

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

"Everyone in Southern Oregon Reads The Mail Tribune"

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1962

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 25, 1952 (Friday)

An all-day search has failed to locate the body of the infant son of a Shady Cove merchant which has been missing since last Tuesday when the child's mother was found drowned on a Rogue River sand bar.

There are now 32,822 registered voters in Jackson County—the largest total in history—and the Republicans have increased their lead over the Democrats to 4,189.

20 YEARS AGO

April 25, 1942 (Saturday)

Chairman R. G. Fowler announces names of persons taking part in Jackson County scrap iron salvage drive.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "The 'Victory Hat' adorns a number of local and valley gals. It is quite chic and looks a lot less like defeat than most feminine headgear."

30 YEARS AGO

April 25, 1932 (Monday)

Junior high school candidates for city offices during "National Boys' Week" include Dick Woodcock for mayor, Hugh Collins for city judge, and Ray Etinger for city treasurer.

Medford High School senior class presents play written by class members to help defray costs of graduation.

40 YEARS AGO

April 25, 1922 (Tuesday)

Medford merchants discuss plans for 1922 county fair, expected to be biggest in local history.

Louis Ulrich resigns as Jacksonville postmaster despite reluctance of post office to accept resignation.

50 YEARS AGO

April 25, 1912 (Wednesday)

Sarah Bewick Colby, pioneer women's suffrage worker, addresses large gathering of Medford women in city library.

Medford Commercial club offers to donate land to any firm or persons who will construct combined "up-to-date" pickle factory and fruit cannery.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. Does an obelisk have a total of four, six, or eight sides?

2. Why was the White House first painted white?

3. May a woman be elected President?

4. Premier Marshal Tito heads which country's government?

5. Caracas is the capital of which Latin American republic?

6. Does the Danube River empty into the Mediterranean, Black Sea or North Sea?

7. Who wrote "Something is rotten in the State of Denmark"?

8. In which State of the U. S. is Mammoth Cave?

9. Name the three metals used in the alloy for printing type?

10. Who slew the giant Goliath?

Answers: 1. Four. 2. To conceal fire marks of British burning. 3. Yes. 4. Yugoslavia. 5. Venezuela. 6. Black Sea. 7. Shakespeare. 8. Kentucky. 9. Lead, tin and antimony. 10. David.

Unanswerable Questions

The other day, up in Salem, a youth who was described as a good, hard-working, moral boy, panicked when a police officer turned on his siren to stop the car he was driving.

The boy took off at a high speed, the policeman chasing him. The fleeing car crashed into another, killing one man immediately and fatally injuring another.

Shortly thereafter, the boy was quoted in the paper as saying, "I suppose this means I'll lose my driver's license."

THIS kind of tragedy happens every so often, and it brings pain and grief and moralizing—and a lot of unanswered questions.

Why did the boy, previously law-abiding, panic? Should the officer have given chase? Or should he have turned to a safer method of apprehending the boy?

Why did the youth make such a callous-sounding remark? Was it confused values? Or just confusion brought on by shock, grief, and sedation, as some friends claimed?

Can he ever be forgiven by those whose lives he has damaged irreparably? Or by himself?

THE questions, of course, are unanswerable. But we wish that every young person who assumes the responsibility of operating an automobile would stop and ponder them for a bit.

A car is more than a convenience, a means of transportation, a status symbol, or a toy.

It is also a deadly weapon. One second's misjudgment can result in a lifetime of guilt and recrimination.—E.A.

Distrusting Legislators

Oregonians, for some reason or other, do not trust their legislature.

(Perhaps it is because of such snafus as the daylight time mess last summer and this.)

But, whatever the reason, voters historically have proven their distrust. The best example is the fact that they have consistently refused to allow the legislature power to set the salaries of its members. Another example is the number of constitutional amendments which have been made through the initiative procedure.

THAT many of these amendments do not, by any concept of sensible government, belong in the constitution, seems to make no difference. They are put in the constitution, rather than enacted into statute law, solely because then the legislature cannot amend or repeal them. It can be done only by another vote of the people.

Thus we have such things as veterans home loan bonds, earmarking of gas tax receipts for highway use, and other matters which, in theory, should be statute law, not part of the basic charter of government.

(An attempt is being made this year to enact a constitutional amendment to guarantee standard time for Oregon, another example of something that should be statute law, not constitutional law.)

AT NEXT month's primary election, the voters, once again, will be asked to trust the legislature to the extent of letting it set legislative salaries.

We hope the measure will pass, but are inclined to doubt it, in view of the long-demonstrated distrust mentioned before.

The present legislative salaries of \$600 per year are totally inadequate, and becoming more so as service in the legislature comes to take more time. This is occasioned, at least in part, by the number of interim committees, which make studies of needed legislation in between sessions.

As a result, many good men (and women) are unable to run for the legislature, and many are forced to quit after one or two sessions, thus depriving us of badly-needed experience.

IT'S sort of a vicious circle.

The people distrust the legislature and refuse to pay them enough to attract good people; the standards of the membership lowers; foolish laws (like the DST mess) get passed; the people are confirmed in their distrust. And so it goes.

There are many high quality men and women serving in the legislature, but they are doing so at considerable personal sacrifice. And there are quite a number who are no credit to the legislature, or the state.

A raise in pay would not automatically ensure a high quality legislature, but it would make it possible for more good people to seek office.—E. A.

Chemical Test

A reporter in the Washington (D.C.) Post has discovered a Congressman who has found a chemical test for determining whether his correspondents are "leftist" or "rightist." He said:

"If the constituent is exercised about fluoridation of water, put him down as a rightist."

"But if the chemical he is worried about is strontium 90, he's more apt to be over toward the left."—E. A.

Oh, No!

Adding to the confusion dept.: California voters in June will vote on a proposal to extend Daylight Saving Time in that state from the end of September to the end of October.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



WE HID THE KEY UNDER THE FLOWER POT ON THE PORCH! PRETTY NEAT, HUH, TOMMY?

... 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.

Effort Needed

To the Editor: Your editorial, "Medical Care Bill," April 19, 1962, puts the case for the King-Anderson Bill very well indeed. This legislation for medical care for the aged through the social security system does not, as you indicate, cover everyone nor does it cover all costs.

But it is a very practical approach, first developed by my friend and former colleague in the Congress, Aime Forand of Rhode Island, and on the Senate side, by Wayne Morse. Enactment is overdue. These expenses are truly a matter of life and death for many people.

You are right in suggesting that your readers make their support known to their congressional representatives. They should also join or support clubs and associations that have been formed to study and to press for improved social security legislation. Only by a vigorous and sustained effort will we win over the Dixiecrat-Republican coalition.

Charles O. Porter
Democratic candidate for Congress, Fourth District
Eugene, Ore.

A Warning
To the Editor: Usually, the movements of peoples from one area to another have been of great masses, rather than of smaller groups of people. The westward movement into Europe also called for armed strength, as witness the Norman conquests of England.

This story has been far different in the peopling of the New World, of course. The era of conquest and expansion that followed the invention of the compass has been of an almost conglomerate nature, insofar as mankind is concerned. Navigators and explorers from many nations of Europe mingled together in this mighty search for new land and the building of new governments. It did not happen spontaneously or within any given century, but came by patience and daring over several centuries. The people came, it is true. Yes, with the

influence of old governments, with their support—but by choice rather than by mandates of sovereigns. That gave birth to a new concept of law and liberty. In fact, it left behind most of the heavy machinery of Old World governments, and led to a search for better and more secure measures for law and safety.

Such has been the case with the United States, in particular. But now, within the past 50 years, we in the United States have seen a new system arising—one that has called for the relinquishment of the independence which we had achieved, and the substituting of law and principles left over from the dark past. Such has been the sum total of the recent alliances of this, the American Republic, with Old World systems.

Let us be on our guard, lest we lose more than we realize of our earned freedoms and liberties. These achievements are quite properly termed "inalienable rights" in the early Declaration of Independence. These are reaffirmed within the Constitution. True, it may be beautiful to look upon the structure of the United Nations, for example, and to proclaim, "this is, in large part, our work." Let us make sure that neither this association, nor any other similar association shall come to be, ever, our "Pygmalion." That is, to say, that it should ever be permitted to undermine principles of law and government as we have provided that they should be.

Such a warning has come to us from many wise and experienced men. Let it not be forgotten!

Fee Clifford Esteb
153 North Oakdale Ave.
Medford

"Calories Don't Count"
To the Editor: Paul Harvey, speaking in regard to critics of right wingers, stated that only those having something to fear from their activities criticized them. The extent of their fear equals the efforts made to destroy them. The same rule is true for critics of "Calories Don't Count."

Potpourri of April 20 lists

DAVID
OUR FUTURE ASTRONAUT

Ann M. Streed,
38 North Peach St.,
Medford.

Law and Liberty
To the Editor: Those who advocate the proposed Charter state that at present it is slow and difficult to get new laws passed by the State Legislature, and therefore it is desirable to make the passing of laws quicker and easier by investing such legislative authority in a body of commissioners "nearer to the people."

I question such reasoning, because if they might be easier not only to get good laws passed, but also bad laws. I think it much easier for a selfish minority group to put pressure on four commissioners than on a majority of a state legislature. And remember any law, by its very nature, takes away some liberty, so that a law should be very good to warrant its existence.

Hurace W. Thompson,
3642 Hilsinger Rd.,
Medford

Bad Barter
To the Editor: Being on record as a sporadic critic of the County Court, I may be walking a tight-rope in opposing the Home Rule Charter. However, one becomes attached to one's right to vote, even if it is only for dogcatcher.

We ought to put dogcatcher on the ballot, to give a chance to the people who wouldn't vote for him if he were running for dogcatcher.

In short, I am a Primitive Democrat, in favor of all governmental positions being elective.

Tell me not we ought to barter.
The County Court for Home Rule Charter.
I like politicians, But not high-toned arithmetic.

Like:
If it takes three garden-variety commissioners, working full-time, four years to produce confusion, how long will it take seven commissioners, working two days a month, to achieve anarchy?

Give me simple courthouse hacks,
Adept at grinding their own axe,
Handpicked by the party bosses,
Supported by precinct workhorses,
But save me from the pure and high
Non-partisan, whose spirit—
Covets an appointive elite
To rule the simple man-on-the-street.

A vote for the charter aristocracy
Is a nail in the coffin of democracy!
George W. Rode,
Fluhrer Bldg.,
Medford

View on Economics
To the Editor: I notice your readers write you on subjects that are nearest to their hearts, and which concern them most. I wrote you before on Food Surplus. Today I would like to write on American Economics.

I began to believe there was something wrong in this country away back during the year following the Wall Street crash of 1929, when my father's small business in California went to pieces. I was only 13 years old then and knew nothing of the subject of economics or of capitalism, of socialism, or of the social experiment in a country I dare not mention. I knew only of right and wrong.

It was pretty obvious to us that the factory owners were not paying enough to working men in wages so that they could buy back the things they had made with the labor of their hands, which caused things to be produced that could not be sold, factories to be closed down, and working men to be thrown out of work, which made matters still worse. Some of my people were among the unemployed.

My faith in Franklin Delano Roosevelt, elected President in 1932, remained unshaken till the outset of World War II, and I grieved at his death. His constructive efforts toward the cure of the ills of this country were damned and stopped on every side by the selfish rich, both great and small. Only his emergency measures to relieve human misery were allowed to succeed, and this caused the beginning of our present stupendous national debt.

Today, of course, our government buys surplus goods and subsidizes weak industries, and tinkers with the stock market, which seems to me a superficial and shakey remedy for the ailment. For though we may prevent a major Depression—could we pull out of one?

When I think of our military productions and our men and women out of the labor force in military services, I am in much doubt. You see, during the Roosevelt era we were largely demilitarized and truly pacifists.

Ralph McKinnis,
P.O. Box 321,
Ashland, Ore.

New Guinea Story
To the Editor: Some time ago I wrote a letter which you printed, describing my contact by mail with some Christian friends in New Guinea.

President Reluctantly Uses Personal Influence In Intolerable Laos Situation

By PHIL NEWSOM

UPI Foreign News Analyst
President Kennedy has thrown his personal influence into the effort to establish a neutral government in Laos. It is a situation certainly not to the President's liking. It is done only on the basis that a neutral Laos provided an escape from an intolerable situation.

The President's action came in a letter delivered to Laotian King Savang Vatthana, reiterating United States insistence that the right-wing government of Laos join neutralist and pro-Communist rebels in a coalition government.

The U.S. decided more than a year ago that its policy of support for a strongly pro-Western government in Laos simply was not paying off.

The American-trained Laotian army had a far greater record of retreat than of aggressive action.

The Communist-trained and supplied Pathet Lao rebels already were occupying nearly half of the country and threatening to take more.

If the pro-Western forces were to win, it became apparent that American money alone would not be sufficient. American troops on a scale at least comparable to U.S. action in South Vietnam would be necessary.

This not only was opposed by Britain and France, two of the United States' chief allies, but also involved the likelihood of Red Chinese intervention in the manner of Korea.

Thus the United States' dilemma. Having passively supported the overthrow of neutralist Premier Prince Souvanna Phouma and actively supported his successor, Prince Boun Oum, the U.S. made a complete turnaround and declared for the return of Souvanna Phouma to head a neutral government committed neither to East nor West.

In this it had the support of Britain and France and the promise of the Soviet Union that it would assist in maintaining a truly neutral Laos.

But the U.S. action was taken without reckoning on Defense Minister Phoumi Nosavan who stubbornly has refused to cooperate.

Since February, the United States has been withholding monthly payments of \$3 million to pay Laotian army and police costs, although continuing other economic and military aid shipments.

The feeling that a neutral Laos must eventually drift into the Communist camp springs from the belief that Souvanna Phouma would have neither the inclination nor the strength to overrule them.

The situation has not bolstered the confidence of either neighboring Thailand nor other Southeast Asian nations such as the Philippines. Both Thailand and South Vietnam now expect stepped up Communist infiltration.

They even mailed me a tape recording. To hear gospel melodies coming from the lips of former raw heathens is indeed thrilling.

To any here in America who would doubt the existence of a God, I would point them to the transformation wrought in the lives of these "fuzzy-wuzzies" out in the Pacific. It takes more than human power to effect this change.

Some of your readers may cringe at what I'm about to relate. Parts of New Guinea are still in need of the rays of light that Christianity offers.

Recently L. H. Barnard, one of the mission leaders at a leper colony, sent two native converts to begin work among the primitive Karimue people. These Christian lads were accustomed to seeing filthy natives, but the Karimues were the vilest, degraded, sick, and unkempt natives they had ever seen. The Karimues are cannibals who use human skulls of their own dead for eating and drinking vessels.

Not so long ago Paul, one of these mission converts returned to Goroka, headquarters of the Eastern Highland mission, and related a horrifying experience through which he had passed. He told of the death of the cannibal chief's son. The villagers along with the parents gathered around the corpse, planning to eat the body in accordance with their tribal ritual.

Paul now knew that it was his duty to try and persuade these cannibals to change their custom. He told them that civilized people bury their dead. The parents decided to place the body in a hut where they could mourn for it, after which they said the "doctor boy" could bury the corpse.

The mourning continued five days. Then Paul was surrounded by the villagers who clamored to eat the now decomposing body. The mission lads, however, won out and those natives witnessed for the first time a burial service. Up to this time there was no cemetery at this village.

The chief was so impressed with this new ceremony and single story of the resurrection that he requested some religious picture to be left to remind him of the wonderful gospel story.

Truly the world is in need of a Saviour.

Henry Johnson Jr.,
2315 Highway 66
Ashland, Ore.

Safety Poem
To the Editor: The following poem of four stanzas was written by a man named Seymour Taylor, and is so suggestive and good that I felt constrained to pass it on to you and your readers. May I insert here that along with others I am, and always have been, glad for the Communications Column, enjoy and profit by it.

When I read the poem as written by the author, I wished he had added another note to the fine thoughts expressed, and so if I am permitted to add another stanza, as one contributor asked you to do to a poem he had started, (and which, by the way, you did very creditably), I will add the stanza.

IF EVERYONE
If everyone who drives a car could lie a month in bed
With broken bones and stitched-up wounds, or fractures of the head;
And there endure the agonies that many people do,
They'd never need preach safety any more to me or you.

If everyone could stand beside the bed of some close friend,
And hear the doctor say, "No hope," before that fatal end;
And see him there unconscious, never knowing what took place,
The laws and rules of traffic I am sure we'd soon embrace.

If everyone could meet the wife and children left behind,
And step into the darkened home where once the sunlight shined,
And look upon "The Vacant

Chair," were daddy used to sit.
I am sure each reckless driver would be forced to think a bit.

If everyone who takes the wheel would say a little prayer,
And keep in mind those in the car depending on his care,
And make a vow and pledge himself to never take a chance;
The Great Crusade for Safety would suddenly advance.

Added stanza:
If everyone who makes this pledge and sacredly that vow,
Would never once consider, nor ever once allow
A drink to pass within his lips to steal away his sense;
How few would fear his driving! How few the accidents!

H. B. Bulman,
Route 4, Box 316A,
Medford

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Strictly Personal

By Sydney J. Harris
(General Features Corp.)

FIRST-CLASS UNJUSTIFIED

One way for the airlines to start making a profit would be to stop serving meals and liquor on short trips, in order to justify a "first-class" fare. I flew by jet from Chicago to Pittsburgh and back last week. The trip took about an hour each way. Going, the two stewards served canapés and highballs for most of the hour; returning, the two stewards served full dinners.

Apart from the fact that these young ladies should have more useful services to perform than acting as waitresses and barmaids, there is simply no reason or excuse for serving anything but a cup of coffee or tea on a flight so short.

As we move into the jet age, most airplane flights are two hours or less. Serving meals and booze aboard such flights is expensive, laborious, cumbersome and time-consuming. Most passengers don't want it, but they take it merely because they have paid a "first-class" fare.

The cost of the food and alcohol, the catering service, the equipment, the food trucks and the extra personnel for deliveries could be transferred to the airlines' meager profit column with no protests by passengers.

Moreover, the whole silly scheme of dividing big planes into "first-class" and "tourist" sections—with the first-class passengers paying an absurdly large premium for a bigger bite of food—should be junked as soon as possible.

More and more companies are forbidding their executives to take first-class reservations on company business, as a needless expense; and most of the jets I have ridden lately have been crowded in the cabin class