

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
Dec. 20, 1949 (Tuesday)

Two suspects held in county jail here in connection with burglary of Swem's Book and Gift shop.
Premier Josef Stalin of Russia will celebrate his 70th birthday tomorrow.

20 YEARS AGO
Dec. 20, 1939 (Wednesday)

The killing of a 71-year-old Lake Creek man by two state police officers is termed justifiable homicide.
From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "The secret service reports there is less counterfeit money in the country now than 10 years ago. There is also less genuine money, many report."

30 YEARS AGO
Dec. 20, 1929 (Friday)

Radio beacon to be installed at airport soon.
Mayor Pipes issues letter urging parents to instruct children to obey the curfew law.

40 YEARS AGO
Dec. 20, 1919 (Sunday)

Oil tanker, J. A. Chanslor, strikes a reef near Bandon, Ore. and 47 aboard perish.
Snow melts here before citizens can obey Mayor Gates' warning to shovel sidewalks.

50 YEARS AGO
Dec. 20, 1909 (Monday)

School board purchases land in Queen Anne addition for first school in East Medford.
Medford milk supply is being examined by state dairy and food commission for possible violations of law.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. Did Pocahontas marry John Smith, John Rolfe, or John Cabot?
 2. Which is greater: the airline distance from Honolulu to Tokyo, or that from New York to Paris?
 3. Pizarro was the Spanish conquerer of which South American country?
 4. How many pieces of silver did Judas receive for betraying Jesus?
 5. Was Benjamin Franklin ever a Vice President of the United States?
 6. How many baseball teams are there in each major league?
 7. Of which state is Little Rock the capital?
 8. Complete the title of this book: "A Bell for..."
 9. Which is the second largest planet of the solar system?
 10. The parallel of latitude that passes through San Francisco, passes through which Atlantic coast state?
- Answers: 1. John Rolfe. 2. Honolulu to Tokyo. 3. Peru. 4. Thirty. 5. No. 6. Eight. 7. Arkansas. 8. Adano. 9. Saturn. 10. Virginia.

TAXES ON TRAILERS

Salem - (UPI) - Owners of house trailers parked in Oregon on Jan. 1, and later moved to another state, must pay Oregon personal property taxes on the trailer on Jan. 1.

There Was Music

It is perhaps too easy for avid sports fans to think of extra-curricular activities in the Medford school system largely in terms of football, basketball, baseball, and the "lesser" sports.

Equally important are those other activities which may be less-publicized (lacking, as they do, the dramatic element of competition and championship possibilities), but which may be of far greater long-range significance and satisfaction to the students involved.

Notable among these is the music program in the Medford school system.

ANOTHER father-of-daughters, after watching Thursday night's performance of some 740 Medford students in their annual Christmas music program, recalled that when he was in Medford High, a small group would gather in the park, sing a few Christmas carols, and that would be it.

The contrast between that and the performance Thursday night is startling.

The estimated 3,000-plus spectators that jammed the Hedrick Junior High school auditorium to the rafters heard a smooth and competent performance, which would have been of almost professional character if it were not for the freshness, vitality and spontaneity of the youngsters' voices and performances.

ATTEMPTING to describe the music in words is bootless.

But the music, both orchestral and vocal, both religious and secular in origin, and all related to the Christmas theme, was thrilling to parents and non-parents alike.

This is training which will stand these young people in good stead throughout their lives, enriching them with love and appreciation and understanding of music, which is one of those "unpractical" things which make life so much worth living.

Our compliments to all involved. — E.A.

Corrective is Needed

The comedy of errors involving the city and the Siskiyou Memorial Park's new mortuary has come to what appears to be a satisfactory conclusion.

At Thursday's council meeting, final approval was given to a measure which will permit the firm to operate.

The whole thing points up what seems to be a basic organizational defect in the city administration—something which can and should be corrected.

In following the affair rather closely, we have come to the conclusion that no individual was to blame, but that a revision of city procedures is necessary to prevent something similar from recurring.

HERE IS a brief chronology of what happened. Back in June of this year, the cemetery firm obtained a city building permit for construction of a "chapel."

In August, it obtained a city business license to operate a mortuary in the building.

In September, it announced its plans for the operation of a mortuary at the cemetery, both through advertising and a news story. As nearly as can be determined, it never did make any attempt to conceal the nature of the building.

IN LATE October, however, it was told by the building department it could not operate the mortuary, then almost complete, because of zoning restrictions.

This decision was appealed to the planning commission, which thereupon recommended a variance to the ordinance to permit operation of a mortuary, but only under conditions which would have been difficult, if not impossible, to fulfill. (One of them, incidentally, eliminated a new automobile entrance to the cemetery—an entrance which the city itself constructed at a cost to the cemetery firm of \$45.)

The planning commission's recommendations went before the council last week. The council granted the variance, including three reasonable conditions, and after eliminating the conditions which would have crippled or made impossible operation of the mortuary.

THE FAULT, it appears, lies not with any individual, but there does seem to be a woeful lack of coordination between city departments, with the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing.

Shouldn't the building department know what kind of business licenses are issued to firms to which it has issued building permits?

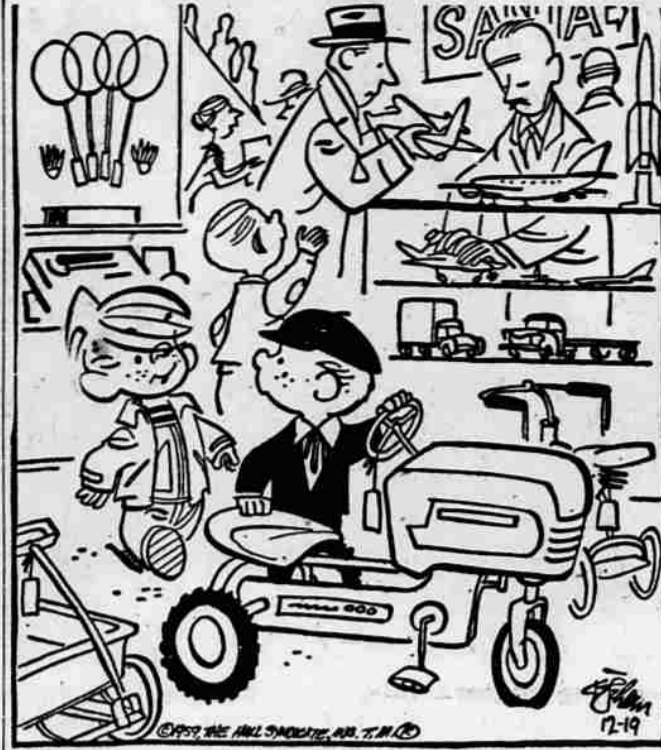
Shouldn't the city hold up construction of an access road entrance if it is to be later subject to possible planning commission disapproval?

Shouldn't the planning commission be aware of building projects which, started in good faith, may run into conflict with zoning regulations?

PERHAPS the solution lies in some sort of re-organization of existing departments so that there will be a central clearing house for city activities which may later impinge on one another. This is not the first embarrassing incident brought about by a lack of coordination in city departments dealing with licensing, land use and zoning.

Let us re-emphasize that no individual is to blame. But it does seem that Medford residents are entitled to less confusion and better service and coordination from the city which in other respects serves us so well. — E.A.

Dennis the Menace



"LIKE ME TO SHOW YA HOW TO BREAK IT?"

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 initial 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.

Christmas Favorites

To the Editor: This lovely legend and poem, which are so appropriate for this time of the year, have been my favorites over all other Christmas stories.

Therefore, I would like to share them with everyone. Do you suppose you could find room in your paper for them? Thank you and best wishes for the Holiday Season.

Margaret Davis
P.O. Box 195
Eagle Point, Ore.

Legend

When the animals came to render their homage to the Christ Child lying in the manger, there came with them, also, a little striped cat which sat shyly in a dusty corner of the stable.

The Christ Child smiled on all the animals, but they interested Him so much, that when His sweet Mother told him He must sleep, He could not compose Himself.

The Mother called on the kind placid ox, the gentle donkey, and the faithful shepherd dog to help her put her child to sleep but they remained wakeful. Then, the little tiger cat, dirty and dusty, crept from her corner. First, she washed herself from the black tip of her tail to the pink tip of her nose.

When she was clean, she jumped lightly into the manger and curling up beside the Babe, she purred softly. Soon the Christ Child slept, and ever since, all tiger cats have carried the grateful mark of the Madonna—an M in the middle of their foreheads.

School Nativity Scene
There will be a tinsel star Above a straw-filled Manger; There will good St. Joseph stand, Firm against all danger; Mary, blue-gowned, sweet, will hold the babe in hand; The little Infant Jesus; Angels, rosy-cheeked and small, Will sing their songs to please us.

You will look on smilingly, Nodding side to side; I shall need a kerchief To catch a tear of pride; And the miracle of Christmas Will be for us each minute The little donkey stands serene, With our son Jimmy in it.

Accident Hazards

To the Editor: Since the accident at the Tolo overpass some time ago, I have been waiting expectantly for someone to write an article or a letter in your Correspondence column regarding the accident, its causes, and possibly some measures that can and should be taken to try to see that this type of incident does not happen again. Perhaps I missed seeing such an article because I don't get to see every issue of the Mail Tribune.

It seems to me that this accident could have been avoided by the simple application of sand by the proper authorities. I don't have any way of knowing how much money was spent as a result of what happened but with costs being what they are nowadays, I feel sure that it was considerable. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured but as was witnessed in an accident of the very same nature a short time later north of Yreka, it was certainly possible.

This day and time, just about every motorist has two strikes against him when he ventures out on the highway with the hazards that are what you might refer to as normal, to say nothing of unexpected conditions such as were responsible for the Tolo deal.

Incidentally, this particular area at the Tolo overpass and for some distance to the south is dangerously slippery when it is wet from rain or fog. It doesn't have to be icy. I don't intend to try to set myself up as an authority or even as an example but I have been driving for about 30 years and I do think that this qualifies me to see and know what is safe and what is unsafe.

This area I have mentioned is not the only one that is extremely hazardous; others are Highway 99 from the top of Rice Hill, between Oakland and Yoncalla, and also between Cottage Grove and Goshen Junction. The Baldock Freeway is another. As a matter of fact, here is some time back, the county or state had equipment on the freeway, burning it off to make it safer.

I realize that I am way out on the proverbial limb, but as one of your correspondents so aptly put it the other day, that's where the fruit is. I don't care how much criticism comes my way if something can be done to remedy a deplorable condition.

There are several ways that this condition could be alleviated, but before I stick my neck out any further, I would like to see some comment by other people that must be concerned and who are no doubt better qualified to discuss the issue.

Lionel H. Guy
314 Laurel st.
Medford

Pot of Gold

To the Editor: I realize this will not solve the problem but maybe it will help some one to face it.

MY POT OF GOLD
I'm tired of fog and smoke and dust
That compass me round about;
I want some air a man can breathe,
Then kick up his heels and shout.
And so, heigh ho, away I go,
Like a buccaneer of old;
On land or sea, what's that to me?

I'm seeking my pot of gold,
Firm sod beneath, clear skies above,
I'm leaving my cares behind;
Tramping forth on the quest I love
Till my pot of gold I find,
I'll sleep by night and tramp by day,
If there aren't too many showers;
My pot of gold - not a rainbow's end,
But lovely wayside flowers.

Pure air to breathe, I'll take my leave,
And tramp like a warrior
Till tired and worn, I'll sleep and dream
Beside my pot of gold.
L. G. Weaver
301 Haven st.
Medford

P.S. - A man can dream even if his dream is foggy.

Filtration Plant

To the Editor: After the Dec. 7 meeting of the Gold Hill city council I believe Mayor Milton Steinmetz and some of the council are determined to put over this proposed water filtration measure by concealing the real costs from the voters.

They can't conceal that it would cost \$13,000 or more each year to pay principal and interest on the \$120,000 bond issue and to operate the filtration plant, in addition to what we pay now.

At the meeting I challenged them to prove the figures I used in my previous letter to the editor were wrong. Each denied making any such statement. Mayor Steinmetz stated that the figures given by En-

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

THE JOB TO BE DONE

Paris - The inner history of a recent moment of tension in the Atlantic Alliance, which has never been told quite correctly, is worth telling now for the light it sheds on the West's current frictions.

In brief, the able Secretary General of NATO, Paul-Henri Spaak, not long ago made

JOSEPH ALSOP a trip to Washington, where he heard about the Treasury-Budget Bureau drive to recall two American divisions from Europe. On his return to Paris, Spaak passed the word among the NATO allies that they had better meet their NATO pledges more faithfully, lest the American departure from Europe begin. He cited as evidence the serious argument then going on in Washington about the two divisions.

A little later, German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer came to Paris, to visit his old friend Gen. de Gaulle. He was first received by the French Prime Minister, Michel Debre. In his talk with Adenauer, Debre mentioned Spaak's warning, but not as proof of the need to meet all NATO pledges. He used it, rather, as proof that the European nations had better begin planning how to defend themselves when and if the Americans should have departed. Adenauer did not take it in a matter of fact spirit, however.

THE Chancellor was both horrified by the mere mention of the possibility of American withdrawal and enraged because Debre did not appear to be equally horrified. In the sequel, Adenauer was reassured by Gen. de Gaulle. The French President both declared his absolute loyalty to the Atlantic Alliance, and assured Adenauer that he too would regard an American withdrawal from Europe as a real catastrophe.

Yet the incident still left a small residue of disquiet in the minds of the Germans. This fragment of inner history is so interesting because it says much about two quite different sets of problems - those confronting Gen. de Gaulle and those confronting President Eisenhower. For de Gaulle, in brief, the Adenauer-Debre incident implied the existence of certain limits beyond which French policy cannot safely go.

In theory, of course, de Gaulle can engineer a classic "reversal of alliances," by reviving the Franco-Russian pact of the past. In practice, as he indicated to Adenauer, nothing could be further from

like Morse code in telegraphy, or perhaps more familiar, like some of the "art work" accomplished with a typewriter. At that time the only use for the instrument was in the instantaneous transmission of what looked like photostatic copies of documents.

No Lake There
To the Editor: After reading the "Name on file" letter knocking the proposed stadium suggested at the Fair-ground site, I feel compelled to show my interest in this matter.

First this letter would lead us to believe that the seating capacity of a stadium must be limited to a few. Conversely, the information I have is that the capacity would be no less than 7500 persons. That amounts to 10 per cent of the population of Jackson county, more people than all the boats on Diamond lake carry on opening day of trout season.

Secondly, it was implied that stadiums are for baseball fans only. This is not so, as even the dullest spectator who has traveled to other cities, including those mentioned, will agree that stadiums can be and are used and enjoyed by all kinds of spectator sports events, public functions, festivals, fairs, rodeos, various display type shows of livestock, autos, fireworks, racing, conventions, flower shows, art exhibits, concerts, and is only limited by the desires and tastes of the people in this area.

Thirdly, this letter mentions the large sums of money involved in constructing a stadium as compared to the cost of a lake. Surely he is not informed on the maintenance of a park type lake that collects all types of debris, trash and occasionally a person's life, usually a child; and that breeds mosquitoes by the clouds-full. In the towns he mentioned, did he not notice the overgrowth of aquatic plants that choke out even a path for a rowboat unless continually cut and maintained at great cost?

If he is genuinely sincere about a lake for the immediate Medford area, then he should investigate the plans proposed by interested groups for lakes to be developed at

Early Transmission
To the Editor: Now that the Medford Mail Tribune is using the latest equipment for the transmission of radio pictures for publication, a little personal sidelight on this development in communications may be of interest.

About 30 years ago the writer, on visiting RCA laboratories in New York, was privileged to view the earliest feeble effort to transmit "pictures" by radio from abroad. The print received was made up of dots and dashes

de Gaulle's thoughts. But if he does not wish to reverse his alliances, de Gaulle cannot go too far in the direction of the old fashioned, freely maneuvering, purely national diplomacy which is natural to him. If he seems to attack the unity of the West or the workability of NATO, de Gaulle will face a solid, angry united front of all the other Western powers, headed by his own particular friend, the German Chancellor.

FOR President Eisenhower, meanwhile, the Adenauer-Debre incident also had certain unpalatable implications. In Europe generally, and here in France particularly, there are growing doubts about the firmness of American leadership of the West and about the finality of America's position as a partner in Europe. The twist Premier Debre gave to Secretary Spaak's warning plainly suggests how easily these doubts can be aroused and how strong they can become.

Since arriving here, Secretary of State Christian A. Herter has still these doubts, and well to still these doubts. Having taken the lead in blocking the Treasury-Budget Bureau drive to recall the two divisions, Herter is now manfully seeking to tidy up that drive's unfortunate after-effects but it would surely have been better if the President had told the Treasury and Budget Bureau at the outset that the subject could not even be discussed at this time. Then Secretary Herter would not need to keep assuring the Europeans we are here to stay, while he quite properly urges them to bear their own share of the burden of Western defense.

But the job to be done cannot be entirely done by Secretary Herter. The President himself will have to finish the job when he arrives here. Informed quarters suggest that the meeting between the French and American Presidents will begin with a pretty bad quarter of an hour, because of the American vote in the U.N. on the Algerian question and for other reasons, too. President Eisenhower, with his charm and his good will, ought to be able to get over these initial hurdles.

After that, however, Eisenhower must also reach agreement with Bear creek and a lake using this same water would increase and compound this hazard. Do not misunderstand me, I am not against lakes, but let's not sacrifice a stadium for the sake of a few water-lilies and a rowboat.

Harry Adams
1090 Ellendale dr.
Medford.
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POTLUCK
(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

MONDAY last (or was it Tuesday?) we heard a weather man at the weather bureau utter a profound truth, something we hardly expected to hear, when he said plaintively (and these are his exact words): "The weather isn't behaving properly."

EVERYONE was talking about the fog last week. Cars moved slowly, lights on, day and night. And many was the un-garaged car which suffered a double handicap in the morning - both the fog, and ice on all the windows and windshields.

RESOURCEFULNESS is the key-note of such situations, however, and they ranged from newspapers over the windshield at night (see - there's something ELSE to use them for!) to a variety of scrappers and sloshers to keep visibility at a poor maximum.

REALLY, though, the best fog story we heard last week wasn't about a motorist at all, but about a pheasant rooster, seen by one Medford resident on Barneburg rd., flying along a few feet above the pavement, very evidently following the yellow center-stripe. Smart bird!

YOU probably have received a parking ticket at one time or another, so it may be some consolation to know that the city fathers are not immune. During a special meeting of the council recently, Councilmen Bob Van Sickle and Bob Baccus each received the little slips, and came roaring in to complain about the injustice of it all to Mayor John Snider (himself no stranger to a parking ticket). He had mercy on them. He assured them that, instead of having to pay the usual penalty of 50 cents each, he would use his influence with city hall to see they received a special rate of \$6 per dozen.

several ideal locations. The proposed stadium site is not one. We now have problems with Bear creek and a lake using this same water would increase and compound this hazard.

Do not misunderstand me, I am not against lakes, but let's not sacrifice a stadium for the sake of a few water-lilies and a rowboat.

Harry Adams
1090 Ellendale dr.
Medford.

On Freedom to Differ

To the Editor: Not long ago one of our friends approached a prospective customer. He was engaged in religious sales work. The door opened with a screen between. On the other side stood his prospect with a glass of milk in her hand. She quickly inquired as to his religious connections. Before he could turn, he had the milk in his face and all over his suit.

I'm afraid that if it had been me, the next part of the story might be well to leave out. Our friend smiled and said "Lady, that was good sweet milk. Could I have some more?"

Naturally she was taken aback a bit. She opened the screen, invited the salesman in and proceeded to help him mop up with the aid of a damp cloth.

Within a year's time she and her entire family were members of the organization which he represented. The point is this. I may not agree with everyone else's ideas. How could I? There are too many. It would be rather hard to be a Democrat and Republican at the same time. Or a Christian and a Buddhist. We don't all believe alike and never will in this world as it is now. I thank God that we live in a land where we

can believe and worship according to the dictates of our conscience. There are forces at work that would prohibit this liberty.

I understand that in recent weeks some have felt that lines appearing in these columns under my name were not to their liking. That's fine. I was pretty sure right along everyone was not of the same opinion, else I wouldn't have written. However, I have not meant to hurt anyone and freely apologize to any who have felt thus.

We have a phone and if you want to let me have your opinions, I'd welcome them. I make mistakes and stand to be corrected. Yet as I told one friend recently, if one stands where the shots are flying he may get hit.

Actually, I'm not trying to "shoot" at anyone. We can be thankful for freedom of the press. This is not so in many lands. As freedom loving Americans we should stand awake to the dangers that threaten.

Communism is not the only threat to our liberties. Forces far more sinister can be lurking at our doorstep and we be asleep.

Henry Johnson Jr.
2400 Highway 66
Ashland, Ore.

CHRISTMAS time seems to bring out the worst in some columnists, and this affliction has smitten one of our favorites, Vic Fryer of the Salem Capital Journal. He devoted one of his columns last week to providing "definitions" of words and phrases heard at this time of the year. We take the liberty of swiping a few:

HE SAYS, for instance, that a Charge Account is a system of buying gifts by Charging them on Account of you don't have the cash.

REGARDING "Greetings," he explains that it is a form of message usually acceptable in late December - so long as it doesn't come from the local draft board.

IN USING the phrase "Lay Away," he explains, one means that it refers to a plan of action maintained by children throughout the holiday season that leaves the parents ready to be laid away before New Year's arrives.

SLEIGH, he adds, used to mean the vehicle in which Santa arrived (now generally superseded by a helicopter), but now-days it is a term popular with wives, as "if you don't buy me that fur coat, dear, I'll Sleigh you."

THAT'S enough of his definitions - except, perhaps, the one for "Money," which Vic explains is a word he doesn't seem to recognize right now.

MAYBE it's an old one, but we liked it. It seems when Antony first saw Cleopatra, he exclaimed, "Wow! A perfect XXXVIII, XXII, XXXVII!"

A FOOL and his money are soon parted, according to old maxim. And at this season of the year, a friend remarks, you don't even have to be a fool.

SO Christmas is next Friday, and a New Year begins a week later. It's been a good year for those of us on the Mail Tribune staff, and we are more grateful than we can say to all those of our contributors who have been so friendly and helpful. We extend our thanks to them all, and to men and women of good will everywhere.

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Try and Stop Me
By BENNETT CERF

DR. JOHN ERSKINE, savant and author, wrote: "At the end of my university studies, when I was leaving for my first professional job, I went to say goodbye to my old teacher, William Trent, who said, 'I can give you no theoretical advice in pedagogy, but I'll tell you one thing from experience. It will frequently happen when you are holding forth that some boy in the class will disagree. He will probably shake his head violently. You will be tempted to go after him and convert him then and there. Don't do it. He is probably the only one who is listening.'"

A medical major, inspecting an installation's water supply, asked what was being done to avoid contamination. "Well, sir," explained a sergeant, "we boil it first, and then we filter it." "Good enough," approved the major. "An' then," continued the sergeant, "just to be on the safe side, we drink beer."

