

Medford Mail Tribune

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

Fifty Years Wed

In a long career, Charles A. Sprague has earned many honors. Most people would agree he is Oregon's most distinguished citizen—former governor, outstanding editor and publisher, a member of many boards, commissions and committees dedicated to the improvement of the common weal, devoted conservationist, sage advisor and counsellor to generations of newsmen, politicians and public servants—truly an "elder statesman."

This week he earned a new distinction, one which he shares with Mrs. Sprague. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

In his column, "It Seems To Me," in the Oregon Statesman, Mr. Sprague reminisces about their wedding trip to Mt. Rainier, and about their early life together.

HERE are a few paragraphs:

Married life has its problems at the start and along the way. Here was one: Mehitable wanted to make some salad dressing—in those days the housewife made her own; now she buys it readymixed in a bottle. I was enlisted to turn the beater. The only trouble was the ingredients didn't emulsify. Finally I quit disgusted—and have stayed out of the kitchen ever since, except for an occasional turn with the drying towel at the dishwashing routine.

We were married six years before we had a car. How did we get about? On foot, or by train, or, in cities, by streetcar. Nowadays a chap gets a car before he gets a bride—in fact it's an important bit of equipment for his courting.

Looking back, the years are seen with lights and shadows mixed; but thanks to the loyalty of kinfolk and co-workers and of many friends, Mehitable and I agree, as the Psalmist wrote, "our lines are fallen in pleasant places."

Perhaps we will be permitted to add our congratulations to those of others, and wish for Mr. and Mrs. Sprague "many happy returns."—E.A.

Hatch Act

The Hatch Act of 1939 was designed to prevent overt political activity on the part of Federal employees. In general, it is designed to be a reasonable restrictive force to keep the civil service from involvement in politics, as it so often was in the early days of the nation.

But we had no idea just how stringent the restrictions are until we had a minor collision with the Hatch Act recently, resulting from a mistake made by some overzealous bureaucrat.

Among our extra-curricular activities is membership on the local advisory board to the O & C lands administration of the Bureau of Land Management. Recently we received notice that, as such, we would have to fill out, sign, swear to, and have notarized Civil Service Standard Form 61.

THIS form, among other things, prohibits the individual signing it from holding any office or position under state, territorial, county or municipal governments.

More to the point, it forbids him from "writing for publication or publishing any letter or article, signed or unsigned, soliciting votes in favor or against any political party or candidate."

As a working newspaperman and editorial writer, it was obvious we could not sign any such document, and we protested it vigorously, offering our immediate resignation from the board should the requirement stand.

AS IT turned out, the form had been sent to board members by mistake.

But it was an eye-opener to us as to the limitations put on federal employees in the way of political activity. They are permitted to vote, and to express political opinions so long as they do not take any active part in political management or in political campaigns.

But virtually all other forms of political activity are prohibited—serving on committees, circulating petitions, working at the polls, distributing campaign literature, even transporting voters on election day.

Some limitation is necessary, but it seems to us that this law is unduly restrictive.—E.A.

Eliminate August

What should be done about August? Some suggest that it should be eliminated, on the theory that very few good things and a lot of bad things happen during the month.

Russell Baker, writing in the New York Times, points out:

- 1. August deranges the brain. It is in August that dogs go mad, Scots see the Loch Ness monster, adolescents compete to see how many times they can toss an ice cube before it melts.
- 2. July is a high holiday of the spirit. It starts with fireworks. It is a season for catching lightning bugs and playing pinocchio. But by August the crab grass is in charge and the Japanese beetle is in the roses. In July a subway is merely hot; in August it is a furnace. In July the air is merely humid; in August it is a steam that bastes the brain.

THE answer, it is suggested, is to take a tip from the French, shut up shop completely, and everyone go to the seashore.

There is a certain Gallic logic in this suggestion, and it does have its appeal. But August is not a dead loss—certainly not in our part of the world.

If there is crab grass, there is also fishing. If it is the season of the Loch Ness monster, it is also the season for Shakespeare. And if dogs and adolescents go slightly mad in August, at least we can be consoled that the election campaigns won't really get under way until after Labor Day.

And beside, it is in this mid-August week when the first authentic tang of Autumn can be detected in the early-morning air.—E.A.

"I Hear Two More Made It To Outer Space"



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. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words. The letters printed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the paper; in fact the contrary is often the case.

God Gave Us Minds

To the Editor: Mr. Howard's letter to the editor, M.T. 10.62, accuses Mr. Allen of advocating the direct killing of the Finkbine baby.

Mrs. Finkbine has certainly contributed her part in giving birth to four normal children. If we know a seed is bad in planting our flowers or garden, we discard it.

At this stage of pregnancy I see no difference, and besides eliminating all the heart-break of bearing a deformed child.

Life at its best presents many problems for us fortunate enough to possess all our faculties. The deformed are ridiculed as children by other children and sometimes ignorant adults.

Work is hard to find for the normal man many times. What about the deformed?

People are always confusing God's will in so many things. God gave us a mind of our own to use, and I get tired of people saying everything that happens to them or others is God's will.

If I run out in the road, though I see a car coming, and it hits me, that was my own carelessness and not God's will.

People are always confusing their carelessness with what God's will is.

God is certainly more interested with what concerns us spiritually than materially.

Mrs. Delbert Casey, Route 1, Box 358, Central Point, Ore.

were shipped by bus to New Orleans.

They were given a suspended sentence of six months and a \$200 fine. Rather an inadequate sentence for the magnitude of the crime.

The other case was the raid on American Sealia, a Chicago drug dealer, whose home and truck were found stocked with fake drugs. Illinois has a law which allows the possessor of illegal drugs to go free if he destroys them in the presence of the inspector. Rather a light penalty as compared to a sentence for deliberate homicide.

The enormous profits, estimated at more than \$50,000,000, with the lack of punishment, encourages the bootleggers to indulge in the illicit traffic of fake drugs.

Dr. Frances Oldham Kelsey, who barred the use of the dangerous and deforming thalidomide drug in the U.S.A., deserves the commendation and gratitude of the entire country for her forthright action for the protection of thousands of mothers and unborn babies.

As long as the punishment is light, and in many cases non-existent, the traffic in fake drugs will flourish, also as long as the people are used as guinea pigs to test phoney drugs.

It is rather strange that the law provides a punishment of three to five years for forging a check, where the slightest dollar is involved, while those drug fakers out for greedy profits at the expense of human disabilities and deaths escape punishment.

Ed Black, 2573 Camp Joy rd. Grants Pass, Ore.

How Does He Know? To the Editor: In regard to H. R. Bulman's letter in the Monday MMT.

Just what, sir, do you have to base your denunciation of nudist camps on? I believe you called them "cesspools of iniquity and shame." How do you know that they are such?

Have you ever been in a nudist camp? I doubt it. If you had you could never tell such outright lies about nudist camps. Some of our best citizens belong to such organizations, they seem to find nothing iniquitous about them. I have lived for several years near one of these camps, and never have I witnessed anything shameful going on.

It seems to me that you are out to criticize and tear down anything that doesn't lie in your sphere of approval.

J. E. Stauffer, P. O. Box 72, Trail, Ore.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

FEDERAL income tax officials have gotten used to tossing out some mighty fat-tailed deduction claims by ingenious taxpayers. The head of the Brooklyn bureau admits, however, that one delinquent came up with an explanation that hit a new high for sheer, unadulterated gall. This chap had been caught red-handed, claiming an exemption for supporting his mother—who had been dead a mere matter of ten years! His explanation (given with a catch in his voice): "Mother's still alive in my heart!"



Add to your file of the real, honest-to-goodness names of current movie heroes and heroines—Rick Douglas is really Isiah Dinkelsch, Rock Hudson is Ruy Fitzgerald, Tab Hunter: Arthur Gelson; Red Buttons: Arthur Chiswell; Bill Holden: William Beedle. On the staff—Miss Shelley Walters is really Shirley Scruff; Judy Holliday: Judith Tavim; Cyd Charisse: Tula Finkles; Doris Day: Doris Kappelloff.

Britain Finding Difficulty Over Plan To Federate Aden With Small Kingdoms

By PETER KNOX United Press International London — Britain is facing trouble in the Middle East over plans to federate the fortress colony of Aden with a group of tiny and impoverished Arab kingdoms. Aden, a bustling port for ships going through the Suez Canal, is a key British base.

Nearly 10,000 troops are held there on the ready for action anywhere in the touchy Middle East. Britain would like to see Aden federated with the neighboring emirates to insure the colony remains safely British. The emirates, or little kingdoms, stand in the arid hinterland separating Aden from

Yemen, an Arab state. Yemen has long claimed both the emirates and Aden as its own. Britain enjoys limited protectorate powers over the emirates and hands out subsidies to them. They need both the protection and money for survival. Aden, although only 75 square miles in area, has a population of over 200,000. Because of the business brought to it by the port and the base it is prosperous and progressive.

Unfortunately for the British, the growth of prosperity and progress has coincided with a corresponding growth of Arab nationalism, bringing demands for greater political autonomy. The nationalists are frightened that a wedding between Aden and the still feudal emirates will block their chances of winning any sort of constitutional advance. Above all, it will block the hopes

of the extremists for eventual independence, and a possible break from the commonwealth into the Arab camp. Not all the 25 emirates surrounding Aden have agreed to come into federation, but 11 have decided on it and two more are considering joining. The federators have a population of 450,000, which means they outnumber the people of Aden colony two-to-one.

Representatives of the colony and the emirates have been meeting in London recently to plan implementation of the federation.

Officials carefully avoided calling the talks a constitutional conference but this did not allay the fears of the anti-federatists in Aden.

The Aden Trades Union Congress called a strike on the day the talks opened, as a gesture of defiance. The congress is reported to be backed by Arab nationalists in Cairo.

Drummond Reports

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

WHY THE ALLIANCE FALTERS

Salvador, Brazil — When the United States entered World War I and World War II, the question everybody asked was not whether we were going to win but when.

Now the United States has entered another kind of war; the theater of struggle is the Western hemisphere. The question everybody's asking today is not when we are going to win — but whether.

The reason this question is so fateful is that failure of the Alliance for Progress — this massive common effort to rescue Latin America from economic stagnation — would certainly bring on a wave of military dictatorships, and military dictatorship is itself the seedbed for Communism.

For six days here in Salvador at a conference on economic tensions, I have had the opportunity to hear, question, and exchange information with more than 70 economists, political leaders, professors, and industrialists from every Latin American country except Cuba.

HOW does the Alliance look a year after it was signed at Punta del Este? I base my report on both Latin American and North American judgments. It is a very mixed picture with dark and ominous hues. There is no unanimous opinion. It ranges from hope to hopelessness.

The technicians, mostly the economists, know that accelerated economic growth is possible and believe it can be achieved.

The non-specialized intellectuals from the universities are cautiously hopeful but very uncertain.

Many of the Latin American politicians are deep in pessimism. Some are already convinced that economic progress will be so slow that extreme nationalism and military dictatorship, already evident in Peru, Argentina, and Brazil, will engulf most of the continent.

Strictly Personal

By Sydney J. Harris (c) Field Enterprises Inc.

FACTS OF DEATH

The real problem for a parent today is not how to tell a child about "the facts of life," but how to explain the facts of death

—not the way in which we are born, but the ways in which we die. When a child wants to know about war, what does a parent say that is honest, clear and meaningful? How can we avoid either deception on the one hand, or a distressing confession of our immaturity on the other?

Children are far from fools. They know we have fought two major wars in our century. They knew that our former enemies, Germany, Italy and Japan, are now our "friends." And that we have helped them rebuild their nations after defeat.

When children fight, they are separated by their parents or by other adults. When adults fight, they are seized by the police and brought to court. There is a rule of law and order, of reason and decency, in our daily domestic lives.

And they cannot understand why nations must fight, why men must die by the millions every quarter-century, in quarrels that seem meaningless a few years later. Ten years from now — if we survive — will we be allies with Russia, offering her money and help against some other "enemy"?

These are not naive questions that children ask; they are basic questions. We are the ones who are naive — we who speak blithely about the next war, even though none of us could say what we would go to war with Russia about.

Children are immensely practical and clear-sighted; they cut straight through all adult cant. Why can't the world have a police force to prevent wars? Why must nations be sovereign powers unto themselves? Why do we condemn private killing and support public killing?

It is easy, too easy, to tell them that the Russian leaders are wicked men and want to dominate the world. The German leaders were wicked men and wanted to dominate the world; but it was the people who suffered, people on both sides, as they always do.

There has always been a tyrant somewhere in the world; there has always been a war against him; he has been conquered; and a few years later, another tyrant has arisen elsewhere, and the tragic pattern repeats itself. Wars lead to nothing but other wars, and always have.

But we are now at the end of the cycle. The next war could easily exterminate mankind. Children today feel this, if they do not know it. And they feel that we have let them down, that the adult world has not solved the problem of living together — only of dying together. How do we explain these facts of death to young idealists who are quickly turning into cynics?

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop (c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

By GASTON COBLENTZ

(Joseph Alsop is on vacation. During his absence, his column will be written by reporters expert in national and international affairs.)

LOOKING FOR THE FORMULA

Paris — With a good deal of publicity, President Kennedy has been dispatching his economists abroad to probe the recent wonders of the European economy. The logic of it is that the Europeans are supposed to have uncovered the elusive secret of everlasting economic growth. If the Kennedy economists could be let in on the formula, they could bring it back and apply it to the United States.

The vexatious news is that this operation has been undertaken precisely at a time when the European secret seems to be a little less worth having. The Europeans are starting to be plagued by some of the same ailments that have been troubling the U.S. It is questionable whether they have all the answers, either.

In West Germany, the dizzy boom is grinding to a halt in a vortex of wage inflation, shrinking profit margins, and a dismal stock market debacle. In France, which seems to be the pet object of the Kennedy research venture, a relentless inflation in many domestic branches is progressively wiping out the advantages of a fairly recent devaluation of the franc. In Italy, despite its admirable monetary orthodoxy for more than a decade, wage inflation is threatening to undermine the structure. And in Britain, Selwyn Lloyd's classically cautious policies may be scrapped in favor of a reflection experiment which could annihilate the recent stabilization of the pound sterling.

BESIDES the irony of fishing in these muddied waters, there is another greater irony in the search by the Kennedy economists for Europe's current inflationary headaches — with ominous signs that a deflationary backlash may be on the way — are in part the fulfillment of a wishful prayer that has been nurtured in official Washington since the latter days of the Eisenhower administration.

The prayer has been that the Europeans would soon follow in American footsteps and imbibe their dose of inflation, too. The result would be to make their massive export-led competitive on world markets. This and other related mechanisms would, the prayer went, diminish their huge European payments surpluses and take the heat off the declining gold reserves of the United States.

This has been an almost freely enunciated policy in Washington. A suspicion exists that American labor representatives were prompted into encouraging wage boost demands by some of the European trade unions. The overall policy has come to be known as one of "exporting inflation" to one's European allies. Misery loves company.

IT IS a rather tricky game. Almost every one of the European nations involved depends on a far-flung export trade to fuel its national economy. In Germany, for instance, some key industries do up to half of their business abroad. Take that business away, or reduce it sharply, and the result is a body blow to the stability of the German economy, with all the grim social consequences that could flow from it.

However, Mr. Kennedy's economists, in their search for the European secret, appear to have been concentrating their attention above all, on France, despite the dubious

feature of the present French economy.

The evident reason is that France has a national economic "plan." It represents the kind of state-planning approach that appeals to progressive economists.

But before trying to transplant it to the U.S. it would be well to wait a little longer and see whether it really works.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Russia's ex-lumberjack, Major Nikolayev, now has a companion — Lieutenant Colonel Popovich, who was apparently sent out to keep him company and prevent him from getting cabin fever. Colonel Popovich is reported to be an ex-ship herder.

As this is written, the two of them are reported to be sailing along out there in the wild yonders of space, in sight of each other, and chatting back and forth over the inter-com.

They had their dinners, Moscow reports. After dinner, the news tickers say, they rested for an hour, and perhaps took a nap. The general drift of their news to the home folks appears to be in the pattern of the time-honored postcard cliché:

"Having wonderful time; wish you were here."

WHAT are they talking about? They are reported to be discussing the feasibility of coordinating the flights of two or more space ships in order to set up a flying platform from which another ship could be launched with a crew to pilot it to the moon.

Down here on earth, that seems like a crazy idea. Out there in space, riding along more or less side by side, it may look a lot simpler.

MEANWHILE

What's the big news down here on terra firma?

WELL — At the moment, Senator Kefauver says in Washington that he thinks the plans of the wicked opposition to shut off the filibuster against President Kennedy's Telstar ownership bill (which calls for private investment) will fail and that the Telstar enterprise will be government-owned.

OH, YES. There's other big news. Sharing the front page of one of our greatest Western newspapers the other morning with the news of the Russian cosmonauts was a home front story about the efforts of an American reformer to require zoo animals to wear breech-clouts.

The shameful way in which these zoo animals are permitted to expose themselves, he says, is a national scandal, and something ought to be done about it. He adds that his decency society has presently some 38,000 members, and is growing like a weed.

It's really quite newsworthy these days.

Caroline Anxious To Get To Beach

Ravello, Italy — (EP) — Caroline Kennedy, 4, anxious to go to the beach to play with her friends, tried to hurry her mother down to the sea today.

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, starting the second week of her Italian vacation, attended mass in the village church since today was the Feast of the Assumption, a Roman Catholic holy day.

She returned on foot to the villa where she is staying with her sister, Princess Lee Radziwill, to find Caroline sitting in the car and ready to go.