

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

"Everyone in Southern Oregon Reads The Mail Tribune"
Published Daily except Saturdays by
MEDFORD PRINTING CO.
33 North E St. Ph. SP 2-6141

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Subscription Rates
By Mail—In Advance, Copy 10c.
Daily and Sunday—1 year \$15.00
Daily and Sunday—6 mos. \$8.00
Daily and Sunday—3 mos. \$4.25
Sunday Only—One year \$4.20

Official Paper of City of Medford
Official Paper of Jackson County
United Press International
Full Licensed Wire

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OF CIRCULATION DATA
WEST-HOLIDAY CO. INC. Offices
in New York, Chicago, Detroit,
San Francisco, Los Angeles,
Seattle, Portland, St. Louis, Atlanta,
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NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

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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 20, 1949 (Sunday)

The new Greyhound bus terminal is to be opened Wednesday with B. W. Riebe appointed agent.

Mrs. Don J. Stoner, winner of the "Steeple Hour" swimming pool benefit quiz show, has her portrait painted by Hal Bishop as one prize.

20 YEARS AGO
March 20, 1939 (Monday)

Robert Kent, project superintendent at Camp Prescott, is reportedly named manager of the Talent irrigation district.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "Editors of the state are busy these days, noting the failures of the legislature, and the home-town basketball teams at Salem."

30 YEARS AGO
March 20, 1929 (Wednesday)

Orchardists are urged to hurry their thermometers tests. The Medford city council passes an ordinance prohibiting roller skating on city streets.

40 YEARS AGO
March 20, 1919 (Thursday)

Saturday school days are dispensed with as the curriculum has caught up with time lost during the flu epidemic. A total of 250 people are expected tonight at a get-together banquet of various commercial clubs in the area.

50 YEARS AGO
March 20, 1809 (Saturday)

Citizens Telephone company wins the city franchise as Medford votes for it 322-125 in a special election. The Jackson county court is in session to consider the \$50,000 Crater Lake road appropriation.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. Which state names have only four letters?
2. What rank do students at the U. S. Naval academy hold?
3. Did Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney contest against each other for the heavyweight title once, or twice?
4. In which city is the U. S. Naval observatory?
5. In what country is the Chongchon river?
6. In Army slang, what is a "shavetail"?
7. A clavichord is a bone of the human body, a forerunner of the modern piano, or a crossbow?
8. William Bradford was the Governor of which English colony?
9. Were the famous clipper ships sailing vessels, or steam propelled ships?
10. Which holds the higher rank, a captain in the Army, or a captain in the Navy?

Answers: 1. Iowa, Ohio, Utah. 2. Midshipman. 3. Twice. 4. Washington, D. C. 5. Korea. 6. Second Lieutenant. 7. Forerunner of piano. 8. Massachusetts. 9. Sailing ships. 10. Navy.

PLAYWRIGHT DIES

Moscow—(UPI)—Salva Dadiana, 85, noted Georgian playwright and actor, has died, Pravda announced Thursday.

The State and Its Schools

Housewives know about inflation. It is what causes them to spend far more for necessities than they did 10 years ago.

Fathers of growing families know that additional members of the family bring an increase in the cost of supporting the family.

Oregon's schools are suffering from both phenomena.

Inflation has made everything more costly — salaries and wages, textbooks, paper, school construction — everything.

Growth also skyrockets costs. Each year in Oregon, 12,000 new students enter the schools.

THESE are the two basic reasons (coupled with a commendable desire to maintain and improve standards and methods) why school budgets have gone up and up and up.

This is why school districts have to run as hard as they can just to stay in the same place.

In this race to stay competent and efficient, they have had the whole-hearted support of the people of Oregon, who, time and again, have shown they are willing to pay for schools — and for good ones.

TWO years ago the legislature undertook to set the level of state financial support of the schools at about 38 per cent, leaving some 62 per cent up to the local districts to raise from property taxes. This is done through the Basic School Support Fund, which comes from state income taxes.

This year, while there are proposals to increase this fund, they stand little chance because of potential disagreements as to whether the distribution formula should be changed.

But, if additional state funds are not made available to local school districts, the degree of state support will fall below the 38 per cent figure — simply because inflation and growth have raised the over-all costs of school operation.

IF THE degree of state financial support is not maintained, through increased appropriations, the legislature is, in effect, telling local school districts they have two choices:

1. Increase your property taxes to maintain your schools at existing levels, or
2. Let your standards slip; cut your budgets; decrease the quality and quantity of education available to your children.

If the legislature does that, it will be ignoring the repeated mandate of the voters to provide ample support for local schools from the state.

A BILL to keep the state's share of school support at about the 38 per cent level is House Bill 514. It would provide an additional \$20,400,000 in state funds for schools during the next two years, to be distributed as flat grants, based on the number of children in each school district. (The bill is not to increase the Basic School Fund — it would provide a temporary allocation over and above that amount.)

If this bill, or something very similar, is not passed, it will mean in the Medford district, for instance, an increase in school taxes of about 5 mills — or about \$187,000. Either that or a lowering of existing standards by that amount.

The same situation would apply in greater or lesser degree to all other Oregon school districts.

The state, at a very minimum, should continue contributing to school support at no smaller level than at present.—E.A.

Who's To Pay?

If House Bill 514 (discussed above) is passed, it will throw state budgetary plans into a muddle. Existing taxes just won't provide for such an increase, on top of other demands.

State Senate President Walter Pearson has proposed a sales tax to pay educational costs. House Speaker Robert Duncan believes that a sales tax is inevitable some day—but not yet.

The legislature today is no nearer a decision on the size of the budget, and how it is to be met, than it was when it convened Jan. 12.

WE HEARD one highly-placed Democrat not long ago say that, before the people of Oregon will wake up to the needs of the state, and become willing to pay the bill, they'll have to go through a period of real governmental austerity.

In other words, he thinks that state services—including education, institutions, and all the rest—will have to suffer before the voters realize their necessity.

Maybe he's right. We'd prefer not to believe it. And we'd hate to see the legislature funk its responsibility just to test this theory. It is the responsibility of the legislature to find out what the state needs, and then find a way to pay for it.

IN THE past, educators have come to the legislature to point out the needs of education, and have also brought suggestions as to how the necessary funds can be raised.

They've been slapped down for these suggestions, being told that it's none of their business how the funds should be raised; that this is a legislative prerogative.

It's now wryly amusing to hear legislators, when faced with requests such as House Bill 514 (which educators think is vital for continuation of good schools), complain that educators and interested citizens are not, this time, making any suggestions as to how the money should be raised.

We have a feeling that if the legislature would face up to Oregon's real needs, pass a realistic tax program, and then tell the voters, factually and realistically, why it is needed, it would be approved.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



Formerly, the press here

Subtle Change in Egypt's Attitude On U.S. Noted; Two Reasons Seen as Cause

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Editor
Cairo, United Arab Republic
—UPI—There has been a subtle change here in the relationship between the United States and Egypt.

It is visible in the treatment given the United States by the Egyptian newspapers and the Cairo radio.

Today the newspapers are playing the news "straight." The story of the Berlin crisis is being played generally with what U.S. readers would call objectivity, minus the former line which portrayed the United States as an imperialist and an enemy of Arab unity.

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When the U.S. Pioneer IV soared into orbit around the sun the Egyptian press played it straight.

Our Policy Changes
Two explanations are given here for the change.

The first is a change in U.S. policy itself.

This change has been unadvertised, but it was a switch from the strict U.S. line which demanded that Middle East nations either be for or against Western policies in general. It was a recognition that the neutrality line espoused by President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic, President Tito of Yugoslavia and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of India exists and might as well be recognized.

U.S. diplomats attributed the other side of it to a general recognition by Nasser's regime of the danger of international communism.

All of this is not to say that Egyptians consider the United States a friend of Egypt, nor that there is a veering here toward the West away from the East.

In fact, Egyptians profess not to understand U.S. reasoning.

An Economic Necessity
This is a report of a conversation with a prominent Egyptian publisher educated in the United States.

"The United States," he said, "fails to recognize that the Nasser government essentially is anti-Communist."

"Instead, when Nasser says he either must sell Egyptian cotton to the West or the Russians, you cry blackmail."

"You look for the hidden motive."

"The motive is right before your eyes."

D'Autremont Prosecutor Holds Hugh Led Brothers in Murder

To the Editor: It has never been my practice nor policy to write letters to the Editor and thereby possibly inaugurate a newspaper controversy, but on the front page of your newspaper several days ago there appeared an article which apparently purported to place a halo on the brow of Hugh D'Autremont and depict him in the role of a hero, and wherein, for some unknown reason, not only was he characterized as a martyr but as a tool and innocent victim of his twin brothers' ingenuity and influence.

Having acted as a special prosecutor in the two trials which were had in this county, at which time Hugh was convicted and given a life sentence, I believe that I am in a position to know something about the situation, and consequently I deem it my civic duty to make some comments relative thereto.

Now I have nothing against Hugh personally, except the feeling in common with all good citizens that any murderer should be punished. While I was not in favor of his parole, nevertheless I did not oppose the action of the Parole Board in granting him freedom, because I deemed that to be within its province, but I do remember this trial and the evidence which was adduced therein very vividly.

I know that Hugh and his twin brothers murdered four innocent men in cold blood without any reason, cause or justification, and that these were, perhaps, four of the most brutal murders ever committed within the State of Oregon.

Unquestionably, the only reason that Hugh D'Autremont was not found guilty of first degree murder without any recommendation and executed, was because of the fact that all of the evidence against him was circumstantial, and the jury, in keeping with the reluctance of juries generally not to convict upon circumstantial evidence, saved his life by making a recommendation of life imprisonment. There was no question as to his guilt at that time, nor later, because subsequent to his conviction he and his brothers confessed to these heinous murders.

The twin brothers, incidentally, were not apprehended until after Hugh's conviction and thereafter pleaded guilty and made some kind of a deal with the then authorities without the knowledge of George Neuner or myself. George Neuner was then the United States District Attorney for Oregon and he and I acted as special prosecutors in the trial of Hugh. Hugh, in our opinion, was the "brains" in this crime and did most, if not all, the planning, and rather than being led by his brothers actually influenced and led them.

While I have the greatest respect and admiration for the ability and sincerity of those who have sympathy for

all, were not apprehended until after Hugh's conviction and thereafter pleaded guilty and made some kind of a deal with the then authorities without the knowledge of George Neuner or myself. George Neuner was then the United States District Attorney for Oregon and he and I acted as special prosecutors in the trial of Hugh. Hugh, in our opinion, was the "brains" in this crime and did most, if not all, the planning, and rather than being led by his brothers actually influenced and led them.

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U.S. Dependents in Europe Create Problem, Possibility

By LYLE C. WILSON
Washington—(UPI)—President Eisenhower and others are fearful that the Russians are not convinced that the United States and its allies really mean to stand firmly on the question of Berlin—even though it may mean war.

Perhaps the Kremlin would be more willing to believe if the armed forces of the United States in Western Europe were not part-time baby sitters as well as soldiers, airmen and the like. Not actually baby-sitters, of course.

But, what about the 255,000 or so dependents of American troops who are on the Western front? They are the wives and children of the enlisted and commissioned personnel who compose a first line of defense in a dangerous springtime. Unquestionably it is good for morale—good for morale, too—for the families of the overseas forces to be stationed handy-by.

Estimate Total of Dependents
The Pentagon is cagy about how many dependents are in Western Europe; cagy about how the problem of dependents will be handled if war comes. A pretty good estimate today is that there are 165,000 Army dependents there and 90,000 Air Force. The Navy has few ashore and, of course, the Navy afloat remains the last bastion of modern times.

Plans to get the dependents out of the way of a shooting war have been made. The plans involve an instant concentration of the dependents at various military stations preliminary to a great parade of women and children to seaports and shipment home. It is quite obvious that this

There is the further question of the efficiency of a fighting force in which the enlisted and commissioned ranks were aware that their loved ones were in panicky progress toward evacuation ports with the Lord only would know how many Russian MIGs strafing the civilian columns.

A man might desert his post of duty with such thoughts in his mind. There has been no move nor the indication of any intention to get the women and children out of Western Europe before the storm breaks—if it breaks.

United Press International got the idea unofficially that only Eisenhower could order the dependents to come home. Such an order on the eve of the up-coming foreign ministers conference might have an interesting impact on the Kremlin state of mind.

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 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.

Heart Fund Thanks
To the Editor: On behalf of the Oregon Heart Association I wish to thank the Mail Tribune for its generous contribution to the success of the 1959 Jackson County Heart Fund Drive. Your coverage of the drive helped make it possible to raise the money which is needed for vital research to continue.

For my own part, I wish to send my greatest thanks. Mrs. C. H. Buffington, Jackson County Heart Fund Chairman.

Review of Review
To the Editor: Tuesday evening I attended the Footlighters' production of "The Tender Trap." Your Wednesday edition carried a review of the play. "The Tender Trap" was staged by a local amateur group. May I compliment your judgment in assigning the review to one of like experience. The M.T. coverage seemed to hang midway between straight reporting and critique, and finally fell abysmally between.

Reading your paper's review conveyed the impression that I was actually re-reading something from some previous occasion. This impression was quickly clarified. A study of prior treatments of other Footlighter plays during the past year reveals a consummate sameness in each writup. There are the same homely irrelevancies; the same omissions of pertinent items; the same impaired perceptions and absence of objectivity. The amateur endeavor of those on the stage differs from that of the one on the page in one major respect: their performance is given

with vitality and enthusiasm. It is neither jaded nor OSSified.

It is obvious that certain plays because of their substance or technical demands upon players and crew, or both, should not be undertaken by amateur groups. This would appear to hold true to plays for prospective review. I do not know what is next on the Footlighters' production calendar; but to facilitate the task of your reviewer I would suggest they consider "For Whom the Belle Claques."

Alvin Reiss,
513 Dakota Ave.,
Medford.

A "Misfit" Speaks
To the Editor: I am writing in regard to the articles that have appeared in the Mail Tribune and also over TV about hiring handicapped persons.

Just what rules and regulations are set up that a person must comply with to be a handicapped person?

Take the blind institute for example. They will not help a person that is extremely nearsighted. One has to be darn near blind before they will help. Yet they say save your sight. After you are darn near blind I think it's a little too late to try and save it, don't you?

When one goes to them for help they say: Oh no, you can't be helped, you have too much sight, although all your life you have had to put up with missing the most of life, the beauty of nature, and it's all around us. In fact it was no fault of anyone's that you were born with very little sight, but glasses improved

it a little. Oh yes, but not enough for the so-called employer to consider you had enough sight to do 8 hours work for him. All he could think of was, well, there is for this job, we won't take a chance on the misfitted, nearsighted person.

I could go on forever and tell of the employers that sit behind their big shiny desks and look down their long skinny noses at the misfits in this world, never dreaming that some act of God or freak of nature could do the same thing to them. Their motto is, hire only the perfect ones, they are right for the job. Never take a chance on the guy that is a little short or maybe too tall, or that one that is a little too heavy or a little too thin, or the one that walks with a limp or maybe a little hunched back, or just the one that didn't get an education like the rest, one that is retarded a little, and couldn't read or write, had some illness that left a mental block for the rest of their lives. Don't hire these misfits, just hire the perfect ones.

Readers, this is no joke. It happens every day all over the United States, but what can one do when they are misfit and cannot run in competition with the perfect ones?

I know as I am one of these misfits and cannot even get employment so I can support my three children.

I will either have to place them out for adoption or have the Welfare place them under foster care. I am no longer able to fight my handicap any more.

The Bible says that men are all created equal. What about us women? If so, why are there so many misfits in the world like myself? And why should we have to compete with the perfect ones? Why don't we have an equal right to work and earn a living instead of asking or begging for charity?

D. H.
Name on file.

Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

THE KNIFE OF DISCORD
Washington—The most unsecret of all Republican weapons is never found in any Republican arsenal.

This top weapon is a strictly Democratic knife, the knife of discord which some of the Democrats are unable to refrain from sticking into other Democrats before each Presidential election.

True, the Republicans are not always above family fighting. But they never even start intraparty war without some rational purpose. And in any case they never inflict among themselves wounds impossible to poultice over before election day.

Such self-restraint is not for the Democrats. Their automatic trouble-makers used to be the Southern ultra-conservatives. These old boys went to every convention happily doing their best to

shoot down with their squirrel rifles any Democratic nominee who could conceivably carry all of the United States. This breed has largely gone now.

NOW, Democratic difficulties come from the ultra-liberals. These mainly are allies of a small, grimly articulate, high-minded, self-righteous and profoundly inept group called Americans for Democratic Action. Most ADA people are knee-jerk liberals; they react automatically to certain slogans.

To ADA, only ADA is competent to decide who is adequately "liberal." The definition, moreover, is reached by incantations which the working Democratic politicians, who are merely professionals, have difficulty in following. Thus, ADA code processes sometimes exclude politicians whom the unexcited onlooker might have thought to be pretty liberal, on such humdrum tests as their public records.

ADA, with the best possible intentions and the least possible sense of humor, is now primly at work to set the Democratic party straight for 1960. And to the pros, it is a case of run for your lives, boys, the dam has burst.

FOR an immediate result of ADA's earnest efforts is to do a job on the three (three most responsible—1960 Democratic Presidential possibilities. Among the amused and gratified spectators is the Republican National committee.

ITEM: Three ultra-liberal and highly decent Democrats, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, former Senator Herbert H. Lehman and former Air Force Secretary Thomas K. Finletter, have solemnly set out tooust Tammany boss Carmine De Sapio. He is the only surviving New York Democratic leader of obvious competence. Naturally, he must go; he has been found not to be liberal enough.

It is widely known that Mrs. Roosevelt and Finletter, at least, have been strongly attached to Adlai E. Stevenson. Few things could be more harmful to Stevenson's chances for a third Democratic Presidential nomination than to be associated, willy-nilly, with this absurd attempted purge of the regular New York Democratic organization.

There is a side jest here, too. It is no secret, except possibly to ADA ultra-liberals, that Stevenson is essentially a civilized conservative.

ITEM: The ADA is sniping tirelessly at the Senate Democratic leader, Lyndon B. Johnson. Johnson's principal disability is that he neglected to inform his parents that he must not be born in Texas. The ultra-liberals, understandably from their viewpoint, would not want to see him President.