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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
Dec. 20, 1950 (Wednesday)
The city of Medford has entered into an agreement with other Jackson county cities to furnish men and equipment to any city which is threatened with the loss of life and property.

20 YEARS AGO
Dec. 20, 1940 (Friday)
The Jackson county court took a session yesterday to eliminate the office of deputy district attorney.

30 YEARS AGO
Dec. 20, 1930 (Saturday)
Pacific coast states, including Oregon, have been allocated \$22 million by the federal government for relief work.

40 YEARS AGO
Dec. 20, 1920 (Sunday)
Paul B. Rynning has been named master of the Medford Masonic lodge.

50 YEARS AGO
Dec. 20, 1910 (Tuesday)
Construction is expected to start soon on two new grade schools in the city—one on West Jackson st., and the other on the east side in the Queen Anne district.

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

1. Is "JATO" the name of a fuel, a device to assist take-off of cargo planes, or a new international language?
2. Bible: What was the most important political movement during the period between the O. T. and the N. T.?

3. Male kangaroo do, or do not, have pouches?
4. Name the capital of Maryland.
5. What fur of royalty comes from the stoat?
6. Is Pegasus known in mythology as a winged cow, horse, or lion?

7. Is a flamingo a bird, insect, or Siberian wolf?
8. Which state is nicknamed "Wolverine State"?
9. Was Anna Pavlova a noted Russian dancer, painter, or poet?
10. Is the topaz, amethyst, or ruby the birthstone for February?

Answers: 1. Device to assist takeoff of cargo planes. 2. The rise of Greek (Alexandrian) power and culture. 3. Do not. 4. Annapolis. 5. Ermine. 6. Winged horse. 7. Bird. 8. Noted Russian dancer. 10. Amethyst.

Secret Oil Deal

How many people know what the state land board is? Not too many, we'll wager. It has the same membership as the better-known board of control—governor, secretary of state and state treasurer—and is charged with the administration of hundreds of thousands of acres of land in the state, either in state ownership or in trust for schools.

Whether or not the negotiations were "secret" may be debatable. But Ken Johnson, the editor of the weekly Capital Press in Salem, who first broke the story, said they were, indeed, secret.

But neither followed up. Johnson did. And his copyrighted story held up well, too, despite the heated denial from Governor Hatfield that secrecy was involved.

And the wire service stories about the Shell negotiations, while they quoted Hatfield as denying any secrecy, were based on Johnson's story as to the details of the proposals.

Probably the story would have emerged into the light of day sooner or later, but it is a credit to Johnson's journalistic skill and determination that he was the first to break the story.

And the question of propriety remains. How can the state land board justify dealing in secret with one firm on property which is owned by all the people of the state?

The question has been made academic by the ruling of Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton to the effect that existing laws do not authorize the land board to make an oil exploration lease for offshore properties.

But, under an interpretation of law only slightly different, the board could have gone on and concluded a lease arrangement, secretly, with a single firm, without bids, public hearing or any of the other safeguards erected for use in a government which rules by consent of the governed.

They might have felt they were acting in the best interests of the state. And perhaps they might have been, as far as the provisions of any actual deal are concerned.

But the fact remains that the public's business is the business of the public. Secrecy should have no place in it.

And, granting that Governor Hatfield, Secretary of State Appling and Treasurer Howard Belton are all honest men of integrity, the very fact that they might have bargained away immensely valuable rights to public property smacks of the old scandals surrounding the dissipation of school lands earlier in Oregon's history.

We hope the legislature, which will convene in three weeks, will take a close look at this situation, and erect some safeguards to protect the property of the people from deals, however well intentioned, which are conducted secretly.—E.A.

Come Back, Santa Claus

Faith McCullough, Ashland newspaperwoman who writes a column for several weekly papers in the state, recently put her finger squarely on one of the things that irritates us about the Christmas Season.

Namely, phoney Santa Clauses. She says, in part:

"Someone should start a nationwide movement to save Santa Claus. The venerable saint of song and story has so many spurious imitators that his reputation suffers in consequence—at least with those who count the most, the children.

"Everywhere lurk Santas—fat ones, lean ones, masked men, painted zombies, bewildered small fry stand mute or retreat terrified before each confusing version, as parents prod fatuously, 'Tell Santy what you want him to bring you.'

"Dicky peers skeptically at flapping mask and phoney whiskers and is dragged off to encounter another version in another store, there to be embraced by an odorous old character with grimy hands and booming voice.

"Politicians once coined the phrase, 'You can't kill Santa Claus,' but we've come mighty close to finishing off the old man for the kids.

"It's about time the public boycott the pseudo-Santas and demand a return to that old-fashioned unseen mystery man who is too busy at Christmas time to loaf around street corners and toy departments, and who comes but once a year—and that after all boys and girls are sound asleep.

"The uniform of Santa Claus is not one lightly to be assumed. It carries with it a grave responsibility. Let us restore the Christmas saint to his rightful place, and relegate his imitators to carnival sideshows."

A HEARTY Amen! to you, Mrs. McCullough. We, too, at Christmas time, like to have those "occasional sentimental twinges" and agree that that "even the most cynical have their mellow moments."

One of these is the recollection of the mystery and excitement of Christmas eyes long gone, when "Santa Claus" was a story half-believed and half-disbelieved—but never sullied by the dozens of phoney Santas one cannot avoid today.—E.A.

The United Medford Crusade has collected 99 per cent of its goal. All it needs to go over the top for the eighth consecutive year is \$1,469.90. It would be too bad if it failed this year for lack of the equivalent of about six cents for each Medford resident.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



'I'll tell him you been good, an' you tell him I been good, okay?'

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.

Dim Prospects
To the Editor: I want to compliment you for your recent editorial concerning the decision of the present county court.

Christmas Present
To the Editor: All Jackson county taxpayers got a half-million dollar Christmas gift last week when the county court rejected that fool-hardy plan for a white elephant stadium.

Depression Lesson
To the Editor: "Where do you get your wide range of letters-to-the-editor?" is a common question coming my way, from friends and the alike.

Thank You, Ladies
To the Editor: That there are many wonderful people in Medford and vicinity is proven by the hustle and bustle of activity throughout the long halls and sections of the V.A. Domiciliary these days.

Problem
To the Editor: Perhaps we should be philosophical about an ever recurring problem: The Napkin draped across the knee.

Portlander Killed
Portland—Robert Cairncross, 36, a Portland carpenter, fell 25 feet to his death from the Multnomah County Courthouse Monday afternoon.

Thornton Enlarges HS Crime Committee
Salem—UPI—Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton announced Monday that five Riddle High school students have been selected to serve on his High School Advisory committee on crime prevention.

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Businessmen's Responsibility in Latin America Cited by Executive of Oil Firm

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst
An American businessman recently took a look at the social and economic upheavals currently sweeping Latin America and came up with a solution which he believes is both a responsibility of business and an answer to encroaching communism.

The man taking the look is no stranger to international industrial relations. He is L. J. Brewer, president of Esso Standard Oil S.A., Ltd.

He delivered his findings at the 11th annual Conference on the Caribbean at the University of Florida.

On the decisions which emerging populations will make between a free or totalitarian society, Brewer places himself on the side of the optimists.

On Practical Side
Speaking specifically of Central America and on the practical side, he says: "We intend to remain in these areas. So it is up to us to understand, as best we can, what is taking place here and try to determine how we might contribute more to or benefit economic development."

With that summation, Brewer recognizes two important sources of conflict in Latin America. One is that poverty-stricken, illiterate populations seeking blindly for a better way of life now have before them the successful example of Fidel Castro's Cuban revolution, which professional Castro or Communist agitators hope to spread throughout all of Latin America.

The other is ingrained Latin American suspicion of the United States which expresses itself in outright confiscation of U.S. property as in Cuba or in legislation making a fair return on foreign investment difficult if not impossible.

Business Responsible
How the Latin Americans proceed in their attempts to break through from the middle ages to a modern society, Brewer believes, depends in large measure on the business community.

Brewer goes on the theory that, while large industry helps to strengthen a nation's economics, basic stability and economic health depend upon active and growing small businesses in the hands of a prosperous middle class.

He reasons that since Latin America suffers a serious shortage of trained technicians and business managers, it is part of the responsibility of big business to supply them through training programs and with investments to help Latin American nations diversify.

"We are," he says, "not just guests of a country abroad. We are corporate citizens with the full responsibility of citizenship except the right to vote."

President-elect Kennedy has named all of the members of his cabinet. He completed the job by appointing J. Edward Day of Los Angeles to be postmaster general.

He had just previously appointed his brother Robert to be attorney general and C. Douglas Dillon, a Republican, to be secretary of the treasury. Day is a business man, an insurance executive, with no particular political background other than that he has been a friend of Adlai Stevenson. His job will be to manage one of the biggest business institutions in the world—the U.S. postal service.

Dillon's job will be to keep our nation solvent. OF ALL President-elect Kennedy's cabinet choices, the selection of his brother to be attorney general probably involved the most soul-searching.

Leading Democrats are saying privately they think he may have made a mistake. Senator Carroll, of Colorado, a Democrat, goes a little farther. He says: "I'm not opposing the appointment. I merely question the wisdom of it."

Nepotism, which is the practice of giving political or business positions to members of one's family, became common centuries ago, especially during the Middle Ages. Rulers appointed their nephews (the word nepotism comes from the Latin word for nephew) and other relatives to positions of strategic importance, thus increasing their own power and influence.

For that historic reason, the practice is still regarded with considerable suspicion. A GRAVE responsibility certainly rests on the shoulders of young Bob Kennedy. (He is in his middle 30's and looks at least ten years younger than he is.) HE HAS to be good. If he slips . . . ANYWHERE along the line in the years to come . . . it will be rough.

There is little doubt that he is good. He was chief counsel of the senate racket committee, of which his brother was a member. He did a splendid job. He was able, he was fearless. He was effective. In the touchy and politically dangerous Hoffa business that occupied so much of the senate racket committee's time, he pulled no punches. Because of his diligence, he acquired a lot of powerful enemies, who will remain his enemies.

It took political courage to appoint his brother, but president-elect Kennedy probably feels that for his attorney general in the years to come he must have someone in whom he had COMPLETE confidence.

IT TOOK some courage to appoint a Republican to the post of secretary of the treasury. Dillon has been a reasonably prominent Republican. He has been an assistant secretary of state. He and his wife contributed a total of \$9,550 to the Nixon campaign.

But . . . he is a former investment banker. He was born a Swiss and he is a business man. For too many years, we have been putting out more dollars than we have been taking in. In the future, for quite a while, we must take in more dollars than we put out.

Presumably, President-elect Kennedy feels that Dillon is the man to do the job, even if he is a Republican. OF THIS much, there can be no doubt.

We are entering a period in our history when politics must be subordinated to patriotism. Grave dangers face our country. These dangers are both military and fiscal. We face a powerful and aggressive enemy who is dedicated to our destruction. For reasons it is not necessary to go into here, our financial house is not in very good order.

In the choice of his cabinet, President-elect Kennedy seems to be seeking to meet this trying situation with a minimum of politics and a maximum of common sense.

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

ON GREATNESS
Paris-Variety is the essence of the itinerant reporter's experience. Between the boredom of the plane to Frankfurt a few weeks ago and the boredom of the plane now going home, the reporter captures the imagination and restores the confidence of other men, which one saw de Gaulle using so dramatically in Algeria.

THE men who accompanied him on his painful journey—General Paul Ely, Louis Joxe and the rest—were not trivial, or inexperienced, or easily frightened or impressed. Yet you could all but see hope, and resolution, and energy to act flowing out from de Gaulle to these men around him, like a powerful electric current.

In the same manner, though necessarily more faintly, he appears to communicate with the nation he leads. Part of his power of communication, one suspects, is precisely that quality of being a total individual, of having no style but his own, which so strongly marks de Gaulle. Again, this is a quality that also marked Churchill; and in the case of both men, it has its comic side.

The Churchillian comedy is hearty, almost rollicking. The comedy of de Gaulle is ironical and olympian. Think of the famous story of one of his adherents in the years of exile, who had taken a few glasses too few and was angry with the world.

"Death to all fools! Death to all fools!" he began to shout again and again. Whereat the door of the adjoining office opened. The towering figure appeared upon the threshold. The strangely carlike mouth opened. Three words, "An ambitious program!" fell into the silence. And the door closed again.

OR consider the classic encounter between de Gaulle and a somewhat vain subordinate to whom an important post was about to be given. Expecting all sorts of agreeable reassurances, the new appointee pleaded, somewhat verbosely, that he was not "big enough for the job." De Gaulle replied, with perfect solemnity, "No doubt you will grow bigger."

This irony and skepticism, this courage and this faith and vision, are not the whole story, either. Gigantic, prehistoric as de Gaulle always seems, he can also seem warmly, even touchingly, human. In his speeches to the groups of officers he addressed in Algeria, for instance, he spoke with an intimacy, a frankness that is rare in public discourse.

"You know, gentlemen, that a man of my age"—thus began one paragraph of his superb speech at Blida. From this start, in phrases at once marmoreal and deeply personal, he went on to explain his own nostalgia for the easier world into which he was born; his enduring preference for the ways of that time; and the pain which it sometimes cost him to face the harsh facts of historic change. Thus the great old man seemed to offer his own most private experience as a kind of sacrifice, to instruct and to absolve the young men who heard him.

THE sight of de Gaulle in action not merely fills the heart. It also fills notebooks; but the time has come to set a term to this essay, there is only one more thing to say. In the time that is ahead, there may be disagreements, irritations, even sharp divisions between Charles de Gaulle and his allies. But America and every other Western nation must none the less be deeply grateful for de Gaulle, as a man who greatly serves, not France alone, but the whole community of free men.

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