

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

Aug. 19, 1950 (Saturday) The 1950 4-H fall fair, the biggest in history, will open tomorrow at the Jackson county fairgrounds.

Myron Elmore Gurnea, one of the FBI's top investigators who was born in Medford, drowned as the result of a boating accident in the Potomac river early today.

20 YEARS AGO

Aug. 19, 1940 (Monday) Work on the Medford municipal airport \$120,000 WPA improvement project will be started in a few days and should be completed within six months.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "European experts reveal the downfall of France was due to a blind faith in the invincibility of the Maginot line. This proves 50 million Frenchmen could be wrong."

30 YEARS AGO

Aug. 19, 1930 (Tuesday) Fishermen state-wide are fighting a Copco request to build power plants on the Umpqua river.

The county court is planning more stringent laws for handling indigents.

40 YEARS AGO

Aug. 19, 1920 (Thursday) Franklin D. Roosevelt will stop in Medford for five minutes Sunday evening. He is the Democratic vice-presidential candidate.

The first car of Rogue Bartlett's was shipped east recently and sold at an average of \$5.55 per box.

50 YEARS AGO

Aug. 19, 1910 (Friday) Some 110 Army soldiers arrived in Medford this morning to help combat several fires which are burning out of control in the Butte Falls area.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

- 1. How many Presidents of the U.S. have been assassinated? 2. Which is the smallest in area of the five Great Lakes? 3. On what day is the famous Mummers' parade held in Philadelphia? 4. According to the Old Testament, what is better than rubies? 5. Which of these is not a breed of cat: Manx, Dalmatian, Maltese? 6. Turtles do, or do not, have teeth? 7. Did Columbus make, 3, 4 or 5 trips to the New World? 8. Whom did F. D. Roosevelt succeed as Governor of New York? 9. What is the title of the wife of a Maharajah? 10. For what purpose was the great Spanish Armada assembled?

Answers: 1. Three: Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley. 2. Ontario. 3. January. 4. Wisdom. 5. Dalmatian. 6. Do not. 7. Four. 8. Alfred E. Smith. 9. Maharani. 10. For the invasion of England.

Methods Change

How the methods of fighting forest fires change over the years. Fifteen or twenty years ago, it was man and dirt, as much as one could throw, against the fire. Now, specialized fire fighters battle not only with dirt, but with water, borate airplanes, bulldozers and imported crews from a distance.

The new methods are better. Fires are stamped out faster. Valuable timber that once would have been lost is now saved.

A TRIP TO Idaho recently, during the outbreak of a 10,000-acre forest fire which threatened to consume the mountain community of Idaho City, brought back memories of a Bulletin writer to the days when he battled flames in the same area.

Of course, the fire fighting story is the same everywhere. Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California were all having fire problems, and still are for that matter.

The Idaho blaze was typical. It was man-started, the foresters said. They thought it might have been arson. It blew up on a day when the temperature registered a record 111 degrees.

A BREEZE helped it race through tinder-dry forests above Boise toward Idaho City. Several summer homes in its path were burned to the ground. Finally there were about 1,500 men battling the flames. Borate planes bombed it incessantly. A crew of 100 specially trained Zuni Indians were flown in. Bulldozers plowed huge firelines ahead of the flames. Finally the blaze was controlled.

Eighteen years ago, during the early stages of World War II, another fire broke out in the same area. Then, however, there were few of us to send to fight it, and most of us were youngsters in high school working for the summer as "smoke chasers."

WE HAD been trained as a plow team. This team, with two large mules, simply plowed a small trench around these large "project" fires. We worked all night getting a small trench around the fire, which was about 200 acres. The fire would race ahead, then be contained. Finally, after five days and nights, the fire was controlled. All we had to work with was shovels and dirt... lots of dirt. But it smothered the flames.

Our only consolation in these "project" fires, as against small "spot" fires, was that the Forest Service moved in huge portable kitchens and fed us in a grand style. MOST OF US were neophytes at fire fighting. Some of the "recruits" from nearby cities could hardly make it up a mountain. Nowadays, the story is different. Teams are trained. Communications networks keep crew leaders alert to needs. Borate planes literally "drown" the fire. The result is that many fires, that once would have meant disaster, are contained early.

When?

Earlier this year Dr. O. Meredith Wilson, president of the University of Oregon (now president of University of Minnesota), traveled in Latin America with a special commission of which two other university presidents were members. In telling of what he saw and heard in Latin America, Dr. Wilson said one impression stood out above all others.

He explained, "Leaders of the Latin American countries have studied all facets of the success of the United States. They have concluded that they have all the resources available to the U.S.A. And they have concluded that all they need to become as powerful and successful as the U.S.A. is education—if they can educate their people they will be able to do as well with their resources as the U.S.A. has. So, they are girding themselves to spend whatever is necessary to stamp out illiteracy, and to educate their people to the highest possible level."

LAST WEEK we had lunch with six Filipinos who were here as guests of the Oregon Wheat League. In a very short time we learned much about the Philippines from two of them. The most surprising information was about education in the Philippines. One of the men said, "Only for national defense are we spending more money than we spend for education. We are determined to give all of our people who are capable of handling it the best possible education, no matter what it costs. We know that the answer to our future lies in what we do about educating our people."

We were amazed to hear that the Philippines have 21 universities. The largest has 40,000 students!

ONE OF the men told us how much they were spending for education; what percentage of their national income went into education. When he gave us that figure we started to tell him the percentage of its income the U.S.A. spends on education, and then thought better of it. It would have embarrassed us, the U.S.A. compares so unfavorably.

The distinguished columnist Walter Lippmann has said, "We have pretty well decided in this country that we can afford the cost of adequate national defense. When will we decide that we can afford to properly educate all of our people?" When?—Pendleton East Oregonian.

Dennis the Menace



"MARGARET'S GIVIN' FREE HAIRCUTS, MR. WILSON! IF YOU KNOW ANYBODY THAT'S GOT HAIR."

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.

He's Being Helpful

To the Editor: I would like to help the county court in its selfless striving towards good government, and celebrate the statesmanlike efforts of its Republican members to achieve that end. Confusion is already so compounded about what "non-partisan" means that I may be presumptuous in trying to add to it. However, I'll match my bewilderment against any man's.

A bunch of the boys were whooping in up In the Jackson County Court. They stomped and roared. For a government board Free from political thought.

To the rafters there rose with tremulous doubt The question, put with unanimous shout: "Oh, who will find us a righteous man, Upright and pure and non-partisan, A paragon of good government?" Echo answered: "Miller and Wendt!"

"Oh, who will deliver our bewildered clan From the clutches of Democrat and Republican, And stand as the county's staunchest pillar?" Echo answered: "Wendt and Miller!"

Oh, Mr. Miller, Oh, Mr. Wendt, When you talked about "non-partisan" we knew just what you meant. You just tap a Republican, Christen him "Non-Partisan," And bludgeon down the Democratic argument. George W. Rode Fluhrer Bldg., Medford.

Uneven Stephen To this Editor: Jackson County Commissioner Chester Wendt certainly blew the lid off the appointment contained in his letter criticizing Mr. Edwards and Mr. Davies for protesting the unfairness of the county court in choosing three Republicans and only one Democrat to sit on the county home rule study committee, while to the same committee Duncan, a Democrat, and Nye and Durno, both Republicans, came up with a fair-minded and even-tempered selection of two from each party.

The balance as of now on the study committee is three Democrats and five Republicans who are to choose one more member. This member will without a doubt be chosen by the Republican majority making the count six to three. In other words, as is usual, the Republicans will hold a 2 to 1 edge on this committee too. This political edge is, however, nothing unusual for this county since Judge Miller and Commissioner Wendt have amassed the following score in making appointments in this county. Planning Commission, three Democrats to six Republicans. Budget Committee, two Democrats to four Republicans. Parks Commission, two Democrats to seven Republicans. Fair Board, one Democrat to three Republicans. Sort of an uneven-stephen deal isn't it? Not only for this administration's Republican partisanship, but to those that have gone before will the same

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Let's talk about spies and spying. Spying is as old as war and diplomacy.

It is ESSENTIAL in both war and diplomacy—because knowing what your opponent has up his sleeve is vitally important in outwitting and defeating him. It can mean the difference between survival and destruction.

LET'S cite an instance.

Back in 217 B.C. Hannibal, after crossing the Alps, was moving down the Italian peninsula toward Rome. Flaminius, the Roman commander, chose the vicinity of Lake Trasimene to stand and fight. Hannibal's SPIES brought news of Flaminius' decision. So Hannibal laid his plans. He set a trap. He so disposed his forces that Flaminius would be tempted to attack Hannibal's center. Hannibal then planted heavy forces on his flanks and when the Romans attacked in the center he closed in from his flanks and practically destroyed the Roman army.

THIS IS the point:

If the Roman commander had been able to send a spy into the camp of Hannibal to learn his plan... and if the spy had SUCCEEDED... the Roman army would not have fallen into the trap.

educational advantages which will surely be denied ours if this chipping away at the smaller districts is permitted. We had hoped they would choose the first alternative; we would still welcome their support.

Luella S. Stine Route 4, Box 428 Medford. Bertha W. Gammill Route 4, Box 428 Medford. Marjorie B. Nunley (Mrs. W. D.) Route 4, Box 427-A Medford.

On Law Enforcement

To the Editor: Whether intended or not, we have a dog control law effective the last of this month.

Those who wanted the law are insistent upon its enforcement. It is the law, and as you say, must be enforced. But does this mean that a special law enforcement agency be set up; or, our present law enforcement be enlarged to specifically enforce this one law? It is of no more importance than any other law in the books. It is subject to like action, complaints and process, and jurisdiction as other controlling or regulatory laws.

It is my opinion as no funds were provided or voted for to support special enforcement of the law—that an injured party has the relief of complaint to the proper authorities who will then protect the individual's rights; on the other hand, all law enforcement officers will enforce the law when seen to be violated.

The enforcing officers are not required to drop all other activities and concentrate on one law. I believe the attitude of both the county and city officials is correct, in that they are taking the new law as just one more obligation to perform.

It could be said that we should use our police officers in the city as law enforcement officers, rather than "revenue collectors" on parking meters, and as our chief of police suggests, use "meter maids." This way it would be more economical to all. But let's not harass our law enforcement agencies with "personal" wants.

Ray O. DeMarrs 788 West Second St. Medford.

Likes Lithia

To the Editor: We have lived in Medford a year now, and though from time to time I've seen in the paper small announcements of this or that exhibit or picnic being held in Lithia park, I have not heard anyone say a great deal about the park.

Last Sunday, out of curiosity and lack of any more elaborate plans, we took our children to Ashland to see the park and we were simply amazed!

It is truly a beautiful park. The flowers are gorgeous, the landscaping lovely, the children's play area wonderfully complete, and the picnic areas relaxed and pleasant, not to mention ducks in two lovely ponds to feed and watch.

I can't say enough about Lithia park. I am surprised that no one has anything to say about it. Does everyone who knows the park simply take it for granted that everyone else is just as familiar with it?

Hawthorne park in Medford is a very nice park; we've had nice picnics there and the children have played in the wading pool there, but it is an urban park with more

That spy would have been worth EVERYTHING in the WORLD to the Roman commander. No reward that might have been paid to him in return for risking his life would have been too great.

THE SPY takes fabulous chances. He gambles with his LIFE. If he succeeds in his mission or missions, he deserves his reward. Francis Powers got \$50,000 a year for risking his life. Would you take the job for that?

THROUGHOUT history, this has been the position of the spy. To his own side, he is a patriot who gambles with his life for the welfare of his country.

To the enemy, he is the most despicable character that could be imagined. Scorn and loathing are heaped upon him.

ONE more point:

We have been talking about spies in war and high diplomacy. HOW ABOUT SPORTS? How about the football and the baseball scouts? What are they doing? The answer is simple. They're SEEKING INFORMATION that will be useful in defeating an opponent. That's what Powers was doing.

I SUPPOSE you have noticed in the news that a POISON SUICIDE NEEDLE was found in Powers' possession. Why did he carry it? He said he was to use it in case of TORTURE.

That too is as old as history. The last shot in the pistol. The poison pill. The charge of deadly poison concealed in the ring. From time immemorial, DEATH has been the portion of the caught and convicted spy. The poison needle, the poison pills, the poison in the ring have provided the means of an EASIER death for the spy.

IN CONCLUSION:

To the Russians, Powers is a contemptible creature. In this trial, they are seeking to show him up as such to the world—and to make the world believe that our government is contemptible and loathsome because its spies and, and through all this sham, Russia calmly ignores the fact that she is the most voluninous user of spies in the modern world.

Let's keep all these things straight in our minds while we are reading about and hearing about this trumped-up spy trial.

sun and much hotter than Lithia.

For a full day of picnicking, playing and relaxing, I don't think you can surpass beautiful Lithia park. I'd like all newcomers to the Rogue valley to know more of what they can find in Lithia park.

Mrs. R. Ward, 1284 Kings highway, Medford.

On Poisons

To the Editor: A few years ago we had some hay ruined by irrigation water.

So since we had been reading about organic farming, we hauled the hay and placed it around the base of the few fruit trees we had and sent for a thousand earth worms and turned them loose in it.

Even our new apple trees had worms in the fruit every year. But this one year that we did this there wasn't a bad apple anywhere. One apple tree is at least 25 years old, even it had nice apples this time.

The garden was extra prolific this particular year, so it seemed. While my husband worked in the garden the birds would fly down and catch the insects that he disturbed.

But owing to slow destructive methods of agriculture these days, there aren't very many birds around. Sprays and artificial fertilizers kill all earthworms, toads and numerous other life things that are of benefit to human life.

Even the ground is a victim of these unwise methods; causing new ailments of the trees and other crops. Then somebody invents another poison, even more destructive than the one before. We have burned orchard wood in our stove in past years and as soon as the wood got hot the sulfur would fry out of it, just as though the sap had been replaced by years of absorbing these poison sprays.

What would happen to us if we were dipped in these things as often as the trees were sprayed? We wouldn't survive the first dip as you can well see if you read the papers.

Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

GALLERY OF SPECTATORS Washington—An international gallery of spectators is watching our national political campaign with the most acute attention—and the most careful manners—ever turned to our internal affairs since World War II.



The foreign diplomats here now find their interest painfully divided. They must continue to take care of their normal work as representatives of other nations here. But they also are unable to avoid those other questions which so engage us all: Will the new president be Kennedy or Nixon? And what will the new president do?

This presidential election has a deep and special interest to these people for several reasons. There is a peculiar drama of suspense in that the race looks so close. There is the fact that, whoever is elected, the United States—still the world's most powerful nation—will enter a new phase of its history and a new relationship with its allies and enemies.

And where is the comparative newness of both candidates. The diplomats know something of Richard Nixon. He has, after all, for nearly eight years sat in the present administration. But they don't know a vast amount about him, for the reason that Vice President Nixon's work has been largely confined to the privacy of the National Security Council and Cabinet.

And of John Kennedy they know almost nothing beyond what they have been able to observe from a distance, primarily in the press.

WHAT is done by an American Administration is to many of these diplomats often more vital than what is done by their own governments. What may be done by a new administration in this time of a great changing of the guard is thus an issue of sleepless concern, especially considering the new factors of the present race.

No American politician, therefore, is keeping a closer watch on the campaign than are these polite visitors. The diplomat must do more than keep his government advised on what is happening here. He must also be a predictor of future events; he runs his own private polls.

To be effective, he must be in on what is going on—very much in the American world, but scrupulously not of that world. As a foreigner, he must maintain an anti-septic impartiality; he must not even seem to interfere.

All the same, diplomats are men, too, and so, in deepest confidence, they have their political favorites here. Some are silently rooting for Nixon; some for Kennedy. But far more are worrying about what the new administration's foreign policy line will be than about the identity of the man who will make that line.

This is especially true of representatives here of the Allied West. They know the Western Alliance is in deep trouble and that whoever ascends to the presidency will have an immense job to restore its unity and vigor.

EVEN among those who are emotionally "anti-Colonial," for illustration, there is men of the compulsory farming programs have authority to pressure the farmers to using these deadly sprays; very much as the aluminum companies have their methods of persuasion to get editors, doctors and dentists to try to convince the people that they need fluoride in the water.

May E. Atkins, 1634 Orchard Home dr., Medford.

Homes for Martins

To the Editor: Relative to your editorial urging the removal of dead trees from Hyatt Lake, I just want to mention that this is the only place in our county that we have found purple martins nesting, and the places that they nest in is old woodpecker holes in those very snags standing in the water.

Purple martins are one of the commonest swallows in the east, where they nest in man-made martin houses. As far as I know they have not yet been enticed to such houses here in the west, where they are relatively rare. So I hate to see their known nesting sites summarily destroyed.

Could we, perhaps, work out some kind of compromise whereby many of the snags could be taken out, but some might be left, especially those that have nest holes in them? Thomas McCamant 300 Oakwood dr., Medford.

great sympathy for our ally, Belgium—to which we have given the back of our hand in her sad troubles in the Congo. There is concern, too, that we bring Iran into partnership and then put Iran on a thin diet of help while we give fresh assistance to her enemy, Nasser's Egypt.

The plain and unpleasant truth is this: there is mounting evidence—as Belgium bitterly complains in private that the best way to get along with us is to kick us regularly in the teeth. And this is the deepest measure of the diplomatic community's true concern about the American election.

For at bottom the new American administration will have two clear and difficult choices: It will return this country to a bold and sympathetic and total leadership of the West, electing to stand fast with our friends when their truly vital interests are involved, even if this should put us on the "wrong" side in the ferment of African-Asian nationalism.

Or it will decide to withdraw more and more from the Western Alliance and to put our main hopes in our own strength and into the possibility of bringing the neutral and uncommitted nations into some kind of quasi-alliance with us.

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