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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

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 Sept. 1, 1949 (Thursday) Fifteen more carloads of Bartletts are to be shipped today as the federal pear-buying program continues.

20 YEARS AGO Sept. 1, 1939 (Friday) Word is received that Hitler's troops are marching on Poland, heralding the start of World War II.

30 YEARS AGO Sept. 1, 1929 (Sunday) Hopkins lateral users are to vote next Wednesday on the formation of an irrigation district.

40 YEARS AGO Sept. 1, 1919 (Monday) County Agent C. C. Cate reports there is no need to hurry about picking winter pears.

50 YEARS AGO Sept. 1, 1909 (Wednesday) A California fruitgrower urges Rogue Valley orchardists to organize.

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

1. Who is the United States Postmaster General? 2. In what sort of establishment does a croupier work?

3. What book is said to be the best seller of all times? 4. When the explorer John Cabot sailed westward in 1497, what was he seeking?

5. Of which country is the drachma the monetary unit? 6. Which weighs more—a cubic foot of aluminum or brass?

7. Do you associate Waikiki beach with the Fiji Islands, Indonesia, or the Hawaiian Islands? 8. If a motorist drives his automobile 30,000 miles wearing six tires equally, how many miles has each tire covered?

Correct the following: "The United States were represented in the conference." 10. What is arachnophobia?

Answers: 1. Arthur E. Summerfield. 2. Gambling establishment. 3. The Bible. 4. Asia. 5. Greece. 6. Brass. 7. Hawaiian Islands. 8. 20,000 miles. 9. "The U.S. was represented..." 10. Fear of spiders.

Albacore Tuna Off North Oregon Coast Astoria—A good run of albacore tuna was reported off the northern Oregon coast today.

Many boats report catches of 200 to 300 albacore starting Saturday and one boat, the Banner II of Seattle, had 550 fish in one day.

Twenty Years

Twenty years ago this week Europe was plunging into war. The airwaves were filled with the ranting, screaming speeches of Adolph Hitler and the chanted "Sieg Heil, Sieg Heil" of his followers.

The Panzer divisions invaded Poland 20 years ago today, and 20 years ago Thursday Great Britain and France formally declared war.

How long ago it seems! And yet, how vividly it remains in the memory.

IT IS startling to realize that a whole generation has grown up which does NOT remember these stirring incidents at all.

It is difficult to say whether today's world is a "better" world or a "worse" world than it was before World War II.

One who believes it might, in balance, be a bit better is Charles A. Sprague of the Oregon Statesman.

IN A column of reminiscences, he says: "... As we look over those 20 years we Americans have great reason for pride in the course we have pursued."

"We have not sought war, but we have met it bravely when it came. We joined in crushing the worst tyranny of our time, that of Hitler and his Nazis.

"The successes of these years lend confidence that we shall be able to meet and master future crises. But we must be prepared to do more than render lip service to shibboleths like Peace, Justice, Freedom.

It is, perhaps, too easy to overlook this record, of which Mr. Sprague rightly says we can be proud, in our preoccupation with the new crises, the new concerns of the changing world.—E.A.

The Danger of "Fear"

We were admonished by a correspondent the other day to recall the warning attributed to Abraham Lincoln, to the effect that this nation is in more danger of falling from within than from without.

With this we are inclined to agree. But we believe that we are in less danger from the obvious, communist subversion, than from the less obvious but, to us, far more potent danger of losing our liberties, our freedom, our hard-won form of government, through the hysterical fear of communism which afflicts some people.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT once said the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.

Never was that more true than it is today. For if, in a panic over internal subversion, we turn ourselves into a police state—suspicious, regimented, fearful—we will have lost what we value, just as surely as if the whole organization of government were turned over, lock, stock and barrel, to the communist party.

There is very little to choose between totalitarianism of the extreme right and of the extreme left. They differ only in the catch-phrases used for self-perpetuation.

WE HAVE as yet neither Gestapo nor NKVD—for which let us offer thanks.

But if, in our fear of what the NKVD stands for, we erect our own model of a Gestapo state, we have, indeed, "fallen from within."

Let us, instead, retain our pride as Americans; let us value and protect our heritage of liberty; let us reaffirm our faith in the worth of the individual; let us support our free institutions of government; let us still permit each man to determine his own values in his own way.

If we do this, we need have no fear of communist subversion on the one hand, nor of the more insidious danger of fascism on the other hand.—E.A.

It's Been Quite a Summer

Where has the summer gone? Next Monday is Labor Day and, despite the calendar, Labor Day is the "beginning of fall" in most people's minds.

The Shakespearean Festival will wind up Saturday; the Centennial Welcome Stockade in the Siskiyou will close after Labor Day; schools in the county are already beginning to open.

And, of course, there's that indefinable "tang" in the air in the early mornings which can mean nothing except autumn.

IT'S been quite a summer, too, what with one thing and another—the long hot, dry spell, the opening of the Centennial, the whopping success of the Shakespeare Festival's season, the Jacksonville Gold Rush Jubilee, the combined county fair activities, the Roseburg explosion, the Ashland fire, the Morton mill fire.

It's been nice in parts, exciting in others, sad in others. But we're about ready to welcome the rain and buckle down for the long haul to spring.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



"MOM CALLS 'EM 'DRAWERS', BUT I CALL 'EM 'STEPS'!"

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.

Wonderful Community To the Editor: Here, high above our beautiful city, I have realized what a wonderful community we live in.

Our doctors, the best there are, so thorough, on call at all hours, always with a smile.

The ladies in pink, so quiet, so gracious, in and out, taking care of our flowers and many other useful services.

Now if we were young; turning the grindstone with our noses in order to earn enough to keep both Uncle Sam and our families' bodies and souls together—ah, youth would indeed have a problem, and it has!

When we reach the Golden Age we've learned that what we can't have, we just do not want anyhow.

But of course some oldsters do get a bit age-conscious, have old drums and they miss the old days when we didn't have these silly wiggle-waggle songs.

Now if you are over 50 and feeling sorry for yourselves, there's the Fifty Plus club that meets every Friday noon at the St. Mark's Guild hall on the northeast corner of 5th and Oakdale in Medford.

There's music, singing, games and friendly coffee breaks. I, for one, have gotten ten years younger since I learned that I had so many friends whom I hadn't met before.

I know of another place where oldsters can shed problems: the city lets us use a room at 601 East Jackson, just across Bear creek bridge. It is the Senior Activity center. It hasn't anything in common with the Fifty Plus club, but there are good books, music, pastel drawing lessons, Spanish class and coffee if you wish.

The place is a bit too small and we are hoping that it will be a bit better. God's in His heaven; All's Right With the World, so we know there'll ever be a Senior Activity Center for us as we grow in numbers—some where we'll find more room.

Sometimes we meet in homes to practice music and singing. Thursdays at 10 a.m. we gather there to learn music. Whatever we do—it's all free to old people. Our "orchestra" has about a dozen members now and what fun!

Mrs. John Spackman, P. O. Box 33, Jacksonville, Ore.

What Fun! To the Editor: I've been reading about the "Aging Problem." Now that's SOMETHING! I've had one foot in the grave for ages, but to save my liver, I don't know which one it is.

So, they reason, they will LOSE VOTES if they fail to support this pork barrel spending, which is deeply imbedded in our system.

IS THIS pork barrel money manna from heaven? Of course not. It comes out of taxes.

EVERYBODY pays taxes. YOU MAY dispute the statement that everybody pays taxes.

Listen: The Tax Foundation, which is doing much to enlighten all of us on tax truths, tells us in a recent publication that there are 151 HIDDEN TAXES IN THE PRICE OF A LOAF OF BREAD.

It points out that the price of a loaf of bread includes taxes on the land the wheat is grown on, the machinery that plows and harvests and mills the wheat, the fuel, the transportation, the baker, the wrapper, and so on.

EVERYBODY pays taxes. In one form or another.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Note to Mr. Nehru in connection with the communist shooting ruckus on India's northern border:

You can't play with a skunk without running the risk of getting fouled.

TRAFFIC fatality note: The highway fatality TOTAL for the first half of 1959 is the highest on record.

But—The highway fatality RATE is the LOWEST on record. It stands at 5.1 deaths per 100 MILLION MILES of travel.

That is to say: There are more fatal accidents on our highways because there are MORE PEOPLE on the highways for them to happen to.

QUESTION: Can people be taught to drive more safely? These figures seem to indicate they can be.

IT TAKES time, of course. For example: Several years ago our cities began to enact ordinances requiring motorists to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalks.

At first, the ordinances were very sketchily observed because motorists hadn't been in the habit of stopping.

But, as time passed and the educational process went on, they began to think of stopping. It has now reached the point where I'm often embarrassed by motorists stopping for me before I've even stepped off the curb.

Let's not lose faith in the processes of education. People can be taught to do almost anything that is sensible and logical.

FROM Washington: President Eisenhower has vetoed a BILLION AND A QUARTER DOLLARS public works money bill because it contained funds for 67 new navigation, flood control and reclamation projects.

The President doesn't want any NEW programs of this sort right now because he thinks we are already spending too much money.

Assistant Senate GOP Leader Thomas Kuchel of California and OTHER REPUBLICANS joined the Democrats in criticizing the veto.

The bill, often characterized as a "pork barrel," carries funds for work in EVERY state and many congressional districts.

WHY THE opposition? Why the talk of passing the bill over the President's veto? It's quite simple. The senators and the representatives who are kicking up the disturbance think the people of their states and districts regard the money spent for these projects as manna from heaven that costs nobody anything.

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ACCOMPANIED by North Vietnamese Communist troops, a number of battalions of Laotian dissidents, armed and trained for the purpose in North Vietnam, crossed the border into the two exposed northerly provinces, Phongsaly and Samneua.

After seeing their charges safe across the border, the North Vietnamese troops retired again. The special Communist infiltration units, numbering in all about 2,400 men, meanwhile remained to establish bridgeheads in the two provinces under attack.

The attackers in Phongsaly were driven back almost to the border. But after sharp fights, three fairly large government garrisons in Samneua were defeated. A mountainous area of about 800 square miles was occupied. At this point, the second method of attack began to be used.

In brief, Laos is only half Lao. The rest of the population is composed of tribal peoples. The people of Lao chiefly occupy the fertile low lying rice lands, while the

Political Indicators Point Toward Algerian Peace Try

By ARTHUR HIGBEE Paris—All the political indicators point to a fresh effort by Gen. Charles de Gaulle for peace in Algeria.

Some predict de Gaulle may give Algeria self-government with close ties to France and cast-iron guarantees for the minority of one million Frenchmen in Algeria (a minority often forgotten by those who think immediate, outright independence is the only answer).

De Gaulle, a man who keeps his own counsel, may not go that far. But the time is ripe for a new peace initiative of some kind—and some previously immovable forces now seem ready to step forward to meet it.

De Gaulle himself has perceptibly modified his public approach since he took power 15 months ago. At that time he was referring to Algeria as "French soil, now and forever."

Last fall he indicated that France and Algeria were not one and the same thing: "The future of Algeria... will be built on a double base—its personality and its close solidarity with metropolitan France."

In taking office as President last January he put it more strongly, speaking of "the Algeria of tomorrow, pacified and transformed, developing herself, her personality and closely associated with France."

De Gaulle's prime minister, Michel Debre, seems more uncompromising than his chief. Rebels Less Stiff-Necked But slightly more than two weeks ago, in the middle of a characteristically fire-eating speech, he let drop these words: "It is through France and at the side of France that Algeria will find her opportunities and forge her future."

Thus Debre, indicated that Algeria and France are not synonymous—or so politically-keen Frenchmen took his words to mean. The rebels, for their part, have been less stiff-necked of late.

Ferhat Abbas, premier of the Algerian rebel "government in exile," said in an interview with the German weekly "Der Spiegel" that he was ready to negotiate "without posing any prior conditions."

This was a marked change from the one-time-rebel insistence that the French must concede Algeria's right to independence before the rebels would talk to them.

These changes of position on both sides may seem minor at first glance. But they are significant, and they come at a time when circumstances pointing to a fresh peace offensive are converging.

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

THE FOUR COMMUNIST CARDS Vientiane, Laos—In a clearing in the jungle, among its swampy rice paddies, the little village sleeps.

In their thatched barracks, the squad of six Laotian army soldiers assigned here to restore order in this corner of the countryside, are also sleeping peacefully.

No more than a splash in a rice paddy announced the approach of the 12 or 15 guerrillas. Once within range, they belly down in the mud and open fire on the palm hut barracks. In accordance with their orders, the tiny village garrison seizes its arms and melts into the darkness, to make its way to the nearest larger unit of the Lao army.

Next morning, the Communist Hanoi radio triumphantly blares the news that another garrison has been surprised and forced to surrender, perhaps at a place not far from Vientiane, the seat of government itself.

And among many nervous, simple people, this news produces almost the effect of the fall of a great city.

IN ORDER to get events here into some sort of proportion, it is vital to note that this is the sort of tiny operation that has been making the news in the war in Laos in the last 10 days or so. But it is also important to note that despite the pinprick character of many of the reported Communist successes, this new Communist aggression in Laos is decidedly more formidable than the highest Washington policy makers as yet appear to imagine.

The point is that the Communist plan depends on the careful coordination (largely by jungle runner) of four different methods of attack. The scene above described is only one end result of one of these methods. The potential effectiveness of the Communist plan can only be measured, if you take all four methods together. They may be listed as follows:

There would be no crisis at all in Laos, to begin with, unless the Communists had been ready for quite naked and open aggression, in the most literal sense of the word. The government of Prime Minister Phou Sananikone was making good progress in bringing order to this troubled country when the aggression occurred—on July 15, significantly enough, just after Khrushchev accepted the President's invitation.

ACCOMPANIED by North Vietnamese Communist troops, a number of battalions of Laotian dissidents, armed and trained for the purpose in North Vietnam, crossed the border into the two exposed northerly provinces, Phongsaly and Samneua. After seeing their charges safe across the border, the North Vietnamese troops retired again. The special Communist infiltration units, numbering in all about 2,400 men, meanwhile remained to establish bridgeheads in the two provinces under attack.

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In brief, Laos is only half Lao. The rest of the population is composed of tribal peoples. The people of Lao chiefly occupy the fertile low lying rice lands, while the

mountain slopes constitute geographical-economic orders of precedence. The higher you live, the poorer you are. The original inhabitants, the Ka tribes, live on the uppermost peaks. The Black Thai and Meo tribes occupy the mid level, and so on. These poorer peoples are all more or less disaffected. Recruiting them was the Communists' second form of attack.

The scale of recruitment can only be guessed. In the biggest Communist salient, in Samneua, the original border crossers probably numbered about 1,200. It is Black Thai country here, and the original border crossers have perhaps been able to swell their ranks with an additional thousand Black Thai fighting men. The same sort of thing has also happened at other points where the border was crossed.

IN THE north, therefore, a rather formidable problem was created for the small Laotian army of about 2,500 effectives. Meanwhile, the third method of attack began to be employed.

Again in brief, this country's troubled recent past has left behind small groups of hard core Communists in most of the 12 provinces. These underground groups numbered three or four hundred men per province. In addition, there was the organized Communist battalion, with a very large cadre of officers, that the Laotian army had failed to disarm a couple of months ago. In each province, the hard core groups went into the jungle as guerilla units. Small groups from the Communist battalion also fanned out across the country to promote more guerilla activity.

These numerically insignificant provincial guerilla outfits are the cause of the kind of scene described at the opening of this report. Although so small in scale, the guerilla operations against the little village garrisons are already tending to produce the desired effect. The government army was dispersed in penny packets all over the country to enforce order and get the countryside in hand. But it is now being grouped into larger and more conventional units again.

Thus the villages are being left exposed again to the propaganda and the terrorism of the provincial guerilla outfits. The Communists clearly hope to be able to get control of the countryside in this manner. (Copyright 1959, New York Herald Tribune, Inc.)



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