

Medford Mail Tribune
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Fol-de-rol or Necessity?
What does one think of the organized "civil defense" establishment in this country?
Is it alert, up-to-date-minute, knowledgeable as to the nation's needs, and a force for good in event of emergency?
Or is it, in the words of Maj. Gen. Joseph Hicks, county CD director, largely a bunch of fol-de-rol? Or, in the words of Portland City Commissioner Stanley Earl, "not based on the realities of 1961," and only serves "to lull the people into a false sense of security"?

COMMISSIONER Earl's remarks were motivated by the civil defense "alert" (which, like so many official activities has been given an asinine nickname—OPAL, standing for Operation Plan Alert) which begins today.
He said it is "based on the bow and arrow."
General Hicks largely concurs, saying that virtually no preparations have been made for defense in case of nuclear attack—which, in this area, would be about the only kind we'd have to worry about immediately.
Even if we weren't the target for an H-bomb, we still would be subjected to radioactive fallout in this area—with no defense.

IN COMMON with most of the rest of the population, we suffer from crashing apathy on the subject of civil defense in general. This may be because of a sneaking hunch that it's all valueless, or hypothetical. We don't know.
But Mr. John Q. Public could hardly care less. The program of shelter construction has gotten nowhere. This, in turn, may be because (a) we all think "It can't happen here—or to me," or because (b) we unconsciously feel that if it ever came to a point where we needed defense from H-bombs, all would be lost anyway.

THE whole subject of civil defense needs rethinking and redefining.
We can see value in a skeleton organization set up to supplement conventional police, fire and welfare agencies in case of relatively minor emergencies such as fire, flood, and explosion.
We can see value in preparing for the handling of evacuees in case anyone is still alive in populated areas to be evacuated.
We can see value in emergency communications networks.
But we are inclined to agree with General Hicks and Commissioner Earl that the evacuation of buildings, plans for abandoning major cities, tooting sirens, and rushing around with red lights, are both "fol-de-rol" and a "complete waste of time and money."

THE CD setup, as it is now, is both confused and confusing, lacking in well-defined purpose and in public understanding and support.
If it is determined that shelters are vital to national defense capabilities, they should be pushed on the federal level, perhaps even through subsidies or at least tax incentives.
If they are not, the agitation for them should be abandoned.
The role of the military in civilian defense should be defined and made known.
And perhaps the distinction now made internationally between "major wars" and "brush fire wars" should be extended to the civil defense field, and responsibilities assigned.
As it is, we're caught between urgency and fol-de-rol; between scare tactics and apathy; between H-bombs and high water. And we all look pretty silly in the process.—E.A.

Republican Resolution
We noted with interest the action of the Multnomah County Republican Central Committee the other day, in passing (unanimously) a resolution criticizing the John Birch Society.
(It seems to be a sort of national pastime.) these days.)
Anyway, their resolution took exception to "any unethical methods and any untrue or slanderous charges which may have been adopted, urged or leveled by officials or members of the John Birch Society."

WE DON'T know just how much courage it took for the Multnomah G.O.P. to do this. But two G.O.P. candidates for Congress in Oregon last year (Wallace Lee and Leslie P. Fleming) were or are associated with the Society.
And we are led to wonder whether the Jackson County Republican Central Committee could be motivated to take similar action.
This might be a bit difficult, inasmuch as the chairman of the committee has identified himself as a member and supporter of the John Birch Society.—E.A.

Time To Try Again?
The Public Health Service and the American Dental Association have reaffirmed, in strong terms, their support of the fluoridation of water as a major dental health measure.
It is, they repeat, simple, inexpensive, effective, safe, and badly needed.
The proven evidence in support of these statements is overwhelming.
Fluoridation was voted down in Medford a few years ago, after a bitter election campaign marked by the use of scare literature, misrepresentation, and smears.
In view of its success elsewhere since then, isn't it time for another go-around here? Or shall we permit a small core of scare-artists to prevent us permanently from taking this step forward in our children's dental health?—E.A.



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.

Don't Put Up With Them
To the Editor: I surely thank God for the people like Mrs. Ernest Santo and Pete Logan of Dark Hollow, who take time to object to things being done wrong.
First, Mrs. Santo, she is so right. Whiskey, beer and vodka are cheating children of good clothes, education, health and mental control. It is the most to blame for divorce of all causes. I ought to know, because I'll have to fight it from the cradle to the grave. How I wanted oranges, apples and other good things to eat. And I was always cold in the terrible Montana winters, but whiskey bottles had to win.

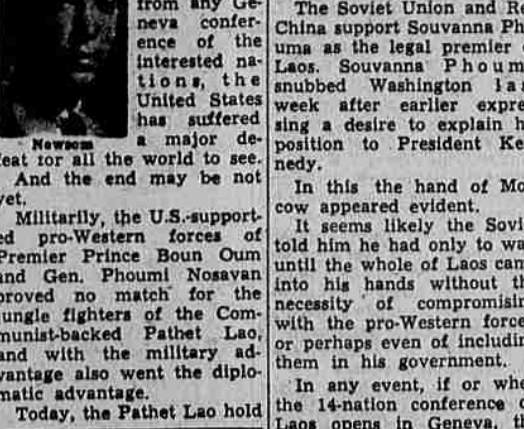
Olympics for Deaf
To the Editor: Will you help us send four deaf boys from Oregon to the Deaf Olympics to be held in Finland this summer? These boys are the first ever chosen from this state to compete.
Approximately \$5,400 is needed and already three-fourths of it has been donated by interested individuals and organizations in the whole state. The boys are Jerry Buys and Brian Powers of Portland, David Wood of Stayton and Leo Reid of Springfield. Jerry and David are students at Gallaudet College, Washington, D.C. Brian and Leo are attending the Deaf school in Salem.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle T. Wood, Stayton, Ore.
Filtration Plant Questions
To the Editor: With reference to the question, "Should we or shouldn't we have a filtration plant in Gold Hill?" let me ask the water buyers of Gold Hill a few questions, and also, give them a few more facts that have not been brought out in previous reports to the paper.
Gold Hill has about 220 water users so let's ask ourselves this question: Can Gold Hill (population approx. 600) grow substantially within the next 20 years to compensate for an expenditure of \$240,000? Does it seem logical? Practical? Will more people move into our city if water rates and taxes are too high?

Cougar In The Siskiyou
To the Editor: The year was 1907. The place was Siskiyou Summit at Elleen, between the Blue Ledge Copper Mine. I was 4 1/2. My father worked at the mine, and my mother was the cook at the Elleen hotel.
There was a high back porch on the hotel from which one looked down upon a little glade. Half way across the glade stood a seldom occupied log cabin. A white log formed a fence, and beyond, a dense thicket of willow brush and large trees covered a downhill slope.
One nice day in early summer, while taking a stroll, Mother and I discovered a patch of Lady Slipper orchids, growing in the shade a short distance beyond the white log. Those beautiful flowers intrigued me very much, and we did not pick them.

At present, it takes three days to get our water report from Medford. With the plant, we'll have to wait seven days for one from Portland and if the water is contaminated we'll have been drinking it for seven days and will continue using it until it's gone from the reservoir. This was brought out at the last meeting which I attended, April 12. Also, besides the \$4.75 charge per month we'll have the 50 cent monthly sewage charge.
There is absolutely no reason for 220 water buyers to go to the expense of a filtration system meant for a much, much larger city.
Is the filtration plant the only answer? Couldn't a city well or wells be drilled at much less cost? Wouldn't it be more practical and fair to the majority, since a well could be used for quite some time—even if the city should double its present population? Those who feel they want

Bitter Pill for U.S. Seen in Laos, No Matter What the Outcome of Cease-Fire
By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst
The United States is being forced to swallow a bitter pill in Laos. No matter what may emerge now from the agreed upon ceasefire or from any Geneva conference of the interested nations, the United States has suffered a major defeat for all the world to see.
And the end may be yet.
Militarily, the U.S.-supported pro-Western forces of Premier Prince Boun Oum and Gen. Phoumi Nosavan proved no match for the jungle fighters of the Communist-backed Pathet Lao, and with the military advantage also went the diplomatic advantage.
Today, the Pathet Lao hold



or can control approximately half of Laos.
In Peiping, neutralist Prince Souvanna Phouma and Red Chinese Premier Chou En-lai announce that Laos and Red China will establish diplomatic relations.
Prince Souvanna Phouma and Red China support Souvanna Phouma as the legal premier of Laos. Souvanna Phouma snubbed Washington last week after earlier expressing a desire to explain his position to President Kennedy.
In this the hand of Moscow appeared evident.
It seems likely the Soviet told him he had only to wait until the whole of Laos came into his hands without the necessity of compromising with the pro-Western forces, or perhaps even of including them in his government.
In any event, if or when the 14-nation conference on Laos opens in Geneva, the Communist hand will be infinitely stronger than last August.

It was on Aug. 9 that a young American-trained paratroop captain, Kong Le, toppled the government in a bloodless coup and called upon Souvanna Phouma to form a neutral regime.
The people, he said, were tired of civil war.
U.S. Sent Aid
The United States denied support to Souvanna Phouma and, instead, began supplying military aid to pro-Western and bitterly anti-Communist Gen. Phoumi Nosavan. When Souvanna Phouma fled the country it quickly recognized Prince Boun Oum premier.
Souvanna Phouma bitterly accused the United States of sabotaging his efforts to bring

filtered water could put in a system of their own.
There's always more than one solution to any problem. Why can't the city wait until the population at least doubles? It might be practical then!
Give this some thought so that when you vote May 9 you'll know how and why you're voting as you are.
Don't say this doesn't concern you—if you're a water buyer, it does! Why chance the possibility of paying \$10 or \$15 or more monthly for water?
After the milk is spilled is too late, for you'll end up crying because it's too hard to clean up. Investigate—then vote the 9th!
Mrs. R. P. Corona, 904 Fifth ave., Gold Hill, Ore.

Started Again
To the Editor: Well, they have started it again! They treat us as if we were an inanimate object.
They say, Medford and Phoenix got together and decided we should still be in Phoenix school district.
They speak of 97 children, and \$700,000, as if they were theirs exclusively.
In the first place when they (Phoenix) so strongly did not want to be included in Medford district, most of us in the Barnett area reasoned with ourselves, believing if we voted that Phoenix and Talent united that would definitely stop any further attempts to take that entire district into Medford.
Now we know all along that we, the Barnett area, did want to go to Medford schools, and knowing our own reasons so well we understood Phoenix people who did not want to travel so far to a school when they could have one there close.

Now why can't they, in turn, look at the situation on our side. It is our 97 children, it is our \$700,000, and we are only asking to go to school close at hand instead of spending more of our money, as well as their money, going farther away than is necessary.
We have always considered our country as being very democratic.
Surely we should be free to do what 100 per cent of this area want to do, when it is a reasonable request.
We can't believe we are so important to Phoenix that they can't do without us.
They probably would hardly miss us once we leave.
Mrs. Horace L. Root, 1025 Ellendale dr., Medford.

about the only real solution possible for Laos.
U.S. policies in Laos were opposed not only by the Communists but by Britain and France as well.
Now, the three-nation Truce Control Commission is to be reinstalled in Laos, giving the Communists a built-in veto over the West.
And it seems certain that any new government in Laos will demand withdrawal of U.S. military advisers and all U.S. influence.

Strictly Personal
By Sidney J. Harris
(c) General Features Corp.
REASON IS A TOOL.
IT IS true that we should be guided by the rule of reason, but it is equally true that a reason cannot teach us to reason only emotional experiences can do that; for no man is more unreasonable than he who tries to live his life on the plane of logic.
Those who suspect that most are usually those who know the least; suspicion goes hand in hand with ignorance.
When we are young, we wish we had a crystal ball to enable us to look into the future; as we grow older, we recognize that foreknowledge of the future would be a ghastly gift, giving us not a moment's peace if we knew the date of our death or the times when catastrophe would visit us.
Those who scorn the pomp of the world before they know it are really suffering from premature envy rather than exhibiting simple righteousness. It is easy to deride what you do not, or cannot, have; much harder to dismiss what already belongs to you.
When lovers make vows, they have already begun to doubt their love.
I have sympathy and admiration for those pacifists who march, demonstrate and

sacrifice for their beliefs; they may be wrong, but they are devoted to their convictions, they are motivated by love rather than by hate, and they are profoundly activated by some ideal greater than their own personal welfare. Would that we non-pacifists could demonstrate the same courage in behalf of our passive beliefs.
A pedant turns to the classics to escape from his contemporaries; an educated person turns to the classics to shed more light upon his contemporaries; and this is the chief difference between pedantry and genuine learning.
It used to be that a man was known by the company he keeps; now a man is known by the company he works for.
"The fox condemns the trap, not himself" observed William Blake; and likewise, a man does not blame his own greed, but curses the tax laws. (Despite stringent tax laws, more new millionaires have been created in this country since the end of World War II than at any other time in U.S. history.)
Men of science often suggest that religion keeps people from thinking; but science can keep people from thinking too—most scientific advances have been dogmatically opposed by the prevailing scientific trends of their own time, as men like Pasteur and Freud quickly found out.

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop
(c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate
THE NEW ALGERIAN TRAGEDY
Paris—It is easy enough to give a superficially rational explanation of the terrible, irrational tragedy which almost overtook France. The explanation lies in the recent formation of the French army, and especially in the formation of the parachute and Foreign Legion regiments which were the prime movers of the coup d'etat in Algeria.
In the long, grim, fruitless war in Indochina, and again in the fighting in Algeria, and yet again during the various Algerian crises, this reporter has spent a fair amount of time with French soldiers of the sort who rebelled against their own government.
Man for man, they are probably the best foot soldiers in the Western world, being dashingly hardy, ingenious, and brave.
Their trouble is, quite simply, that history has uprooted them.

THE parachute and legion regiments, particularly, being entirely professional outfits, have been at war in one place or another ever since the Germans laid down their arms. The same holds true for almost the entire officer and non-commissioned officer corps of the French army as a whole.
Thus the roots of these French soldiers are not in France any longer. Their roots are in the war which is their life. When you talk with them, you find that they seem as remote from their own country, as wholly out of tune with modern French life, as foreign mercenaries might be. Yet their uprooted state is deeply painful for them, precisely because they are not foreign—precisely because they are Frenchmen by birth and passionately patriotic Frenchmen at heart.
Add to this a further fact—the extreme narrowness of their experience; for unending war is an exceedingly narrow, intellectually cramping experience. Because their experience has been so narrow, even the ablest of them are capable of almost inconceivable mistakes about the real world outside the war which has become their world.

General Challe, for example, was not only the real leader of the rebellion. He is also a soldier of exceptional capacity, who made a brilliant record when General de Gaulle named him to the chief command in Algeria in 1958.
Yet not long ago, when discussing some articles which he admired by an itinerant American reporter whom he knew, this same General Challe actually offered the following explanation. This reporter, he said, had a "network" of over a hundred "agents," also itinerant, whom he sent on ahead of him to do the work of gathering information. This, concluded General Challe, was why the reporter was worth reading when on the road.
It reminds you of the story of Dr. Samuel Johnson's response to the unfortunate man who approached him with the remark, "Mr. Smith, I believe." The great doctor indignantly replied, "Sir, if you can believe that, you can believe anything."
Undoubtedly Challe and his co-plotters believed that they might well secure American support by "playing the anti-Communist card," to use their common phrase. Undoubtedly, they also believed that the American government had lost patience with General de Gaulle because of his hostility to NATO. Undoubtedly they made a whole series of other fantastic political miscalculations.

Thus genuine patriotism, and moral displacement, and the warped views of war-blinded eyes all combined to produce this tragedy. Listening to General de Gaulle's speech to the nation the other night was precisely like hearing a personage from a drama of Aeschylus, his heart-rendingly reciting his part in real life.
IT is hard to believe that this is real life. And even though the rebellion was quickly repressed, the hard fact of the army's rebellion will always remain a heavy defeat for De Gaulle.
It is too early, indeed, to begin totting up this tragedy's cost. But it is not too early to note a point which may have even greater long range significance. In brief, a superficially rational explanation of the behavior of the Algerian rebels is not really a sufficient explanation.
One may cast light upon the seemingly irrational behavior of such individuals as General Challe, but this does not explain the general tendency towards irrationality that seems to mark the present juncture in history. The course of history in the post-war era has been characterized by vast, violent, self-damaging eruptions of irrationality all over the world. In truth, the tidy, optimistic Victorian view about the rules governing the human political animal is no longer supported by the facts of our time.

Try and Stop Me
By BENNETT CERF
OLIVER WALTON, well-known Boston horse dealer, agreed to buy a fine steed from a Maine breeder for \$900. "How are you going to lead the horse away?" the breeder inquired. "With the halter you have on him," answered Walton, counting out the \$900. "Nothing doing," protested the breeder. "I didn't sell you the halter. That'll be \$3 extra." "Okay," said Walton. "Here's \$3 for the halter—but I've decided not to buy the horse." And off he walked with the halter.
The next time the breeder wasn't so greedy.
A grumpy boss hired a young man and told him, "Your first job will be to sweep out the office." "But I'm a college graduate," protested the young man. "All right," grumbled the boss. "Pass over the broom and I'll show you how."

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 27, 1951 (Friday)
Arguments on the legality of Gov. Douglas McKay's proclamation of Daylight Saving time will be heard Monday in Marion county circuit court after Daylight time goes into effect.
An estimated 3,000 visitors are expected to attend the Camp White Domiciliary here Sunday for the 1951 Arts and Crafts Hobby fair.

20 YEARS AGO
April 27, 1941 (Sunday)
Crews will start laying base pavement on the main runway at Medford's municipal airport tomorrow.
From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "National leaders continue to admonish the people to wake up, face the international situation bravely, display the spirit of 1776, and forget campaign promises about staying out of the European war, made last summer."

30 YEARS AGO
April 27, 1931 (Monday)
The Rogue river ran red yesterday after an irrigation ditch flume broke and the water washed red clay soil into the stream.
Medford has been asked to submit a proposal site for a veterans home to be built in western Oregon.

40 YEARS AGO
April 27, 1921 (Wednesday)
The local post of the American Legion has promised to back the police force in liquor law enforcement.
Twenty new members have been added to the chamber of commerce in that group's recent membership drive.

What's Your I.Q.?
Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.
1. Who issued the Emancipation Proclamation?
2. Correct the following sentence: "She dove gracefully into the lake."
3. Do the Maoris inhabit Yucatan, Peru, or New Zealand?
4. What do the initials S.P. on an armband worn by some Navy men mean?
5. Which state is nicknamed "Tar Heel State"?
6. The city once named Byzantium and later Constantinople now bears what name?
7. Poi is a native dish of what islanders?
8. Is the circumference of the earth greater when measured around the poles, or around the equator?
9. Does a Lieutenant General in the Army rank higher or lower than a General?
10. Was Ann Boleyn shot, hanged, beheaded, or guillotined?
Answers: 1. Abraham Lincoln. 2. "She dived..." 3. New Zealand. 4. Shore Patrol. 5. North Carolina. 6. Istanbul. 7. Hawaiian. 8. Around the equator. 9. Lower. 10. Beheaded.