

MEDFORD 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
Sept. 2, 1949 (Friday)

Fourteen more carloads of
Bartlett's are due for shipment
in the third day of the fed-
eral government's purchasing
program.

Robert Duane Shangle has
been nominated by Congress-
man Harris Ellsworth for ap-
pointment to Annapolis.

20 YEARS AGO
Sept. 2, 1939 (Saturday)

Willard Leonard purchases
a purebred Arabian stallion,
the first to appear in southern
Oregon for many years.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye
Smudge Pot" column: "Robias
Deuel, who was enmeshed in
an auto mishap, is out again
and walking."

30 YEARS AGO
Sept. 2, 1929 (Monday)

Local schoolchildren take
deep breaths on their last day
of freedom before the school-
house doors open.

Picking of Bosc pears gets
underway in the valley's or-
chards.

40 YEARS AGO
Sept. 2, 1919 (Tuesday)

Banks and stores in Med-
ford were closed for Labor
day yesterday.

The nation's radicals are re-
ported planning to form "one
big party," but local conserva-
tives take the news in stride.

50 YEARS AGO
Sept. 2, 1909 (Thursday)

Plans for erecting a sheet
metal works in Medford are
announced.

Butte Falls trembles at a
rumor the P. and E. railroad
is to be routed up the Rogue
river rather than through that
community.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. Name the composer of the
opera "Tristan and Isolde."

2. Hannibal Hamlin was
Vice President during whose
term as President?

3. What use is made of a
windlass on a ship?

4. In what river are the
Thousand Islands?

5. Is a purple gackle a flower,
bird, insect, or animal?

6. What is the capital of
Montana?

7. Who gave the Bull Moose
Party its name?

8. Will a magnet function
in a vacuum?

9. What former train rob-
ber, after serving his peni-
tentiary sentence wrote a
book, became a lecturer, and
ran for office as Governor of
Oklahoma?

10. Which has the most
teeth—a dog, a man, or a cat?

Answers: 1. Wagner. 2.
Abraham Lincoln's first term.
3. To hoist the anchor. 4. St.
Lawrence. 5. Bird. 6. Helena.
7. Theodore Roosevelt. 8. Yes.
9. At Jennings. 10. Dog (42
teeth).

STAGE RIVER CEREMONY

New York—UPI—Water from
the Amazon, the Jordan, the
Tiber, the Ganges and other
foreign water ways was
poured into the Hudson river
Tuesday in a "meeting of the
rivers" ceremony. The cere-
mony was part of New York's
celebration of the 350th an-
niversary of the founding of
the Hudson river.

Curbing the Curious

Charlie Stanton, the editor of the Roseburg News-Review, writes an editorial entitled "The Curious American," about people who are attracted to scenes of disaster.

Charlie should know.

In Roseburg, the day of the tremendous explosion and fire there, the curious by the hundreds came. Charlie says:

"When we had our fire and explosion . . . we were lucky."

"Within another five minutes we would have had hundreds of sightseers in the disaster zone. When the fire alarm was sounded, people started for the scene. Some of those who arrived quickly to view the blaze were killed or wounded by the explosion. Had the explosion occurred only a few minutes later the death toll would have been much higher."

"Those who happened to be in the fire zone during the disaster never will forget the scream and wail of sirens. Fire engines were on the move from point to point. Engines roared in from neighboring communities. Police cars were everywhere, as officers tried to get spectators out of the way. Ambulances raced in and out striving to get injured people to hospitals. "Around the perimeter of the blaze, automobiles jammed streets and highways. Traffic blocks delayed fire engines, police cars and ambulances. As ambulances sought to get people to the hospital for aid, drivers had to fight a parade of vehicles driven and occupied by sightseers."

"Those close to the explosion that terrible night say they have been cured of chasing fires. They will be content, they declare, to stay out of the area from now on . . ."

THE day after the Roseburg disaster, two small incendiary fires near Jackson Hot Springs "blew up" into the biggest forest, brush and range fire of the year in southern Oregon, at one point endangering both the city of Ashland itself, and its vital watershed.

The heat, the dryness, the winds all combined to make the fire potential tremendously dangerous. But the forest protective agencies are used to these, and can, within limits, cope with them.

What they are not prepared to cope with, however, are the sightseers, the thrill-seekers, the curious, who jam the highways and back roads, oftentimes preventing fire crews from reaching their assignments on schedule, and often, too, at great—though sometimes unwitting—danger to themselves.

CURT NESHEIM, district warden for the state department of forestry, and Carroll Brown, Rogue River National forest supervisor—both men of calm demeanor and friendly disposition—come close to swearing when they talk of this problem.

In one case, at the height of the fire's blow-up stage, one fire crew actually was delayed for precious minutes by the cars of sightseers as it struggled to reach an area where a house was endangered by oncoming flames. It barely made it in time.

In another case, cars poured up a small road west of Ashland, just as the fire crowned over the ridge. If circumstances had been only slightly different, many of them could have perished, either in flames, or from the destruction of panic.

SHERIFF'S deputies and state policemen have been most cooperative in moving traffic along, when and where they can. But the curious sightseer is ubiquitous, and apt to show up almost anywhere.

The problem is unsolved.

Even (as was the case last Friday night when the Morton Milling company building was going up in flames) when police officers on the scene attempt to keep people back, both for their own safety and to permit emergency traffic through, it isn't all easy. Sometimes, believe it or not, officers have been subjected to abuse by unthinking spectators who would know better if they stopped to think for a moment.

CURIOSITY is a perfectly natural trait.

But, like other natural traits, if allowed to run rampant and without thought, it can cause a lot of trouble. It can endanger lives and property.

Sometimes it has its morbid side, too, as in New York a month ago when a big jet airliner was circling with a missing wheel. One newspaper characterized the jam-packed throngs of spectators as people who say to each other, "Gee, let's go to the airport and watch the people die!"

That's probably too strong, for people do like to be "in" on exciting and stirring events.

WHICH is all right so long as they don't make dad-blamed, dangerous nuisances of themselves.

Stanton concludes his editorial with this: "But when it comes to curbing the curiosity of the average American, or denying him the right to poke his nose into danger areas, either during or after a fire, explosion, earthquake, tornado, flood, or what-have-you, I question that laws will be very effective."

And they won't be, unless police officers are given authority to take effective action during emergency situations to control such thoughtless sightseeing.

With our growing population, it may indeed be necessary to enact legislation to prevent sightseers from endangering themselves and others at disaster scenes.

With proper enforcement, and stiff penalties, such legislation would make life a lot easier for harried firemen and policemen who are charged with the protection of the public.—E.A.

Good News

It is good news from Washington, that the house committees involved have agreed to an immediate, though temporary, increase of one cent in the federal gasoline tax. If passed by the house and the senate, it will keep the nation's highway program going—something vitally necessary to this nation's defense, safety and economic well-being.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



"I JUST WANTED TOMMY TO HEAR MY CEREAL SNAP N' POP!"

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT

Vientiane, Laos—Judging by President Eisenhower's words and action, the President himself has not yet entirely grasped the key fact here.

Yet the key fact remains that the Eisenhower administration has morally and politically committed the United States to guard Laos against the kind of Communist aggression that has now been attempted.

This American commitment has now become immensely, perhaps even desperately, important. Hence its obscure but undisputed story is worth recording.

The story begins with the situation created in this little country by the partition of Indochina in 1954, which the American government joined in sponsoring. Briefly, the Geneva partition agreement left Laos effectively divided. The King's sovereignty over the whole country was recognized. But the local Communist forces were left in firm control of the two northern provinces, Phongsaly and Sam-neua.

THE international control commission set up at Geneva was charged with this problem. The allegedly impartial Indian chairman of the control commission consistently took a pro-Communist line. Thus the commission finally persuaded King Sisavang Vong to name a mixed government headed by the non-Communist Prince Souvanna Phouma but including his brother, the Communist leader, Prince Souvanna Vong.

During all this period, the whole weight of American influence was thrown against the plan for a mixed government. As predicted by the Americans, the Souvanna Phouma-Souvanna Vong government came perilously close to giving the Communists full control of Laos. After the elections in the summer a year ago, the result was a really major political crisis.

The American moral and political commitment was made during this crisis. In brief, the King and the other Lao leaders had to decide at once whether to make an all-out effort to save their country. Yet the installation of a strong anti-Communist government would quite obviously tend to provoke reprisals and even intervention by the much stronger neighboring Communist government of North Vietnam. There the Communists in Laos had their real base.

THE Lao leaders emphasized the risk to the Americans. For example, before taking his young Laoian party into the new government, the present foreign minister, Khamphan Panya, went to the American embassy here. He pointed out the enormous danger of a new course for Laos, and he asked for a formal American guarantee of Laos' territorial integrity.

Grown Prince Sang made the same point and asked for the same guarantee when the present assistant secretary of state for Far Eastern affairs, J. Graham Parsons, visited the country at this critical moment. The American answer was always the same. "We promised Laos full support, and we asserted that the

Southeast Asia Treaty Organization would guarantee Laos against aggression.

IN OTHER words, just what is now happening was clearly forecast to the American government before the strongly anti-Communist government of Prime Minister Phouli Sananikone was even formed. In full awareness of the danger, with all sorts of reassurances to the Laoians, the American government did everything possible to bring the Sananikone government into being. This in itself constituted a solid American commitment.

THE commitment was then greatly deepened when American influence was also used to encourage the anti-Communist campaign rapidly launched by Prime Minister Sananikone. The leading Communists were placed under arrest. The Communist-controlled units in the army were disarmed (but one of them got away and is now prominent in the fighting). The remaining machinery of Communist control in Phongsaly and Sam-neua was finally dismantled.

All these actions, so strongly tending to provoke a forceful Communist reaction, were taken with explicit American approval. Meanwhile, further warnings of the coming Communist reaction were by no means lacking.

In January, the first probe occurred, when the North Vietnamese Communists seized the small frontier district of Khamai. From January onwards, the Hanoi radio telegraphed the coming punch by thundering threats of "grave consequences" of the Sananikone policy.

THE Embassy here foresaw and indicated trouble ahead. At least one independent observer, the able Australian newspaperman, Dennis Warner, even predicted the present aggression in some detail. Yet the Americans were not deterred from pressing for appointment of an American training mission for the Laoian army.

This step has now been singled out by the Communists as the specific pretext for their attack on Laos.

In sum, Laos has been attacked because Laos took American advice. It was good advice. Yet a great country which insistently presses such advice on a small country must always assume responsibility for the consequences. The President almost seemed to reject that responsibility in his tepid press conference before going abroad. If he finally does so, the blow to the American and free world position in Asia will be completely irreparable.

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Resurgent Japan Faces Difficulties and Opportunities in Solving New Problems

By RONALD P. KRISS
Tokyo—UPI—Fourteen years now have passed since Japan, reeling and half-starved, surrendered unconditionally to end World War II.

The nation lay in ruins in August, 1945. More than 1,850,000 servicemen and civilians had been killed. Whole cities had been leveled. Tokyo, the capital, was nine-tenths destroyed. Hiroshima and Nagasaki still were wondering what had hit them. Industry was at a standstill, its factories ruined and its supplies cut off.

Now the cities have sprung up again. Hunger has been routed by a series of bumper crops. A merchant fleet cut to one-fifth its size has regained its pre-war tonnage. The economy has grown at the impressive average rate of 10 per cent a year.

All this adds up to one of the great comeback stories of the 20th Century, rivaling even West Germany's phenomenal recovery. The Japanese nation is back on its feet and running.

Some Pitfalls Present
But some treacherous pitfalls still may lie along its path.

The same pressures that led Japan to war for East Asian supremacy exist today. Actually, these pressures have been amplified.

Land is scarce and people are not. This is the basic problem.

There are now 92,000,000

Japanese squeezed into four home islands whose total area is less than that of the state of California. The population will probably hit 100,000,000 within a decade. Yet when Japan launched its fight for a place in the sun, it had only 70,000,000 people and more territory.

The unrestrained militarism of the 1930's no longer exists. But another factor went into the thinking that persuaded Japan's leaders to go to war—authoritarianism—and whether this has been stamped out is debatable.

Stage Rightist Revival
Middle-of-the roaders have struck a successful balance so

far, but it may be a precarious one.

In recent years ultra-patriots have staged a rightist revival. Ever since the end of the war, extreme left-wing groups have been strong, controlling major unions, schools and important publications.

The democracy that the allies tried to infuse into Japan during the days of the occupation has led to some excesses and some doubts, and the authoritarians of right and left are ready to exploit these doubts.

What Lies Ahead for Japan?
Politically, forecasters think the ruling party, the conservative liberal-Democrats, is al-

most certain to hold power for at least another 10 years. Both major parties are split into constantly feuding factions. But the Socialists, who control barely more than one-third of the law-making lower House of the Diet (parliament), are split worse than the Liberal-Democrats.

Economically, some experts think Japan will double its national income by 1969 and hit the \$60 billion level. This would keep Japan on top of the heap in Asia in living standards and would offer the rest of Asia a dynamic alternative to the experiment in total regimentation now under way on the mainland of China.

Congress on Verge of Passing First Labor Law in 12 Years

By RAYMOND LAHR
Washington—UPI—Congress appears to be on the verge of enacting a general labor bill, for the first time since Taft-Hartley passed over President Truman's veto 12 years ago.

Taft-Hartley was the first general labor bill since the Wagner act 12 years earlier. If Congress is operating on a 12-year cycle, it will be 1971

before the next bill becomes law.

As this pattern suggests, passage of labor legislation does not come easily. The pressures working on House members for 437 congressional districts, senators for 50 states and one President, make for stalemate, instead.

The present bill comes from the three-year investigation of

labor racketeering and caps a drive which began in the Senate a year ago last spring. The Senate passed a bill last year but it died in the House.

Tougher Than 1958 Bill
Although the 1958 election put more friends of unions in both chambers, the direction in both this year has been toward a tougher bill, from the union viewpoint, than the measure passed by the Senate in 1958.

Besides the 1958 Senate bill, there have been two major efforts to pass general labor legislation since Taft-Hartley.

Returned to control of Congress by the 1948 election, the Democrats came back committed to repeal of the Taft-Hartley law. Eventually, however, the Senate passed a bill nominally repealing the Taft-Hartley act but in fact just amending it. The House killed it.

In 1954, the Eisenhower administration's first general labor bill, a set of amendments to the Taft-Hartley law, came from a Republican-controlled Senate committee. This bill contained some provisions supported by and some fought by both management and labor. A solid line-up of Senate Democrats, with a few Republican votes, killed the bill and the House did nothing.

During the interval between the Wagner act and the Taft-Hartley law, Congress did pass one controversial labor bill but it expired after the war and had limited scope. This was the 1943 Smith-Connally act, passed over President Roosevelt's veto, to deal with strikes in war plants. Despite his veto, Roosevelt made frequent use of the provisions authorizing government seizure of strikebound plants.

The first legislative product of the postwar wave of strikes was the Case bill in 1946. President Truman vetoed that one, and his veto stuck. The climate a year later, however, was favorable to passage of the broader and tougher Taft-Hartley bill, and his veto was overridden.

TELL ECONOMIC PLANS
Cairo—UPI—The United Arab Republic Tuesday announced sweeping economic plans to increase much-needed foreign currency reserves and to strengthen the Egyptian pound abroad.

wage the cold war.

In remembering Wilson and Roosevelt and the popular enthusiasm they evoked, one is led to think of the outcome and to ask whether Eisenhower can succeed when they did not. There is no answer to this question except the one the President gave at his press conference before he left, which is that there is no alternative to trying.

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"It is better to know us and not need us than to need us and not know us."

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A RATHER STUFFY graduate of an Ivy College cornered the obviously uncomfortable young brother of his best girl and announced, "At the big party at your house last night, your big sister did me the honor of consenting to be my bride. I hope you won't mind too much, my boy."

The youngster squirmed loose and snorted, "Snucks, that's what the party was for!"

THE president of a men's luncheon club had an embarrassing moment in a Southern town recently. He rose to present plaques to every man who had a perfect attendance record for the season. The first four members he named were missing!

Limerick depliment:
A man and his lady love, Min,
Skated out where the ice was quite thin.
"Twas a queer, no doubt,
For 'tis said they fell out.
What a blessing they didn't fall in!

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