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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. 23, 1949 (Friday)
A one-day milk strike by 75
dairymen in the Roseburg area
ends.
Neon lights, to outline the
large cross on top of Sacred
Heart hospital, presented to
the institution by employees.

20 YEARS AGO
Dec. 23, 1939 (Saturday)
Bob Smith, a Medford boy,
will play for the West against
the East in football clash
come New Years.
From Arthur Perry's "Ye
Smudge Pot" column: "Ed
Leash, the timber cruiser,
drove to Union Creek the first
of the week and was driven
back by the weather."

30 YEARS AGO
Dec. 23, 1929 (Monday)
Local dance halls not em-
ploying dance matrons will
lose licenses to operate, city
announces.
Pope denounces Mussolini
for claiming church mixes in
politics.

40 YEARS AGO
Dec. 23, 1919 (Wednesday)
County court denies appro-
priation for home demonstra-
tion work this year.
Japan objects to mandates
for former German colonies
in Pacific.

50 YEARS AGO
Dec. 23, 1909 (Thursday)
A four-story building, in-
cluding a hotel and theater,
will be constructed at River-
side ave. and Main st.
Work on the Pacific and
Eastern Railroad track pro-
gresses; will be in Butte Falls
by spring.

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

1. Which four state of the Union have names beginning with the letter W?
2. What is the national emblem of Canada?
3. Name the four Presidents of the U. S. whose last names contain a double "o."
4. What bird is a symbol of meekness and the emblem of peace?
5. Tetanus is another name for 1—w?
6. Which came first—the automobile or street-car?
7. Which of these Texas cities is farther north—San Antonio or Fort Worth?
8. Who was the wife of legendary King Arthur?
9. Are skewers used by dentists, druggists, butchers or machinists?
10. Is a table d'hote meal one that has a set menu, or one in which the dishes are chosen from a menu card?

Answers: 1. Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. 2. Maple leaf. 3. T. R. Roosevelt, Hoover, Coolidge and F. D. Roosevelt. 4. Dove. 5. Lockjaw. 6. Street-car. 7. Fort Worth. 8. Guinevere. 9. Butchers. 10. Set menu.

PRESENTS WITH A BANG
Dallas, Tex. (UPI)—Esau Lewis believes his wife should get a bang out of her Christmas presents. The couple's three sons went shopping for their mother's presents and each bought her a derringer.

Symbols at Christmas

Much of man's life is lived with symbols. Words, for one thing, are symbols—symbols of thoughts and things and actions and concepts. Words are nothing but noise, or squiggles on paper, until they are given symbolic meaning. Then they stand for something—but they are not, themselves, that something.

Each religion is full of symbols—the Cross, the Star of David, the Crescent.

Some customs are symbols, too. Shaking hands is an ancient one, originating in a gesture showing one is unarmed. Tipping the hat is another, deriving from the knight's pushing up his visor to show his face—a gesture of peaceful intentions and respect.

A CHRISTMAS tree is a symbol. If a man chooses to refuse to have a Christmas tree in his house, as a result of a Biblical admonition against setting up "trees" as idols, that's his business.

But it cannot take away from others the warmth and satisfaction of using the beloved symbol of a family Christmas.

We fail to see how a Christmas tree, even as a symbol of pagan customs, can in any way harm Christmas, or even detract from the essentially religious nature of the occasion.

THE ancients believed that trees were symbols of eternal life, and worship them as such. It was such idolatry the Bible warned against.

Later, the custom was incorporated into Christian celebrations, when homes and churches were decorated with evergreens, as a reminder of Christ's Godliness, and that the Child born at Bethlehem was both God and Man, "who would spring up like a tender plant, should always be green and flourishing and live forever more."

The holly, also a symbol of Christmas, with its green and red, its sharp prickles and bright berries, is a symbol of joy and peace. Early beliefs gave it mysterious powers of good luck, protection from witches, and protection from bad weather.

The use of mistletoe at Christmas also dates far back in human history, for it was a sacred plant to many early tribes in what are now England and Scandinavia. One legend was that the mistletoe was so sacred that if two enemies met beneath the mistletoe in the forest, they laid down their arms and maintained a truce until the next day.

THAT is why families hang mistletoe in doorways. Passing beneath implies a pledge of peace and friendship, and is sealed by a friendly greeting or kiss.

Lighted candles are another Christmas symbol which dates back to a time before the birth of Christ.

Pagans used them to symbolize the return of the sun, and they were fastened to trees (forerunners of today's lighted electric bulbs.)

Christian use of the candle, symbolic of Christ as the light of the world, is said to be a combination of Roman and Hebrew customs.

The use of a Christmas tree, as such, is attributed to Martin Luther, although there is some reason to believe that some Germanic peoples used it even before that.

OTHER cultures have other symbols.

In Latin countries, the pinata (a clay or paper bowl or figurine, filled with candy, which is broken with sticks, thus scattering the candy amongst the eager youngsters) is a Christmas symbol.

In Norway, children place sheaves of wheat on poles or spruce trees for the birds—their own Christmas trees.

In the Low Countries, children use wooden shoes (instead of stockings) for the expected largess of St. Nicholas, the forerunner of our "Santa Claus."

Santa himself is a symbol—a symbol of love and affection and generosity at Christmas time.

IS IT bad, is it wrong, to allow the universal human habit of investing objects with symbolism to add to the traditions of a celebration?

We see no harm. We see a great deal of good. The fact that Christmas, as a celebration of the birth of the Christian Saviour, is observed at the same time as were the old pagan celebrations of the Winter Solstice, when the sun again begins its slow movement into the northern skies, is no sacrilege at all, but the affirmation of universal human experience, dating from far back in the misty origins of human worship.—E.A.

Religious "Thaw"

"Controversy makes headlines. Conciliation doesn't."

That was the lead of a recent story by the UPI's Louis Cassels, a talented writer who deals with religion in the world today.

His story listed evidence that, despite doctrinal and dogmatic differences, many of which wind up as headlines, the Protestant-Catholic schism is narrower today than it has been in many years—"for centuries," Cassels reports.

MUCH of this "thaw" has resulted from the new image of Catholicism projected by Pope John XXIII, the story indicated.

But we think it is also true that people generally, with the obvious exceptions, are more tolerant of other creeds than once was the case, and a little quicker to realize that a man's religious beliefs are personal, and, both as a matter of constitutional rights, and as a matter of common sense, have no bearing on his worth as a citizen or as a friend.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



"I DON'T SEE HOW HE CLIMBS A CHIMNEY. DID YA NOTICE HIM GRUNT WHEN HE PICKED ME UP?"

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.

People-Not Guns

To the Editor: The second amendment to the United States Constitution reads: "A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

This is more than a justification for private firearm ownership, but a civil duty and inalienable right.

From our Holy Bible, Luke 22:38: "He that hath no sword let him sell his garment and buy one."

"Private ownership of guns causing increasing problems," says article in Dec. 16 Mail Tribune.

Guns are in the hands of young hoodlums who also have home-made zip guns made by themselves in their school shops. They also have unregistered bicycle chains, ball bats, and ice picks.

Criminals have made guns in prison. But of course they always registered them! Those they stole from the police and National Guard were already registered.

American servicemen whose duty it was to risk their lives with guns, smuggling home 50,000 of the weapons they had used on troops ship. Smuggled? That's what the article said.

Our nation's ring of anti-missile missiles, super bombs and bombers have made us forget the day of infamy 18 years ago, and the Nazi bund who marched in Madison Square Garden carrying Nazi flags in huge rallies during the 1930's.

A police-sponsored gun registration bill hearing in Los Angeles, the principal speaker was the secretary of the Communist party. The bill died then and there.

A subversive element inside our country could hurt us seriously if the citizens were unarmed or the subversives knew who had the guns. Guns cause accidents. Let's look at the 1953 accidental death rate figures supplied by the National Safety Council Feb. 26, 1954: auto: 38,300; burns: 6,400; poison, 18,000; drowning: 6,900; occupational: 15,000, and guns: 2,450.

Existing federal and state firearms control laws are sufficient. We need more severe penalties for those who commit crimes while armed and broad firearms safety training.

Guns don't kill people. People kill people.
William N. Redhead
2449 Bishop dr.,
Medford.

A Joyful Christmas
To the Editor: Regarding Christmas trees and idols, certain scripture references in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Exodus and others bear on the Canaanite practice of carving wooden images. Then the images were overlaid with silver, gold or brass and set up as idols to be worshipped. They were kept in shrines, houses, temples or groves for years, sometimes for generations and worshipped as gods.

These scriptures have no reference whatever to Christmas trees, decorated to delight children and bear gifts for family or friends. After a few days they are stripped of their beauties and thrown out on the brush pile to be burned.

It would be a rare instance, indeed, for the tree to become an object of worship.

As to Christmas day and the birth of Jesus, we have no data as to His natal day. References to shepherds aiding in the fields at night indicate a warm season, certainly not midwinter.

Early Christians celebrated

the death of martyrs, not their birth. Northern Europe celebrated, by a rite of burning, the winter solstice, when the sun apparently reached the southern end of its journey and started north again. When Christianity spread over Europe, gradually this celebration was adopted as Christmas, since there was no definite date as to that day.

God is a spirit. It is the spirit that counts, not the technicality. If we misquote or misuse the Bible to support a personal view point, are we more Christian than when we decorate a Christmas tree?

We wish you a joyful Christmas and a good New Year with plenty of turkey and cranberry sauce, unsprayed and delatized.

L. G. Weaver
301 Haven st.
Medford

Police Commended
To the Editor: I wish to express my gratitude to the Medford city police for their fine job of directing and keeping traffic under control, on the corner of Tenth and Front sts. on Dec. 17. My truck frame broke in carrying a load. Their assistance was greatly appreciated.

Ted M. Adams
2495 West Main st.
Medford

Highway Safety
To the Editor: A recent letter to you signed L. H. Guy has stirred me to put in my two cents' worth.

Every day we read about cars skidding out of control on wet roads, collisions, people being killed or injured.

Of course there is a reason for these accidents. Last year the head of the Oregon State Police announced that "Oregon drivers must adjust to winter driving conditions."

That sounds reasonable, but I wonder if the responsibility for the majority of these accidents lies with the driver alone or could it be that the Oregon State Highway department is at fault.

The western half of our state is noted for its mild climate and for the great number of wet days per year, yet Highway 99 is constructed of materials known to be the worst type for visibility and nonskid qualities when wet.

Our highway department will tell us that cost is the big item in building roads and that asphalt is much cheaper to construct than is the new modern nonskid type of road. This is very true if you consider first cost only, but any business man knows that the product with the lowest overall cost is much more economical in the long run. It has been established that a new modern type concrete highway costs more to build but the higher first cost is offset by the extremely low maintenance costs. The modern new concrete highways have been tested over several years and many thousands of miles in all most every state and have proved to be almost maintenance-free for as high as ten years, and even after that, repair costs are way below that of asphalt which requires repair crews to work on it at one end while still under construction at the other. Witness the much touted "Death Trap" Baldock freeway.

The cost figures quoted by highway planners do not include higher insurance costs, uninsured damage costs, medical costs, and certainly not the tragic cost in pain, physical injury and death brought about by unnecessarily slick and dangerous roads.

Even though we cannot afford the best and ultimately cheapest type of highways the ones we have can be made

Tired Old Lyle Wilson Calls for Firm Stand Against Christmas Card Slavery

By LYLE C. WILSON

Washington (UPI)—It beats me why someone has not come up long before this with

a new Emancipation Proclamation. I should be a proclamation to emancipate the American people from their slavery to Christmas cards.

I realize that many persons will consider this to be a subversive thought. Some of my neighbors will caution their children to come indoors when I pass by. Little old ladies who heretofore have given me a friendly nod when I see them on the street, likely will ignore me when we meet.

My good friends who have favored me this year as in the past with the season's greetings will think of me as an ungracious grouser who should have both better manners and some gratitude. I am sorry if that is the way it must be. If so, be it.

The Christmas card must go.

Compared to a Christmas card, the exaggerated tail fins on my new car are useful and necessary contraptions. One-tenth of the money and energy squandered each year on Christmas cards would suffice to create for the United States missile and rocket protection unsurpassed.

Pity The Postman
Talk about waste! The stamp bill alone would buy a fleet of nuclear submarines. For printing much more is spent than for stamps. Moreover, the patient postmen are hump-backed from lugging those great sacks full of cards and they suffer fallen arches, corns and bunions by reason of the extra mileage our Christmas whimsey imposes upon them.

And, there are among some individuals (your correspondent is one) who shucked most of the shackles of Christmas cardery long since, but who regularly receive cards in shoals and avalanches. This causes these free souls much anguish in the region of their consciences. They know in sadness that among their loving friends are some with the lint-picking habit of card-indexing the whole Christmas business so that during the days immediately following Dec. 25 there occur in living rooms across the land such scenes as this:

The Little Woman: Oh, Fred, we got cards today from the Goozens and the Whoozits and the Zumphs. The Zumphs' is real pretty.

Fred: Yeah, they musta mailed 'em after they got ours.

The L. W.: Look in the in-

dex, Fred, and see if the Whoozits sent us one last year. Bet they didn't.

Women Are to Blame
Fred: Nope, nor the year before, either. I'll take 'em off our list.

The L. W.: No, leave 'em on, but let's send a real cheap card next year and mail it a couple of days after Christmas.

Fred: (Reading sports page) Yump, awright.

It is the women, of course, who keep the Christmas card business going, waiting before, during and after the process of selecting and addressing their offerings that it is an infernal chore.

Christmas cards have become an oppressive burden. In the apartment building in

which I live the nice women who tend to things behind the desk are card-weary and shaken by now. In this Christmas season, they have stuffed thousands of them into the numbered boxes in which my neighbors and I receive our mail.

This thing is out of hand, folks, and something should be done about it.

Few Against Many
Nehru himself has admitted he does not have enough—perhaps 300,000 men against five million.

Before his own Parliament Nehru is committed to defend India's borders, but his defense must be to "negotiate

and negotiate and negotiate," hoping for a Red Chinese turnabout he himself does not expect.

For, once more in his own words, he knows that China never in history has recognized any loss of territory, surrendering it perhaps in periods of weakness but always regarding the loss as strictly temporary.

In his reply to Chou En-lai, Nehru "regretted" that the Red position still was based on invasion of traditional Indian territory.

But against him is the coldly logical Chou En-lai who pointed out that the Chinese built a road and for nearly 10 years controlled such territory without Nehru even being aware of it.

THE DOORS MUST BE OPEN TO ALL

Many Democrats have been saying that Robert Duncan will be the Democrats' answer to Mark Hatfield. Mr. Duncan, a Medford attorney, was speaker of the House of Representatives in the Oregon Legislature this year and came out of the legislative session with a high rating by members of both parties. He is young, aggressive and intelligent.

At a Douglas County convention of Democrats this month Mr. Duncan told the Democrats they couldn't afford the luxury of a party purge. Instead of driving people out of the party, Democrats should be trying to get more in, he said.

On this the Eugene Register-Guard has this editorial comment:

"Mr. Duncan understands the nature of an American political party. He agrees with former Vice President 'Garner' that a party must be 'a party of all sorts of views.' There is wide latitude in the Democratic Party for Morse of Oregon, for Lausche of Ohio and for Eastland of Mississippi. Republicans must make room for Goldwater of Arizona, Hatfield of Oregon and all those in between.

"Neither party in the American system can afford the luxury of becoming doctrinaire. That's possible in a European system with a dozen or more parties. But it can't work here where there are only two. There are more than two sides to most questions and there are many questions.

Two parties can accommodate the majority of Americans only if considerable latitude is permitted each member.

"Moreover, the direct primary, recall, the initiative and referendum and the case of registration makes it almost impossible to impose real party discipline. A political party is not a select lodge. Membership must be easily acquired and easily shed."

There are many persons who take their politics straight who would like to put all the conservatives in one party and all the liberals in another. They are Republicans who are "sick and tired" of the Republican party talking like the Democratic party. They have our sympathy. It would be much easier for many voters if a clear and clean distinction could be made between the parties. But it isn't going to happen and it wouldn't be good if it did happen. It's much better that party doors be open to all corners.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

WHAT is our great need?
For an answer, I think we can turn to Josiah Gilbert Holland, who lived and wrote about a century ago. In his poem "The Day's Demand" he says:

"God give us men! A time like this demands
"Strong minds, great hearts,
true faith and ready hands . . .
"Tall men, sun-crowned,
who live above the fog
"In public duty and in private thinking."

THAT is still the day's demand.

LAST CIVIL WAR Veteran Buried

Houston, Tex. (UPI)—Today marks the end of an era with the burial of Walter (Old Reb) Williams, 117, the last veteran of the Civil War.

The blue and the gray shoulder to shoulder Tuesday night at memorial services honoring the old rebel who fought with the Texas Brigade at the age of 22.

A file and drum corps from Mount Vernon, Ohio, played "Dixie," "Johnny Reb" and the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" during the service.

Hundreds of persons were on hand to pay homage to the honorary Civil War general including representatives of President Eisenhower and each of the 11 states that formed the Confederacy.

Nehru Seen as Confused and Bitter Facing Red Dilemma

It was this same sort of Communist cynicism which once led the late Josef Stalin to reply to a warning about the world influence of the Roman Catholic Pope:

"How many divisions has the Pope?"

So as Chou En-lai reads Nehru's statements and sees him take a firm stand on both sides of the fence, he also may inquire:

"How many divisions has Nehru?"

Few Against Many
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Editorial Comment

PRESIDENT AGAINST TEST OATH

Now that President Eisenhower has flatly stated his disapproval of the anti-Communist affidavit required of students seeking federal loans, Congress when it reconvenes should strike down this obnoxious test oath. The President objects to it for the same reason that a number of schools, including Harvard and Yale, have refused this aid to their students. At his press conference on Wednesday the President said:

"I personally am ready each morning to take an oath that I am not a Communist and that I am loyal to the United States. I think, however, that when we begin to single out any group of citizens and say, 'This is a matter of legal compulsion, I can see why they are resentful.'"

That is the big point. To require this oath of college students and not of citizens in general is to single out the students and to imply that their loyalty is questionable. That is a gratuitous insult, and a serious one. This was recognized by Congress when in adopting new labor legislation last summer, it repealed the Taft-Hartley statute's requirement of an anti-Communist oath by union officials.

The oath amendment was slipped into the education act almost by sleight of hand. Yet when Senator Kennedy sought its removal, too many Senators lacked the courage to vote for its repeal. The Kennedy bill was maneuvered back to committee by a vote of 49 to 42.

The test oath is no protection for the nation. But it is a gratuitous offense. Since the indignity is resented, it frustrates the very purpose of the education act, the training of specialists essential to the national defense. It should be wiped out.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

WHAT is our great need?
For an answer, I think we can turn to Josiah Gilbert Holland, who lived and wrote about a century ago. In his poem "The Day's Demand" he says:

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true faith and ready hands . . .
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