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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.

20 YEARS AGO
July 6, 1942 (Monday)
Rationing board officials announce that no time limitation has been set on application for domestic canning sugar.

30 YEARS AGO
July 6, 1932 (Wednesday)
The Rogue river resembled the Mississippi in color today due to a break in the canal of the Prospect diversion project.

40 YEARS AGO
July 6, 1922 (Thursday)
Hugo G. A. von der Helten, prominent pioneer of Jackson county, dies in Portland.

50 YEARS AGO
July 6, 1912 (Saturday)
Nine Medford teachers pass recent state examination for teacher's certificates.

What's Your I.Q.?
Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.

How Do We Stand?

How do we stand in mid-1962 as compared with, say, one year ago?

The New York Times' Washington bureau chief, James Reston, who combines a touch of the philosopher with his excellent credentials as a newspaperman, concludes that the U.S. is in much better shape than it was in mid-1961.

He makes a good case, too. Then we were worried about war over Berlin, and the calling up of reserves, and the construction of fallout shelters. Today we are worried about the stock market.

A year ago there was chaos in the Congo, civil war in Algeria, fear of missile bases in the Congo, and concern over Khrushchev's efforts to disrupt the United Nations. Today stockpile and cotton storage scandals preoccupy Washington.

A year ago, the Administration was wondering whether there was any use in asking Congress for a trade expansion bill. Last week it was passed by the House.

"The comparison," Reston remarks wryly, "is instructive and even a little reassuring."

AND he goes on to say:

All the nightmares of a year ago haven't happened, which doesn't mean they won't happen a year from now, but for the moment it is at least possible to say that while stocks have fallen, the world is still intact, and probably in better shape than it was in the middle of 1961.

None of the Communist assumptions has proved to be true. Liberated Africa has not gone Communist. Castroism hasn't swept Latin America. The Middle East has not collapsed. China has not triumphed, but starved. Europe has not divided economically or broken apart politically, but it is in the midst of the most exciting economic and political transformation and unification since the formation of the American union.

Reston is not wearing rose-colored blinders, for he finds that many of today's problems are serious indeed. But he concludes, and we believe rightly, that overall, "compared with the world problems a year ago, it is not too bad."—E.A.

Civil War's Eve

Speaking of tough times... We have been reading a book entitled "Reveille in Washington." It is about the nation's capital during the Civil War.

Despite the brooding threat of nuclear war, problems of integration, traffic control and a host of other nagging worries, Washington of today cannot compare with the fear, disorganization, and near-chaos of the Washington of the eve of the War Between the States.

The capital faced a seceding Virginia on one side, and a half-dissident Maryland on the other three. Northern troops were having difficulty getting through to protect Washington from the imminent threat of invasion from the South. Government workers — clerks, soldiers, officers — many of them expressed overt sympathy with the Southern cause.

THE streets—quagmires when it rained, knee deep in dust when it didn't—were filled with raw, untrained militiamen, soldiers, hangers-on, fleeing citizens, plug-uglies itching for a brawl. House and Senate saw some of their most able and forceful members leaving to join the Confederacy.

Over all hung the uncertainty—the awful uncertainty—of what might happen. Assassination? Cavalry raids? Outright invasion and capture? None of us know what lies ahead. But barring catastrophe, we'll never see times like those again.—E.A.

Memories of Scatterbolt

Potpourri's column yesterday recorded the waves of nostalgia evoked by the thoughts of an old-fashioned Fourth of July following a page of pictures on the subject last Sunday.

Other things evoke nostalgia, too. One which reacted on us was a recent letter in the Oregon Statesman from Forest Amsden of Salem which waxed nostalgic about the Model A Ford.

Now there was (and, in some few remaining cases, is) a car! There is a piece of machinery to get nostalgic about! It can generate the same sort of feeling a cowboy has for his favorite horse.

AMSDEN said:

"Take running boards. The loss of running boards has been a severe blow to utility and comfort, a sacrifice made to a false goal of sleekness. On a running board one could stow extra luggage. It made a fine bench at picnics. It was an ideal place to sit while whittling or sprinkling the lawn. You could stand on the running board for short rides with Daddy. It simplified taking along the dog, because that's where the dog rode: lying on the running board."

He also recalled other advantages—like the windshield that swung open to admit breezes, and the hand throttle, both of immense utility, and both of which have vanished into limbo.

One thing he forgot to mention was the ease of repair. Any moderately handy guy, with a pair of pliers, a tire iron, and perhaps a strand of wire, could fix 9 out of 10 things that went wrong with one, on the rare occasion when something did.

WE have often thought that the Model A Ford was one of the best automobiles ever built, anywhere. The demand for them, still high, is a reflection of this sentiment.

Our first (and, alas, only) Model A was named "Scatterbolt." It had running boards, a fold-down top, an open-up or fold-down windshield, and a rumble seat.

As Lorenson George says, "You can't hardly get them any more." More's the pity.—E.A.

"All Are Gone, The Old Familiar Fasces"



COMMUNICATIONS

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Record on Connally Amendment Told By Senator Morse

To the Editor: The letter from Mr. L. C. Powell relative to the Connally amendment and the International Court of Justice makes so many erroneous statements that I think it is essential to set the record straight.

First, Mr. Powell is wrong when he says that all treaties made by the U.S. government have higher authority than our Constitution and become the law of the land. They do not.

Second, Mr. Powell is wrong when he says that the Connally amendment is a "treaty" and that it is subject to the same process of ratification as a treaty.

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Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

GOOD NEWS, FOR ONCE Washington - On Tuesday afternoon, President Kennedy met at the White House with Secretary of the Treasury Dillon, Secretary of Defense McNamara, and Deputy Secretary Roswell Gilpatric for a long bout of cheese paring.

The cheese to be pared was the one that most worries the U.S. business community and the banking fraternity all over the world - namely the persistent deficit in the U.S. balance of payments, which has caused the U.S. heavy gold losses of recent years.

Much too little attention has been paid to the long, hard effort to shrink the payments deficit that began when President Kennedy took office. In particular, net defense spending overseas has already been heavily reduced, both by American economies and by arrangements for offsetting arms purchases in this country by the Germans and others.

TO BE specific, the rate of net dollar outflow for defense, which was \$2.7 billion per annum in the last Eisenhower year, has already shrunk greatly and will drop to \$1.6 billion per annum in 1963. At Tuesday's White House meeting, a target of \$800 million of additional shrinkage was set, to be attained over a further period of two years.

It will be a painful target to reach, said one defense official, "but we believe we can reach it - and without penalizing individual servicemen or their families."

Reaching the target will require spending some more defense dollars here in the U.S., in order to cut still further into dollar outflow abroad. Even so, what is being achieved is remarkable, and all the more so at a time when the increases of U.S. defense effort, both in Viet Nam and in Europe, might have been expected to send the outflow of defense dollars soaring sky-high.

All this is particularly interesting, moreover, because it suggests that the business men and the economists may eventually have to re-examine several of their current rubber-stamp slogans, about the insurmountable "change in the U.S. world position," the hopelessness of the "fundamental payments deficit problem," and so on. The record suggests that re-thinking may be in order rather soon.

HOW come? It is an interesting story as unofficially related, came about like this: Those who signed the Declaration did so almost literally with ropes around their necks. They were REBELS. If the Revolution failed, it was reasonable assumption that the rebels who engineered would be hanged.

When Carroll had signed his name, someone at his elbow is said to have remarked: "You are safe. In Maryland there are several men bearing your name. They will know which one of the Carrolls to take."

Carroll is said to have answered: "That won't happen in this case." He then picked up his pen and added the words: "Of Carrollton."

THEN there was Patrick Henry. In 1775, the year before the adoption and the signing of the Declaration of Independence, he was urging before the Virginia Provincial Convention that the Virginia militia be armed for the defense of the colony against the Redcoats in the event that worse came to worse and Virginia was invaded.

As in the case of Charles Carroll, he was reminded that armed opposition might be dangerous in the extreme. It would amount to rebellion, he replied.

"Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?" Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what others may take, but as for me, GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH!"

THEN there was Robert Morris, another of the signers of the Declaration. When the paper current with which the infant Republic had to finance the Revolutionary War became shakier and shakier, he didn't hesitate to throw his own personal fortune back of it.

AND when James Russell Lowell, after the Revolution, was serving in London as the American minister, he was asked: "How long will the American Republic endure?" He replied crisply: "As long as the ideas of men who made it continue to be dominant."

THOSE ancestors of ours! THEY PLAYED IT FOR KEEPS.

Strictly Personal

By Sydney J. Harris

CRIMINAL ABILITIES Among the many periodicals I read every month are several prison magazines - and some of the most honest and thoughtful writings appear in these journals.

It may be true that prison tends to degrade and brutalize its inmates; but it is equally true that many men in prison have found themselves possessed of talents and insights they had hardly suspected before.

John Bunyan, an uneducated tinker, wrote his immortal "Pilgrim's Progress" while in jail. Oscar Wilde's most mature work was composed in Reading Gaol. The best of Paul Verlaine's lyrics, and the deepest of Dostoyevski's psychological problems were given to the world from prison.

America's most prolific short story writer, O. Henry, wrote almost all his stories while doing a stretch for forgery. Thomas More and Leighton Hunt lifted wit and satire to new heights from their cells. Even King James I of Scotland wrote the only poem of his life in prison.

Not all these men, of course, were criminals in the ordinary sense of the word. Many were political prisoners, such as Socrates and Gandhi; others, like Marco Polo, Columbus, Galileo and Defoe, had violated the creeds and customs of their times.

Yet, regardless of the charge, prison seems to have brought out the desire for self-expression and self-expression in many men. While jail tends to brutalize some, it has exactly the opposite effect upon others - as Balzac wrote in a letter to a friend from his Paris cell.

Some of our worst elements are to be found in prison - and some of the potentially best, as well. The qualities that go into the making of a talented criminal are often the same qualities that would make a successful leader in the arts and professions: independence, resourcefulness, and a craving for creative non-routine activity.

Once society learns how to harness these abilities for constructive instead of anti-social work, only half-wits and degenerates will occupy our prisons, and the prisons themselves will become genuine places of rehabilitation, not antiquated modes of punishment, as they are today.

An intelligent and talented man in jail is as much an indictment of society's neglect as it is of the individual's waywardness. When Brahms remarked that Beethoven might have been a great criminal had he not discovered his ability to compose music, he shrewdly anticipated the truth of modern psychology that the criminal is often an artist without a portfolio.

Mr. Eva Brown, Route 2, Medford, Ore.

Aerial Spraying To the Editor: We picked the Rogue valley as the place for a home because we think it is a beautiful valley and the climate is suitable too. After living here for ten years we find the crop dusting in our immediate neighborhood very aggravating as well as harmful.

In spite of many articles in the Mail Tribune, Oregon Farmer, etc., warning people of the great dangers involved in the use of these highly poisonous chemicals, they still spray around our houses here in Sams Valley in what we feel is a reckless manner, and via the most harmful way, by air. Sometimes we get enough deposit on our garden crops so we can't use them for 21 days, and spraying every few days, like they do, during the summer months, one can readily see why we take a chance when we eat our own garden crops.

However, the biggest grievance I have is the way some of us feel from the spraying program used here. We get headaches, sore throats, stomach cramps and diarrhea and feel sick all over from breathing it.

It seems to me the air is ours to breathe and to keep us alive and no one should have the right to pollute it like they do.

I'd like to hear from other residents in the valley who may have had the same experience and who feel it should be stopped, around houses at least.

Prayers and Communism To the Editor: This is in reply to Dave Force's letter in MT 7/3/62.

He says the supreme court "has no law making powers" and that "it made no law against prayer." And in the next sentence he contradicts himself by saying that the decision "prohibited" the state government from coining official prayers.

If a prohibition is not a law, what is it? He cannot see where this "decision as a step towards Communism."

One marvels that one who has attended church "almost every Sunday since he was 2 years old" can be so blind. He must know but little about Communism. Communism is militant atheism, chief aim to displace God, and the "no religion" motto.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

ATV TOUR of New York City was scheduled for shooting early one morning, with the first scene to be taken from the center of the George Washington Bridge. The cameraman picked that morning to oversleep. When he awakened, he took one look at the clock, threw a coat over his pajamas and dashed out of the house.

"The George Washington Bridge, and hurry," he implored a taxi driver. "New York end or Jersey end?" asked the driver. "Neither," said the cameraman. "I've got to get to the center of the bridge." The driver took a quick look at his fare's anguished face and peculiar attire, and shoved him out of the cab. "You don't need a driver, Buddy," he announced. "You need a psychiatrist!"

In Kentucky, a harassed motorist kept looking in his rearview mirror, wondering why a light truck was tailing him so persistently. He finally alighted to discover that the truck had no driver, and had been hooked to his rear bumper since he had backed into a parking space 100 miles away in Cincinnati.

"For ten dollars," proposed Papa (English) to his son, "I'll teach you to talk like an Indian." The skeptical son asked, "How?" "See," beamed Papa, "you're talking already!"

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