

Medford Mail Tribune logo and address information: 33 North Fir St., Medford, Oregon. Includes subscription rates and contact details for the publisher.

Uptown Medford (A Fanciful Forward Look)

When Medford received the "All American City" award earlier this year, it provoked memories of how it was earned. It all began about 10 years ago. Merchants in the downtown area were becoming increasingly concerned with what they saw as encroaching "blight."

There were stores vacant; business was being attracted to suburban shopping centers; parking was something of a problem; some firms had been forced out of business; others had themselves moved to the shopping centers, or to other out of town locations where access and parking were ample.

SOME efforts, to be sure, had been made to combat this. Merchants along two of the principal streets, under the aggressive and determined leadership of one woman, had undertaken one of Oregon's first city street tree programs, and it was acknowledged far and wide as a model of its kind, and was widely copied.

Others had remodeled their stores, inside and outside, and displayed merchandise attractively, instructed their employees in effective service and in courtesy. For them it paid off.

But, in too many cases, there was a defensive air of fear and hopelessness, and a disposition to ask for special favors. THEN, almost overnight, something happened. A new spirit of determination and confidence was born.

The merchant groups started getting together. They decided that "downtown" no longer should be what they called themselves, and they organized "Uptown Medford, Inc.," a non-profit corporation devoted to self-help, mutual help, cooperation, beautification, and a revivification of the core area.

Landlords in the area were asked to join, and lease-rental rates were discussed freely. Money was subscribed, and a team of an architect, landscape architect, and city planning expert were retained to lay out a Grand Plan for Uptown Medford.

They did so, and produced a plan for an Uptown section of Medford which caught the imagination, not only of local residents, but of citizens throughout the state. THE UPTOWN merchants went to the city council, and ultimately to the people. They explained how the tax base of Uptown Medford was threatened, and how it was to the welfare of the entire city — and the suburbs and other areas, too — that the financial integrity of the city be maintained and improved.

A plan was evolved, through the cooperation of the newly-created Department of Urban Affairs of the federal government. It was painstakingly explained and detailed, and finally was put to the vote of the people. Most of the ultimate financing would fall on Uptown Medford itself, but the credit of the city would be used in the initial stages. The voters approved it.

THE REST is, of course, history. Today Medford's Uptown is known nationally and even internationally. Business is booming. The shopping centers continue to enjoy excellent business, even the new ones that have come in to serve suburban and semi-rural areas.

Shoppers are attracted from Red Bluff, Klamath Falls, Yreka, Eureka, Grants Pass and Roseburg. Tourists, viewing the imaginative design of Uptown Medford, the Garden City, from the freeway — the landscaped parks and parking strips, the grass and trees, the fountains and benches and pools, the ample parking, and particularly the sparkling and decorative shops and stores — seldom can resist stopping to look it over.

Who would have thought it could have been accomplished, almost entirely through the creative and forward-looking endeavors of Uptown itself, in 10 short years? — E.A.

When Life Begins

When does life — human life — begin? This question has been debated for centuries, but the recent Finkbine abortion case has revived it, and it is again being debated strongly. Does life begin at the instant of conception? This is the view of some religions, including the Roman Catholic, Catholic teaching also is that it is immoral to use "unnatural" means to prevent conception.

Does life begin when the unborn child quickens in the womb? This is the view of the English common law, on which so much of our own jurisprudence is based. OR DOES life begin at birth? Genesis 2:7 says: "God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Based on this, some faiths hold that soul-life begins with a baby's first breath, and not before. There is no "scientific" answer to this puzzling problem, so we all adhere to our own beliefs, whether they be based on religious teaching or on humanistic predilections. No amount of debate will achieve a consensus, any more than the medieval debates solved the problem of how many angels can dance on the head of a pin. — E.A.

"We Don't Want ANY Outside Interference"



Britain Short Of Space For College Seeking War Babies

By PETER KNOX United Press International London — Queues of students seeking admission to Britain's 23 universities are almost as long and slow-moving as the old wartime food lines. Educational authorities admit they are fighting a losing battle in their efforts to provide higher education for the ever increasing number of boys and girls seeking it. They confess, too, that things are due to get worse before they get better. Coming up now into the university age bracket are the children born when the soldiers came marching home from the 1939-45 war and began to raise families. The end of hostilities saw a bulge in the birth rate that has been straining British school facilities to near breaking point in recent years and now is threatening to do the same to the universities. 20,000 Places Short It is estimated that about 50,000 students have applied for the 30,000 places becoming available in British universities this fall. Most of them were born in 1944, so that a much higher ratio between students and places can be expected over the next three or four years. Unhappily for the students involved there are long delays before it is determined if they have won a university place, and only the luckiest ones get into the university of their choice. Competition for openings is so keen that most students file applications for several universities in the hope they will hit the jackpot somewhere. So the actual number of applications now being dealt with by educational authorities is about 200,000. More brilliant students sometimes find themselves accepted by three or four universities, while others were more routine passes get turned down everywhere. This increases the confusion. When the boys and girls with highest scholastic records make their choice, the vacancies they leave in the lists of the universities they do not accept then are offered to students initially rejected. When the situation is finally sorted out students from the north of England often find themselves heading for the south, and those from the south for the west, and so on. Central Office Planned Within the next two years it is planned to organize a system whereby all applications will be funneled through a central office for all universities except Oxford and Cambridge. The latter two seats of learning, with roots reaching back to the 13th century, maintain their own strict rules for entrance because they are the plum prizes sought after by most students. The new "centralized" system, however, will still leave unresolved how to fit too many students into too few places. It will only make it easier to sort out the bright from the average. There actually are few weak students among the applicants because matriculation qualifications in this country are high, and those with no chance of succeeding are mostly weeded out early in their school careers. The financial problem is not a key one for most parents because virtually all students who qualify for a university place are entitled to a grant from the government. Grants from Government Apart from scholarships awarded for educational ability in open competition, grants also are given on a means test basis. Under the means or ability-to-pay test, the child of parents in a low income bracket might be wholly main-

Russian Build-Up of Cuba Continuing; Monroe Doctrine's Validity Questioned

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst In the dark of after midnight in heavily guarded Cuban ports, the Soviet Union rushes a stepped-up program to bolster the regime of Fidel Castro. Eyewitness reports tell of Russian troops playing volley ball in military installations outside Havana.

And in Washington and other American capitals the argument goes on, whether, as Nikita Khrushchev said, the Monroe Doctrine is dead. In Managua, Nicaragua, a government spokesman demanded collective military action against the Castro regime by members of the Organization of American States. He added: "If the United States and the OAS fail to act, it means the Monroe Doctrine and the inter-American system are dead and the continued existence of the OAS is unjustified."

In Washington, Sen. Homer E. Capehart, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations committee, suggested that Cuba should be invaded to halt the flow of Communist aid, whether material or manpower. In April, 1961, President Kennedy told the American Society of Newspaper Editors: "Should it ever appear that the inter-American doctrine of non interference merely conceals or excuses a policy of nonaction — then I

want it clearly understood that this government will not hesitate in meeting its primary obligations, which are to the security of the nation." Last week, the President spoke again of the Cuban situation. He told a news conference: "I think it would be a mistake to invade Cuba." The United States defended the Monroe Doctrine, the President said, by working to "isolate the Communist menace in Cuba."

By implication, then, the United States will continue to rely on collective measures of the OAS and will not intervene militarily by itself. The words of the President, of Capehart and the Nicaraguan spokesman are indications of the division of opinion within the American hemisphere over the Cuban question. This year Cuba will do about 80 per cent of all its business with Communist nations.

The steady flow of Soviet technicians, military, agricultural and industrial, suggests the extent to which these experts have taken over important phases of Cuban life. The steady flow of Soviet and chartered British, Italian, West German, Greek and Norwegian vessels also illustrates the weakness of the U. S. boycott which never can become truly effective without military measures — which for global reasons the United States wishes to avoid. Me a n w h i l e, presumably, this statement of last December by the State Department still stands:

PERSONAL PREJUDICES Most people who talk about "conscience" don't realize that conscience is a capacity, and not a standard; the cannibal's conscience for instance, tells him it is "immoral" not to devour his enemy after battle. A person who feels compelled to tell others about his past sins is still a little bit infatuated with them; confession can be as much a matter of pride as of penitence. It is fruitless to look back upon our parents and grandparents and exclaim that they got along better in marriage than we do today; they got along better because they expected less, and we live in an age of "rising expectations," not only economically, but emotionally as well.

Self-interest is the beginning, but it cannot be made the end of a life; as Amiel observed a century ago: "Self-interest is but the survival of the animal in us; humanity only begins for a man with self-surrender." It seems plain to me that our personal liberties in America are more endangered by the rabid anti-Communists among us than by the small and impotent band of Communists here. History shows that whenever a group wants to "save" a nation from some threat, the self-styled saviors themselves become a greater threat, as in Germany.

When the reader pauses to notice and admire a writer's style, it is a sure sign that the writing has failed to communicate its purpose; for a writer's style should be an integral part of his personality, not an adornment which distracts us from the total impact of the creation. Lovers who make vows to each other are already aware, however unconsciously, that their love is beginning to falter; a promissory note in love changes the relationship from a romance to a contract. The commonest way to cheat an employer is not by stealing his money or loafing on the job, but by refusing to disagree when you feel he is wrong — if he is paying you for your brains, and not just for your body, an employee has an obligation to dissent from decisions he thinks wrong. Men are born with clocks in them, and women with calendars; a man always knows what time it is, but will do unseasonable things, like fishing in November; while a woman lacks a precise sense of time, but rests securely within the seasons. The unusual genius who most unspurs me is the first man who figured out how to make a bridge across a wide expanse of water; I could have lived four lifetimes without solving such a problem. Nobody under 40 can appreciate Aldous Huxley's comment that "People always get what they ask for; the only trouble is that they never know, until they get it, what it actually is they have asked for."

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 initials 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.

Smokey The Bear To the Editor: A retired Master Sergeant called my attention to a front page article dated Aug. 10 dealing with legislation to prohibit the use of mechanized vehicles on publicly owned forest lands, which would make a trespasser subject to arrest and prosecution.

The undersigned claims his proportionate share in our National Forests. Vote any member of the Oregon Legislature out of office who would pass such a law. Federal Judge Harold Medina once said in a speech if we lose our rights, we will be whittled away bit by bit once they are lost we never get them back. An Arab proverb says if a camel gets his head under the tent the rest is sure to follow. Fifty one years ago as an adult I was with three other men who nailed one of the old type soldered cans to a tree with a Josephine County mining location in it. The can is still there. The tree appears to be a healthy tree and is growing so fast it would make a railroad tie if it did not die of old age.

When the U.S. Forest Service took over our National Forests they were not in the condition we find them today. The white man was well satisfied with the timber. The administrators of our forest have allowed nature's debris to collect so that when it catches fire everything burns. The late Earnest Sutcliffe who was District Ranger in the Happy Camp area for many years said to the undersigned while going to an early morning fire at one time we paid no attention to these fires as they soon burned themselves out. He was one of the Old Time Rangers.

Now for Smokey The Bear. What Smokey needs is a new hat, a haircut and shave, and a public funeral. Handus Wampus should take his place. He says a clean forest does not burn. I said to an Old Timer a few days ago how many men did it once take to extinguish a forest fire. His answer, "two, and we walked," and he added, now it takes an army.

The Tribune article mentions soil erosion. Take a look at the thousands of acres that have been scalped by the U.S.F.S. with bulldozers. If this is not a setup for erosion what is it? They used to preach that the brush prevented erosion and floods by holding back the runoff from the snow. The mountain meadows that I have known in Josephine county, Oregon, and Siskiyou county, California, have been taken over by alders, thereby eliminating much needed pasture for cattle. How many of the Smokey The Bear men remember the cabin when it was intact, from which one Joe Knowles started out to do his stuff as a nature man, or remember a roofing shake nailed to a tree which read Oregon Caves 3 mi.? Radio announcers who use the words, "Only you can prevent forest fires" should use a little of the shoe leather experience and learn how the mistakes of the Smokey The Bear men are catching up with the present. The public has had nothing to do with the buildup of debris in our forests.

In closing I will say don't let the camel get his head under the tent. Fred D. Wilson Box 103 Happy Camp, Calif. Don't Give Up Hope To the Editor: Many veterans are unaware of the fact that American Legion representatives appeared before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, which had been conducting hearings on the operation of the non-service-connected Public Law 86-211. The American Legion recommended that the pension law be improved in the following manner: "Restore the former provisions of law which provided for 50 per cent withholding of a veteran's (without dependents) pension beginning with the 7th month of his hospital or domiciliary care, with the further provision that such withheld amounts be returned to the veteran upon his release from such care. PL 86-211 requires an earlier reduction formula with no return of withheld amounts." It is rather late in this session for Congress to act, but don't give up hope. David Frisch P.O. Box 292 White City, Ore. Sidewalk To the Editor: A sidewalk for J. S. How nice it would be to be able to walk to the Oakdale Market, church, school, and town, on a sidewalk, instead of the rough bumpy path that has existed there all these years. In the winter the path, which is already hazardous, is muddy, wet and slippery. So we, the pedestrians, must walk in the street which I understand is for cars, not people. (Name on file) Medford

Thornton Rules on Election Donations Salem — Interim committee staff members and full and part-time employees of a continuously established legislative committee may not contribute money to candidates for public office. Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Thornton said Wednesday. The election code, Thornton said, prohibits contributions by the holder of a public position or office other than an office filled by the voters. Lucile Vaughn Payne, author and University of Oregon English instructor. Registration forms are available from the Oregon Scholastic Press, School of Journalism, University of Oregon, Eugene. Forms must be filled out and returned before Oct. 1.

Gaddis to Speak At Press Meeting

Eugene — Thomas E. Gaddis, author of the book, "Bird-nest of Alcatraz," and technical supervisor for the movie which is now being shown in theaters around the world, will be the principal speaker at the 36th annual Oregon High School Press conference at the University of Oregon Oct. 12 and 13. Gaddis will speak at the Friday night banquet. He will tell how he came to write the book and of some of the problems involved in the writing. More than 900 newspaper and yearbook staff members and advisors are expected for the conference, which is sponsored by the Oregon Scholastic Press and the School of Journalism at the university. He will be one of scores of speakers — writers, journalists, editors, printers, teachers — taking part in the conference. Two other featured speakers will be Eric W. Allen Jr., managing editor of the Medford Mail Tribune, and

In the Day's News

Aftermath of Labor Day: Some 125 students and youthful employees, mainly from around the Northwest, face charges arising from the Seaside rioting that started on Saturday and lasted well into Sunday night. Six others, including a state policeman, are recovering from injuries that sent them to a hospital. Before the rioting ended, policemen had been pelted with rocks and beer bottles, windows had been smashed, a life-guard tower had been demolished and signs uprooted. Riot squads used fire hoses, baseball bats, axe handles, and the threat of teargas to disperse the charging throngs.

HOW DID it start? Why did it start? Nobody seems to know. It apparently just blew up like a dust storm. HOW DID it end? That's even stranger. A dispatch from Seaside on Sunday said: "Police watched over a calm town here today after the charms of a ROCK AND ROLL COMBO proved the turning point in soothing a savage student mob." The tension eased shortly after the music began, and 1,000 youthful rioters ended a two-day spree tonight by twisting for hours on the beach in the light of several bonfires.

SPARE THE ROD AND SPOIL THE CHILD? "Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast, to soften rocks or bend a knotted oak."

THE DISTURBING part of it all is that Seaside wasn't the only scene of this weird modern frenzy. The dispatches tell us that in Hampton Beach, in staid old New Hampshire, 50 youths face charges ranging from drunkenness to assault and inciting a riot. In Ocean City, Maryland, 500 college students began to "get out of control." Police promptly ordered everybody under age 25 off the streets. In Schenectady, N.Y., large scale fighting broke out in a park and recreation area packed with Labor Day holiday throngs. An estimated 200 youths were involved in the fighting.

FROM Seaside comes this aftermath of the ruckus there: "Police Chief Yarmonchi said he believes the SEVERITY OR LENIENCY of the court sentences following the rioting will determine whether or not such rioting recurs." What does he mean? SPARE THE ROD AND SPOIL THE CHILD? If so, he may not be too far from the truth.

NEW TWIST: the proverbial Englishman, Irishman, and Scotsman were in a diner for a cup of coffee. When it was served they were annoyed to discover that each cup had a fly in it. The Englishman silently spooned the fly out of the cup and placed it on his saucer; the Irishman did the same. The Scot, however, reached into the cup, grabbed the fly behind the neck, and said angrily, "Okay, spit it out."

"You know," enthused Mr. Goldberg, "that girl my son has picked out as a bride is as smart as she is beautiful. Does she keep up with the problems of the day? Let me prove it to you. Linda, darling, come over here a moment and tell this gentleman what you think about Red China." Linda was lost in deep thought for a moment, then her face lit up and she announced solemnly, "I approve of it, I guess — unless it clashes with the taboos."

Bob Feller, famous pitcher of the Curties for the Cleveland Indians, was dragged to a five-hour-long deca one evening. "How did you like it?" he was asked later. "I'm not sure," admitted Feller. "I deezed through the first four innings."

Bob Feller, famous pitcher of the Curties for the Cleveland Indians, was dragged to a five-hour-long deca one evening. "How did you like it?" he was asked later. "I'm not sure," admitted Feller. "I deezed through the first four innings."

Try and Stop Me By BENNETT CERF. A cartoon illustration of a man in a hat and suit, looking thoughtful. The text is a collection of humorous observations and jokes.