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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 Aug. 5, 1952 (Tuesday) Extensive radio communications system are being installed by Southern Pacific to facilitate train operations in the Sierra, Cascade and Siskiyou mountains.

20 YEARS AGO Aug. 5, 1942 (Wednesday) USO receives thousands of coat hangers from local people, but it is reported that the men at Camp White need many more.

30 YEARS AGO Aug. 5, 1932 (Friday) The sheriff's office estimates there are 6,200 licensed automobiles in Jackson County.

40 YEARS AGO Aug. 5, 1922 (Saturday) Weather bureau figures for July show the area had a mean temperature of 96, highest temperature was 108 degrees.

50 YEARS AGO Aug. 5, 1912 (Monday) Sophie Tucker schedules an appearance in Medford tomorrow as part of the cast of "Louisiana Lou."

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

1. The highest military medal awarded by France is called what? 2. All mammals have some hair, true or false? 3. What substance, required in the manufacture of explosives, is extracted from scrap greases, fats and oils? 4. What was the nationality of the designer of the Statue of Liberty? 5. In mythology who adjoined Venus the fairest of the goddesses? 6. "Eureka" is the motto of which State? 7. Is a practitioner of culinary art a doctor, painter, cook or writer? 8. On what continent are the llama, spaca, guanaco and vicuña found? 9. In early American history, what was the chief whaling port in New England? 10. At what times is the moon self luminous? Answers: 1. Medaille Militaire, 2. True, 3. Glycerine, 4. French, 5. Paris, 6. California, 7. Cook, 8. South America, 9. Nantucket, 10. Never.

Titans' Voices Stilled

In the space of about a year's time, this country has lost its two greatest fiction writers of the 20th century — Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner.

It has been an irreparable loss. Both were Nobel Prize winners, singularly deserving of that highest of all literary honors. Unless by some chance the committee should bestow a Nobel Prize on Robert Frost soon (and we certainly hope it does), it may be a matter of a decade or more before an American writer is again similarly honored.

THE period of the literary titans in this country — the meistersingers, as one critic called them — is over. The great voices of the 20's and 30's, that once compelled the whole world to listen, are stilled, or have lost their vitality.

How easily their names come to mind: F. Scott Fitzgerald, Thomas Wolfe, Sinclair Lewis, James Branch Cabell, Eugene O'Neill, H. L. Mencken, E. A. Robinson, Upton Sinclair, John Dos Passos, Theodore Dreiser, and another poet who died this year, Robinson Jeffers.

But now try this test: name a half dozen or so major contemporary writers or poets in America who are on the rise or in their prime. Difficult, isn't it?

Granted, one can scrounge up a handful of names by drawing liberally from current best-seller lists, but we speak of enduring greatness.

IT IS a disquieting thought that, though more books are being published and more people are reading them than ever before, the quality of American poetry and prose is at a low ebb.

To be sure, the picture is not entirely bleak, nor the intellectual climate completely sterile.

John Steinbeck's pen still has some authority. James Gould Cozzens has a small but devoted audience. Bernard Malamud and Philip Roth seem to have won a probationary approval from the critics. Herman Wouk continues to turn out good and bad novels with a craftsman's regularity. J. D. Salinger is currently preoccupying the literati and provoking useful and insightful comment.

BUT nonetheless it is apparent and painfully clear there is no one writing in this country now of sufficient genius to attract and hold an international literary audience.

Doubtless, dozens of reasons could be offered to explain the paucity of first-class writing talent, and a few decades from now Ph.D. candidates and literary historians, with the advantage of time and perspective, will do just that.

In the meantime, we will rashly essay one or two. We would not want to offer them as anything other than conjecture, and, of course, in several individual cases they wouldn't hold up.

GENIUS—or greatness, if you will—seems to have a better chance to develop when society is confronted with some pervasive, all-embracing challenge.

It may be viewed as a situation in which the talent is latent and requires only a fertile climate in order to grow and flourish.

Such was the case, we submit, in the middle decades during the first half of this century. Great upheavals in tradition and thought in all areas — social, economic, religious, political — were occurring with such force and magnitude that even the most disinterested and uninformed citizens were being affected.

A brutal war, after which the peace was lost, followed shortly by a depression so paralyzing and humiliating that whole generations have never recovered from it psychologically, were, of themselves, sufficient impetus to set dozens of our artists raging their protests.

SECONDLY, we think that during a period in which a group of great writers dominate the scene, fledgling authors are motivated, subconsciously or not, to emulate the successful.

Thus, since Hemingway caught on, publishing houses and American readers have been plagued with rafts of novels about hairy-chested, hard-as-nails, two-fisted heroes who take their women and the worst that fate can pass out without batting an eye.

Skillful imitation may often pay off financially, but it precludes any possibility of developing an individual style or technique.

This is at least one reason why our present American fiction lacks vitality. The realism formula, which insists on revealing the seamy side of life, has been worked until it has grown dull.

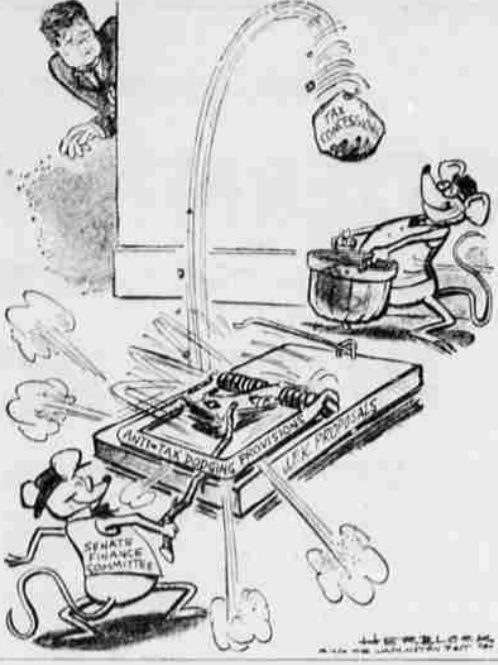
Similarly, the graphic sex scene, so successfully utilized by Erskine Caldwell, for example, in "God's Little Acre," has become so routine that the only question now with an author is which chapter he should put it in.

AND so because, for whatever reasons, widespread intellectual ferment at all others but the scientific level is nearly non-existent, and because the younger crop of writers has been too busy copying the meistersingers, it is unlikely that much literature of significance will be produced in this country for some years to come. An unspoken conformity in the land resulting, to some extent, from an external threat, has also acted stealthily to stifle and inhibit free-swinging experimentation.

A renaissance in the arts in the United States is inevitable, but the direction it will take is anybody's guess.

Since art in large measure springs from the milieu in which the artist lives and works, and since the nation itself is in a stage of total transition, any prediction on the subject of future art and its form or quality is practically meaningless.—G.H.B.

The Best Laid Plans



In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

The U.S. Department of Commerce has just come up with an interesting bit of information. It says that personal income of the nation's citizens in June rose to a "seasonally adjusted" annual rate of \$440.4 billion — which means that if Americans go on earning all through the current year at the rate they earned in June (the total income of the whole 180-odd millions of us will total up to nearly half a trillion dollars. Sounds pretty good, doesn't it?)

AND— Besides— If worse comes to worst, Uncle can start the printing presses and print whatever amount of money he needs to pay his debt. If you and I tried that, we'd wind up in Alcatraz—or some other equally unpleasant place of residence.

UNCLE has a lot of worries. He owes a lot of short term notes. He can't pay them off in cash—because in only six of the past 32 years has the old spendthrift taken in more cash than he has spent. That means that every year he has to go around to his creditors swapping new notes for his old ones.

ON TOP of all that, Uncle now has to juggle up about NINE AND A HALF BILLION DOLLARS IN INTEREST on his debt.

In 1940, it cost the old gentleman only \$9,063,032,204 to run his whole shebang (meaning the government of the United States of America). Now it costs him more for INTEREST ALONE than his whole operating expense amounted to only 22 years ago.

UNCLE, of course, is better off than you would be. He can reach into your

THAT'S another way of saying that if our national debt was paid off at one time it would take a little better than a two-thirds of EVERYBODY'S income for 1962 to pay the bill.

Which is another way of saying that if your outstanding IOU's equaled two-thirds of your total income, you'd be in a bad way.

DRUMMOND Reports (Walter Lippmann is on vacation. Roscoe Drummond reports from Washington in his absence.) (c) 1962 New York Herald Tribune Inc.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN RUSSIA Washington—The mounting anti-Semitism, practiced officially by the Soviet government against the 1,500,000 orthodox Jews in the U.S.S.R., is causing acute anxiety to Jewish leaders in many countries.

The Rabbinical Council of America has appealed to the religious leaders of all faiths "to arouse and mobilize the peoples and governments of the world in a vigorous campaign to reverse the anti-Semitic outbursts" in the Soviet Union.

There is good reason for this appeal. It rests upon the most detailed and documented evidence of Kremlin-sanctioned and anti-Semitic acts carried out in the press and in the courts in many parts of the Soviet Union. These practices are directed against Jews individually, also against the Jewish faith.

This is what has come out into the open in recent months.

1—A total of 17 Jewish citizens have been sentenced to death for alleged "economic offense." Others have been sent to jail.

2—Six Jewish lay religious leaders in Leningrad and Moscow have been arrested.

3—The Jewish congregational chairmen in Minsk, Riga, Kiev, Vilna, and Tashkent have been deposed by the government.

4—Anti-Semitic articles are appearing in the major newspapers of the large provincial cities—often in the same version.

THESE articles together with the unusually detailed reports of the alleged "economic crimes" and the unprecedented death sentences disclose a major propaganda offensive directed against the Jews of the Soviet Union by the Soviet government.

The articles, which are clearly aimed to foment

hostility, appear almost exclusively in the cities which have large Jewish populations numbering many hundreds of thousands.

Most of these cities are located in areas where anti-Semitism is ancient, traditionally widespread, and deeply rooted among the masses of people.

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop (c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

THE PALLID ISSUES New York City — In the slatternly reaches of the upper Bronx, the red brick cliffs of Parkchester rise like a monument to humble comfort. This huge lower middle income community, housing thousands of families, has its own historic interest as one of the first big urban redevelopment projects.

The job was so well done, moreover, that people who get into Parkchester tend to stay there until the undertaker comes. The result is an abnormally high concentration of elderly and retired people. And it was this feature which attracted this reporter and a member of the staff of Louis Harris and Associates to Parkchester, for a long and arduous session of doorbell-ringing.

We were trying to find out, in fact, whether the issue of medical care for the aged still retain the great political pull that all the pollsters began to report for such a long time ago. The need for such a sounding had been suggested by a day's pavement pounding in suburban Huntley Estates.

AS ALREADY noted in this space, President Kennedy had made deep inroads among the Huntley Estates people since 1960, when they gave former Vice President Nixon a handsome majority. Yet Kennedy's new support seemed a bit mushy and unreliable, because there was little fervor and passion among the new Kennedy admirers.

One reason for this was that the President clearly had only one major issue going for him in a big way. His handling of foreign and defense policy commanded strong support. "He's careful, but he's firm too," was a typical comment. On the other hand, the people in our Huntley Estates sample were downright snappish about Medicare, professing active disapproval of the President's bill by a ratio of nearly three to two.

Hence, we went to Parkchester to check the Huntley Estates evidence in a quite different community. The results of a large number of interviews were particularly interesting, because the Parkchester pattern, despite the difference in income-level, average age-level, and environment, was so close to the Huntley Estates pattern.

HERE, too, the President had made substantial though not dramatic inroads.

ligion is allowed one church per 1,800 believers and one priest per 1,100 believers. Jews in Russia are allowed only one synagogue and one rabbi per 22,000 believers.

A Russian-language Bible was reprinted in 1957 for the Orthodox church and for Baptists in 1958. The Koran was published for Moslems the same year. No Hebrew Bible has been permitted for Jews since 1917.

Thus another Soviet promise to its own people is torn and tattered—the promise of the "Soviet Constitution" that it would guarantee freedom of religious propaganda.

Truly, something is always to be learned by revisiting the grass roots. They are the best way station from Washington to anywhere else, including even a short vacation which this reporter is about to take.

Anybody'd like a tax cut, but we've got to pay for the government, haven't we?" was a characteristic comment. Others were: "Defending the U.S. costs money, and it's just politics to pretend it doesn't." And: "I think we ought to balance the budget instead of cutting taxes."

In truth, the sturdiness of these people under a heavy tax burden was exceptionally impressive, even though their grasp of Keynesian economics was plainly inadequate. But this means that even generous income tax cuts, if eventually voted, may not help the Democrats in the fall election.

Some of the more excitable Eugeneans opine the object they saw might have been a flying saucer chasing Echo around the world to see what it is. Others just don't know what they saw, and report it variously as fluorescent green, green and red, brilliant blue-white, having flames and sparks, and not having flames and sparks.

Anyway, whatever it was happened, or flew by, or saucered by, or something, at about 10:45 p.m. last Tuesday. And the usually staid and reliable Associated Press reported to the R-G that at about that time there were barometric pressure changes recorded at weather bureau stations in Seattle, Olympia and Toledo, Wash.

The Register-Guard also reports the fears of a housewife about the possibility of an influx of wild alligators, should little ones, now being sold as pets, ever escape and grow up.

An R-G editorial writer recalls a for-real alligator scare back in 1929, when some cheerful University of Oregon football players, just back from a game with the University of Florida, staked out a live alligator behind the Sigma Nu house.

The beast bit off its leash and swam up the millrace, only to climb out on the lawn of a startled housewife.

Let's turn from wild things to more mundane affairs, like the tribulations of driving across town and back these busy days.

The wife of one of our staff members went to visit a friend the other day, and: 1. Had to detour around a paving project on Stewart ave., and almost got lost. 2. Had to detour from Eighth st., which was blocked because of freeway work. 3. Had to detour from Riverside ave. because heavy equipment was blocking the roadway. 4. Had to detour from Jackson st. because of a paving project.

Oh, yes—about that Stewart ave. paving job. One of our spies reported that no sooner was it finished than another crew started digging it up again.

Presumably that is the signal for the street patching crews to get to work covering up the new parking and lane marking paint stripes.

To conclude our report on a week of portents, disasters, and strange sights and sounds, we should tell about when the power went off Wednesday just at press time.

In the back shop, the linotypes sat idle, their metal pots slowly congealing. In the newsroom, the lights went off, and the chatter of the teletypes went silent. The clocks stopped.

When the power returned we explained our plight to the UPI bureau in Portland, which sent us the top stories we would have missed, and then followed with this:

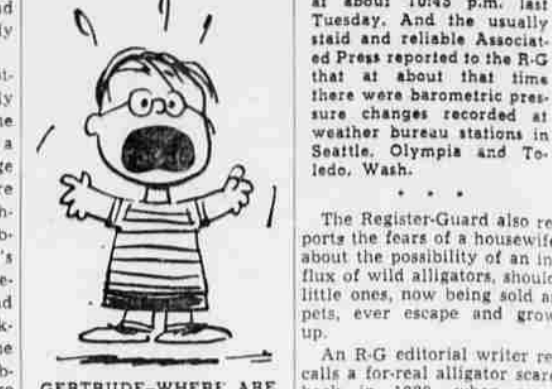
Your unrelenting mechanical jinx. Yet may drive us all to drink. It's grown so epidemic we by now just offer sympathy. And plead with you to mend your ways. By adding this apprehensive phrase: We'll hang our heads in horror and sorrow if you do it again tomorrow! Regards and condolences.

He is not a "natural man" as was Mr. Truman. He is an intellectual which means that he both enjoys and suffers from the "double vision," seeing him as if as a figure in the distance. Not to be one of the great Presidents would be intolerable to him. On present readings through no fault of his own, he cannot achieve this historical niche short of the traditional setting of our "Great" Presidents — some truly terrific domestic or foreign crisis, which he, no more than others, would wish to see.

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POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)



GERTRUDE—WHERE ARE YOU?

Can it be Can Gertrude have survived? You remember Gertrude, the boa constrictor who got lost in the cold wilderness atop Mt. Sexton last Christmas? She was given up for lost after several days because of the cold, snappy mornings.

But now A front-page story in the Eugene Register-Guard reports that a deputy sheriff at Swishhome on Highway 36 had reported a rumor that a 11 or 12 foot long boa constrictor was running (shouldn't that be crawling?) loose in the Swishhome area. The deputy, alas, was unable to confirm the rumor.

Do you suppose that Gertrude, harder than she was given credit for being, made it the 150 or so miles from Mt. Sexton to Swishhome?

AS FOR the tax cuts to stimulate business which are now being debated in Washington, their political effect may well be the exact opposite of what Washington expects, if the Huntley Estates and Parkchester evidence is not misleading. In both communities, a substantial majority of the people polled—at least 55 per cent—were positively opposed to tax cuts at this time.

"Anybody'd like a tax cut, but we've got to pay for the government, haven't we?" was a characteristic comment. Others were: "Defending the U.S. costs money, and it's just politics to pretend it doesn't." And: "I think we ought to balance the budget instead of cutting taxes."

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