

MEMPHIS 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

Aug. 2, 1949 (Tuesday) Gov. and Douglas McKay are guests of honor at tonight's Shakespeare Festival opening.

The forthcoming log bucking contest at Jacksonville's Gold Rush Jubilee creates great interest.

20 YEARS AGO

Aug. 2, 1939 (Wednesday) Medford City Councilman Thomas Roseberry is welcomed back to active duty after several weeks' illness.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "The tired bank clerks defeated the teamsters last night at softball, and put up a good fight both against their rivals, and myriad members of the insect world, some of which only live three hours and spend that brief span at a softball game."

30 YEARS AGO

Aug. 2, 1929 (Friday) A craze for women to wear pajamas on the streets reaches Medford, and causes a considerable stir.

Jacksonville's post office is moved to a room next to Dorothy's confectionery.

40 YEARS AGO

Aug. 2, 1919 (Saturday) Applegate farmers urge that road work in their district be started at once.

50 YEARS AGO

Aug. 2, 1909 (Monday) The validity of a special court session to hear Medford's condemnation suit against M. C. Hanley for a water system right of way is upheld.

Col. Ray's cow swallows a small pumpkin, but is saved from choking by the judicious use of a mop handle.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

- 1. Was George Washington inaugurated as first President in New York, Philadelphia, or Washington, D.C.? 2. Which agency of the Federal Government regulates transportation and sale of natural gas in interstate commerce? 3. Which U.S. President was nicknamed "Silent Cal"? 4. It is unlawful in the U.S. to dun a person by postal card; true or false? 5. Fill in the missing word in the English nursery rhyme, "If wishes were -----, beggars would ride."

- 6. Correct the following, "Neither of the boys are coming to the meeting." 7. Was it Roger Williams, Capt. John Smith, or William Penn, who made the first settlement in Rhode Island? 8. The father of which former Supreme Court Justice wrote "The Wonderful One-Hoss Shay"? 9. Is "Lassie," the movie dog, a Collie or Irish setter? 10. In 79 A.D., Pompeii, Italy, was buried in the ashes of a lava from what volcano? Answer: 1. New York. 2. Federal Power Commission. 3. Calvin Coolidge. 4. True. 5. "horses". 6. "Neither of the boys". 7. Roger Williams. 8. Oliver Wendell Holmes. 9. Collie. 10. Vesuvius.

It's the Rogue, Charlie

Charlie Porter, the alert congressman from this district, is a fast man—sometimes too fast—with a letter.

Not long ago he saw an article in the Washington Post which, more or less incidentally, said the Rogue river was named because "the roguish Indians living along the stream stole from the pioneers."

"That ain't the way I heard it," Charlie said in a letter to the editor of that newspaper.

HE WENT ON:

"It seems that the earliest visitors to this wonderful country were French trappers. They arrived at one of those rare flood times when the water was not sparklingly clear but was muddy, a sort of red. So they called it 'rouge,' which in French, as you may have heard, means 'red.'"

"Then along came the more or less untutored pioneers who mispronounced 'rouge' by saying 'rogue.' "There may be rogues in Oregon, but this lovely river isn't one of them."

Tut, tut, Charlie.

You who have fished the Rogue, camped beside it, and who are attempting to harness it to man's better purposes, should know better.

OREGON'S foremost—nay, almost only—authority on the origin of the place names in this state, was Lewis A. McArthur, whose book, "Oregon Geographic Names" should have a place in Congressman Porter's five-foot shelf.

McArthur's book says:

"On December 20, 1904, Max Pracht wrote a letter to the Oregonian giving a well-known but incorrect version of the origin of the name Rogue River, ascribing it to the French word Rouge on account of the alleged red color of the water during flood seasons. This letter was printed in the Oregonian for December 22, 1904, page 11. Harvey W. Scott (the Oregonian's famous editor) wrote a spirited reply to the Pracht letter, giving the real source of the name and printing it on the same page with the communication. The reply is as follows:

"This is fanciful, purely so, though the 'Rogue' story is old. There would have been reason for calling the Klamath River Rouge River, or Red River; for its waters are much discolored by the marshes of the lake basin which it drains. But Rogue River is one of the clearest of streams, and even in flood its waters are not red. An old French map has been mentioned—though no such map is known to be in existence—whereon the Klamath and Rogue Rivers are united and called Rouge-Chamet, or Red Klamath. But Rogue River, as an individual stream, has been known by its present name ever since white men first visited the country. Bishop Blanchet's account of the Catholic Church in Oregon says the French were the first to call it by this name. The Indians there were a peculiarly troublesome lot; 'hence,' says Blanchet, 'the name 'Les Coquins' (the Rogues) and 'La Riviere aux Coquins' (The Rogue River) was given to the country by the men of the brigade.' So far then, it is from the fact that the Rogue River is a corruption or change from the alleged 'Rogue' River of the French. The actual truth is that the French called it Rogue River themselves. Everything is against the assumption that it once was 'Rogue River'—changed by Missourians to Rogue River, on the theory that 'them French couldn't spell'."

McARTHUR gives other evidence, also, dating back to 1833 records of the Hudson's Bay Company, the log of an 1841 United States expedition, and the 1850 charting of the river by the U.S. Coast Survey.

It is also interesting to note that the Indians called the stream the "Trashit," and that for one year, 1854-55, by act of the Territorial Legislature, it was called the "Gold River."

But Rogue it was, Rogue it has been, and Rogue it is.—E.A.

Full Circle in Trees

Bill Tugman, editor and publisher of the weekly Port Umpqua Courier, for many years was editor of the Eugene Register-Guard.

He recalls, in his Reedsport paper, that he lived in Eugene 30 years ago, "when to speak a good word for a tree in the business area was heresy. Eugene had ants in its pants 'till it got rid of nearly every tree in 40 blocks."

It was ever thus in small, fast-growing western communities. "Cut down the darn trees," was the watchword. "Make way for progress!"

THE pattern has come full circle. Today alert merchants, city planners, and in increasing numbers, customers, are coming to appreciate a tree in the downtown area.

For the customer it may partake of aesthetics, but for the merchant it's a matter of good business.

A recent New York Times reports that the city council is now considering a bill which would "require compulsory tree planting by the city's property owners."

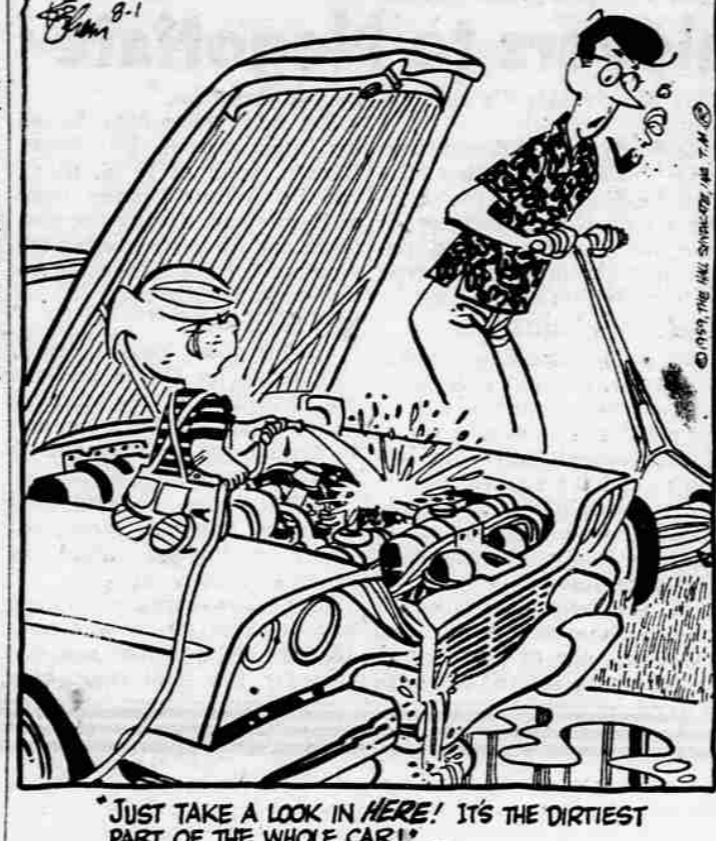
This may be just a bit drastic, but it shows how things are going.

ACTUALLY, as the Times says, what is needed is probably encouragement, rather than compulsion. And it points out that many forward-looking merchants in New York are now setting out trees entirely on their own initiative and at their own expense—paying \$80 to \$100 each.

This is a reminder that Medford is more fortunate than some cities. It has a well-organized voluntary tree-planting program for its residential area; it still has many (though ever-fewer) of the magnificent shade trees in the area immediately surrounding the core of the downtown section, and, more recently, it has the potted trees on Main street.

Perhaps New York can take a tip from us.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

HOPE FROM HAWAII

Washington—Republicans nationally are feeling a small but genuine lift in hope in the breezes blowing in from Hawaii. The GOP certainly are not madly dancing in the streets. But they are not quite so gloomy as they had been since the roof fell in on them in their party's last test before the voters, November's Congressional elections.

For the Republicans are undeniably the net winners from Hawaii's recent election, its first as our new 50th state. True, the Democrats took two of Hawaii's three new places in Congress—its single seat in the House of Representatives and one of its two Senate seats. But the GOP captured the real prize, the governorship. And Republicans took control of the Hawaii State Senate, which will confirm the hundreds of appointments to state judgeships, boards and commissions to be made by the new Republican governor, William F. Quinn.

THESE hundreds will form the first entrenched political and bureaucratic stronghold in Hawaii. They will be there for a long time; they will be influential for many years to come.

So, the Democrats have won most of the honors, but the Republicans have won most of the spoils. Hawaii proves that the Democratic mastery of Congress, which has been evident since 1954, is on a still-rising arc. There is practically no chance, looking realistically at the news from Hawaii, for the Republicans to regain either house in 1960. There is, however, an obviously better chance now for the Republicans in next year's struggle for the Presidency.

The party which controls the statehouse nearly always goes into any Presidential election in better shape than its opposition. This is so if only because the statehouse normally is the political powerhouse across the state and more or less controls the handing out of jobs, public contracts and the like.

Alaska, the 49th state, went Democratic all the way. But Hawaii has gone Republican where it counts the most.

PUBLICLY, of course, partisan hurrahs and counter-hurrahs are in much different tones. But all the foregoing is an accurate summary of what politicians here in both parties actually believe, and privately say.

What is also privately admitted is this: Three or four years ago all concerned thought Hawaii would go practically totally Republican once she became a state. Three or four months ago, all concerned assumed it would go practically totally Democratic.

THE probable reason most discussed is that President Eisenhower's "anti-spending" crusade has done the Republicans more good than most ever thought it would. In confidence, several Democrats concede that it looks that way. One authentically partisan and liberal Democrat, Sen. Richard Neuberger of Oregon, concedes it out loud.

Neuberger's view may well be conditioned by the fact he is supporting the President on one of his pay-as-you-go demands, a rise in the gasoline tax to help pay for the national highway building program. Neuberger, in one sense, is a "spender" and doesn't deny it. But he is also a "taxer," and he doesn't deny

it, either. He says the bulk of his fellow Democrats are fooling themselves if they believe the President is not making some headway in picturing the Democrats as a little reckless with money. His evidence? His mail is running four to one in favor of rather than against, as might be supposed—a gasoline tax increase.

IT WAS sprung first locally by Bob Chandler, of the Bend Bulletin. It was picked up and given a whirl by the Eugene Register-Guard, which mentioned several recent users of it—among them Senator Richard Neuberger of Oregon. Senator Neuberger, back in Washington, spotted it and explains in a letter to this writer:

"I have read with interest and profit your recent column about 'serendipity.' I believe the word was originated by Sir Horace Walpole. He took it from a famous old proverb about the three migratory princes of ancient Serendip, which was Ceylon. Whenever they went, they had a happy faculty of making auspicious discoveries, always by accident. "I applied the word to my own ordeal with cancer because this entire experience—frightening as it has been—has helped me to become a more effective and influential advocate of the medical research which is needed to save so many human lives. I thought the beginnings of the word might interest you."

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

THE ROCKEFELLER CANDIDACY

New York—Former Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, State Chairman Judson Morehouse, and Republican National Committee man George H. H. Hillman are advising Gov. Nelson Rockefeller to get out and work more actively for the Republican presidential nomination—of course without becoming an avowed candidate.

It will be a political development of the first order, if Governor Rockefeller takes the advice of these other leading New York Republicans. They want him to abandon his self-imposed rule against appearances outside his own state, and to make a series of speeches in other key states during the autumn months. The purpose, inevitably, is to stimulate stronger support for a Rockefeller candidacy.

It is already political news of considerable significance that former Governor Dewey is among those who have proffered this advice to Governor Rockefeller. Whether Rockefeller sought the advice, or Dewey volunteered it, is not known. But in either case, by the simple act of giving such advice, Dewey would appear to have made what amounts to a commitment.

A Dewey commitment to Rockefeller has much potential importance, in turn, because of the former Governor's intimate knowledge of the Republican organizations all across the country, and his wide net of connections with party leaders in other states. Given the fact that Dewey is a New Yorker, the thing was probably inevitable. But before the great surprise of Rockefeller's election to the Governorship, Dewey was a quite solidly committed to the rival candidacy of Vice President Richard Nixon. Indeed, Nixon was counting heavily on Dewey to help organize his pre-convention campaign.

Behind the advice given to Rockefeller by Dewey and the others, there is the following rather simple reasoning. FIRST, Vice President Nixon is already as close as any man can be at this stage, to having the nomination really sewed up.

Second, however, Nixon's apparently impregnable position is still very vulnerable, because of the exceptionally poor showing of the Republicans in the public opinion polls. The Gallup poll has just given a Democratic ticket composed of Adlai Stevenson and Sen. John F. Kennedy a whopping 56 per cent of the vote, against a Republican ticket composed of Nixon and Rockefeller. But this is only one example. More such bad news, and worse news, is expected.

Third, Rockefeller is at present unable to exploit Nixon's weakness in the polls because he has done no better himself. Through the spring and early summer, his showing was even worse than Nixon's—a fact of which the Nixon high command has made much. Yet Rockefeller has the power to change his own standing by showing his remarkable campaigning talents to the country at large. What is wanted, in fact, is half an issue of "Life" magazine, full of pictures of Rockefeller engulfed by his admirers, with some such headline as: "Rocky Wows Them in Dubuque."

Fourth, if Rockefeller can draw ahead in the polls in this manner, he will at once be able to use the "Nixon-can't-win" slogan, which he is now barred from using. A rise of a few percentage points will be enough for his purposes, even if he still runs well behind the Democrats; for Rockefeller can also point out how he came from behind to defeat Averell Harriman.

Fifth, Rockefeller must act soon, because it will be too late if he waits to take this kind of action until after the New York Legislature meets next January. If Rockefeller sticks to his original time schedule, in fact, Nixon's position will become too strong to challenge, whatever the polls may say.

SUCH is the reasoning to which the New York Governor has been leading a far from inattentive ear. As a political analysis, it is hard to challenge. Indeed, it is also the analysis of the intimate group of Nixon strategists. They make no secret of their belief that their man's rival can dramatically strengthen his position by a little cross-country "blatting," as Warren G. Harding used to call it. The difficulty is to find a pretext for this blatting and baby-kissing, after Governor Rockefeller has said so much about keeping his nose to the New York State grindstone. In American politics, the conventions governing these matters are as powerful as they are illogical. Some way for Rockefeller to observe the conventions, yet to get out and speak, has yet to be found.

But finding a way to do this should not be overly difficult, if the sort of effort that is being considered is really modest. If he decides in favor of an active policy, the Governor will merely make a small number of speeches, spaced out in time, as strategic points outside his own state. The forthcoming Governors' Conference could quite easily afford the necessary pretexts for this kind of speaking program.

As yet, Governor Rockefeller's decision is impossible to forecast. He keeps insisting, "I'm relaxed, I'm completely relaxed." But if he takes the stump in October, it will not be at all surprising.

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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.

Light and music To the Editor: Thank you so much for your title line to my letter upon Congressman Porter's "Tram Lift" idea. Naturally, there are many, many additions which could be added, and I would suspect yours would be a good contender with the best of them all, "Tram Lift."

POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

"If Patrick Henry thought taxation without representation was bad," comments a cynic, "he ought to see it WITH representation."

We had something to say in this space not long ago about horse-cars. And in our own mauling way we added some observations about street cars.

Now street cars are with us again. At least we think they're street cars, although we have a sneaking suspicion that they're really cars—automobiles, that is—that are usually driven on the street. Anyway, they come to us in the form of an article from the Southern Oregon Timing Association, the respected "hot-rod" organization here which, in telling about a new classification of racing cars, says:

"It will be for all hopped up street cars..." Since the next sentence refers to "Ford flat-heads" (presumably with no reference to the personnel of Crater Lake Motors) we assume that the street cars do not, after all, run on rails. But one notes that all of them must have a "360 degree safety shield around the bell housing just as any other gas machine."

Well, our gas machine doesn't. We're not even sure if it has a bell housing—whatever that is. We keep insisting that some of the most vivid reporting these days is done by the young 4-H reporters who submit news to the paper. Like the frank report the other day about a meeting out of doors, where much of the time was spent "cooking over an open fire, washing dishes in cold water, swimming, hiking and sun burning."

There were two apparently unrelated stories in the paper the other day. On page one an article reported how the laying of some 10,000 square feet of carpeting is progressing at the new Sears Roebuck store.

On another page there was a story about police searching for a quantity of carpeting and limb are at stake before we are prompted into action. If the orderly growth of this community and its environs is to continue, some respite from this problem must be found in other ways than a five year plan whose goal is so vague as to offer doubtful definitive improvements.

The prevailing wind being from the north we could blow the stuff when the lid is off right down to California, and that's a good place for it. They at least are trying to lick the problem. Let's show them our smoke, both figuratively and literally.

Ray Lambert, Route 2, Box 420-K, Medford. Feature Corrected To the Editor: Elsie Hix, in "Strange as it Seems," had better get her facts straight. In the Mail Tribune July 28, it said, "A rattlesnake will not pursue a person who is outside its striking range."

Well, that is an outright falsehood. When a rattlesnake is blind, it will chase a person from as much as 30 feet away, just by sound. Then again, I have been struck at and missed, because I was too far away for it to reach. I call that being pursued when out of range.

Wrong statement No. 2: About the gold dust window. Mostly the facts are right, but the name of the bank is the Grants Pass branch of the First National Bank of Oregon, not Portland. Clyde Melvin, Box 263, Prospect, Ore.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

CASKIE STINNETT once let his old boxer dog, PUNCHY, share a bedroom with him aboard the Chicago-bound Broadway Limited. The Pullman conductor took a dim view of the proceedings. "Keep your door tightly closed," he said, "so that dog doesn't wander down the corridor. She might bite somebody."

"She doesn't bite," observed Caskie haughtily. "She's got teeth, hasn't she?" countered the conductor. Only after he had shut the door did Caskie realize he should have answered, "So have you."

Next morning, as he left the train, Caskie spotted a Pullman conductor and decided to redeem himself. Fixing the conductor with a level gaze, he snapped, "So have you!" The conductor looked blank. Stinnett decided later it was a different conductor.

Charles King complains that one thing that never turns out as you think it should is the automobile in front of you. © 1959, by Bennett Cerf. Distributed by King Features Syndicate.