

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

Published Daily except Saturday by MEDFORD PRINTING CO. 10 North Fir St., Ph. 72-4141

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By Mail—In Advance, Copy 10c Daily and Sunday—1 year \$13.00

By Carrier—In Advance—Medford Official Paper of Jackson County

United Press International Full Service Wire U.P.I. Telephone News Pictures

MEMBER OF AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

Advertising Representative: SHIRLEY ROBERTS & ASSOCIATES

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

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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. 7, 1952 (Thursday)

Col. Ben Stafford, former Jackson County Civilian Defense director, was elected chairman of the Jackson County Red Cross chapter.

From an advertisement: "Through one of those silly little accounting errors, we received an Oregon State bonus check yesterday for \$40,000.23. We certainly feel noble for the honest thing we did. We sent back the 23 cents."

20 YEARS AGO Aug. 7, 1942 (Friday)

Hood River plant to overcome labor shortage by packing all fresh fruit at one grade is rejected by Rogue Valley fruit growers.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "The 91st Infantry division will be activated here next Saturday. It will be the greatest military event in the history of this section. Soldiers will march, flags will fly, bands will play and people will shout like they did in World War I."

30 YEARS AGO Aug. 7, 1932 (Sunday)

Mrs. Harry Prentice, Medford, completes two weeks training by swimming across Lake of the Woods in half an hour.

40 YEARS AGO Aug. 7, 1922 (Monday)

Ben Bowers narrowly escapes injury in tussle with a bear near the head of Neil creek; bear finally flees when Bowers puts four shots in him. Jerry Jerome returns from Elks convention at Atlantic City.

50 YEARS AGO Aug. 7, 1912 (Wednesday)

Fred Garritt breaks all known records for walking to Crater lake from Medford by doing it in two days.

Medford roadhouse is closed for the second time by District Attorney Mulkey and Acting Chief Cingade.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. Newton Minow is chairman of what federal government agency?

2. Name the two islands on which Napoleon Bonaparte was successively confined.

3. Can swans fly?

A Commentary?

Many expressions of worry and dismay have been sounded in recent years about Americans' sense of values—what is important and what is unimportant.

This thought turned idly over in our mind as we inspected the front page of yesterday's San Francisco Chronicle. Rather more than one-half of the page reported the death of Marilyn Monroe, under a huge, eight-column, two-line banner headline.

Next in importance was a two-column, two-line headline announcing a huge Russian nuclear explosion.

NEXT was a four-column head at the bottom of the page telling of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy's talk at the Bar Association convention.

There was one other news story—about Sherri Finkbine's arrival in Sweden to seek an abortion. The rest of the page was taken up with a big "Extra" banner, an advertisement, an announcement that stores will remain open until 9 o'clock, a "Who Am I" puzzle tickler, an index, and a weather box.

That was all.

WE WONDER if this is a true commentary on what Americans think is important, or interesting. Probably it is, in a way. For the details of Miss Monroe's death and earlier life will be read avidly.

Her death has been called a tragedy. And in a way it is, even in the classic sense of a person being destroyed by a fatal flaw, a weakness or trait of character that leads inevitably to self-destruction.

In this case this woman had two things—a sort of sexy beauty and a fresh sort of naivete—that put her on top. But she lacked the inner strength and stability to cope with sudden fame, and all its myriad attendant pressures.

WE CAN feel sorry for her. Perhaps pity is a better word, and it is the word used by Osservatore Romano, the Vatican City newspaper, in commenting on her death.

Yet we may still be permitted to wonder whether her death ranks anywhere near in genuine importance to many other events of the day.

Still, the Chronicle's judgment in devoting more than half of its front page to her death probably is a fairly accurate reflection of what most Americans want to read. The motivation behind this is what troubles us, however. Do we read of the sordid details of her life and death out of mere morbidity, or because they constitute a real and moving allegory of human existence? Perhaps both.—E.A.

Better Than Illiteracy

Poet Kenneth Rexroth spoke at the University of Oregon in Eugene the other day, and during his stay was interviewed by Register-Guard Reporter Don Robinson.

The quotation we liked best was this: "The Book-of-the-Month Club is not cultural utopia. But it's a hell of a lot better than illiteracy."

In expanding on this he said that the production and consumption of things cultural on a mass scale indicates a continuously rising level of culture in the population. And he added that among other things this means that the artist—painter, poet, musician—has more opportunity to circulate generally through society.

THIS is true. We do not yet have, and may never have, the "ideal" kind of democratic society where all people are educated, culturally attuned, and capable of making the basic decisions of self-government on a well-informed basis.

But we're closer to this ideal than at most other times in the past. Mass education is a relatively recent phenomenon, and hardly has yet had an opportunity to prove itself. It is also in the process of changing to meet changing needs and aims. What the outcome may be, after some generations, one can only speculate.

But a climate in which even the Book-of-the-Month club can survive, in which the sale of good records and magazines is at an all-time high, which supports a half-hundred full-fledged symphony orchestras, is, indeed, "a hell of a lot better than illiteracy."—E.A.

Short Summer

There are days when the most frequently heard remark is "Hot enough for you?" Other days, it's "Cold enough for you?"

Yesterday and this morning, as the warm welcome rain fell, the comment was "Short summer, wasn't it?"—E.A.

JUST AMONG US EXECUTIONERS

We are citizens of Oregon. We support its laws. The gas chamber is part of Oregon law. In Oregon, a murderer's just recompense is death in the gas chamber.

What's His Name will die in Oregon's gas chamber on Aug. 20 for murder most foul.

What's His Name will get his just recompense. It's unfortunate that What's His Name has nerves and a brain and hands, eyes, feet, legs and arms, a stomach, and a heart that pumps blood.

"As You Were Saying, Neighbor, Youth Will Be Youth"



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.

In the Sight of God. To the Editor: The revolt against reason takes on many forms. Not that reason hasn't been tried and failed, but rather not adequately tried.

The very best works one can do determine how close he will ever come to God or heaven. Too much spiritual faith without reason causes man to lose reality and responsibility. Every man has a part to play on this earth.

Eventually all shall understand that all human bondage is an invention of ignorance. I am not discouraged by setbacks for they remind me that I must learn a better approach to fulfillment and encourage me to plan more wisely to accomplish my aims.

Rare Species. To the Editor: Very few people in the Rogue River Valley remember me, but I became quite famous when I was going to high school in Ashland. It was when I left for a big game hunt in Africa.

What Kind of Reasoning? To the Editor: So the old saw "the end justifies the means" is rearing its secular head again.

Indeed, many of the men who have been persecuted by society have been unlovely creatures. Captain Dreyfus, for instance, was a prig and a fool. But his conviction was a frame-up, and good men like Zola were right in defending him, even though he was personally distasteful.

In his amusing new book of essays, "Rocking the Boat," Gore Vidal points out that Dreyfus himself would have been an anti-Dreyfusard if the tables had been turned.

The essential foolishness of the man Dreyfus is beautifully revealed by a true story," Vidal writes. "The son of one of his friends was expelled from school for cheating. The friend was furious. He was certain his son had not cheated. He appealed to Dreyfus. What did he think? After much thought, the man whose name is forever associated with the idea of justice, said: 'Well, where there's smoke, there's fire.'"

Tom Mooney, also a victim of injustice in the 1920s in our country, was another intolerable man—pompous, self-important, and one of the worst prima donnas in the labor movement. Besides, he was supported and inflated by the Communist Party, who used his imprisonment for their own propaganda purposes.

Yet we cannot allow even so unattractive a man to suffer prison unjustly, even when we basically disagree with his viewpoint. Civil liberties have no meaning unless

Not Gambling. To the Editor: This past week end I spent consulting an estimated 30 people of all walks of life in regards to a state lottery financial benefit. All that I interviewed appeared to be very much interested.

One of the questions asked was, isn't a lottery gambling? It's not, as I see it. In fact, I would not try to promote any thing that was gambling, as I do not gamble myself.

Alvin Ellor also received an award for driving one-half million consecutive accident-free miles.

Professional drivers throughout the country are similarly honored each year by their insurance carrier, Employers Mutuals of Washington, for each year of accident-free driving performance.

European Political Unity Again Seems Possible As Negotiation Log-Jam Cracks

By JOSEPH W. GRIGG. United Press International. Paris—(UPI)—Western Europe's leaders are talking again about the dream of a politically-unityed Europe.

A three-month log-jam in political unity negotiations appears to have been cracked.

Prospects look good now for a Western European "little summit" meeting in Rome in September at which plans for a politically unityed Europe will be launched again this time with real chances of success.

The six European Common Market countries—France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg—have been trying since last summer to agree on a blueprint for a politically unityed Western Europe.

They have achieved an amazing degree of success in

the field of economic unity. Their aim is to try to match this with a political union which ultimately would point the way to a United States of Europe sometime in the future.

But they have run into some major snags along the way. Chief of these is that some of the Common Market countries are shooting for a genuine political union, including a European government and elected parliament and other "supranational" features.

Strongest supporters of such a plan are Belgium and the Netherlands.

But French President Charles de Gaulle, who is against any surrender of French national sovereignty, has vetoed this blueprint. He wants nothing stronger than a loose federation of independ-

ent, sovereign states, whose leaders would meet periodically to discuss political policy, defense and cultural relations.

West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, originally one of the "supranationalists," now has moved closer towards the line of thinking of De Gaulle, whom he greatly admires.

The whole problem has been enormously complicated by Great Britain's request for admission to the Common Market.

At a conference in Paris last April, Belgium and the

Netherlands refused flatly to go ahead with the political unity talks until it is known whether Britain will be a Common Market member or not.

But during Adenauer's recent state visit to Paris he and De Gaulle agreed that political unity negotiations should be lifted off dead-center as soon as possible.

The next stage now is expected to be the meeting in Rome at which De Gaulle, Adenauer and other government heads of "the six" will try to get the whole political unity idea off to a new, more auspicious start.

Drummond Reports

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

CAN YOU ANSWER THESE?

Washington—How would you grade yourself in your knowledge of present-day communism? Do you figure you would come off pretty well in a fair examination, or do you think a passing mark might be a little difficult?

What are five or more once-famous European countries taken over by the Soviet Union?

Where do labor unions in the U. S. and Russia differ in organization and control?

What does "neutralist" mean?

How does communism appeal to idealists?

IF YOU fail to satisfy yourself on the foregoing questions and would like better answers to them—along with several hundred other questions on communism—I can tell you where to get them. You can get them in compact, clear, factual, informative style by going to a bookstore or writing to the publishers, D. Van Nostrand company, 120 Alexander st., Princeton, N. J., and ordering a copy of the book, "The Menace of Communism." It is written by two knowledgeable political and social science teachers, Kenneth Colegrove and Hall Bartlett, at C. W. Post college, Long Island university.

The authors have done such an authoritative job of analyzing the political, economic, and social aspects of communism that "The Menace of Communism" has won the approval of the conservative Institute of Fiscal and Political Education. They have been so objective that they have won the disapproval of the John Birchers.

It's an excellent book. John Marshall, president of Marshall Institute, reports that it has already placed 10,000 copies in the public schools. I found it most rewarding reading. A Spanish edition is soon to be published.

There is a recent addition to the literature on communism which is a valuable tool for both the layman and the educator. It is R. H. Shackford's book, "The Truth About Soviet Lies" (Public Affairs Press, Washington, D. C.). Mr. Shackford is the astute foreign correspondent of the Scripps-Howard newspapers. He has watched the Communists in action in every crucial area of the cold war.

"The world," Mr. Shackford points out, "is inundated day after day, month after month, year after year, with a torrent of words that flows from the Kremlin, from the rival Communist capital in Peking, and from all the ancillary capitals and organizations of those centers of Marxism."

Never in the history of mankind have words been such an important part of the effort of a "system" to convert, pervert, and subvert man, whether he already be a communist, a sympathizer, or just a potential victim."

Mr. Shackford does not stop at just making clear the difference in meanings which we and the Communists attach to the same words. He produces a revealing and magisterially documented study of what he calls "the perfection of the lie."

From Khrushchev's declaration of the war he calls peace, to Moscow's announcement that it has "abolished taxes," Mr. Shackford's report must be read by all of us.

they are extended to people we dislike and disagree with; it is enormously easy to be fair to those we feel friendly to.

The real test of a society is its devotion to principles; and by this test, most societies have failed miserably. Genuine liberals are rarer than we think; most people are willing to overlook their principles when fear, anger, hate or self-interest begin pounding in their breasts.

Drummond Reports

By Sydney J. Harris. Field Enterprises Inc.

PRINCIPLES VS. PERSONALITIES. Most people are incapable of separating personalities from principles. What they feel about a person inevitably clouds their ideas of abstract justice; and both liberals and conservatives are equally guilty of this.

I received a number of nasty letters attacking me for my brief observations on the Eichmann case. So far as I am concerned, the trial was improper, and the verdict was foolish, futile, and vengeful.

The fact that Eichmann was a cold-hearted monster has nothing at all to do with the principle of the case. Caryl Chessman was also a monster of a sort—and yet his execution was stupid and barbarous. We do not have to like a man in order to dislike the way he is treated.

Indeed, many of the men who have been persecuted by society have been unlovely creatures. Captain Dreyfus, for instance, was a prig and a fool. But his conviction was a frame-up, and good men like Zola were right in defending him, even though he was personally distasteful.

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Drummond Reports

By William S. White. United Feature Syndicate

Washington Report

By William S. White. United Feature Syndicate

SPLIT IMAGE

Washington—Stripping away any hooding to the administration or partisan rancor toward it, one may fairly ask: Where does President Kennedy now really stand? Dispassionate analysis suggests some conclusions.

The President's personal popularity is

still high, though probably not nearly so high as is suggested in the polls. For these polls have a grave defect. To ask people some such general question as, "How do you think the President is doing?" will usually return a misleadingly high favorable response. He is, in such questions, not running against anybody else.

The general inquiry is, in short, far different from the very pointed question asked in the polling booths: Do you prefer this President to that specific, concrete contender for President named so-and-so?

ALL the same, there is no real doubt that Mr. Kennedy would be reelected if the 1964 election were held today. There is, however, much evidence that while he personally is still generally approved, many of his programs and advisers are not. The reason for this seeming inconsistency is not hard to find.

His hold on the electorate results from a wide and correct impression that in the one really vital present thing in our lives, the cold war, the president is behaving with courage and skill and without partisan motives. The next biggest real concern of the people—the state of business—is reducing his edge of popularity but has not cut it below the safety level.

In a word, it is along the oldest frontier of all—that frontier defining a nation's safety from without—that Kennedy is doing well. And it is along the new frontier—that area of domestic innovation and tinkering—in which he is not doing so well.

THE smallest look at the actions of the present Democratic Congress shows this is precisely the case. For this Congress has been generous in support of the President for what really matters—foreign policy, foreign aid, foreign trade, defense—and frugal in the support of the President on New Frontier actions.

Kennedy's difficulties with Congress (and this columnist believes with the country, too) have not come from his role as this country's one national leader in facing the perils, and costs, of the cold war. Those difficulties have come in his requests to Congress for too much too soon on things like medical care and urban reform and so on.

These are not in themselves insignificant. But in relationship to the immense and overriding problem of the cold war and the next greatest problem, the economy, they are presently almost irrelevant, both to Congress and to the country.

Again, it is wrong to present these difficulties as the work of "the Republicans" and to suggest that if only more Democrats are elected to Congress all will be well. It is not "the Republicans" who have balked the President so much as it is the Democrats.

AND among the Democrats the real source of trouble has not been the moderates and conservatives so much as the liberals. True, the moderate-conservatives have checked him on nonessentials. But they have massively upheld and strengthened him in the one part of his administration which has been really successful—the conduct of the cold war.

But the liberals have helplessly pulled and hauled at him to concern himself, in this time of universal crisis, with comparatively piddling and foredoomed domestic reforms. These, in inevitably failing, have made him look comparatively weaker than he needs have looked. The score for his Congressional program looks poor primarily because he has insisted upon going domestically most of the time with liberals, despite an involvement in history in which what that wing has offered is second rate in importance and inopportune in timing.

Why recite all this now? This is why:

MAN'S ingenuity and persistence CONQUERED THE SPREAD OF THE BLACK PLAGUE.

So—It may be that in time man's ingenuity and persistence may CONQUER THE SPREAD OF THE NUCLEAR BOMB AND PREVENT ITS FUTURE USE IN WARFARE.

There's grim news on the wires.

A week ago today a British research scientist was stricken at Britain's micro-biological research establishment at Porton Down, in an isolated area of historic Salisbury Plain, site of the mysterious group of stones known as Stonehenge.

He died on Thursday, only four days after being stricken. On Friday night, 24 hours after his death, its cause was identified as pneumonic plague—the dread BLACK PLAGUE that ravaged Europe in the Middle Ages. He had been working on the Black Plague germ.

WHAT of the Black Plague? Let's let Winston Churchill tell the story. He says in his History of the English Speaking Peoples:

"THE character of the pestilence (Black Plague) was appalling. The disease itself, with its frightful symptoms, the swift onset, the blotches, the hardening of the glands under the armpit or in the groin, the horde of virulent carbuncles which followed the dread harbingers of death, the delirium, the insanity, the blank spaces which opened on all sides in human society, stunned and for a time destroyed the life and faith of the world."

"This affliction, added to all the severities of the Middle Ages, was more than the human spirit could endure. The Church, smitten like the rest of the world, was unable to give any spiritual power. If a God of mercy ruled the world, what sort of rule was this?"

"Such was the challenging thought which swept upon the survivors. Weird sects sprang into existence, and plague-haunted cities saw the procession of flagellants, each lashing his fore-runner to a dismal dirge, and ghoulish practices glare at us from the broken annals. It seemed to be the death rattle of the race."

Eventually the Black Plague was conquered. Doctors do not know yet any drug that certainly kills the plague bacillus. But it was discovered that rats are the carriers of the plague. Then it was discovered that fleas bite the rats and transmit the bacillus to the person bitten.

The next step was to exterminate the rats. When you board an ocean liner, you note the shields hung on the mooring lines. These are to prevent rats from getting from the pier to the ship. The purpose of that is to prevent the spread of the Black Plague.

While no drug has been discovered that infallibly kills the Black Plague bacillus, these sanitation measures have conquered the SPREAD of the deadly killer. So the death of the British scientist the other day no longer terrifies the world.

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