

**MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE**

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**Flight 'o Time**

Medford and Jackson County History from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years ago.

**10 YEARS AGO**  
March 5, 1949 (Saturday)  
The Legislature's House state and federal affairs committee holds a lively hearing on a bill that would lift the Rogue river dam and permit a dam at Lewis creek.

Thirty plasterers and six painters from local unions donate their time for work on the new YMCA building.

**20 YEARS AGO**  
March 5, 1939 (Sunday)  
Six new members swell the ranks of the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland association.

For Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "The new grass is coming up fast fine in the rural areas, and is much sought after by heifers and bullocks, and little young lambs."

**30 YEARS AGO**  
March 5, 1929 (Tuesday)  
Mrs. F.D.R. expresses approval of President Hoover's stand on prohibition.

Medford stores hold a spring style show.

**40 YEARS AGO**  
March 5, 1919 (Wednesday)  
Congress adjourns without providing relief for farmers or railroads.

The collection at the Presbyterian church totals over \$250.

**50 YEARS AGO**  
March 5, 1909 (Friday)  
Medford residents' paving petitions are referred to the city council's street committee.

County Commissioners Owens and Patterson postpone action on the Crater Lake road appropriation until March 20.

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

1. The game of polo is played with a ball made from ivory, cork, or wood?

2. Is the obverse side of a coin the front or back of the coin?

3. How many times does the word "America" appear in the stanzas of "My country 'tis of thee"?

4. In what historical novel is an exciting chariot race described?

5. Name the capital of North Carolina.

6. What species of bird can fly backwards, and stand still in midair?

7. Would you most likely expect to meet a Pasha in Yugoslavia, Egypt, Indonesia, or Peru?

8. How many masts has a brig?

9. If some one gave you a stirrup cup, would you get a hunting horn, a drink, or a prize award?

10. If a kernel of corn is planted two inches deep and it grows one-half the distance to the surface the first night, and continues to grow one-half the remaining distance each night how long will it take it to sprout?

Answers: 1. Wood. 2. Front. 3. Does not appear at all. 4. "Ben Hur." 5. Raleigh. 6. Hummingbird. 7. Egypt. 8. Two. 9. Drink. 10. It sprouts the first night.

### Children -- and Five Men

Five Americans are in jails in Communist China. Their only crime, as far as anyone this side of the water knows, was to fall afoul of the security mechanisms of the Red regime. They have been accused of spying, and jailed for sentences ranging up to life.

Their names are Richard Fecteau, John Downey, Hugh Redmond and Robert McCann, all businessmen or government employees, and Bishop James Walsh, a Maryknoll missionary.

The United States government has repeatedly attempted to secure their release, without avail.

**UP IN** Eugene a man named Robert W. Prescott Jr. has become concerned with this situation. He has done considerable research on the men, the instances in which they were captured and imprisoned and has given thought to how they could be released.

He feels the government has done all it can from a "position of strength." He now suggests that "only frailty is left to get them home before they die." He adds:

"And when one thinks of frailty, one thinks of a child and his capacity to act and to influence others when an injustice has been done. Working from the position of frailty our children can get these men home."

**HIS** ideas appeared in two articles published by the Eugene Register-Guard. We quote:

"Perhaps children cannot immediately influence Peiping, but there is the rest of the world for them to influence.

"There is a vast audience in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Far East, all Islam. And in the non-Communist world mercy and compassion mean something and our children can ask for it . . .

"There is a redemptive character to children. No one can resist a child engaged in an act of redemption, and in time, if children elect to take the lives of these men under their protection, the men will live and they will come home. Even Peiping will find it more convenient to return to the question of mercy.

"The return is, assuming we elect to act as individuals, what answer first?

"Probably the answer is here to take our children aside and acquaint them with the problem. We can discuss the inner meaning of this problem in the homes and in small groups, possibly even the schools or the churches, and without cynicism merely give them the problem and see what they do with it.

"They will probably write letters and the letters they will write will be much better than ours. They will state the names of the men, why they have been there all these years, and come in a rather abrupt way to the point, requesting help in getting them home. This help will be in the form of more letters from more children. The letters will be written to all accessible points of the earth, to editors, heads of government, politicians and statesmen, scientists, religious leaders, teachers.

"Not having learned the arts of adult hypocrisy the children will not preach or scold or judge. While the rest of us might be inclined to write very learned tracts on morality and justice, a child's misspelled and pencil-scrawled letter will come to the point: Mercy.

"Children are the one thing we have in common with the rest of the world."

**PRESCOTT** urges no high-pressure campaign to effete his suggestion. He presents his idealistic proposal as something about which he has thought and, if we read him aright, prayed.

It would be sort of a miracle if his suggestion lit a spark and resulted in his envisioned flood of letters, and if this flood of letters succeeded in swaying the Peiping regime.

It is said that the age of miracles is over. Perhaps it is. But if it isn't, here is a miracle waiting to happen.—E.A.

### Momentous Question

There may be some deep and significant reason why Congress is now engaged in attempting to select a national flower. But if there is, it has escaped us.

Proponents of various flowers have come forth to argue the excellences of their candidates, and to deride the choices of other floral supporters.

The rose has been prominently mentioned. So has the corn tassel. The carnation has been lauded, as has blue grass.

With considerable sense, two Oregon newspapers, the Eugene Register-Guard and the Bend Bulletin, suggest the dandelion's ubiquity and hardihood be honored by its selection as the national flower.

**ENGLAND** has its roses, France its fleurs de lys, the Tyrol its edelweiss, Japan its chrysanthemum, and so on. Oregon has the Oregon grape, Alaska the forget-me-not, and other states have other flowers, including Texas's yellow rose—or, if purists insist, the blue bonnet.

So, perhaps it is natural for the Congress to debate this problem.

But it occurs to us that the United States has struggled along for some 170 years without a national flower. Perhaps it will survive even if Congress can't make up its mind (which appears probable), and permits its constituents to continue admiring the flowers of their own choice.

### Kapers' Double Purpose

The annual presentation of the Kiwanis Kapers will be repeated tonight, tomorrow night and Saturday night.

It's good fun, but more than that, it has a serious purpose. This is a money-raising project, as well as an event which is fun for both spectators and participants alike.

Some three-fourths of the proceeds will go to underwrite the Kiwanis club's children's free dental clinic. Other funds go for operations, glasses, and other necessities for children who otherwise would have difficulty obtaining them. Some \$5,000 is anticipated as revenue from the Kapers. That will fix a lot of teeth.—E.A.

### Dennis the Menace



"YOU SLAMMED THE DOOR TOO FAST!"

### Matter of Fact

**The Smug Risk-Takers**  
Washington—Vivid impressions—sometimes painfully vivid impressions—are the usual result of first hand experience. A n outside air- plane-loud such impressions was the result of this reporter's visit to the Strategic Air Command.

Two among them stand out with special vividness.

On the one hand anyone at all who visits SAC is bound to be impressed by the sheer magnitude of this great force. But on the other hand, any reasonably sharp-eyed visitor is also bound to be struck by the risks our national policy-makers have been smugly taking in these last years.

Another report has described the greatest and most inexcusable of these risks—the failure to mount an air-borne alert of SAC while we have zero warning of a potential Soviet missile-strike. But that is by no means the end of the distasteful story. Indeed, it is fairly surprising that the quality of SAC has not been impaired already. Quality normally suffers when a force is simultaneously burdened with an almost unbearable responsibility, and denied the means for carrying this responsibility with the fullest assurance of success.

**THE** moment when SAC's responsibility became all but unbearable was the moment, in the late autumn of 1953, when the Eisenhower administration decided that a balanced defense would cost too much. "The new look" that was then taken, the subsequent reliance on "a bigger bang for a buck," really meant concentrating most of the burden of safeguarding this country and the free world on SAC's shoulders.

The degree of concentration is revealed by a single statistic. We now enjoy what is ironically called nuclear plenty; but even today, 90 per cent of our nuclear weapons are assigned to SAC.

You might therefore suppose that no pains or expense would have been spared to maintain SAC in the highest possible condition of fighting readiness. But any such supposition would in fact be grossly incorrect. Without entering into the follies and inefficiencies of the military programs, it is only necessary to look at SAC's status as a great offensive air force.

**ANY** such look immediately reveals a whole series of easily remediable deficiencies, which have been allowed to arise because the remedies cost money. They begin at the center, in the big, theoretically bomb-proof under-

ground command post where SAC's vital brains are located. It was built when the power of H-bombs was already well-known, but the plans had been prepared in the A-bomb era. With his customary infallible wisdom, former Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson would not approve the extra expenditure to give hardiness against H-bombs. Thus SAC's brains are now contained in an allegedly bomb-proof shelter, which is not proof against the likely kind of bomb that is likely to drop on it.

Even more important, there is the grave problem of the B-47s. These medium range jet bombers still constitute more than two-thirds of the entire SAC force. Some have been replaced with B-52s, and some more will be in the future. In 1960-61, a couple of squadrons of B-47s will switch to the new B-58 jet bomber. But for the whole period of the missile gap, at least half of SAC's aircraft will be B-47s.

**UNFORTUNATELY**, the B-47s were designed to operate from overseas bases, which have now been neutralized by the new Soviet capability in medium range missiles. B-47 operations from bases on this side of the Atlantic are also crippled, at present, by their dependence on the slow and obsolete KC-97 tanker. With KC-97 refueling, the B-47s can in theory reach their targets; but they cannot use the complex, fuel-consuming tactics which will give them the best chance of penetrating the enemy defenses and getting away again.

In short, dependence on the KC-97s greatly increases the peril of the crews and greatly reduces their chances of success.

The superb new jet-tanker, the KC-135, would almost completely overcome the B-47s difficulties. The Pentagon has only to raise a finger to have been raised. Thus the B-47 crews are being denied what they urgently need to do their job. But their awe-inspiring job remains unchanged. It is difficult to understand the psychology or even the morality of the men responsible for this sort of decision.

The examples cited are not exceptional. They are typical. They do not necessarily mean, thank God, that SAC cannot perform its assigned task. But they most certainly mean that the Administration has not done everything possible to insure the fullest effectiveness of all American deterrent weapons. Even today, when our danger is so apparent, everything possible is still not being done. A clearer proof of penny wisdom and pound foolishness could hardly be imagined.

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## Newsom Visits Russian Embassy in East Berlin; Describes Forbidding Appearance

By PHIL NEWSOM  
UPI Foreign News Editor

Berlin—UPI—The Russian embassy in Communist East Berlin arises, great, grey stone pile, on what used to be Unter den Linden, Berlin's most fashionable street before World War II.

On all sides is the still uncleared rubble of war.

A quarter of a mile or so away near the Brandenburg Gate, which is the boundary between East and West, is the hole in the ground where the American embassy once stood. It is marked now only by the jagged remnants of a foundation.

Nearly, sealed by tons of rubble, is the entrance to the underground bunker where Adolph Hitler and Eva Braun died.

From this setting, the Russians direct the strategy designed to bring West Berlin to its knees and ultimately to enslave another 2,500,000 Germans.

**Sentry Checks Mission**  
A sentry stands at the embassy entrance.

He stands stiffly, unsmiling in the peaked cap and grey-green uniform of the East German army. He checks your mission and then stands aside.

It is a warm, sunny, spring day in Berlin, but there is little warmth here.

This embassy has been rebuilt since the war and it spawls four stories high over more than a city block.

**Reiterates Russian Demands**  
Broad stone steps lead to the massive doorway at the entrance.

Just inside, a broad-faced male receptionist looks up impassively. He checks your mission and speaks on an inner house telephone. There is a quick exchange of Russian and then he waves you to a high-ceilinged reception room decorated with wood trim.

Minutes pass, and then the man you came to see enters.

He speaks German and Russian and through an interpreter he reiterates the Russian demands, tapping out his points with a well-manicured finger on the round mahogany table.

**To the Point**  
He is to the point. Russia will hand over to the East Germans on May 27 land and air controls of Berlin. Berlin must be a free, demilitarized city. If West German Chancellor

for Konrad Adenauer wants a unified Germany, he must negotiate with the East Germans.

He suggests that East Germany may demand payment of a toll for use of the roads to Berlin.

Then he suggests you return in two days and perhaps more information will be available. You do, and are told the man you came to see has been called away.

You wonder, if he really was.

## 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.

**Act Now**  
To the Editor: L. H. Valentine's letter of Mar. 2 on House Bill 446 (not 466, as erroneously printed) has, I think, reflected the true feelings of nearly every bonafide sportsman in Oregon.

The right of search and seizure by game enforcement officers is a serious encroachment on our constitutional right to bear arms. The second amendment to the United States Constitution reads in part: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

Now this bill does not keep you from "bearing arms" — yet — but you can be assured it is a pretty big step in that direction!

So now, and I do mean NOW, is the time to write your representative in the legislature, or to W. H. Holmstrom, chairman of the house committee on fish and game.

Remember, if you are a sportsman, in the true sense of the word, you will act, but fast!

William O. Burnette  
655 Pine St.  
Medford

**Bill "Subversive"**  
To the Editor: House Bill 466 is another subversive bill. As I mentioned before Stalin said he would take this land by law, because the Anglo-Saxon race has become a sorry bunch of weak-kneed humanity.

This bill is deliberately meant to protect the criminal, to attempt to disarm the American citizen.

Amendment II says, "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

No state legislation, no city ordinance, can override this amendment in the bill of rights. Who does it worse than the thief or burglar, he is a traitor to the American citizen in this nation. The red Trojan horse is in this nation.

I say guard your arms faithfully because I am sure you will need them before long to destroy the subversives that are working very efficiently today to destroy everything in the land that is for freedom and individual rights.

G. S. Reilly  
338 North Laurel St.  
Ashland

**Phoenix Questions**  
To the Editor: Several property owners in the Phoenix school district feel as I do about consolidation. Phoenix should stay the way it is for the present. However, we are trying to keep open minds and would like a few questions answered.

If consolidation does take place: How many students would be required to include instruction in agriculture in the Medford school?

What transportation would be provided for Phoenix students participating in after-school activities such as band and athletics?

Would Phoenix junior high remain in Phoenix? If so, would it include the ninth grade?

Are the grade levels the same in both Phoenix and Medford districts?

Can the industrial area of Phoenix school district be legally withdrawn without vote of the whole district?

Mrs. A. J. Barklow  
Pioneer road  
Phoenix, Ore.

**CANNED WRISTWATCH**  
Hollesley, England — UPI — Mrs. George Last reported today that she had found a woman's gold-plated wristwatch in a can of pears from Australia.

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### Feasibility of Power Inter-Tie Slated for Study

Salem — UPI — A day-long meeting of natural resource experts of Oregon, Washington and California produced an agreement to study the feasibility of a power interchange among the three states here Wednesday.

A coordinating committee of three representatives appointed by the governor of each state will formulate the study program.

"It is the consensus of the group that an inter-change of power appears to offer sufficient promise of economic benefits to the states concerned to justify a feasibility study," a statement issued at the end of the meeting said.

**Full Use of Power**  
It is also hoped that by developing a power inter-tie, the three states will be able to make full use of their surplus power at any time of the year, what, considering fogs, storms and such, one may be landed in Memphis, say, there to be transferred to a bus. Hence the cynical crack: "If you've time to spare, travel by air."

**IN CONCLUSION**, I suppose that in your reading and listening you've noted that Pioneer IV is GOLD PLATED. Don't let that upset you. The gold plating isn't (as a disgruntled taxpayer might be warranted these days in suspecting) used just to make Pioneer IV cost more.

Gold is an excellent conductor of radio waves! So the gold plating is used to eliminate the need for antennae sticking out awkwardly from the cone-shaped instrument package. With the thin plating of gold that surrounds Pioneer IV's fiberglass covering, its whole shell serves as an antenna.

### Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

"TELL TELL YOU how tough the new district attorney in our county is," boasted Legal Eagle Engelbrecht. "In a speech at a banquet this D. A. pointed three times at the audience, and the next morning three of our leading citizens beat it out of town!"

A Texas soft-drink magnate initiated a prize contest for undergraduates. First prize went to the youngster who submitted three box-tops, and a short piece beginning, "I like Texas because . . ." limited strictly to 25,000 words.

"It's a cinch to spot a foreign make auto these days," boasts Jan Murray. "They're the ones that have peculiar shapes before your wife drives them."

Pretty young thing at a neighborhood movie got so annoyed with the attentions of the gent in the next seat she changed cars four times.



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