

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
Published Daily except Saturday by MEDFORD PRINTING CO.
33 North Fir St. Ph. SP 2-6141
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All Sorts of Tragedy

There are all sorts of tragedy. There was one here last week. Everyone concerned with it was hurt. A small girl (while she was unharmed physically) received a shock which may remain with her for many years.

The widening circle of tragedy affected the family of the little girl, who was completely innocent; and affected the equally innocent family of the man in question.

TWO STORIES concerning the incident appeared (as they should have) in the paper. But they were not quite complete, were susceptible to misinterpretation, and as a result did not give an accurate description of the situation.

The word "molesting" was used. Technically, it was correct, but gave the implication of physical action, even violence, which wasn't so.

The complicated procedures of our legal machinery went into motion. It was the decision of the then district attorney to bring the man into district court on a misdemeanor charge, rather than into circuit court on a felony charge.

IT WAS also the district attorney who failed to inform the district judge that the man had been questioned regarding similar incidents before, and the judge did not find this out until after the case had been disposed of.

The authority of a district judge is limited. In this case, he knew the man needed medical and psychiatric help so that he might once again become a good citizen without danger to society.

THE ONLY other choice was to commit him to jail for a maximum of six months. And what good would that do — anyone?

THE three bases for court sentences are (1) rehabilitation of the offender; (2) protection of society, and (3) retribution.

IT IS impossible, I think, to defend this arrangement on the ground of principle. For the House of Representatives represents the people of the United States and its spirit is that the simple numerical majority shall prevail.

THE problem of the Senate, on the other hand, involves questions of high constitutional principle. The crux of the question is not whether the majority should rule but what kind of majority should rule.

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Dennis the Menace



"DADDY, WHY DO I ASK SO MANY QUESTIONS?"

Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

THE RULE OF MAJORITIES

In each House of Congress there are formidable obstacles to the rule of simple majorities, and the question is how far these obstacles are to be reduced or removed.

THE practical conclusion which I draw from this is that the question of cloture in the Senate is not one of this or that but of more or less.

THE proper point at which to make the compromise is where moderate Southerners like Lyndon Johnson and Sam Rayburn can live with the solution, and feel that they are not being dragged and overriden.

IN RECENT years the Rules Committee has had twelve members—eight of them Democrats and four of them Republicans.

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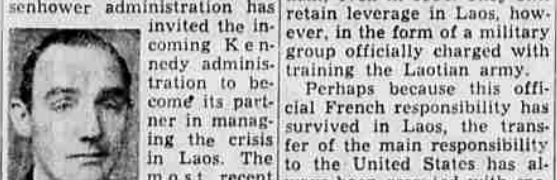
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Matter of Fact

THE WASHINGTON DRAIN
Washington — On more than one occasion, the outgoing Eisenhower administration has invited the incoming Kennedy administration to become its partner in managing the crisis in Laos.



Also a suggestion of a joint statement accusing the Soviet and Vietnamese Communists of military intervention in Laos.

THE projected statement, when finally issued last Tuesday, bore only the Eisenhower administration's signature.

THE French thesis, supported by the British, was that a "neutralist" government in Laos ought to be welcomed.

THE success of Phoumi and Boun Oum in turn produced a result which Washington had not foreseen.

THE first American response seemed forceful enough. The SEATO pact, which covers Laos, was invoked.

THE war to liberate Cuba lasted 113 days. After the liberation, Cuba was ruled for several years by American military governors.

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POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

Whether or not something is funny often depends on whether you're on the outside looking in or the inside looking out.

So, when the lock on the men's room broke last week, leaving Wire Editor Harry Chipman effectively locked in, it was hilarious to some unfeeling souls hereabouts, but Harry wasn't terribly amused.

This minor disaster occurred just at the tail-end of the noon hour, when many of the staff were out of the office.

During the confusion, someone decided that the efforts of the staff weren't adequate, and (of all things) called the fire department.

Ice skating is largely unknown to the younger generation in these parts, partly because of our salubrious climate, and partly because they just don't know how to skate, or where to go.

There's a little lake — not much more than a pond, really — off the road which winds up toward the Dead Indian country.

Tucked down in its canyon, it was well shaded, and stayed frozen much of the year.

More recently much of the surrounding timber has been cut, and while the lake still freezes, it isn't nearly as good for skating as it used to be.

Anyways, we hope that Howard Prairie lake is a success as an ice skating location, and that the ancient and honorable sport is revived.

Our women's editor was as amused as anyone at Harry's plight. But she got the shivers just the same.

There was another occasion, a year or so ago, when another staff member was in the elevator when it malfunctioned.

cause will be the Western weakness, originating in the Eisenhower defense policy, which invited the arrogant Soviet-North Vietnamese intervention.

And he is probably right. But the lump was indigestible in that form. His regime did not try to educate people about it.

All the modern arts of communication are at the disposal of their government. But they were not given the slightest inkling last summer that the vast stretch of Africa which made them an empire, an area their leaders knew more about than even Congolese leaders.

Now it has essentially repeated the same error. It tried a total reorganization of Belgium's public finance in a single legislative bill passed at the Parliament.

What of Guantanamo? WHERE IS its background; what of its present; what of its future?

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NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

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
Jan. 8, 1951 (Monday)
Imminent possibility of attack by Russian bombers and submarines has roused the Pacific coast from Mexico to Alaska.

20 YEARS AGO
Jan. 8, 1941 (Wednesday)
There are 5,706 registered voters in the four wards of Medford eligible to vote in the special airport bond election Jan. 17.

30 YEARS AGO
Jan. 8, 1931 (Wednesday)
A special prosecutor has been named by the governor to conduct the probe into the Reese creek liquor raid death near here.

40 YEARS AGO
Jan. 8, 1921 (Saturday)
Oil speculation in the Montague, Calif., is booming and an oil well is now being drilled.

50 YEARS AGO
Jan. 8, 1911 (Sunday)
The city now has over 20 miles of sewers and water mains; 8 1/2 miles of paved streets; 29 miles of sidewalks and most of it was done last year.

Here's How To Burn Trees

Mr. Robert C. Ingalls, Editor Corvallis Gazette-Times Corvallis, Oregon

Dear Bob: Congratulations on your impromptu, somewhat disorganized, tree-burning after Christmas. Sounds like fun.

Here the Moose lodge organizes the thing. It gets its members and other volunteers, including Boy Scouts, to go around picking up trees left on the curbs along all Medford streets.

The trees are taken to a handy spot outside of town, and burned at a public gathering after dark. Quite a blaze they make, too!

Perhaps best of all, cooperating householders pin an envelope on their old trees containing a donation (from a few cents up to one generous \$200 check this last time) for some charity.

Results: The trees are burned, the firemen are happy to get these potential hazards out of homes, the Scouts, Moose and other volunteers have fun doing a community job.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

We've broken off diplomatic relations with the Castro government of Cuba — a step fully justified under the circumstances.

He is also making it plain that his purpose is to make of Cuba a communist MILITARY OUTPOST IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

THE BIG question: WHAT DO WE DO NEXT? AN INTERESTING suggestion comes from South America, where in Argentina and Brazil there is talk of a special hemisphere-wide conference.

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Leadership: Democratic Sine Qua Non?

By ERIC SEVAREID

Brussels in the early afternoon — ten thousand Belgian socialist strikers marched and chanted in the chilly streets, and the usual swarms of hoodlums attracted by movement mixed it with mounted police.

And he is probably right. But the lump was indigestible in that form. His regime did not try to educate people about it.

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What's Your I.Q.?

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

- 1. Who was the author of "Jane Eyre"?
2. The new Queen of Belgium is a native of what country?
3. What persons settled and built Salt Lake City?
4. Is the ladybird a bird, beetle, or worm?
5. "Pelican State" is the nickname for which state?
6. Who created the fictional character "Tarzan"?
7. In Poker the chances of getting three of a kind (nothing wild) are 12 to 1, 16 to 1, or 46 to 1?
8. All tissues of the body are completely renewed every seven years; true or false?
9. How much does a cubic foot of water weigh?
10. Which country in the world is the largest producer of coffee?
Answers: 1. Charlotte Bronte. 2. Spain. 3. The Mormons. 4. Beetle. 5. Louisiana. 6. Edgar Rice Burroughs. 7. 46 to 1. 8. False. 9. 62.4 pounds. 10. Brazil.