MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

"Everyone in Southern Oregon Reads The Mail Tribune"

Published Daily except Saturday by MEDFORD PRINTING CO. 33 North Fir St., Ph. SP 2-6141

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An Independent Newspaper
Entered as second class matter at Medford, Oregon, under Act of March 3, 1897

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
By Mail — In Advance, Copy .05c
Daily and Sunday—1 year $15.00
Daily and Sunday—6 mos. 8.00
Daily and Sunday—3 mos. 4.25
Sunday Only—One year $4.20
By Carrier—In Advance—Medford, Ashland, Central Point, Eagle Point, Jacksonville, Gold Hill, Phoenix, Shady Cove, Rogue River, Talent and on motor routes.
Daily and Sunday—1 year $18.00
Daily and Sunday—1 mo. 1.50
Carrier and Dealers — copy 10c
All Terms Cash in Advance

Official Paper of City of Medford
Official Paper of Jackson County

United Press International
Full Leased Wire
U.P.I. Telephoto Newspictures

MEMBER OF AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

Advertising Representative: NELSON ROBERTS & ASSOCIATES, Offices in New York, Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, Denver

Oregon 1962 NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION 1962 AFFILIATE MEMBER

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 16, 1952 (Wednesday)

Camp White, which has been slated for partial reactivation as an Army stand-by, training camp, may never be constructed, it was hinted today.

Most of the employees of Jackson county have been accepted for coverage under the federal social security retirement system, it was learned today by the county court.

20 YEARS AGO
April 16, 1942 (Thursday)

Medford service station employs girls to sell gasoline in effort to alleviate manpower shortage.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "Jackson K. Frost has appeared on recent morns in the orchards and was warmly received."

30 YEARS AGO
April 16, 1932 (Saturday)

Jackson County Chamber of Commerce informed that Medford entrance to Crater Lake National park will be plowed open in few days.

Evans Valley school closed for two days after thieves steal motor which operates lighting plant.

40 YEARS AGO
April 16, 1922 (Sunday)

Successful Chatauqua season for Medford "assured" with signing of "not less than 12 sessions for term of six consecutive days."

Medford city council passes ordinance "licensing cows whose milk is sold within the city limits."

50 YEARS AGO
April 16, 1912 (Monday)

Quotation from Ashland Daily Tidings reprinted in the Mail Tribune: "Who said Medford? Medford — Medford — Let's see. Looking at the map we find such a name attached to a burg just below Phoenix. It is a little place with very big pretentions."

Play in Medford called off when Miss May Bloom, well-known actress, trips in local opera house and "suffers a very severe fall."

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. In what areas of the world are elephants native?
2. Were there any survivors of the massacre of Custer's command?
3. Who were the parents of Esau and Jacob?
4. Of what state is Baton Rouge the capital city?
5. Of the two major professional baseball leagues, which is the older?
6. Which is the lighter gas—helium or hydrogen?
7. To what historical event do these lines refer: "LaFalette, we are here"?
8. Is "Sooner State" the nickname for Wyoming, Oklahoma, Minnesota, or Arizona?
9. Do lightning bolts zigzag?
10. In baseball, does the umpire in chief stand behind the catcher or in the field?

Answers: 1. Africa and southern Asia. 2. One horse. 3. Isaac and Rebekah. 4. Louisiana. 5. National League. 6. Hydrogen. 7. W. W. I arrival of U.S. troops in France. 8. Oklahoma. 9. No. 10. Behind the catcher.

Kennedy and the Press

The nation's newspaper and magazine readers are suddenly being informed in great detail of a story which the Washington press corps had been keeping pretty well to itself.

The story is that the Kennedy administration, from the Chief Executive to the prairie scouts of the New Frontier, is showing an energy in—and a genius for — public relations totally new to Washington.

Almost simultaneously the magazines "U.S. News & World Report" and "The Reporter" appeared on newstands in early April with articles on the President and the press that might well have been written by the same reporter.

Slightly earlier the March 31 issue of "The Saturday Evening Post" carried a lengthy personal interview with the President by Stewart Alsop which not only contained copious direct quotation but was publicized by a photograph of the reporter and the President made during their talk.

And on April 8 a Sunday news magazine carried a full "weekend-with" story on the President.

* * * * *

NONE of these events, if isolated, would be worthy of comment. Coming as they did in less than a fortnight—and there were other, similar stories—they looked almost inspired. What is unclear is a motivation for inspiration.

President Kennedy's own flair for image-building is certain to be demonstrated when he appears before the American Society of Newspaper Editors this week.

This is an ideal forum. The conventions of the editors sometimes succeed in making news, too.

Most notable, perhaps, was the supposedly off-the-record talk by Richard M. Nixon in April, 1954, in which the former Vice President suggested that American troops might have to be sent to fight in Indo-China. This raised an outcry that seems strange at the moment, when the death of American soldiers in Viet Nam is discussed without great emotion in the President's very much on-the-record press conference.

* * * * *

THE President has cultivated a friendship among the Washington press corps such as the nation's capital had never before seen. Reporters and editors and publishers are frequent White House social as well as professional guests.

The President has been known to drop in casually at the homes of his newspaper friends. And the exclusive interview has become almost a commonplace.

The presidential apitude for publicily—a talent which might have made the late George Washington Hill envious—obviously is shared by the Kennedy family, even to the in-laws. (The Peace Corps headed by brother-in-law R. Sargent Shriver, for example, is an avid seeker of newspaper space.) And it seems to be spreading out through the ranks.

* * * * *

"BACKGROUNDERS" — off-the-cuff briefing sessions by cabinet or agency heads—have always been standard operating procedure in Washington. The Kennedys and their assistants have not neglected the device.

Indeed, they have taken it one steap further. Early on in the new administration the State Department began inviting out-of-town newspaper, radio, and television news people for kaffee klatches at which a whole spectrum of top-drawer administration brass was displayed.

This innovation was picked up by Pierre Salinger (if he was not, behind the scenes, the inventor) and others in high office, including, of all people, Labor Secretary Goldberg.

Finally, as has been pointed out elsewhere, television is an especial favorite of the Kennedy administration—a "medium . . . (the President) uses . . . deftly and carefully at every opportunity." That would seem to go for both blood and official families.—E.R.R.

Khrushchev at 68

Soviet Premier Khrushchev will be 68 years on Tuesday, but he may not remember this year's as one of his happier birthdays. Mr. K. has been abed with the flu of late and has had time to dwell on such unhappy aspects of life under socialism as his country's farm shortages and the deepening Sino-Soviet split.

He also can ponder the meaning of Western Europe's economic boom, allied determination to maintain occupation rights in Berlin, recent American space achievements, the growing economic and ideological isolation of Cuba, and the display of American backbone in Vietnam.

* * * * *

LAST year about this time Khrushchev's fortunes were at a peak. Maj. Yuri Gagarin had just ridden a Soviet space craft around the earth to become the first human traveler in space. And on Khrushchev's 67th birthday itself anti-Castro rebels were putting Cuba's Bay of Pigs on the map and the Kennedy administration on the spot.

Perhaps a quick review of the 12 months will be in order when the first session of the newly elected Supreme Soviet opens in Moscow on Monday, April 23. This national legislature is in theory the "highest authority of the state," and consists of two chambers — the Soviet of the Union with 791 deputies and the Soviet of Nationalities with 652 members.

Too cumbersome to serve as much more than a rubber-stamp parliament, the Supreme Soviet nevertheless will want to know where Khrushchev proposes to take the Russian people in his 69th year of life.—E.R.R.

Dennis the Menace

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Traveling by rail from Kobe to Tokyo, one gets a good look at Japanese agriculture. The route follows the lowlands where the rivers come down from the mountains and flow into the sea. Over the ages, their deltas have provided a considerable area of rich agricultural land. The intensity with which this land is worked is an eye-opener for Western Americans who are accustomed to farming on a big scale.

In Japan agriculture is on a miniscule scale. It is hard for an American to think of it as agriculture. To American eyes, it looks more like back yard gardening. Here in Japan, an average city lot in southern Oregon or far northern California would look like QUITE a field, and a whole city block would be a good-size farm.

JAPANESE agriculture is run on the village system. The Japanese farmers live in villages and go out to the "farms" to work. The reason for that, of course, is that by crowding the houses together in a village they take up much less ground space than if they were scattered out on each land holding.

One might jump to the conclusion that a lot of time is wasted by this system, but that conclusion would overlook the size of the land holdings. They are VERY small indeed, and it doesn't take long to get to them.

JAPAN is a well-watered country. Many rivers run down from the mountains to the sea. In their lower reaches they are well diked to guard against floods in the wet season. In the dry season, their waters are distributed out over the land by an intricate system of ditches.

The main canals are usually lined to prevent water wastage. The laterals are narrow and numerous. Where row crops (usually vegetables) are grown, there is a carefully maintained lateral between each row. The rice paddies are flooded. The rice plants are carefully transplanted in rows, by hand.

IN THE area between Kobe and Tokyo, quite a lot of tea is grown — green tea. The rows are quite close together and look amazingly like carefully trimmed box hedges in our country.

Mulberry trees are fairly numerous in this area. Their leaves serve as food for silkworms. The synthetic fibers are cutting the silk market, but Japan still produces a lot of silk.

THE workers?

As seen from the windows of a train, they appear to be chiefly women and children. The idea isn't to let the women do the work. In Japan, EVERYBODY works — and even in the agricultural regions there are industrial plants every few miles in the thickly settled country. The men work in the industrial plants and on construction jobs and elsewhere where heavy labor is required and leave the farming to the women and children.

WHAT of the farming equipment?

Chiefly, it consists of hand tools — hoes, forks, spades, etc. Occasionally one sees a water buffalo pulling a crude plow. But not too frequently. Every now and then, one sees a little garden tractor at work, but not often.

It isn't that the Japanese can't make tractors. They can make almost anything. It isn't that the Japanese farmers don't know how to USE tractors. It's just that THERE ISN'T ROOM IN THESE TINY FIELDS to use machinery.

A TRACTOR requires quite a lot of room to turn around in. A hoe or a spade needs no room at all. In Japan, agricultural land is so scarce that every inch of it must be used. No room can be spared for turning around space for farm machinery.

So—

Japan's farming has to be done by hand.

Strictly Personal

By Sydney J. Harris
(c) General Features Corp.

NAMES ARE ONLY SKIN DEEP

A reader in Indiana has written to say, "Please do an article on the clods who always must ask 'What nationality is that?' when hearing a name other than 'Smith,' or some other ordinary American-sounding name. 'My name is —,'" he continues, "and I'm awfully annoyed at the provincialism (and it's that to the extreme) of having that question popped at me by people who should know better.

Harris

"I was born in this country, fought in World War II and emerged as an Army officer. I'm American, and nothing but. Mine is the same name my father had when he came to this country from Sweden as a youngster at the turn of the century."

* * *

There is a certain type of person — and, unfortunately, this type is widespread — who does not feel secure with a stranger until he can "place" him. Since America has no hereditary aristocracy, and is presumably a classless society, these people are excessively interested in the national origin and extraction of anyone whose name is not bluntly Anglo-Saxon.

Millions of immigrants to this country changed their names for this reason, as well as for the convenience of spelling and pronunciation. Many of them wanted to avoid discriminatory attitudes against them.

It is not widely known, for instance, that one of the great folk-heroes of our Revolutionary War, Paul Revere, was of French Huguenot descent. His father had changed his name from Revoire, "merely on account that the Bumpkins should pronounce it easier." (Quoted in "World Book Encyclopedia." Volume 15, Page 249.)

Life has not been easy here for people of foreign extraction. If they refused to change their difficult names, they were accused of being clannish and sneered at for their peculair Old World ways; if they did Anglicize their names and adjust their ways, they were accused of trying to hide their foreign origin and pass for Americans. They were condemned for not changing, and condemned for changing.

Democracy — in which each man is valued for his own individual contribution — makes many people uneasy. Psychologically, they need some rigid frame of reference for placing and grading people; this is the only way in which they can feel superior to whole classes and groups. The obsession with national origin is really more "un-American" in its spirit than the "un-Americans" it seeks to identify and denigrate.

Indeed, if that somewhat pompous phrase "the American way" means anything, it means accepting and evaluating individuals on the basis of their own virtues and achievements, not on family status, background or national extraction. The real subversives are those who judge by names, not by deeds.

Consumers Caught in Middle of Price Increase; Pensioners Feel Squeeze

By LYLE C. WILSON
United Press International

Washington — (UPI) — There was in President Kennedy's denunciation of the steel industry one special paragraph that need be changed only a little to mean something else again entirely. The President's paragraph began like this: "If this rise in the cost of steel is imitated by the rest of the industry, instead of rescinded, it would increase the cost of homes, autos, appliances —" and so on.

Wilson

That was the beginning of a paragraph that firmly put on the steel industry responsibility for inviting more rotting of the U.S. dollar by inflation.

Now, to aim that paragraph in a different direction, read the opening this way:

"If the politicians continue deficit treasury spending instead of balancing the government's budget, it would increase the cost of homes, autos, appliances and most other items for every American family. It would increase the cost of machinery and tools to every American businessman and farmer. It would seriously handicap our efforts to prevent an inflationary spiral from eating up the pensions of our older citizens and our new gains in purchasing power."

Consumer Gets Squeezed

If the steel industry does not concede that the cost of living must increase if steel prices are raised, it is equally true that the politicians do not concede the equal or greater inflationary curse of deficit financing. The consumer is caught in the middle. Some of the consumers this caught will be crushed.

First to feel the squeeze will be the pensioners mentioned by President Kennedy, with all others on fixed incomes. Last through the inflationary wringer will be the families whose incomes increase at least as rapidly as the purchasing power of the U.S. dollar shrinks. In the end, none will escape.

That is, none can escape the end result of dollar rotting if government and industry alone or together encourage the dollar rotting trend. In fewer than 25 years the U.S. dollar (1939 value) has shrunk to a real value of less than 50 cents in present purchasing power. The two-bit dollar is not here yet, but it is in sight.

Nickel Call Disappears

The nickel trolley ride and telephone call have vanished with Tom Marshall's good five-cent cigar. The dollar trolley token, subway or bus ride is something that could happen here.

National defense can be no stronger than the U.S. economy. The nation's economy can be no stronger than its unit of currency. If the economy is tied to a sickly dollar, the national defense is supported by a sickly economy.

At that point it would not be surprising if Nikita Khrushchev could make good on his promse that he would bury us. The chain reaction among currency inflation — national economy — national defense seems to be reasonably obvious.

It must not be obvious to the voters. If it were, the voters would fire the politicians who are spending the United States toward disaster. The voters would do that if the voters were smart.

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 an eye to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words

A Brief Rejoinder

To the Editor: I got quite a chuckle out of Miss (Mrs.?) Leila A. Morrow's comment of 4/10 on the recent episode in the Democratic Central committee: "If the so-called retired intellectuals that come to the valley would really retire, it is possible that everything would run more smoothly."

However, lest some others who have chosen our lovely valley as a good place for retirement take the lady's crack too seriously, I should like to offer a brief rejoinder — in the hope, too, that it may serve to modify somewhat her present inhospitable attitude.

One frequently hears residents of Rogue Valley Manor speak appreciatively of the friendliness of Medford folk. A warm welcome has been accorded us oldsters by all kinds of organizations. Not unwelcome has been our considerable swelling of attendance at church services, concerts, plays, and other activities — nor our contributions to their treasuries.

Of course, the banks, stores and other business establishments also have felt, and welcomed, the steadily increasing patronge of retirees, of whom there are many in the valley besides the 330 living on Manor hill. The political parties have proved no exception. Indeed, they have been especially active in wooing us. In my own case, I was welcomed with open arms by the Democrats and, on the eager initiative of party leaders, almost rushed into membership on the central committee.

For Miss Morrow's special benefit, I should like to make two other important points: (1) Retired folk do not relinquish their rights or obligations as citizens and voters upon becoming retirees. (2) All counselors to the aging stress the need for their continuing interest and participation in all kinds of activty, for their own health and for the community's good.

Speaking in Medford on this very theme a few days ago, Dr. Frank Stange, clinical psychologist for the state department of health, said: "Think of yourself as a member of the community. Don't withdraw. Be with others for purposeful activity."

That, too, has been the purpose and plan of the far-sighted leaders of the community and state who sponsored the establishment of Rogue Valley Manor. Most of us at the Manor are happy to take our part in community life and to know that the community, for its part, is glad to have us do so — notwithstanding a lone, doleful dissent such as Miss Morrow's.

Arnold Eugene Jenny
Rogue Valley Manor
Medford

More Responsive

To the Editor: The proposed county home rule charter appeals to me for many reasons. One, it will put county government on a more efficient, business-like basis and at the same time be more responsive to the will of the people.

At present, we vote for eight elected officials in addition to the district attorney, i.e., three commissioners, a treasurer, sheriff, clerk, assessor, and surveyor. With the exception of the commissioners, these offices require men with special training and skill. I don't believe in the heat of an election campaign we can be very good judges of which candidate is qualified to fill a particular specialized job.

I'd rather elect seven competent citizens from around the county, let them draw up qualifications for these offices and, after careful interviews, let them pick the best qualified person to fill the particular job. Because six of these seven commissioners will be elected on a part-time basis it will make it possible for thoughtful citizens from all walks of life to serve the county who otherwise would not be able to take the time.

Furthermore I like the idea that these appointive officials would be held accountable to our elected commissioners.

Cities have long had such charters. It's time county citizens had similar powers. The better job we can do with government at the local level, the less need to turn jobs over to the state and national government.

This is representative government at its best.

Marjorie Kellog,
Sardine Creek
Gold Hill

Foreign News Notes: Berlin, Asian Conference Discussed

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst

Notes from the Foreign News cables:

Clay's Departure:

Americans in Berlin look forward with foreboding to the next Russian squeeze on the divided city now that Gen. Lucius Clay is leaving. Without the dynamic Georgian's strong perronality to galvanize the American mission there, they fear the "channels- conscious" State department and Army personnel will react with sluggishness and confusion to the next crisis, just as they did when the Communists built their "wall of shame" last Aug. 13.

Newsom

Berlin Talks:

The Berlin situation up for discussion in Washington today still looks far from settlement. Observers pect Russia to make allied military withdrawal from West Berlin the first condition for any settlement. The Soviets have been putting out feelers for the withdrawal of Western forces from the city in their recent talks with Western leaders in Geneva.

If anything, they have become more insistent. And the signs now are that they will insist on complete neutralization of Berlin as the price for any guarantee of free access to the city. This position has been rejected by the West in the past, and there is no indication it has changed its mind.

Asian Conference:

Look for Communist China to make a big push for an international conference to discuss the situation in South Viet Nam. There have been several indications already that the Peiping regime is thinking along these lines. Sources in Hong Kong say the Chinese Reds could lay the groundwork for such a conference by convincing so-called neutrals in Asia and Africa that the Viet Namese war could be ended by talks. These sources speculate that Peiping may want from such a conference a "neutralized" South Viet Nam with no foreign forces there and some kind of ties to Communist North Viet Nam.

French Changes:

The switchover in the French government indicates only provisional changes. Observers in Paris say that later in the year, after the Algerian referendum details are complete, Algerian Affairs Minister Louis Joxe most likely will be released to take over the foreign affairs ministry from Maurice Couve de Murville, believed slated to head the Bank of France. Meanwhile, new Premier Georges Pompidou's efforts are expected to be aimed at unification of Western Europe and building up France economically.

Washington Report

By William S. White
(c) United Feature Syndicate

POLITICAL STORY

Washington — The biggest political story since the 1960 presidential campaign is being made by the non-politicians who control big steel In raising steel prices in defiance of the United States government and in disregard of the best interests of this nation and of all the Western world, they have done an incalculable harm. It will long endure to bedevil the responsible politics of this country.

White

For they have hurt most of all the very three things to which they are most devoted: The concept of American free enterprise; the concept of political conservatism, and the Republican party. And they have immensely promoted these other things: The mind that seeks to regiment industry and business; the extreme liberals generally, and the left-wing faction of the Democratic party.

* * *

THEY have made the way much easier for all those who have long wanted government regulation, in one way or another, over basic industries such as steel. They have emboldened every wild and irresponsible labor leader in the country. The Jimmy Hoffas and others of that ilk had sneered at the responsible labor leaders who — under long pressure from the Kennedy administration — had agreed on a reasonable settlement of wage demands with U.S. Steel.

That reasonable restraint on the part of labor has now been repaid by steel with a price hike which, in spirit, breaks what everybody knew was a gentlemen's understanding. This unspoken understanding was that labor would go easy and big steel would go easy.

What will the Hoffas and their kind now say to labor's rank-and- file? Quite simply, they will say: "Listen to our kind of leadership hereafter, and we will get you what you want. Look at those labor fellows who played along with steel and with Kennedy — and look at what they got."

* * *

LITERALLY nobody in politics gains from big steel's action except the liberal extremists, to whom hostility to business is almost a spiritual creed. If big steel thinks the Republicans like its policy, let big steel privately ask any major Republican officeholder. If big steel wants the Republicans to carry the congressional elections in November, let big steel ask the Republicans today how they see their chances in the wake of the price increase.

This correspondent can tip big steel off, for a fact, that it is about as popular today in the Republican party as would be an outbreak of adult measles.

Wherever one looks the storm damage is apparent: The able Richard Nixon, running for governor of California as a responsible Republican conservative, has been undeniably hard hit in a state which remembers the "public be damned" attitude of some industry of a century ago.

* * *

SEN. Barry Goldwater of Arizona, for all his ultra-conservatism, will surely be no beneficiary. Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York, a third Republican presidential possibility for 1964, will flinch before this great gift to his party from the traditional Republicans of big steel.

Where are the responsible conservatives — those who endlessly try to overcome liberal extremism and foolish doctrinaire attacks on business — now to go? How much will the President himself — who has in simple fact tried to go along reasonably with business on the basic questions — bend now by necessity toward the left-wing of his own party?

Though the harm has been done, at least there is some possibility of restricting that harm. The great community of American business in general is in no way to blame for big steel's decision. But it would be wise to make that point very clear. Big steel has elected to stand alone; let it so stand, very plainly before the public gaze.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A VERY SELF-CONFIDENT young man had just submitted to a long series of aptitude tests, and awaited results with lofty unconcern. "I suppose," he told the returning examiner, "I have an aptitude for so many fields that you fellows are a bit confused about it all."

"You have an aptitude for exactly one field," the examiner told him tartly, "and that is a field in which your father holds an extremely influential position."

* * *

A Wichita father sent his daughter, aged eight, to bed before giving a big shindig in his villa. The daughter, outraged, waited until the festivities were in full swing, then marched into the living room in her pajama top, delivered a note to her father, and without a word, marched out again.

The note read, "Dear Daddy: I hate you. Love, Nell."