

**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

April 1, 1949 (Friday)  
John Richards, Jackson County juvenile officer, stresses the need for a female probation officer and for a tenton home.

Medford building permits in March topped the half-million dollar mark in assessed valuations, setting a new city record.

### 20 YEARS AGO

April 1, 1939 (Saturday)  
A taxpayers' league is formed to fight for lower taxes in Jackson County, its organizational meeting sponsored by the Medford Realty board.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "The horse-chestnut trees, that have escaped destruction to make way for a service station, are behind with their blooming."

### 30 YEARS AGO

April 1, 1929 (Monday)  
There was light heating last night in local orchards.

April Fools day passes quietly, neither excitement nor exceptional tall tales being reported.

### 40 YEARS AGO

April 1, 1919 (Tuesday)  
A campaign is to be launched to compel property owners to repair wooden sidewalks.

### 50 YEARS AGO

April 1, 1909 (Thursday)  
Central Point starts a 54-member commercial club.

### What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. Who succeeded Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister of Great Britain?
2. Do Shamrocks have three, four, or five leaflets?
3. January 1 is observed as a legal holiday in all States; true or false?
4. If an actor wore mutton-chops, would that be spats, side whiskers, or a swallow-tail coat?
5. Where is the body of the late F.D. Roosevelt buried?
6. On which denomination of U. S. currency is depicted George Washington's likeness?
7. Feathers of what color denote cowardice?
8. Cashmere is the soft wool of a type of sheep, goat, or rabbit?
9. Who is the Supreme Being of the Mohammedans?
10. What is the birthstone for January?

Answers: 1. Winston Churchill. 2. Three. 3. True. 4. Side-whiskers. 5. Hyde Park, N. Y. 6. One dollar. 7. White. 8. Goat. 9. Allah. 10. Garnet.

### EXTEND INVITATIONS

Paris—UPI—To mark the occasion of the Eiffel tower's 70th birthday, an open invitation has been extended to persons born in France during May, 1889, to come to lunch May 16 in the tower's famed restaurant.

## Lion and Lamb

March of 1959 arrived like a soft and cuddly lamb, warm and bright. It left in grayness and drizzles—a lion, perhaps, but a tame and friendly one.—E.A.

## Dimly Lit Book

What is history? It is, we are told, the record of what has happened in the past. Viewed in a narrow sense, it is the dates of battles, coronations and assassinations; of elections and discoveries; of the births and deaths of the notables.

In a broader sense, however, history is the record of people — of what they do and how they do it; of their hopes and aspirations and despairs; of their way of life; of their religions and political beliefs.

And writing this kind of history is a difficult thing to do; a well-nigh impossible thing to do really well.

FOR each historian, no matter how dedicated and informed and objective, approaches his subject with a certain bias, a set of prejudices, predispositions in certain areas, which inevitably are reflected in the chronicles he prepares.

Add to this the fact that he works with documents prepared by equally fallible human beings in the past, men who sometimes had an ax to grind or a special point to make. Sorting the wheat from this chaff is difficult, demanding, and subject to many honest errors, both of commission and omission.

TWO men, equally well-prepared, then, can each write a history of a certain nation or period, and come out with two entirely different kinds of articles, each of them perfectly honest in method and effect, but giving totally different impressions.

One of them, for instance, can unconsciously inject into his treatment facts which tend to corroborate his own private "theory" of history, whereas the other may view the period in an entirely different light, and choose as "significant" points which, while just as valid and honest as the first man's, tend to emphasize other facets of the period under discussion.

Each will contribute something to an understanding of the period. Yet in reading history it is necessary to recognize these drawbacks and limitations under which historians work.

NEWSPAPER writers sometimes consider themselves to be the chroniclers of current history — of "history-in-the-making." And in a sense, this is true.

Consider the broad scope which newspapers today cover — not only the wars and the elections, but the habits and mores and beliefs of people; how they change and how they remain the same.

And even newspapers do not cover the entire field. They are not, cannot be, complete in their coverage of all the facets of life today — sometimes facets of considerable long-range importance.

IF NEWSPAPERS cannot do it, what a task confronts the historian attempting to probe beneath the surface of a by-gone society.

How to find the significant facts of a past era? How to weigh which is important and which merely window-dressing? And, when this is done, how to condense all the facts into a manageable chronicle, leaving out nothing that is important, yet not overburdening it with such a plethora of issues that the reader is lost in a maze of trivia?

THERE are, indeed, lessons to be learned from history.

One can learn from it the mistakes of the past. But one cannot read from it the right course for the future. For if the past is a dimly lit book, the future is a book still unopened.

History may, and sometimes does, repeat itself. But only in limited ways and in special cases. The lessons of history may tell us, negatively, what not to do. But they cannot tell us, affirmatively, what must be done.

That remains for each generation to decide.—E.A.

## Multi-Colored State

"Oregon," our farm editor philosophized in print recently, "is a many-colored state."

He is right, and April Fools Day is a good day to prove the point.

It is the delicate green of newly-budding grass which has not yet been covered with green. There is the black of the rich earth turned by building machines, and the browns and tans of sandy soil. And there is the blue and purple of the far hills.

MAN-made colors are impossible to ignore, too. There is the faded red of brick; the rainbow hues of the constant stream of automobiles; the flashing red and blue and green of neon.

From the air there are the great black or gray scars of highway and railroad, the muddy brown or green of reservoirs, the checkerboards of green and black and brown of the tilled or sprouting fields.

The colors, rich and varied, and either exciting or soothing, add depth and texture to the pleasant land.—E.A.

## Dennis the Menace



"IF WE LIVED HERE, WE'D PUT THE DIVAN OVER THERE, AND THAT BIG MIRROR OVER THE FIREPLACE, AN' WE'D BURN UP THAT 'OL CHAIR!"

## 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 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.

**On Dog Licensing**  
To the Editor: According to the April Farm Journal, a person earning \$4,500 per year has to work 2 hours and 29 minutes of his 8 hour day to pay his taxes.

If we want to reduce our taxes, we must weigh well our wants and watch our elected official who wants to make a good name for himself by giving us some big thing for us to pay taxes on.

March 19 Mail Tribune headline reads "7000 licenses bought for dogs." If they were all male dogs it would be \$10,500. That is a lot of tax money. Then there are the female dogs and the late ones, which will swell that fund a great deal more.

So what happens? Money, and quickly spend it. First hire eight deputies with cars to canvass the county.

These deputies stop at homes where they find a peaceful old dog on the front porch waiting for its master.

Said master is a service man, and probably overseas. That dog which stays home must be licensed to the full extent of the law—or else.

Then there is the tiny house dog that is too small to chase any livestock and sleeps in a basket in "Ma Ladies Boudoir." They get it too. And then the faithful watchdog whose job it is to stay with the child in the yard. It too must have a tag.

There are plenty of loose dogs which neither have a home or the owner does not claim it, and the habitual tramp dog. Who is paying their license fee? Those are the dogs the deputies neither look for nor see.

I think somewhere there is a provision made for farmers to protect their livestock from molesting dogs and it is not a license tag on the dogs collar. Deer-chasing dogs get taken care of on the spot, license or no license.

A good citizen does not object to a reasonable and just tax for his faithful dog. It is the excessive tax collected from many and unwisely and selfishly spent to satisfy the wants of so few that the general public objects to.

Della A. Littlefield  
Box 3  
Shady Cove, Ore.

**Against Bill**  
To the Editor: A short time ago there was an article in the Tribune about a bill that was before the legislature proposing an application to defer the property taxes on the homes of the senior citizens that drew less than \$4,000 per year, said taxes together with interest would be collectible at the death of senior citizen.

If these taxes were completely erased from the tax roll, until the death of the senior citizen, then put back on the tax rolls, that would be a great relief to the senior citizens, and in the long run would be a very worthwhile economy measure, but as it is set up it is one of the most vicious pieces of legislation that I have ever seen.

For example, say Grandpa is unable to work or is on a pension, his income is from \$750 to at best \$3000 per year, and so he applies for deferral of taxes on his home, and it is granted, so he lives for 10 years, the taxes pile up, say for easy figures, \$75 per year. At the end of 10 years he owes \$750, then he passes on. Immediately the state takes steps to collect the \$750 plus interest.

Now Grandpa is left alone to carry on. She has not been able to save any money or she wouldn't have let the

taxes be deferred. So the property is sold out from under her for taxes. To say nothing about the heartaches and the torture of being thrust out of her own home, and if she is able to survive the shock something has to be done about housing.

Probably the state will have to pick up the check, and with rents the way they are, you couldn't figure to find anything to rent for less than \$50 per month, which adds up to \$300 or better per year. So Grandpa lives for another 10 years, the state puts out \$3000 for rent. A pretty expensive saving on \$750 to begin with, to say nothing about the heartaches and anguish at her losses.

I think everyone should write the Governor asking him to veto any such bill.

Larry Turner,  
Route 1, Box 383,  
Central Point, Ore.

**Are They Worth Saving?**  
To the Editor: This is to all areas who are considering school consolidation:

Before you vote please read "Are Small High Schools Worth Saving?" by Richard C. Davids in the April issue of the Farm Journal. Don't be pushed into something before you investigate what you could do for your own school to bring up its scholastic rating without bringing up taxes. Work at your own problem. You don't have to consolidate! And please read the article.

H. M. von Stein Jr.,  
Post Office Box 609,  
Medford.

**Licenses**  
To the Editor: With the conclusion of a recent trial in Medford, it can be presumed from the verdict derived, that it is now open season on husbands of rather dubious character, with the license requirements very slim.

For those women who apply for a spouse shooting license, they should, first of all, bring forth witnesses who will testify before the twelve man board of license directors that the license seekers' husbands are not only of doubtful character, but that, as a whole, society would be benefited by their extermination. It would also be advantageous to have the women's children give affirmation as to the austere traits of the proposed game.

If the appeals are properly presented, the permits will undoubtedly be granted, for the licensers are a compassionate lot, as evidenced by their recent dealings with a woman who neglected to apply for her warrant before she went spouse shooting.

Donald S. Wolfe,  
322 Benson st.,  
Medford.

**Other Factors, Too**  
To the Editor: In a few days we will vote for or against the consolidation of our entire Jacksonville school system, buildings, property, equipment and administration, into a large district centered in Medford. This is being done purely as a voluntary venture.

Many of the facts and issues involved have been belauded. Probably the worst is that of taxes. The tabulations indicate a millage levy reduction for Jacksonville, and an increase for Medford.

But no tax cut will occur, the authorities hasten to state. With all costs rising, they say, such a saving would be largely set aside for improvements or expansion.

The tax picture is changing rapidly. In our state legislature right now, our 90 legislators are considering a bill to reduce property taxes, they

## Newsom Completes Tour, Finds Allies Losing in Mid-East, Even in Berlin

By PHIL NEWSOM  
UPI Foreign News Editor

London — UPI — The United States is losing the battle for the Middle East. In Berlin, the chances still may be a little better than 50-50.

That is the capsule impression of a correspondent who in the last five weeks has travelled close to 20,000 miles in the course of it visited the principal pressure points of the Middle East and Europe and talked to scores of government officials, editors and members of American embassies.

These are ancient battlegrounds, both for real estate and for control of men's minds. Techniques have

changed, but not the objectives.

**East, West Divided**  
In Berlin, the Brandenburg Gate divides East and West Berlin and stands as a monument to man's destructive abilities as demonstrated by World War II. Camel trails and an occasional automobile track cut the desert between Damascus and Baghdad. Here, in this vast desert, civilization came to a halt 600 years ago when a Tartar army destroyed the fabulous canals which made the Tigris and Euphrates valleys the Garden of Eden.

Between Berlin and Baghdad, the airplane is the link and the persistently cheerful air and ground crews the guides in a journey that runs back in time but never escapes the conflicts that are strictly 20th Century.

In Berlin, it is steadfast de-

termination of the people, backed by an equally steadfast military, that gives the west its best chance against further Communist encroachment.

Prosperous West Berliners give no indication or surrender, whatever Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's threats. Stockpiles against blockade have been laid up for months to come. And American military commanders there make clear their determination to retreat only under specific orders from Washington. If Berliners and fighting men have their way, there will be no surrender in Berlin.

But as of now, no such optimism can be expressed for the Middle East.

The Middle East itself is split. It is Arab nationalism divided by the ambitions of Egypt's President Abdel Ga-

mal Nasser on the one hand and by the creeping Communism in Iraq, which maintains Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kassem as its figurehead.

**Ike Doctrine Failed?**  
Worst of all, from the U. S. standpoint, is the failure of the Eisenhower Doctrine in the Middle East. Arab nationalism revolted against any attempt to line the Arab states up, East versus West.

Too late, the West recognized the reality of Nasser's positive neutrality and too late the Arabs themselves realized their headlong flight from Western colonialism was leading them directly into the Communist trap.

Today, Iraq is all but Communist controlled, Western prestige in other Arab nations is at an all time low. And, as of today, there is in existence no Western policy which might reverse the trend.

are considering an increase in state aid from \$105 to \$150 per child year, they are discussing a 3 per cent sales tax to finance this. A change is inevitable. Our sister states have long since made such a change. The federal government is giving attention to school legislation.

Our authorities estimate we will need a new building in three to five years. With all the attention being given schools, with education in the cold war limelight, outright building grants could be expected. State and/or federal funds could be made available. Don't force waste with haste.

Jacksonville graduates are currently attending Lewis and Clark, Linfield, Eugene, Corvallis, Ashland and others. Don't offer to sell Jacksonville short on basics.

Our small number of votes would stand a slim chance of giving us any representation in the government of such a consolidated unit.

Property devaluation is a real threat. We sorely need increased valuation and more building to provide it.

Consolidation will mean added costs to every high school student.

Economically, every business in Jacksonville, even the post office, would suffer. The positions of at least 13 of our instructors would be removed to Medford. Their residences will gravitate in that direction. Their annual salary represents about \$65,000. Their cultural influence, as citizens, must not be underestimated.

Consider the facts, remembering the haste with which this project has been presented, inevitable tax changes, our need for community development, impact on students losing their community identity, make a democratic decision and vote for the best interests of our children and our community, uninfluenced by the word "taxes" which are but a tool and will always be with us.

Fred Edens  
303 East F st.  
Jacksonville, Ore.

**How Come?**  
To the Editor: On the front page of the Tribune Sunday, March 29, there was an article about a request made from the Welfare Commission to the state legislature for an appropriation of \$1,900,000 to care for the needy for the next three months of the fiscal year, so the joint ways and means committee approved an appropriation of \$1,200,000 instead, making necessary an all around cut of at least 3 per cent by the welfare commission to the aged, the blind, dependent children, the disabled and as well as a general cut on all of their activities.

It is understandable that the wish of the house and senate is to keep taxes down, and as one member from Josephine county remarked last year in the tax hassle, that the little people would have to carry the load, "because there were so many of the little people" and we realize it is generally the little people that take the rap.

But it is hard, very hard, to understand why the joint ways and means committee should see fit to take away from the old, the blind, helpless kids and so on, and yet here a very short time ago the same outfit saw fit to vote themselves a substantial raise in pay. How come?

I am 30 years old and have no interest in this other than I hate to see helpless people forced to suffer needlessly.

Jack E. Aldrich,  
Route 1, Box 382,  
Central Point, Ore.

**If Shoe on Other Foot**  
To the Editor: I just read your editorial on school consolidation and decided it was well thought out and presented, but I think you are taking a little too idealistic a viewpoint when you give the impression that the members of the school boards of the districts proposing consolidation with the Medford district are working so unostentatiously for

versions of Michigan's financial problems."

Editorial comment has been severe on Williams. For example, this on how Michigan got into the mess:

"The state spent more than it took in, and kept on spending more and more. In 10 years it almost has doubled its spending."

Williams' friends insist that Republican state legislators consistently have gone along with this six term spending programs. The Republicans argue that things would be much worse if they had not cut the governor's spending programs all along the line.

**Important Question**  
However that may be, Michigan comes up now multi-millions of dollars short in pay-

ments for public schooling, for old age and children's aid. The state is facing a \$110 million deficit by July 1. Big business, the auto companies, paid \$35 million recently in advance taxes. That has been swallowed up in the financial crisis.

The big political fact in all of this is that, fair or not, the shame of it is rubbing off on Soapy Williams and already must have removed him from the national political stage. The big political question is whether all of this will rub off, too, on Reuther who commands the union manpower and union funds which put Williams in office and kept him there. That is a very interesting and important question.

Stories of the financial catastrophe which is overtaking Michigan never fail to identify Williams with the bad news. Much less emphasis is put on the fact that the legislature of Michigan is Republican controlled and, further, that the immediate problem in Michigan adds up to a governor vs. legislature dispute on how to solve it.

**Solution Could Be Found**  
Governor and legislature pulling together toward a common objective doubtless could find quickly a temporary solution to Michigan's difficulties. The Republican legislature wants to raise Michigan's sales tax by 1 per cent. A friendly on-the-scene reporter calls that proposal the one big solution offered by the Republican legislative leaders. This reporter adds:

"To Williams, a self-labeled New Dealer, and to his big supporters in Walter P. Reuther's United Auto Workers Union, a boost in the sales tax is just about as tasty as a dose of castor oil."

Another on-the-scene report had this to say:

"Probably in all the United States there is no more bitter feud between legislature and governor than in Michigan."

**Trying to Stem Tide**  
Paul Weber is Williams' press secretary. He is attempting to turn the tide of bad publicity which threatens to overwhelm his boss. Weber mails friendly or merely fair news accounts of affairs in Michigan to political writers around the country, accompanied by little notes explaining that they are offered "in view of the many distorted

this deal solely for the good of the students.

I can't help but think if the shoe was on the other foot, and Medford was asking these districts to raise their taxes substantially to pay off their indebtedness, and they knew they would have to build new school buildings, buy many new buses, hire more personnel, and all of the other expenses that would further raise their taxes, as Medford will have to do, that there would be quite a few dissenting votes.

I can assure you that if consolidation would increase the taxes of the outlying districts, as it will Medford, consolidation would be badly defeated, for we of Jacksonville are not as foolish as we are asking Medford voters to be.

D. C. Stoner,  
204 South Oregon st.,  
Jacksonville, Ore.

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C. M. Litwiler

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## Michigan's Financial Plight Dims Williams' Future Plans

By LYLE C. WILSON  
Washington—UPI—For Michigan's six-time Governor G. Mennen Williams this could be the end of road.

Williams' state of Michigan is coming to be known as the State of Bankruptcy.

For 2 1/2 months the newspapers and news magazines have been telling their readers about that. It is bad advertising, so bad that it could and probably will be deadly to Williams' political ambitions. Deadly, at least, to his political ambitions outside the state.

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