

MAIL TRIBUNE

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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: May 5, 1950 (Friday). The Jackson county budget committee has completed work on the tentative 1950-51 budget which calls for expenditures of \$1,562,650.

20 YEARS AGO: May 5, 1940 (Sunday). Some 130 persons are in Medford for a two-day district CCC conference being held in the armory.

30 YEARS AGO: May 5, 1930 (Monday). Chicago planning engineer endorses plan to build a park on the top of Roxy Ann.

40 YEARS AGO: May 5, 1920 (Wednesday). Jackson county is organizing to conduct a campaign for good roads.

50 YEARS AGO: May 5, 1910 (Thursday). James J. Hill, Portland, railroad empire builder, claims he owns Pacific and Eastern railroad which is now building a line between Medford and Butte Falls.

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

1. Introduction of the symbol "A-1," original referring to a first-class shipping vessel, is credited to L.-d. of L.-n? 2. Was Richmond, Va., or Montgomery, Ala., the first capital of the Confederacy? 3. Is Brittany in France, England, or Belgium? 4. Where is the Roosevelt memorial library? 5. Which President served between the two terms of Grover Cleveland? 6. Which state has the smallest area in the United States? 7. Is a spinet a piano-stool, a top, or a musical instrument? 8. Which faith has more followers: Confucianism, Islamism, or Roman Catholicism? 9. If a frictionless machine could be made would perpetual motion be possible? 10. If it were possible to make a perpetual motion machine would it be of any practical value?

Answers: 1. Lloyd's of London. 2. Virginia. 3. New York. 4. Rhode Island. 5. Hawaii. 6. Rhode Island. 7. Musical instrument. 8. Confucianism. 9. Yes. 10. No.

They Asked For It

Jack E. Schnaidt, the writer of a letter which appears elsewhere on this page, is not, evidently, a regular reader of this column. There's no reason he should be, since he lives in Portland.

If he were, however, he would know that we have long opposed billboards, and that we strongly support the proposed initiative measure to control them, which may be on the ballot in November.

And we're not about to change our position on the basis of what Mr. Schnaidt says.

Point 2 is correct in part, although we would quibble about his phraseology ("state-operated advertising monopoly" for one; it isn't that, it's a program of informational signs for travelers). And we would question that \$50,000 figure for sites. Where did he dream that one up?

Point 3 is correct. Point 4 is subject to interpretation. He calls the restrictions on billboards "unrealistic." We don't. He also claims billboard restriction would be a "crippling blow" to the tourist industry. That's not the way we heard it.

MR. SCHNAIDT also pays lip-service to voluntary controls on billboards, and claims that "virtual abolition" is not the answer. It's about the only answer possible — and directly as a result of the industry's obduracy in not setting up any kind of effective self-regulation, despite pledges to do so.

The proposed billboard control measure is the answer to the outdoor advertisers' lack of consideration, lack of judgment, and continued imposition of a commercial enterprise on what is the property of the people of the state — the highways. They fought a much milder proposal in the last legislature to a standstill.

In short, they asked for it. — E.A.

Property Tax Revision

A pleasant voiced lady called on the 'phone the other day to discuss the school budget which was voted down last Monday.

She voted against it, she said. She did so not because she is against schools, or specifically against the budget. But she voted against it because her property taxes are so high. She approves of the schools, she indicated, but she said she thinks a pleasant home is important for her children, too, and that, if necessary to protect that home, school costs can be cut down and she can take over herself some of the things the schools are now doing.

She certainly has a point. PROPERTY taxes are high. And something must be done, soon, to revise the state tax structure to give some measure of property tax relief.

A point she may have missed is that the school people know this, and have long worked for a more equitable tax structure. They dislike being so dependent on local property tax revenues.

They know there is growing resistance to property taxes, and that they particularly hurt people on fixed incomes, who cannot, indefinitely, continue to pay higher property taxes.

And committees of the legislature and others are preparing various versions of tax revision. OUR friend wanted to know who she could contact concerning her interest in tax relief.

The appropriate individuals are our members of the legislature, State Senator Edwin Durno, and Representatives Eve Nye and Robert Duncan. We will be very much surprised if the 1961 legislature doesn't come up with some program which will offer a measure of property tax relief. It's badly needed. — E.A.

The Pressures on Nixon

Richard M. Nixon has never been one of our favorite political figures. Among other things, he appears a little too facile, a little too able to be on all sides of a question.

And, it is interesting to note, a considerable number of leading Republicans agree with us. At least this is the interpretation we put on the many comments about how he is urged to be "more conservative" or "more liberal" in the hope of attracting the support of this or that bloc of voters.

SEN. Barry Goldwater, the standard-bearer of Republican conservatism, has warned Nixon to steer to the right. More moderate, or "liberal," Republicans are cautioning him not to, and point to the re-nomination of Sen. Clifford Case in New Jersey as evidence that middle-of-the-road or liberal-leaning policies are the most popular.

Do they pay Nixon a compliment by implying that he will set his course one way or another, without regard to his own political principles? Or do they simply imply, by such advice, that he HAS no fixed political principles?

AT ONE time, Nixon was nicknamed "Tricky Dick." Republicans seem to give this derogatory nickname new meaning and new currency by attempting to persuade him to create a new public image of himself along the lines they desire.

As for Nixon's fixed political principles, his ideals, does anyone know what they are? Republicans, conservative and liberal alike, don't seem to. — E.A.

Dennis the Menace



"RACE DRIVERS FIX FLATS IN 'BOUT A MINUTE. YOU WANT ME AN' MOM TO TIME 'EM?"

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.

Against Billboard Regulation

To the Editor: There is an anti-outdoor advertising petition being circulated in Oregon. Before your paper takes an editorial stand for or against this petition we would like you to know that the petition:

(1) Prohibits all billboard advertising on Highways 99 and 30 and requires that all signs, although legally erected, must be removed within five years.

(2) Substitutes a state-owned and state-operated advertising monopoly on Highways 99 and 30 providing for the state to erect billboard informational sites at an estimated cost to taxpayers of \$50,000 for each site. The state will set rates and sell all space on these government-owned billboards.

(3) Prohibits in almost all areas, except cities, brand name advertising on all Oregon's major highways. All non-conforming signs must be removed in five years.

(4) Places unrealistic restrictions on advertising for motels, restaurants, scenic areas and resorts. This proposed legislation will be a crippling blow to the tourist industry, which is Oregon's third largest business.

The Oregon Council of Outdoor Advertising has made repeated efforts in the past to work out legislation with the sponsors of this petition. As of last December, members of the outdoor advertising industry met with the sponsors of the initiative petition and agreed to amendments for the Oregon State Outdoor Advertising Act which would include the "National Standards for Regulation by States of Outdoor Advertising Signs, Displays and Devices Adjacent to the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways." Such an amendment would qualify Oregon for the 1/2 of 1 per cent bonus. These efforts were rebuffed by the sponsors of the initiative petition.

We support fair regulation of outdoor advertising and of all other forms of commercial activity. But virtual abolition with the substitution of a state-operated system is not the answer.

Jack E. Schnaidt, Secretary, Oregon Council of Outdoor Advertising, Portland, Ore.

Great Decisions: To the Editor: Another Great Decisions season has passed and we would like to express our appreciation to you and the Mail Tribune for supporting this program in Medford. We are proud and grateful for your cooperation and interest in Great Decisions 1960.

Approximately a half million citizens participated in discussion groups throughout the country this year and they were supported by hundreds of newspapers and broadcasting stations. It is our feeling that important strides in the slow but vital growth of responsive citizen awareness and participation in the direction and conduct of our foreign affairs is a continuing responsibility and we hope that you will continue to express this responsibility in the pages of the Mail Tribune. We look forward to working with you often in the future.

We would like to call your attention to the summer edition of the Foreign Policy Association Headline Series which will digest and collate for the American people re-

porters to the Editor: Well the powers that be in Washington can rest easy now that they have blocked all of Rep. Porter's efforts to secure a passport that would enable him to visit Red China.

And the reason for their opposition is obvious. If Mr. Porter were allowed to go over there he would find means to locate and interview some of the 400 GI's still held as communist prisoners. Too bad that Teddy wasn't in the White House when the armistice was signed. He would have told the reds in no uncertain words to return those boys, or else, and if they hadn't been, there would be no Red China today.

I often wonder what those chaps think of us, over here in this wonderful land of the free and the home of the brave, and the feelings of their mothers, wives and children who pray for the return of their loved ones.

Whoever takes credit for ending the Korean conflict must also assume the responsibility of selling those boys, along with several million North Koreans, into a life of red slavery. I certainly wouldn't want their misery and suffering marked as a debit item opposite my name in that big book up yonder.

Claude M. Hall, 2860 Hartley Lane, Grants Pass, Ore.

Dangerous Diets: To the Editor: Recently Dr. Harry Danielson, talking on the mental attributes of the whole man, stressed the need for developing in childhood a lively imagination. Without this the mind of the individual soon becomes rigid and unwilling to invite change, making progress impossible. Have we reached this attitude in regard to food?

Physically and mentally we are what we eat. We are told that we are the best fed people in the world. If that is true why do we have more degenerative diseases than any other nation? In China death from starvation is common yet cadavers showing heart disease are so few that the medical schools have difficulty giving their students a comprehensive idea of heart disease.

Dr. C. L. Pathok M.D., of the medical college of Jaipur, India, in a study of beggars found that 92.75 per cent were free from nutritional weakness and only 1.25 per cent had dental caries. Here over 90 per cent of our school children have dental caries and it is almost impossible to find adults entirely free from nutritionally caused weakness.

We are beset by dangers.

The political troubles in Africa, Cuba and South America are Communist inspired. How long will it be before we are an island in a Communist sea? The Russians have a timetable for the conquest of the United States according to which we have not many more years in which to enjoy this pleasant way of life. As our danger becomes greater our need for keen minds, stout hearts, and strong bodies will also be greater.

Physically our present dietary habits lead to disaster. Our foods have three great defects: devitalization due to processing, deficiency in vital elements because processed on deficient soils, and a superabundance of chemical additives. It is true that if only one chemical is present in our food we might develop a tolerance for it. But when every mouthful contains one or more chemicals, there comes a time when the accumulation of these in the body will cause a smash up, such as sudden death from heart trouble, a sudden knowledge of cancer, or a baby born mentally or physically deficient.

Would it not be the part of wisdom to examine the facts advocated by the Natural Food enthusiasts? These really advocate a return to the dietary practices that have nourished the race adequately since its creation.

Anna M. Street, 36 North Peach St., Medford.

Visits Appreciated

To the Editor: I wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank the many friends and relatives, organizations, etc., in our communities who are mindful of the "shut-ins" and are so gracious in calling on the ladies in this home, bringing cheer with smiling faces and song and many other kindnesses which we shall never forget.

At Easter time the Singers from the Apostolic Faith Church came with their messages of cheer. The Salvation Army came with individual Easter Baskets for each lady.

On Saturday before Easter the Crater Teena Page Sewing Club, which is a 4-H group, whose leader is Mrs. A. E. Sidner, came at lunch time and served ice cream and cake for our dessert. Then there is another fine group of people from the First Presbyterian Church in Central Point known as the Board of Deacons, who have surprised some of the ladies on their birthdays with a lovely decorated cake for the lady whose birthday we are celebrating.

Also we never cease to appreciate the fine pastors who have visited us and served communion to those who wish to partake, reading God's word and having prayer. This means so much to a "shut-in." Other friends and relatives have come with magazines, cookies, or candy, there is just no limit to their thoughtfulness.

This all reminds me of the Scripture which reads: "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40. We do appreciate this so much.

Bernice E. McCue, McCue Rest Home, 164 Laurel St., Central Point, Ore.

Rate Increase Hit

To the Editor: I believe I am justifiably indignant over the proposed rate increases projected by the California Oregon Power company. I have prepared and forwarded a letter to the Public Utilities Commission, setting forth the objections I feel are insurmountable to favorable consideration of this request.

In taking the position that I do, I bear in mind that I would not care to see our power company suffer where increased charges were justified; nor, would I care to see any economic loss to the fine corps of personnel in its employ. Neither do I want to see further unjustified costs imposed on a community which already suffers from some of the highest rates experienced anywhere.

H. W. Robertson, 103 North Central ave., Medford.

Editor's note: Mr. Robertson's letter to the Oregon PUC follows:

Gentlemen: As a consumer of electricity in the area served by the California Oregon Power Company, I feel most strongly that its proposed rate increases are unwarranted by the facts pertinent to its economic position.

In making his company's request, President Cummins has stated that inflationary trends and an \$85 million outlay of construction capital are justification for increasing the cost of power to his customers. He tacitly deplores inflation, since he asks relief from it; but, in the same context, he asks the state of Oregon to help contribute to further inflationary trends by granting increased consumer costs.

The other point that of a heavy outlay of construction

'Miscellaneous Specialist' Helpful to U.S. Congressmen

By DICK WEST

Washington—EP—The only person I know who seems to enjoy answering obscure questions is Sam Davenport, who might be described as a miscellaneous specialist.

The more obtuse a question is, the more Davenport likes it. Since Davenport answers questions for congressmen, you can see that he has a lot of fun.

Davenport gets his kicks as editor of the Office of the Coordinator of Information. And at this point, I would like to pose a rhetorical question myself.

Occupies Sunlit Suite: The office of the Coordinator of Information occupies a sunlit suite in the old House

capital, should be dismissed without consideration. Patrons of any enterprise should not be made to directly subsidize the creation of new resources of revenue, since these, of necessity, are planned and justified on the basis of self-liquidation.

I realize that the local company has a greater than average problem in power transmission, due to the wide area it serves; but, actually, it would seem that this company, if efficiently managed, should now be experiencing an adequate income. Its rates are already among the highest in the nation.

Furthermore, it has been the practice of the California Oregon Power Company, during the last 20 or 30 years, to produce and sell an excess of power to other systems; namely, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, at wholesale rates. Presumably, this has been a satisfactory enterprise of this company, despite the fact that such transmission is carried over a distance greater than 100 miles. As long as this company has an excess of power which it can afford to wholesale to other power grids, any consumer rate increase seems untenable.

Harvey W. Robertson

On Capital Punishment

To the Editor: Some distinctions seem necessary in light of your editorial on capital punishment (May 3, 1960). Mr. Darrow has been known to convince a jury a client was insane, in order to have him escape punishment for a crime; and then convince another jury the same man was not insane. This would allude to at least some weakness in the lawyer's integrity. Your second authority on capital punishment seems ludicrous. Leastwise, we are forced to rule out objectively on the part of Mr. Chessman in his statement about mercy. For we must not emphasize mercy as to destroy justice.

Your questions—"what are the objectives of punishment? Is it for the protection of society, and rehabilitation of the offender? Or is it punitive?" What? Let's try that again. Is punishment punitive? Tek, tek.

If you eliminate capital punishment, care must be observed; for the resulting death (even though it may not be intended), while repelling an unjust aggressor, would be acting in self-defense, and yet might conceivably be a violation of the law of the land if capital punishment, as such, was outlawed.

In the prevention and punishment of crime, the state justifies one of the basic reasons for its existence. The means for attaining this end is supplied by God through the natural law. The death penalty is one of these means. It fulfills the retributive function of punishment by re-establishing as far as possible the balance of outraged justice, and is the only effectual punishment against the most serious crimes. Now then, if even with capital punishment crimes of murder and treason abound, surely a lesser penalty will never suffice.

In the most grievous crimes claims of retribution and deterrence are imperative. If capital punishment falls short as a deterrent, the fault may well lay in the process of administration, rather than the nature of the punishment itself. When the law affords long delays, the lesson may be scrapped of meaning. Effective deterrent punishment must be swift, summary, and sure. That is not meant to stifle the accused in gathering evidence for presentation at a fair trial.

The state has the right of capital punishment; but this right may be dormant if the state can protect itself in another way. If the state can prove itself competent without the use of capital punishment, then it not only need not, but ought not, use it.

Robert J. Howard, 828 B West 4th St., Medford.

office building and employs such cheerful people as Davenport to do the coordinating. The office was established in 1947 to take some of the burden off the Library of Congress in handling inquiries from congressmen. Under an informal arrangement, it handles spot queries, leaving the library free to field those requiring heavy research.

In one respect, it is the most unusual governmental office in Washington. It has less employees now than when it started.

Davenport, a former school teacher, joined the staff 13 years ago and recently answered his 35,000th question. To commemorate this milestone, he gave a box of candy to the congressional secretary who asked it.

The question was: "Who is the proper congressional contact for the border patrol?" Davenport didn't have to look it up. I forgot to ask him what the answer was.

A big man with a perpetual smile and infinite patience, Davenport takes on about 15 such questions every day. He keeps a meticulous log of his activities in a looseleaf notebook which may eventually become the world's only encyclopedia of trivia.

On the day that I stopped by to see him, Davenport was up to question six and was enjoying himself hugely. Among other things, he had informed callers where to buy Indian Handicraft (Interior Department), where to get statistical abstract (Census Bureau) and when the Summit Conference would begin (May 16).

defense of the Nationalist Chinese offshore islands of Quemoy and Matsu.

In Kishi's own party there is some feeling that the treaty should be delayed in the interests of better relations with Red China and Russia, ignoring the political price such better relations would entail.

There is no belief that its opponents can defeat the treaty, but between now and ratification the going for Kishi is likely to be rough.

It concerns the U.S.-Japan security treaty which Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi signed last Jan. 19 in Washington but which still must be ratified by the Japanese Parliament. Its opponents hope to hold off ratification until after President Eisenhower's scheduled visit in June and then to make it the subject of giant protest demonstrations.

Kishi Hopful: The debate has raged for weeks, and Kishi still hopes to have the treaty ratified well in advance of the Eisenhower visit.

If the going gets too rough, he might even take it to the people in a snap election. Opposition to the treaty springs from at least three sources.

There remains in Japan a considerable reservoir of anti-U.S. feeling. There also is nostalgia for the "good old days" when Japan had considerable trade with what now is Red China. And there is the internal political angle wherein Kishi's opponents both inside and outside his own party hope to embarrass him to the point they could throw his office up for grabs among themselves.

Reds Give Comfort: Lending aid and comfort to the treaty's opponents are the propaganda machines of both Red China and the Soviet Union.

The treaty, consisting of a preamble and 10 short articles, replaces the Japan-U.S. security treaty signed in San Francisco in September, 1951. That treaty undeniably was one-sided and gave the United States unlimited military privileges in return for a peace treaty.

The new treaty gives Japan joint responsibility for its own defense. It gives the United States rights to military bases in Japan but it also gives Japan the right to "prior consultation" on the movement of U.S. forces and the weapons they can use.

Kishi and Eisenhower have agreed that the "prior consultation" clause gives Japan a virtual veto over the movement of Japan-based U.S. forces.

Nuclear Ban Certain: It almost certainly means Japan would prohibit any introduction of modern nuclear weapons in Japan. It also makes it questionable whether Japan would agree to the dispatch of U.S. forces to the

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