

Medford Mail Tribune

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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE 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: Dec. 21, 1950 (Thursday) The Medco logging train jumped off its tracks early yesterday when it hit a defective switch near the Biddle rd. railroad crossing.

20 YEARS AGO: Dec. 21, 1940 (Saturday) Members of the Medford Kiwanis club and their wives will sponsor a Christmas party Monday for inmates of the Jackson county poor farm.

30 YEARS AGO: Dec. 21, 1930 (Sunday) Four persons were injured in an auto accident on the Pacific highway near here yesterday.

40 YEARS AGO: Dec. 21, 1920 (Monday) Six men were arrested last night in a raid by prohibition agents on illicit stills operating in the county.

50 YEARS AGO: Dec. 21, 1910 (Wednesday) According to Washington, D.C., sources it will be some time yet before a site for the proposed \$200,000 federal building here is selected.

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

1. Correct the sentence: "We have been to church."

2. Bible: Antiochus Epiphanes, who wrought suffering and cruelty upon the Hebrews, was king of what country?

3. Does the U.S. Constitution provide for the resignation of the President?

4. Is elderdown gathered from the female or from both sexes of elder ducks?

5. Aliens may, or may not, acquire patents in the U.S.?

6. The first U.S. President to use the "pocket veto" was Lincoln, Monroe, or Madison?

7. A place where coins are manufactured is called a - what?

8. Is the goldfinch a bird, fish or signet ring?

9. Eugene Talmadge was governor of which Southern State?

10. Was Stalin, when alive, older or younger than President Truman?

Answers: 1. "We have been at church." 2. Syria. 3. Yes. (Article II, Section 1). 4. Only the female. 5. May. 6. Madison (for veto of a naturalization law in July, 1812). 7. Mint. 8. Bird. 9. Georgia. 10. Older.

Right? Right!

A letter arrived the other day, commenting on a Potluck paragraph which had commented in turn on an orchardist's suit against a sawmill for dirtying things up.

The letter was from a man who arrived here a couple of months ago, and is now living in the Medford hotel waiting for Rogue Valley Manor to open. In part, he said:

"I have a very real complaint... I have reference to the awful smudging my 'covered wagon' gets '49 vintage but still sturdy and reliable Plymouth in which I followed my own 'Oregon Trail' all the way from Long Island, and also the other cars in the hotel's parking lot. One week in the lot and my car looks a sight-as bad as after crossing the range country. And that 'fall-out' doesn't do my clothes any good (only the cleaners' benefit), nor my respiratory organs nor anybody else's."

"One or more of the public authorities concerned with such matters have a job to do here. Right?"

RIGHT. Our correspondent, being a relative newcomer, may be in for a shock when the smudging season rolls around, and the awful black smoke rises from the orchards as the orchardists burn oil to save their pears from freezing.

But he, and other newcomers to the valley, should know that something IS being done, even though it is being done v-e-r-y, v-e-r-y slowly.

Both orchardists and sawmill owners are moving in the direction of air pollution control.

SO is the city. And even the county court pays lip service to the idea that air pollution, both from mills and orchards in season, should be cleaned up (although they tend to throw up their hands in horror when it is proposed that THEY should actually DO anything about it).

Still another organization, the Jackson County Air Pollution Abatement League, has served a useful function in keeping alive pressure for better controls.

(And we might be permitted to add, parenthetically and a bit wistfully, that the Mail Tribune has been yelling about encroaching air pollution for lo these many years.)

FOR the benefit of our correspondent, and for other newcomers, and for those good citizens who tend to forget about air pollution in between smudging seasons, here is a review of progress:

The orchardists for years have used smudge pots which burn oil directly in the air, and throw off tremendous amounts of oily black smoke in the process.

More recently, there have been developed heating pots of a different type, which burn the oil more thoroughly, and as a result throw off less smoke. But they are far more expensive than the simple open pots. And to convert thousands of acres from one to the other, all at once, is prohibitively expensive.

BUT, under an agreement which is virtually industry-wide, they have consented to replace about 20 per cent each year, under a five-year program. Thus, by 1964, the hope is that orchard heating will no longer be smudging in the old, dirty, oil-and-tire-burning sense.

The mills, too, are making progress—notably the Medford Corporation, Timber Products, and Kogap, the three major mills closest to town.

Several of these firms have invested substantial amounts in reducing smoke and fly-ash and cinders from their operations.

And, as the economy advances and as wood products become more valuable, less and less of the "wastes" such as mill-ends and sawdust and bark will go up in flames and more will be usable. (Examples are fireplace logs of compressed sawdust, and "Multi-Bark" for gardening purposes.)

THE city of Medford has under consideration an ordinance which would go far toward controlling air pollution within the city limits, and which also would furnish the necessary basis for cooperation with the State Air Pollution Authority for control outside the city limits.

A series of conferences with industries and firms and organizations concerned is being held, in the hope of finding widespread support.

But the fact remains that the people of this area will get just about as much air pollution control as they demand—and no more.

So we welcome our correspondent to the ranks of those who believe dirt in the air is unnecessary, and undesirable, and that something can and should be done about it.

And who are willing to open their mouths to say so.—E.A.

Idle Wonder

We may have a warped sense of the properties, but we can't avoid wondering what would be the reaction of Secretary of State Howell Appling Jr. should he receive a letter like this:

Dear Mr. Appling: Thank you for your spirited response to the critics of the Nativity scene on the Capitol Mall. Your devotion to religious freedom is commendable.

As a result, I am emboldened to request space on the Mall of a size similar to the Nativity scene for a display sponsored by a few civic organizations. It will consist simply of a sign saying "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his Prophet."

Please address your letter of permission to the undersigned. Thanking you in advance, I am, Sincerely yours, Abou Ben Adhem, Portland 1, Ore.

Would he accept the logical consequences of his own position and grant permission? Or would he arise in pious self-righteousness and deny the request because it did not come from a dominant religious group? We wonder.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



Yule Cards, Women En Masse, Raked Over Coals by Scrooge-Like UPI Writer

Washington—UPI—The SACC didn't get anywhere, and I didn't think it would. It is an admirable society, however, with noble objectives. It should prosper. The Society for the Abolition of Christmas Cards.

The trouble with the Christmas season is that it is too short. If I had my way, the "twelve days of Christmas" would be changed to the "six months of Christmas."

But I don't mean that the way it might sound. In proposing a stretch-out, I'm not thinking in terms of enjoyment, but rather of survival.

Most of us are old enough to remember the time when the Christmas season started the day after Thanksgiving.

That was the day the department stores turned on the colored lights, put a carol album on the record player and opened their Christmas sales—that is, raised the prices.

But few stores nowadays have the patience to wait until after Thanksgiving. About the only merchants who both or with Thanksgiving are the food store operators.

They have a vested interest in the holiday, it being one of the few times when they can unload pumpkins.

It is this trend toward an early yuletide that the traditionalists decry. They contend that by the time Christmas itself rolls around people are tired of the whole thing and are eager to get on with New Year's.

Now let me make clear that I am as weary as the next man of hearing Bing Crosby dream of a White Christmas. And isn't it a blessing that we don't have those blasted Chipmunks with us as much this year?

But in deploring the situation, the traditionalists overlook a vital element which negates their argument—namely the population explosion.

There simply are too many people trying to buy gifts at the same time.

Snarled by Shoppers This point has been driven home every night this month as I have driven home from work.

In order to reach my little nest, I have to pass two big suburban shopping centers. Maneuvering an automobile by those places is roughly comparable to driving a herd of elephants through a sheep dip.

It is nothing uncommon to find traffic backed up for two or three miles behind nocturnal shoppers who are looking for a place to park. By next Christmas I probably won't be able to get home at all.

There is, of course, a way to avoid this ghastly entanglement. All we have to do is start the Christmas season on the Fourth of July.

I have worked out a plan under which people would shop in alphabetical order—A through E in July, F through J in August, K through O in September, P through T in October and U through Z in November.

Note that I am leaving December open. That's when I intend to do my shopping.

Titan Missile Shot Fails at Canaveral Cape Canaveral, Fla.—UPI—One of America's biggest missiles, the Titan ICBM failed in a test Tuesday because of a second stage malfunction.

The test, planned for a 5,000-mile range, ended in the rocket's plunge into the Atlantic less than 100 miles off the cape.

Ontario Lumber Firm Fined \$100 Salem—UPI—Western States Lumber Co. of Ontario has been fined \$100 by Public Utility Commissioner Jonel C. Hill on a charge that the firm allegedly moved a load of pipe between Portland and Ontario without proper authority.

Hill said Western States had a private carrier permit but this only authorized it to move its own property.

A hearing was conducted at Vale last Aug. 31 on the charge.

Try and Stop Me —By BENNETT CERF

A 9-YEAR-OLD LASS, golden-haired and blue-eyed, reported to her mother that Willie, the little boy next door, had proposed marriage to her. "But he wants a dowry," she pouted (ah, these kiddies weaned on TV). "What exactly does he think he should get?" asked the amused mother. "Willie wrote it all down," said the desirous one, producing an ink-stained list. It read as follows: 1 bicycle, 1 air rifle, 2 box seats to Ringling's Circus, 2 LP Elvis Presley records, and an autographed picture of Elizabeth Taylor!

Jeann Kerr tells of a 5-year-old girl who came calling one day, and was delighted to be invited to stay for lunch. She had to phone her mother for permission, whereupon all the excitement in her voice ebbed away. "I'm sorry, Mrs. Kerr," she reported after she had hung up the receiver, "but I had lunch."

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De Gaulle Still Determined He's Right in Algeria Crisis

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst

It had been just 11 months ago that President Charles de Gaulle, wearing his World War II brigadier general's uniform, appeared on French television to warn rebellious French settlers

barred in the streets of Algiers. "Let everyone know and know well that I shall not go back on this decision..."

To bow to the settlers fighting his decision for Algerian self-determination would mean, he said, that "France would become no more than a poor, dislocated toy on the sea of unknown peril."

At the date nearest for a national referendum on his two-step plan for an "Algerian Algeria," de Gaulle flew to the French army, the one group that could assure failure for his plan, if not its success.

Tragic Results The results left de Gaulle white-faced and grim.

In the heavily European cities of Algiers, Bonn and Oran, European settlers poured into the streets in violent demonstrations against de Gaulle. From the cabshans and the shanty towns, Moslems carrying hand-stitched green, white and red flags of the Moslem independence forces poured to meet them.

Moslem cries of "Vive de Gaulle" soon turned to "Vive Abbas" — Ferhat Abbas, chief of the national liberation front.

De Gaulle, shortening his tour, returned to Paris with the memory of at least 128 dead in the three-way clashes involving the French army, the European settlers and the city Moslems. But his determination was undaunted.

"There is only one policy," he said, "and we have to follow it because it is the right one."

Lonely Splendor It was in keeping with the legend of de Gaulle, single-handedly guiding French destinies, walking in lonely splendor under the Cross of Lorraine.

But more than that, de Gaulle's tour, tragic as it was in loss of life, had brought to the surface drastic changes in what had been the accepted picture of Algeria.

By their silence, it had been assumed that Algeria's city Moslems would not oppose the European settlers' determination to keep Algeria French. That theory was dispensed of by the mass appearance of rebel flags.

As for the settlers, they had committed a seemingly fatal error in underestimating the army's loyalty to de Gaulle. The army, for the first time, fired on both Moslem and settler.

Roseburg Blast Appeal Will Be Heard Jan. 18 Salem—UPI—The Oregon Supreme Court Tuesday set Jan. 18 as date for hearing arguments in the state's appeal of its case against Pacific Powder Co., Tenino, Wash., over the August, 1959 Roseburg disaster.

A truck owned by the company laden with explosives blew up in downtown Roseburg. Fourteen persons died and much of the downtown section was destroyed.

Douglas County District Attorney Avery Thompson said the company indicted for manslaughter but the company was retained by Circuit Court on its contention that a corporation cannot be convicted of that charge. Thompson appealed.

In another action in Portland, the Oregon National Guard and the State Highway Commission were dropped as party defendants in a suit brought by British Overseas Insurance Co. to determine liability and damages in the blast.

The ruling was handed down in U.S. District Court by Judge John F. Kilkenny.

The action is aimed primarily at consolidating damage actions and determining liability.

Ice, Fog Hamper Travel in Oregon Salem—UPI—Ice and fog were prevalent in Oregon today the State Highway Department reported.

There was thick fog in the Willamette Valley and the Portland area. Ice spots were reported at Portland, Wilson River and Sunset Summits, Cascade Locks, Astoria, Tillamook, Prospect, Bend, Santiam Pass, Sisters, Ochoco Summit, Lapine, Willamette Pass and Meacham.

Military Rites Held For Wyoming Senator Washington—UPI—Sen-elect Keith Thomson, (R-Wyo.), was buried with full military honors Tuesday at Arlington National Cemetery.

Thomson, a member of the House who was elected to the Senate in November, died of a heart attack on Dec. 9. He was 41 years old.

Thomson received the military burial because of his World War II service in Europe, where he commanded an infantry battalion.

On Billboards To the Editor: It was with pleasure I read your forthright and informative editorial on billboard control.

During the campaign the Young Democratic Clubs of Oregon endorsed the billboard measure—as I believe did the Young Republicans—in the belief that billboard control would not hurt Oregon's second major industry, recreation and tourism, but that it would substantially help it by protecting scenic resources from defacement.

Personally, I was very unhappy that measure Number 15 did not pass, especially after seeing the deceitful, maliciously distorted, omnipresent anti-billboard control literature and the decisive expenditure of over \$100,000

(more than the combined expenditure of the Kennedy and Nixon groups) to defeat the measure.

In view of both (1) the extreme power and lack of restraint demonstrated by the industry in their campaign to defeat Measure Number 15, and (2) the desirability of billboard control by itself, I for one am not going to purchase any goods or articles being advertised by any billboards which would have been outlawed by Measure Number 15 (all those outside of city limits on interstate highways except on-premise signs and brand name familiarity advertising on the major state highways).

In some areas like in Hawaii, there aren't many billboards at all on major country roads or on scenic routes. Even though they were not made illegal, a difficult task in view of the well-financed unscrupulous attacks against billboard control measures, the people, when they went to the stores, just made the billboards, at best, economically marginal.

Frequently I have heard it said that billboards and similar want-creation advertising make for the good life.

Any school child could tell you that increased individual desires, without a corresponding substantial increase in the national capacity to produce, will simply result in less happy and more frustrated individuals.

An additional danger, especially in America, is the possible overemphasis of material and consumptive goals with those aesthetic, intellectual, spiritual, and philanthropic tending to melt into the background.

One of the few very great men to come out of the Republican party, Theodore Roosevelt, was fond of saying, "Too much rest is rust."

James E. Harris College Coordinator Young Democratic Clubs of Oregon Box 187, Tualatin, Ore.

Gold and Prices To the Editor: A radio commentator recently announced the U.S. was in a cycle, or inflationary spiral, for the next 20 years.

Also William J. Baxter's economic advisory report on gold stocks, anticipating our present crisis, said that the price of gold may reach to \$75 or \$100 an ounce.

Any rise in price could devalue our 46 cent present dollar value to 25 cents or even less.

Not a very bright picture ahead. Remember, China's inflation a few years back; a pair of men's leather boots sold at \$100. What would be the incentive to mine new gold only to promote a continuation of higher prices and inflating markets.

Is it not the truth that "some people have never had it so good," while others are struggling to exist, in a land of plenty? A well directed remark said: "How silly can we get?" We saw a middle aged couple on a downtown street last Sunday begging for alms. Now, we could not get a very clear conception from their uninformative talk, except he was a discharged pauper from the Walla Walla, Wash., veteran's hospital and would not be able to work again for at least a week.

Being strangers they did not appear to have any permanent place to reside. The man said his wife was seeking employment but they did not seem to understand that there was not enough jobs in the winter months even for the local people out of work.

There should be no need of want and poverty in a land that could well produce for use, instead of inflation and penury.

Who said eight years ago that prices would level off? Bert Kissinger 520 Boardman St. Medford.

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