

Medford Mail Tribune

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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION 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

May 17, 1952 (Saturday) Medford residents will have fire protection matching any city on the Pacific coast during the first three days of next week when some 400 firemen, fire chiefs and fire equipment dealers gathered here for the annual convention of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association.

20 YEARS AGO

May 17, 1932 (Sunday) First forest fire of season, in Trail Creek area, extinguished by guard station workers.

30 YEARS AGO

May 17, 1932 (Tuesday) Amelia Earhart lands plane in Irish farm field after flight from Newfoundland; first woman to fly Atlantic ocean alone.

40 YEARS AGO

May 17, 1922 (Wednesday) Complete schedule of cha-tauqua events here includes Jugo-Slav Tamburians, Dr. Lydia Allen DeVilbiss, Harold (Private) Peat, "Turn to the Right" - Great Sermon Play, Battling Mahler Duo, New York City Concert Quartet and Junior Pageant.

50 YEARS AGO

May 17, 1912 (Thursday) City announces plan to extend sidewalks to curbs at intersections to remove "large puddles of water which make it inconvenient for passers-by."

What's Your I.Q.?

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

- 1. How many days did it rain during the Biblical flood? 2. Do tracer bullets leave a trail of smoke or light? 3. Name the oldest city in the Western Hemisphere.

Answers: 1. Forty. 2. Light. 3. Mexico City. 4. Six. 5. Egypt. 6. Fourteen. 7. Yes. 8. ... you must lie in it. 9. John Wilkes Booth. 10. Belgium.

Recommendations

Judicial For judge of the Oregon supreme court, position No. 6—Arno H. Denecke For Oregon Tax Judge—Peter Gunnar. State Measures Six per cent amendment—vote yes. Salaries of state legislators—vote yes. County Measure Home Rule Charter—vote yes. Annexation Measure For S. W. Medford—no recommendation. —E.A.

The Maker of Decisions

(Editor's note: The following is a column written by Art Hoppe of the San Francisco Chronicle which appeared on election day in California last year. The only changes which have been made were to adapt it to local situations.—E. A.)

I will get up early tomorrow morning, for it is election day. I like to move more leisurely on these mornings. I like to linger over my paper. I like to shave more deliberately. For I have some decisions to make.

Will I allow members of the legislature to set their own salaries, as well as those of other state officials? Should I permit taxing units to retain a tax base? Or should new taxing units be allowed to set a tax base without an election? I will decide, perhaps, as I eat my toast.

As I shave, staring unseeing at the faces I make, I will think about county government. Would a larger board of commissioners be more efficient? Would a Home Rule Charter actually bring government closer to me? It would be nice. But I must decide wisely and well.

I WILL put on my coat and walk slowly down the block to the polling place. I like to walk slowly on these mornings. For I must decide who shall be my county judge and who my supreme court judge and who my state senator. I must decide who shall rule me, who shall judge me and who shall defend my interests. These are decisions of grave import.

It will be quiet on the streets that early. It always is. The only splash of color will be the large American flag hanging over the polling place, gay and brave in the gentle morning light.

In the bare garage, the old man will be sitting at a card table in his black overcoat. He always is. He will say, "Good morning," and "Nice day" or "Kind of cold." He always does. Then he will ask my name and I will tell it to him. And the elderly lady sitting next to him with the white, tightly-curling hair, will look my name up in her huge, doomsday ledger. When she finds it, she will nod and smile. She always does.

I WILL step into the booth, then, and draw the curtains to close out the world. The dullness of the printed ballots will surprise me. They carry on their face only the names and titles of the candidates and offices, and the dead language of the questions I must decide. Where are the brass bands and pretty girls? The citizens' committees and speeches? The fuzzy television images and the banners? Where are they now? The scratch of the old pencil making my decisions carries loudly in the silence.

The old man will say good-by and the lady will nod in friendly fashion. There is a rapport between us makers of decisions.

Some of my decisions will prove unacceptable, some unworkable, some unwise. For I am far from infallible. It matters little. For I have done my best to rule myself, to judge myself, to defend myself. It will be a priceless day.

In the evening I will set aside a few minutes to think of those who have never shared this experience, those at home who won't and those abroad who can't. And I will feel sorry for them. I always do.

SOMEbody DOES Something

"Every one KNOWS that we need a decent auditorium in Medford, but no one seems willing to DO anything about it!"

This complaint was in response to a review pointing out the defects of the Hedrick auditorium. And, praise be, the caller said it was time someone DID something, and she volunteered. She asked advice what to do.

Our suggestion was that a committee of people interested in such an auditorium be formed, first, and then, after appropriate discussion, plans be formulated, cost estimates and drawings obtained, and public sentiment determined.

AFTER that first step is taken, it can then be decided how best it should be financed. Should it be by public subscription? By bond issue? By regular city or county revenues? Where should it be located? Who should operate it? What revenues could sustain it? These are important questions, but they will not become live issues unless and until the first and basic step is taken—that of enough people who want such an auditorium getting together.

THERE are plenty of people — groups as well as individuals—who should be interested. So, on behalf of the single lone individual who finally decided that SOMEone should DO something, we make this offer:

All those who would like to see such a step taken, and who would be willing to devote some time to it, are invited to write to the Auditorium Editor, Mail Tribune, Medford, and their names and expressions of interest will be conveyed to the brave volunteer.—E. A.

Dennis the Menace



"I'M JUST GONNA DO IT 'TIL HER DOLL GETS BETTER!"

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop (c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

THE TWO CRISES

London — In the Far East, two crises are now going on at once. The one in Laos is getting all the attention, but the one on the Hong Kong border is every bit as interesting. Almost everyone has been missing the dark drama, the really staggering implications of the new development on the Hong Kong border. This is because so few people realize that, on the Communist side, this narrow Chinese gateway to the outer world is regarded as the grim border of East Germany.

During these last years, a tiny trickle of persons have been allowed to leave Communist China with official exit permits. Many thousands more have fled every month at dire risk of their lives. But almost none of these who fled came across the land border, which was far too heavily patrolled by the Communists. The perilous sea route was all but invariably used.

IN THE last few days, however, all this has changed. Thousands of refugees are now pouring across the land border every day. The close guard is not on the Communist side of the border any longer. It is on the Hong Kong side. The Hong Kong government fears that half the population of southeast China may pour across the suddenly opened border, into the already overcrowded city. Hence Hong Kong police and troops have been rounding up the pitiful refugees and pushing them back into Communist territory.

Why, then, has this border been so strangely opened, with such painful results? There are only two possible answers to the question. The threat of famine in southeast China may be so severe and immediate that the Chinese Communist government has voluntarily flung wide the iron gate. If this is the explanation, the aim is to pass on to the Hong Kong government the task of feeding the maximum number of hungry people. But if this is the explanation, it must be added, this is the first time since the October revolution of 1917 that any Communist government anywhere on the face of the earth has ever taken such a step.

THE other possible explanation is even more lurid. If the border has not been opened by order, it must then have been opened as a result of a collapse of the morale

of the Chinese Communist government, which has always favored abandoning the Laos position, the U.S. government is not inclined to be bold in Laos. Much emphasis is also being placed in Washington on the weaknesses and errors of the anti-Communist Laotians.

These weaknesses are undoubted, as is the weakness of the American government, under both President Eisenhower and President Kenne-

discipline of the soldiers and police who form the Communist border guard. There are reports, buttressing this second explanation, of the appearance of at least one organized military unit amid the flood of desperate border crossers. The official analyses received in London from Hong Kong rate the second, more lurid explanation as being just about as probable as the first.

Whichever explanation is correct, there can be no doubt at all about the basic meaning of this astonishing development on the Hong Kong border. Whether the iron gate has been opened intentionally, or whether the gate has fallen of itself, the new development means that the internal situation in Communist China is even more desperate than anyone supposed. The evidence that this reporter turned up in Hong Kong some weeks ago was quite sufficiently flesh-crawling; but even on the basis of this evidence, the early opening or collapse of the iron gate could never have been forecast.

The crisis on the border of course calls for no action by the U. S. government, where as the crisis in Laos has already forced the U. S. government to take a rather drastic preliminary action. Nonetheless, the Laos crisis should clearly be judged, at least in large part, in the light of the border crisis and its inescapable meaning.

A YEAR ago, the strongest argument against a strong policy in Laos was the calculation by the American Joint Chiefs of Staff that American intervention there would bring Chinese Communist intervention on a massive scale. The lesson of the Hong Kong border is that the Chinese Communists dare not intervene in Laos if they are still rational. Or if they are irrational and do intervene, the kind of strain revealed by the Hong Kong border crisis, increased by the heavy strain of intervention, must lead to far worse trouble for the Chinese Communists than for anyone else.

Thus the risk of being bold in Laos has been vastly reduced by the downward curve in China. Judging by the complacency displayed by the British government, which has always favored abandoning the Laos position, the U.S. government is not inclined to be bold in Laos. Much emphasis is also being placed in Washington on the weaknesses and errors of the anti-Communist Laotians.

THE hardest lesson in human relations (and in marital relations) for a young person to learn was expressed by William James, when he advised, "The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook."

A poet who is entirely clear in his verse might as well write prose; unless poetry conveys a profound ambiguity, on several levels at once, it is a mere exercise in jangling rhymes.

The paradox of science is that while it trains a man to think carefully and precisely about his subject, it also prevents him from giving much connected thought to subjects outside his immediate province.

dy, in tolerating the large-scale invasion of Laos by regular troops of the North Vietnamese Communist army. But the question in Laos is not whether Gen. Phoumi Nosavan is a less amiable fellow than Prince Souvanna Phouma, who is so much liked in the Foreign Office and in some quarters in the State Department.

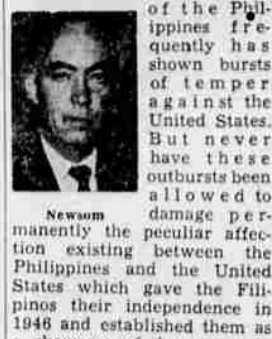
The question in Laos is whether it is wise to hand the back door of South Viet Nam over to the Communists, while pouring men and munitions into South Viet Nam through the front door. One of the other policy makes sense, but not both.



Patrolman Tom Coffee declares that he was within earshot when a tough young hood he was shadowing gave his girl friend a mink coat. "Och, Spike, it's bee-yoo-tee-ful," she simpered. "It must be worth at least five years."

Frequent Bursts of Temper at United States by Philippines Usually Settled

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst



Newsom

As a young nation sensitive of its independence and national pride, the Republic of the Philippines frequently has shown bursts of temper against the United States. But never have these outbursts been allowed to damage permanently the peculiar affection existing between the Philippines and the United States which gave the Filipinos their independence in 1946 and established them as a showcase of democracy in Asia.

This is another period of temper.

Strictly Personal

By Sydney J. Harris (c) Field Enterprises Inc.

PERSONAL PREJUDICES Those who mistakenly compare the breeding of people with the breeding of dogs or horses should be informed that the only "pure-bred" people known to the modern world, the Tasmanians, are the only ones who became wholly extinct.

What a young person thinks of as "pain" is often merely the absence of pleasure; while what an old person thinks of as "pleasure" is often the absence of pain. Misfortune, at first, makes our friends sorry for us — but if it continues, it makes them impatient with us, and finally fearful lest the "disease" be catching.

To the portentous question, "How will the next war end?" the words of Corneille, written 300 years ago in "Le Cid," might prove prophetic: "Et le combat cessa, faute de combattants." — And the battle ended through lack of combatants.

The liberal accuses the conservative of "wanting to turn the clock back," but maybe the clock should be turned back in some respects; the conservative accuses the liberal of "wanting to go too far too fast," but maybe we should go faster and farther in some things; when will both camps tire of repeating such meaningless slogans and start thinking?

Speaking of politics, while our slogans are as easily as ever, our attacks on political personalities have lost all their spice and sting; as witness Disraeli's comment a century ago: "If a traveler were informed that such a man (Lord John Russell) was leader of the House of Commons, he may well begin to comprehend how the Egyptians worshipped an insect."

Why is it that the person who insists on telling us something for our own good usually tells it with an ill-concealed air of jubilation and self-satisfaction?

A bad doctor treats diseases, and a good doctor treats patients.

To have "no opinion" on an important subject is a form of slavery; for then we are easily moved by those whose opinions are motivated by their passionate self-interest.

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The question in Laos is whether it is wise to hand the back door of South Viet Nam over to the Communists, while pouring men and munitions into South Viet Nam through the front door. One of the other policy makes sense, but not both.

As result, President Diosdado Macapagal canceled a scheduled visit to the United States next month and accused the American people of a lack of interest in the "problems of a steadfast ally in the struggle against international communism."

The source of Filipino indignation was congressional failure a week ago to approve a \$73 million appropriation which was to pay off the last of the Philippines damage claims from World War II.

Especially ranking to Macapagal was the congressional charge that payment of the damage claims would constitute a handout and a "windfall to thousands of individuals and corporations."

In the years since independence, U.S. aid to the Philippines has been as considerable as the quarrels have been numerous.

In 1950, President Truman dispatched Daniel W. Bell to Manila to check charges that \$2 billion provided by this country had not been used wisely.

The Bell report criticizing corruption in the Philippine government raised a storm of indignation.

But it also resulted in Philippine tax and land reforms, establishment of minimum wages and continued U.S. aid.

The United States also

aroused Filipino anger on the question of U.S. bases in the Philippines and jurisdiction over crimes committed by U. S. servicemen.

These differences simmered for years until the Philippines finally won a greater voice in the use of the bases and agreed that jurisdiction over criminal cases should be split — U.S. jurisdiction if committed on-base, Philippine jurisdiction off-base.

In the end, it seems that the present case will be settled as peacefully as the others. President Eisenhower favored payment and so does President Kennedy, who already has taken steps to start the bill through Congress again.

... 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.

Leigh Supported

To the Editor: Among the list of candidates for the office of county sheriff on the Republican ticket is a man who has lived in Jackson county for many years. He received his education in the schools of the county continuing on at the University of Oregon. For more than seven years he served as chief deputy in the sheriff's office and served capably. His young family is being educated in our schools.

"De" A. Leigh deserves the support of the voters in recognition of his loyal and exceptional service as a law enforcement officer and civic minded citizen.

Mrs. Una B. Inch, 602 Catherine st., Medford.

Regrets To the Editor: At no time have I called any member of the Charter Committee or any of its local supporters or Communists.

I regret that my Communication was construed by some as implying that the members of the Charter Committee are Communists.

No member of the Charter Committee, or any of its supporters, to my knowledge, are Communists.

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

A Clarification To the Editor: This letter is not for the purpose of advertising, but for clarification.

It has come to our attention that there has been some concern about a new business just opened called the "Celar." There are no intoxicating beverages or cigarettes sold. Supervision is maintained.

As to our background, I have lived in Medford seven years and belong to the Masonic Lodge and Medford Elks Lodge. My partner, Jesse Torres, also lives in Medford and owns a similar coffee house with a sterling reputation, in Roseburg.

We feel we have an atmosphere that all ages can enjoy, and that we are an asset to our community.

We invite anyone with any questions to visit us or call us. Neil Rayburn, 814 Sherman st., Medford.

Up For Grabs

To the Editor: In county government we have a four-million dollar-a-year business, the offices of which come up for grabs periodically to anyone who has enough friends to sign a petition, or enough money to plaster the fence posts and car bumpers with campaign stickers. Nor need he know too much about the office for which he is running.

From observing county candidates on television I note that some of them list as their main qualifications the facts that they take up space in Jackson county, are married and have children. Now and then a candidate mentions business or professional experience that has any connection with the office he is seeking.

This, to me, is a big argument in favor of selecting men and women with the best training and credentials for the important jobs of sheriff, assessor, etc., as the county charter would permit us to do. Under the charter we would vote for the commissioners who would be directly responsible to the voters for selecting well qualified personnel.

It doesn't make sense to saddle the sheriff with the responsibility of collecting taxes. The sheriff should be concerned principally with law enforcement. Taxes should be administered by a finance office as provided by the charter under a man whose field is finance.

Home rule is the next logical step in county government. State government has become so big and complex that the legislature cannot get all its own business through the hopper, let alone act on all the requests from all the counties.

Back when the country was young, people were widely scattered and not too many demands were made on local government. It was all right then to have the state run our county business. However, times have changed. Our burgeoning population with its demands for zoning, sewage, multiple water districts, etc., needs home rule so that all our problems do not have to

wait their turn in the legislature.

We are now in the space age and we need something more than a horse and buggy government. I respectfully suggest that we unload our buggy whip stock and vote for the county Home Rule Charter.

Virginia Westerfield, 1090 South Mountain ave. Ashland, Ore.

Do Your Own Thinking

To the Editor: The existing laws for solving the problem of sewage at the county level are adequate. It is up to the people and the county officials to use the helps provided.

Those people who worked so hard to have petitions to go in to the city could have done a major public service if the petitions had been presented to the county court instead. I knew nothing of my rights by law, until recently. No excuse, I know, I felt the people I had entrusted my vote to, would do their best. This annexation will not solve, but only lead to further annexation for sewage facilities. We are going to have to pay no matter what. With the other services we do not need, think what can be provided to solve this on the county level to benefit more people.

The Medford sewage system is operating to near capacity. By the city's own report, a need exists for a complete study of present sewage needs. How have they planned to solve the problem? The same can be done by the county. The existing laws are in operation in other parts of the state. It's up to the people to see that it works here. It's up to the county officials to work for solving this problem. This also means that citizens do not need to be worried about sanitation pressures. Refer to the county court.

Be certain to vote, no matter which way you have formed your opinions. Don't allow your neighbor to do your thinking. See you at the polls!

Olive Fountain, 814 Cherry st. Medford.

Last Minute Question To the Editor: It strikes me as strange that the people who are opposed to Home Rule have mentioned in various pieces of literature several counties in other states who have adopted or voted in a Home Rule type of government and in these said counties the same people are very disappointed in their modern type of government.

My question, Mister Editor, is: Why can't the people who are for Home Rule come up with just one county in the U.S. where it has proven effective and the majority of the voters now pleased???

Please submit into the Communications column of your newspaper as soon as possible. John Koelme, 1856 Ross Lane, Medford

Two Things Certain

To the Editor: Two things now appear certain concerning Home Rule for Jackson county:

1. There is hardly a person in this area who does not believe changes are needed in our county government.

2. The only way we can achieve improvement is by voting for the Home Rule charter, and then each of us working for those changes which would then be possible.

Those who express opposition to the charter appear to forget that only under Home Rule can county government truly represent the desires of Jackson county voters.

Mrs. N. R. Etzel, Route 1, Box 140, Eagle Point, Ore.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

As this is written, President Kennedy has just ordered 1800 U.S. Marines into Thailand, where they will join an Army battle group of about 1,000 men who are already there. The Defense Department says U.S. military forces will be raised to about 5,000 men. The landing is being made from a U.S. carrier task force in the Gulf of Siam, just off the Thailand coast.

The dispatches say the President's order makes it plain that U.S. forces will FIGHT if the Communists in LAOS cross the Mekong river, which is the border between Laos and Thailand.

WHY the show of force in Thailand now? The President's order this morning explains that action is being taken in order to enable us to fulfill our obligations under the Manila Pact of 1954. In addition, it is understood that at a meeting of SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization) about a year ago in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, the military leaders of SEATO agreed that the final last-stand defense of Southeast Asia must be made at the Mekong.

President Kennedy directed this morning that United Nations be notified of the actions this country is taking.

Q: Are we writing off Laos as a bad debt? A lot of people who are familiar with the situation in Southeast Asia think that is the sensible thing to do. Laos, they say, is torn by power struggles among competing leaders. The PEOPLE of Laos, they add, have little interest in the struggle and are not particularly concerned as to whether they shall live under communist rule or otherwise. All they want is to be left alone.

On the other hand, these people say, the Thais are a competent people who know what they want. They want FREEDOM. They interpret freedom primarily as freedom from communist domination. They want no part of communism.

THAT seems to be about the size of what is happening this morning. If the picture we get from the news today is an accurate picture, our action appears to make sense. We are drawing a line in the dust and daring our communist opponents to cross it. We are interposing forces between a country that appears to want no part of communism and the communists who are seeking to control all of Southeast Asia.