

Medford Mail Tribune

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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION 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

July 5, 1950 (Wednesday) City firemen said two brush fires in Medford yesterday were caused by misused fireworks.

Medford's Civil Air Patrol unit yesterday placed second in the western regional drill contest at Ogden, Utah.

20 YEARS AGO

July 5, 1940 (Friday) A crowd estimated at more than 20,000 jammed every corner of space in Ashland yesterday to witness this city's big Fourth of July celebration.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "The nation's birthday passed here without anybody getting in jail or the hospital, due to exuberance with gin or gasoline."

30 YEARS AGO

July 5, 1930 (Saturday) A number of fish were found dead in the upper Rogue yesterday, apparently the victims of a dynamite blast, and fishermen are aroused.

Five local youths celebrated the Fourth by climbing to the top of Mt. Pitt.

40 YEARS AGO

July 5, 1920 (Monday) Medford's Commercial club is taking steps to get a census report for the city.

Mrs. Rose Schiefelin of Medford has been elected Democratic national committeewoman for Oregon.

50 YEARS AGO

July 5, 1910 (Tuesday) The federal government started advertising today for a site on which to locate the \$110,000 federal building which is planned for in Medford.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

- 1. In which New England State is Saddle Mountain? 2. Does the New Testament specifically imply that salvation is open to both Jew and Gentile alike? 3. Name the only State in the Union whose name ends in "k"?

Answers: 1. Massachusetts. 2. Yes. 3. New York. 4. Those in which land, sea and air forces participate. 5. No. 6. "Castles." 7. 1848. 8. James Buchanan. 9. Cordell Hull. 10. Commodore George Dewey.

Unwisdom vs. Vindictiveness

Last Saturday morning there arrived in the mail a plain, pre-stamped envelope of the sort obtainable at the post office. It was postmarked Portland. There was no return address.

Inside was a green-mimeographed "newsletter" from the office of Mrs. Edith Green, Oregon congresswoman from Portland. We thought little about it except to wonder why it wasn't in the usual kind of envelope.

Then we started to read it. It was full of satiric and exaggerated comment on politics and individuals.

At first we thought Mrs. Green had taken leave of her senses. Then another staff member pointed out the date—June, 1959. Still it didn't make sense, and we got suspicious.

So we asked Mrs. Green about it. When she learned what had happened she was upset—understandably so.

It will be recalled that in June, 1959, our two senators were engaged in a rather acrimonious quarrel. There were other political activities which gave those close to them cause for unhappiness.

At that time Mrs. Green wrote the "newsletter," tongue in cheek, and mailed out a few copies—10 or 12—to members of her family and close friends.

It was intended as a purely private, personal, tongue-in-cheek commentary on events of the day in which she was caught up, and, since distribution was limited to close personal contacts, Mrs. Green sort of let her hair down in a way nobody would in a public letter.

It may have been unwise—but who among us has not done the same sort of thing?

Now, however, the political situation has changed; Mrs. Green is up for reelection; Dick Neuberger is dead; the feuds of last year have quieted or ended.

Thus it is easy to understand why Mrs. Green is upset that someone—someone who took considerable pains to remain anonymous and convey the impression that Mrs. Green's heavy-humored and privately sarcastic letter was genuine—had mailed it out.

How widespread the mailing is we have no idea, but it did not go to her regular mailing list. We presume it was mostly to newspapers.

MRS. GREEN may be subject to some criticism for having authored such a letter in the first place—although it was never intended for public consumption. Hyperbole and sarcasm are not her usual vehicles of expression.

But how much worse, how really nasty and vindictive, must be the person who ran across a copy of the private letter, and attempted to pass it off as an example of Mrs. Green's public views.

One can expect some pretty shoddy actions during an election year. But how low can you get?—E. A.

Glorious 4th!

While we're on the subject of low-down characters, how about the unknown individuals who set fire to the home in Portland being built by a Negro couple?

Mr. and Mrs. Rowan Wiley have been subjected to harassment and discrimination ever since they began planning to move into what had been an all-white neighborhood.

First of all, they were rebuffed by a building contractor. It finally took action by the Oregon bureau of labor to obtain for them the equality of treatment to which they are entitled under Oregon law.

NEXT, the municipal water district in which their prospective new home is located attempted to condemn their property. This was stopped by a federal court order when it became evident there was no justification for such condemnation, and that it actually was designed to scare them away, solely because of their race.

And, finally, several thousand dollars of damage was done to their unfinished, split-level home last week end by the unknown, skulking arsonist. And this on the 4th of July week end, when we celebrate the origin of the Declaration of Independence which declares it is "self-evident" that all men are created equal!—E. A.

Added Evidence

It's getting so that the best way to find a peaceful, quiet spot on a long week end is to stay at home.

The Forest Service estimated that 17,000 people were at Lake of the Woods Sunday. And, last year, it was estimated that some 50,000 people in all sought solace outdoors in one or another of the camping, boating, swimming or picnicking places in the county.

It may be, actually, that the law of diminishing returns is beginning to set in.

Only a few boats and water skiers were in evidence on the lake above Savage Rapids dam Sunday, according to sheriff's deputies. And this may be because a lot of people expected overwhelming crowds, and enough of them stayed away so that the crowds were relative small.

But the situation over the week end is just one more added bit of evidence that the American people are taking to the outdoors in ever-greater numbers. And if accommodations aren't provided for them, they'll provide their own—to everyone's loss.—E. A.

Dennis the Menace

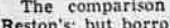


"I'M OLIN' THE BALLS!"

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

A JULY FOURTH HURRAH

Westport, N. Y.—This was the year when Ingemar Johansson and Dwight D. Eisenhower both made overseas journeys which were triumphant successes, as the President himself explained, except for the tireless labor of disinterested minorities.



The comparison is James Reston's, but borrowing from a colleague is excusable in this instance, because the comparison tells so much about the stage we have reached. There are other indications, too. There is the general opinion of respectable Republicans, for instance, that Gov. Nelson Rockefeller must be either a fool or a rogue, because he has dared to tell the plain conservative truth about the state of our defenses and our economy.

There are some other things, to be sure, that any American can honestly celebrate this Fourth of July. For example, the existence of hidden springs of national energy is plainly proven by the quality of the conceivable next president. Whether the White House's new occupant is to be Nixon or Kennedy or Lyndon Johnson, one cannot tell. But one can certainly tell that this new man, whichever he may be, will be a considerably worthy leader of the United States.

BUT all the same, the first half of the year 1960 has been darkened by disaster and humiliation, and these have been made worse by the torrents of synthetic twaddle poured out to obscure the harsh outlines of the hard, harsh fact. Merely as a counter-demonstration then, it may be pardonable to celebrate the least synthetic thing that the United States has produced in 1960, which happens to be a book.

"Felix Frankfurter Reminiscences" is a book without any close parallel, as far as this reporter can recall. The volumes nearest to it are the books of "table talk" that were fashionable a hundred years ago—"The Table Talk of Samuel Rogers," for instance, and the imitation of the Rogers book was based on the conversations of Justice Story. But these were pruned, dressed up, and dead as mutton, compared to this new book of verbatim recordings of Justice Frankfurter's spoken recollections of his life.

This book—one may as well say it boldly and plainly—is nothing more or less than a new American classic. It is a minor classic, because it is artless. Even the best talk is bound to be artless, unless retouched. It is classic, all the same, because it is human, funny, brave, noble.

Myrtlewood Plant Burns at Delake

Delake, Ore.—(UPB)—Firemen battled for more than an hour Monday a fire which blazed through a myrtlewood factory during gusty winds at this beach community.

Fire Chief Bob Ballard of the Taft-Nelcote-Delake fire department said the blaze broke out about 2:30 p.m. Firemen managed to keep flames from spreading to a nearby service station.

Gusty 23 mile per hour winds plus stored varnishes and thinners in the building made it difficult to put out the fire, Ballard said. The blaze, which attracted many holiday sightseers, caused an estimated \$30,000 damage. The plant, Wolf's Myrtlewood, is located at the south end of Delake.

Foreign Notebook: Polaris for NATO; Red Army Strength; Algerian Discussion

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign Editor

From the foreign editor's notebook:

Summit Aftermath

The middle-range U.S. Polaris missile, requiring a minimum of launching site, made a deep impression on West German Defense Minister Franz-Josef Strauss who believes it is just the thing to reinforce NATO's shield in depth. How- ever, Strauss is unwilling to give Moscow further fuel for its anti-German campaign and believes that NATO or some other member of the alliance should make the proposal adding Polaris to the list of NATO weapons.

Meanwhile, in London, U.S. naval authorities predict that two American nuclear submarines equipped with the Polaris missile may be attached to the U.S. 2nd Fleet in the Atlantic by late this year. Later, another two probably will be attached to the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean, they add.

Algerian Turmoil

Contacts looking toward a cease fire finally have been established between the French government and the rebel Algerian "provisional government" of Premier Ferhat Abbas, but it is a weak thread easily broken. The rebels are complaining bitterly that the preliminary contact indicated the French want Abbas to come to Paris merely to surrender his guerrillas and weapons to the French. The rebels demand negotiations on equal footing with President

Can Anyone?

To the Editor: If personally conducted tours of diplomacy, like those we have been regaled with recently, are such a howling success, why doesn't Mr. Nixon, the Republican, an experienced "tourist," come out and state: "We Republicans will carry on; we will evangelize the world for freedoms as never before?" Surely the Vice President has his election to the top job cinched (so we are told) and consequently will have eight full years to put the commies to rout on the diplomatic and ideological levels. Isn't he supposed to fit the shoes of Ike, be like the Rock of Gibraltar in fibre?

Of course Boss Mao Tse and his office boy Nikita (address Moscow) did vex and ruffle our diplomatic protocol a bit, but those slithery snakes could not be expected to be table broke. In fact, like their ilk, they just love to "spill the beans" (as it were). Japan is an ally, though. And Nikita was a virtual Prince Charming to our President while he was here.

We can always tell a Democrat... but we can't tell them much! They pretend to be set to do that which is necessary to retrieve our once greater nation's fortunes... but after each election, with decisive majorities in Congress... they seem to stiffen up... like a batter in a slump... and lose their tongues and their courage to act for the people who elected them.

We are faced with an accomplished fact... that in four places we have been insulted; assaulted (Nixon in Bolivia); dared (Cuba); and accused. Is there a man among

It fills you with such pride that you want to stand at attention, and it makes you wish that more men were as good Americans as Felix Frankfurter, who has so often been denounced as un-American. (c) 1960, New York Herald Tribune Inc.

Missiles vs. Men

Moscow went to considerable lengths last week to report government efforts to find suitable places in Russia's economy for her demobilized army men. But while Moscow is giving the impression of a continued reduction of armed forces, Khrushchev has issued instructions to strengthen the fighting power of the Soviet Union. He told graduates of Soviet military academies it is a "sacred duty" to strengthen Russia's armed forces in the absence of a disarmament accord with the West. Chief attention is directed toward rockets. Defense Minister Rodion Malinovsky strongly hinted at the same time that training is being concentrated on new weapons while conventional forces are being reduced.

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Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

CUBAN INFECTION

Washington—While public attention is fixed upon our domestic political drama, the infection in Cuba is reaching the point of intolerable danger to the free world in this hemisphere.

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These leaders have told our state department plainly that Fidel Castro has permitted Cuba to become nothing less than a bridgehead for Soviet Communism within 100 miles of the United States.

They have told the state department plainly that Castro is spending vast sums—whether his own or Russian money they do not say—all through Washington's leadership in this hemisphere.

And they have suggested to the state department, politely, that the United States government has so far failed to explain the realities to the American people, of whom only a tiny minority has any notion whatever of the facts of life in Cuba.

These urgent representa-

tions explain, in part, why the state department has now at last publicly admitted that its soft line toward Castro is being abandoned. A more compelling reason for the change, however, has been Congress itself.

Congress has been many months ahead of the diplomats in recognizing the true nature of the Castro menace. This has been due almost wholly to a single determined senator, George Smathers of Florida. The administration, for illustration, has now accepted what it so long resisted—the principle of reducing the large sugar subsidy we grant to Cuba.

This small step, however—if and when actually taken—will be only the barest beginning toward the development of a policy adequate to quarantine the Castro virus.

IT remains clear that the

United States can never afford to take the slightest military measure against Castro. World opinion would automatically follow "imperialism," even though Castro's open alliance with the Soviet Union plainly indicates that if anybody is preparing aggression, it is surely not the "Yankee colossus," the United States.

It is becoming equally clear, however, that the whole field of Latin-American relations will be re-examined by the new administration and new Congress arriving in January. Our abject Latin-American

friends believe that in our own interests (and admittedly in their interest, too) we must consider something like a small Marshall plan for this hemisphere.

The problem is now reckoned to be similar in principle to the one we faced in Europe immediately after the war. Want and chaos must be ended lest communism use want and chaos to entrench itself.

As to the military side of the problem, Senator Smathers' tireless recommendations for a hemisphere security force under the organization of American states are now making some headway. They were once wholly ignored. Now it can be said that some men, both in the administration and in Congress, are showing a willingness at least to examine the proposal.

This is a real gain. And so is the fact that professional "liberals," who in the beginning howled Castro up as a kind of secular saint, have ceased their sycophantic eulogies of this bearded, this sensitive, this poetic lyncher.

It is even possible that for the first time in modern history the great complex of difficulty that is Latin America may become involved in the presidential campaign itself as an issue of consequence. It is no longer possible to look at this hemisphere as a low-priority foreign policy area. It is becoming absolutely necessary to look homeward as well as across the seas. (Copyright, 1960, by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.)

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Bill Fish

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

THE TELEVISION PLUG—or "payola"—under fire in Washington, was once dramatically exemplified on a Jack Benny show. "Rochester," commanded Jack, "pass me my electrically heated Rest Better Electric Blanket."

"Boss! Boss!" protested Rochester, "you ain't got no Rest Better Electric Blanket." Benny registered one of his meaningful pauses, then said, "I've got one NOW, Rochester!"

Howard Van Smith tells of a farm family saddled with a backward son. One day they sent him out to make a count of the chicken population. He returned sadly perplexed. "I couldn't do it, Paw," he confessed. "I counted all of them up to 22 but there was one that kept running around and I couldn't count him."

Overheard in Los Angeles: "Can't wait for them to finish shooting that baseball picture, Sunrise for Campanella." © 1960, by Bennett Cerf. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

