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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
March 1, 1950 (Wednesday)
FHA approves \$376,400
commitment for construction
of proposed seven-story, 50-
apartment house at 10th st.
and Oakdale ave.

Chet Hubbard, president of
the Jackson County Chamber of
Commerce is in Salem to-
day to present Chamber's view
at CAB hearing on proposed
renewal of West Coast air-
lines' operating franchise in
northwest.

20 YEARS AGO
March 1, 1940 (Friday)
Well-known Medford at-
torney sentenced to state pris-
on for term not to exceed two
years after being found guilty
of obtaining money by false
pretenses.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye
Smudge Pot" column: "The
state was drenched by rains,
that fell as copiously as prom-
ises of candidates to save the
taxpayer's money."

30 YEARS AGO
March 1, 1930 (Saturday)
Local gasoline price war is
averted with assurance that
gas will remain at 26 cents
per gallon.

Jackson county has 11,411
registered voters for next
May's primary.

40 YEARS AGO
March 1, 1920 (Monday)
City police raid dwelling in
west Medford and find moon-
shine.

Local group formed to back
McAdoo for President.

50 YEARS AGO
March 1, 1910 (Tuesday)
City plays to beauty Sev-
enth st. park on West Main
st., and construct a new band-
stand and a lily pond there.

Mayor Cannon announces
that he will advocate the use
of a new kind of pavement on
Medford streets which is be-
ing used by many other cities
on coast.

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

1. What does the seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution provide?
2. When does the federal government's fiscal year begin?
3. What Queen was married to Francis II of France, Lord Darnley, and the Earl of Bothwell?
4. After Joan of Arc led the French to victory, who was made king of France? Who could not buy a pie because he had no penny?
5. Are earthquake disturbances measured by a barograph, seismograph, or a hydrograph?
6. The President of the U.S. may declare a national holiday which must be observed by all States; true or false?
7. Who was the only U.S. Vice President ever to resign his office?
8. What is a wake?
9. Would you expect to find penguins at the Arctic or Antarctic?

Answers: 1. Direct election of U.S. Senators by popular vote. 2. July 1. 3. Mary, Queen of Scots. 4. Charles VII. 5. Simple Simon. 6. Seismograph. 7. False. 8. John C. Calhoun. 9. A vigil with a corpse. 10. Antarctic.

The State Is Welshing

Elsewhere on this page is a letter from Sebastiano J. Fagone — better-known as "Benny" — which deals with the incomplete Medford National Guard armory on the Fairgrounds south of town.

Benny, a former, long-time National Guard officer, refers to a couple of recent editorials which expressed resentment that the state hasn't fulfilled its part of the bargain to build a true, multi-purpose facility. He tells us to "get off the Guard's back, and take it upstairs where it belongs."

For Friend Benny's information, we aren't "on the Guard's back" here, and it is "upstairs" that we were kicking about.

AS a matter of fact, we have reason to know that members of the National Guard units in Medford also feel the state hasn't kept faith with this area — although, understandably, they don't feel free to say so publicly.

We appreciate Benny's letter, for it motivated us to dig back through the files of the Mail Tribune to see what was said back in 1954, 1955 and 1956 when the armory question was decided.

On June 18, 1954, the people of Medford voted for a \$40,000 bond issue for the armory. This money, together with \$60,000 from the county, was to be used with state and federal funds to build a multi-purpose armory-auditorium. The voters of Medford, and the county court, were "sold" on this on the basis that, without this local participation, the structure would be "just an armory," with no multi-purpose facilities.

THOSE supporting the project locally, working closely with the state National Guard headquarters, said, prior to the election:

"Farm machinery displays, county gatherings, important trade shows, large conventions, national entertainment features, and athletic events, will be possible if by your vote is provided the facilities, which may be used by all organizations such as veterans groups, civic clubs, etc."

A letter from A. A. Lausmann, an armory supporter, replied to another letter expressing doubts about the armory. He said:

"True, the State of Oregon will build an armory whether or not the city and county participate, but the building will be only an armory—not the combined armory-auditorium which we taxpayers citizens of Medford and Jackson county have a chance to obtain at tremendous prospective savings and advantage to ourselves."

Is a building without adequate seating an auditorium? Of course not.

MEDFORD citizens passed the bond issue by a margin of better than 10 to 1.

The bonds were sold June 1, 1956. Medford taxpayers are now paying them off at the rate of \$4,000 per year. The issue will not be fully retired until 1967.

Benny is correct in saying that plans were revised, after the first bids were about \$60,000 too high. On Nov. 30, a Mail Tribune story reported that a basement, including shower and team rooms, and some small meeting rooms, had been deleted from the plans. To be retained were the large assembly area, kitchen, toilets, locker rooms for the National Guard, storage rooms, ordnance vaults, offices, a class room, rifle range, boiler room and check rooms.

AFTER several conferences and meetings, the revised plans were approved by the National Guard bureau and the federal bureau of the budget, and were announced late in February of 1956. They called for "a \$348,000 two-unit building to be erected on the fairgrounds."

The M-T story said:
"The new plan will provide approximately the same floor space on the main floor as in the first plan . . . but will eliminate a basement, reduce the air conditioning system, simplify the heating system, and eliminate a substantial portion of the plumbing . . ."

Be it noted that at no time did the state refute the statements that it would be a multi-purpose building with facilities for large gatherings. At no time did the revised plans, as announced, contemplate any deletion of such necessary facilities. In June of 1956, after the bids were let, the City of Medford expected seating to be provided. The city ordinance which authorized the bond issue said so.

THERE are two main defects with the building as it now stands.

(1) There is inadequate seating. A few hundred portable, folding chairs are available. And that's all. It's a far cry from the promises of "seating for up to 4,000 people" made when the armory was under contemplation.

(2) The acoustics are lousy. No one is particularly to blame for this, for acoustics planning is a highly inexact "science," and one can never be sure whether they'll be good or bad until a structure is finished.

BUT acoustics can be corrected, and seating can be provided.

And it certainly seems to us, taking everything into consideration, that it is the obligation of the state to do it. County Judge Earl Miller has indicated the county would be willing to cooperate in this.

But unless and until such improvements are made, the Armory's usefulness is strictly limited.

It simply isn't the multi-purpose "auditorium-armory" which we were promised, and for which we are paying.
Until it becomes one, the state is welshing on a deal.—E. A.

Dennis the Menace



HOW ALL WE GOTTA DO IS FIND SOME DUMB KID THAT WANTS TO BUY FIVE POUNDS OF SUGAR. CHEAP!

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.

Armory Responsibility

To the Editor: The armory was built as a multi-purpose building, and like all other partnership projects things come up that are least expected. First off, may I point out that the first bid let out was \$75,000 to \$100,000 too much. In order to construct it within the limits of the amount allotted three important items had to be cut out. (1) The rifle range was brought up on the main floor instead of a basement. (2) By so doing it eliminated three classrooms badly needed by the unit. (3) The all-important roll-away bleachers.

The total amount was about \$75,000. The federal-state-county-city officials knew this and approved the changes, so the armory bid was accepted with these changes. My point is that the officials knew it. Whether the public was notified through the newspaper is another thing. So nobody promised anything that they couldn't fulfill.

As for the building not being used for different type of events, the price is too high. Who sets the price? The armory board and the civilian advisory board consisting of representatives from the guard, county, and city. Since they set a reasonable rate for the use of the armory, why does everyone go to the Hedrick Junior High school gym? It's much cheaper and has better facilities along with seats.

When I was armory board president we tried everything we knew to accommodate the people interested in rental of the armory. No thank you too much. As for the PAL club, they used the old armory at no charge at all and we did everything possible in promoting the welfare of the Police Athletic League. In fact I think the National Guard was instrumental in starting the PAL club in putting on its snows until the time the old building burned down.

I don't feel that the local unit of the National Guard is responsible for what is happening. The funds for any additional alterations or addition, such as seats, must be provided by the legislative body and the military department of the state of Oregon and not the National Guard unit here.

The local armory board is only responsible for the rental and administration of the building. Believe me, I know they would like nothing better than to be able to accommodate everyone who would like to rent the armory, with or without seats. This is a community and state problem, so why not go to the right people with it? I suggest the Oregon state military department in Salem and the representatives we sent to Salem—make your wishes known. Give the public the facts.

I don't believe the state, county, or city, promised anyone seats in the armory as you stated in your editorial. It is a multi-purpose building as originally planned and accepted by all concerned, so let's get off the Guard's back and take it upstairs where it belongs.

Sebastian J. Fagone
(A Private Citizen)
629 Pine st.
Medford.

He's Bugged
To the Editor: This furor about sterilizing unwed mothers really bugs me.

Let's spay all the female dogs and sterilize all the women and then all we will have to do is call "Here Rover!"

"Who says I'm growing old?" demands Red Skelton. "I still chase pretty young girls! The only difference is that now when I chase them, I can't remember why I started chasing them!"

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Washington Writer's Ears Ring After Session of Senate Filibuster Watching

By DICK WEST
Washington—(UPI)—Now that my ears have quit ringing, I can tell you what I've been doing. I've been filibuster watching in the Senate.

Watching a filibuster is something like watching an ice berg. Its movement is imperceptible and 90 per cent of it is below the surface.

The great civil rights debate of 1960 was barely getting under way when I arrived in the Senate press gallery. People were scurrying about as in preparation for a siege.

Southerners had been pictured as standing at a "new Appomattox" in the struggle. But for the moment, at least, it seemed more like Bull Run. Keeps Log

Following is the log I kept during the early hours of what might be described as the "Olympics of the Larynx":

5:18 p.m.—Made first descent into cave of the winds. Sen. A. Willis Robertson (D-Va.) holding forth for South. Sen. Spessard Holland (D-Fla.) guarding flanks. Both in good voice.

5:20 p.m.—Spotted Sen. John F. Kennedy (D-Mass.) at desk in rear row, reading newspaper. Has dreamy look. Could he be reading about his favorite presidential candidate?

5:28 p.m.—Southerners send in Sen. Russell B. Long (D-La.) to ask Robertson questions. This gives Robertson's vocal cords a rest, makes speech last longer.

6:22 p.m.—Long still questioning Robertson. Crowd in gallery thinning out. For some reason I began thinking about a television program called "Keep Talking."

7:30 p.m.—Time out for dinner (See footnote).

8:10 p.m.—Return to Senate chamber. Galleries filling up again. More senators drifting in.

8:15 p.m.—Sen. Lister Hill (D-Ala.) comes to aid of Robertson. Asks if it not true that George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Patrick Henry were Virginians? Robertson confirms.

8:31 p.m.—Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.) asks why Hill left John Smith and Pocahontas out of list of famous Virginians. Hill says if he named them all he might be accused of filibustering.

8:44 p.m.—Robertson, who has been talking 270 minutes, yields floor. Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel (R-Calif.) calls for vote. Everyone gives hollow laugh.

11:05 p.m.—Kennedy gets floor, giving Southern a respite. I decide I also need a respite and retire from the field of battle.

Footnote—The menu at the place where I had dinner listed one dish—I swear this is true—called "integrated chicken."

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop
BERLIN: A GRAVE TEST
Washington—A grave test of will already seems to be building up at Berlin, two months and a half before the scheduled discussion of Nikita S. Khrushchev's Berlin demands at the summit conference. The test has two major elements.

First, the Western Allies have now decided to resume air supply flights to Berlin above the 10,000-foot level at an early date. With the President's approval, the Soviets have been given advance notice. The decision's great importance is indicated by its background.

In brief, modern cargo aircraft (such as the West will use for massive air supply of Berlin) need to fly above 10,000 feet for reasonable efficiency. There is no altitude limitation, either, on the Soviet-guaranteed Western rights on Berlin's air approaches. But when high-altitude flights to Berlin were previous attempted, in the early stages of the present crisis, the Soviets violently charged that East Germany's air space was being trespassed upon.

AT THAT TIME, the Soviets fairly crudely hinted they would use force, if need be, to put a stop to such flights. Soviet fighter planes also made threatening passes at the Western supply aircraft. The Western Allies flatly rejected the Soviet charge of air-trespass; and they strongly insisted on their unlimited rights. But at that time, the high-altitude flights were also stopped.

Hence there is no sure way to predict the Soviet reaction to the message that high-altitude flights will shortly be resumed. However, the betting favors an extremely sharp response.

The second and less vital element in the Berlin test of will derives from the affair of the Potsdam passes. This affair began some weeks ago, when the Soviets slyly changed the wording of the official passes of the Western military liaison group at the Soviet High Command's headquarters in Potsdam, beyond Free Berlin's borders.

PREVIOUSLY, these passes were simple, unadorned Soviet military documents. The new passes, which have now replaced the old, conspicuously refer to the "territory" of the East German Republic. They also carry the note that they have been "registered" with the Ministry of the Interior of the Kremlin's East German puppets.

The new passes, in short, are obviously designed as first steps toward Western de facto recognition on the East German government. This the Kremlin much desires. Hence the wording of the passes was angrily protested by the West-

Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

TARNISHED SHIELD
Washington—It seems almost that a blind and evil fate has decreed that the West itself must destroy its own true military shield, the North Atlantic Treaty organization.

Blow after blow at this shield has been delivered from among the very nations it is intended to protect. The latest thrust against it is from that member of the alliance which is as ham-handed in international politics as it is fearfully able in warfare, West Germany.

In NATO, 15 nations headed by the United States are banded together all for one and one for all against imperialist Communist aggression. This treaty is the one expression of free-world power and realism, as distinguished from vague free-world hopes and slogans, to rise in 13 years of cold war.

BOLD and honest in concept, it was raised to provide real western troops to maintain the peace—not merely western talk-talk. But long ago the British ceased to make effective contributions to NATO. France did likewise—only more so—because she had to divert military strength to Algeria against a chronic Arab revolt.

The United States, as its actual founder, has remained formally faithful to NATO. But we, too, cannot seriously claim that we have not allowed the shield to tarnish, if not to buckle.

The American-British decision of last year to negotiate the cold war with Nikita Khrushchev of the Soviet Union has undeniably made NATO seem less and less important—and all obligations to NATO less and less binding.

For a long time, indeed, the only NATO members who have stood four-square with it have been the smaller powers, notably Italy, Turkey and Norway. They could have had little heart to do so. For it is plain that these smaller members of the alliance are not going to have much to say about whatever arrangements, good or bad, the United States and Britain will eventually make with Khrushchev.

THE LIAISON group undeniably has some value as an observation post. Yet it was widely suspected that the real ground of the British objection to the protest was a strong inclination towards de facto recognition of East Germany. Having this inclination, the British no doubt felt little distaste for the thin end of the wedge.

In the end, British agreement to the protest against the new passes was secured by a united Franco-German-American front. But the subsequent British objection to any follow-up of the protest still indicates an unchanged underlying attitude in London. The same attitude was evinced in the strong British opposition to the far more serious decision to resume high-altitude flights. Once more, in this latter case, the British yielded to a unified front of the other allies, but they only yielded with great reluctance.

For the present, therefore, it must be assumed that the unity of the West is more apparent than real. This is a disturbing assumption to have to make, as the preliminary test of will at Berlin gets underway.

There is no reason to suppose that this test, though preliminary, will be mild or picnic-like. Unless President Eisenhower leads a retreat from the positions he has taken, this test can be very unpleasant indeed. And if the unpleasantness shatters the unity of the West, there will be a strong feedback effect; the unpleasantness will thereby be triply compounded.

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Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

THE REASON it's so hard to win an argument with Sam Goldwyn," explains Ben Hecht, "is that he thinks of himself as a nation. His treatment of writers sometimes reminds me of the behavior of an irritated man shaking a slot machine."

Mrs. Goldwyn, however, takes her husband's tirades in stride. "With Sam," she says, "everything is a big flourish of tomato cans."

Athens is the seat of the University of Georgia, and Dean John Drewry assures us that only three real troubles plague the good citizens there. For the undergraduates, it's sex. For the graduates, it's athletics. And for the faculty, it's parking!

"Who says I'm growing old?" demands Red Skelton. "I still chase pretty young girls! The only difference is that now when I chase them, I can't remember why I started chasing them!"

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