

Medford Mail Tribune

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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 - April 13, 1951 (Friday): The new Jackson St. bridge across Bear creek will probably be opened to traffic sometime Sunday.

20 Years Ago - April 13, 1941 (Sunday): Local citizens are flocking to Crater Lake park this Easter week-end.

30 Years Ago - April 13, 1931 (Wednesday): An Ashland man has announced plans to build a road-house at the summit of Siskiyou pass.

40 Years Ago - April 13, 1921 (Tuesday): The attempted robbery of an Ashland bank failed yesterday when a local druggist shot one of the bandits; a second bandit escaped and is now the object of a police search.

50 Years Ago - April 13, 1911 (Thursday): Page one headlines: "Frost King Put to Rest by Smudge Pops; Although Killing Temperature Comes, Orchards Are Not Harmed as Scientific Fighting of Frost Proves a Great Success."

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

1. Standing at the North Pole, in what direction would one face? 2. Is a gnu an insect, antelope, or reptile? 3. Gumbo is a soup thickened with moulignous pods of what vegetable?

Answers: 1. South in all directions. 2. Antelope. 3. Okra. 4. Peru. 5. More. 6. Every two years. 7. Twelve. 8. No. 9. Same. 10. Arabian sea.

PHOTO OF A SNEEZE: Newark, N.J. - The picture of a man in the act of sneezing was the first successful demonstration of a motion picture at West Orange, N.J. in 1889.

Man In Space

For a long time, American scientists and technicians have had the basic knowledge to put a man into orbit around the earth, to do the job the Russians did yesterday.

For a decade or even more, all that would have been required was a sense of direction, of urgency, and the necessary expenditure of relatively huge sums to develop the hardware and fuels necessary for the task.

That the Russians have done it first reveals several things. One is that they have the tremendous drive and energy and determination to surmount the technical problems and do the job.

IT ALSO is revealing of the fact that America, which for so long was in the forefront of the world's science and technology, is no longer the unchallenged leader.

We must admit that, in some areas at any rate, the Russians are ahead of us - how far ahead, and whether we can catch up, are questions yet to be answered.

The answer depends on this country, its leaders, and its people - whether they respond to the challenge of scientific competition in the race for space; or whether we will continue to be contented with our gimmicks, our gadgets - and second class status. -E.A.

Why Space?

Why, some people ask, should we worry about getting into space? Why spend all that money? Why expend the effort and take the attendant risks? What good will it do? Why not try to solve some of our earth-bound problems first?

These may be valid questions, but they ignore the fact that man is a curious beast, and will go to almost any lengths to satisfy that curiosity. Secondly, we must admit that our own space program, and that of the Russians, too, would not be where they are, were it not for the competitive push each has given the other.

IDEALLY, it might be a good idea to solve the problems of health, overpopulation, distribution of foodstuffs, raising the world's standard of living, and so on, before we go gallivanting off into space.

But, once the start was made, it was too late to turn back. There are many factors all adding up to the necessity that the task continue - factors including those of world psychology, the military aspects, human curiosity, human pride, and simple scientific advancement.

We are committed to the race for space. Today we're lagging. -E.A.

The Larger Challenge

There are, inevitably, political ramifications to the fact that Russia has orbited a man, and the U.S. hasn't - and isn't yet ready to.

Whatever can be said about the pleasant Eisenhower years, it cannot be said that they were years filled with ambition and determination.

They were, in many regards, lazy years, when the attention of Americans was focused on pleasant living, with far too little on the many serious and unsolved problems facing America - things like adequate education, conservation of our dwindling natural resources, dynamic economic growth, basic scientific research, and even the threat posed by communism to the free world.

THE orbiting of Sputnik on October 4, 1957, did a little to stir the American people. Its effects on education, for one, are still being felt.

But aside from that, it didn't seem to get people tremendously excited, and by the time a dozen or so satellites had been fired off, they became fairly routine. How hum.

But a man circling the globe in less than two hours, while in actual cold scientific terms it may not be as significant as some of our instrumented space shots, should do more to alert the nation to both the dangers and the challenges of the space age - which has come upon a world which is politically and psychologically unready.

THERE is a new political climate in the United States today. People are beginning to respond to President Kennedy's vigorous leadership. And it is our prediction that even the congress will wake up to the fact that we are in a new era before too long.

At least we hope so. For if we do not have a nation essentially united behind its leaders, a nation which will respond to the demands of the times, then we might just as well stop worrying about the United Nations and Laos and the Congo and Latin America, and all the rest - pull in our horns, retire from the struggle, and wind up a has-been nation without trying.

If this happens it will be the denial of the hopes and dreams of Americans, and other free peoples, for a peaceful, fruitful world.

MAKE no mistake. If America does not respond to the challenge implicit in Maj. Yuri Gagarin's first little step in space, it will mean the end of the world as it is now, and as we hope it may be.

For America still represents the "last, best hope" for world freedom and world peace, in its leadership of the free world. If it loses that leadership, in any marked degree, in any really significant field, we might as well concede that Communism represents the wave of the future.

And that is a thought too appalling to consider seriously. -E.A.

Dennis the Menace



"JELLY DOUGHNUT. YA WANT IT?"

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.

Sick Pay and Pensions

To the Editor: In a news item in April 10th's issue of the Mail Tribune I was astonished, (second time lately), to see some facts and figures there in bold type. Tuesday, when I could get my breath through the "pear pickers smog," the figures had not changed a bit.

Are you ready? Well here they come: Seventy-five thousand (75,000) Federal Government workers report SICK on an average working day! And, my friends, that is with pay! That is a heck of a lot of "hang-overs."

Federal workers averaged 7.7 days of short term sick leave. Hold your hat, here are some more figures: This short term sick leave cost Uncle Sam, I mean you taxpayers, \$315,000,000 last year.

Here is one point I want to make: Call up the venerable mail where you work and tell the boss you won't be in, you are sick. Then on payday, see if you got paid for that day!

Now my main point: With only a couple hundred thousand of World War One veterans left, who all average 66 years old and the total dropping fast yearly, don't you think that the Bill in Congress to grant them a separate Pension of \$100 per month should be passed? Thousands of these veterans are disabled, many 100 per cent.

Think it over. Malmute Slim, White City, Ore.

Enjoy God's World

To the Editor: We live right across the street from the playground at Hanby school here in Gold Hill, and usually there isn't too much activity over there during the week ends, except for the usual basketball and sometimes tennis.

However, this week end was different. How? Why was it different? Because several of the younger families got together to play basketball and baseball, and this is as it should be. The mothers and fathers were playing "having a ball" - letting off pent-up energies in a clean, wholesome, healthy way. This is the way to stay young!

How long has it been since you took a walk? Either a good brisk one or a slow, peaceful, thoughtful one? How long has it been since you communed with nature?

So often, and the majority of us must admit this I'm sure (especially we, the women) we find ourselves to be merely hot-house plants - never venturing into the fresh air except to hang the wash or to do some other task. We don't allow ourselves to enjoy nature. Sometime when you are tired and bedraggled, try taking off your shoes and going barefoot on the grass. If it's damp it's all the better, for it tends to, in a manner of speaking, recharge your battery. Or lie on the grass and

Mrs. Duncan Pens Script for Movie

Salem - (UPI) - The legislature decided Wednesday to get into the movie-making business.

It passed HJR34 which authorizes the committee to have a documentary film produced showing what is involved in the lawmaking process.

The film, for which \$1,300 was appropriated, will be produced and narrated by Robert Richter, program coordinator for state station KOAC-TV Salem.

The script was written by Mrs. Robert Duncan, wife of the House speaker. Cameraman will be William Rush of Corvallis.

U.S. Views on Castro Do 180-Degree Turn In Two Years; American Position Difficult

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst

Just two years ago this week Fidel Castro began a triumphant tour of the United States.

"An articulate and courageous young man," one U.S. senator called him.

In the intervening two years, United States and Cuban relations made a full 180-degree turn.

Castro had seized about a billion and a quarter dollars worth of U.S. property.

A position paper prepared in the White House declared that Castro and his fellows had betrayed their own revolution. It labeled the Castro regime a "clear and present danger" to the hemisphere.

It expressed confidence that the Cuban people "will continue to strive for a free Cuba," and, importantly, it promised full and positive support to "future democratic governments" in Cuba.

Whether by coincidence or through cause and effect remains a matter for conjecture, but scarcely had the White House paper been issued than the newly-united anti-Castro forces under former foreign minister Jose Miro Cardona issued a dramatic "call to arms."

"Fidel knows his days are numbered," said Miro Cardona.

Throughout Latin America there was the belief that the White House had issued the 10,000-word statement for a purpose more than just setting the record straight.

Contained in it, they believed, was an obvious call for internal insurrection against Castro. They saw in it also an equally obvious implication

that any forces that threw Castro and his communist henchmen out and pledged itself to democracy would receive quick and sympathetic attention in Washington.

"What the United States actually would do in the event a counter-revolutionary force did establish a Cuban beachhead remained unclear.

On the one hand was its clear obligation under the charter of the Organization of American States which bans intervention, direct or indirect, in the affairs of any other state.

On the other was the fear that unless action came soon, any counter-revolution by the Cuban people must be crushed under the steadily increasing weight of Communist arms flowing into the country.

Washington estimates of these arms place them at more than 30,000 tons in the last nine months.

Finally there is the effect of any direct U.S. intervention on its relations with other Latin American nations. What affection there is among them for the United States might easily be dissipated and their own problems increased by the fact that many possess large pro-Castro elements.

Already the U.S. position balances upon a fine edge. It would not be difficult to interpret the White House paper itself as a form of indirect intervention and thus a treaty violation.

But alternatives also are distasteful. If it is accepted that an internal explosion is inevitable, then delay only means additional suffering for the Cuban people.

Castro already possesses far more arms than needed for a simple matter of defense. If he attempts to use them elsewhere then another nation must suffer.

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

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COL. THAO'S ELECTION

Ben Tre, Kien Hoa Province, Vietnam - The black-pyjamaed Vietnamese ranger lieutenant saluted smartly after making his whispered report, and ran out into the night.

There was a sharp rattle of gunfire, not too far away. The young colonel turned to his long table-full of guests with a brilliant, mildly teasing smile.

"One of two Communist companies are moving towards the town," he said. "I've sent one of the reinforcement groups from my hideout to oppose them. But I'm afraid dinner may be a little noisy."

The assembled notables of this river delta province took the announcement with complete outward calm. Ever since 1955, the Communists have been making a maximum effort here. Not so long ago - before Lt. Col. Pham Ngoc Thao took charge of the province - even this little provincial capital of Ben Tre was in the Communists' hands by night. And the Communist guerrilla chief had long since sent printed circulars, swearing to use his entire military force to abort the next day's election.

THUS no one was surprised by the advance on the town. But the absence of astonishment only made the dinner part rather more bizarre.

Course after course of delicious Vietnamese food was brought to the long table. Under blazing lights, we sat making small talk about such subjects as the population's remarkable ability to tell the difference between real mortar shells and the Communists' psychological warfare mortar shells produced by exploding acetylene in bamboo logs. Now another courier, now another burst of rifle fire, now the dull booming of a cannon, caused a short hiatus in the small talk. A final courier arrived as dinner ended, and his news for the first time caused the colonel to change expression.

"The advance on the town has been stopped, they are withdrawing," he told his departing guests. Then out of the side of his mouth, he passed another item of information to a more permanent guest. "One of my companies on the fringe of town may have deserted. Would you like to come and see?"

A QUICK drive through the velvet night, between thick fringes of palms, mangoes, and bananas - the snick of a bullet from somewhere in the trees - a cautious approach to another vehicle, which turned out to be a jeep carrying a wounded man - and then we came on a scene from Goya. The little mud-built fort of the anti-defense anhill. Soldiers and their women were running back and forth. A non-commissioned officer was gesturing and shouting orders. And over all this, the lamps that had been brought cast a dull golden light against the pitch-black background of the night.

Quickly, the colonel got the real story. One man of the 12 in the fort had tried to kill the officer in charge, and had then escaped by leaping into the river nearby. Quickly, with an order and a joke, the colonel restored calm.

And after four additional soldiers had been left behind, to give confidence to the men in the fort, the jeep cavalcade moved on again.

THIS time, the objective was an important ferry landing on the farthest of the three delta-islands which

make up Kien Hoa province. The drive was long, but at the end the same Goya-scene was re-enacted, with the addition of a just-trapped Communist grenade-thrower, weeping and in bonds. Col. Thao patted his local commander on the back, when he heard that a Communist underground tax collector had also been caught. Then, after briefly interrogating the grenade-thrower, he leaped into the jeep and drove onwards once more.

"The grenade-thrower says there are 30 of them over there in trees," he remarked, gesturing leftwards.

"The men of the post were already preparing their attack. But if the Communists think the post has been reinforced, they'll get away first. So we must move quickly."

So the night continued, ending with a long patrol just before dawn, which located a little Communist infiltration group by their quickly flashed signal lights and flushed them out of their hiding place on the fringe of Ben Tre town. But only a few hours of sleep were permitted before the colonel's endless patrolling began again.

ALL morning, he made the rounds of crowded polling places, checking everywhere with the village headmen on the percentage of voters who had come out.

"There is little support for the opposition lists," said the colonel between polling places.

"It would not be an interesting election, if the Communists had not said there must be no election. That makes it a contest between us and them, about whether there is to be an election at all. If we get out as much as 65 to 70 per cent of the vote in this province, it will be a victory for us."

The pause for luncheon was brief, and the colonel's patrolling began again, this time directed towards points where trouble had been reported during the morning. A visit to an unsuccessfully dynamited bridge - a quick sweep into a village where Communist agitators had been harassing the voters - and then the colonel came to a stream-side where 80 or 70 of the enemy were firing on a polling place from the opposite bank.

THE troops on the spot and the colonel's own men were quickly collected. Bursting from cover, the detachment hurled itself across the shallow stream with a vast splashing, under heavy but fortunately ill-aimed fire. As they reached the bank, shadows dodged away among the trees. But wily little Lt. Ninh, who led the detachment, came back with two young guerrilla fighters who had been left behind.

So ended the active part of the colonel's election day. This morning, with all returns in, he cast up his accounts. He had lost one man at the river crossing, plus a civil guard in another action, plus a village elder who had been assassinated, plus an old woman and a child whom the Communists had shot while attacking a little market. In addition, he had one man wounded, the officer attacked by the deserter.

The Communist had left six dead on the field, of whom two fell at the river crossing; four of them had been taken prisoner; they had at least ten reported wounded. In nine villages out of 115 in the province, they had blocked the polling places well enough to require military sweeps. But over 80 per cent of the people in the province had gone to the polls, willingly or unwillingly defying the Communists' orders, and gave President Diem a huge majority.

"It was between us and them," said the colonel, summing up. "And I think we won. And I think we

Drummond Reports

(Walter Lippmann is in Europe. Roscoe Drummond reports from Washington in his absence.)

POLITICAL PEACE CORPS?

Washington - We have still to tighten the election laws against fraud and carelessness, and even more important, to provide for real enforcement.

There are two essential ingredients for this reform. The first is for Republicans and Democrats to quit pointing at each other as the guilty one. Both should recognize that better enforcement of the

election laws will benefit everyone by insuring that every vote will count.

There is no doubt that over the years both parties have engaged in illegal and unfair practices at the polling booths, voting dead men and counting out the living.

But no party has had a monopoly on these evils. Obviously when a national election is as tight as some 3,000,000 Americans were deprived of their ballots, undermines confidence in the Democratic process and underlines the need for reform. Interparty recrimination, however, will get us nowhere. The assumption that one party is more culpable than the other will simply delay reform. Mr. Nixon might have picked up strength if all the votes had been secure, but it is also true that President Kennedy might have won by a greater plurality.

THE second ingredient for election reform is for the Republican and Democratic parties to recruit and train adequate manpower to guard the polls. Rep. William B. Widnall, R., of New Jersey, has a helpful suggestion. He says: "It appears to me that a tremendous service could be performed by some of the colleges in providing watchers and challengers for election day."

This goes to the heart of the problem. The greatest protection to the integrity of the ballot-safeguarding both the right to vote and the fairness of the count-comes from the ability of the two parties to put competent, voluntary workers at every polling place in every district in every state. In areas where one party is weak, adequate watchers are unavailable. Often they are untrained, do not know the laws, are quite useless. Many of the worst abuses at the polls stem from this inadequacy.

HOW can the parties get competent election watchers in adequate number? It seems to me that a right and workable answer is staring us in the face: Why not a political peace corps of volunteer college students? They would gladly give their services in at least one election. They would serve the better functioning of democracy in the U.S. the way the international peace corps is preparing to help build democracy in other countries.

On the basis of conversations with undergraduates on many campuses, I am sure that large numbers of college students would be willing and eager to volunteer if given a significant job to do. They would need to receive special training because untrained poll watchers are helpless. Many would themselves like to get into politics. Service in the political peace corps would be a good beginning.

THE Democratic and Republican National Chairmen, Sen. Thruston Morton and John Bailey, ought to realize, if they don't already, that voter opinion is very sensitive about fraud and carelessness at the polls.

The completely non-partisan study, "Are You a Shadow Voter?" - put out by the Women's Division of the Republican National Committee - has created a nationwide stir. Political and non-political organizations, including the League of Women Voters and the Fair Campaign Practices Committee, have been distributing copies by the thousands in all the states.

Mr. Morton and Mr. Bailey need not leave the initiative to others. The need for action is evident and it seems to me that the political peace corps is a large part of the right answer.

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Stream Conversion

To the Editor: I am wondering if there may be among the readers of the Medford Mail Tribune some dyed-in-the-wool steam fans who may have a few ideas on the conversion of a Chevrolet six engine to run on steam. I think it could be done, at any rate it would present an interesting problem.

I think it necessary to make a new cylinder head, camshaft, intake valves and possibly rocker arms. The advantages of using an old gasoline engine would be ready made cylinder block, pistons, connecting rods, crank shaft, lubrication system, and quite possibly a number of other ready made parts.

I'd be very much interested in hearing from others who may be interested in this project.

Floyd R. McCabe, Mt. Pitt Star, Butte Falls, Ore.