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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
 March 5, 1951 (Monday)
 A drop from the Friday total in number of absences from city schools was reported today; 584 absences were listed today, compared to 665 Friday, an indication that the flu epidemic has leveled off.
20 YEARS AGO
 March 5, 1941 (Wednesday)
 Available Medford factory sites were shown yesterday to a Portland representative of a furniture manufacturing company, who said his firm was interested in building a branch plant here.
 From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "The rural pastures are reported profuse with mushrooms, none of which, as yet, have turned out to be toadstools in a frying pan."
30 YEARS AGO
 March 5, 1931 (Thursday)
 The city council has approved vacation of several streets in the area of the new Medford High school and Washington grade school.
 The city budget committee gave its approval to a unified street lighting system for Main st.
40 YEARS AGO
 March 5, 1921 (Saturday)
 Edson C. (Jerry) Jerome has been elected exalted ruler of the local Elks lodge.
 Work has been resumed on the improvement of the Pacific highway near River-Rogue River near Prospect
50 YEARS AGO
 March 5, 1911 (Sunday)
 Col. Frank Ray, Medford, of the Rogue River Valley Electric company, has announced plans to erect a \$1 million power plant on the Rogue River near Prospect which will generate 24,000 horsepower.
 A government engineer has returned from a trip to Crater Lake and predicted that the road will eventually be kept open year-round.
What's Your I.Q.?
 Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.
 1. Perpetual motion is mechanically impossible, true or false?
 2. Which form of heavy-weight boxing champ was nicknamed "Madcap Maxie," because of his frequent clownish tactics?
 3. Helena is the capital of which state?
 4. Mata Hari was a noted spy who ferreted out military secrets for the Allies, or Germany during World War I?
 5. Ben Davis, McIntosh, Rome Beauty and Delicious are names of varieties of which fruit?
 6. In which city, and on what date, is the Rose Bowl football game played?
 7. Name the chief river of Ireland.
 8. Where did the Civil War between the Monitor and Merrimac occur?
 9. The tongue of a woodpecker is longer than the bird's head; true or false?
 10. In early colonial days, Massachusetts drove Quakers out of the community; what was the penalty imposed if they returned?
 Answers: 1. True. 2. Max Baer. 3. Montana. 4. Germany. 5. Apples. 6. New Year's Day, in Pasadena, Calif. 7. Shannon River. 8. Hampton Roads, Va. 9. True. 10. Hanging.

Wheel-Spinning in Salem

Watching the news out of Salem these days, one is tempted to believe that there is far more partisan (and non-partisan, for that matter) bickering this legislative session than in some past ones.

This probably is just an impression, for a session of the state legislature is always an occasion for bickering, sniping and political maneuvering. That's one of the penalties we pay for having a free, open and uninhibited form of government — and it's a minor penalty, really.

But it does become wearisome, particularly when so much of the hassling is over inconsequentials, and done for personal or party advantage solely.

WE HAVE even been tempted to advise the legislature: "Pass the billboard control bills, the anti-pollution bills, the necessary appropriation measures, and then adjourn and come on home."

This, of course, is both unrealistic and a bit silly. But it is a temptation.

Actually, there are many sound and needed measures before the legislators for their consideration — bills which should be passed — along with all the frills, froth and stupidities.

ONE OF the marked characteristics of the current legislature is the resurgence of the conservative wing of the Democratic party — the group led by Senators Walter Pearson, Harry Boivin and Tom Mahoney.

Because of a variety of circumstances, which includes the cooperation of a majority of the Republicans, they are, in effect, in charge of the state senate this year. Boivin (from Klamath Falls) with much influence and power as president of the senate, Pearson (Portland), as former president and now chairman of the state and federal affairs committee, and Mahoney (Portland), with his razor mind and razor tongue, can, between them, pretty nearly decide the outcome of much legislation.

Pearson's committee is a handy place for Boivin to send bills which he does, or does not, want passed. They can either be bottled up, or favorably reported, at the whim of this group and their supporters, and the rest of the senate is virtually powerless to do anything about it.

THOUGH all are Democrats, they wear the party label only for convenience's sake. (The Coos Bay World calls them Republicrats.)

And through their actions they are seriously damaging the prospects of the Democratic party in elections to come. They seem intent on making a political game out of what should be serious state business.

Largely as a result of this (although there are other factors, too), the legislature has done little of any real note so far, and the prospects, as they begin their eighth week tomorrow, is for a continued spinning of wheels, and sound and fury signifying nothing.

The state deserves better of its legislature than this. —E.A.

Quote . . . Unquote

"I do not think that it (the Oregon Dunes area) possesses the scientific or historical or scenic grandeur that we should have in our national park system."
 —Congressman Edwin R. Durno.

"The area (the Oregon Dunes) is adjudged to be of national importance, not only for the manifold opportunities for seashore recreation but also for the inspirational worth of the resources to the American citizen. The many superlative values found here are of such high importance as to warrant permanent preservation for the nation as a whole."
 —From Recreation Survey of the Pacific Coast, prepared under the auspices of the National Park Service.

Well — which one is right? —E.A.

It Must Be Contagious

Watching with increasing wonder, Op'ning letters by the score, We find verses by the dozen — Hardly any one a bore.

Can it be the Gold Hill ozone That promotes this busy muse? Or does Arnold Eugene Jenny Stimulate these rhyming views?

Can the chlorine in the water, Or the drifting cement dust, Have an influence on writers Who must versify or bust?

"Communications," "Poets' Corner," These are forcing us to rhyme, But we promise that the habit Will not multiply with time.

Anyway, we heed the challenge, Pluck the gauntlet from the floor, Offer verse just plain defensive At the risk of getting more.

This our first, is what we offer For the year of '61, Saying which we now retire, Having proved it could be done.

—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



"DID YA HAVE TO CALL ME NOW? I'M EATIN' DINNER! DON'T YA HAVE NO MANNERS?"

Matter of Fact

ON GOVERNMENT. ACTIVE AND PASSIVE
 Washington — The public information policy of the Kennedy administration is so curious, and may prove so important, that it cries out for analysis.

In 1939-41, a time of danger, President Roosevelt actually stimulated a double flow of public information, in order to secure support for his great pre-war measures. Even in the first Truman administration, the American government was still largely open.

And the resulting massive flow of public information was what secured support for the Marshall Plan and the other great innovating measures of that remarkable era.

In these past periods of active government, in other words, there was no attempt to prevent the nation from learning about the problems confronting it. There was even an active effort to acquaint the nation with all the details of those problems.

Therefore, when the government was ready to act, the nation was also ready. But in the more recent years of passive government, there was an opposite effect — an effort to conceal the mere existence of national problems.

NOT wishing to take action, any passive government naturally wishes the electorate to feel no need for action. Concealment, in these circumstances, is quite logical.

But the habits formed in the years of passivity, though now deep-rooted in our officialdom, are not logical any longer, when the President so clearly wants the government to be active again. What was sauce for the goose, in this case, is plain poison for the gander.

This is one of Kennedy's basic dilemmas. If he resolves the dilemma by restoring the old, traditional government openness, he must pay the price of the numerous embarrassments that always afflict open government. Yet some of those around him are urging payment of this considerable price, because they see that no American government can be successfully active without being open.

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Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

THE SICK ECONOMY

There is as yet no evidence, unless it be in the behavior of the stock market, that recovery from the recession is under way or in sight. Unemployment is continuing to increase, steel is operating at half capacity, the automobile business is very poor.

All in all there is a growing disposition to ask whether the extremely moderate measures proposed by the President will be sufficient to turn the tide.

The President's task force, which was headed by Professor Paul Samuelson, the President of the American Economic Association, advised Mr. Kennedy in January that the first measures might not be adequate, and that if the upturn did not come by April, stronger measures would be needed.

PROFESSOR SAMUELSON does not hold any public office. But in many ways he is the economist to whom the Administration economists listen most closely. He has just written an article for a Japanese newspaper the "Nihon Keizai Shimbun." The article discusses the Kennedy program as it has been formulated to date. Professor Samuelson thinks that "when you come to add up in quantitative terms what the whole package of programs can be expected to accomplish, you realize how limited the total package really is."

Professor Samuelson does not say this in criticism of the Administration program. As a matter of fact the current Administration program is about what his task force recommended last January before the President was inaugurated. But the advice at that time was accompanied by the warning, which President Kennedy himself passed on to the country, that the first measures might have to be reinforced by a second set.

It is a fair inference from Professor Samuelson's article in the Japanese newspaper that he is now rather expecting that a supplementary package will be needed.

THESE ideas stem from the belief that the present recession, following upon a poor recovery from the recession of 1958, and coming at the end of several years of sluggish economic activity, is much more serious than Congress or the mass of the people who are not unemployed have yet realized.

"It is well," says Professor Samuelson, "to have no illusions about the magnitudes of the proposed (Kennedy) measures. Even he says, if the economy begins to turn up the middle of the year, "there is little reason to think that the end of the year will find us with unemployment much better than at the present time."

What is more, a quickening of economic growth to the American average rate of 3 1/2 to 4 per cent, "will have to wait until the second and third years of President Kennedy's term of office."

THESE are hard judgments of a cool and expert mind. They will be unwelcome to many. They will be unwelcome to those who take the view that with words of confidence and optimism a recession like this one can be talked away, and that the somber

POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

Amazing, isn't it, how one thing often leads to another? Last week in this space we ran the anonymous confession of a Medford housewife concerning her secret habit of watching an afternoon TV soap opera. This week, by jingo, we got a note from—guess who?—her husband. Here it is:

"Potluck, you have unexpectedly yet one more reader."

"Yes, yes, she just couldn't keep it to herself. Her ego was so elevated at having her communication printed in your most worthy column that she just HAD to show it to her husband!"

"I've always wondered why the Sunday edition is crumpled open somewhere besides the front page or the sport section, and now I know the cause."

"Of course, I knew anyway that she spent many afternoons in front of the TV, but I was never able to get her to admit it. Now, I realize that at the moment this may give me the upper hand, but I am only a man, so, of course, this will NOT be the last word."

"P.S.—I doubt she would appreciate you using MY name, either."

It would be sort of interesting, we think, to be a little mouse in the corner, watching what goes on in that household this peaceful Sunday morning. Wouldn't it?

Here's another: "Hornbrook — What March came in like in Hornbrook was neither a lion nor a lamb — unless it was a small lion with a very small growl. "The soft, warm rain that fell most of the day and into the night was the kind Shakespeare must have had in mind when he wrote about the "quality of mercy" that "droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath."

Briefly, early in the afternoon, the very small growl of the lion turned into a mighty howl, when a stiff wind sprang up and belted its way through the valley.

"But, all in all, March made an entrance more lamb-like than lionine. And if the old saying is true, "In like a lion, out like a lamb," then look out! The opposite may be true, and the end of March will go roaring out like the lion it didn't come in like.

"From your OTHER Potluck fan."

In a little note accompanying this, Mrs. Hornbrook said, "I love letting my hair down and doing things like this to the English language once in a while! It makes me feel so nice and orderly in the groove when I get back to straight copy again." Shucks, that looked pretty orderly to US, Mrs. H.

Speaking of the English language, one of our young men was ruminating on what can happen when there's just one little, bitty slip of the finger when typewriting a story. Sometimes, he says, the error may be more the truth than the "correct" story. Like these titles:

Soil Conversation districts, Southern Oregon Conversation and Tree Farm Assn., Eagle Point Irrigation district, U.S. Bureau of Recreation, And, of course, the old one that always gave us trouble until the United Medford Crusade came along the Communist Chest.

One of our favorite radio announcements is the one in the morning, when the announcer says the "unofficial rainfall prediction is for a 3 per cent chance of rain today" — when, of course, it is pouring cats and dogs outside.

We learned rather more about guppies than we ever knew before when we read the most recent issue of that excellent paper, the Hoover Hi-Light. The article was written by Robert McCamant of the sixth grade. Here is what Robert has to say about guppies:

"Guppies you may not consider to be very amazing, but they really are. When you consider their ability to reproduce their kind they are fabulous. As you know, put two guppies in a jar, and before you turn about you have hundreds. This is due to several reasons—a female can produce 1500 babies in a year (125 a month). This seldom happens because the female must be full grown, and seldom do they reach maturity. "Guppies are very hardy, and can stand conditions others cannot. The male is very vivacious and spends most of its time courting. He must do this because he is very scarce in nature, and because his bright colors make him easily seen and caught."

"They are very interesting to watch, and because of their great mating characteristics you won't very often end up with less than you started with."

Ned Sicksels in the third grade at Hoover is a young man with an eye on the future. He writes: "If I am busy it will mean for me a good education and a good job. We have to be ready for almost anything that comes up." Right you are, Ned, right you are.

For the next two Sundays, Potluck will be done by others than the usual Potluck editor; that is, if it gets done at all.

The Potluck editor is taking a trip. His wife is going too. They are going by jet. His wife is nervous. And excited. So, if the truth were known, is the Potluck editor. But, as Ned says, we have to be ready for almost anything that comes up.

Finally, as a farewell gesture, the Potluck editor decided that if that E.A. fellow across the page can do it, so can he: A couple that started a trip. Began with a wonderful sky. They flew through the sky. Without once asking why. But returned at a sub-sonic clip.

Sevareid: No Time for Indiscretions

By ERIC SEVAREID

When the appointment of G. Mennen Williams was first announced, weeks ago, I said, somewhat flippantly, in this space that mad dogs and New Dealers go out in the African sun, but I did not expect political astrophysics to hit Mr. Williams as soon as it did, with his somewhat obscure "Africa for Africans" statement that produced an angry answer in the British House of Commons from Anthony Fell, a conservative whose ebullience equals that of Mr. Williams.

Mr. Williams' misadventure serves a purpose; it reminds us all how extremely delicate is the President's task in attempting to direct a fresh and identifiably American approach to the miseries and dangers of the black-and-white continent Mr. Kennedy learned this himself several years ago when, with the considerably less official responsibility of a Senator, he spoke out for Algerian independence and evoked a fury in the

French Assembly and the Quai d'Orsay. His vision was, as intervening events have shown, but he never publicly returned to the theme.

For many years the American political view in Africa must still run through London and Paris, and not since the war has this been so sovereignly true as it is right now. The principle reason is the present critical condition of the Atlantic alliance. There is a direct connection — in the current embarrassing incident, a direct disconnection, alas — between the exploratory tour of Averell Harriman to European capitals and Mr. Williams' exploratory tour of Africa.

The last thing this alliance needs right now is an extra strain in the form of offending the conservative wing in European governments. Most particularly in Great Britain. (With the Belgians our diplomatic cloak is covered by the UN cloak of many colors and nations.)

Sevareid: No Time for Indiscretions

and more been cast in the nuclear weapons mold, both in terms of hypothetical deterrence and of actually waging war if one came, the domestic political pressures in small, crowded countries within easy Russian range have become intense, especially those from the neutralist-at-heart left wings. Can atomic arms be given to Germany? Can De Gaulle insist on American-British-French direction of NATO as the German military contribution, even without atomic arms, becomes more important than the French? Does NATO itself become a "fourth nuclear power" under the Norstad-Herter plan for turning over Polaris missiles?

If we are to look forward to a "downblow" of nuclear weapons in Europe, will the European allies face the cost in terms of conventional weapons and uniformed manpower — pledges that most of them have failed to honor in the past, one reason for the gradual swing to a nuclear system.

Neither Americans generally nor Europeans generally realize that the time has come when Washington, if it is to exercise the "stronger lead"

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many Europeans themselves cry for — obliged to adopt a much firmer line with the A's — themselves. Not only on NATO military obligations and co-operation, but the needless but rapidly widening trade split in Europe between the common market six and the "outer seven" which carries in it the seeds of an outright — and disastrous — trade war.

The President's assignment is distasteful and difficult, but it is also, unfortunately, the first order of American business in holding the Western peoples together in the face of spreading Communist influence. There is much that America can do on its own in Africa on the educational and technical level. But in the present order of political priorities the historic move toward European unification comes first. The forces now threatening to reverse these 15 years of forward motion in Europe are strong. This is the poorest time possible for the United States to add to their strength, even by indiscretions.

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