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Flight o' Time Medford and Jackson County History from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years ago.

Freedom From and Freedom To

The controversial Supreme Court decision, which banned the use of an officially-prescribed prayer in school classrooms, has been widely deplored as being a move toward eliminating religion entirely from public life.

We do not view it this way. We do not believe that it could, for instance, be construed as banning such things as religious songs sung by choral groups, or Christmas programs, or other such manifestations in which religion plays a central role.

There is a distinction here, and the distinction is found in the First Amendment to the Constitution itself, on which the decision was based.

Of religion the First Amendment says:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

The school prayer, being officially prescribed and imposed on school children, was in effect an "establishment" of religion.

But school programs, whether or not they have a religious theme, are not classroom exercises. No one is forced to participate. No one is forced to attend. In most instances they do not involve expenditures of tax funds.

This, it seems to us, is "the free exercise" of religion, and should be just as strongly protected by the Constitution as is a student's right, in a compulsory classroom, to be protected from "official" prayers which may offend his sensibilities or religious beliefs.

ONE aspect of the Amendment is negative; the other is positive. Both are equally important. The school prayer ruling, it seems to us, has been widely misinterpreted. It does NOT enjoin all mention of God from classrooms. What it does enjoin is an official, state-written prayer.

Many dedicated Christians can object to this, if on no other grounds than that found in VI Matthew 5:

"... when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (RSV)

This, from Jesus Himself, hardly jibes with the rote-recitation by uninterested and uninspired students of an innocuous, not to say vapid, officially-prescribed prayer, under the leadership of a teacher who may or may not be interested.

DESPITE the concurring opinion of Mr. Justice Douglas, the ruling decision does not take God out of American official life, nor even out of the schools.

Voluntary "free exercise" of religion is a far different thing, and to our mind far more vivid and meaningful, than an officially-imposed prayer.

Some of our greatest music, painting and drama is religion-centered, as are our Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations, for Christians, and other feast days and holy days, for other religions.

They are all part of the tradition of this varied, divergent and multifarious nation—so long as their observance is freely voluntary, and imposed on no one.

THIS, it seems to us, is the dividing line between "establishment" and "free exercise."

And, in a nation where more than a third of the populace has no church affiliation, and the rest are splintered into hundreds of denominations, sects, churches, and religions, "free exercise" of religion can have no other meaning than to include the freedom to abstain from religion and religious observances.

Freedom includes "freedom from" as well as "freedom to." One without the other is incomplete. And the writers of the First Amendment, with great wisdom, insured that Americans will continue to have both. — E. A.

"Antis" Never Built Anything

Sir Charles Snow is a widely known, distinguished, and sometimes controversial Englishman who has been successful in several completely different careers — as a scientist, government administrator, novelist, and teacher.

Earlier this year, upon his induction as Rector of St. Andrews University in Scotland, he addressed his remarks to the topic of Magnanimity. (It is, incidentally, one of the finest brief statements of contemporary humanistic philosophy we have read recently. It appears in the July Harper's.)

In the course of his remarks, he said:

"... What is the root of the contemporary passion for the prefix 'anti'...? It is an expression of that nihilism which fills the vacuum created by the withdrawal of positive directives for living, whether religious or humanist..."

A BIT later, he added:

"We live in an age when frustration and fear make men harsh and full of hate, and that is the worst motive either for private or for social action..."

This is the key to our violent distaste for the "Anti-This" and "Anti-That" Crusades, the "Impenach So-and-So" and "Recall Such-and-Such" movements.

Sir Charles concluded by saying:

"... Hatred is easy, destruction is easy. And that particular kind of easiness is ultimately nauseating to the soul."

This is truth. Nations are not made great, nor people wise and good, by hate and destruction. They need positive, constructive action — and love. — E. A.



Divided Nation Linked By Airline

By PHIL NEWSOM United Press International New York—Farida Haq is smiling, almond-eyed beauty who at the age of 22 remembers only vaguely the terror of her family's flight from India at the time of partition.

That was in 1947 when India and Pakistan were being divided and in New Delhi the Sikhs were running wild against the Moslems.

Farida remembers only her English-born mother telling her that no matter what she might see happen to her Moslem father, she was not to cry out nor even admit that he was her father. Her own life would be at stake.

Along with some 9 million other Moslems, her family fled penniless to Pakistan where eventually they settled in the ancient city of Lahore, recently visited by Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy.

Today, Farida is helping to disprove Kipling's belief that "east is east and west is west and never the twain shall meet."

Regular flights from Dacca in east Pakistan to Karachi in the west carry perishable goods which otherwise would take a week by ship.

The line is President Ayub's not-so-secret weapon for unifying the vastly different cultures of the two wings of Pakistan, which speak different languages, live in different climates and surroundings and are bound together only by religion.

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PIA's general manager for the United States and Canada is a bouncy man named Shameem D. Ahmed.

"PIA," he says, "is especially interested in making friends."

He and Farida are good recommendations.

REQUEST NAME PLATES Munich, Germany—(UPI)—Residents of Schwabing, this city's Bohemian district, asked Wednesday that all police wear nameplates or numbers so they can be identified in any future brawls Schwabing has been the scene of almost nightly street fights recently between police and mobs of students, artists and rowdies.

The disorders began one night when police stopped three guitarists from playing in the main street and a brawl followed.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

WHEN IRVING LEVINE was acting as Moscow correspondent he once tried out a new transistor radio on a Soviet train. The Russian seated next to him tried desperately to contain his curiosity, but finally could stand it no longer. The way he phrased his question was this, however: "We have those things, too. What is it?"

Levine met another Soviet citizen who had just returned from a guided tour to Denmark. "Economic conditions there," he reported, "are desperate. The Danes obviously are penniless. There wasn't a line in front of a single shop!"

A patient rushed into a neurologist's office and cried, "Doctor, Doctor! The ghosts of my ancestors have taken to descending upon me every night en masse. They perch on top of the fence posts around my garden and scream epithets and imprecations at me. What can I do?"

The doctor replied thoughtfully, "Do not concern yourself, my good fellow. Just sharpen those fence posts."

A broker got a birthday remembrance from his son at camp—an inexpensive tin clasp. The accompanying note read: "Dear Pop: This isn't much, but it's all you can afford. Love, Chris."

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Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop (c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

ON MOSS GARDENING Washington—Leisure, one is told, is the big new thing in American life. A professor has written a book rather strongly approving leisure. Magazines are devoting sections to leisure and its uses, some of which seem to be very odd indeed.

But if you are an old-fashioned American, dedicated to productive toil and suspicious of easy going leisure, a way out can still be recommended to you. Start a moss garden.

As far as can be discovered, the experiment is a novel one in this country. A learned Japanese, writing on moss gardening for a recent Journal of Economic Botany, was unable to find a record of more than one American moss garden. It flourished on one of the great Long Island estates of the 1920's, and it probably dried up pretty rapidly, which is fatal for moss gardens, after the stock market crash of 1929.

YET ignorance and necessity, in combination, are great promoters of experimentation. In this case, moreover, the spur of necessity and the boldness of ignorance were reinforced by the prod of memory. The most memorably beautiful garden in the world, and one of the oldest, beyond doubt, belongs to the Moss Temple outside Kyoto. Surely art and nature together have never contrived anything to surpass that carpet of a hundred different mosses, glowing in the green shade of the great trees, masking the water-lapped rocks, even creeping up the sun-flecked hillside.

Between the Moss Temple's immemorial glades, and a sunless, airless pit about 10 by 18 feet, there was only one connection, but that a strong one. On the architect's blueprints, the pit had been optimistically described as a "planting area," but if planted, very little seemed likely to grow there except moss.

The questions remained, how to get moss, and once got, how to plant it.

These questions were briskly answered by Mrs. Donald, the single-handed creator of the fern valley at the National Arboretum. You get moss, it turns out, by going into the countryside and digging it up. And you plant it, with wide varying results, by preparing the kind of soil that is hostile to most other kinds of growth; by muddying the soil's surface to an almost soupy consistency; and by putting the moss-clumps into this semi-soup. After that, you hope for the best.

IN a moss garden, to be sure, you need something more than moss; but where moss is comfortable, the plants of the American woodlands are pretty comfortable too. The wild azalea for high growth; bloodroot and trout-lily, oconee bells, solomon's seal, and hepatica for the mid-level; and partridge berry and wintergreen to interperate the moss-carpet — all these are at home with mosses. So are the ferns, in all their wonderful variety, from the lordly royal fern to the infinitely delicate maidenhair spleenwort.

For a moss-garden, finally, you need a place like that pit of a "planting area" which will never become a passageway for large, carelessly trampling feet. And you need a sprinkler system, to give your mosses 10 or 15 minutes of misty spray on every second day, except in wet weather. These practical requirements were easy to meet; and the rest was done with the help of Mrs. Donald.

The result, it must be added, is remarkably unlike the marvel of the Moss Temple. It lacks majesty and mystery. It is neither splendid nor romantic. It is a garden to be looked at inch by inch, like those dish gardens nature-minded children used to make, in the old days when children did other things besides look at television.

IN FACT, the first thing that a beginning moss gardener discovers is that his experiment positively demands to be looked at inch by inch, and almost every day. The point is that weeds are just as eager to flourish among mosses as anywhere else. Furthermore, if a weed seedling attains more than microscopic size, it cannot be extracted without bringing with it a large chunk of the moss carpet. Hence a serious moss gardener's almost permanent posture is a deep crouch. And this is why moss gardening is an easy way out, if you are threatened with an excess of easy-going-leisure.

All the same, the rewards can be considerable. After a shriveled-looking start, that moss which grew in emerald green-velvet clumps along a shady stream-side regains its true emerald velvetyness. That other moss, which resembles a heavy blue-green plush, begins to be at home beneath the maidenhair spleenwort's fragile fronds.

The moss carpet, in sum, begins to form. And so you begin to feel you have accomplished something not often accomplished, except in Japan, where moss gardeners are numerous enough to gather in clubs, to share their hobby with many a gentle, enthusiastic hiss. Good Luck to them!

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Udall's Timing of Mountain Sheep Proposal Surprises

By A. ROBERT SMITH Mail Tribune Washington Correspondent

Washington (Special)—The most surprising thing about Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall's proposal for federal construction of High Mountain Sheep dam on the Oregon-Idaho border was his timing.

His proposal may become an important election campaign issue this fall — but it is not an issue eagerly sought by Pacific Northwest Democrats who are up for reelection. In fact, some Democrats would like to adopt

Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) was elected in 1956 as a staunch champion of a federal Hells Canyon dam. This year, seeking reelection, he greeted Udall's proposal for federal construction of Mountain Sheep dam with a delicately worded non-committal statement which ventured nothing more bold than the observation: "It seems clear that the Nez Perce dam on the Middle Snake river below the mouth of the Salmon should not be licensed for construction at this time, since the fish passage problem has not been solved." Church said the Federal Power commission would have to decide whether Mountain Sheep dam should be built as a federal or non-federal project.

Northwest lawmakers are caught in someone's fire no matter which way they move. The public power organizations are sore at Udall for saying Nez Perce dam threatens fish when they have been trying to sell the FPC and the people of the Northwest on the idea that new fish facilities will take care of all that. The private power companies are sore at Udall because they've invested great sums in their effort to build Mountain Sheep as a private multipurpose dam. The organized conservationists are opposed to the Nez Perce, but Udall's backstage efforts to line them up in favor of Mountain Sheep have not noticeably succeeded.

Rep. Al Ullman (D-Ore.), who was elected to Congress also in 1956 as a Hells Canyon champion, boldly supported Udall's position. Since his eastern Oregon district borders on the Snake river, his reelection campaign is most apt to feel any impact this controversy may have this fall. Pacific Power and Light company, one of four utilities which wants to share in building Mountain Sheep dam, is strong in Ullman's district.

"I have consistently supported private development where single purpose needs are met but have by the same token believed that where broad multiple uses are involved in the key sites on the mainstem of the Snake and the Columbia, the public interest is better served by public instruction," said Ullman. "This issue involves major storage capacity to be utilized for flood control and for downstream power needs. It would appear to better serve the region and the nation through public construction."

Ullman's declaration of support was unique. Nine years ago Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay, standing behind the same press conference table used by Udall last week, announced he was withdrawing the government's proposal for federal Hells Canyon dam — and immediately there were cries of anguish and joy (respectively from Democrats and Republicans) in Congress. Udall's announcement drew comparisons from the floor of Congress. Congressman Ullman has the exception in the House.

The immediate exception in the Senate was Sen. Maurine Neuberger (D-Ore.), who sent Udall a letter approving his position. Her late husband was elected in 1954 as a harsh critic of the GOP "partnership" power policy of encouraging local utilities. Mrs. Neuberger indicated a similar attitude in writing Udall:

"Valuable public property is involved in this particular undeveloped portion of the Columbia Basin. Indeed, the water storage, flood control and power benefits in the Middle Snake have a magnitude equal to those of the Hells Canyon section, which a previous commission wastefully licensed for less-than-full development. We can ill afford to lightly dispose of the balance of the Middle Snake's great potential."

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