

Change for Counties

Gov. Mark Hatfield the other day suggested that there are too many (36) counties in this state, and that the services which counties provide too often overlap or duplicate those offered by other agencies of government.

It would be interesting to know where the governor got this idea—which has considerable merit, despite the fact that it would be violently fought if ever brought before the legislature.

It may sound new to some people. But it wasn't too many years ago that almost exactly the same proposal was put forth by one Richard L. Neuberger, who now, as United States Senator, is one of Mark Hatfield's chief political antagonists.

COUNTY government is a much-discussed subject these days. Only this year, the state of Connecticut abolished counties entirely.

In other states there is active talk about reducing the number of counties, and making them larger. (With quicker transportation and communication, this would hardly constitute a hardship. It is now easier to travel from, say, Lakeview to Klamath Falls, than it once was from Shady Cove to Medford.) Administrative savings could ensue, also, as single agencies would serve larger areas, eliminating duplication.

But most discussion has centered upon county reorganization and "home rule."

THE tide of public thinking and public opinion on public matters moves slowly—which is probably just as well.

But in the case of county government, the tide of public opinion is moving.

There has long been dissatisfaction with county government, which was designed for a type of society we no longer have. It once was democratic and responsive; today it is unwieldy and unmanageable, with no clear lines of authority and responsibility.

This dissatisfaction, over the years, resulted in more and more thinking on the subject, which in turn resulted, last year, in a constitutional amendment being approved by the voters which will permit counties to gain a certain autonomy, the ability to legislate on their own problems, and the right to determine what form their governments shall take.

IT IS up to the counties themselves to take the initiative in such a procedure.

The Association of Oregon Counties has decided to work out a "model" county charter, for use by the various counties if and when they decide to go ahead on a reorganization. This should be of great benefit to the local committee in thinking through the changes which may be desirable.

County reorganization is not a step to be taken lightly, nor in too-great haste. It should be thoroughly thought through.

But changes must be made if counties are to be made into effective, responsive and responsible units of government. With the population growth of the past few years, and with that still to come, it is urgent that changes be made.—E.A.

10 YEARS AGO Oct. 23, 1949 (Sunday) Central Point city officials urge voters to turn out in force for the sewerage bond issue election.

20 YEARS AGO Oct. 23, 1939 (Monday) Zane Grey, who once fished and praised the Rogue river, dies at his home in California.

30 YEARS AGO Oct. 23, 1929 (Wednesday) The local apple harvest is expected to end shortly.

40 YEARS AGO Oct. 23, 1919 (Thursday) Snow falls on the foothills, and rain on the valley floor.

50 YEARS AGO Oct. 23, 1909 (Saturday) The Sherman, Clay and company music house opens with a large crowd attending its premiere musicale.

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

1. Does the Mississippi River have its source in Mississippi, Minnesota, Illinois, or Ohio?

2. In geometry, a pentagon is a polygon having four, five, six, or seven sides?

3. Was the Capitol, or the White House, the first Federal building to be erected in Washington, D. C.?

4. In England, who presides over the House of Lords?

5. What famous city was captured by soldiers hidden in a wooden horse?

6. Supply the missing word in "The Sidewalks of —."

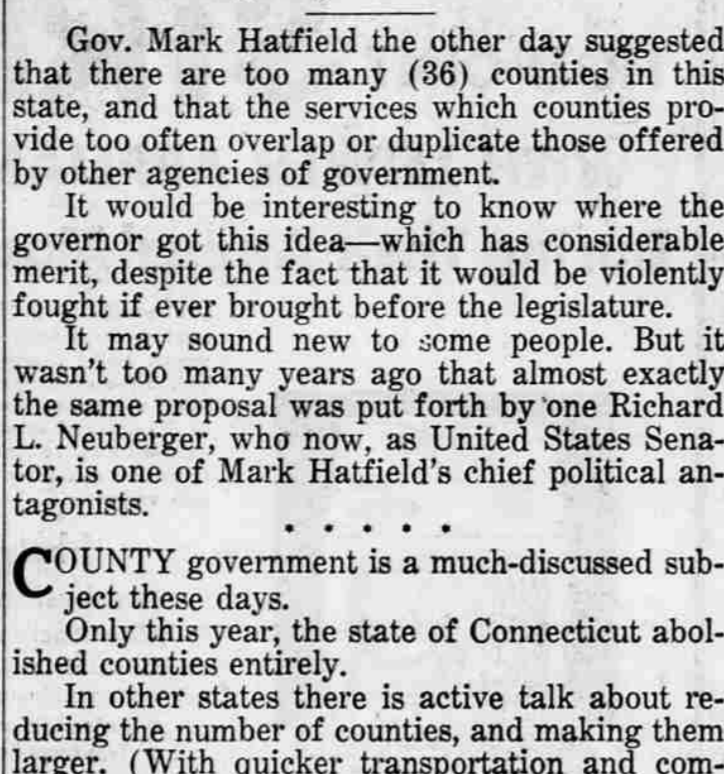
7. Which would you say quacks the louder; a duck or a drake?

8. Who was nicknamed "The Little Corporal?"

9. Did the Treaty of Ghent end the Revolutionary, Mexican or War of 1812?

10. A young cow that has not had a calf is called a —?

Dennis the Menace



"I CAN'T REACH THE LIGHT!"

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. 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.

Switch Engine Danger To the Editor, and Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Public: Do you know that today you start to live under the shadow of death in so far as the railroad grade crossings are concerned? You may face death because the railroad no longer cares enough about the public to keep a fireman on the railroad engines. Let us suppose you are coming down the highway or street in your car and fail to see the engine or train and crash into the side of the train. There is no fireman on that side to observe the crash and the engineer is too busy on his side and can't see you.

All they care about is that they have saved a fireman's wages at the expense of the public. How many of you have had close calls downtown at the railroad crossing, and perhaps have had your life saved when some alert fireman sounded the emergency? Do you and your children want to take your life in your hands when you approach the engine from what used to be the fireman's side, and there is no one there to see, or care, if you accidentally overshoot the crossing? The railroad company calls a fireman a "feather-bedding" because he is there as a safety measure to protect your life. If this is so then let us cut out all police and ambulance service. Let us lay off all city firemen because they are only needed when there is a fire!

Do you know what the railroad would say if you had an accident with a train, and there was no one on the fireman's side of the engine to see it? They would say "What's that old boy, but what do you want us to do? You shouldn't have been there! If you had been somewhere else, you wouldn't have gotten hit." And if you wanted to sue them, they have retained high priced lawyers that are out of the price range of the average man.

Do you think the railroad cares about you? All they care about is money and to heck with the public.

Do you know that these switch engines that continually rumble back and forth across the crossings downtown are not using the air brakes on the cars they are pulling? The air brakes on the cars are not even connected to the engine, so that in the event of an emergency (maybe you are stuck on a crossing) all that there would be to stop with would be the engine brakes alone. This increases the distance required to stop by several hundred per cent. Maybe they hit you? Who cares? They have saved paying the crew extra money to connect up the air brakes, and the public again is the loser!

(Name on File) Ashland, Ore.

Liked Coverage To the Editor: The House of Delegates of the Oregon State Medical Society at its 1959 annual session held in Medford, Sept. 22-25, adopted the following resolution commending the Medford Mail Tribune and the other news media of Jackson county and the state for their excellent cooperation during the Society's annual session:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oregon State Medical Society express its appreciation to the Medford Mail Tribune and the other newspapers of the state for their excellent reporting of the events of this session, also to commend the wire services and the Medford radio and television stations. You will be interested in

Speech Contest Winners Noted

Dave Foote, Crater Future Farmers of America chapter member, will compete in the area Soil Conservation district public speaking contest in Grants Pass, Monday, Oct. 26, according to C. W. Jensen, chairman of the Rogue Soil Conservation district.

Foote won the district contest Wednesday at Hedrick Junior High school. Speakers from Curry, Jackson, Josephine and Douglas counties may compete in the contest, Jensen said.

Dave Redmond, also of Crater FFA chapter in Central Point, was second, and Leon Small, Phoenix, third. The contestants spoke on pasture or range conservation.

The winner of the southwest area contest will go to the state contest in Salem Nov. 5 during the annual meeting of the Oregon State Association of Soil Conservation districts Jensen said. The area winner is given a trip to the state contest as his prize from the soil conservation district which he represents. Ed Griggs is chapter adviser and coach for the Crater contestants, and Jack Dube for those from Phoenix.

Contest judges were Dr. Elmo Stevenson, Southern Oregon college president; De Vere Taylor, Medford High school speech instructor and Jerome McDougall, Hedrick Junior High school speech instructor.

and the rehabilitation of the children aged 1 year through 18 years? Improve the environment of all those living in these delinquent producing farms. Start with improving the opportunity for social betterment for these families. These slums house a vast number of human beings, representative of our population; continue to deny them a reasonable opportunity to better themselves, and we will open further the wound in the already weakened heart of our nation.

When one has a serious problem, is it not most wise to go to the source of the trouble? Go then, to the source of these problems; eliminate the filth, the slime, the utter poverty, the immorality-producing environment so degrading to human dignity.

It is only in the wholesome peace, counsel, and discipline of the family, that this or any nation can hope for a life blood supply of model, loyal and useful citizens. The State cannot produce these citizens when they take the children at birth; and they stand in an even more impossible position when they take them after 18 years of immoral groundwork has been completed. These citizens will come only from the family.

Robert J. Howard 828B West 14th st. Medford.

Lack of Spirit To the Editor: Medford, in contrast to Ashland, has lost its "public spirit." There are few people in Medford who don't like to be entertained, but they hesitate to join in anything unless it is guaranteed they will get their money's worth.

Our high school plays are attended by a smattering of parents and close friends, all school activities are the same way, with the exception of football games, but those are cut and dried with the surety of interest.

Our little theater group, the Footlights, has come close to death several times, but for a few diehards who have nursed it from birth. Our rodeos and parades are usually affairs, the parades usually ranking second to Southern Pacific.

With the holiday seasons coming up will our houses be decorated and our doors open and the spirit properly celebrated? Not likely, but there will be a prize for the best yard decor, so no doubt there will be an interest there. Medford people play their cards too close to their chests. No one knows for sure what is going on. An example of this was the smorgasbord sponsored by a local food store. I was told none of the poor food salesmen was aware the schools were sending the children over by the bus load. None of these men live in Medford and I think their voluntary interest in our town's pet project to send the band to San Francisco should be greatly commended. The point being, the luncheon didn't cost Medford a dime, the money all came from out of town, the object being to raise money. This was not to the satisfaction, not a full stomach.

Next time maybe we'll loosen up and let some one know what is going on. Edith Smith 710 Pennsylvania ave. Medford

Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

OLD UNCLE HARRY Washington - The spy and increasingly loved old boy was so famous for his eagerness to get into any kind of fight, or even to start one. But this same old boy is fast - and quite deliberately - becoming the kindly, understanding and sage Uncle Harry of all, repeat all, the Democratic party.

The mellowing of Harry S. Truman may become the best secret weapon the Democrats can have in the 1960 Presidential struggle. For the former President is lifting himself above all intraparty factionalism for a single and supreme purpose. This to lick, not some wrong-headed Democratic group, but rather the Republican opposition.

Since he himself left the White House, of course, this has been his unsleeping ambition. But this time, in contrast to the past, his planning is more practical and so more likely actually to succeed. From this correspondent's direct knowledge of Mr. Truman's general objectives, and also from recent public occurrences, this may be put down for a fact:

THE former President has a new awareness of the real sources of probable Re-

publican strength and of probable Democratic weakness in 1960. These are, simply, the greater operating unity among the Republicans and the tendency of the advanced liberal Democrats to spend all their time fighting other Democrats who prefer winning elections to winning ideological arguments.

A Truman Missouri mind, once made up, is not lightly changed. And Mr. Truman has made up his Missouri mind that these advanced liberals are not going to be allowed to tear up his party if he can help it.

He has already fired off several warning rockets, and there will be others. He has told off Democratic National Chairman Paul Butler for using his office to separate Democratic sheep from Democratic goats instead of trying to round up all and sundry who might be willing to vote Democratic next year. He has made it plain that HST will have no part of a plan of the advanced liberals to provoke the Southerners to bolt - or, for that matter, deliberately to drive them from the national convention.

HE HAS observed - perhaps somewhat cryptically, to outsiders - that "Johnny-come-lately" liberals will not dominate that convention.

And he has now made a powerfully friendly call down in Texas on the party Congressional leaders at whom the advanced liberals have been so tirelessly sniping. This does not mean necessarily that Mr. Truman is going

De Gaulle's Opposition To Summit Conference Softens

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign Editor

The man of the week: President Charles de Gaulle of France. The place: Paris. The quote: "The French government considers that the opening of a summit conference could be envisaged in the course of the coming spring."

It was a short communique, running not more than 300 words. But it summed up in writing, officially, the French view toward the summit session so ardently desired by British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan and somewhat less ardently desired by President Eisenhower.

From the beginning, de Gaulle has been at worst opposed, at best unenthusiastic about the proposed confer-

ence which would bring together the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union in the first of a series of high level conferences which would establish the foundation of world peace.

De Gaulle's early lukewarm reception of the idea and finally his outright rejection of a summit session before the end of the year reflected both his own personality and other problems he faces at home, which to him are much more pressing.

In fact, personal roles among Eisenhower, Macmillan, de Gaulle and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev have weighed heavily in the decision whether at some time in the months ahead they would meet together at a conference table.

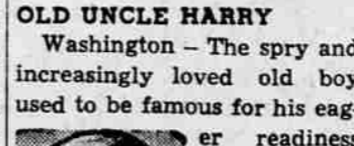
But none more so than de Gaulle. De Gaulle, as a man of destiny who believes his own story must be bound inextricably with that of France, must base part of his decision about a summit on pride.

True, he is hard pressed for a settlement of the Algerian Revolt and he still has to explode an atomic device to bring France into the atomic club.

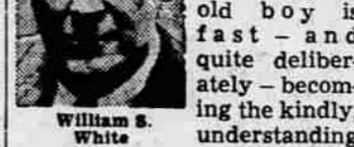
But along with those considerations, there also is the fact that de Gaulle alone among the big Western three has had no visit from Khrushchev and no opportunity at a private exchange of views with the Soviet leader. This becomes a matter of prestige to de Gaulle, a man whose pride has been a matter of frustration to his allies since World War II.

Macmillan, Eisenhower and Khrushchev all favor a summit meeting as "early as possible," possibly in December. They also have their personal reasons.

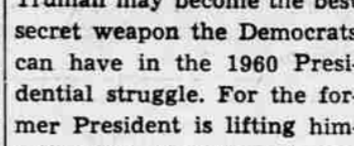
Eisenhower is said to be hopeful of acting while the "Camp David Spirit" still exists. This was the hopeful spirit generated at Eisenhower's Camp David retreat during Khrushchev's U.S. visit.



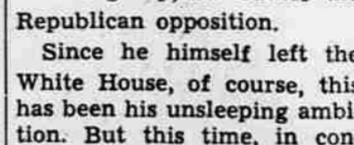
William S. White



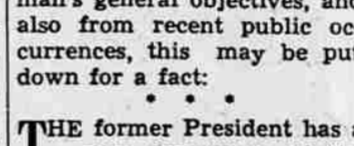
Phil Newsom



Robert J. Howard



Edith Smith



William S. White

You Are Cordially invited to view our new, modern facilities at an Open House SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 and SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 Hours: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Conger Morris HILLCREST CHAPEL and HILLCREST MEMORIAL PARK Drive past new Rogue Valley Memorial Hospital—turn South on North Phoenix Road