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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.

10 YEARS AGO

July 30, 1952 (Wednesday) Jackson county grand jury reports that the Rogue river bridge is "entirely safe in all respects."

20 YEARS AGO

July 30, 1942 (Thursday) The California railroad commission approves Cope's request to reclassify its outstanding stock and issue more common stock.

30 YEARS AGO

July 30, 1932 (Saturday) A transient arrested in Tacoma admits the theft of nine electric motors from Plinsale Packing company.

40 YEARS AGO

July 30, 1922 (Sunday) Rash of burglaries continues as Vernon Vawter and Sam Richardson report their Geneva st. homes were illegally entered.

50 YEARS AGO

July 30, 1912 (Tuesday) The Spalding buggy company, which has moved out of Jackson county to escape a warrant for illegally selling buggies without obtaining a license, receives a temporary injunction to restrain the prosecuting attorney from serving the warrant.

What's Your I.Q.?

- Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good. 1. Which four states of the Union have names beginning with the letter W?

Answers: 1. Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming. 2. Maple leaf. 3. Roosevelt, Hoover, Coolidge, F. D. R. 4. Dove. 5. Lockjaw. 6. Street-car. 7. Post Worth. 8. Guinness. 9. Butcher. 10. Set menu.

A Clemency Appeal

Four weeks from today LeeRoy Sanford McGahuey will die in the gas chamber at the Oregon State Penitentiary — unless Gov. Mark O. Hatfield commutes his sentence to life imprisonment.

Two other people—one a woman—are under death sentence in Oregon, and will be scheduled for execution provided the Oregon Supreme Court does not remand the death sentences, or unless the governor exercises his power of clemency.

In California, three convicted murderers are scheduled to die Aug. 8. Gov. Pat Brown has scheduled a clemency hearing for them this week. One of the three is a woman.

IN THE general election of 1958, a measure to abolish capital punishment in Oregon was narrowly defeated, 264,434 to 276,487—a margin of only 12,053 votes.

Oregon has long had a curious on-again-off-again attitude toward capital punishment. It was banned for many years, but was reinstated about 40 years ago. It has not been used frequently in recent years, and the situation of today, with three persons awaiting execution at the same time, is unusual.

In California, it has also been hotly debated, principally in recent years as a result of the Carl Chessman case. It is also an issue in this fall's gubernatorial election, for Governor Brown has expressed himself as opposed to capital punishment, while Richard Nixon is on record as approving its use.

UP TO this point it has not become a current political issue in Oregon. Governor Hatfield has expressed himself opposed to it, as a matter of principle, although he has indicated he would not interfere with the course of the law except where extenuating circumstances arise.

We do not know Attorney General Thornton's position on capital punishment. He isn't saying. Hatfield has been asked to extend executive clemency to McGahuey, but has not indicated what he will do. Four provisions of the Oregon Constitution bear on this power. They are these:

"Laws for the punishment of crime shall be founded on the principles of reformation, and not of vindictive justice." Article I, Section 15. "The penalty for murder in the first degree shall be death, except when the trial jury shall in its verdict recommend life imprisonment, in which case the penalty shall be life imprisonment." Article I, Section 37. "He (the governor) shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed." Article V, Section 9. "He (the governor) shall have power to grant reprieves, commutations, and pardons, after conviction, for all offenses except treason, subject to such regulations as may be provided by law..." Article V, Section 14.

DON Willner, a columnist for the Portland Reporter, in an "open letter" to the governor, makes a strong plea to Hatfield to exercise his power of clemency in the McGahuey case.

We have great sympathy for the governor in this matter, for we have watched two Oregon executions in the course of a reporter's job, and have also watched former governors when they were struggling with a life-and-death decision.

To permit a man—any man—to die when you have the unrestricted power to save his life by the stroke of a pen is an awesome responsibility.

The governor needs no reason nor excuse to commute or not to commute. The power is his, absolutely, and can be exercised or not on the basis of whim or conscience or principle.

WE HOLD no brief for murderers, McGahuey or any others.

By the same token, we do not like the state, itself, to take the life of a man—or woman. "Official murder" is no more to our liking than any other kind of murders.

To us the arguments against capital punishment are compelling.

Executing one man does not, it has been shown in many studies, deter others from the same crime. Indeed, statistics tend to indicate that non-capital punishment states have fewer murders than do capital punishment states.

The possibility for error always exists, and there is no pardon, no reprieve, for a dead man.

THE application of capital punishment is erratic and capricious. Wealthy murderers often escape the ultimate penalty, through long legal battles and appeals, whereas the poor man is much more apt to die for his sins.

Murder, treason, kidnapping, and in some cases, narcotics peddling, are the only crimes now punishable by death in this country. But only a couple of hundred years ago the supreme penalty used for many minor offenses, including some which would hardly merit the term "juvenile delinquency" today.

Thus far we have come. But we have not yet come far enough.

THE Old Testament calls for an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But it also teaches, "Thou shalt not kill."

And the New Testament is even more emphatic against taking human life.

Not because we feel sorry for McGahuey, or the others, but because we believe capital punishment is degrading, we join Willner in his appeal to the Governor. He said:

"The Business Situation Is None Of Your Business"



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.

Gospel Is Real To the Editor: With the advent of the Telstar added to the marvelous inventions of the radio, the TV and radar, we are realizing the marvelous age we are living in, and it should be an incentive to us to believe more in the Bible.

Who In America, from 1940 to 1952 inclusive, reveals that Morse is listed as a member of The Institute Of Pacific Relations? This "huge and powerful organization" and tells of branches reaching from the back rooms of Washington across the dark alley from Alger Hiss to the lush rooms of the Kremlin in Moscow.

murdered dad... I wonder what will happen to that lad. Should he wind up in some State's lethal chair — (be honest) — put him there? Of the blame I'll take my shameful share. But society set that sneaky snare.

FROM Washington: President Kennedy set up a crucial conference with top diplomatic, military, and atomic advisers to discuss the possibility of easing U.S. terms for an East-West nuclear test ban treaty.

FROM New Delhi, India: Nehru says he is going to go ahead and buy Russian MIG fighter planes — whether the U.S. and Britain like it or not.

ON the home front: The Census Bureau reports in Washington that spending by city governments in the United States rose 8 per cent in 1961, to a record 16 1/2 billion dollars.

COMMENT: We'll, it's wonderful while we're spending it and putting it on the cuff, but it's going to be rough on the coming generations when they have to start paying it back.

HOUSE DISCRIMINATION I own a house, and the man around the corner owns a house. Mine is a three-story town house. So is his. We both pay roughly the same amount of real estate tax. But here the resemblance ends. My house is occupied solely by my family. He has divided his house into little rabbit-warrens, and collects a considerable amount of rent each month from his roomers.

HOUSE DISCRIMINATION (continued) Moreover, I am not allowed to deduct a penny for my repairs or improvements I make on my house — whereas he is allowed generous deductions as a landlord.

HOUSE DISCRIMINATION (continued) This, it seems to me, is a grossly inequitable situation. People are penalized for owning a home in the city, not only because their taxes are high (mine have been raised three times in three years), but also because the price of buying a house in the city is geared to the "converter."

HOUSE DISCRIMINATION (continued) The "converter" can easily afford to pay \$10,000 more for a city house if he plans to turn the 10 rooms into 20, to rent out the basement and the attic, to convert closets into kitchenettes.

HOUSE DISCRIMINATION (continued) But the man buying a house for his own family cannot afford to compete in such a market — so he moves out to the suburbs.

HOUSE DISCRIMINATION (continued) This, of course, is the way city slums are created and perpetuated. Landlords buy up more and more apartments and houses, permit them to run down, charge excessive rentals, provide poor service, and pay no extra tax for the privilege of doing so.

HOUSE DISCRIMINATION (continued) In Chicago, as in other large cities, tens of thousands of fine old town houses have been converted in this manner — almost always with disastrous effects to the neighborhood. A family wanting to buy and restore such a house for its own use is forced to compete with buyers who care little about the neighborhood or the city, but only about a quick and sure return on their property.

HOUSE DISCRIMINATION (continued) Many factors are responsible for the flight to the suburbs; but one of the most important is the constantly rising property tax in the city. Taxes rise in the suburbs, too, of course, but the services are better, the schools are better, and the neighborhoods are occupied by householders who genuinely care about the future of their community.

HOUSE DISCRIMINATION (continued) One of the most effective ways, in my view, to halt this flight, to arrest the growth of slums, and to preserve home-owning neighborhoods in the city, would be to impose a stringent but realistic tax on those who use their houses for business purposes — which would offer relief from tax raises to those families who are trying, against heavy odds, to maintain their homes in the metropolitan areas.

Foreign News: French Peasant Riots; Political Parties Due for Pakistan

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst Notes from the foreign news cables:

Peasant Riots A riot outbreak of peasant riots is likely in France this week. Farmers are angry because the government has not done enough to help French agriculture and they plan to block highways and demonstrate in front of county seats.

New Pressure The Communists are expected to increase pressure on civilian traffic through East Germany to and from the West. They'll do it through traffic laws requiring such things as all cars traveling over 40 m.p.h. must be fitted with safety belts. Also by forcing West Germans to obtain transit visas to drive or travel by rail to or from West Berlin.

Political Rebirth Look for a rebirth soon of numerous political parties in Pakistan now that President Mohammad Ayub Khan has signed into law a bill making political parties legal again. Former Muslim League officials already have announced immediate steps are being taken to revive their party, which once dominated political life in Pakistan.

War and Peace by Peewee Reese; Finnegan's Wake by Veronica Lake; Ivanhoe by Brigitte Bardot; Charley's Aunt by Immanuel Kant; High Tor by Toots Shor; Decline and Fall by Lucille Ball; Peyton Place by Princess Grace; The Peppermint Twist by Franz Liszt; and The Polka-Dot Bikini by G. Puccini.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

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Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A MOTORCYCLE cop stopped a driver who was tooting up the West Side Drive of Manhattan at breakneck speed, and gave him a ticket. "I clocked you doing 75 miles an hour," said the cop grimly. The driver nodded cheerfully, then asked, "Couldn't you make it 90 an hour, officer? I'm trying to sell this car."

Wayne Howell and Charles Rice have been playing a new game called "Improbable Authors" that may intrigue intellectual Try-and-Stop-Me readers. You'll get the idea from the following samples:

War and Peace by Peewee Reese; Finnegan's Wake by Veronica Lake; Ivanhoe by Brigitte Bardot; Charley's Aunt by Immanuel Kant; High Tor by Toots Shor; Decline and Fall by Lucille Ball; Peyton Place by Princess Grace; The Peppermint Twist by Franz Liszt; and The Polka-Dot Bikini by G. Puccini.

Cynthia Lindsay, viewing an exhibition of the high-bounding Ukrainian Dancers at the Metropolitan Opera House, overheard this exchange by two little old ladies seated directly behind her: First old lady: Well, I must say they're mighty nimble. Second old lady: They have to be, you know. They don't have any money.

A Harvard junior, back from an expensive weekend at Vassar, composed this melancholy couplet: Pretty dishes Are avaricious.

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Washington Report

By William S. White

CONGRESS'S SECOND scale federal aid to public education. Very much alive, however, is his foreign aid program, and very much alive is his world trade program. Congress has just sent to the White House a very good foreign aid bill which will strengthen — the President's hand in the cold war. And the House has already approved — with Senate approval still to come — a strong world trade measure which involves perhaps the most important legislative achievement since World War II.

It is against all this background that this Congress must be measured. Has it really been an unexpectedly obstructive and difficult congress, as some of the President's liberal advisers keep insisting in their disappointment at the rejection of welfare measures? No. Instead, it has really been just the kind of congress that should have been foreseen all along.

IT HAS been moderate-minded, middle-of-the-road in political complexion and cooperative toward the President on the Great Survival issues but with little else. If Congress has very often checked the President on proposed domestic innovations, it has — to the great credit of the minority Republicans — given him high bipartisan support on cold war matters.

The only puzzling thing is why anybody ever supposed that it would be any other kind of congress. Kennedy himself, after all, ran an essentially moderate campaign in 1960. It was not wildly "liberal" any more than Richard Nixon's was wildly "conservative." The people, in narrowly electing Kennedy, spoke in tones of moderation. For in choosing him, as only a moderately liberal man, they chose a congress which was moderately conservative.

Nothing in that election and nothing since has suggested that the people want domestic reforms and innovations so much as they want strong leadership against the Soviet menace. This Congress — both the Democratic and Republican sides of it — has helped to give them that leadership by its bipartisan support of the President in this area.

THERE never was the slightest reason to suppose that Congress would come charging in here to duplicate the New Deal of the '30s in the '60s, a decade where the true national problem is not depression but rather the oppressive danger of international Communism.

And those who lament the failure of this or that reform measure in Congress should comfort themselves a bit. The time has not been ripe for them.

For this is an hour in history in which congress had preferred, and rightly so, to do what is absolutely necessary at the expense of what is not really necessary, but rather only desirable — and even desirable only in a debatable way.

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