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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

Feb. 7, 1950 (Tuesday) Congressman Harris Ellsworth believes no action on proposed Rogue basin reclamation project will be taken by Congress this year.

Mickey Cohen's Los Angeles home blown up by 24 sticks of dynamite; Cohen escapes injury.

20 YEARS AGO

Feb. 7, 1940 (Wednesday) Medford Mayor C. C. Furnas says because of increasing alarm over traffic accidents he is serving warning to all citizens that traffic regulations will be "strictly" enforced here.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "Moscow denies Finnish reports of victories, capture of guns, tanks, planes and prisoners and still insists she is not at war with Finland. However, it is cheerfully admitted there is such a place as Finland."

30 YEARS AGO

Feb. 7, 1930 (Friday) Gov. A. W. Norblad will address the Lincoln Day banquet here next week. Dedication of airport depends on city purse; pageant planned if it doesn't cost too much.

40 YEARS AGO

Feb. 7, 1920 (Sunday) Local Methodist are undecided upon a site for proposed church. Only 42 inch of rain fell here last month, the lowest on record.

50 YEARS AGO

Feb. 7, 1910 (Monday) Medford boys dies as result of college hazing at U. of O. G. F. Cuthbert and Co. will open a furniture and home furnishings store in temporary quarters at Main St. and Riverside ave.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

- 1. Which of these animals has the most valuable pelt-sea lion or sea otter. 2. A rowboat and its oars cost \$110; the boat cost \$100 more than the oars. How much did the oars cost? 3. On what river is Muscle Shoals? 4. What are the names of the four oceans whose names end in "ic"? 5. Which New England State produces the largest amount of maple sugar and syrup? 6. If you desire to exert greater force with a screwdriver, will you use one with a greater length or diameter? 7. Of what country is Ottawa the capital? 8. In what sport was Ty Cobb famous? 9. In what group of Pacific islands is Saipan? 10. Is the condor a native bird of South America, or of North America? Answers: 1. Sea otter. 2. Five dollars. 3. Tennessee. 4. Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic, Antarctic. 5. Vermont. 6. Larger diameter. 7. Canada. 8. Baseball. 9. Marianas. 10. South America.

Sales Tax Objections

The battle of the taxes, which has made considerable noise the last few weeks, will get louder and louder as the 1961 session of the state legislature approaches.

Ray Schumacher, Jackson county assessor, recently made his entry into the lists with the distribution of a five-point program which he feels will make state and local taxation more equitable.

It calls for the enactment of a sales tax limited to school support.

Meanwhile, the Democratic party in its Salem platform convention reiterated its opposition to a sales tax.

ON A NUMBER of occasions the people of the state have voted down a sales tax. They might do so again. Or, if property and income taxes get too onerous, they might just vote for a sales tax next time, provided it promises a certain measure of relief from property and income taxation.

In any event, the battle is sure to continue raging in the months to come.

As a prelude to this, it might be constructive to review the reasons why so many people are so strongly opposed to a sales tax—opposition which is often pooh-poohed or misunderstood.

CLARENCE BARTON, state representative from Coos county, voiced the anti's arguments cogently at the Democratic convention.

The prime reason for opposition, of course, is that it hurts most those least able to pay—thus negating the idea that those making more money should pay more taxes than those making less.

State Sen. Monroe Sweetland is quoted by Barton as saying:

"It (the sales tax) falls heaviest upon those who are least able to pay. The sales tax takes more money from the family in the \$2,000 bracket. The sales tax takes more money from an extra \$100 earned by that family compared to the family in the \$200,000 bracket that happens to earn an extra \$100."

At any given income level the family with the greatest number of children or other dependents will have to pay the highest taxes."

ARGUMENTS secondary to the "unfair" aspect of the sales tax cited by Barton include these:

It would bring in far less from out-of-state tourists than most people realize, since their major expenditures already are for gasoline and housing. The first is already taxed; the second is exempt under most sales tax plans.

The tax (like all taxes) is paid from incomes, and therefore doesn't represent a "new tax base" at all; it only shifts the major tax burden from those who can afford to pay to those who can't.

It would "broaden the base" of tax payments, all right, to include those least able to pay.

BARTON also disputes the frequent allegation that a sales tax would improve the "business climate" in the state, claiming, to the contrary, that a 3 per cent levy on all new equipment, materials and goods, would be a strong deterrent to new industry.

Barton said the tax would call for "the creation or addition of another state agency . . . to go out and go through every retail store and check the books to see whether each business is collecting the amount of sales tax they should . . ."

While it is said food and other necessities will be exempt, Barton points experience in other states indicates this is a "foot-in-the-door" proposition. He says:

"Of the 34 states that have a sales tax at the present time, only nine remain that still have food exempt, only seven remain that have medicine exempt, and only three have clothing exempt."

AND in another "ability-to-pay" argument, he points out:

" . . . Such extras as lawyers fees, trips to the beauty parlor, golf fees, purchase of stocks and bonds and numerous other luxury items, especially services, have not been subjected to a sales tax. This means that the people in the upper income brackets contribute a much smaller portion of their income to state government compared to the people in the lower income brackets."

Finally, he says:

"I believe that we can write the income tax to do whatever the people of Oregon want it to do, and raise the amount of revenue that we need. I believe that any steps that we might take toward bringing a sales tax to the state of Oregon violates our standards of justice and fair play, and wholly ignores the responsibilities we have to one another as citizens."

THESE, we believe, are a fair summary of the arguments against the sales tax.

And, although one can, perhaps, quarrel with one or two of the presuppositions underlying the arguments, they add up to a fairly impressive case against this tax.

However, as remarked, the time may come when the people of Oregon will accept the drawbacks of the sales tax in order to avoid even more serious drawbacks of growing income and property taxation—particularly the property tax, which no longer is an "ability to pay" tax.

The "ideal" tax, of course, is the one that someone else pays. And there ain't no such animal.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



"I DON'T THINK HIS MOUTH IS SO BIG."

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

THE DULLES TESTIMONY Washington—The hard, disturbing facts and figures in the testimony of the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Allen W. Dulles, before the Senate Space Committee, can now be revealed on undoubted authority.



IN brief, C. I. A. Director Dulles told the committee that the American government expected the Soviet Union to have 35 intercontinental ballistic missiles "on launchers" by the end of June this year.

He stated that the Soviets would further be expected to have some 140 to 200 ICBMs operational by mid-1961. He gave the estimate that the Soviets "probably" have two factories turning out ballistic missiles at this time. But he added that one or both of these factories may still be devoted, in part or in whole, to the production of intermediate range missiles.

Finally, C. I. A. Director Dulles admitted that these estimates, though used by the U.S. government for planning purposes, were only the best estimates that could be made on the basis of the fragmentary known facts. They had no claim, he said, to microscopic accuracy. If the estimates were erroneous, he further admitted, they might as easily err on the low side as on the high side.

THREE points of the highest significance are implied by this testimony of the C. I. A. director. His estimates show, first of all, what kind of ICBM lead the American government now thinks the Soviets have. By next June, when the Soviets are expected to have 35 ICBMs "on launchers," we should have two operational Atlas squadrons, or a total of 18 ICBMs ready to fire. By June, 1961, when the Soviets are expected to have 140 to 200 ICBMs "on launchers," we should have five operational Atlas squadrons plus one Titan squadron, or a total of 54 ICBMs ready to fire.

Second, the Dulles estimates explain both the business-as-usual defense budget and the complaint of justification of that budget by Secretary of Defense Thomas S. Gates and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Nathan Twining. If the estimates are indeed microscopically correct, as Secretary Gates and General Twining assume, the Soviets do not now have the number of ICBMs they need to wipe out the American nuclear deterrent. Furthermore, our incoming ICBM squadrons will multiply the targets the Soviets must destroy more rapidly than the Soviets are expected to multiply their stock of operational ICBMs.

THIS is because three Soviet ICBM firings are needed to give the Kremlin 95 per cent assurance of destroying one of our ICBMs in a "soft" launching site. Thus, even in the case of missiles in soft pads, each American ICBM that becomes operational creates a requirement for three more Soviet ICBMs in "hard" pads; and the Titan squadron that should become operational by mid-1961 will be fully "hardened."

For these reasons, if the estimates are precisely accurate, and if there is no slippage in the scheduled activation of the American ICBM squadrons, there will be no moment when the Kremlin can risk a nuclear strike at the United States. For if the Soviets do not accumulate ICBMs more rapidly than the estimates allow, they will never have enough to take out the whole target system presented by the American nuclear deterrent. And thus they will never have enough ICBMs to avert an American counterstrike that would destroy the Soviet Union.

Third, however, the Dulles testimony clearly reveals the absolute reliance of the Eisenhower administration policy-makers on the micrometric precision of the intelligence estimates—which C. I. A. Director Dulles says cannot be micrometrically precise. TO ILLUSTRATE, the brilliant Strategic Air Commander, Gen. Thomas Power, has repeatedly stated that the Soviets can now "wipe out" our nuclear deterrent with only 150 ICBMs, plus the same amount of IRBMs, which they are known to have in ample quantities. The estimates give the Soviets only 35 operational ICBMs by the middle of this year. By then, the complete activation of the first two Atlas squadrons will increase the Soviet requirement, as figured by General Power, to something like 180 ICBMs. The margin may appear to be ample, but it is really incredibly narrow. Our own Atlas ICBM plant is capable of turning out no less than 15 missiles per month, on three shifts, and on its single production line. This capacity output has never been attained because of business-as-usual budget making, but the possibility of this kind of Atlas output has existed for over a year. Thus ten months of capacity output by the Atlas plant equals the present Soviet ICBM requirement as stated by General Power. C.I.A. Director Dulles has now testified that the Soviets "probably" have, not one, but two missile plants in production at present. Either, or both, of these plants may have, not one business-as-usual production line like the Atlas plant, but two lines in three-shift production. That sort of situation in at least one plant was implied by Nikita S. Khrushchev's recent boast that he had inspected a Soviet factory which produced no less than 250 "rockets" last year. The word "rockets" was used in a context that seemed to indicate "intercontinental rockets," of which Khrushchev had just been speaking. Thus the chance of error in the estimate can hardly be excluded. Yet the whole outlook would be hideously transformed by the most trifling error in the American intelligence estimates—a mere error, for example, concerning the actual moment when one or both of the Soviet rocket plants began production of ICBMs for operational purposes.

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.

Send Her a Card

To the Editor: In Sacred Heart hospital, Room 310, lies a beautiful young girl, a victim of a cruel and tragic accident in California last week.

Seven months ago, she was a beautiful young bride, to-day, nothing, only a hospital bed with each leg in a cast and also her right arm.

She has many months in the hospital and she needs all the kindness and love everyone can give her.

So, dear friends, where ever you are, whether you know her or not, send Elaine a get-well card.

Let us shower her with cards. A card costs so little and means so much, especially to one in the hospital.

Do it today, don't delay. She lost her husband, her car, her glasses and her wrist-watch. So you see, dear friends, she needs your love through cards.

Send your cards and loving thoughts to

Elaine Griffiths Room 310 Sacred Heart Hospital Medford, Ore.

Next time, it might be your daughter.

Mrs. Burton Green 2411 Sunset Court Medford, Ore.

Moved to Poetry (?)

To the Editor: Seldom, in this hard-working world, does one encounter anything which inspires the soul to poetry, but your editorial of Feb. 3, wherein you quoted Mr. M. Howard Gossage on the subject of the irritating and objectionable encroachment of the billboard upon our landscape and field of vision, created such a glow of enthusiasm that I feel compelled to express the gratitude of this subscriber, upon the discovery that "we are not alone."

Billboards, ranged in bright array, What's behind your faces gay? Serpent's Pits, and Dining Inn, Or mountains white and forests green? Blatant, rowdy advertiser, Would that you could be made wiser— We'd buy the milk from Zilla's dairy, Take the pills our druggists carry, Eat that loaf of quick nutrition, Vote for you grim politician, Smoke that tar-fresh, filter-weed, Dunk the doughnut, plant the seed— Buy the paint and paint the town— If you'd just take those . . . Billboards down!

Mrs. W. L. Neece Gold Hill, Ore.

Guild Head's Views

To the Editor: Why are the editors, reporters and photographers of the Portland News-Paper Guild supporting the Stereotypers' strike against The Oregonian and the Oregon Journal?

For two main reasons. We believe the position of the Stereotypers morally justified. We believe our unity with our fellow workers in the "back shop" necessary to preserve all of our unions and the protections they have given us from destruction. Our decision was not lightly made. The Guild fully explored the issues of the dispute and found most of them to be "straw men" raised by the publishers.

Management's negotiators had given the craft union the run-around in 18 pre-strike bargaining sessions. As the weeks pass by with no progress toward settlement, despite concessions by the Stereotypers, it is becoming increasingly clear that management has plotted a cold-blooded experiment to find a formula for destroying newspaper unions. Strike insurance, professional strikebreakers and cold rejection of any effort of public officials to find a middle way are all ingredients of the formula.

The publishers have claimed we violated our contract. Nothing in our contract or in federal law requires a union member to cross a picket line. Some ask if we are not different from printers, stereotypers and pressmen, if we are not professional persons and B-52s, in order to put at least a part of the American nuclear deterrent beyond reach of a surprise Soviet rocket strike.

As has been remarked, gambling the whole national future on the chance that there cannot be an error of a mere four months in the intelligence estimates, is simply a game of Russian roulette on an unprecedented scale. (c) 1960 New York Herald Tribune Inc.

POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

Problems, problems — nothing but problems. For instance, we received a letter the other day which is too long for the "Communications" column, and too funny to throw away. What to do? Put it in Potluck of course. Here it is:

To the Editor: This being the time of the year when coyotes, wild cats and cougars start their courting, and evenings are still long enough for hunters to gather together and spin yarns, there comes eventually the long disputed question: "Do cougars scream like a woman in distress or do they not?"

One night like this 35 years ago my family had settled down after supper. Ma was cutting the ladies underwear section out of the Sears catalog so it would be fit for us kids to read, Pa was grinding pulwit bark and corncobs to put in his "loaning tobacco" pouch, and Uncle Cheddar (he was the 10th of 12 sons Grandpa and Grandma had, and when he came Grandpa exclaimed, "Cheez, another boy!" so Cheddar was a natural name) was honing his knife to be ready for the Saturday night dance. I was reading a story which brought up the question, "Do cougars emit a shrill scream?"

I asked Pa, but he said he was no naturalist, ask your Uncle. Uncle Cheddar sat me down and told me the following: "Many times people hunt all their lives and really do not learn the ways of the wild, or become adept as I am at reading the signs of the wild creatures. Some creatures exist which most people are not aware are in the forests, yet evidences of their presence are to be seen on every hand. "Such a creature is the 'Side Hill Gouger.' This animal is the living proof of the correctness of two unrelated theories. First it proves Darwin's theory of the survival of the most adaptable, and secondly it proves Einstein's theory of relativity. "The Side Hill Gouger is an animal which lives on the steep slopes of canyons and mountainsides all over the

territory in their claims for benefits due them. As a special activity aside from veterans welfare, Medford Barracks 540, VVWV, beginning in 1959, sponsors, by furnishing the tuition fee for as many boys as the Barrack's fund can stand, for 10 days at the Easter Seal Camp, operated by the Oregon Society for Crippled Children and Adults, an annual event.

The growth of Medford Barracks No. 540, VVWV, in this area, and the success we have had in keeping good public relations, is largely due to the friendly and congenial relations our publicity department, both of the Barracks and the Ladies Auxiliary, have enjoyed in our contacts with the Medford Mail Tribune.

We thank you for all of the favors of the past four years, and look forward to continue pleasant dealings with you in the future.

Alvin C. Lucas Commander (1959) Pat Graham Quartermaster and Service Officer Veterans of World War I Medford

Learn something every day, don't you?

A press release from the University of Oregon says: "This year on March 1, the 28th Symposium Group will start a speaking program that will take them throughout the state and into the middle of May." Now that's going to be an interesting trip, but sort of a long one. Hope they like it there.

A man called up the other day, and sounded disappointed when we weren't able to tell him, right off the bat, whether this is the Chinese "Year of the Rat" or the "Year of the Mouse."

We can now. It's both — or either. The Chinese ideograph for "rat" is the same as it is for "mouse" and vice versa. (And one ingenious soul suggests that it was the year of the mouse in China until the Communists took over, and now it is the year of the rat. Maybe he has something.)

Men! Oh MEN!! Did you know that there is a store in New York which markets men's red underwear with removable lace trim for St. Valentine's day? Did you know that? Who says we aren't a decadent nation?

There is a certain law enforcement agency in Jackson county which had a bit of technical difficulty lately. We were told about it if we promised we wouldn't tell which agency it was. Anyway, there was this prisoner, and he was handcuffed, and the time came to take the handcuffs off, and the key worked fine on one side, but didn't work at all on the other side, no matter how hard the officers twisted, and after one particularly hard twist broke right off in the keyhole.

They wound up freeing the prisoner with a hacksaw — a procedure he seemed to enjoy thoroughly, by the way, although they didn't, particularly.

This was at a school re-organization meeting the other night. One man said to another: "Didn't hear anything you said last time you said something." Last week we mentioned coffee-flavored lipstick, and said maybe Bert Kissinger could tell us what it signified. Sure enough, he did, and it's simpler than we thought. "Good to the last drop," Bert declared.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

From Washington: The house of representatives is ready to begin debate on the first tax-cutting bill of the present session of the congress. The bill would repeal the tax on tires and tubes supplied with new U.S.-made bicycles.

Backers said the measure would reduce the cost of making a bike by 25 cents, and so, presumably, would save the buyer of a new one the sum of two bits.

But— Repeal of the tax would cost the federal government \$500,000 in lost revenue.

COMMENT? How about this: A tax of two bits on each new bicycle made and sold in the U.S. doesn't sound like much. But when the two bit tax on ALL the new bikes is added up it comes to half a million dollars.

Many a muckle makes a muckle. A lot of little tax reductions would add up to a BIG tax reduction.

SOMETHING else to remember: If this half million dollars taken out of the pockets of the buyers of new U.S.-built bicycles in the form of an

excise tax on bike tires had been LEFT IN THEIR POCKETS, they would have had just that much more to spend for other things.

The tax and tax and spend and spend boys orate to us at great length on the BENEFITS of government spending. What they fail to add is that every dollar taken out of our pockets in the form of taxes to be SPENT BY GOVERNMENT is a dollar that we don't have left in our pockets to SPEND FOR OURSELVES.

AN INTERESTING little tale on the wires concerns a California woman who for 18 years has been a model wife and a model mother. All this time, she has been doing an admirable job of keeping her house and raising her children.

But— It turns out— She is an ex-convict and a parole violator.

WHAT to do about it? LET'S FORGET IT. Under the doctrine of atonement, she has shown in these 18 years for her former transgressions. She has paid her debt to society. Let's leave her alone.