

Medford Mail Tribune
 "Everyone in Southern Oregon Reads The Mail Tribune"
 Published Daily except Saturday by MEDFORD PRINTING CO.
 33 North Fir St., P.O. Box 2141
 MEDFORD, ORE. 97504
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 An Independent Newspaper
 Entered as second class matter, at Medford, Oregon, under Act of March 3, 1879.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 By Mail - In Advance, Copy 10c
 Daily and Sunday - 1 year \$15.00
 Daily and Sunday - 6 mos. \$8.00
 Daily and Sunday - 3 mos. \$4.50
 Sunday Only - One year \$4.50
 By Carrier - In Advance - Medford
 Ashland, Central Point, Eagle Point, Jacksonville, Gold Hill, Phoenix, Shady Cove, Rogue River, Talent and on motor routes, Daily and Sunday - 1 year \$18.00
 Daily and Sunday - 6 mos. \$10.00
 Carrier and Dealers - copy 10c
 All Terms Cash in Advance
 Official Paper of Jackson County
 Official Paper of Medford
 United Press International
 Full Licensed Wire
 P. O. Telephone Newsletters
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 Advertising Representatives:
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NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
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School Thoughts

School starts in Medford tomorrow, after a three-month vacation. It hasn't all been vacation, of course. Super- visory personnel have been at work planning for the coming year and even further ahead; custo- dians have been busy refurbishing schools; ad- ditions have been constructed; many teachers have gone back to school to pursue their own educa- tions; some teachers and quite a number of stu- dents - a growing number in Medford - have been participating in summer school.

But the tempo of secondary education has slowed down almost to a stop, and most build- ings were not in active, full-time use. They were "just sitting there."

THROUGHOUT the nation the traditional three-month vacation has come under increas- ing criticism.

The "crisis in education" has brought this about, and it in turn has been created by two things: The rising costs of school systems, and the question as to whether education in Ameri- ca today is good enough. (The latter is usually mentioned in the same breath as the progress made by the Russians in science.)

Thus education, and secondary education in particular, has been criticized from both sides— those who think it costs too much, and those who don't think it is doing a good enough job.

IN OUR view, there is some truth in both.

We also believe, however, that the schools are worth every penny they cost, even though some economies could still be put into effect; and that the quality of education furnished in most cases is far better than its detractors state.

The schools are not perfect, and we know of no one who would be so rash as to claim they are. By the same token, they are far from failing at America's self-imposed task of providing an edu- cation for everyone who can benefit from it.

Thus, the current criticism, particularly that of a constructive nature, should be welcomed.

ONE of the chronic complaints is the lack of a sufficient number of good teachers.

Many proposals have been made - higher pay, the use of classroom "teaching assistants" who are not full fledged instructors, but who can handle many of the routine chores; a more- respected position in the community for teachers; higher standards and more incentives to enter the profession.

Each of these have some merit, and, to a de- gree, many of them have come about.

But teachers, who might better be concen- trating on teaching, are still required to perform such non-academic chores as patrolling halls and playgrounds during noon-hours and recesses, and "advising" certain extra curricular activities in which they have little competence and no interest.

TOO, there is the debate about what sort of education a teacher should have. Should it emphasize the arts of pedagogy, or should it be largely in the teacher's field of instruction?

In the primary grades pedagogy, probably, is crucial. But in more advanced grades we do not see how a teacher can be competent as a teacher unless he is truly an expert in his field.

The teachers' organizations preach "profes- sionalism." We'd like it better if they defined their terms. A teacher of physics, say, or lan- guage, may be highly skilled at supervising the learning process, and still be a dead loss if not competent in physics or language.

AS to other related problems, a recent report on the "Year-Round School" by the Ameri- can Association of School Administrators stated:

"Better utilization of existing facilities and per- sonnel through extending the school year or through developing what is frequently called a year-round educational program is a promising hope for achieving a more adequate education."

Note, please, that it said "more adequate education" - not less expensive education.

For, despite the fact that buildings would be better utilized and wouldn't "just stand there" for three months each year, the overall costs would inevitably be higher.

SUGGESTIONS have included such as these:

- The "four-quarter" plan, where 75 per cent of the students would be in school at all times, with 25 per cent on vacation. This would utilize the school buildings, but would result in personal, family and community adjustments (non-summer vacations, for one), and would require more teachers, whose pay represents the largest single item in any school district budget.
- The "48-week school year," with a four- week vacation. This has been proposed as com- pulsory, and as voluntary with more determined students benefiting. It, too, would cost more.
- The "12-month teacher employment" plan, with teachers assigned during the summer months to additional training. It would cost more.

IN MEDFORD, the nine-month school year has been retained. But, in common with many other progressive school districts which are seeking ways to increase educational opportunities with- out raising costs too much, more emphasis has been placed here on the summer education pro- gram—for students needing remedial work, for those wishing to speed their progress or supple- ment their regular classes, and for adults.

This is the one approach to this problem which offers the most for the least.

Meanwhile, we must encourage, rather than discourage, experimentation with new tech- niques, new ideas, new approaches. Education is probably America's most important business to- day. It deserves the best from all of us.—E.A.

Dennis the Mercage



"YOU BOYS CERTAINLY GET YOUR MONEYS WORTH OUT OF A WADING POOL!"

In the Days News

By FRANK JENKINS

Modern economics note:
 The Inter-American Eco- nomic Conference, meeting at Bogota, in the South Ameri- can, republic of Colombia, reaches virtual agreement ap- proving a U.S. backed drive for economic and social de- velopment of Latin America. The drive would start off with a \$500 million appropriation by the United States, with a promise of added economic assistance when the program really gets going.

Cuba's minister of econo- mics, a gentleman named Re- gino Boti, didn't think much of the idea. He proposed a \$30 BILLION program. "Let's not be pikers," he said, in effect. (Especially when Uncle Sam is paying the bill.)

THE MODERN idea seems to be that you can do any- thing with money.

One wonders. We've spent a lot of money for foreign aid, and we don't seem to have bought very many fore- ign friends.

LET'S TURN to problems closer home.

In Pompano Beach, down in Florida, there is a modern residential suburban develop- ment that has a problem. It is located three-quarters of a mile from the nearest school. The parents want a school bus - but there is a state regu- lation in Florida that for- bids providing school bus service for children who live within two miles of a school.

So the mothers have orga- nized a protest. Yesterday 14 of them escorted their 20 children down the middle of a busy street, causing no end of grief to the traffic. They say they'll go on doing it un- til they get bus service.

ABSD? No, they have a good argument on their side. They say the traffic is so heavy that it is DANGEROUS for the children to walk.

Which, of course, is true. They're facing a REAL mod- ern problem.

CARL Proebstel and I were chewing over mod- ern problems the other day, and we got around to this same situation. It reminded Carl of a conversation he'd had with an ancient resident of a dis- trict over on the other side of the mountains. While they were talking, a school bus came past.

The oldster (Carl says he was about 90) surveyed the

America, is to turn from unilat- eral action to action through the international in- stitutions.

THE second item is, I be- lieve, to take the leader- ship of the highly developed countries in persuading them to accept the principle that it is the duty of the haves to finance the have-nots in order that they may break the vicious circle of their backwardness. It is highly im- portant, in my view, that this should be done as a duty and not as a favor or as charity.

The duty of the haves to the have-nots is a new and great idea, often advanced by individuals but never as yet adopted by governments.

It is the kind of idea which might, which could, restore to us and to our Western allies the initiative which we no longer possess.

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Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

BROOKS ATKINSON, retiring drama critic of the New York Times, and one of the best loved men in the history of the theater, has named the 15 musical shows of the

past three decades he con- siders the very best. They are, in chronological or- der, *Show Boat*, *Of Thee I Sing*, *Music In The Air*, *Porgy and Bess*, *Lady in the Dark*, *Oklahoma*, *Carrousel*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *South Pacific*, *Gypsy* and *Dolls*, *Wonderful Town*, *My Fair Lady*, *West Side Story*, and *The Music Man*.

I believe a good reper- tory company could keep a big New York theater filled to capacity for years by simply alternating these 15 superlative productions.

An Israeli transatlantic jet plane had to turn back to Tel Aviv airport after being two hours over the ocean. A quick witted stewardess soon calmed the passengers, however. "It's nothing to worry about," she told them. "We forgot the pickles."

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BROOKS ATKINSON

POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

Possibly motivated by a piece on this page concern- ing V-J Day not long ago, one of our readers was stirred to memory, and shared it with us, as follows:

V-J day reminded me of an incident on THE V-J day, 15 years ago.

Signing of the treaty was expected any minute, so I saw e e m e d everybody was town.

When the sirens sounded, the stores were quickly dar- ened and emptied of custom- ers.

Where we were, the mill- ing crowd crossed the street at Sixth and Central in Med- ford. All were noisy and very excited.

Well, almost everybody. At Newberry's corner, a lit- tle, middle-aged woman walk- ed slowly, guiding a young soldier in winter uniform. He walked slowly, oblivious to everything about him - not seeming to hear or see any- thing.

My companion remarked, "What price glory?"

There are a few incidents in everyone's life which are so firmly imprinted that they never will fade, even when all other memories get blurry and mixed-up with one another.

We still distinctly remem- ber the smell of the hot choco- late and the taste of the sug- ar-doughnuts at breakfast in a little cafe in Modesto, Calif., one Sunday in December, 1941, when the radio blared the news that Japanese planes were bombing Pearl Harbor.

We remember the group, gathered around a huge ranch fireplace in Central Oregon, when the news came that the United States had dropped an "atomic bomb" on Japan. No one, except one science fiction fan among us, even knew what an atom bomb might be.

We remember a nurse say- ing "It's a girl—a fine healthy baby."

We remember another oc- casion when a doctor told us to line up blood donors, and said solemnly, "In this kind of case, we usually try to save the mother first." And we remember our tears of gratitude when both lived.

We remember when an air- plane was overdue six hours, eight hours; twelve hours; and when the search found the four crumpled bodies of friends and associates, and the good man who was out boss.

These are the memories— some poignant, some joyful, some sorrowful - which stay with one, and are sometimes tenderly reviewed.

They say that reminisc- ence is a sign of encroach- ing old age. It must be true, too. For, according to the old saw, "Life Begins" for the Potluck editor next week.

One of the doggondest hassles of the generation is over-temporarily, we are sure, upstate.

It is the battle between the "traditionalists" and the "modernists" in art.

It raged during the Cen- tennial celebration last year, when abstract murals, im- pressionistic paintings, and other varieties of non-photo- graphic art were chosen for display.

It raged again this summer in the offices of the Oregon State Fair commission, which backed ad filled, compro- mised, ducked, dodged, weaved and temporized, as it was assailed by artists of all per- suasions and temperaments, individually and in groups.

The "modernists" (which is really a misnomer) declare that the true artist is not sat- isfied with exact photo-like fidelity to the subject, but must go beyond that and put something of himself and what he feels and sees into the painting if it is, indeed, to be called "art."

The "traditionalist" (an- other misnomer) however, be- lieves that what is painted should be recognizable as something—a tree, a dog, a hill, a house—and preferably an exact reproduction of it.

As a result of the battle, two art superintendents have come and gone with bitter- ness, the fair commission looks like a bunch of weak- kneed fools, and the various artistic factions have acquit- ted themselves with ambig- uity and verbosity, and have achieved something less than glory.

What reminds us of the quotation attributed, if we recall correctly, to Will Rogers, to the effect that "it's a very safe thing to claim you're an artist, be- cause no one can prove that you aren't."

Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

MR. K AT THE U.N.
 There may will be specifi- c reasons which we do not now know, for Mr. Khrush- chev's deci- sion to attend the General Assembly in New York. But there is a broad reason which in itself would explain the decision.

It is that outside of Western Europe and North America there has very recently and very sud- denly been a dramatic ex- pansion of Soviet influence. At the General Assembly of the U.N. 15 new African na- tions are about to be admit- ted, and by the end of this year there will probably be still more. In the main, the Soviet Union has the inside track in dealing with these new nations. Moreover, it has broken into the Western Hem- isphere. Inside the U.N. the influence of the Soviet Union, which for years was in a tiny minority, has increased great- ly, and Mr. Khrushchev will be in New York to make the most of it.

Our own influence has de- clined seriously. In the first General Assembly after the end of World War II the American nations, which then voted together, had 43 per cent of the votes. This was a base on which to build an easy majority with the Western Europeans and in itself is quite sufficient to exercise a veto. Now, the American states—even apart from Cuba's defection—are less than a quarter of the total.

IN THE General Assembly, as in the world which it represents, a preponderant majority of the countries are very poor, have a primitive economy, and are highly dis- contented with their condi- tion. The great masses of the people are illiterate, and the country is fortunate if it has even a small class of edu- cated men and trained civil servants.

There is no mystery as to why the Soviet Union and

even the Chinese have the inside track. They do not stand for democracy, which is impossible in most of these countries, or for free and private enterprise, which is also impossible. They stand for dictatorships using techni- cians.

The handful of educated leaders in the backward countries, and also in coun- tries not so backward, can imagine themselves following the Soviet pattern. But they cannot imagine there is a Soviet pattern. They are following the political pattern of Eisenhower and Nixon and Kennedy and Johnson, of General Motors and U.S. Steel.

All this poses for us the grave problem of how, despite the Soviet initial advantage, the Western powers can exert enough influence to maintain their vital interests. Anyone, in my opinion, is a fool who thinks that there is an ob- vious and easy solution to this problem. What is certain is that the solution, if there is one, will not be found by thrashing around wildly, look- ing for scapegoats, and try- ing to find someone in the foreign service to blame for the fact that Castro and Lum-umba exist.

IT IS clear enough, I think, that on the whole and in- creasingly we shall have to deal through international in- stitutions in Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

Throughout these vast ter- ritories there is underway an historic revolution against poverty and against social and political inferiority to the Western white man. We cannot act successfully when we act alone, because we are unable to divest ourselves of the suspicion that we are the great counter-revolutionary power. Within international institutions, the U. N., the O. A. S., the World Bank, and the like, we can have a certain immunity, and can have influence because we have so much to contribute.

The first item, then, in a solution of the problem of our relationship with the more or less revolutionary countries of Asia, Africa, and

trying the nasty way. Maybe this will wake you up. And I'll tell you something else- you are not going to be able to settle anything, any- where in the world, without us.

It is as simple as that; but the consequences of this im- mense physical and propa- ganda strength, powered by a deep-seated inferiority com- plex are bound to be baffling- ly complicated and danger- ous, an endless drain upon our energies and resources, and re- peatedly disruptive to normal assumptions. The Soviet Union, already rooted in Central Europe, is penetrating the Arab lands, Latin America and Central Africa, not to speak of outer space, and in the mind of Moscow the game has just begun.

In Europe the risks are too great for any sudden advance of Soviet influence; in the Middle-East conditions for further Russian steps ripen only slowly; in Latin America cul- tural and religious bulwarks oblige the Russians to pick their spots with extreme cau- tion.

But Central Africa is now a broken field, devoid, save in the Moslem sectors, of re- ligious, cultural or political defenses of any consequence. It had no history with which to oppose the white settler, missionary or soldier; it is an

easy mark now for any stran- ger professing friendship, be- cause, while it now possesses modern aspirations, it has no clear idea how to achieve them. And what makes the new African an even easier target is his almost total spiri- tual disorientation.

The new class in Black Afri- ca is a lost generation. The bulk of its members went to mission or public schools, ac- quired a smattering of mod- ern knowledge, drifted in- into the shantytown life sur- rounding the big cities. They became clerks, working with- in sight but not reach of the bright, full life. They learned to despise their own tribal culture and to envy and re- sent the white man's culture. They now belong to neither the one nor the other.

It is heart-breaking to hear their oratory - passionate, bit- ter, idealistic. Because, as it pours out in unquenchable torrents, the listener slowly understands that the talk is wind to fill an aching spiri- tual vacuum, concealing the awful fact that, except as sepa- rate individuals, they have no meaning; for they cannot relate their own lives to a greater, a general collective meaning, as all men must if they are to know who they are in the world. They do not know where they are going, because they do not know where they have been. They

have repudiated the tribe; yet there is nothing else.

So, in that "pan-African preparatory conference" in Leopoldville they have sought, with the gossamer of words, to spin a reality for themselves. They have talked of the "African personality" in the world's congeries of forces; they have talked of an "African neutralist bloc." The talk is a hangover from the old assumptions - that with colonialism gone, some- thing new would arise, some- thing strong and fresh, iden- tifiably African, and upon this they would build.

But, apart from the old and impossible tribal life, there had been only negativism - protest and resentment. Now that the hated alien authority is gone, so are the ties that bound them together and gave them a sense of common meaning and purpose. They can escape reality no longer; they are gazing with wild and frightened surmise at the vast void before them. In their own homes they are homeless.

This the Russians surely understand and watch with calculating eye. Rarely be- fore, if ever, has Communist imperialism been presented with a vacuum. Little wonder that Khrushchev is moving fast.

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Russia Moves Fast Into African Vacuum

By ERIC SEVAREID

As this is written Nikita Khrushchev, by dispatching troop transport planes to Lum-umba, has thrown another burning brand over the heads of the weary inter- national firemen. He pre- pares to storm into the United Nations in New York as champion of the fifteen segments of Africa's an- cient, soiled acreage now known as "new nations." And he may detour into Cuba where the prospects for politi- cal arson are by no means exhausted.

A conversation of this sum- mer comes ruddy to mind. A Soviet diplomat in a Euro- pean capital listened to a puzzled Westerner protest that Russia's official behavior and speech this summer has been totally inconsistent with her peaceful protestations, almost unprecedented between great nations far from the brink of war.

The Russian broke in im- patiently. "Listen," he said, "there won't be war. But let me tell you something as plainly as I can. We tried the nice, polite way. It got us nowhere, on Berlin or anything else. All right - now we're

trying the nasty way. Maybe this will wake you up. And I'll tell you something else- you are not going to be able to settle anything, any- where in the world, without us.

It is as simple as that; but the consequences of this im- mense physical and propa- ganda strength, powered by a deep-seated inferiority com- plex are bound to be baffling- ly complicated and danger- ous, an endless drain upon our energies and resources, and re- peatedly disruptive to normal assumptions. The Soviet Union, already rooted in Central Europe, is penetrating the Arab lands, Latin America and Central Africa, not to speak of outer space, and in the mind of Moscow the game has just begun.

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Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

THE OHIO PORTENTS
 Cleveland - Here in north- eastern Ohio, the portents are favorable to Sen. John F. Kennedy. If not mislead- ing, moreover, these Ohio portents have national meanings; for there is no state in the Union that is nearer to be- coming a national political

center than Ohio. On one point, the portents leave no room for doubt. In Ohio, as of today, Senator Kennedy is running several miles ahead of Adlai E. Steven- son, and Vice President Richard M. Nixon is running several miles behind Presi- dent Eisenhower.

But in Ohio in 1956, Eisen- hower got no less than 2,282, 000 votes against 1,439,000 for Stevenson. The Eisenhower lead, in other words, was really immense. Thus Kennedy is not assured of victory because he is far ahead of the previ- ous Democratic nominees, and Nixon is not doomed to de- feat because he commands so much less support than the President.

TO LEARN more, it is need- ful to analyze the evi- dence collected here by a doorbell-ringing team com- posed of Ray Dorsey and Bill Williams, of "The Cleveland Plain Dealer," and this re- porter. As we took large sam- ples, polling over 300 people in all, we had no doubt that our results gave a correct pic- ture of the neighborhoods polled. But did these neigh-

borhoods correctly represent Ohio as a whole, or only this northeastern corner?

To begin with our first re- sults, we found a massive po- litical turn-over in the two farm townships of Dorset and Denmark, in Ashtabula Coun- ty. The same people who had given President Eisenhower a 2 1/2 to 1 majority in 1956, now gave a modest majority to Senator Kennedy. But like all the northeastern Ohio farm area except the lake front, these townships are economi- cally depressed.

Hard times for the dairy farmer and heavy industrial lay-offs among the half-farm- ers half-factory-workers put the so-called religious issue in the shade in Denmark and Dorset. So much discontent and such forgetfulness of the religious issue are not likely to be found in the richer Ohio farm regions, especially in the south. Some drop in Ohio's traditionally Republican farm vote must be expected, but not such a violent turn-over as we found in Ashtabula County.

IN CLEVELAND, too, there were few signs that the re- ligious issue was having much influence; and there were im- portant signs of Democratic revival in the three Cleveland precincts we visited. Their turn-over, from close to two to one for Eisenhower to two to six for Kennedy, was not so dramatic as to forecast an old-style Democratic majority in Cuya- hoga county. But Cleveland may also be a special case, since the economic slow-down has been especially trouble- some here.

Finally, in three precincts in Akron, we found a sharp ferment of religious prejudice. The ferment did not prevent a considerable fall-off of the Republican votes since 1956, but it was strong enough to give Nixon a hair-line majori- ty in our Akron sample. Its importance may be gauged by the fact that about a quarter of Nixon's total support was owed to anti-Catholic Demo- crats, mostly industrial work- ers including a good share of former Stevenson voters.

Checks that have been made in Toledo and Spring- field suggest that the kind of ferment found in Akron is also strong in these cities, and quite probably throughout western Ohio. Add that even a few votes less than Gov. Mike DiSalle's 1958 total; and that Kennedy ran rather far be- hind DiSalle in Akron.

YOU THEN get a picture of a much closer race than might be suggested by our lo- cal figures. With a state-wide majority just above 450,000 votes, DiSalle got 56.7 per cent of the Ohio vote in 1958. On the face of our figures, Kennedy, running behind Di- Salle in the urban centers, may have a present majority of 150,000. This would give him a precariously narrow percentage lead. Furthermore, even this lead may be dimi- nished still further, if the kind of ferment we found in Akron is extra-strong elsewhere.

In addition, very few of the people we polled, except the religiously influenced voters, had as yet developed strong feelings about the election. Whether they chose Kennedy or Nixon, most of them did not appear to be passionately attached to the candidate of their choice. All of this large central group seemed capable of changing sides, in fact, because of the Kennedy-Nixon television debates or some other important devel- opment of the campaign.

In Ohio, to sum up, Nixon has his work cut out for him, but so does Kennedy. And if Kennedy has a slight lead, which seems likely, it is cer- tainly not the sort of lead he can depend on.

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Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson County history from the life of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO

Sept. 11, 1950 (Monday)
 The Oregon Insurance Rat- ing bureau has approved a lot at the corner of Eighth and Lincoln sts. as the site for one of Medford's proposed secondary fire stations.