MEDFORD MAIL 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. 10, 1949 (Saturday)

Frank Morgan and Harold Snodgrass change the name of their funeral home to "Chapel Mortuary."

The Salvation Army continues its drive to raise funds for a new transient dormitory here.

20 YEARS AGO
Sept. 10, 1939 (Sunday)

Nearly 3000 persons jam Gold Hill for the seventh annual Northwest Jackson county fair.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "A snappy breeze leaped up Wed. p.m. but did not last long enough to whisk all the leaves from the neighbor's lawn."

30 YEARS AGO
Sept. 10, 1929 (Tuesday)

Downtown Medford merchants may hire an attorney and seek an injunction against the new city ordinance prohibiting double parking, as they claim this keeps many people from shopping.

The Jackson county fair is set for tomorrow's opening.

40 YEARS AGO
Sept. 10, 1919 (Wednesday)

School opens next Monday with the faculty still shy five teachers.

Pear shipments so far this season total 497 carloads.

50 YEARS AGO
Sept. 10, 1909 (Friday)

Excavation for Ashland's new hospital is completed and the first concrete work is now underway.

The eighth band concert of the summer is slated this evening in Medford's city park.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. Correct the following: "If anyone thinks so, they are mistaken."
2. How many parts of speech are in the English language?
3. Was Jim Thorpe a noted boxer, movie star, athlete, or federal official?
4. Complete the proverb: "Marriages are made —."
5. What are goobers?
6. Who crossed through what body of water, in Biblical times, pursued by chariots?
7. What is the minimum age for eligibility to the office of President of the U.S.?
8. Did the Boer War take place before, or after, the American Civil War?
9. "Spud" is a nickname for what vegetable?
10. Bright lights used for theatrical purposes are known as K— lights?

Answers: 1. "... he is mistaken." 2. Eight. 3. Athlete. 4. "... in heaven." 5. Peanuts. 6. The Israelites through the Red Sea. 7. Thirty-five years. 8. After. 9. Potato. 10. Kleig lights.

MORBID MOTIVE POWER

New York (UPI) – Used hearses are gaining in popularity as college students, plumbers, carpenters and other tradesmen dig up new uses for them. It all started when some Harvard and M.I.T. students found the somber vehicles ideal for going off on ski trips.

Schools in the News

Schools are very much in the news these days.

Many schools in the county have opened for the year and others, including the expanded Medford district, will open next Monday.

Patrons in the Phoenix and Talent districts are pondering the relative merits of consolidating into one district—a decision which will be made at an election next Wednesday.

And, in the back of the minds of all those who are at all interested in the schools in the larger view, are the nation's needs for an educated, literate and thoughtful citizenry.

* * * * *

HOW well do the schools perform their tasks?

The answers to this question are many and varied. We are convinced, however, that in Jackson county the accomplishments of secondary and primary education are relatively good. Not perfect, certainly; not without something still to be desired; not without faults and drawbacks and little failures.

But Jackson county citizens have, over the years, supported the schools in a manner which is the envy of many other Oregon districts.

* * * * *

THE schools endeavor, within their financial and personnel limitations, to present a rounded background for students.

Not only are there the "hard" courses—English, history, languages, science—but there are also the sports programs, vocal and instrumental music, art and debate and dramatics and shop and home economics courses.

These are presented because the people of the school districts want them and, up to now, have been willing to pay for them.

The day may come when school district patrons in this area believe these "extra" educational advantages are too expensive. But that day has not yet arrived. And we hope it never does.—E.A.

Bands and Orchestras

Apropos of the above, we have been asked to comment on the instrumental music programs in the schools—the bands and orchestras.

Since we have, in the past, spoken favorably of the vocal music department, we are glad to do so, to pay tribute to the band and orchestra leaders, and their students who are taking advantage of the opportunity to learn a skill which will stand them in good stead for a lifetime.

One publication characterizes the band and orchestra teacher as "a man or woman who is a teacher, a musician, a confidant, a leader, and an organizer for many young people in their formative years—all on a modest teacher's salary."

This versatility, like the many other aspects of the schools today, constitutes a real bargain for patrons and taxpayers.—E.A.

Opportunity in Roseburg

The explosion and fire, of disastrous proportions, which hit Roseburg early in the morning of Aug. 7, were bad. But they did not "wipe out" the town, as one might gather from some of the stories which have since appeared.

An eight-block area was devastated, and serious damage to buildings was caused in a far larger area. But most of the town is still there, and now back in business.

Nor, some stories to the contrary, was it the "heart" of the city which was destroyed. The main "downtown" area suffered great damage, but little which was irreparable.

* * * * *

THIS is not to minimize the proportions of the disaster, but only to point out that Roseburg still is a live and vital city. It's no ghost town.

And, arising out of the disaster, it has an opportunity which seldom comes to cities—an opportunity to create an imaginative, attractive and distinctive area in the blasted part of town which will make the city "something special."

The odds, we suspect, are rather against this happening, as they always are when something new and challenging and different is proposed for what is essentially a conservative city.

* * * * *

BUT odds against do not mean it can't be done. It can.

It will take cooperation—of city officials, planners, community leaders, citizens generally, and, most of all, the owners of the property in the area proposed for the development.

The proposal has been made, and initial reaction appears to be favorable. We hope it remains so as the details are worked out.

For if these property owners, working with the city, the engineers and with the internationally-noted architect, Richard Neutra, can work out a bold plan, this eight-block area can become one of America's show places.

* * * * *

THERE are many things in favor of this:

Roseburg, because of the disaster, is now internationally known, and people throughout the world will be interested in how it rebuilds.

Roseburg, because of this, has the opportunity, through cooperative endeavor, to set an example in town planning and creativity that cities everywhere could emulate.

Roseburg, one of the nation's top lumber towns, could present a display of the potential uses of wood construction which could be used in international promotion by the forest industry.

And if an imaginative combination of business construction, park area and memorial sites is eventually a reality, it will stand as a tribute not only to Roseburg's toughness of fiber but to its determination to progress.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace

Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

BIG SWITCH

Washington – Political conservatives on both sides of the Atlantic are riding high on the "peace" tide that conservative political leaders have set loose in the world.

Republican prospects for our 1960 Presidential election are undeniably rising. Few leading members of the relatively liberal Democratic party will claim otherwise in private. President Eisenhower's leadership in negotiating with Soviet Premier Khrushchev has done more than to begin an international "melting of the ice."

William S. White

It has also set up a thaw in the heretofore chilled hopes of the GOP to retain the White House. And it probably has reelected the Conservative British government of Prime Minister Harold Macmillan. (This is not unfitting. For it was Macmillan who prodded Eisenhower to take the long step of meeting Khrushchev.)

* * *

IN Britain, the growing strength of the Conservatives is an absolute certainty. For proof, there is Macmillan's decision to seek the re-election of his party and himself in October, even though his term does not formally end until next May. In England, any Prime Minister has a right to go to bat with the voters at any time he chooses before the official end of his tenure.

Macmillan would not be going to bat unless he knew that his party had certainly reached a marked crest, and probably its highest foreseeable crest. The Conservatives – the Tories, as they are called in England – never had it so good.

We are seeing historic developments, developments without any exact example, in transatlantic politics. Until lately, conservatism of both shores had been considered more likely to be "hard" toward Soviet Communism. Here at home, the comparatively more liberal Democrats were widely reckoned to have a degree of "softness." Indeed, 20 years of Democratic control of the White House was broken in 1952 primarily on this charge.

In England, the old notion was that only the Tories were reliably "anti-Communist" and anti-"appeasement," or opposed to negotiation. The opposition Labor party was supposed to be altogether too well-disposed toward Moscow.

* * *

THE fact that neither of these concepts was ever exactly true, on either side of the ocean, did not affect the greater reality. This was, simply, that the voting public generally believed they were true.

The curious truth is that the most significant critics here on what they see as an over-eager rush to deal with Khrushchev are Democrats, and very liberal Democrats, at that. They include Harry S. Truman himself and his secretary of state, Dean Acheson.

There is no precise parallel for this one situation in Britain. The foreign policy spokesman of the opposition Labor party, Aneurin Bevan, used to be distinctly "soft on communism." But Bevan has long since been greatly calmed. And his chief, Hugh Gaitskell, the top Labor party leader, once made privately an appeal here for a harder Western military alliance. It was at least as urgent an appeal as any ever uttered by Macmillan.

Actually, this correspondent's own impression after talks in London a few months ago with Macmillan and Gaitskell and their associates was this: On foreign policy, these Britons were about as close together as, say, Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, the Senate Democratic leader, and Vice-President Richard Nixon.

* * *

THE plain truth is that both the United States and Britain under conservative leaders have been moving toward some form of accommodation with Moscow. To be sure, this process was often delayed and even momentarily reversed here by the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

Dulles was supposed to embody resistance to negotiation and usually actually did. But always there towered in the background the figure of the President himself. Few who had watched Eisenhower at close range doubted his determination to close his public life with a cold-war armistice.

The lesson of a new Tale of Two Cities – of Washington and London – is clear, for good or for ill. It is that Anglo-American voting majorities will tolerate from conservative leadership overtures to communism which, if undertaken by non-conservative leadership, they would repudiate in fear and anger.

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Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A TEXAS INDUSTRIALIST had to visit our big new state, Alaska, but he was on the defensive every moment that he was there—and conceded nothing. Out in one of his customer's small boats, the Texan spotted an iceberg near the horizon and smiled for the first time in days. "I'll grant you one thing," he told his host. "Your ice cubes are bigger than ours!"

* * *

"I know they're hanging up new baseball records every season," admits Lefty Gomez, one-time pitching great of the New York Yankees, "but they don't seem able to break my record for the longest home run ever hit in the stadium. Jimmie Foxx, hit it off me!"

* * *

"Am I the first girl you ever kissed?" she whispered softly in the back porch swing. "That's quite possible," admitted her legal light escort. "Were you in Atlantic City in 1947?

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Labor's Political Muscle Still Potent, Wilson Says, Despite New Labor Bill

By LYLE C. WILSON

Washington – (UPI) – Another show window opportunity for big labor to demonstrate its political muscle is coming up in the field of presidential politics.

Lyle C. Wilson

This opportunity will come when the resolutions committees of the two major parties attempt to write the labor planks of their party platforms. Platform drafting is more than 10 months away.

There is not much doubt, however, about the 1960 Republican labor plank. It will cite the 1956 platform and assert that President Eisenhower compelled a Democratic Congress to make good on the 1956 Republican labor pledge. The 1956 Republican labor plank contained a promise to:

"Revise and improve the Taft-Hartley act so as to protect more effectively the rights of labor unions, management, the individual worker and the public."

Whether the labor reform bill just enacted did or did not make good on that promise is a matter of angry dispute. This will extend as an angry issue into the presidential campaign.

Writing a Democratic labor plank in 1960 will be more difficult. In 1956 the Democratic platform said:

"We unequivocally advocate repeal of the Taft-Hartley act."

Another Matter in 1960

Any Democrat seriously mentioned for the presidential nomination in 1956 could have accommodated himself comfortably to that promise of repeal. Of five Democrats now most often mentioned for the 1960 presidential nomination, it seems that only one now would be in a position comfortably to support an unequivocal proposal to repeal the Taft-Hartley act.

That one is Adlai E. Stevenson. He did not have to vote on this year's labor reform bill. Stevenson ran in 1952 and again in 1956 as an advocate of Taft-Hartley repeal. No Democrat who opposed repeal could have been nominated. The four others mentioned now as potential 1960 nominees are U. S. senators and all of them voted for the labor reform bill which notably stiffened the Taft-Hartley act.

How a vote for this year's labor bill could be reconciled in 1960 with another platform pledge to repeal the Taft-Hartley act is a question which labor leaders and the Democrats will have to consider next year with some care.

More Influence at Convention

Big labor's muscle is likely to be more effective in a Democratic national convention than in a Democratic Congress. That is the way it has been in the past and that is the way it is likely to be in the future.

It is a matter of persuasive record now that Democrats in the 1940 national convention were advised to "clear it with Sidney" before making basic political moves. "Sidney" was Sidney Hillman, the No. 1 labor leader in FDR's New Deal.

Vice President Alben W. Barkley had the endorsement of President Truman and Democratic National Chairman Frank McKinney for the 1952 presidential nomination. Labor leaders rejected him and Barkley quit cold. He knew when he was licked.

It is a matter of record that the UAW's Walter P. Reuther triggered the Democrats in 1956 to reject Averell Harriman and to nominate Stevenson for president, instead.

Any citizen or politician who thinks big labor has ceased to be an effective political force in the Democratic party is in for surprise and shock.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

President Eisenhower, back from his astonishing diplomatic mission to Europe, says: "I am certain that all the little differences among Western leaders have been talked out. I am quite certain that, for the moment, at least, everything is going splendidly. Among the heads of government in Western Europe, I found governmental unity."

He added:

"Far more heartening even than this was the evidence that can be seen in these countries of the deep friendship of these people for the American people."

COME ahead, Mr. K.

Our house is all tidied up, and we're all ready for your visit.

What Ike tells us is all we needed to know.

A THOUGHT:

Suppose Mr. K was the same kind of man as our Mr. E. In that event, how easy it all would be.

Anyway, the present situation dramatizes for all of us the supreme importance of getting the right kind of men into government.

THE traffic toll for the long Labor Day holiday stands at more than 430.

It's pretty bad.

But wait a minute.

It is estimated that 71 million cars were on the roads and the streets from Friday evening to midnight on Monday. It is at least a reasonable assumption that the average was two persons per car. That would mean a total of 142 million people who were exposed to traffic hazard.

A total of 430-odd deaths out of 142 MILLION exposures isn't too staggering a RATE of risk.

LET'S do a little more analyzing.

It is probable—although of course it can't be proved precisely – that the bulk of these 430-plus fatal accidents resulted from reckless driving on somebody's part.

We can't stay off the roads. Or, at least, we WON'T stay off the roads.

But—

We can drive more carefully. If EVERYBODY drove more carefully, the accident rate could be ENORMOUSLY reduced.

THE moral:

Let's not permit ourselves to become so scared that we will refuse to get into a car on a holiday or a week end, thus missing all the beauties of outdoor America. Instead, let's concentrate on DRIVING MORE CAREFULLY.

That's the BETTER way.

India-Red China Dispute Had Roots Back in Spring of 1954

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign Editor

Back in the spring of 1954, Indian Premier Jawaharlal Nehru was making considerable of the five-point nonaggression pact he had just signed with Red China.

Phil Newsom

Later, in 1955, it was held up at the Bandung Conference of the Afro-Asian nations as a model of the sort of neutrality Nehru advocated.

It had five points: Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity, mutual nonaggression, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, peaceful coexistence.

Coexistence Key Plank

The latter point was and is a key plank in world-wide Communism's propaganda platform.

Now it is learned that in the same year Nehru and the Chinese signed their pact, there began a series of increasingly irritated notes over which nation owned what along the long border separating India and its protectorates from Red China.

As long as 10 years ago, Red Chinese maps were showing areas of India of its protectorates, Sikkim and Bhutan, as Chinese territory.

In 1954, the Chinese complained that 30 armed Indian troops had taken possession of Chinese territory at "Wu-Je" in the Tibetan area.

But so wild and unmapped was the country that it took the Indians a year to find out that Wu-Je was a place the Indians call Bara Hoti.

Early Dealings Backfire

Now that Nehru's trust in Red China has backfired, he is caught in some of his own earlier dealings.

He now says that the Chinese tacitly had recognized the so-called McMahon line, a border line negotiated in 1914 by Sir Henry McMahon, a representative of Britain, which established India's border with Tibet.

The Reds say, truthfully, that China never formally ratified that accord. But, meanwhile, from Nehru's flank comes Tibet's ousted Dalai Lama. He says that when India recognized a border with Tibet, it also recognized an independent nation. And that therefore Nehru cannot logically oppose Tibet's case against Red China in the United Nations. As of now, Nehru does oppose it.

Death Penalty Still Cause of Debate in Many Localities

By RICHARD SPONG

Washington–"I believe that the state, by its refusal to take the life of a human being, would be setting an example of proper morality which would serve its citizens in good stead."

Thus Gov. Michael V. DiSalle in a "State of the State" message delivered before the Ohio General Assembly in January. DiSalle, who subsequently lost a vigorous fight in the legislature to abolish the death penalty, practices what he preaches. Nine of the ten persons on the household staff of the Ohio executive mansion are convicted murderers.

The most recent state to outlaw the death penalty was Delaware, in a law signed by Gov. J. Caleb Boggs on April 2, 1958. Voters in Oregon rejected a proposal to abolish capital punishment in a referendum last November. Similar measures failed of enactment this year in the legislatures of Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey.

Penalty Abolished

Michigan abolished the death penalty a century ago, and Maine in 1870. Nine other states and territories have since eliminated or sharply restricted the use of capital punishment. In addition to Delaware, they are Alaska, Hawaii, Minnesota, Noth Dakota, Rhode Island Wisconsin, and the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Federal law provides the death penalty for treason, espionage, murder, rape, attempts on the life of the Chief Executive, and kidnaping–if the person kidnaped has not been released unharmed and if the jury so recommends. But the penalty is gradually falling into disuse. The Federal Bureau of Prisons reports that only 48 persons were executed in the United States in 1958, the smallest number since 1930.

Considerable agitation against capital punishment, much of it inspired by propagandists, was noted before and after the execution, June 19, 1953, of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. They were the first to suffer the supreme penalty for espionage in the peacetime history of the United States; the first spies ever executed on the order of a U. S. Civil Court; the first married couple ever executed together in the United States.

In England

But in this country there is by no means the agitation against the death penalty that is found in Great Britain. Queen Elizabeth II more than a year ago signed a Parliamentary act making life imprisonment the highest penalty for murder. Excepted were murders committed in connection with theft, in resisting arrest or escaping custody, against police or prison officers or persons aiding them, and by shooting or causing explosions. Executions recently in two of these categories have revived agitation to make the bar against the death penalty for murder complete.

The Soviet Union officially abolished capital punishment in 1947, but the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in January 1950 revived it for "traitors, spies, and saboteurs." And in 1954 the death penalty was reinstituted for unusually horrific murders.

The Bonn Constitution categorically abolished the death penalty for West Germany. A law providing the death penalty for first degree murder survives on the statute books in France but is seldom invoked. Elsewhere in Western Europe, and in Finland and Rumania, capital punishment is not imposed for ordinary criminal offenses. In almost all nations, however, death is the penalty for treason in time of war.

NLRB Recommends Rehiring Woman

San Francisco—(UPI)—An examiner for the National Labor Relations Board has recommended that two Ontario, Ore., firms reinstate an employee who charged she was fired last December for union activities.

Examiner Herman Marx recommended that Ore-Ida Potato Products, Inc., and the Oregon Frozen Foods Company reinstate Fern Miller. If the recommendation is upheld, Mrs. Miller will be reinstated and paid back-salary dating from her discharge on Dec. 13.

Tillamook Woman Fair Kitchen Queen

Salem–(UPI)–The 1959 queen of the kitchen at the Oregon State Fair is Mrs. John Schweizer of Tillamook who also won the honor four years ago.

Mrs. Schweizer outdid her rivals in baking, preserving and cooking skills to win the coveted honor and the prizes that go with it.

Placing second was Mrs. Alfred Zelinski, Salem, and following her were Mrs. Toivo Kivisto, Astoria, and Mrs. Donald Hood, Gervais.

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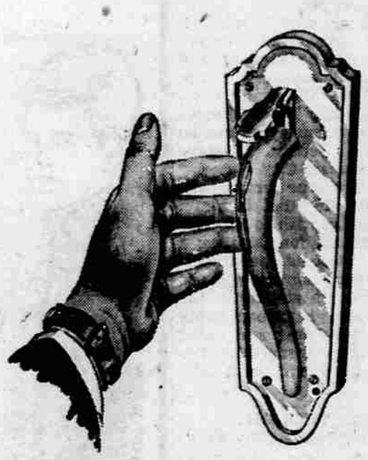

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