be as much for everyone as we can make it, and the growing of beards may be a part of the fun. Carrying it to extremes, however, takes all the fun out of it."

TO THIS we add only "so be it." If men want to grow whiskers (and obtain their wives' permission), it's a free country. If they want the comfort of clean shaves, ditto.

We have noticed, incidentally, that most beard-growers hereabouts take great care to keep at least part of their faces clean-shaven. There are mighty few full-fledged, full-faced beavers around. The majority seem to favor a modified sort of Van Dyke, with or without a mustache and / or sideburns.

In past observances when beards were grown, they usually came off soon after the event. It will be interesting to see how long Oregon remains a semi-bearded state. It's not probable, but it's always possible, that the thing might turn into a trend, men will keep them, and the fad will sweep the nation, returning us to the facial fashions of the 1860s.

That would be observing the Centennial with a vengeance. — E. A.

Chinese Wall

A clipping from the Arizona Daily Star, sent us from Tucson by a Medford resident, gives a look ahead for that city, and we wonder if it has any significance for Medford. In part, it says:

"Voters last year . . . okayed \$14,600,000 in city bonds to finance improvements . . . Some of the money will be used to build another overpass over a stretch of Tucson's Chinese Wall, the railroad that annoyingly bisects the city. Before downtown tunnels beneath the tracks are widened, the city will make one last effort this year to persuade Southern Pacific to relocate the railroad."

Dennis the Menace

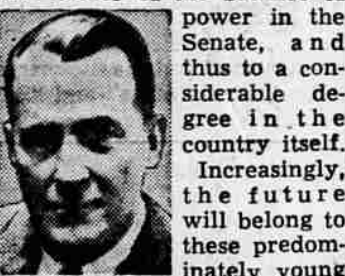


"THIS STUFF TASTES LIKE AUNT CLARA!"

Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

Washington — The West is slowly replacing the South as the holder of the balance of power in the Senate, and thus to a considerable degree in the country itself.



William S. White

Senators who have come here from the far and open spaces. Ironically, too, these spaces were largely settled by the tired, dusty migration from the South that followed the Civil War and the collapse of the Confederate cause.

The East is the home of the Ivy League colleges which many believe to be the only beacons in what is otherwise a national sea of educational darkness. But these new Western men of new power actually are the real eggheads of the Democratic party. And in nearly every case these minds were hatched in home-grown colleges.

Thus it is that as the political dominance of the South is sinking, the old intellectual dominance of New England is sinking, too. Great changes are occurring across our political landscape.

THESE points are no longer merely theoretical and academic. It was evident even in the last Congress that the Western Senators were approaching a point where, in coalition with the moderate Southerners, they could run the Senate. It is now becoming plain that the moderate Southerners within a short time may need the Westerners even more than the Westerners will need them.

All this is illustrated by the extraordinary generosity with which the old Senate Democrats have dealt in giving important committee assignments to the new Westerners. (It is in legislative committees that a Senator makes his real mark, far more often than in debate on the Senate floor.) Senator Gale McGee of Wyoming, a 43-year-old history professor until the November elections, has gone onto the Appropriations Committee, the second most powerful in the Senate. This group holds the keys to the Federal cash box. Freshman Senators simply do not reach that committee — but one has this time.

SENATOR EUGENE McCARTHY of Minnesota, a 42-year-old former professor of economics and ex-member of the House of Representatives, has gone McGee one

better. McCarthy has wound up on the Senate Finance Committee — a group so influential that even Presidents approach it with wary courtesy. The Finance Committee, which handles taxes and tariffs on the Senate side of the Capitol, handles in fact much more even than these.

It is second only to the Treasury — and sometimes more influential even than the Treasury — in making the whole complex fiscal and economic policy of the United States. Senator Frank Church of Idaho was elected two years ago rather than last November; he is still, however, a freshman even if he is edging toward the sophomore class. Church has been given a seat on the Foreign Relations Committee. A deeply internationalist Idahoan thus now sits at a table where an old, isolationist Idahoan, Senator William E. Borah, once made administrations — and foreign countries — tremble. This committee has the power to veto — and sometimes actually to make — the high foreign policies of the United States.

CHURCH is the youngest of the young. He will not reach the tottering age of 35 until next July. He has never been a professor (he is a lawyer, instead) but intellectual interests are his chief interests. Other new Westerners have done well, indeed, in reaching committees of high influence. It is, however, these three — McGee, McCarthy, Church — who could be described as the bright, particular sons of fortune. Each is in position immensely to forward his career and his recall, have reached so much Senate power together so soon.

All three are liberals, but tolerantly so. All three know how to work usefully with men with whom they may often disagree. Given normal life expectancy and political luck at the polls in future these will be three names to reckon with in the Senate, and in the country, for decades to come. (Copyright, 1959, by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.)

TODAY

In Oregon History (A Centennial Feature)

JANUARY 20, 1948

Chief Factor James Douglas of the Hudson's Bay Post at Fort Vancouver today announced, by a letter to the Oregon Spectator, the arrival of Mr. Peter Skene Ogden at Fort Vancouver with Mr. and Mrs. Spalding and the women and children who survived the recent massacre at Willatpu.

FALSE ALARM

Los Angeles — (UPI) — Police and newsmen rushed to the mayor's office Monday when a riot button was sounded. Everything was quiet at the office and an investigation disclosed that a short circuit caused the alarm button to sound the alarm.

TOMBSTONE UNCLAIMED

Jackson, Miss. — (UPI) — After two weeks of trying, officers have been unable to find a claimant for the 300-pound tombstone found in a ditch near here and bearing the inscription: "Nancy Plemom, Dec. 29, 1871-Jan. 22, 1948."

Thirsty America Puts Higher Pressure On Government for Water Purification

By Congressional Quarterly Washington (CQ) — Thirsty America has put the Administration under increasing pressure to expand and accelerate its program to find a cheap method to desalt water. In many parts of the country, the problem of finding new sources of fresh water is becoming increasingly urgent.

To date, Secretary of Interior Fred A. Seaton has taken no action to step up the saline water research program authorized by Congress last year. This is apparently because of the Administration's tight budget policy.

Seaton now has before him a secret report made by a special survey team which he created in September to review the government's six-year saline water program. The team found that while some progress had been made to desalt water at low cost, no "break-through" has resulted. The team made 23 recommendations to Seaton to "improve the program's progress and performance." It urged him to give the program a push.

Over initial Administration opposition, Congress last year passed legislation authorizing a \$10 million program to build five demonstration plants to desalt water. Sen. Clinton P. Anderson (D-N.M.), author of the 1958 law, and Rep. Robert E. Jones Jr. (D-Ala.) have seen the secret report and praised its recommendations. They urged Seaton to act promptly. Jones is chairman of the house public works and resources subcommittee which last year urged Seaton to review the saline water program.

While Seaton has been pondering the survey team's recommendations, which he called "very helpful," the University of Maryland and the National Rivers and Harbors Congress also have urged a speed-up in the program. A study by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research

of the University of Maryland stated that the United States was paying "too little attention to the water problems of underdeveloped areas." In order to aid such backward countries, the United States government must provide "a much more vigorous administration of our saline water program," it concluded.

The board of directors of the Rivers and Harbors Congress on Jan. 8 noted the sharply increased demand for water in this country because of our rapidly growing population. To meet this need, it said, the federal government should "intensify its efforts to convert saline water into fresh water."

Seaton is bound by law to decide by March 2 the conversion process to be utilized in the first demonstration plant to be constructed. Local interest in the sites for the five new plants is high. Already 73 communities, counties and groups in 21 states and Hawaii have asked the Interior department to consider them as potential sites for the plants. Interior has 19 applications from Texas, 16 from New Mexico and 13 from California. It also has applications from Arizona, Connecticut, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, and Washington.

In addition, California and New Mexico have signed cooperative agreements with Interior providing mutual assistance in studying saline water conversion problems. Texas, Florida, North and South Dakota are now negotiating similar agreements with Interior. The 1958 law whetted the interest of coastal and the semi-arid states in the saline water demonstration plant program. It provides specifically that the three plants to convert sea water to fresh

water are to be located on the West Coast, the East Coast and the Gulf Coast. It also specifically provides that a plant to convert brackish water is to be located in one of the Northern Great Plains states, and a second brackish water plant will go to the Southwest. (Copyright 1959, Congressional Quarterly Inc.)

MAINLY, however, the airlift idea has been rejected because the whole city of Berlin simply cannot be supplied by airlift any longer. As previously reported in this space, the Soviets have now installed radar-jamming apparatus, to prevent radar-guided air landings in Berlin. In addition, the living city of today has a vastly greater supply requirement than the dead city of 1948. Hence Berlin, despite all its high reserve stocks, cannot be sustained for much more than 18 months by an airlift limited to daylight, fair weather landings.

It is a great gain for the policy of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, that the weakness of the easy way out has been squarely faced by Berlin's quarantening governments. The secretary is grimly determined to defend Berlin, even if he has to die in the breach. His attitude is plainly indicated by his choice of Deputy Secretary Murphy to carry on the discussions of the contingent plan with the British and French ambassadors.

Meanwhile, the State Department has let it be known that all the long talks with Mikoyan produced no sign of any softening in the Soviet position on Berlin. Against this background, even although the "stiffing out" process is still to be completed, the decision already taken about Berlin is a very solemn matter. (c) 1959, New York Herald Tribune Inc.

'Mother of Year' Selected by MOD

New York — (UPI) — A mother who recovered from total paralysis from polio and resumed a teaching career was named today as 1959 National March of Dimes "Mother of the Year."

Mrs. Virginia Connor, 35, of Cranford, N. J., mother of three children and wife of a paint company executive, received the honor at the annual luncheon of the National Foundation. Actress Helen Hayes, national chairman of the foundation's women's activities, appointed Mrs. Connor honorary chairman of the 1959 mothers' march, to be held next week. The foundation has expanded its work to include birth defects and arthritis as well as polio.

Counsel With . . .

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