

MEDFORD 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: July 19, 1950 (Wednesday). A night private plane carrying two Oakland men is missing and feared crashed somewhere near the California-Oregon border.

20 YEARS AGO: July 19, 1940 (Friday). Six more youths enrolled and made their first solo flights today in the government's civilian pilot training program at the Medford airport.

30 YEARS AGO: July 19, 1930 (Saturday). Official dedication of Medford's new municipal airport is set for Aug. 3.

40 YEARS AGO: July 19, 1920 (Monday). The Paulist Choir group appeared at the Page theater during the week end and delighted local music lovers.

50 YEARS AGO: July 19, 1910 (Tuesday). Medford's \$350,000 gravity water system from Little Butte creek should be completed and operating by next Saturday.

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

The Devil Theory

A few days ago Walter Lippmann made reference to the "devil theory"—the idea that, when something goes wrong, some specific group or individual is diabolically behind it.

In the early days of the Massachusetts colony, particularly in Salem, all the ills of the time were blamed on witches and their master, the Devil.

Since that time the guilty label has been pasted on a wide variety of scape-goats, with varying degrees of logic.

IN time of war, it is always easy and profitable to blame the enemy for everything that goes wrong, from military reverses (logical) to blighted crops (illogical—up to the present anyhow).

RIGHT now, of course, the communists are "it." They are blamed for a wide variety of things—things for which they are, indeed, logically to blame; and things which they couldn't possibly have had anything to do with.

But the devil theory makes things so easy. No thought is required; no probing for the truth, for probable causes, for the real reasons.

IF you're opposed to something, all you have to do is blame it on the blankety-blank commies—even such things as the "plot" to fluoridate the drinking water of Americans, for heaven's sake.

YES, as a substitute for thought, the devil theory is a good one. But it is dangerous, too, for it obscures the REAL reasons why things sometimes go awry, and when the REAL reasons are unknown or ignored, it is difficult if not impossible to find the needed solutions.

ONE small example: When the riots in Japan got so bad that President Eisenhower's trip there had to be cancelled, it was popularly blamed on a "small, hard-core group of communists."

IN other words, the "devil" was present all right. But he could not have succeeded alone, and without a combination of other circumstances to create the unfortunate situation which faced the American President.

Kennedy's Speech

Whether or not one agrees with its message, it is difficult to dismiss lightly the nomination acceptance speech of Sen. John F. Kennedy in Los Angeles last Friday night.

THIS is a young man who knows just where he wants to go, and how he plans to get there, and what he's going to do when he arrives.

It remains to be seen whether his call to face the challenges of "The New Frontier" will become as memorable as FDR's call for a "New Deal" or HST's for a "Fair Deal."

Dennis the Menace



"BOY I'LL BET YOU'VE GOT THE PRETTIEST TOOL HANDLES IN THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD NOW, MR. WILSON!"

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.

Bone Up: To the Editor: We liked the letter of Robert A. Young about a fund for civilian travel abroad, including Russia and China.

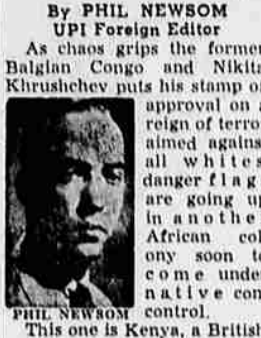
Walter Reed Gallice, Jr. Merlin, Ore.

Cougars: To the Editor: There was a gold miner of French descent that did considerable tunnel work on old Fielder mountain during 1913.

Inter-Faith Meeting: To the Editor: The M.T.'s position toward the religious issue in the candidacy of Senator John F. Kennedy for president has once again been made clear by the editorial note appended to Mr. Bailey's correspondence.

Conventions: To the Editor: The Constitution does not mention the procedures now called party conventions.

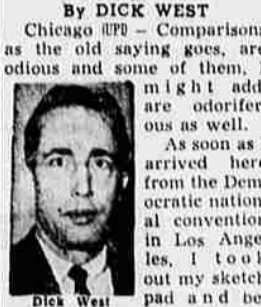
Danger Flags Flying in Kenya, Soon To Be Freed; Mau Mau Threat Said Returning



Phil Newsom: This one is Kenya, a British crown colony of about 225,000 square miles bordering on the Indian Ocean.

As chaos grips the former Belgian Congo and Nikita Khrushchev puts his stamp of approval on a reign of terror aimed against all whites, danger flags are going up in another African colony soon to come under native control.

West Has Odious (odoriferous) Comparisons of L.A., Chicago



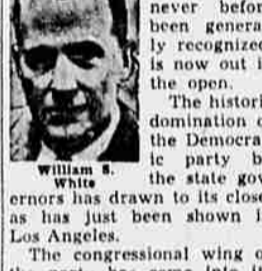
Dick West: Chicago (CP) - Comparisons as the old saying goes, are odious and some of them, I might add, are odoriferous as well.

roughly two hours to get from Chicago's O'Hare airport to Chicago. Judging from this sample, and without really having had time to examine the situation here, I would say that the traffic jams in Los Angeles are more dense and dangerous, but they move faster.

Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

THE NEW BOSSISM



William S. White: Washington - A revolution in American politics, which had in fact been long in the making but had never before been generally recognized, is now out in the open.

dead in politics. He is still very much alive in spite of the notion, so happily put forward by some, that Kennedy's triumph in Los Angeles was a triumph for clean-limbed American youth over the bad old pros.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

FOR LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY, an enterprising bookseller in New Jersey filled a window with volumes about the Great Emancipator, and hired a lanky, raw-boned male model to sit at a desk supposedly writing proclamations.



"Television hasn't killed the art of conversation at all," insists Marcelino Cox. "If you don't believe me, ask any parent who has tried to listen to a program the children don't care for."

Eveline Dropsey tells everybody she met her husband on the beach. It turns out she was waiting on Guadalcanal when the Marines landed.

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