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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

Feb. 6, 1951 (Tuesday)

A few more railroad switchmen returned to work in Ashland today, but in Medford, railroad work was still at a virtual standstill as the result of a nationwide wildcat walkout by switchmen.

Twenty-three cases of scarlet fever have been reported in Jackson county during the past week.

20 YEARS AGO

Feb. 6, 1941 (Thursday)

A severe windstorm in Ashland last night ripped the roof off of the armory, blocked the Klamath Falls-Ashland highway with trees and disrupted electrical service.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "Pig-sticking is the order of the day in rural regions. Farmers report for every pig killed 40 city folks want the backbones, and this is embarrassing as a pig is equipped with but one spinal column."

30 YEARS AGO

Feb. 6, 1931 (Friday)

Medford stores are planning a spring opening at which time the new styles will be shown.

Billie Hammett has been named queen of the junior class carnival at Medford High school.

40 YEARS AGO

Feb. 6, 1921 (Sunday)

Table Rock residents are requesting a speed up in construction of a new road to Central Point.

A car smashed the lamp post in front of Hubbard Brothers last night.

50 YEARS AGO

Feb. 6, 1911 (Monday)

The city fire department is asking the city council for a $15,000 appropriation to purchase new fire fighting equipment, including a chemical wagon, a hook and ladder truck and alarm system.

The northwest theatrical manager in Seattle has said Medford is the best one-night stand in the U.S. for road shows.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. Did Casey hit a home run, or did he strike out?
2. If you travel on the earth until your watch registers two hours fast, have you been going eastward or westward?
3. Did St. Paul visit Bithynia and Egypt?
4. In which chain of islands are Kiska and Attu?
5. What national business organization did Eric Johnston serve as president?
6. Name the character in Greek mythology who fell in love with his own reflection in a pool.
7. Quetzalcoatl was a god of what people?
8. There are no mosquitoes in Alaska; true or false?
9. What did Little Jack Horner eat?
10. By what nickname is Portland, Oregon known?

Answers: 1. He struck out. 2. Westward. 3. No. 4. The Aleutians (Alaska). 5. U. S. Chamber of Commerce. 6. Narcissus. 7. The Aztecs. 8. False. 9. Christmas Pie. 10. Rose City.

What Are They Trying To Hide?

The press never can relax in its efforts to protect the public's right to know what government and people in government are doing.

The public takes it for granted that all public records are open to the public and the press.

This is not true. And if it were not for the relentless efforts of the press accessibility to some public records would be even more difficult. Some public officials would like to put a padlock on some of their records if they dared.

It is a physical impossibility for taxpayers to inspect all public records. But this does not concern them so long as they know those records are available to the press and that those records which are most important will be communicated to them through the press.

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IN THE state of Oregon the right of taxpayers to know is protected in one area by a law which requires the publication of county government proceedings — "a concise statement of the proceedings of the governing body in the transaction of county business entered of record during the previous month." This law . . . makes it possible for a taxpayer to read in his newspaper how tax money is spent, who got it, and for what.

There is a bill before the Oregon Legislature which would repeal this law which requires publication of county proceedings. Who is sponsoring it? The Association of Oregon Counties.

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THE AOC cites as a reason for its repealer that "the cost to the county taxpayers of this publication is an unnecessary burden." This is a smoke screen. The cost to you of publication . . . wouldn't buy a cup of coffee.

The Association of Oregon Counties has to have another reason for wanting to discontinue publication of county proceedings. We don't want to think that the county officials who belong to the organization want to make it more difficult for the public to know what they are doing with the public money. But we can't come to any other conclusion. The argument that it is too costly just doesn't hold up.

We hope all members of the Legislature . . . will conclude that it is equally important that the public know what the county government is doing.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

Sound Suggestion

The plan outlined by the U.S. Forest Service for establishment of a new area forest comprising the lands of the Klamath Termination Act appears reasonable and sound. While details of the proposal are still to come, we have every reason to believe that the suggestion of the Forest Service will receive favorable reaction when it is presented to Washington officials . . .

Certainly, there was no indication of protest or opposition in the area meetings at Lakeview and Klamath Falls when Regional Forester J. Herbert Stone so ably outlined the plans of the Service. As he said in the meetings, valid questions have been raised as to procedures after the Forest Service takes over the lands management, but he saw no question that would pose a dilemma or impose undue hardship on anyone . . .

• • • • •

THE MECHANICS of the proposal and the long-range prospects of future management give every indication of a desirable situation.

Certainly, Klamath Falls and the Klamath area cannot quarrel with the proposition, and we can see little valid reason for any complaint from the Medford or Lakeview areas. For Klamath Falls, it means additional families, payrolls, and increased revenues from sales of forest units.

Additionally, it means that we will be able to transact forest business in our own area . . .

We are hopeful that there will be speedy approval of the Forest Service proposal.—Klamath Falls Herald and News.

Expensive Litterbugs

What is the annual cost to the general public each year from activities by hoodlums, vandals, litterbugs, firebugs and others of such classification? It would indeed be interesting to have a lump sum calculation of the financial losses incurred just because some people refuse to be decent members of society.

For example, the biennial report recently compiled by the Oregon Highway Commission tells us that destruction of road signs is costing around $50,000 per year. That's $100,000 for the biennium. Because some people find pleasure in shooting highway signs full of holes, mangling them in other ways, or defacing them, the life of such signs is from five to eight years, the report states . . .

Then, the report relates, the Highway Commission spent more than $300,000 during the biennium on primary and secondary highways cleaning up refuse . . .

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WE HAVE vandals who poach on posted land, wrecking fences, damaging property, killing livestock. Some run over open but privately owned property, particularly logging tracts, shooting up buildings and equipment, stealing tools, damaging roads and other installations. Firebugs start forest fires and thereby destroy assets that mean jobs and payrolls.

They're thieves, all of them. They steal from the public purse. They should be treated as thieves by the general public. Law enforcement officers should be given all possible help in identifying them and bringing them to justice. The courts should see that penalties are ample to provide discouragement.—Roseburg News-Review.

Dennis the Menace

"DAD IS SURE GONNA BE SURPRISED TO SEE YOU! HE TOLD MOM HE DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE ALIVE!"

Foreign News: Acheson for NATO; Japan Trade With China; Salazar Strengthened

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst

From the foreign news cables:

NATO Secretary General

Observers say a possible long shot choice for NATO secretary general to succeed Belgium's retiring Paul-Henri Spaak is former U. S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson. They point out that the Soviet Union's economic and political offensives have gotten up such a head of steam that the United States may throw its weight around to get an American at the head of the NATO council as well as having an American general in command of its military forces in Europe. They note that Britain's Lord Ismay successfully built up the NATO military machine to face the Russian threat. But they also not that Spaak was unable to get agreement on such innovations as aid to under developed countries, including NATO's own Greece, Turkey, Iceland and Portugal.

Newsom

This and other aspects of the latter-day race against Russia, some pundits claim, may bring an American into the top NATO job, particularly since Britain doesn't seem interested. Acheson is considered a likely choice, especially by a Democratic administration.

Japan-China Trade

Japanese businessmen want to resume trade with Red China. But they first want some sort of guarantees from Peiping before taking the plunge, since they feel the Communist Chinese might break off trade relations at their own convenience, unless they were bound by some guarantees.

Salazar Strengthened

All indications are that the hijacking of the liner Santa Maria by a band of rebels will strengthen the hand of Portugal's Premier Antonio de Oliveira Salazar. Reports from Portugal indicate there wasn't the slightest sputtering of the revolt which insurgent Capt. Henrique Galvao apparently hoped to touch off by seizing the ship off South America. Any real sympathy on the part of Portugal's man-in-the-street faded out during Galvao's prolonged haggling with Brazilian authorities before he let his captive passengers ashore in Recife.

Khrushchev Delay

Communist diplomats are hinting that Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev may delay his trip to the reconvened United Nations General Assembly in New York until late in March. The idea is to meet both Kennedy and Britain's Premier Harold Macmillan. The Assembly resumes March 7, and Macmillan is to visit Washington April 3. Instead of showing up at the beginning, it is being suggested that Khrushchev may prefer to wait until the Assembly gets fully under way and the United States plans for disarmament become clearer. With Macmillan in the United States at the time, Khrushchev then would have an opportunity to discuss with the two major Western leaders the issue of a nuclear test ban in person. Talks at a lower level on a test ban are scheduled to resume in Gevena by the end of March.

Japanese Salmon

Japan's fish catch in the North Pacific is expected to be cut further this year as a result of Soviet demands. The Soviets claim that available salmon resources in the area are declining, and they want them conserved. While the Japanese government is expected to counter Russia's demands in Soviet-Japanese fishery talks expected to begin soon in Tokyo, observers say it may be forced to accept the Soviet demand.

... 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.

Gooey Start

To the Editor: Representative Durno got off to a "gooey" start by his vote on enlargement of the Rules committee.

He attempts to explain his vote by stating he thought it wrong to enlarge the committee. I assume he will not attempt to deny that such action will make the committee more responsive to the leadership of the House. I hope he realizes this action will open the door for full debate and free discussion by all members of the House of Representatives.

He then contradicts himself by stating he agrees with free debate and full discussion, while voting against a method to insure it.

He joins with Representative Norblad in stating that no pressure had been applied by party leaders and lobbyists.

The facts are: 1. Republican leaders had made it known they intended to work with Representative Smith, to forestall enlargement of the Rules committee. 2. Representative Durno is a member of the American Medical association, which is fearful of a vote on a medical plan connected with Social Security payments.

Representative Durno reminds me of the man who refused to look at the "new moon," out of respect for that "ancient institution," the old one.

Robert A. Freeman
4625 N.E. 118th ave.
Portland, Ore.

Profit, Not Welfare

To the Editor: In regard to the polio drive I will go along with Miss Streed.

Anything for profit, the welfare of the public is not considered.

There is poison in most of our pots and pans we use today, and most of our food is not fit for human consumption. It is full of poison also, along with the air we breathe and I will quote Dr. William Brady on the betrayal of the public by the federal government in the food and drugs act of 1906, which our congress comique fixed up exactly as the big nostrum interests ordered:

"The present version of the law is in effect a greater betrayal of public welfare. The food and drugs division just doesn't see the glaring defiance of the letter and spirit of the law and its own specific regulations in the naming, labeling and the vicious claims made by the sense dulling drugs which are so freely sold to the unwary public under names shrewdly calculated to deceive and mislead. I refer particularly to coal tar derivatives, aniline derivatives, drugs of the acetanilide, phenacetine, antipyrin class. These drugs, incorporated in scores of nostrums sold without even decent restrictions by the government, are destructive to health and frequently a contributing or even the direct cause of death, yet the federal foods and drugs bureau finds no fault with this big business, being too busy ferreting out trivial errors or technical violations of regulations by small fry firms that have no slush fund to play with and clearly no intention to misrepresent or defraud or harm any one."

Dr. Brady says that and more too. He says the favorite dope, so commonly dispensed at the soda fountain is a large factor in the "nervous weakness" of millions of gullible Americans. As I said before anything for profit and as for getting congress to do anything, that is about out of the question, when the President himself has a hard time getting anything done for the masses. Congress is controlled by big business, like it or not.

Ray Prichard
414 South First st.
Central Point, Ore.

Can't Happen Here

To the Editor: It can't happen here? Don't kid yourself, folks—it is happening right here, in Medford, now.

One hears constantly that communism or any type of dictatorship cannot happen and will not be tolerated in these free United States. Yet we have this infectious, cancerous growth spawning in our midst today.

For example: an auto wrecking yard and parts company which has been in business in Medford continuously since 1927 has been given notice by our so-called city fathers, that they have a year of life left, that they do not plan on renewing their license next year. Just like that—we don't like your looks, so scram.

A business that once supplied a living for more than 17 families has gradually—through political harassment—been driven down to only 5 employees, with these five subject to be jobless in one year. Yet another wrecking yard within the city was given no such death notice—yet! Or take the case of another business man—forced to move his business because of the new highway — is being denied the right to build on his own property because the dictatorial planning commission MAY decide to build a park there some day. Also the trailer hassle—even on your own property—forget it—the city council doesn't like trailers.

Our self-righteous Chamber of Commerce claims to be working their heads to the bone to bring more business and industry to the valley. Do they claim that it is progress to force more than 17 breadwinners to go jobless just because some of their members don't like the looks of an auto wrecking yard? Not all of us can dress in a suit and sell cars for a living. In fact many of us have been mighty glad there was a used parts company in town—especially if we were sold a lemon!

Many of us fought and many died in World War II to protect our constitutional rights and freedoms against any form of dictatorship whatsoever. Remember it could be you next who is deprived of one or more freedoms. If you value your citizenship at all—call or write your councilman now and voice your objections to this insidious stealing of your constitutional rights as an American. Apathy on your part only encourages more encroachment of your liberties.

M. J. Olsen
Route 4, Box 325
Medford

Highway Reorganization

To the Editor: I have been wondering why there has been no comment on one of the main issues in the Governor's reorganization plan.

Some reorganization is certainly needed for the public good, but the proposal goes too far—unintentionally perhaps. The proposed law relegates the Highway Commission to an "advisory" role only (SB 3-Sec. 15 (2)—and gives their real authority to one man—the Director of Transportation and Utilities. The proposed law says "The Department of Transportation and Utilities under the direction of the Governor . . . shall select, establish, locate, construct, improve, maintain, operate, develop and administer state highways. This means that the Governor through his appointed Director has complete control of the location of all highway construction. The U. S. Bureau of Public Roads money is spent on highway projects but it does not tell the state where the construction is to be done.

Placing in one man's hands the total power as to where approximately $75,000,000 per year is to be spent amounts to the biggest political plum the state has ever seen. Even though we have a well-meaning Governor now, think what could happen if this power was used for political purposes. Sections of the state would get highway construction when political favor was desired.

In its 43 years of existence the Highway Department under the three man commission has never had a breath of scandal attached to it. Highways have been built where they should be under a formula which assured that all divisions of the state received their fair share of new construction. Some areas have been unhappy because they felt their roads should be improved faster. The reason they haven't, of course, is that there is not enough money to make all needed improvements—and some areas simply have to wait.

I have heard no evidence that the Highway Department is operating dishonestly, immorally or inefficiently.

Being retired, I would much prefer to just relax and not mix in politics, but I cannot let this go by unchallenged. May Heaven help the public if the legislature allows our Highway Department to be placed in politics.

If there is anything wrong with the operations of the Highway Department surely the Legislative Interim Committee would have run into it. Their recently published report, however, was more commendatory than critical. The Secretary of State's latest audit revealed no irregularities.

So let's leave the Highway Comimssion and Department out of the reorganization plan—as the Governor's Committee recommended last summer.

Mervin R. Smith
Route 5
Salem, Ore.

Donors and Friends

To the Editor: Let us praise our Gold Hill community and pay tribute to the people who reside here. Also blood donors in Medford and Ashland.

I recently returned to my home in the city of Gold Hill, where I have lived for nearly 35 years, from Portland. I had been a patient at the Veterans Administration hospital for 2½ months. During this time I received many beautiful cards and letters of inspiration from my fellow workers of Ideal Cement Company, and other individuals and organizations in Gold Hill. So many in fact, that I have been unable to answer them.

I would like to dedicate this letter to the people of Gold Hill for the kindness that has been shown me and my family during my illness.

I want to pay specific recognition to the men and women who gave blood for me while I was a patient at the Veterans hospital. Each gave one pint of their blood in my name when the Bloodmobile was in Medford during December. This replaced blood that was used for me, from the Portland blood bank.

These people who realize that blood is more life saving than money were Mrs. Doris Knapp, Medford, Harold Head, Medford, Roy Rodgers, Ashland, and Mrs. Winnifred Mulvey, Medford.

Mrs. Knapp and the two men are "Six Galloners." They have been donating blood as regular donors since the bloodmobile first visited Medford several years ago.

Mrs. Knapp, a former resident of Gold Hill, said she is proud of the fact that she was a resident of this community for ten years prior to moving to Medford.

Before closing I want to say thanks to the service clubs who support the good that was derived by us veterans while patients at the hospital during the recent holidays. The generosity of so many people is surely appreciated by this individual.

William R. Force
P.O. Box 45
Gold Hill, Ore.

Want Paul Harvey

To the Editor: We the undersigned would be in favor of the Paul Harvey column being added to the Medford Mail Tribune.

Mrs. Woodrow McCormack,
Box 371,
Jacksonville, Ore.
(And eight other Jacksonville residents.)

City "Dictation"

To the Editor: How can a few men dictate to so many people? According to a new city ordinance passed by the city council a number of families living in Medford have to move. I am referring to the new trailer ordinance. Some of these families own the property they are parked on so that will be quite a loss. These people pay taxes and help support the city as much as the home owners.

To my knowledge nothing was published telling them they had to have a permit to park on a lot.

I wonder how the members of the council would feel if they were told to move their homes out of the city? Apparently none of them live in trailers.

If that is the way the city of Medford operates I pray they will never annex our area. I don't want a few men to tell me how to manage my property and home.

Richard Hart
135 Clover Lane
Medford, Ore.

Wilson Hopeful Kennedy May Keep Integrity of U.S. Dollar

By LYLE C. WILSON

Washington — (UPI) — Democrats right up to the present challenge the idea that when a Democrat is in the White House there comes a war.

Wilson

It is a fact, of course, that this sequence of events has prevailed in the 20th century. What that proves is nothing. More significant for the future would be another sequence which the Democrats might also resent although they could not well challenge it.

This sequence would be: When a Democrat is in the White House, taxes go up and, further, that when a Republican is in the White House taxes go down.

Perhaps that doesn't prove anything, either, but it is a fact. Tax increases in the Wilson, Roosevelt and Truman administrations, obviously, were triggered by war. More than the fact of war is involved in these tax-increase, tax-decrease sequences. The Democratic party has identified itself with big spending.

The image of the leaders of the Democratic party as free wheeling spenders was mightily impressed on the minds of the citizens by the performances of the Roosevelt and Truman administration. The impression was so great as to blur the spending image of the Eisenhower administration.

Eisenhower spent record breaking sums of public money, but that fact is scarcely realized by the citizens. The Eisenhower administration also managed to achieve one tax reduction and that fact is pretty well known. Moreover, the big bulge in Eisenhower administration spending was not for national defense, as most citizens assume it to have been.

National defense was the most costly of government programs under Eisenhower and will remain so under President Kennedy. But the big increase in spending by Eisenhower after 1953 was in non-defense areas. In general, it can be said that it is a combination of war and the welfare state that hits the U.S. taxpayer.

New Spending

Now comes the Kennedy administration with new spending plans, the extent of which is not known. These new costs probably are not known as of now even to the president and to members of his administration. Their policies have not cooled and jelled from the loose period of campaign speeches into the present period of administration responsibility.

Kennedy has promised, however to set out ways to raise new revenue for all new spending proposed to Congress. The man or woman with money in the bank, an insurance policy or a pension should thank Kennedy for that. It is a hard road but a road which will lead away from, and not toward, more currency inflation.

The rotting of the dollar by the inflationary process is a deadly thing, deadly especially for the little fellow, the common man. The big fellow can hedge against inflation in the stock market or by borrowing a great many 50 cent dollars to be repaid later when the dollar is worth, say, 30 cents. Nice profit there.

A determined President and a determined Congress, however, can and should protect the common man who cannot protect himself. Congress won't do it but maybe Kennedy will.

Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

KENNEDY'S MODERATION

Washington — President Kennedy has now dropped the other shoe, and in the sound of its falling there is nothing whatever to alarm the great moderate political center of this country.

White

Quite plainly, the moderates' view is to be largely his view — so long as he and they can keep in check the extremists, both the ultra-liberals and the ultra-conservatives.

All who had feared we might be entering an unwisely liberal era resounding with professional theories and marked by wild spending and hot-eyed reformism can now put an end to their anxieties.

They can genuinely feel reassured — as already does the moderate and usually controlling center in congress of both parties. So, too, do important sections of business, both big and little, as may be seen in Wall Street and also in the private remarks here of business spokesmen.

• • •

FOF Mr. Kennedy's state of the union message to Congress, in which he laid down his basic purposes, establishes all these things:

1. A deep respect for —and a good deal of savvy about— the free enterprise system. (This should not have been too surprising; this young President's private fortune is unashamedly valued by him and he knows what system it came from.)

2. A prudent intention to make haste slowly — not to try to howl a great deal of legislation through Congress at the double-quick, as was done in the national emergency of "the first hundred days" of the New Deal of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

3. A determination to defend the integrity of the American dollar in the world's money markets at every cost.

4. A resolution — which ironically may turn out to be actually tougher than in the more conservative Eisenhower administration — to require far greater cost-participation in aid programs by our foreign friends.

5. An intention to reward and back up good administrators in the federal service to a degree not known in our time.

6. A firm resolve to negotiate at the summit with the Soviet imperialists only when and if some conceivable good can come of it — and only when and if the balance of power lies clearly on our side and not theirs.

• • •

TRUE, some who are not necessarily ultra-conservatives are nevertheless anxious about some parts of the Kennedy program, notably an increase in the minimum wage, permanent aid for areas of chronic unemployment and expansion of public-subsidy housing.

These plans, however, will unfold as less far-reaching and less costly than might at first be supposed.

Moreover, the reasonably conservative in and out of Congress should find great comfort in one largely overlooked Kennedy project. This was his pledge to give tax relief to businessmen coming forward with sound plant expansions. Already, the ultra-liberals are grumbling that this point is altogether too "Republican" in tone. In fact, of course, it is simply soundly conservative — neither Democratic nor Republican in origin.

• • •

IT IS true, too, that some Republican leaders are thrusting at one or another of the President's economic plans. This, too, however, reflects no wide or real Republican fear. It is only their way of keeping their hand in.

So the sum of it as of now is this:

Mr. Kennedy has demonstrated no slightest purpose to become the hero of the left-wing, to put class against class, or even to become a hotly partisan president. He just wants to run a calmly effective national shop. He is not here to make America over; he is here to make some repairs, but no revolution.

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SCHEDULE ECONOMY RUN

Los Angeles —(UPI)— The annual Mobilgas economy run will take place March 11-16 between Los Angeles and Chicago, it was announced today. A. C. Pillsbury, chief steward, said 60 autos already have been entered for the yearly test of mileage thriftiness of American-made cars.

CLASHING COLORS

Shippey, England —(UPI)— Local government officials Sunday ordered Robert Morris to remove 500 green tiles from his house roof because they do not blend with 13,500 red tiles on his house.