

... 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.

Bully Good Time

To the Editor: One summer morning in year 1915 a comrade and I rode a Southern Pacific passenger train to Ashland where we rented a room for the night, before taking off the early following morning for a long hike to Klamath Falls. We carried a light lunch for the noon hour, and by 6 p.m. we ate a hearty lunch of sandwiches at an old stage stop ranch where we had forgotten the name of west of Jenny creek. There being a bright moon we continued our hike until late that same evening. After seeing a pilot light some distance away, we decided "to call it a day" and bedded down for the night under some big trees.

Early the next morning we knew we were near Shake, an old stage tavern, where we washed up and ordered our breakfast. After a fresh start and short hike, a Model T car overtook us and the good chauffeur offered us a ride as he was returning to Klamath Falls from Ashland. It was a well earned gift of destiny we accounted for our lucky ride of fate.

After 3½ months of employment through harvest we returned to the Rogue river valley on a Cadillac stage to Medford for \$5 fare. Counting our overnight stop, making the one way fare back to town of Rogue River around the same as the railroad fare of \$7 by the way of Weed, Calif. to Klamath Falls. In those days \$2 a day 8 hours with outdoor sleeping rooms, was going wage. Sawmill work \$2.50 a day and up according to type of job.

One consolation, there was no income tax levied on wages. A tender beefsteak dinner was only 50 cents.

To make a long story short, we did not, as the fellow says, get very much money then, but we had a bully good time, just the same.

Bert Kissinger
322 South Riverside
Medford

Unander's Campaign

To the Editor: Sig Unander kicked his senatorial campaign off in the true Republican tradition when he spoke to the Tri-County Medical and Bar association at Bend Monday.

He criticized the Kennedy administration for its proposals for medicare, Federal Aid to Education and a department of Urban Affairs.

He would deny the people who work with their hands the right to medical care through social security simply because it will be under a non-profit organization. Medicare

is not for the aged alone, it takes in all the people who work with their hands and who are eligible for social security either for age or disability reasons.

He thinks the doctors have a God given right to the property, money or other valuable articles that the elderly may have accumulated through a life of hard work and self denial. He lets it be known that if the big insurance companies don't get their cut then he is ready to fight any health insurance plan that might come before the congress.

So Sig has made his bid for campaign expenses which the doctors and insurance companies are going to give him and if he is successful in winning the election he will have a nice fat job with pay of \$25,000 a year and the doctors and insurance companies will grow fatter at the expense of the working man.

What a nice line of propaganda Sig is going to hand Khrushchev for his propaganda mill. Khrush has shown the world that a medical aid plan is practical for all the people from the cradle to the grave. The time is past due for some social reforms and this government had better set a decent pattern or the underprivileged of foreign lands will cry even louder, "Yankee Go Home."

How many more American boys are going to fight and die in this brush fire war that the Communists are waging in South Viet Nam. The rebels there are out to get some social reforms which are badly needed and if the Communists are the only ones that will give them a decent life then it will have to be a Communist government. Even the so called loyal troops won't fight. They run in most every battle and the people in the small villages give the rebels aid and comfort. After all, what do the loyal troops have to fight for? Neo Den Diem says they don't need any reforms. Yes, the rulers can be bought any place in the world but the ones that fight and die are just not for sale.

John R. Schumpf,
Rt. 1, Box 312,
Central Point, Ore.

Leave Water Alone

To the Editor: Since some in our midst have re-introduced the fluoridation issue, may I present some facts that are not generally known?

As all readers of daily papers know, whenever a city introduces fluoridation it is news which is given very wide publicity. But if a city discontinues fluoridation, if mention is made of it, it is in a most inconspicuous manner.

There are more than 100 cities in the U.S. which have discontinued fluoridation after giving it a try.

Sweden began fluoridating one city as an experiment in 1952. On Dec. 20, 1961, the Swedish embassy in Washington confirmed reports that it is illegal to fluoridate city water supplies there. "According to articles in Swedish papers the Swedish Supreme Court by a decision of Dec. 21, 1961, declared that fluoridation in community water pipes could involve health hazards. For this reason fluoridation is not permitted under the Swedish Public Health Act."

"Among authorities in Sweden questioning fluoridation are: The Swedish Medical Association, the State Institute of Public Health, the Association of Communal Technology, the Association of Water Hygiene, the Association for the Maintenance of Public Health, the Association of Chief County Medical Officers, as well as a University of Dental Surgery."

Switzerland is a country whose water supply must be much like our own. But in Switzerland the scientists have emphatically advised against fluoridation. Their reason is that fluorine combines more readily with all other elements than does any other element. After its presence in the body it is impossible to say what new compounds would be formed or how dangerous they would be. Therefore Switzerland has never fluoridated.

One element for which fluorine has an excessive affinity is strontium 90, the most dangerous element in atomic fallout. Both fluorine and strontium 90 alone (not combined with any other element) will be slowly expelled by the body. But when brought into juxtaposition they unite, forming a highly insoluble compound. Both fluorine and strontium 90 have an affinity for bones. Hence the compound will be deposited in the bones more than anywhere else in the body. The radioactive life of strontium 90 is 50 years. Hence bones containing this compound will be subjected to constant though slowly diminishing radiation for 50 years. And this radiation is one cause of bone cancer.

We have a wonderful water supply. Let us thank the Creator for it and leave it as it is.

Anna M. Streed,
36 North Peach st.
Medford.

Retail Trade in Medford

To the Editor: In line with your recent editorial comment regarding retail trade promotion in Medford I would like to add a few comments and some figures on the subject.

During the past few years many areas have been competing in the race for new industrial facilities, new highways, shopping centers and most of all for the consumer dollar. Medford has been quite successful in most fields and has an excellent opportunity to make even greater advances in the near future.

Within only a few months new highways will be completed which makes Medford only two hours from any point in the State of Jefferson.

Only recently I had occasion to hear a discussion between two businessmen in the northern California area in which they were expressing their concern over the opening of the Oregon Mountain Tunnel. To quote, "we will lose half our business to Medford and Grants Pass."

Now, this business won't come to Medford without some effort; those same highways also lead AWAY from Medford.

No city can remain status quo, it must either grow and make changes with the times or it will die. The death may be a slow process but it will eventually happen . . . and a past of growth does not mean it can continue without effort.

An organization should be formed including ALL retail merchants in every part of Medford to take the necessary action in making Medford the unquestioned business center of all Southern Oregon and Northern California. This job will not be easy and it will not happen overnight but the results can be seen in 60 days if it is properly handled.

It is high time to stop this childish bickering and make sensible plans for the future of a wonderful city.

The enclosed figures indi-

cate the opportunity offered Medford merchants to continue the advantage they have in increasing retail sales. A large part of this volume can and will come from the area outside Jackson county.

This is not just an idea, these things HAVE been accomplished in other areas. Medford has no ironclad contract that another city in the area cannot embark on a similar mission. As I mentioned before, those same roads that lead to Medford also carry shoppers away from Medford.

C. L. "Chuck" McCorkle
1309 Siskiyou Blvd.
Medford.

Editor's note: The figures Mr. McCorkle included compared retail sales and buying income for 1955 and 1960 for the ten counties of northern California and southwestern Oregon. An abbreviated version follows:

Coos county, retail sales up 11.1 per cent, buying income up 30.8 per cent; Curry sales up 75.3 per cent, income up 108.6 per cent; Douglas sales DOWN 11.8 per cent, income up 30.5 per cent; Jackson up 15.8 and 41.1 per cent; Josephine up .03 and 28.4; Klamath up 23.3 and 37.7 per cent; Lake up 34.2 and 30.8 per cent; Del Norte up 2.3 and 19.9 per cent; Modoc up 3 and 2.2 per cent; Siskiyou up 20.2 and 38.4 per cent.

A Choice

To the Editor: A cowboy, riding through the hills of Utah, was caught by a posse and told that he looked just like the man that dry-gulched Slim back in Ogden.

"But since you are in the great democratic state of Utah," the leader told him, "you have your choice."

"That's good," replied the cowboy, "so I choose freedom."

"Well," explained the leader, "it isn't quite that kind of choice. What we mean is that you have your choice of being hanged or being shot."

Poets' Corner

Conducted by

Arnold Eugene Jenny

Nature

As a fond mother, when the day is o'er,
Leads by the hand her little child to bed,
Half willing, half reluctant to be led,
And leave his broken playthings on the floor,
Still gazing at them through the open door,
Nor wholly reassured and comforted
By promises of others in their stead,
Which, though more splendid, may not please him more;
So Nature deals with us, and takes away
Our playthings one by one, and by the hand
Leads us to rest so gently, that we go
Scarce knowing if we wish to go or stay,
Being too full of sleep to understand
How far the unknown transcends the what we know.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
(Suggested by Ethel L. Marley, The Manor, Medford)

The Meteor

How far away—how beautiful—the stars!
Flaming like daisies in the vast Unknown—
The Void of Dark, whence nebulae have flown
In blazing arcs, with arms that stretch out far.
Who knows the point in Cosmos where we are?
What further voids and myst'ries may be sown?
What obscure spawn from cosmic mists be blown?
What other Suns or Moons? What Earth or Mars?

We were alone—my little dog and I—
In field that day would paint with flow'rs of gold.
When, lo!—a meteor fell across the sky!
I asked myself—as men have from of old—
Are we a flame that burns in heaven's throne,
To light the fearful mists of the Unknown?
—Kenneth F. Ostheimer
Southern Oregon College, Ashland

Recurring Song

I caught the early song of a bird,
Hurried to capture it in a word:
Color of wings, shadow of tree
Where fragrance and music beckoned me.
Each time those simple words are said
Come echoes of music, delicate red
Scarves of sunrise, blue wings at dawn;
The bird—long gone.
—Madeline B. Hearn
Portland, Ore.

Ode To a Dandelion

O, sweet dandelion,
Thou sprite of butter-gold,
What mysteries concealest thou?
What secrets dost thou hold?
From earthy bed thou springest up
To seek the vigilant sky,
And gaze at Him that maketh thee
As if a loving eye.
And, yet, thou knowest fully well
That soon thy bliss must end,
When to the breeze thy airy seeds
As promised thou shalt send.
And when thy purpose is fulfilled,
And withered, weak thou grow'st,
Then, thou, with hope of life to come,
Shalt welcome calm repose.

O, thou yellow dandelion,
Faithful chieftain,
Thy wisdom teach me, I pray,
That I may be like thee!
—Ellen Louise Montgomery
Medford
(Senior, Medford High School, '62)

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Some United States Senators want to pass a law that would give the public a choice on radio and TV. You could listen to the Republicans or the Democrats—but not to the Socialist Labor Party.

Henry R. Korman
2640 Garfield st.
Longview, Wash.

Oh, Pioneers!

To the Editor: Again may I offer my tribute to those remnants of our pioneers; stalwart menfolk who are once more preparing to face the arduous task of providing for their little broods.

THE HUNTER

Across the rocky, burned-out ridge,
The mighty hunter staggered.
His face was worn; his clothing torn;
His weary features haggard.
The morning hunt was cruel and cold,
And though the sun shone bright,
His meager clothes would not withhold
The bitter, freezing bite
Of stinging wind and driving snow.
That cut him to the core.
And yet, as you and I both know,
He'll go back up for more.
Up on the ridge from which he came;
His weariness he'll stifle.
But still, he must return again,
For he forgot his rifle!

Gig Farfan,
723 South Newtown st.,
Medford.

When Life Begins

To the Editor: It would be prudent for you to more completely inform yourself with the stand of the Catholic Church as to Her position on "When Life Begins," and then correct the mistake in your editorial (MT 9-9-62).

As you did state however, no one knows the exact moment when the human soul is put into the body to make it a human being, and this is precisely why, for all practical reasons, it is important to consider the moment of conception as the first instant of a new human life. Probabilism cannot be used here. We must not directly destroy what is probably a human being. As we may not bury a man if he is only probably dead, because he is also probably alive, we may not destroy a fetus if it is only probably non-human, because it is also probably human. It is only reasonable, only in measured doses, with greater safety, greater reliability than if it were put into public water supplies.

"Once the precedent of adding fluoride to the public drinking water has been established, there is almost no limit to the possibilities after conception. Such a view

was accepted by both Aristotle and St. Thomas Aquinas. This view however, is only a probable physical theory and to draw the ethical conclusion—justification for destruction of the fetus—does not necessarily follow.

Robert J. Howard
702 Beekman st.
Medford

Editor's note: The editorial mentioned said in part: "Does life begin at the instant of conception? This is the view of some religions, including the Roman Catholic." The New Catholic Dictionary says, "The human soul is in the whole body and each part of the body. It is created by God and, according to the more modern opinion, infused into the body at the first instance of the latter's existence . . ."

A Thank You

To the Editor, and those it may concern: I wish to thank you all for the lovely household shower. Each and every gift was given with so much thoughtfulness and kindness that I shall always be grateful.

Though my tragedy, the loss of my home and contents to fire, was a great loss to me, the experience of everyone's sympathy, understanding and willingness to care, is something that will never be destroyed.

God bless you all.
Betty Robinson
166 South Main st.
Phoenix, Ore.

Fluoridation Issue

To the Editor: Congressman Walter Baring, from Nevada, has introduced resolutions, Nos. 514, 515, 516 calling for an investigation of the fluoridation issue, and for a ban on activities of the Public Health service in promoting fluoridation pending outcome of the study. Following is his speech, in part: "I refer to a program launched by a sub-agency in the Health, Education, and Welfare department of this administration to promote fluoridation throughout cities, towns, communities, and all states of this nation."

"During the past year voters representing some 2,500,000 water users in 43 out of 56 cities rejected fluoridation with little more than 50,000 having accepted. It is a fact that those who want their children to have fluoride can give it individually, in measured doses, with greater safety, greater reliability than if it were put into public water supplies."

"Once the precedent of adding fluoride to the public drinking water has been established, there is almost no limit to the possibilities for the introduction of all

manner of drugs. We may open a door which we will never be able to close.

"Another aspect of this fluoridation problem is a need to bring to the attention of this Congress the unethical methods used in promoting fluoridation, starting with the fourth annual conference of the State dental directors and the Public Health Service held in Washington in June 1951. This culminated in a now new accelerated high pressure program of the U. S. Dental Public Health Division that will be conducted through the use of undetermined funds now being requested under House bill 4742 and Senate bill 917.

"These are not good bills. They would permit uncontrolled use of Federal funds for promotional schemes not in the best public interest. The U. S. Public Health Service has aggressively, through the use of tax payer's

money, promoted fluoridation throughout these United States with grants-in-aid inducements. Fluoridation projects have been underwritten by/or subsidized with Federal funds.

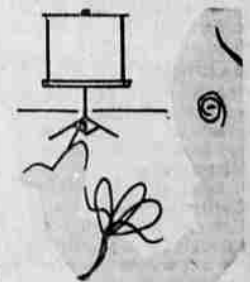
"When approximately some 60 million people have rejected fluoridation, including those in 100 cities which discontinued it after a trial because of damage to health and property; and when 100 million Americans are now facing possible fluoridation of their drinking water, I believe a most serious Federal policy problem exists."

This speech was given October 16, 1961. For copies write to: The Greater New York Committee Opposed to Fluoridation, 342 Madison Ave., New York 17, New York.

Mrs. Alice I. Black
812 S. Newtown st.
Medford.

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