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NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE MEMBER

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 Organization for a fund drive to erect a new and modern St. Mary's school here announced.

20 YEARS AGO Medford High school won five first and three second ratings in the southwestern Oregon band and solo contests at Grants Pass.

30 YEARS AGO Medford High typists win prize award in district contest. Portland loses first four games in Pacific Coast league action.

40 YEARS AGO April 13, 1920 (Tuesday) Rogue River cannery builds a new storage warehouse here.

50 YEARS AGO April 13, 1910 (Wednesday) New residents are arriving in Medford in such great numbers that there aren't enough housing accommodations, so a tent-city of 50 tents has been erected near center of town.

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

1. During the year of 1936, three different kings were on the British throne; who were they? 2. Which is larger, an Army division, or an Army Corps?

Community Responsibility

A few weeks ago in this space there appeared a piece entitled "Who to Believe?" Its burden was that, in making judgments, one must consider the source of information.

What happens, however, when differing sources of information, both of which are apparently trustworthy and reliable, tell differing stories? WE REFER specifically today to the differing stories concerning the treatment accorded a man found by the police in convulsions in a downtown street last week.

The police officer summoned an ambulance, and then himself went to the hospital. To him, it appeared that an unduly long time elapsed before the man was given treatment. To him it appeared that there was a lack of consideration for the man's needs.

He gave his facts, and his observations, in his official report, and repeated them in detail to the Mail Tribune's reporter.

The story was written and printed with confident reliance on the police log as a dependable source, which it has been in the past.

SHOULD the story have been checked with Sacred Heart hospital? In the light of hindsight, yes.

And to the extent we failed in our responsibility to check a story thoroughly on a matter of public importance, and to corroborate details, we extend our apologies to the hospital, and to those who felt the story presented the situation in an unfair light.

But it must also be recorded that the police officer has not changed his story. While the signed statements of the nurses, the doctor and the ambulance driver contradict, in some measure, his account of the affair, he still gained and still holds the impression that the patient was unwelcome, unwanted, and a burdensome problem.

HIS impression persists. And it is one which, judging by the comments which have arisen since, is shared by a good many people, including those who have had unpleasant personal experiences in connection with hospitalization. His impression may be entirely incorrect. It may be a simple misunderstanding of medical procedures and necessities.

In view of the statements of the others involved, we are inclined to believe that misunderstanding may have entered in. Certainly the statements of the doctor and nurses, sought and obtained by hospital representatives after the event, are definite enough.

BUT, as remarked here last week, while the details of the incident are important to the people involved, they are not nearly as important as the larger implications of this, or similar, situations in the past and which may arise in the future. The city administration, sensibly, is seeking conferences with hospital and Camp White authorities to make sure that procedures are mutually understood, so that no suffering human being need go without emergency care.

The chief of police points out that his officers, despite first aid training, are not equipped to make diagnoses, nor to care for those in need of medical help. The suggestion has been made that it may be well to create a police emergency ward.

IF THIS incident serves to point up a community need, and to lead a way toward its solution, it will have been a worth whatever unhappiness it caused.

As we see it: 1. The hospitals do not receive enough tax funds to recompense them for their care of indigent cases. 2. The ambulance service sustains a considerable loss—one it cannot afford—on some indigent cases. 3. If we are to avoid the costs attendant on construction and operation of a county hospital, a solution MUST be found for the care of indigent patients. 4. Based on some of the letters and telephone calls we have received, the hospitals need to clarify, in the minds of the public generally, and of their patients in particular, their bookkeeping, billing and charging procedures. It may be necessary to charge 50 cents for an aspirin tablet, but the patient will pay it more willingly if he knows why it is necessary.

THE hospitals have labored alone too long with these problems. And there is another unjust effect—that is that the costs of hospitalization charged to "paying patients" reflect the losses sustained by the hospitals from "non-paying patients." This, in effect, makes responsible people pay for a charity load, right at a time when they are already burdened with their own medical and hospital bills. For all these reasons we hope this incident, whether or not it was "inflated," will focus community attention on the needs of the hospitals. It is, after all, a community responsibility.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



I WANNA WEIGH BEFORE I BATH! DIRTY'S HEAVY!

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.

A Wide Gulf To the Editor: In a communication to your paper, one of your readers used the phrase "Camp White derogate." Undoubtedly, it came naturally to her mind as very likely, she and many other Jackson County residents have made few if any contacts with the men at this station. She, and these others, have a definite type of person in mind whenever they refer to the men at Camp White.

So when we weigh a few deductions from our pay against what it took to set the stage for the better ways of today, what do you think? I think I've said enough to show that these old-timers have earned all they are likely to get. C. P. Burrill 122 Vilas rd. W. Central Point, Ore.

Devil's Chief Tool To the Editor: A phone call early Sunday brought to my attention the fact that it is not wise to be too hasty in judging what our fellow men do. The other day a front page spread in the Tribune told a sad story of a man in Medford. Just who wrote this piece I do not know. At any rate our hearts went out to this man who seemed to have such a difficult time in obtaining medical assistance.

I immediately took the material at hand and wrote a letter to this column. If I have hurt anyone's feelings I am sorry. There are always two sides to a question, and in the future I shall, to the best of my ability, try and find out more about a situation before I pass judgment. When we first learned of this situation we were not told that this individual was in such a condition that he could not be trusted to stay on a table in the emergency room.

The reason for his being placed on the floor was that he was under the influence of alcohol. I may be taken to task for this statement. Yet a man who claims to know the facts plainly told me this. In fact he said that if anything he had told me was not facts, that our whole family was free to come to his place of business for a real treat. As to all of the other events of that evening, I do not know. It should be a lesson to all of us to be more careful. I am sure that many who read these lines have come into contact with similar cases.

The sad part of it all is that many of you have by your votes legalized a business that is making drunken sots out of our boys and girls. Then when a man gets down in the gutter, we look down on him. Our youth and the rest of us are constantly being educated with the idea that alcohol belongs with our way of living. I am becoming more and more convinced each day that the great adversary of human souls will leave no stone unturned in his hellish scheme to ruin men and women, boys and girls. Alcohol is one of the devil's chief tools and we willingly fall into his snare. Henry Johnson Jr. 2400 Highway 66 Ashland, Ore.

Long Wait To the Editor: About the convulsive man from Front street who waited 2 1/2 hours for hospitalization. I had a case here three years ago who waited a half day and all night, an old man 72 years old, a veteran, who had a stroke. I rent rooms and this old fellow had been here about three years. One day about noon I found him. He was calling for help in his trailer house, paralyzed on one side. I knew better than to try Camp White as I had tried

Apartheid Policy Revolt Has Economic, As Well As Social, Effect in Africa

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign Editor While most of the outside world has joined in condemning the Union of South Africa's harsh white supremacy laws, recent racial violence also has brought South Africa's white population face to face with some unpleasant facts of life.

To the outside world, the struggle appears mostly a social one, Negroes attempting to free themselves of repressive bonds, and the South African government attempting to stem a tide which will not be stopped. But while this may be true, for the whites of South Africa it also has great economic significance.

strong state governments, the free-enterprise system and "The Republic for which it stands," triumph over the despotic big-government welfare bureaucracy. If the present big-government welfare bureaucracy is wanted, then taxes must be RAISED as they are not now producing enough revenue to pay the costs of such government. If government that governs—not "superstitious" is wanted, then taxes can be LOWERED.

Both labor and management have strong organizations protecting their interests. The federal government as we know it today is becoming more and more the "union" representing those who WON'T work and WON'T make the effort to support themselves. This "union" is so powerful that it successfully forces both labor and management to contribute to its members so they won't HAVE to work from payday to payday.

Inasmuch as your editorial views are directed primarily to such readers who only vote in order to get a free ride to the polls, we are especially grateful for your unexpected assistance in helping us to unite the large bloc of true conservatives in your area.

Having had the pleasure of never meeting you, we do wish you Godspeed in your ardent efforts to establish a state press in your city through your constant bombardment of the free-enterprise system. And thank again for your unselfish contributions to my campaign.

Leslie Fleming Republican Candidate for Congress, 4th District Eugene, Ore. Excellent Care To the Editor: This is a public expression of appreciation to the entire staff of Sacred Heart Hospital for the excellent care given my husband. Such kindness will never be forgotten.

Mrs. Fred J. Boenig 318 South Ivy St. Medford, Ore. No Indians? To the Editor: An item in your paper said a mail car burned up near Castellito, Ida.

That is the second one this year. I don't believe it could be the Indians, trying to stop the 'Iron Horse' in this day and age. But now that I think about it, the Pony Express is back on T.V. again. Leo J. Townsend P. O. Box 620 Eagle Point, Ore.

Concerts and Clothes To the Editor: It came to my attention recently that a young friend of mine is seriously considering not returning to high school for her second year. Reason—she can't afford the expensive tastes of some of the teachers. She sings with the chorus and for a certain coming concert they are required to wear formal dress. If they don't show up for the performance they get a failing grade. Where does that leave my friend (and I'll wager many more) when she has neither the dress nor the wherewithal to purchase one?

Perhaps the teacher lacks confidence in his own ability—so confront an audience with a group of pretty girls in pretty dresses and maybe they'll not listen closely. A few days after this grandiose concert they must all take themselves to a neighboring town for a vocal contest. This time dressed in suits, no less, and again

You're Welcome To the Editor: Your recent editorial, "Backward, Turn Backward," was indeed a very pleasant surprise. It is certainly gratifying to know that at least one newspaper recognizes the seriousness of the present socialist status quo conformists in both political parties, and to the extent of having to editorialize to such an extreme, at that it is quite possible that you have given this campaign its biggest boost to date, as evidenced by the offers of support received already.

It is high time the people in this country made up their minds one way or the other. I shall big-government socialism prevail, or shall

dividing white against white. Even so, there was no sign that either the government or the ruling Nationalist Party contemplated any policy changes.

Said Foreign Minister Eris Louw: "We will not hand over control of South Africa to a native majority."

A tragic highlight of last week's events was the assassination attempt against Premier Hendrik F. Verwoerd, architect of the apartheid policy. No matter what the motive, it was a clear portent of the violence under which South Africa must continue to live.

They've been warned with the promise of another falling grade threat if they don't appear. I ask you—is it a contest of voice or a "who's the best dressed group" contest?

Just what is this supposed to teach our youngsters? To judge a canary by the gloss of its feathers? Or maybe judge a teacher by his suit instead of his ability to teach? The students should band together, wear what they have, and demand to be graded for performance—not appearance.

Surely the teachers mean well—if only they'd stop and think, and remember their job is to teach—not tell our youngsters what they must wear, or else. An education shouldn't be denied anyone; and those living on modest means certainly shouldn't be made to feel embarrassed or inadequate, since in far too many instances it lessens if not kills their desire for education.

Mrs. Doris L. Webster 64 Orr dr. Central Point, O. P.S.—Well I'll be darned! Just as I was about to mail this I learned now it's to be pastel spring dresses. Sure a shame he didn't dream that one up before my young friend scratched around and figured out how to "make do" for a formal. Evidently the kids aren't supposed to have their minds free of worry so they can concentrate on studies.

I'd better mail this before I get word he's changed his mind again. Souls, Not Society To the Editor: Monday's paper says on Page 12 that the Governor's Committee on Children and Youth believes the Churches should cooperate more in the secular community groups seeking to improve society.

While this might be good advice for many denominations which merely use Jesus Christ as an excuse for their country clubs, the Body of Christ should no more concern itself with improving society than it should debate the merits of Buddhism. The Church of Jesus Christ has one mission: to invite all who will to accept Christ's invitation to escape the certain destruction coming to society. Christ came to save men; not to improve society. Heaven exists beyond this planet; not here.

Under "Dogs" To the Editor: I appreciate this sort of "round table" discussion, pro and con and have learned a great deal from the ideas of others. I like to be on the side of the underdog, and since dogs cannot speak for themselves—move over, Fido.

One needs no earphones here to tune in daily on howling, barking, whining and cussing in dog language. One is lonely, one's water dish is overturned, one's leash is so tangled he can't move, one has no shelter from sun or rain, and one says "They forgot to feed me. It's a dog's life!" I think every dog should own a boy. Oh yes there is!

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