

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

"Everyone in Southern Oregon Reads The Mail Tribune"
Published Daily except Saturday by MEDFORD PRINTING CO.
33 North 5th St. Ph. SP 2-6141
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An Independent Newspaper
Entered as second class matter at Medford, Oregon under Act of March 3, 1879.
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—1 year \$4.25
By Carrier—In Advance—Medford, Ashland, Central Point, Eagle Point, Jacksonville, Gold Hill, Phoenix, Shady Cove, Rogue River, Talent and other routes.
Daily and Sunday—1 year \$18.00
Daily and Sunday—6 mos. \$10.00
Carrier and Dealers—copy 10c
All Terms Cash in Advance
Official Paper of City of Medford
Official Paper of Jackson County
United Press International
Full Service Wire
MEMBER OF AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION
Advertising Representative:
WEST-HOLIDAY CO. INC. Offices in New York, Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, St. Louis, Atlanta, Vancouver, B.C.
1959
NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

Parks Are an Investment

One of the hardest-headed businessmen we know was talking the other day—about parks. "It's about time we stopped kidding ourselves," he said. "The tourist trade is Oregon's third-largest industry. It is a business which brings more than \$150 million into the state each year. It takes nothing out of the state. It creates payrolls, but it doesn't clutter up the state with smokestacks or industrial pollution. It is an infinitely renewable and expandable business. And it is pleasant, not only for us, but for the tourists—as long as we make them feel welcome, and provide them with the things they want to see and do.

"And," he added, coming to his main point, "more and more tourists are going to want something beside just looking at scenery. They want to get close to it. And that means parks. More parks and recreation facilities are about the cheapest investment we can make—and will be one of the most productive."

OUR friend came to this realization fairly recently. Others have seen the need he expressed for a long time. The state has long had a parks department as part of the state highway department, and those who should know say it has done one of the best jobs in the nation, considering its chronic lack of funds.

Perhaps even more important, many of the counties of Oregon are coming to the belief that a parks and recreation department is good business—not only in providing for the outdoor needs of their own people, but in attracting, and keeping, visitors from other states.

DOUGLAS county, our neighbor to the north, was one of the pioneers in this development. For the current fiscal year, Douglas county has budgeted \$69,650 for its parks department, about \$25,000 of it for salaries and wages, and the rest for development, operation, maintenance and capital outlays, including the acquisition of land.

Lane county was another parks pioneer. This year its parks budget is about \$64,000, with some \$30,000 for personal services, \$7,500 for maintenance and operations, and the balance for capital outlays, including land.

And Josephine county, our immediate neighbor to the west, while smaller than Douglas, Lane (or Jackson), has budgeted \$40,000 for parks purposes this year.

WE HAVE long urged Jackson county to "get going" on a parks and recreation program. This year, Judge Earl Miller assures us, it is going to do so.

A parks and recreation commission will be appointed soon, to serve in an advisory capacity to the county court (which will, of course, retain ultimate control over funds and their administration).

Two years ago, the county's budget contained \$3,000 for park purposes. This year the amount is \$12,000, little of which has yet been put to use.

For the coming year, we hope the budget committee sees fit to provide funds sufficient to get a good, though belated, start on a rounded and comprehensive parks and recreational program.

THERE are dozens of spots in the county which, at the moment, are ideally suited for county parks. And Jackson county is also fortunate in that good-sized sections of the best parts of the county are owned by the federal government and, with the proper approach, substantial areas of this federal land could be obtained for park purposes at a minimum expenditure by the county.

Some preliminary work on parks planning has been done by the court itself, and some by a subcommittee of the county planning commission.

With this as a basis, with enough money to begin an effective program, and with the need and the desirability staring us in the face, there is no reason why Jackson county cannot now take its rightful place among those Oregon counties which are making a realistic approach to the need for parks.—E.A.

Humane Slaughter Again

Since "Be Kind To Animals" week is due soon (May 3 to 9), now is an appropriate time to bring up the subject of humane slaughter.

The Congress last year passed a bill requiring that packers selling meat products to the government must kill their livestock in a manner which does not cause excessive pain.

But this legislation has no effect on many small packing houses. State legislation would be necessary to cause them to use humane methods.

THE Oregon legislature now has before it House Bill 629, a very short and simple measure, which requires that such procedures be employed in slaughtering in the state of Oregon.

All the arguments which finally persuaded congress of the desirability of such a measure apply just as much to the state. Packing houses which have started to use such methods have found them more practical, and, in the long run, less costly.

And, as the St. Louis Post Dispatch declares, "There is no argument for needless cruelty." House Bill 629 should be passed.—E.A.

Hint to the weatherman: We could sure use some rain.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



"ALICE! HEY, ALICE! AW, ANSWER ME, MOM!"

Hazards of Interviewing Dog Recounted by UPI Staff Man

By FRANK ELEAZER
Washington—UPI—Even in this town, where there are 754 newspapers and wire service reporters and almost as many publicity agents, it was a little surprising to hear that Lassie had called a press conference.

It took a half hour and a half-dozen phone calls to confirm my impression that this was utterly ridiculous. Why, Lassie wasn't even in town. It was Rin Tin Tin who was here and was desirous of meeting the press.

Rinty, as his friends call him, was registered in 700B, the presidential suite at the Sheraton-Park. He had six rooms, in one of which an attendant stood ready with hair of the dog, in case anybody got bit. Nobody did, but some of those present possibly had been bit somewhere else the night before.

Hire Local Dog
Whether it was to guard Rinty, or keep free-loaders out of the bar, I don't know, but a police dog named Tim, hired from a local detective agency, kept watch at the main corridor door. This turned out to be a handy thing as many of the nice old ladies and toddlers who showed up mistook him for the host.

This tended to keep down somewhat the population density, temperature, and humidity in the parlor, where Rinty himself was camped.

As everybody knows, Rin Tin Tin is a handsome, king-sized German shepherd, allegedly the fourth in a line stretching back to 1918 and one of the Kaiser's trenches. So naturally I had some good questions ready about West Berlin, etc.

But I soon gave up trying to ask them. Rinty was being pushed, petted, mauled and admired by a large uncritical group of average age about 7, and the fact nobody drew back a nub testified to his superhuman restraint.

In addition, a 6½-pound Maltese ball of white canine fluff named Binky, identified as part of a reception committee, was flirting with Rinty at what I thought was considerable temptation to him and imminent peril to herself. Luckily, though, trainer

Proponents View
Backers of the wilderness bill call it a "now or never" proposition. Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), sponsor of the Senate's wilderness bill, contends "it is our clear duty to do something before the horse is out of the barn." Nature lovers, in their blizzard of letters falling down on Congress, plead for the measure and underscore Thorau's contention that "we need the tonic of the wilderness."

Although the opposition is outnumbered, it has more political power. The mining, lumber, mineral and petroleum interests are fighting the wilderness bill. They contend it will lock them out of areas they will need to develop later on.

The bill is full of compromises in an effort to get both conservationists and commercial interests behind it. It says existing uses of forest land such as grazing will be allowed to continue even after

Estate Planning Meet Scheduled
U. S. National bank will hold an estate planning forum in the Pioneer room of the Jackson hotel in Medford, Wednesday, April 15, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Allan F. Perry, manager of the Medford branch, will preside at the meeting. Opening remarks and introductions will be made by William R. Bradshaw, U.S. National trust officer.

The current series marks the 10th year that U.S. National has presented the series throughout the state.

The topics to be discussed are planning for family protection, planning for property conservation and planning for tax saving.

Speakers will include H. E. Butler, W. D. Hinson and G. M. Tretheway, all trust officers from the bank's head office.

A question and answer period and social hour with refreshments will conclude the forum, Perry said. Anyone interested in attending is invited.

Try and Stop Me
By BENNETT CERF
MIKE CONNOLLY tells about a vice-president of a film company who was given the gate by his fellow officers. "But he took it like a man," reports Mike admiringly. "He blamed it on his wife!" Mike knows another Hollywood character who strode forth to buy his girl an engagement ring, but got his fingers crushed between two pushcarts.

Novelist Evelyn Waugh is an eccentric dresser. Malcolm Muggeridge, of Punch, said he looks "like a letter delivered to the wrong address." Muggeridge was even more startled when Waugh seriously advanced the theory that Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia is, in fact, a woman!

There's a formidable character in the Broadway sector whose job it is to keep sex out of the movies. No, he's not a member of the censorship board. He's a balcony usher.

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Fidel Castro Due in U.S. as Policies Under Scrutiny; Communist Threat Seen

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Editor
Cuban Premier Fidel Castro storms the United States this week.

The word "storm" is used advisedly about this controversial figure whose revolution in Cuba began as a local disturbance in the mountains of Oriente Province in 1956, but so gained in fury that it reached Havana in 1958.

Nor was its fury abated after Castro succeeded in ousting former President Fulgencio Batista and took over himself as premier.

Since then Castro has lashed in all directions, with the

United States a favorite and frequent target on subjects running the gamut from military, through political and business.

Besides delivering a speech before the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington, Castro also is expected to ask the U. S. for economic aid and for a revision upward of Cuba's sugar quota in the United States.

As a result, his policies will come under considerable scrutiny.

They also came under scrutiny last week in a meeting of American ambassadors to 12 Caribbean nations, held in San Salvador.

At the San Salvador meeting, U. S. Ambassador to Cuba Philip W. Bensal was understood to have expressed concern over evidence of increasing Communist activity in Cuba but to have held out the overall hope that Cuba eventually would settle down as a stable, free-world democracy.

Castro himself has said he is not a Communist.

There is so much certainty about his brother, Raul, nor about some of his other lieutenants.

During the fighting stages of his revolution, Castro said many times he would accept help from any quarter, including the Communists.

Leftward Tendencies
Communist or not, there is no doubt about the leftward tendencies of many of those now in positions of influence in Cuba.

The newspaper Revolution, which speaks for the revolutionary movement, recently brought out a weekly magazine section called "Luzes de Revolution." The name has no political significance but the editorial content seems to have.

In it are Karl Marx's Communist manifesto; Vladimir Mayakovsky's "Ode To The Revolution"; John Reed's "The Ten Days That Shook The World"; excerpts from Trotsky's "The History of The Russian Revolution"; and Nicolas Guillen's poem "La Voz Esperanzada" (The Hopeful Voice).

Guillen is a Cuban Communist poet.

An editorial introducing the new magazine said:

Dislike Criticism
"We want to say, simply that we are not Communists. So that we may also say we are not anti-Communists. We are intellectuals, artists and writers of the left—we see Communism pass by the side and place itself on the right in many questions of art and literature."

The intellectuals who are to the left of Communism do not take kindly to criticism, real or implied, or to reporting which may take some of the shine from the glory of their revolution.

Castro himself sees an enemy behind every woodpile.

Last week, United Press International became one of his targets.

A UPI dispatch had reported instances of labor unrest, sabotage and the presence of small, armed counter-revolutionary groups in the interior of Cuba. The information also had been published in local Havana newspapers.

Castro described it as a "campaign of defamation" and a "base criminal work against Cuba."

Is Christianity Real?
To the Editor: If peace and goodwill are not increasing in the world, perhaps we're not working from the right angle. Perhaps our prayers are merely repetitions and we need to put our heart and mind and soul into them. Perhaps we are praying for the wrong things.

Until we have done something about the "greed" in our hearts, none of the efforts for better world conditions will have too much effect. Too much is turned to bad account. We don't do unto others as we'd be done by.

"Four Day Work Weeks" won't help the unemployment situation very much. Too many will take a second job or even a third. It is being done now on a large scale even with our five day week. Unemployment benefits are more attractive to some than jobs. They are collected regardless of real need. Others are becoming artists at collecting relief and then using it wastefully. People in a position to do good are filling their own bank accounts.

Our Christianity—is it real? Do we go to church to praise and thank our Lord, or to be counted among the church goers? Do we pray for material things or "Christ-like love," which is the "bread" for which we should pray? For Christ was the "bread of life." He also was "love." So our prayer must be for His kind of love, to be heard in heaven, as well as to accomplish His works on earth.

Francis Ray,
Ralston, Wash.

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