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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. 26, 1950 (Tuesday)

A 10-year-old Portland boy is in fair condition at Community hospital here after he accidentally shot himself while examining a gun at a friend's house in Medford.

A capacity audience attended the Phoenix Presbyterian church Sunday school Christmas program Friday in the church auditorium.

20 YEARS AGO
Dec. 26, 1940 (Thursday)

The local postoffice is now in its annual clean-up of Christmas mail which was mailed too late to reach its destination by Christmas.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "It's all over, and only 364 days until the next one."

30 YEARS AGO
Dec. 26, 1930 (Friday)

Medford High school will play its first basketball game of the season tonight.

A number of local people have journeyed to San Francisco for the East-West Shrine game.

40 YEARS AGO
Dec. 26, 1920 (Sunday)

Nine carloads of wood have arrived from Glendale and will help to relieve the local wood shortage.

The Jackson County Chamber of Commerce plans to discuss the prospects of oil discovery in the valley when it meets next week.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. Which Scandinavian country was not invaded by Germany in World War II?
2. From which State is Orville Freeman, the newly appointed Secretary of Agriculture?
3. In which country is the Tisza River?
4. Name the two English "houses" that fought the War of the Roses.
5. Is a bonito an oil gusher, a form of blessing, or a kind of fish?
6. Correct the following sentence: The data on veterans' benefits is ready for publication.
7. For what was Duncan Phyfe famous?
8. Aluminum is obtained from B——e?
9. Name the capital of Vermont.
10. What two teams will play in the Rose Bowl game on Jan. 1, 1961?

Answers: 1. Sweden. 2. Minnesota. 3. Hungary. 4. Lancaster (Red Rose) and York (White Rose). 5. Fish. 6. The data . . . are ready . . . 7. Cabinet making. 8. Bauxite. 9. Montpelier. 10. Washington and Minnesota.

Hoot Gibson Must Return to Hospital

Las Vegas, Nev. -(UPI)- Hoot Gibson, 68, oldtime cowboy star, was able to spend Christmas day at home with his wife, but he must return this week to Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital.

The actor underwent three major abdominal operations last month and was told by his doctors it would be best to spend some more time in the hospital recouperating. Doctors said his condition was good.

Time to End Feud

At a conference of attorney generals earlier this year, the chief legal eagle of the state of Texas told his harried colleagues, "We are the most self-destructive public officials in the country."

Oregon's quiet, patient, long suffering attorney general, Robert Y. Thornton, did not fail to appreciate the soundness of that remark.

Thornton, a Democrat, has been so consistently judged "wrong" on major questions by the Republican controlled Oregon supreme court that at times he has seemed either grossly incompetent, possessed of a frighteningly strong Thanatos, or both.

. . . . .

THORNTON'S overall record of reversals by the court is pretty good. His correct opinions, of course, have not received the spectacular news treatment accorded his wrong ones.

Since the attorney general decided in 1958 that Gov. Holmes and not the new governor, Mark Hatfield, should appoint a successor to Hatfield as secretary of state, the sledding for Thornton has been rough indeed. Not only has he seemed determined to do away with himself, politically speaking, but the governor has used all the considerable resources at his command to bury Thornton, too.

SO MACHIAVELLIAN, so cunning have been the Hatfield thrusts at Thornton that we were not at all surprised recently to find the governor attacking the people's attorney for retarding the economic growth of our Pacific Wonderland.

Thornton was away in Washington, D.C., seeking publicity, the governor said, when he should have been at home deciding whether the state could lease 600,000 acres of its offshore lands to Shell Oil Co. on an exclusive basis. From news reports on the Dec. 3 meeting of the state land board at which Hatfield criticized Thornton, one got the distinct impression that an affirmative decision was expected on this issue. Or perhaps Hatfield, knowing Thornton's desire to please him and end their inane bickering, only wanted his attorney general to think this.

. . . . .

HOW SPLENDID it would have been, from Hatfield's standpoint, to urge Thornton into a bad decision on such an important question.

But the attorney general moved with utmost caution, researched carefully and wisely decided that neither Shell nor any other company could lease offshore lands on any basis without enabling legislation.

Hatfield, meanwhile, was stunned by the enterprise of the Salem Capital Press in bringing to light a number of aspects of the proposed deal with Shell. Editorials and news stories on the proposal also aroused public opinion against non-competitive leasing.

. . . . .

THE governor, being a devout political realist, decided to say that he had been against the whole idea all along.

Score a point for Mr. Thornton.

We suggest that now is the time for the governor to get off Thornton's back. In spite of Hatfield's vendetta and The Reporter's endorsement of his opponent in the general election, the people of Oregon have expressed their confidence in Thornton. Hatfield's continued attacks are disrupting and damaging to the state, if not actually costly in terms of dollars.

Thornton has never sought to prolong the feud.—Portland Reporter.

Proportion

The tragic fire aboard the aircraft carrier Constellation points up a difference in peace and war. In war we lose our sense of proportion. The fire did $75,000,000 damage to a ship that cost $250,000,000 (that's a quarter of a billion dollars). The death toll will be in excess of 45.

Now this is a tragedy. Yet, at Midway, at Coral Sea, at Leyte Gulf, the death toll was much higher and the property loss much greater. In the great land battles such as the Bulge, a quarter billion dollars wouldn't much more than buy the bullets. And a death toll of 45 would be not abnormal for a single company of infantry.

YET, so involved in wartime do we get with the big issues of war, and so accustomed do we become in times like that to great figures, we tend to forget that war is made up of hundreds of tragedies much like the one at Brooklyn Navy Yard the first of the week.

We like the peacetime attitude better. It's more realistic.—Eugene Register-Guard.

Should Not Happen

The Coquille Valley Sentinel reports that Senator Chapman of that district plans to introduce a bill calling on the Highway Commission to spend $4,000,000 state money on improvement of Highway 42, without waiting for any federal money.

This should not happen. It's a mistake for the Legislature to be laying out the road program. Highway 42 is tortuous, but its improvement will will come in orderly manner as fast as funds are available.—Oregon Statesman, Salem.

Dennis the Menace

"SEE WHAT MR. WILSON GAVE DENNIS? FOURTEEN FASCINATING GAMES TO BE PLAYED AT *HOME*!"

... 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.

Land Board and Secrecy

To the Editor: In seeking, in your editorial, to explain to your readers why neither you nor other newspapers reported the Land Board's consideration of the Shell Oil Company lease application, you allege that the Land Board attempted to keep the matter to itself. Such an allegation is not supported by the facts.

The first information as to Shell's interest was presented by the clerk to the Land Board at its public session of November 3. All the details that were available to the Land Board were printed on the agenda of that date. Newspaper reporters were present during the entire discussion. Those who were not present had been previously urged to attend Land Board meetings. It is pertinent to note that the editor of the Democratic newspaper upon whose irresponsible story you base your editorial was among those who did not bother to attend.

The sum and substance of your complaint, then, would seem to boil down to the fact that we didn't aggressively take it upon ourselves to overrule the professional judgment of the newspapers who were present as to what the newspapers should print and what they shouldn't. If you mean that we spend too much time running Land Board business and not enough running the newspapers then I am pleased to plead guilty.

The fact of the matter is that the entire discussion was conducted in public, open session at which reporters were present and the Land Board, according to advice prevailing from Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton at the time, was fully authorized to enter into such a lease as Shell proposed. In his legal opinion to the Land Board dated October 14, 1953 the Attorney General said that the administration of Oregon's submerged lands is under the jurisdiction of the Land Board and that is is free to negotiate leases under such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the Board and the leasee.

It was only after the Land Board, in seeking to thoroughly explore every aspect of the matter before making a decision, asked the Attorney General to consider this advice again that he reversed his previous opinion. This, as you may know, is not an uncommon phenomenon.

You will find the members of the Land Board now, as in the past, glad to assist the press in reporting the news on all occasion when the press indicates an interest in doing so.

Howell Appling Jr.,
Secretary of State,
Member, Oregon State Land Board
Salem, Ore.

Editor's note: Mr. Appling has a point. But it was stated far better and more completely and honestly in the Salem Capital Journal, conservative-leaning daily newspaper in the state capital. Under the title, "Sleepy Press, Sneaky Board," it has this explanation of the incident, which we find far more convincing than Mr. Appling's:

The members of the State Land Board have been taking a beating at the hands of the Oregon press the past week because of the board's quiet dealings with Shell Oil Co. which wants exclusive offshore oil exploration rights.

The weekly Capital Press here in Salem dug the story out after noting two inconclusive mentions in the Oregon Statesman. One referred to an unidentified oil company negotiating for unspecified exploration rights. Another mentioned "secret" negotiations by Humble Oil Company.

It turned out to be Shell, not Humble, and the negotiations were for off shore rights.

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The Capital Press, dedicatedly Democratic in view, flayed the Republican Land Board (made up of governor, secretary of state and treasurer). This, said the paper, is public business and shouldn't be secret, especially since it involved a request by Shell for exclusive rights obtained without bid–an irregular and, as it turns out, illegal, procedure.

The whole undertaking has been stopped by a ruling of the attorney general which leaves the matter up to the next legislature.

The Medford Mail Tribune, however, has joined the fray, blasting away at the Land Board. So have several other papers, without saying a single word about how secrets are kept.

We agree with the Capital Press, the Mail Tribune and the others that this is a poor way to transact business. We know the members of the Land Board well enough to know that if they had wanted public attention they would have told many people, including the press. They have called attention to other similar matters in the past.

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And the board's secretary actually asked a reporter who stumbled unknowingly onto the matter to keep it quiet.

This all is as wrong as wrong can be. Gov. Mark Hatfield, as the ranking man on the board, should get most of the blame.

But good government and public awareness depend on more than governing bodies. They depend on many other things, including an alert and diligent press.

The press, meaning the Capital Journal, its statehouse reporter and the two press services which work for the newspapers of the state, has been loafing.

Gov. Hatfield's press assistant, Travis Cross, called the matter of Land Board coverage to our attention a year or so ago. He said meetings weren't being covered and predicted that some such situation as this someday would develop. Presumably he did the same for other papers.

We did nothing.

• • •

Meanwhile, agendas of the Land Board meetings have been available—if one went after them—but no one did.

Our statehouse man, the United Press International, the Associated Press and the reporters of the disappointingly few newspapers which staff the Capitol, had a problem they were too lethargic to solve. But it wasn't insurmountable.

All reporters surmounted it this week. The problem has been that the same trio of officials makes up the State Board of Control and holds meetings of both boards consecutively, without pause. Reporters had covered the Control Board and then left to file their stories, thereby missing the Land Board. Teams of reporters now are being used, one covering while the other files.

This is a case of the pot and the kettle — a sleepy press calling a sneaky Land Board black. We hope both institutions shape up.

Happy New Year

To the Editor: At this time of year my heart is filled with peace towards my fellowman. And I have dismissed from my mind thoughts of mayhem for the time being.

Still, if anyone is interested, I can introduce him to two of the most vicious door slammers to be found anywhere west of the Mississippi river. I am prepared to match them against the brawniest door slammers in the state of Oregon.

So saying, I now subside. Happy New Year.

David Frisch
P.O. Box 292
White City, Ore.

Helpful Drivers

To the Editor: Somehow this dense fog so well reminds me of Matt. 15:14. Even on one way streets, if a driver sees tail lights ahead, he will speed to get right up close and depend on the lead car to take him safely somewhere, while he blinds that driver with a bright white glare of headlights.

The Rev. A. Gilman,
322 South Riverside ave.
Medford.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

AN ANGELIC little girl in Ottumwa, Iowa, rang the doorbell of a solid citizen on Hallowe'en and demanded "Trick-or-Treat." The solid citizen had been saving a large, delicious apple to nibble on himself before retiring, but was so taken with his beguiling young visitor that he popped the apple into her open paper bag.

The little girl looked into the bag, then kicked the solid citizen hard on the shin. "You ol' meanie!" she exploded. "You busted all my cookies!"

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Here's a rather startling beauty hint from designer Cecil Beaton of London: "For breakfast, try a bowl of goat's milk, glycerine, and white of an egg. Then apply to your face a mask lined with raw veal, later dabbing face with cotton and a light application of powder and rouge. Last thing at night, eat an onion stuffed with butter." Ready, girls?

Monte Carlo – (UPI) – Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco received a Christmas gift from Greek shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis — a $120,000 redecorating job on Monaco's Opera House.

Writer Discusses Prospects Of Kennedy Legislative Plans

By RICHARD SPONG

Washington, D.C. — "The country is with the President, and the country runs Congress."

This adage is almost three decades old; it was uttered by House Speaker Rainey before the opening of the second session of the 73d Congress in 1934. It is a reflection of the mood that lingered on long after the famous "100 days" of President F. D. Roosevelt's first congress.

Now the land is promised another 100 days of harmony between the White House and Capitol Hill, and Sen. Kennedy's friends in Congress are doing whatever they can to make sure the promise is fulfilled. Sen. Clinton P. Anderson (D-N.M.), who has taken the lead in past efforts to change the Senate filibuster rule, on Dec. 11 declared himself more interested in clearing the way for the Kennedy legislative program than in renewing the crusade for majority vote closure.

Short Debate Aim

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), an important member of the liberal bloc, on Dec. 15 said that he hoped the time consumed by debate on changing the Senate's rules could be limited to 48 hours–again in the interest of the Kennedy legislative proposals. Both Senators foresaw a debate; their intent was to keep it as short as possible.

Leading advocates of changing the cloture rule are Sen. Joseph S. Clark (D-Pa.) and Sen. Paul H. Douglas (D-Ill.), both of whom are also expected to back legislation desired by Kennedy. Sen. Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.), prospective majority leader, on Dec. 11 warned that attacks on the filibuster rule might stymie the new President's program. The fear is of course that an anti-filibuster move in itself would start a filibuster.

President-elect Kennedy on Dec. 20 said that he hoped for speedy action on bills to provide medical care for the aged, aid for education, housing development, minimum wage, and aid for depressed areas. These are precisely the bills on which House Speaker Rayburn just a month ago predicted "pretty fast" movement.

Trouble in House

In the House the Kennedy program may, however, face more difficulty than in the Senate. Minority Leader Charles A. Halleck, reinforced with a Republican gain of more than a score of seats, is promising to maintain the coalition with conservative Southern Democrats. Halleck, indeed, sounds considerably more threatening than Senate Minority Leader Everett M. Dirksen (Ill.), who on Dec. 18 declared that the G.O.P. aim would be to modify, not oppose, Kennedy measures.

The phrase, "100 days," goes back to the 73rd Congress which was called into special session by President Roosevelt on March 9, 1933. In the 100 days that followed the President was armed with extraordinary powers for combatting depression and promoting recovery in a long series of measures – some of which hadn't even been read by the legislators – approved by the two houses in substantially the form in which they were drafted in the executive office.

The special session adjourned in the early morning hours of June 16, 1933 and on that day the President signed the most remarkable of all the measures in which Congress had given its approval – the National Industrial Recovery Act, which was to be struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Kennedy's 100 days, if they materialize, cannot be expected to be as dramatic as Roosevelt's in any event. The emergency, or so it appears to the legislators, is much less urgent.

Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

CANADA

Washington — Small but plain and ominous signs of trouble for us within the western hemisphere are rising in a most unhappily unaccustomed place, Canada.

White

For generations our hemispheric difficulties have been with Latin nations to the south. We have always more or less expected those. For many deep differences, of language and culture and custom, lie between us, and for nearly two centuries have so lain.

Fidel Castro's Cuba, for one illustration, for months has been bedevilling us and all the Americas with a more and more arrogantly pro-Communist two-bit dictatorship. Now, with the final exasperation of a man who has been all too patient in the past, President Eisenhower has applied not the big stick but still a pretty good-sized economic stick to Castro.

• • •

HE HAS cut off, for the first three months of 1961, not some but all of Castro's sugar shipments to the United States.

Still, we have on the whole long since learned to live with rows with the Latins. And however sticky the going with them, we have always comforted ourselves that to the north, anyhow, we had a good, solid neighbor.

Here was Canada, working peacefully alongside us on "the longest unfortified frontier in the world." Here was Canada with its similar traditions of government and life and with its common language, that is, among its more or less economically dominant English-speaking half.

• • •

OF COURSE, one fact is that we have too long taken too much for granted with the Canadians, who have so long been faithfully allied with us in war and peace. But now what?

First, the Canadians recently gave their official blessings to a large increase in trade with Castro, the very man who is endangering the peace of all this hemisphere – including Canada's peace.

And now the Canadian government has put in "Canada-first" tax policies. These are flatly intended to penalize United States investment in that country, to reduce United States participation by ownership in Canadian industry.

• • •

WITH full acknowledgment of the undoubted fact that Canada has every sovereign right to do these things, and moreover has reason to be a bit fed up with the colossus to her south, these somber facts remain:

1. The absolutely bedrock necessity for a stable and orderly hemisphere, a responsible and effective American-Canadian association, is in some degree of peril.

2. "Canada-first" policies, however humanly understandable, will in the end produce the same result – general harm – that "America first" policies produced in the days of our long-abandoned isolationism. Two can play at these dangerous games; and if one goes on playing them the other fellow will sooner or later be driven to play them, too.

3. Whatever our shortcomings in dealing with the Canadians – and, to repeat, they have been real – neither Canada nor the United States can afford to look at this business as though it concerned only Canada and the United States. For a right Canadian-American relationship is indispensable far beyond Ottawa and Washington; it is vital to the whole western alliance.

• • •

THERE are times in this world when a big nation – and there is nothing petty about Canada – must take the credit and let the cash go.

Clearer every day, therefore, looms this central truth: the most urgent foreign policy problem before the incoming Kennedy administration is a "home" problem.

It is to put this hemisphere, north as well as south, really back together again.

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Christmas Sales Down in Portland

Portland – (UPI) – Christmas sales in 1960 declined from 1959 for Portland area stores, according to merchants.

The decline was attributed to added competition, softness in the lumber market and a cautious attitude by customers.

Some merchants said the drop was from 5 per cent to 18 per cent. One local retailer said 1960 sales could be the lowest since 1934 or 1935.

Soo Line Plans Eugene Office

Minneapolis – (UPI) – The Soo Line Railroad has announced new sales offices in Oregon and Pennsylvania in line with its merger next Monday with the Wisconsin Central and the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic Railroads.

The carrier said offices at Eugene, Ore., and Philadelphia are among sales changes that included marketing realignment under the merger approved Nov. 30 by the interstate commerce commission.

The new Soo line's 36 traffic agencies in the United States and Canada will include all points where the Soo and DSS&A currently operate offices. Soo line also said it would maintain offices in eight additional cities where the Soo and Canadian Pacific have operated joint offices.

The new line will have 4,800 miles of track in seven states.

A spokesman said the Eugene office in the Citizens' Bank building, will serve parts of the territory now handled by the Portland office. The Eugene office and the Philadelphia office will open early next year.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Screwball question:

How much is a billion dollars?

Well, it's a thousand times a million dollars.

But–

How is any ordinary person going to imagine 1,000 MILLIONS of dollars?

IN AN effort to dramatize a billion dollars, so that the magnitude of it can be grasped by the average citizen, the Kiplinger Magazine recently put it like this:

"If a person had started in A.D. 1 with a billion dollars and had given away $1,000 EACH DAY, in this year of 1960 he still would have enough left out of his original billion to continue his generosity at the rate of $1,000 a day for almost 780 YEARS, or until the year 2739.

And–

That's without getting any interest on his original billion. If interest at five per cent was added he never COULD get rid of it.

IN A similar effort, the World Book Encyclopedia puts it like this:

"If a billion dollar bills were placed end to end, they would extend a distance of 96,670 miles, or about four times around the entire world."

By way of emphasis, it adds: "With one billion dollars, you could buy one million automobiles, each costing one thousand dollars. Placed bumper to bumper, these would extend a distance of 3,314 miles, or farther than from San Francisco to Boston.

HMMMMMMMMMM

The World Book fails to state whether the cars would be compacts or Cadillacs, or Lincolns, or Imperials – or, since the World Book edition in our library was published more than a decade ago, maybe it was referring to Model T's.

That confuses the illustration.

SO–

Let's turn to a more modern example.

THE public debt of the USA at this moment in history is somewhere in the broad, general neighborhood of 350 billion dollars – give or take a few billions. The federal budget SURPLUS at the end of the federal fiscal year last summer (and we were right proud of the fact that it was surplus instead of the rather customary deficit) was just about a billion dollars, with maybe an odd hundred thousand over for good measure.

Suppose we stay in the black to the extent of a billion dollars a year from here on–which looks a little dubious in view of the liberal platforms of our liberal politicians.

WELL . . .

At the rate of a billion dollars a year, it would take us 350 YEARS to pay off our national debt. And that assumes that we will stay in the black every year instead of going into the red to the extent of a billion or so.

THE BIG question:

Isn't it getting about time for us to quit going into debt and start PAYING OFF?

Stern Section Of Tanker Nears Hampton Roads

Norfolk, Va. – (UPI) – The valuable stern section of the tanker Pine Ridge, taken handily in tow by a big seagoing tug, approached dry dock at Hampton Roads, Va., today.

John Richart, a veteran seaman who has been aboard the stern since the ship split in two during a storm last Wednesday, helped the crew of the tug guide the hulk safely to shore.

He was joined by four other crewmen from the tug, who boarded the stern section in heavy seas Friday night when it was taken in tow.

Survivors Ashore

Twenty nine survivors of the Pine Ridge crackup reached land Friday and left Norfolk to spend Christmas at their homes. Seven other sailors, including the ship's captain, went down with the tanker's bow.

The Coast Guard reported that forward progress of the towing operation was slowed quite a bit by extreme swaying and pitching of the stern. Arrival time at Cape Henry was expected to be about 4 p.m. with another five hours remaining before it puts in at Pier 1, Newport News.