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A Fairy Tale

Let us visit, for a moment, with the county court (which is not a court) of the mythical county of Noskaj, in the state of Nogero.

The Shire Reeve (who is charged with law enforcement and tax collection) is speaking to the Judge (who judges nothing) and the Commissioners, who are the Equals of the Judge—but not quite as Equal.

"I need more money to hire more men to collect the taxes, Oh Judge," said the Shire Reeve. "We cannot afford more money to collect more taxes," said the Judge and the Equal Commissioners.

SO THE Shire Reeve thought about publishing a list of those who had not paid their taxes, and asked for money for the publication. But the Judge and the Equal Commissioners said they could not afford that, either.

Years went by. The uncollected taxes remained uncollected, and finally amounted to a total of nearly a half-million ducats (which is the odd currency in this fabled land).

Meanwhile, because these half-million ducats had not been paid into the coffers of Noskaj county, all the other taxpayers had to pay more. Not a lot more, you understand, but a little more.

Some there were, however, who thought that the amount was less significant than the fact that the Judge and the Equal Commissioners and the Shire Reeve had neglected to follow the dictates of The Law.



... 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.

Firearm Registration

To the Editor: The firearm registration bill mentioned in your Sunday editorial deserves more clarification.

The registration bill to control crime and juvenile delinquency is sponsored by a congressman from New York, N.Y., the city with the strictest gun laws in the nation and the highest crime rate of any state in the union.

All juveniles to register homemade zip guns. Sure they will!

Firearm registration is frightening, as this is always the first step in any nation before private citizens lose their weapons.

There is only one reason for registration regardless of intent, to make possible the seizure of private arms when deemed desirable by political authorities.

If firearms were not easy to come by, would a criminal not find some other implement to accomplish his purpose?

Would not the work of the police and F.B.I. be harder, as the registration of hundreds of thousands of private arms would mean administrative burdens, taxes, and contacts?

Control and regulation should be aimed at the use of firearms and not firearm ownership.

The second amendment to the United States Constitution is not a safeguard for unreasonable arms legislation though it was certainly intended to be so.

Statutes, both Federal and State, have been enacted and upheld by the courts which in their operation tend to deprive the law-abiding gun owner of his guns or their use through excessive regulation.

American freedom is a freedom of individual men, a freedom of individual responsibility and individual rights. America is not so brain-washed or weakened that the people must be protected from themselves.

As it is every American citizen's duty when called on to do a uniform and bear arms for his country and give up his life if necessary, he certainly should have the right to a reliable citizen to own guns without undue restrictions, whether he uses them for hunting, target shooting, collecting home and personal protection or any other legitimate reason.

A firearm, registered or not, will ever commit a crime by itself, nor will it register deter juvenile delinquency.

Gun owners should protest this bill to their congressmen.

William N. O'Rehead
2449 Obispo Dr.
Medford, Ore.

Some Disturbances Mar San Salvadorian Election, But Result Will Aid 'Alliance'

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst

On some San Salvador streets, nails are scattered to puncture automobile tires.

Some names were missing from qualified voter lists.

And signs proclaimed: "El Salvador's one man, one party election simply was a boost for military tyranny and the Yankee embassy."

But the election returning El Salvador from provisional to constitutional government went off rather peacefully, chiefly because the election of former army Lt. Col. Julio Adalberto Rivera was a foregone conclusion. His national reconciliation party was the only one in the race.

Although it is traditional in El Salvador, tiniest and most densely populated country in Central America, that no presidential candidate can succeed without support of the military, Rivera had labored manfully to remove himself from the army label.

He campaigned on the slogan that a candidate need only know "the problems of his people and how to meet them."

The single candidacy left something to be desired in the way of democratic process. Rivera's army background disturbed some and his announced policies of social reform bothered others, especially those aligned with the "14 families" who for generations have held most of El Salvador's land and practically all of its power.

But the lack of opposition could not be laid entirely at Rivera's door step, and throughout Latin America the election itself had a significance out of proportion to El Salvador's size. The issues involved precisely the requirements set forth by the United States for participation in the Alliance for Progress Program.

In the last year and a half, the tiny coffee country had seen two bloodless military revolts.

The first of these, on Oct. 28, 1960, overthrew President Jose Maria Lemus, whose policies were repulsive to the army.

Sir, you have not only disgraced me, but every other committeeman and woman I have talked to has felt the same as I.

If you had wed your head before your mouth, you may have had a chance. It is with renewed effort and vigor that we will try to defeat you.

Mrs. Ernest Chriss
Stephens for Sheriff
Committee
2718 Howard
Medford.

It Stunk!

To the Editor: Mrs. Irma Henderson and S. A. Thorson in Tuesday's Tribune express our feelings exactly on Saturday's Blossom Buck auction.

When I saw some young fellows with large brief cases full of Blossom Bucks, some of them in bunches neatly stacked, I wondered how they had come by them.

After the bidding started and I saw the way things were going I knew that was no place for an honest person so I left.

If our chamber of commerce and businessmen try anything like this again next year, they are welcome to go ahead as far as I am concerned, for I will not take part in any day in a Pear Blossom festival. It stunk!

Howard Glascock
233 Beatty st.
Medford

Terrible Farce

To the Editor: Blossom Bucks—Floppin' Bucks!

This was a terrible farce to pull on the general public. It seemed there was very little thought on the whole program in general, and if, indeed, they expect to repeat it again next year there should be some set rules to make it fair to everyone. First, that the merchants, their families, all business personnel, and anyone connected with the Blossom Bucks program be barred from entering in the auction—just as any other contest should be that anyone under 18 years of age not be allowed to bid.

The average amount of Bucks honestly gained per family would say, was from 500 to 1,000, and when two and three families "pooled" their Bucks, and were lucky enough to be near enough to bid, and still didn't have enough to even buy one of the little surprise packages—well! What do you think?

Joyce Sparto
P.O. Box 85,
Shady Cove, Ore.

Like Andy Jackson

To the Editor: "Hats off" to President Kennedy for the manner in which he handled the steel dispute. His swift and thoroughness was as if Andrew Jackson had suddenly come back to life.

Despite the inconsistencies of the man, one must admit that in the matter of the steel dispute he moved like a champion.

I'm afraid that there are numerous points concerning the steel situation that Robert J. Famous has completely ignored.

First, there are the financial figures to show the huge profits made by the steel corporations in 1961 and to the present.

Secondly, the Steel Workers Union signed a one year agreement with the corporations to work for very little or no gain in wages, which in itself should prove that the workers do not have a firm grip on the industry. It was in the form of a "gentleman's agreement," to the effect that the workers would not

Strictly Personal

By Sydney J. Harris
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FREEDOM NEEDS A GOAL

In his new book, "A Search for Civilization," which I unreservedly recommend to all serious readers, John U. Nef, chairman of the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago, makes the pungent observation that "Freedom consists in choosing the right slavery."

Like most genuine paradoxes, the remark contains a deep and subtle truth. It reminds us, as we constantly need reminding, that freedom for itself is not attainable, or even desirable.

"The freedom of the individual is restricted in every moment of his life," writes Professor Nef, "at least by his physical and psychological constitution, by the size of his income, and even by his freedom, if freedom is offered him without his knowing what to do with it."

"As the ultimate aim," he continues, "the emancipation of the individual isn't even a happy dream. It can condemn him to one of the worst forms of slavery—slavery to himself."

He explains further: "When a man is left to choose, without an ideal beyond himself to inspire his choice, all the values that he needs to strengthen himself are likely to be lost in the multiplicity of choices. . . If he lacks a hierarchy of values, such a man is incapable of making a choice that will satisfy even himself."

The only true road to freedom, he emphasizes, is the road of love and the only means of loving is to forget oneself. "Love is the highest form of slavery."

All of us are slaves to one thing or another to our appetites, our ambitions, our prejudices, our fears, and follies. The young person who breaks away from the ties of home and community to achieve freedom for his own sake soon learns that he has tied himself to other chains. All freedom must have a goal, or it ends in anarchy, boredom, dissatisfaction, and the premature death of the spirit.

The fundamental quest of the human being, which parallels the search for civilization—is to find a set of values large enough and firm enough for him to devote his freedom to. To be emancipated from political and economic bondage is not enough, for freedom is an activity, and not a state. It consists in working as a voluntary slave for goals that lie beyond ourselves.

In "A Search for Civilization," Professor Nef suggests what these goals ought to be. He forces us to reflect seriously on the meaning of modern industrial life, to re-examine our ideas of science and religion, art, and excellence, wisdom and its dangerous counterfeits.

It is a practical book, because only through such a search can we learn what is worth practicing to ensure the survival and growth of our civilization.

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

May 2, 1952 (Friday)
Most of Medford was back to regular hours on Pacific standard time today.

Patsy White, with a Spanish dance number, placed first in the amateur talent show staged at the Medford high auditorium by the local chapter of the Marine Corps league.

20 YEARS AGO

May 2, 1932 (Saturday)
United States war department orders construction of facilities for a military garrison at Medford municipal airport.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Soudge Pot" column: "A local resident reports that a stranger recently asked him for a match instead of a dime. The gloomier finance experts say this won't last and soon the request will be for a match and a dime."

30 YEARS AGO

May 2, 1902 (Monday)
Frank Perl, candidate for Jackson county coroner, chosen best looking candidate in primary election by members of Enterprise Grange.

Rufus Holeman, candidate for reelection as Oregon state treasurer, speaks here before meeting of Medford Realty board.

40 YEARS AGO

May 2, 1922 (Tuesday)
John W. Opp, new manager of Coast railroad, announces start of improvement on company's tracks near Jacksonville.

Oregon secretary of state reports that "over 100,000" automobiles are registered to Oregon residents.

50 YEARS AGO

May 2, 1912 (Wednesday)
Cast of Roosevelt school play includes Edward Kelly, Gordon Kershaw, Isobel Stuart, Archie Pierce and George Jackson.

Porter J. Neff elected chairman of Jackson County Democratic Central committee.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. Is the earth the second, third, or fourth planet from the sun?
 2. What is the difference between a bison and a buffalo?
 3. In what harbor is Ft. Sumter?
 4. Name the first American war veteran to have his picture depicted on a U.S. postage stamp.
 5. Is the average height of a newborn baby in the U.S. 12, 20 or 24 inches?
 6. Is a truffle a woman's necklace, choice table delicacy or piece of embroidery?
 7. Any member of the armed forces whose last service terminated honorably is entitled to burial in a National cemetery: true or false?
 8. Correct the following: "He will sure come home."
 9. In World War II, was the Anzio beachhead landing accomplished in Normandy, Sicily, or Italy?
 10. What have the following in common: Kickapoo, Delaware, Cheyenne?
- Answers: 1. Third, 2. None, 3. Charleston, S.C., 4. George Washington, 5. 20 inches, 6. Choice table delicacy, 7. True, 8. He will surely, 9. Italy, 10. All Indian tribal names.

FINALLY a day came when a clerk expert in the ways of money discovered that The Law was not being followed, and that the uncollected taxes were not being collected.

He called upon the Judge and the Equal Commissioners and the Shire Reeve, and told them they should collect the uncollected taxes, and follow The Law, and ease (if ever so slightly) the burden of taxation on all the rest of the citizens.

So the funds were provided and the Shire Reeve made a list of all the uncollected taxes. And it was published.

But, alas, it was too late to collect many of them. For many of those who owed taxes had moved away, or died, or become bankrupt. So this burden (though ever so slight) remained on the people of the county who paid their taxes.

NOW it so happened that there was in this county a group of citizens who had labored hard to formulate a kind of government which would replace the Judge (who judged nothing) and the two Equal Commissioners, with a larger group of governors, who would manage the affairs of the county, for the people, acting in their name and with their consent.

These citizens thought that the Shire Reeve should perform his duties under the direction of the enlarged Board of Commissioners, and be responsible to them, so that he could no longer ignore The Law.

And it came to them the incident of the half-million ducats was a perfect example of why the change should be made. Under the system which they proposed, it would be difficult—nay, impossible—for this added burden of taxation to be imposed upon the citizens, for the new system would see to it that the officers of the county performed their lawful duties.

IN DUE time, the citizens of Noskaj county were called upon to go to the polls to decide whether the Old System should be continued, or whether the People and Voters of Noskaj county, acting through their Commissioners, would rule, instead of the Nogero Legislators, who met every two years some hundreds of miles away. Of its 90 members, only three came from Noskaj county, and many and many a time it was difficult, or impossible, for those three to persuade the other 87 members to enact laws for the benefit of Noskaj county.

But many people thought that it was important for them to be able to vote for the Shire Reeve, and for the Keeper of the Ducats, and for the man who was in charge of Metes and Bounds, and for the Keeper of the Records, and the other technicians and hirelings.

And many others thought that all officials of the county should bear labels, either Tarcomed or Nacilbuper (which were the principal political groups), rather than voting for the best man.

THE people of Noskaj county still do not know whether most of them want the new system (called a Home Rule Charter), which will permit them to decide for themselves on important local questions.

Under the Old System, the Judge and Equal Commissioners cannot tell the Shire Reeve (or any other technicians and hirelings) what to do.

But many people think that the Old System is good. When they vote on the Charter, they will vote to continue electing technicians and hirelings, and not for Commissioners who will follow the will of the people.

THIS never happened, of course, for it is a Fairy Tale. Nowhere but in a mythical land would the people want to elect hirelings and technicians, and not elect a widely representative Board of Commissioners, who would supervise the hirelings under a system where a half-million ducats in taxes could not go uncollected.

Yes, this is a Fairy Tale. And all good Fairy Tales should have a moral.

The moral of this Fairy Tale is borrowed from George Washington. It is this:

"The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and alter their constitutions of government."—E. A.

Source of Embarrassment

To the Editor: For the past several years I have made a sincere effort to pay both my real estate tax and my personal property tax upon the date which they became due.

This has been a source of embarrassment to me, in that it has been necessary for me to borrow money from the bank, and upon which I have had to pay interest, but my tax payments have been on time.

In the Medford Mail Tribune of April 30 I find an article in which it states that "the sheriff tries to avoid publication to avoid embarrassment to the taxpayers." (My fourth grade English teacher taught us to avoid the use of too many avoids.) This news article also states that 10 per cent of our property tax (in some cases) is to allow for delinquent personal property taxes. I find in going over my tax receipts that my personal property tax is

Investigate It

To the Editor: The rural school budget is not our biggest tax expense; but it seems to be one that we pass automatically because we don't want to investigate it or don't understand it.

With a budget that has increased \$500,000 since 1959-

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Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

MRS. GREEN, invited to a Broadway musical, hired a new baby-sitter to take care of her obnoxious brood. "I don't care how much they protest," Mrs. Green told the girl. "I want every last one of them in bed by ten o'clock."

When she came home, humming the hit song from the show she had seen, she asked the baby-sitter, "Well, did you get them all tucked in by ten?"

"I did," reported the girl proudly, "but that oldest boy, the red-headed one, put up an awful holler first."

"The red-headed one?" echoed Mrs. Green. "THAT'S MY HUSBAND!"

John Drury tells of a south Georgian boy who was taken to Chicago one January and saw snow for the first time. He stared in wonder from his hotel room window at the snow-blanketed street below and cried to his mother, "Look, ma! Grits all over!"

