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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
Jan. 19, 1950 (Thursday)

Nine masked men held up Brink's Inc., in Boston the night before last and got away with $1½ million.

Over one hundred ducks are trapped with their feet frozen in the ice in a stream near Independence, Oregon.

20 YEARS AGO
Jan. 19, 1940 (Friday)

Senator William E. Borah, of Idaho, called dean of senate, is near death in Washington, D.C., following a cerebral hemorrage.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "A Colorado bull was sold this week for $5,700. This is said to be the highest price ever paid for bull, with no votes in sight."

30 YEARS AGO
Jan. 19, 1930 (Sunday)

Jacksonville to be terminal for trucking ore from Blue Ledge mine.

Congress refuses to pass law making it unlawful to put poison in industrial alcohol to keep peopl from drinking it.

40 YEARS AGO
Jan. 19, 1920 (Tuesday)

Large crowd expected to attend the Trigonia oil well meeting at the Page theater tomorrow night.

Governor Olcott will veto bill enabling a voter to make one mark on a ballot for a "straight ticket."

50 YEARS AGO
Jan. 19, 1910 (Wednesday)

Local lodge of Masons is planning a new $40,000 Masonic temple, site not yet picked.

Active membership campaign is being carried on by Commercial club. They hope to have 600 members by Jan. 25.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. Do like magnetic poles attract or repel each other?
2. What is the abbreviation of pennyweight?
3. What invention gave George Westinghouse his start?
4. To what island was Napoleon Bonaparte exiled after his defeat at Waterloo?
5. In 1888 what man was chosen President of the U.S. by a majority of the electoral college, although his opponent had a majority of the popular vote?
6. How many years are three score and ten?
7. How many degrees are there in a right angle?
8. Which is the correct spelling, supercede, superceed, or supersede?
9. How many white stripes does an American flag have?
10. In England, would a lorry refer to a truck, bicycle, motor-cycle, or a passenger bus?

Answers: 1. Repel. 2. Dwt. 3. The pneumatic brake. 4. St. Helena. 5. Benjamin Harrison over Grover Cleveland. 6. 70. 7. 90. 8. Supersede. 9. Six. 10. Truck.

Asset in Bear Creek

There are a lot of things which need doing along Bear creek.

Its pollution should be decreased as much as possible. Some day, one hopes, it will be safe to wade in again. It would be nice to think that it might support game fish once more.

Once it was a pretty stream—a credit to the area. Some day, one hopes, it will again be an asset, rather than an ugly, open sewer which isn't much good to anybody for any purpose.

* * * * *

THESE objectives once, not long ago, were simply pipe dreams, dreamed by a few conservationists, fish and wildlife enthusiasts, recreational planners, and newspaper writers.

Today some are close to coming true.

A committee is at work on a beautification plan which, if all goes well, can be put into effect, in whole or in part, at the same time the freeway is constructed through this area.

It envisages a series of waysides, some of them with picnic tables, perhaps even one or two with overnight camping facilities, and with the freeway-Bear creek area tastefully landscaped.

* * * * *

ADOPTION of such a plan in time for it to be incorporated in the state highway commission's planning of the freeway is important. We are glad to see the committee members are actively interested in it.

This is the first step.

The others will come later. One of them, the increase in flow of Bear creek to an average summer volume of some 25 cubic feet per second, will follow completion of the Talent project. This should be during the coming year.

* * * * *

THE next step, and perhaps the determining one in the process of "cleaning up" Bear creek, will be to find and eliminate as much as possible the upstream sources of pollution.

These consist chiefly of ditches, a few small industrial developments, and farms, orchards and homes outside of the limits of Medford, Phoenix, Talent, Ashland, and the South Bear Creek Sanitary district.

(This is not to say that there is no room for improvement at Ashland and Talent. Ashland plans to construct an addition to its sewage disposal plant, and the Talent plant has been described as "inadequate" by some and as a prime source of pollution when not properly operated by others.)

* * * * *

BEAR creek probably never can be the same sort of stream as is, say, Little Butte creek.

Much of its water is used for irrigation, and when it is lowered by this, and when some of it comes from run-back irrigation water, it is hardly a clear, sparkling mountain stream.

But much can be done to improve it, if some intelligent thought and effort is put forth.

Often one thing leads to another. If it is treated as an asset, people will think of it as one.

And if it is generally regarded as an asset, people will do what they can to see that it becomes one—a real one.—E.A.

Slogans on Licenses

Oregon's new automobile license plates—the ones with the legend "Pacific Wonderland" emblazoned on them—have been spotted occasional hereabout during the past couple of months.

We're not any more impressed by them than we thought we would be. We have yet to be convinced that a license slogan does anyone any good; or, indeed, does anything other than to clutter up a license plate.

So be it. The legislature, in its wisdom, decreed otherwise.

Anyway, there won't be too many of them in circulation for some time, we learn from one of the Salem newspapers.

* * * * *

IN DECREEING the slogan-bearing plate, the legislature did not appropriate any funds to replace the 873,000 or so plates now in use—which is just as well. It would be costly.

The slogan will go only on plates issued for the first time, according to Vern Hill, director of the motor vehicle department. And even here a supply of the old plates will be used up before the slogan-bearing plates will be put in general circulation.

The three highest state officials, however, will have "Pacific Wonderland" plates. The governor, secretary of state, and state treasurer will have plates numbered 1, 2 and 3, respectively.

* * * * *

THE rest of us will make do with plastic tabs, which are "reflectorized" for better visibility, instead of the metal tabs in use for the past few years, to bring licenses up to date.

That's all right.

We'll make do with our battered plates for as long as necessary, and happily let new-car-buyers, and the state's top officials, go around as perambulating billboards.—E.A.

Weather Forecast

Upset about the weather? If so, read the following U.S. weather bureau forecast:

"Clear with ice fog tonight. Partly cloudy Wednesday. Low tonight minus 50, high tomorrow minus 25. High yesterday minus 4, low last night minus 46. Noon temperature, minus 43. Sunrise tomorrow 9:32 a.m., sunset 2:28 p.m."

It is from the Tuesday, Jan. 12, issue of the Daily News-Miner, of Fairbanks, Alaska.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace

"YOU KNOW WHY I NEVER GET ANY LETTERS? MY FRIENDS DON'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE!"

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

THE FRONT RUNNER, NOW

Washington—Quite quietly, without public commotion or even public notice, the Democratic party has acquired a new front-runner in the presidential stakes. Or at least this is true, if you define the front-runner as the candidate with the largest number of delegates that are as nearly nailed down as possible at this early stage.

JOSEPH ALSOP

The new Democratic front-runner is the vociferously unavowed candidate from Texas, Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Baines Johnson. As of today, Johnson has solid commitments from over 400 delegates; and he can reasonably count on over 450 delegates.

In terms of birds-in-hand, Johnson is therefore ahead of the more commonly designated front-runner, Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts. Although Johnson's backers dispute this, it must be added that Kennedy is still front-runner in terms of birds-in-the bush that seem well within his reach. As for the other Democratic candidates, their collections of birds-in-hand are positively pitiful compared to the Johnson aviary.

* * *

THE hunt for Johnson delegates, one of the most remarkable political battles on recent record, was originally organized by two of the ablest men in American politics, Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn and ex-Senator Frank Clements of Kentucky. These were helped by Senators Russell and Talmadge of Georgia, Senator Kerr of Oklahoma, the adroit young secretary of the Senate majority, Robert G. Baker, and other Senate figures. Covertly, it must be added, Senator Johnson himself was in overall command.

The turning points in the Johnson delegate hunt were the triumph of Senator Clements' faction in the Kentucky primary, and the defeat of the pro-Kennedy Mayor Delesseps Morrison of New Orleans in the Louisiana primary. These two events assured Johnson of the Louisiana and Kentucky delegations.

The list of states that are now almost solid for Johnson is as follows: Arizona, Arkansas, Florida (unless there is a serious primary, which is unlikely), Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. In some of these states, other candidates may pick scattering votes. But even after allowing for such minor losses, these states alone certainly ought to carry Johnson over the 400 mark. In addition, there are the delegations from Alabama, where the governor has come out for Kennedy but the rest of the state strongly tends to Johnson, and Nevada, where Johnson's chances appear excellent. Again allowing for normal wear and tear, the probable additions from these two states put Johnson's delegate count around 450.

To this list of birds-in-hand, the Johnson forces add a significant number of birds-in-the-bush, chiefly in the mid-Western farming states where Johnson himself went delegate hunting last fall, and in the Rocky mountain area.

* * *

NO DOUBT some of these hoped for delegates in the mid-West and Rocky mountain areas will indeed end by voting for Johnson. But as of now, these realists believe Johnson is likely to get only scattering votes outside his main area of strength, as Sen. Richard Russell did when he reached his high count, 295 votes, on the second ballot of the Democratic convention of 1952.

The comparison indicates Johnson's heavy handicap, not as a front-runner, but as an endurance runner. You can all but draw a line around the Johnson stronghold. The Western regions the line encloses includes a state or two where Kennedy looked for support. In the northern region, among the border states, support was expected by Sen. Stuart Symington of Missouri, the worst hurt among the other candidates by Johnson's initial success. But in general, the line divides North from South. South of the line Johnson has almost everything. North of the line, all is dubious for Johnson.

In other words, Johnson as yet is a Southern candidate, as Senator Russell was, although a Southern candidate with far stronger support already than Senator Russell obtained at Chicago. In order to win, therefore, Johnson must somehow transform himself from a sectional into a national candidate.

This will be immensely difficult to do, without sacrificing the massive Southern support Johnson now has. But this transformation cannot yet be counted as absolutely impossible, if only because most of the very same Northern Democratic leaders who say their states "can never vote for Johnson," add in the next breath that he is now the biggest, most commanding figure in the Democratic party.

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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 an eye to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Firemen Praised

To the Editor: Last Sunday night, I witnessed right here in Jacksonville an example of the spirit that made and will keep America great. The house at 502 North Fifth st. was on fire. This house had been our family home for more than 30 years, having been sold recently.

The fire siren had sounded. The two pieces of fire equipment were arriving. Hose was strung to the plug at 6th and F streets, one block east, and at Fifth and Blackstone, a long block north. By the time the water was turned on I could see fire in every one of the nine rooms and hallway. The fire chief, his captains and firemen, volunteers all, performed their duties superbly. Excellent training was evident. Equipment quality was good. Close to two hours was required to contain the fire before any appreciable gain was evident. Another hour reduced it to a one or two man mopping-up operation that continued through the night. Damage did not even extend to the surrounding trees. Buildings 20 feet away were safe.

This was accomplished by the 16 regular volunteers plus several on-the-scene assistants, all our friends and neighbors, banded together in a common cause.

I am proud of our fire department. I thank them and am thankful for them. I shall support them at every opportunity and encourage everyone to do so. They will thereby be better prepared to serve us when an emergency arises. They are specially trained in fire and resuscitator equipment operation and first aid. Much of their personal equipment (helmets, boots, etc.) is paid for with personal funds. Their annual "Firemans Ball" and other projects supplements the $1,000 budgeted for them annually by the city. Their funds paid half the cost of the new siren. They have over $600 in the treasury now, earmarked for a pickup truck to transport a small pumper-tanker unit to be procured by the city. This self-contained unit would be used on small fires and those in the fringe area beyond the city, leaving the heavier equipment for possible other use.

The fire chief, Mr. Lewis Applebaker, indicates a need for more volunteer firemen who would be available daytimes Monday through Friday, when many of the present active members are away from town on their regular jobs. They meet every Monday at 8 p.m., in the fire hall at Third and C streets.

Fred Edens
303 East F st.,
Jacksonville

Freight vs. VW

To the Editor: The editorial "Suicide Amendment" of Jan. 7 Mail Tribune deserves wide circulation. What it does to Mr. Willis Stone, the so-called Volunteers for Constitutional Government, and their proposed 23rd Constitutional amendment, is about like what happens when a heavy freight train hits a Volkswagen at a grade crossing.

The day the people of the U.S. fall for anything like that will be the day when it is easy to get them to exchange their cash, real estate or securities for shares of Brooklyn bridge, or acreage on the moon.

D. M. DeLong
P. O. Box 184
Cottage Grove.

Less Socialism

To the Editor: A true progressive with open mind will discard a former belief when he finds himself mistaken. I believe that one should examine this suggested 23rd amendment carefully and fairly. The sponsors claim that the U. S. Government is losing billions of dollars annually by operating many, many businesses at a steady loss, and that it would be good sense to stop it. While it certainly would take longer than three years economically to liquidate all these ventures, and while we may always have to pay some income tax, it seems to me highly desirable to make a start to put our finances in order.

I think it one of the most unfortunate things that we ever did was to adopt the original income tax amendment without any ceiling on what the Congress can soak us. I do not have figures to prove the exact annual loss, but I have infinite faith in the ability of politicians to lose taxpayers' money. The Post Office is always operated at a loss and I remember what a mess the Government made when they attempted to run the railroads during World War I. Many politicians want more and more jobs to give as rewards to friends who voted and worked for them. Any private business would go bankrupt under those conditions, but the Government can just raise taxes, or borrow more money.

Look at the financial difficulties of England when under a socialistic minded government! Why not learn from their mistakes? The fact that our country is now so highly industrialized, as "E. A." pointed out, does not change human nature.

Of course there are thousands of able men working in the Post Office and in other government owned businesses, but these businesses are completely under the politicians' thumb. "Government ownership and operation of the essential means of production" certainly can work, if the Government becomes a despot, as in Russia. Let us not be so childlike as to believe that "it can't happen here." I do not want any more socialism than we already have. In fact I want a lot less.

Horace W. Thompson
3642 Hilsinger rd.
Medford.

U.S.-Japanese Pact Signed, Premier Must Turn to Other Worry: What About China?

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign Editor

With the signing of the U.S.-Japanese security pact out of the way, Japanese Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi must come to grips with another pressing problem – what to do about Red China.

Phil Newsom

A large part of Japanese pleasure in the new pact stems from the fact that it makes Japan a full and equal partner of the United States, a sovereign status not enjoyed since World War II.

But the hostile demonstration by extremist Japanese youths upon Kishi's departure for Washington and the loud voices of Japanese Socialists also illustrate that the new treaty is not universally popular.

The hostile extremists youths who follow the Communist Party line would oppose any close link with the United States.

The Socialists, many of whom also are anti-United States, feel that the pact draws Japan away from its area of greatest interest, namely, Asia, and renders more difficult the establishment of friendly relations with Red China.

Press for Closer Ties

The pressure for closer ties with Red China is both political and economic, and is not limited to the leftists.

A senior adviser in Kishi's own Liberal-Democratic party, Kenzo Matsumura, recently returned to Tokyo from an extended tour of Red China and warned the Peiping regime will be "a mighty power within five or 10 years."

"Why not face up to the reality that Communist China today is an awakening nation?" he demanded. "It is not wise to exclude her from international dealings."

Japanese businessmen also look longingly at the vast China mainland.

Before the war, some 20 per cent of Japan's exports went to China and 10 per cent of her imports came from there.

Japanese trade with Red China today is a comparative trickle, with the balance running against Japan.

Dollar on Japan's Side

In contrast, Japanese-U.S. trade runs to approximately a billion dollars annually, about evenly divided between imports and exports. Counting U.S. military and other expenditures, the dollar balance is on Japan's side.

Nonetheless, the desire for trade with Red China lingers on, and eventually would become strong enough to oust Kishi from his job.

In deciding what to do about Red China, Japan also must decide what to do about the Nationalist Chinese government on Formosa. Red China has made formal recognition a condition for reestablishing trade ties with Japan.

Yet to recognize Peiping as the official Chinese government would mean to withdraw it from Taipei, a step Kishi is unwilling to take against another firm friend of the United States.

Eisenhower Budget Disappoints Moscow

London—(UPI)—Moscow radio today called President Eisenhower's budget for the coming fiscal year "disappointing" because military allocations "are not reduced at all."

In a mildly worded commentary beamed in English at North American listeners, the Communist radio said "certain cold war interests are trying to freeze the war still colder and to maintain the high level of arms competition."

The broadcast further charged:

"You can't reinforce the peace by intensively preparing a nuclear and rocket war."

This was an apparent reference to increased outlays for missiles in the new budget.

Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

LONG PANTS NEEDED

Washington – There is mounting evidence that both political parties and the voters, too, will owe a terribly high duty to their country to put on their long pants in this Presidential election year.

William S. White

The Soviet Union's power to turn cold-war negotiations to its favor is undeniably growing. Whether or not its actual strength is rising, its propaganda strength certainly is. The West's chance to win, in a summit meeting and beyond, is declining.

There will be no chance at all unless the West can be drawn together in adult unity –and unless the core of the alliance, the United States, can get through the campaign at home without tearing itself apart. We must not weaken the ability of the incoming administration–whoever may head it–to act decisively and with heavy public support in a profoundly dangerous world.

* * *

ALL THESE facts are anxiously known to the most responsible men in both parties. Much more than this awareness is needed, however, if the country is, indeed, going to wear its long pants–to take a grown-up view of the world of 1960.

No one supposes the campaign can be run off without some unwise emotionalism. But it does not seem too much to hope for less automatic and trivial partisanship; less personal like and dislike as governing factors in voting; fewer voting decisions based on petty personal prejudice. The grave Russian challenge will not be subject to wasting weakness of this kind.

Surely, the national problem can thus be fairly stated: there is special necessity not to choose a president on the basis of two-bit politics or mere pressure-group interests, however decent these interests may be in themselves –or on the basis of simple personal prejudice.

The country manifestly will need a powerful and able leader; it it not really important whether all of us like him, or how he combs his hair.

* * *

THIS correspondent does not presume to say who should be elected. He does contend, however, that the determining consideration should not be party affiliation or shopworn labels like "liberal" or "conservative." Whether we are "Republican" or "Democratic" or "liberal" or "conservative" will be meaningless if the Russians are able to cast us into the position of a second-class power.

The decision should be solely on this question: Who among the aspirants could best represent the United States and keep it strong in a tough and infinitely perilous world growing ever more perilous? The first necessary step is to get rid of a series of prejudices against almost every leading presidential possibility so that they may be judged only on adult and relevant standards. For examples:

Vice President Richard Nixon is constantly under attack on such vague "grounds" as "I don't like him." "I don't like his face." and so on.

Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts is constantly under attack because he happens to be a Catholic.

Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson is ditto because he happens to be from Texas.

Adlai E. Stevenson is ditto because he has twice been defeated for the presidency.

* * *

"ACCUSATIONS" such as these are totally irrelevant to today's realities. And they are little-boy stuff, too. Whatever is right and whatever is wrong with each of these candidates is in no way affected by such nonsense.

The fact that Stevenson didn't win before has nothing to do with whether he would be a good president now. Ditto that Kennedy is a Catholic. Ditto that Johnson is a Texan. Ditto that some people "don't like" Nixon–usually for reasons both undefined and undefinable. Judge them all with a cold-blooded, adult mind.

Most of all the presidency simply requires competence and strength. And we shall never have had greater room for those qualities than in the four years ahead.

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Wag Waltzes With Weighty Washingtonian Wampum Wad

By DICK WEST

Washington –(UPI)– President Eisenhower's new budget is a good book to curl up with on a rainy afternoon—if you need exercise. But I would not recommend it for reading.

Dick West

I mean this is no volume to be taken lightly. Even in a supine position you can get a vigorous workout just lifting the tome off your tummy to turn the pages.

Each year when the President sends his budget to Congress, I assume the burden of inspecting it from a physical, rather than a fiscal, standpoint.

In times past, the first thing I did was weigh it. But this has become impractical.

The postal scales in our office only register up to four pounds and for the past two or three years the budget has exceeded this limit.

I did determine, however, that the President was able to cram more money into less space this year. For fiscal 1960, it took him 1,027 pages to explain how the government intended to spend $77 billion.

To Turn Out Pennies

For fiscal 1961, he managed to fit plans for spending $79,800,000,000 into only 952 pages.

I guess this is what the economists mean when they talk about "tight money."

Tight or loose, money should be more plentiful in the new fiscal year. The U.S. Mint, according to the budget, plans to turn out two billion coins, an increase of 100,000 over current production.

Unfortunately, almost half of the new supply will be pennies.

The Mint, incidentally, reports that it will cost more to make money in fiscal 1960. Its budget for penny production has gone up from 93 to 97 cents per thousand.

I don't like to quibble over small change, but a couple of things in the budget puzzled me. For instance, the President asked Congress to raise postal rates but didn't increase the congressional stamp budget. What he did increase was the stationery budget.

No Bird Eliminator

I can't figure out how our Congressmen are going to write more letters and pay more for stamps with the same amount of money. I also am a little worried about the Supreme Court's budget and its troubles with dirty birds.

Last year, the court asked for $35,000 to buy an "electronic bird elimination system." With thousands of starlings roosting on the court every night, "bird elimination" is a big problem.

For some reason, Congress didn't appropriate the funds and this year, for some reason, the court didn't renew its request. However, it did ask for $150 for snow removal.

In view of the fact that it rarely snows in Washington, I wonder if this isn't being precipitation wise and ornithologically foolish.

Counsel With . . .
Mr. Insurance—Fred Brennan

Fred Brennan

FAVORITE SON CANDIDATES,

will be a dime a dozen by November. But your favorite possessions will some day be priceless . . . Make sure they're adequately INSURED.

Bill Fish

or call
Mr. Friendly
Bill Fish
Phone SP 3-7343

MEDFORD INSURANCE AGENCY
27 NORTH HOLLY ST.