

Editorial in Very Few Words

Everyone in Southern Oregon Reads The Mail Tribune... Published Daily except Saturdays by MEDFORD PRINTING CO. 23 North First St. Ph. SP 2-6141

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.

10 YEARS AGO Aug. 7, 1949 (Sunday) Fire destroys a schoolhouse and other buildings in Tolo and blacks Blackwell hill.

20 YEARS AGO Aug. 7, 1939 (Monday) From "Side Glances": "John Day carrying around a thermometer in his shirt pocket just to prove how hot or cold he could get during the day."

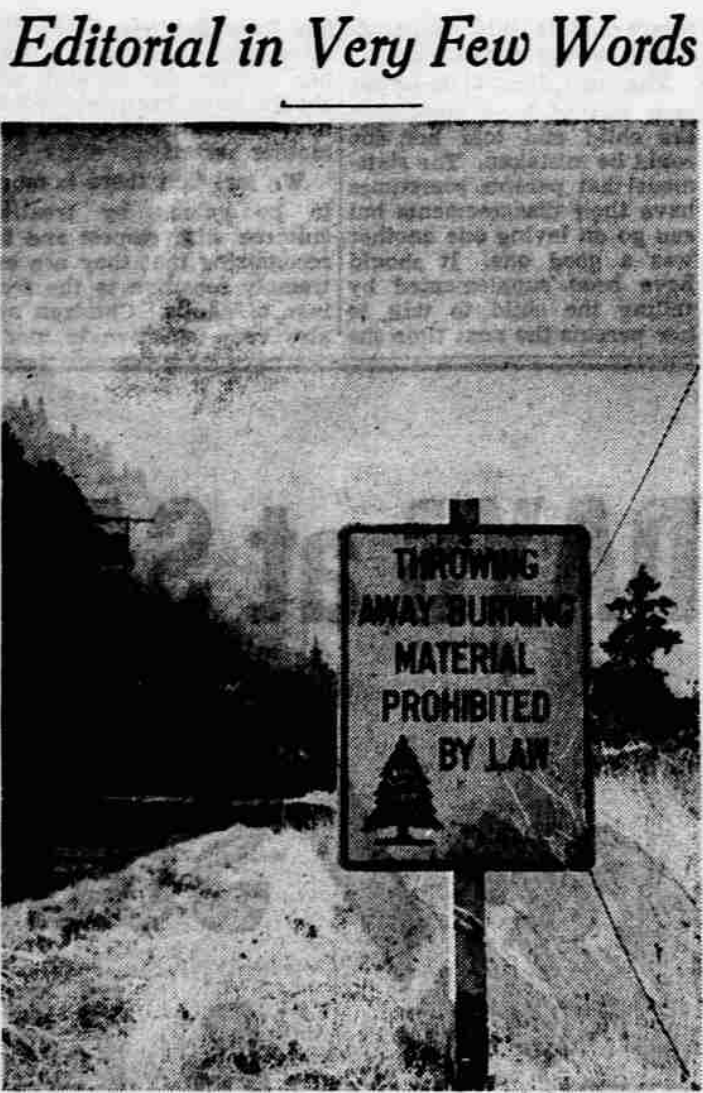
30 YEARS AGO Aug. 7, 1929 (Wednesday) The Medford city council approves the extension of South Central ave. to the Pacific highway.

40 YEARS AGO Aug. 7, 1919 (Thursday) A band concert is planned in Medford's city park to night.

50 YEARS AGO Aug. 7, 1909 (Saturday) Feeling is reported intense among Medford citizens against the water line injunction obtained by M. F. Hanley.

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

1. Which of the twelve apostles do Roman Catholics regard as the founder of the papal line? 2. Name the Roman god of war for whom the month of March is named.



Time To Protect Ourselves

There is a 20-acre hole in the ground just east of Central Point, where the contractor on the freeway construction dug up fill material.

The hole is carved out of rich topsoil to a depth of 10 or 12 feet.

It is reliably reported that another area of agricultural land, some 20 or 25 acres in the same general area, has also been sold to the contractor for a similar purpose.

THIS is the situation which motivated the county court to ask the planning commission to work out an interim zoning ordinance to prevent such indiscriminate gouging out of the valley's limited and valuable topsoil.

It was largely on the premise it would do the least amount of damage to agriculture that the so-called "Bear Creek Route" for the freeway was selected.

But much of this route, running through Medford, will be on an elevated grade. And an elevated grade takes a lot of fill material. And contractors will obtain this fill material where they can, and as close to the job as they can, to save money. And there will always be someone willing to sell to them to make a few quick dollars.

IT IS a real threat to the valley's agricultural economy.

What to do about it? The highway commission, under the laws governing its operation, cannot specify where contractors will obtain their materials. Contractors, in turn, are reluctant to bind themselves, either contractually or by verbal agreement, to abstain from any particular practice in obtaining such materials.

And, alas, there is no zoning ordinance in Jackson county to prevent them from taking soil wherever they can find it and buy it.

Therefore, to forestall this danger, the county court requested the zoning ordinance.

THE idea came from Lane county, which has had the benefits of a planning commission and a zoning ordinance with some teeth in it for several years now.

The same situation arose in Lane county during construction of the freeway there, and the zoning provisions stopped it.

The ordinance, as it applies to the taking of fill material, is now under challenge in the courts in Lane county, with a decision expected in about three weeks. Observers there are hoping for a decision upholding the zoning restriction.

If it is upheld, Jackson county will be able to do something to protect its valuable topsoil. If not, we're in trouble.

THE thought of a series of 20 or 25 acre holes in the ground in topsoil land all along the freeway and Bear creek, from Central Point to the other side of Ashland, is enough to give one the willies.

There is real urgency in doing something to forestall such an eventuality. And, more, the entire situation adds compelling evidence to the need for county-wide zoning legislation, adaptable to a variety of unforeseen situations as they arise.

Jackson county twice voted down zoning ordinances. We were convinced at the time, and still are, that the defeats were due to an imperfect understanding of zoning, and what it is designed to accomplish.

Dennis the Menace



Rockefeller Kicking Life Into Civil Defense Program

By WILLIAM THEIS Washington—Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller could miss the presidency by an inch or a mile, and still make his place in the history books as the official who finally kicked some life into civil defense.

He moved a step in that direction by getting his fellow governors at Puerto Rico to endorse his ideas for stronger civil defense action.

The Republican's behavior at the annual governor's conference left little doubt in many minds that he's preparing to challenge Vice President Richard M. Nixon for the GOP presidential nomination.

More about the sentries at the Buckingham Palace gate and the rigid discipline that governs them while they are on duty.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS Last year an American girl who was touring London paused before the palace gate and, as tens of thousands of others have done, gazed in awe at the stiff and motionless guard who stood before the sentry box.

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.

Witnesses Sought

To The Editor: At 2:50 p.m. on U. S. Highway 30 near milepost 260, about 28 miles southeast of Pendleton, Oregon, my husband, Warren Kiltz, age 27, was involved in a motor vehicle accident.

Basic Danger Unchanged

But the New Yorker's recommendations appear significant: They are applying pressure at the level where it is needed if local action is to be generated.

They underscore the "long look" on U.S. defense planning—that the Eisenhower-Khrushchev visits, the Nixon tour and other manifestations of more friendly relations with Russia do not modify the nuclear threat.

Opposition To CD

Some of the open disrespect for the current civil defense effort is reflected in recent Senate speeches by Stephen M. Young (D-Ohio). Young has charged that the program is "obsolete" and full of waste.

Rogue, Not Rouge

To The Editor: Rogue is from rogue, not rouge. I accept your tut, tut. McArthur's "Oregon Geographic Names" must be correct. It's some salace for me to know my version goes back at least 55 years.

'Barn-Burning Time' in House Heralds Disappearance of Rules Committee Head

By FRANK ELEAZER Washington—This is the period, sometimes referred to locally as barn burning time, when House liberals start manifesting unaccustomed concern for the health, welfare, and whereabouts of Howard W. Smith (D-Va.).

Especially the whereabouts. Smith is 76. He is a banker who still thinks a million dollars is money, especially when it's borrowed. He also has other peculiarities, including a tendency to drop out of sight along toward the end of each congressional session.

It's not so much that the liberals can't do without Howard Smith's company. What gets them is that he is the all-powerful chairman of the very powerful House Rules Committee, and when he disappears some of their favorite bills seems always to fade out of the picture.

Committee Routes Bills The rules committee's job is to route bills from other committees to the House floor. When it doesn't they usually die.

About this time last year the committee had a roomful of business, including a couple of bills which Judge Smith felt sure would cost money. One would have let the Tennessee Valley Authority sell bonds to expand power production.

So one August day he didn't answer when the House clerk called his name on the roll. Neither did he answer the following day. Rep. Watkins Abbutt (D-Va.) hinted helpfully that the judge was aboard the submarine Nautilus which that very day was beneath the North Pole.

I guess that wasn't so, because when Judge Smith returned, 10 days later, he wore a nice tan. Also an enigmatic smile. He didn't say where he had been.

He got back though just in time for last rites to be said for the TVA bill which the Congress, only now, one year later, finally has revived and enacted.

Coupled with other measures lost in the rush to adjourn, Abbutt said happily that Smith's vacation, whatever it cost Smith, had saved him taxpayers \$10,000,000,000.

The vanishing judge set a precedent even more upsetting to the liberal bloc the previous year.

The Judiciary Committee, under Rep. Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.), had approved a strong civil rights bill at that time.

Manny and Judge Smith have much in common. Both are members of the House. But apparently they don't speak the same language. On March 2 Manny asked Smith to clear the civil rights bill. It was May 2 before Smith seemed able to hear him.

He took up the bill May 2—and must have found it interesting. On May 17 he was still taking testimony. Other com-

mittee members found their interest lagging though and, over the judge's protest, finally cleared the bill for a vote in the House. The House passed the bill, and sent it to the Senate. It was amended and came back to the House for consideration of the Senate amendments.

This, according to the Rule book which Smith reverses third only to the constitution and the Bible, required a fresh clearance from the Rules Committee. It was mid-August, and members were ready to quit for the year. Smith himself was so anxious to leave he couldn't wait for adjournment. He just left. The liberals chaffed a while, and finally went into action to by-pass the judge.

They have plenty of time. After days of delay they smashed the parliamentary roadblocks. They convened the Rules

Committee without him—just as Smith walked, smiling, into the room.

Barn Burns Down His barn had burned down, out in Loudon County, Va., he explained, and it had taken him 10 days to rebuild it.

Now the Judiciary Committee has approved another civil rights bill. Smith has said he will consider a request for clearance once he gets it in writing, along with a proper printed report on the bill.

After that, Smith will need time to think.

I've heard that the judge's moving machine shows signs of collapsing. I know for a fact he has a bad tooth, and no telling how long it might take if the dentist says it has to be fixed. His grandchild in Texas are reported demanding to see him.

The liberals had best hire a detective if they want to keep their eye on the judge.

Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

Washington—With perfect politeness and genteel deference, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York is reaching for Vice-President Richard Nixon's jugular vein.

Mr. Rockefeller's disclosure that he will contest Mr. Nixon for the Presidential nomination only if the public opinion polls are kind to him has hit the Nixon forces hard in their one vulnerable spot.

They had not been afraid of an outright Rockefeller challenge in the old-fashioned way—a frank attempt to go out and grab pro-Rockefeller delegates to next year's GOP convention. They felt that such an unhidden Rockefeller thrust would shatter against Mr. Nixon's rocklike position with the regular, organization Republicans.

But you can hardly convict a man as a revolutionary if he is not really "opposing" you—but is only awaiting the word of "the people" as to whom ought to be nominated. That is not ugly revolt; that is only "objectivity."

THE Vice-President himself for months has known, and privately said, that the one danger from Rockefeller was by way of an appeal not to the organization Republicans but to the large, happy public by way of a personal popularity contest. For the vague factors of like and dislike—the way a man smiles or combs his hair—have immense effect on the polls. This every politician knows, none more keenly than the Vice-President. The trouble is that he has, surely, been "controversial"—and Rockefeller has not been.

THE Rockefeller people, therefore, are striking at Mr. Nixon in an area where his powerful position, and even his historic success in his Russian mission, will not necessarily arm him quite enough.

They are doing this, moreover, in such a way as to skirt the risk of candidly hitting Mr. Nixon over the head. They have left themselves free to say that Mr. Nixon is the finest possible fellow—and maybe even the ablest, too—but isn't it too bad that the polls indicate he "can't win"? They are going to the public over the heads of the "politicians," just as the Vice-President, with his bleak realism, always suspected they would.

THIS blandly adroit Rockefeller strategy is basically the same strategy by which from 1940 onward the pro-

fessional Republicans have been overcome at every national convention. The results have been the repeated selection of Presidential nominees from among the popular amateurs, like Wendell Willkie and Dwight D. Eisenhower, and the nomination twice of the master of that strategy, Thomas E. Dewey of New York.

Something new, however, has been added. For the Rockefeller approach—in which politicians here clearly see the fine non-Italian hand of Dewey—has one new strength. It is so prepared that the try can be made without drawing a visible sword against Nixon. Thus, the Rockefeller people are trying to neutralize their greatest previous obstacle. This was the disinclination of many GOP politicians to break with Nixon, like him or not, lest their seem an act of utter rebellion punishable if Nixon should triumph after all.

NO ONE should now write off Mr. Nixon; he remains the favorite by a wide margin. Certainly this is so "as of now"—a phrase increasingly being used.

"As of now" is a hedge against what those well-known polls may be saying along in the late fall. The Rockefeller forces obviously are going to be doing many things to influence those polls. So will the Nixon forces. And the Nixon people will have the advantage of operating with a tough and able national figure—though not yet, perhaps, a widely loved one.

But their disadvantages, and the Rockefeller advantages, will be formidable. The national convention still is nearly a year away and Nixon week by week will have to take public positions on national issues. Rockefeller will still be in the honeymoon period at Albany, simply running his own state shop and not required to make many people angry. The headlines no doubt will run higher and blacker with the name "Nixon." But they will inevitably run more amiably with the name "Rockefeller."

(Copyright, 1959, by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.)

Advertisement for Ford dealers featuring 'A-1 Used Cars' and 'DON STATHOS' insurance. Includes text: 'We Have MOVED to 1005 East Main Street DON STATHOS Insurer PHONE SP 3-6658' and 'AT YOUR FORD DEALER'S—HIS A-1 USED CARS GIVE YOU A NEW KIND OF PROTECTION WHEN YOU BUY!'