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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
June 5, 1950 (Monday)

A Mail Tribune [illegible] board [illegible] has received a [illegible] summons from New York city, yet she has never been in New York.

The new Hawthorne park swimming pool was dedicated yesterday.

20 YEARS AGO
June 5, 1940 (Wednesday)

The Ashland city council last night adopted a resolution favoring coast-wide practice of summer daylight saving time.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye [illegible] Pot" column: "The [illegible] Bridges maritime union has come out flatfooted for peace in Europe, without mentioning Pacific Coast waterfronts."

30 YEARS AGO
June 5, 1930 (Thursday)

Medford city council considers adoption of city manager form of government.

The fourteen conventions that were held in this city during the past year set a new record.

40 YEARS AGO
June 5, 1920 (Saturday)

Gasoline shortage continues here and local supply expected to be exhausted shortly.

Mercury goes to 89 degrees today making it the hottest day of the year.

50 YEARS AGO
June 5, 1910 (Sunday)

The new grade school which is planned in the Queen Anne addition will cost $30,000 and will contain 11 classrooms and a gymnasium.

By a close vote of 24 to 18, Woodville elected yesterday to incorporate as a city and elect a full set of officers.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. What is the title of the head of the U. S. General Accounting Office?
2. Do plants have hormones?
3. Which bird is noted for its travel between the Arctic and the Antarctic?
4. Is Port a fortified or unfortified wine?
5. Of which religious faith is Herbert Hoover a member?
6. Is a child born in the U.S. of alien parents a citizen of the U.S.?
7. Can the pupil of the eye actually become larger or smaller?
8. Which weighs more, the skeleton or muscles of the human body?
9. Can a copyright be extended?
10. Will pre tin rust?

Answers: 1. Comptroller General. 2. Yes. 3. The tern. 4. Fortified. 5. Society of Friends (Quaker). 6. Yes. 7. Yes. 8. Muscles. 9. Yes. 10. No.

Loser Keeper, Finder Weeper

Los Angeles – Gary Beckman, 20, a college student, told police a envelope containing $160 blew out of a coat pocket as he sped down a freeway on his motorcycle.

Beckman got back $14 which was turned over to police by John T. Kessinger. Kessinger got a traffic ticket for walking on the freeway while picking up the $14.

Controversy—Sign of Growth

If we had to choose, we'd probably pick Vincent Van Gogh as our favorite artist. Don't ask why. It's purely subjective, and we've never analyzed it.

But that doesn't mean that we don't care for other artists; even other types of artistic expression—from Etruscan burial murals to the calculated and colorful drippings of Jackson Pollock.

After all, the same elements—color, form, design, technique, balance, emotion—are present, in various combinations and permutations, in all painting, whether it be a graphically realistic landscape, or a far-out example of abstract expressionism.

* * * * *

ANY qualified judge of artistic endeavor (which we are not) is fully acquainted with all of these elements, and with all styles and modes of painting.

He is, therefore, able to separate the good from the bad in any of the various schools. And, if pressed, he can tell you why. His analysis is in part subjective (it can't be anything else), but is also in part based on knowledge of the elements of good and bad art.

If this much is granted, then the Oregon State Fair Board looked pretty silly last week.

* * * * *

IN RECENT years the board put the art exhibit at the state fair under the direction of Mrs. Laneta King of Salem. She did what is declared, among knowledgeable people, to have been an outstanding job.

She attracted work from some of the northwest's outstanding artists, displayed it attractively, and made the exhibit a credit to the state.

One Salem observer said that Mrs. King:

> ". . . transformed the art gallery from a sort of penny arcade featuring endless portrayals of pink peonies into an exhibit that displayed something of the breadth and scope of creative art in Oregon—from ceramics and sculpture to photography and painting. There were still plenty of pretty pictures by nice old ladies, but the serious and challenging efforts of men and women to whom art is more than a Sunday pastime at last received the space and recognition they deserve . . ."

This year, however, the board succumbed to pressure from a Portland organization calling itself "Citizens Art Association," which claims that "traditional art" should be judged separately from contemporary, or modern, or abstract, or any other, school of art.

* * * * *

AS A RESULT, Mrs. King, a conscientious public servant who had obtained the services of three competent and qualified judges, resigned. She said, in effect, she felt it would be an insult to them to superimpose on their deliberations the judgments of someone who is qualified to judge "traditional" art only.

The board in its action convicted itself of gross ignorance of the world of art—which is all right; that isn't their province. But to succumb to what amounted to political pressure from a group with an uninformed and completely parochial point of view convicts them of cowardice as well as ignorance.

* * * * *

THEY had retained Mrs. King as a competent manager; she proved that she is just that. To bow to the juvenile demands of a group for special treatment for one tiny segment of the whole spectrum of artistic endeavor was a slap at Mrs. King.

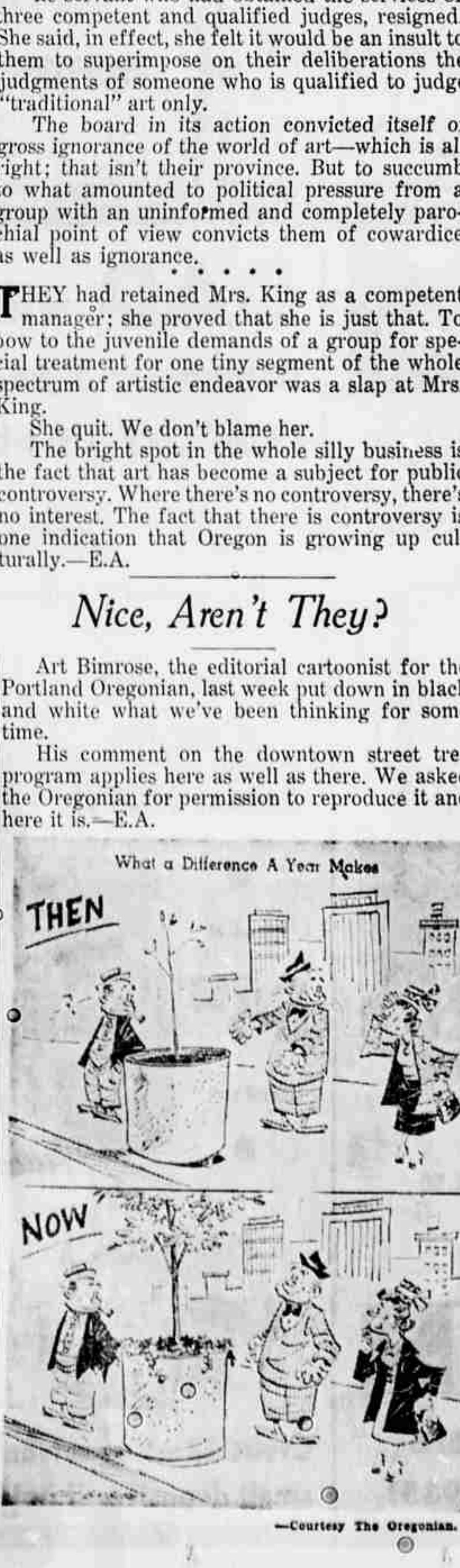
She quit. We don't blame her.

The bright spot in the whole silly business is the fact that art has become a subject for public controversy. Where there's no controversy, there's no interest. The fact that there is controversy is one indication that Oregon is growing up culturally.—E.A.

Nice, Aren't They?

Art Bimrose, the editorial cartoonist for the Portland Oregonian, last week put down in black and white what we've been thinking for some time.

His comment on the downtown street tree program applies here as well as there. We asked the Oregonian for permission to reproduce it and here it is.—E.A.



—Courtesy The Oregonian.

Dennis the Menace

"BOY! HE SURE DON'T LOOK MUCH LIKE LITTLE BOW PEEP!"

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.

Schools and Russia

To the Editor: Inez Holcomb asks for suggestions on the tax question and aid to schools. I can only point out the difficulty of pulling a rabbit out of our social hat.

She says that the schools would be supported in the manner of public welfare. That is not much of a recommendation. Our public schools have a social flavor but function more as controlled thought. Their main purpose is to perpetuate the status quo. Our present predicament is that the status quo has gone to seed. No organism lives forever.

She envisions a better educated America. Let's see her try and get it. We are the product of our environment. We are what has been poured into our heads. This country was founded by a nation of traders and we have a commercial ideology. Old ideas die hard.

It would seem that federal aid is the only hope for the schools and the teachers' jobs. But there will be many others than the teachers that must have jobs to support our merchant class. Our educational system is geared to the commercial end and not social progress. Nor human culture. We strive to produce something to sell and we buy to show off. Therefore there is little need for education or culture for any purpose except commercialism. Our schools have served that purpose. They are good enough, good enough for a society that has reached perfection.

However the Russians are not content to "let well enough alone," they aspire to go one and on. They are an ambitious people and thrill at their accomplishment. Their drama is more subtle than ours. Where we might thrill at the violence and romance of the "old west," they revel in the industry and progress of their entire country and especially the exploits of the pioneers in their "new wild east."

Travel is an effective way to garner information. To work with people is a good method to learn their ways and opinions. I have done both. I traveled from Vladivostok to Moscow by way of Turkestan.

There is an easy and economical way to "tour" Russia, and that is via "USSR." It is a cultural exchange magazine published in Washington, D.C., by the Soviet Government. As all great art is propaganda, it is obviously both. So you peruse it at your own peril.

Walter Reece,
Galice rd.,
Merlin, Ore.

A Question of Maturity

To the Editor: As a member of the age group which most people think is horrid or unbearable, I would like to make a comment on the company the town had this past week.

First I thought all these people were here on business. A convention is business, and not a tour to make a big mess. Many of the visitors and town folk were so drunk, how could they hold any convention?

Then the parade they had. Now were not they big men something? I tell you I have never seen such immature acts put on in this town before. We are trying to keep our town attractive. How can we with things of that kind? The streets were a mess when it was over, all cluttered up with paper, etc.

I hear that the teen-agers are the ones who are so immature and cause all the trouble. The teen-agers were in the bands at the parade. They were displaying good common sense.

Can you tell me how we are to respect our elders when things like that are going on?

Carolyn Goss,
342 Mae st.,
Medford.

Knight of the Road

To the Editor: One of the most colorful and unforgetable traveling "knights of the road," commonly known as a hobo, stepped off the rods one early morning in June, 1920, at Gold Hill before the main line of the friendly Southern Pacific changed to the Natron cut-off east of the Cascades.

This well-seasoned, wiry athlete, near 35, quickly sized up the situation and headed for a boarding house just a few steps from the depot. Addressing the landlord for a "free" breakfast, he was asked to split some wood first, as a compensation and courtesy. Quick as a wink, his retort was, "Who, me? I haven't done anything called work in 18 years." He said he still had time to catch his "side-door pullman," and made the remark he would still insist keeping his independent habit of mooching, his way on up the line, as he had always managed, somehow, to keep the faith, "the Lord will provide."

Someone has remarked: it takes all kinds of people to make a world, and this self-made psychologist was filling a niche in life.

Bert Kissinger,
520 Boardman St.,
Medford.

Laws For Everyone?

To the Editor: As I was reading in last night's paper about enforcing the new boat law I started to laugh. What's the big deal on boats when they can't even serve a warrant on non-support charges? All I've got is the run around.

In the first place I thought when the judge gave an order, they were supposed to carry it out. I even wrote to the governor. And it made me laugh that they will enforce boating laws while non-supporters run loose and expect someone else to take care of those children.

What is this world coming to if the laws don't pertain to everyone?

Arla Lewis,
P. O. Box 309,
Eagle Point, Ore.

The Reason Why

To the Editor: Many times I have read of plans and specifications being accepted or rejected, and this is the first time I have noticed the financial position of persons involved stated publicly.

I am one of the property owners on the east side of Summit st. The council was, and is, so correct about our not being able to afford having our side of the street paved, especially at $7.50 a foot. We have 75 feet.

Does anyone know about the employment possibilities in the immediate vicinity during the winter months? The possibility of taking all summer, until the winter lay off, to catch up with the past months of unemployment?

No we couldn't and can't afford an extra $562.50, not even with the payment plan, and I'm sure the reason for our not co-operating should be publicly stated by the council.

Minnie G. Grigsby,
824 Summit st.,
Medford.

Legislators' Pay

To the Editor: Relative to your editorial of June 3, in which you "do not understand the majority's refusal to pay their legislators enough so they can afford to serve" etc., I refer you to the present issue of Life magazine in which there is an article on how the national legislators in Washington, D.C., are padding their expense accounts.

It was not very long ago that the national legislators voted themselves a handsome pay raise on the promise that this increase in salary would attract more qualified men. It seems they were correct. Now the present legislators in Washington, D.C., charge us for their front porches, for taking their wives on vacations to Europe and other vacation spots of the world, and just generally prove they are more qualified to add illicit funds to their purse than their underpaid forefathers.

Therefore, Sir, with this example before us, I ask you, why should we increase the pay of the Oregon state legislators?

(Name on file,)
Medford.

Editor's note: There is quite a difference between $600 per year, plus one trip to Salem each two years (for state legislators), and $22,500, plus substantial expenses (for congressmen). You could afford to serve in congress if elected. Could you afford to serve in the legislature?

Worst Car

To the Editor: The other day, someone asked me "Was the Brush car the worst car ever made?" The answer is —"NO."

The Maihbohm was the world's worst. I unloaded a brand new Maihbohm from a freight-car at the Ashland freight depot, and tried to drive it to the salesroom. It fell to pieces before I got to Main street, and it wasn't the worst Maihbohm made. The other three fell to pieces on the assembly line.

I do not know how they spelled it, Maihbohm, Maibohm or Maybohm. I didn't have the car long enough to find out. Everything about the Maihbohm wasn't bad. They have the world's record for going broke fast. In second place for going broke fast, is me, but I didn't have much to go broke from.

Everett Acklin
Ashland, Ore.

Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

THE FULBRIGHT INQUIRY

Walter Lippmann

The Senate inquiry into the U-2 affair has now done its main work. Thanks to the high-mindedness, the experience and the sagacity of the committee's chairman, Senator Fulbright, the work has been well done.

It has brought out the relevant facts and the Senator has pointed out their significance. The inquiry has shown that the Nervous Nellies among us were wrong. It is possible in this democracy to conduct an inquiry into the causes of a national fiasco without giving aid and comfort to the adversary. We have been spared the humiliation of distrusting ourselves so much that we dared not inquire into our own mistakes.

In digesting the results, we must begin with the fact that the inquiry dealt with a question which has never before been investigated in this country, or in any other country. The question was the competence of the President and his principal advisors in dealing with an entirely illegal and inherently clandestine operation which is, nevertheless, necessary to the security of the country.

Mr. Fulbright defined the question accurately and sharply by declaring after Mr. Dulles had testified in executive session that in this affair the issue was not the clandestine work of the C.I.A. but the overt decisions of the President and his advisors who make the policy which governs both the C.I.A. and our diplomacy.

* * *

THE inquiry has established the responsibility of the President and his advisors for the timing of the flight. They did not order the flight on May 1. But they had failed to cancel their orders, given previously, which authorized the flight that did take place on May 1. This flight was, as Gen. de Gaulle said in his television address on Tuesday, "certainly and at the least ill-timed."

The inquiry has established, too, that the critical period was the week end from Friday afternoon, May 6, to Monday, May 9. During this week end the administration issued two statements. One was on Saturday admitting that the U-2 was a spy plane but saying "insofar as the authorities in Washington are concerned, there was no authorization of any such flight as described by Mr. Khrushchev." The second statement was on Monday saying that such flights were done under the President's order, and implying–as all the world understood it–that they would be continued.

This was the lost week end. These were the days when the United States government not only avowed responsibility for spying, but proclaimed that spying was a national policy which, so it was universally understood, would be adhered to. These two statements combined were not only altogether unprecedented in the history of international relations but they were altogether untenable, as is shown by the fact that the President had to renounce the policy publicly in the presence of Mr. Khrushchev at the tragic meeting in Paris.

* * *

IT IS important to take note of the human circumstances of this calamitous week end. Secretary Herter had returned to Washington on Friday evening after ten days of conferences in Iran, Turkey, and Greece. The U-2 affair was already in a very considerable mess when he returned, owing to the false cover statements issued by press agents who did not know what was going on.

Having returned on Friday evening, Mr. Herter had to deal with the mess on Saturday. Younger and stronger men than he who have been on long trans-Atlantic air flights are not in prime condition the next morning.

Moreover, as the Secretary of State was returning to Washington, the President was leaving it. He was leaving for a week end in Gettysburg. The two men did not meet face to face until the President's return to Washington on Sunday. The momentous decision to avow that the overflights were a national policy was taken after talks on the telephone to Gettysburg. Thus a Secretary of State, inevitably tired and rushed by events which happened in his absence, had to deal with a President who was absent in Gettysburg, and in no position to hear the whole argument which preceded the recommendation from Washington.

* * *

THIS is, I think, the crux of what the inquiry has established. The practical lessons of it are clear enough. On the bad timing of the flight, the President and the Secretary of State allowed the C.I.A. too much leeway and thus forced upon it a responsibility which it was not competent to exercise. If we were going to go to the summit, there should have been no more flights, once the date of the conference was fixed. To be sure, there were a lot of things we would like to have known during the suspension of the flights. But now we have no summit meeting and also we have no flights.

On the handling of the accident, the first lesson is that all publicity and all cover statements and the like should always be retained rigorously in the hands of high officials who know what is going on. Spying is deception. But you cannot use dupes to deceive others and not risk bad results.

The second lesson is that the high officials should have been thoroughly indoctrinated long ago in the conventions and the practices which have always surrounded the black art of espionage. Manifestly the high officials, beginning with the President himself, were not indoctrinated. They were caught off balance and they improvised in a panic.

It will now be important to see whether or not the various candidates show that th— have learned something from this very expensive fiasco.

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Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

KHRUSHCHEV'S KNACK OF SURVIVAL

JOSEPH ALSOP

London – The Western diplomatic missions in Moscow have now sent in their first post-summit reassessments of the political situation there.

They are almost as dependent on guesswork as the analyses of the demologists on this side of the iron curtain. Yet it is still interesting that the great majority of the expert observers on the scene think that Nikita S. Khrushchev's position is wholly unimpaired.

If there is any meaning in the redirection of the Communist party Secretariat, the shifts in military commands and other recent personnel movements in Moscow, it is believed that these changes mean more, not less, authority for Khrushchev. It is also believed that although Khrushchev clearly spoke from a prepared brief in Paris, he took the lead in preparing that brief. And it is not believed that Khrushchev has been under any pressure from the Army more serious, for instance, than the pressure President Eisenhower experienced when Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor was dropped as Chief of Staff.

* * *

THERE is only one question, in fact, which is still regarded as really open. Khrushchev himself went out of his way to explain that a seaside vacation was the cause of Anastas Mikoyan's absence from the Moscow scene. But in the same way, before Georgi Malenkov's final departure for Ust-Kamenogorsk, Khrushchev used to tell the guests at Moscow parties, with grisly relish, "Look at my little Georgi. There he is. Yet they said I had shot him."

There are certain unexplained symptoms suggesting that Mikoyan has suffered some sort of demotion. Maybe he has. Maybe he has not. If he has indeed declined in power, he is not the first to suffer in the group who helped Khrushchev's rise to the first place. Zhukov, Kirichenko, and others are mute witnesses to the interesting fact that Nikita S. Khrushchev is a fairly dangerous man to aid and support. And long before the summit, on his visit to de Gaulle in Paris, Khrushchev talked about Mikoyan with rather open malice and disdain.

* * *

ON THE same visit (which cast more light on Khrushchev's mind than anything else to date) Khrushchev also talked quite openly of the bullheaded obstinacy of the military leaders who could not see how modern military technology had altered the Soviet Union's strategic situation. In doing so, however, he showed a total lack of concern. He spoke, indeed, as one who had already solved the problem. If Army pressure, a Stalinist resurgence, and all the other complicated explanations are thus brushed aside, what remains is the simplest and least palatable explanation of the events that began in November, 1958.

Khrushchev himself in full command from start to finish, was trying to get the Western leaders to give him what he wanted by an astute combination of bullying and wheedling. The Western leaders, especially President Eisenhower and Prime Minister Macmillan, were persuaded by the wheedling that Khrushchev wanted what is called "a relaxation of tensions." But what he really wanted from the outset was Berlin.

When he learned that he was not going to get Berlin without a serious risk of war, Khrushchev was ready to bring the whole complex operation to an early close. The U-2 incident afforded him the ideal pretext for adjourning the Berlin case sine die, with the proviso of course that the Kremlin can call the case up again at will later on.

* * *

FOR Khrushchev's purposes, in truth, it was really better to have no conference at the summit, and to adjourn the Berlin case with talk of a conference later on, than to have a conference which failed to give him what he claimed.

For this after-the-fact analysis of Khrushchev's motives and methods in the long Berlin crisis, there is also Moscow evidence of striking character. After the explosion at the summit and its sequels, the Soviet leaders are now known to have passed the word to the satellite governments that everything in Paris went "according to plan." From the reported presentation of the matter to the satellites, it is even clear that Khrushchev would have been most unhappy to be forced to the conference table, so to say, by Western acceptance of his humiliating demands for an apology from President Eisenhower.

In sum, the Moscow evidence strongly reinforces the parallel between the Berlin and Quemoy crises already reported in this space. A tilting military balance and hints of Western disunity encouraged Khrushchev to try to see what he could get at Berlin. He ceased to try, when he found the attempt too risky. The moral is, therefore, than an appearance of Western resolution and a strengthened military balance are the best safeguards of the future.

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POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

A boy came home the other day, clutching an expensive-looking toy car. "Where did you get it?" his father asked.

"By doing Tommy a favor," was the reply.

"What favor?"

"I was hitting him and he asked me to stop."

A news release was brought into the newsroom recently, a part of which read, "Miss .... has had several years of experiences." Haven't we all? It depends on what kind.

* * *

A marked copy of a recent issue of the Mail Tribune was deposited on the Potluck editor's desk last week, and appended to it was a note which read:

"A friend of the M-T phoned in to warn us that TMIP may be writing soon."

The reference, of course, is to That Man In Phoenix, who makes a hobby of finding our boners, clipping them out, and mailing 'em to us – along with a little commentary of his own.

Well, as it happened, TMIP missed the one about which we were warned. It spoke of "lamented beams" being used in a new building going up in town. (If they don't last they will, of course, become "late lamented beams.") (And if anyone wonders, the word should have been laminated.)

* * *

As we said, TMIP missed that one. But we DID hear from him. He asked how come last week we said we'd gotten nothing from him when he had, in fact, sent us a minor blooper. He suspected Moore Hamilton's minions of inefficiency, or at worst sabotage in the office. Nothing of the kind, friend. It just wasn't up to your usual caliber, we junked it, and then forgot about it.

* * *

TMIP, not a man to fluster easily, admitted, in his most recent communique, that "the loss is trivial," which makes us feel a bit less guilty.

"Unto the pure, all things are pure," he added in his note, which saying we are happy to give wider circulation, hoping while doubting that it may do so good. Wouldn't it be nice if this gained currency in international power politics?

* * *

Big things have been afoot at Hoover school, we learned from the Hoover Hi-Lite, which arrived on our desk recently (the last issue of the school year, alas). Among others, we record the report of David Dellenback, as to happenings in the second grade:

* * *

ABOUT THINGS

"It all started when Peter King brought two little rats in a cage. One was his sister Molly's rat. Before school the rats ran all over the cage. A few days later Donna Root found an insect, but we did not know what it was. Then we found out that it was a tree borer long horned beetle. Then David McFadden brought two rabbits and a cage for them. One was very black and one was white with black spots."

* * *

An anonymous reporter brought us up to date on activities in another room, as follows: "Mrs. Colley's first grade had lots of fun. We all drew a picture of ourselves in our nicest clothes. After we finished, Mrs. Colley got out some pictures that we had drawn of ourselves last September. We think we are better looking now!"

* * *

We have another offering from TMIP, but it's so complicated that we'll have to think about it for a while before attempting to explain it. We may even skip it. . . .

* * *

So we'll conclude today's offering with a "pome" which we swiped from the editor of the Pendleton East Oregonian, who found it on his desk the other day, and isn't sure who wrote it except that it was someone who had been a newspaper editor. It goes this way:

An editor knocked at the Pearly Gates,
His face was scarred and cold;
He stood before the man of fate
For admission to the fold.
"What have you done?" St. Peter asked,
"To gain admission here?"
"I've been an editor, sir," he said,
"For many and many a year."
The Pearly Gates swung open wide.
St. Peter touched the bell.
"Come in," he said, "and choose your harp.
"You've had your share of hell."

* * *

Amen.