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Worldwide Language

In this space some weeks ago we printed a piece entitled "A Fifth Milestone," in which it was stated that mankind had passed four milestones in his ability to communicate with his fellows, and that the time is ripe for a fifth.

The four were speech, writing, printing and electronic techniques. The fifth was not defined, only speculated about.

The piece was reprinted a few days later in the Eugene Register-Guard, where it attracted the attention of Ross Beeson of that city.

MR. BEESON wrote to the R-G, and stated:

"The fifth milestone already has been reached. It was reached when man perfected instruments that could objectively measure quantities, the sounds of the human voice. Present technology divides speech into fragments and introduces a revolutionary concept of what language should be. We may now consider language as material and concern ourselves with the problem of doing the best we can with the material we have."

He goes on to propose that a truly scientific language be constructed on the basis of the readily identifiable syllables the human voice is capable of uttering. An alphabet of some 30 speech sounds can form thousands of syllables, which can be used singly or in combination.

SUCH a language, Mr. Beeson believes, should have a truly phonetic alphabet; a categorical nomenclature, which would make words self-defining; elimination of most long and difficult words; a systematic manner of forming new words; and a useful and facile grammar.

The idea of a universal language, embodying many of the points mentioned, has long been an attractive one. Interlingua, Esperanto, and other artificial or adaptive languages have been devised. Yet each has had some flaw which prevented its universal adoption — although Esperanto has come closer than any, and is under continuing study at the United Nations.

Phonetic, self-pronouncing alphabets have also long attracted attention.

MR. BEESON'S proposal is particularly interesting, because it proposes the creation of a new language from scratch — not just an adaptation of existing tongues.

One difficulty with the older proposals is that while they might work well with people used to the Indo-European tongues, which have a common origin reaching back to Latin, Greek, Hebrew and Sanskrit, they would be far more difficult to people schooled in the Oriental tongues. A new and logical alphabet unrelated to existing systems, a new and logical grammar, a new and logical system of word formations—these might be used to devise a new and simple language, easy to learn, and capable of expressing both easy and complex concepts, such as scientific terms which now stem from older forms.

ONE can even envision a computer being programmed to create such a tongue.

And yet, once devised, what then? Would such a channel of communication stand any chance of universal adoption? And, if it were, would it furnish a really new means of communication and understanding between peoples?

One can only speculate. No people would willingly give up their own languages. (Can you imagine the poetry and emotion of a Shakespeare being recreated in an artificial tongue?) The best that could be hoped would be that it might, over a period of years, become a world wide second language.

And even then, it would lack the roots and traditions and wealth of expression which only time and usage give a language.

NOR would a universal second tongue be any guarantee of greatly increased understanding, as the history of wars and misunderstandings among peoples with common tongues indicates. Still, all of mankind's progress has resulted from his ability to communicate his thoughts and ideas to others; to pass from one person to another, from one generation to another, the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of the race.

Anything which would facilitate this process, and on a world wide scale, would be a step forward.

Thus it would seem that it would be worth the time and effort needed. If, for example, Kennedy and Khrushchev — or even Mao Tse-tung — could talk easily, face to face without interpreters, who knows what might ensue?—E.A.

Population Growing

The December report of the Oregon State Board of Census shows that Phoenix is the fastest-growing area in Jackson county, with an increase of 13.7 per cent in population between 1960 and 1962.

The second-fastest growing area was the unincorporated sections of the county, outside any city limits, which increased 12.5 per cent during the two years.

The third-fastest was Central Point, with 11.1 per cent. The county as a whole increased 8.6 per cent, compared to 3.2 for the state.

CURRENT population estimates, dated as of last July 1, follow:

For the county, 80,346. Ashland, 9,477; Butte Falls, 374 (the only area in the county which lost population, down 2.6 per cent); Central Point, 2,543; Eagle Point, 752; Gold Hill, 608; Jacksonville, 1,172; Medford, 25,919; Phoenix, 874; Rogue River, 520; Talent, 934.

The total for incorporated areas was 43,173, that for unincorporated areas, 37,173.—E.A.



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.

More About Fluorine

To the Editor: This letter is a reply to both Mrs. Henderson and Miss Stratton.

Chlorine and fluorine belong to the halogen group of chemicals, hence have some characteristics in common. Both are poisons and both are gases. Chlorine when added to water quickly evaporates during cooking. It can be eliminated from drinking water by aerating it. Sodium chloride (salt) is not a poison in the sense that arsenic is, for instance. Both the sodium and the chlorine of which it is composed are necessary for the proper nutrition of animals and humans. Wild animals walk miles to a salt lick to satisfy their craving (hidden hunger).

Fluorine, being a gas, can not be added to water because it would evaporate before reaching the consumer, since it is added to water not to act on bacteria as is chlorine, but to act on the human body, it must be added in the form of a soluble solid. For this purpose sodium fluoride was chosen because it dissolves readily. Sodium fluoride is a man made poison. It is never found in nature. It is as poisonous as arsenic. In nature fluorine is always found as calcium fluoride which is less soluble and much less dangerous.

To argue that because the amount of sodium fluoride added to water is so minute it does not matter that it is poisonous is fallacious for it disregards the fact that it is a cumulative poison,—that is, having once entered the body it is never entirely eliminated.—It collects in all tissues in ever increasing amounts. Vital statistics from cities having had fluorination for a period of years disprove that statement. After eight years of fluorination of Newburgh's water annual deaths from heart disease per 100,000 population were 892 where as the national average was 507. In Grand Rapids, Mich., after eight years deaths from cancer were 189.2 but the Michigan average was 136.3. Proportionately Wisconsin has more fluorinated cities than any other state. It also leads all states in deaths from cancer.

Adding poison to our water is not the way to eliminate dental cavities. If our school lunches and our homes would discontinue the use of sugar and cakes, use bread from stone ground flour, whole grain cereals instead of processed ones, raw milk instead of pasteurized, butter instead of margarine, and more raw vegetables, seeds and nuts, we would reduce not only the incidence of dental cavities but also all other degenerative diseases, thereby increasing our physical stamina and our intellectual vigor.

Why not give it a try? Anna M. Streed 36 North Peach st. Medford

Cubans Betrayed To the Editor: I have just seen the breath-taking, unbelievable joy on the faces of the released Cuban prisoners and their welcoming families. One man said with deep emotion, "America, oh how I love you!" As the Star Spangled Banner was being played, these wonderful Cuban people stood at attention, brushing tears from their eyes. One of them finally stopped fighting back the tears and sobbed aloud.

These fine brave people still love America passionately. And that is a miracle. For it was our State Department who put Castro in power, our military which put a dictator over them who drove them from their country. And when they tried to regain control of their homeland, it was the leaders of our nation who betrayed them again by withholding the air cover we had promised them. Still, their love with a heartbreaking faithfulness. I felt so ashamed. And I believe there is a terrible retribution building up for the Christians of America; that unless we awaken before it is too late and remove the pro-Communist, atheistic influences from our government, there may fall upon us the full terror of which Jesus spoke in Mathew 21, 22 when he said, "For this shall be tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, nor ever shall be. And except those days be shortened, there should no flesh be saved."

U.N. Assembly Session Marked by Thant's Election, Other Subtle Changes in Body

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst

When the 110 members of the United Nations packed up their brief cases at the close of the U.N.'s 17th General Assembly, they had lived through some stirring times, suffered some anxious moments and, on the whole, come through better than might have been expected.

Perhaps the most noteworthy single achievement office he reorganized into a three-man directorate subject to Soviet veto.

In the U.N. headquarters, standing like an upended, glass-encased matchbox on New York's East River, business was in fact conducted with unusual harmony.

An exception was U.S. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson's denunciation of Soviet Ambassador Valerian A. Zorin and his announcement that he would wait "until hell freezes over" for Zorin's answer as to the offensive character of Soviet arms in Cuba.

However, Zorin, a hatchet man in the old Soviet tradition, proved himself not even a pale carbon copy of Nikita Khrushchev, his shoe-banging boss, and wound up fired from his job.

Within the U.N. subtle changes took place, of which Thant's election was one outward manifestation.

The direct U.S.-Soviet confrontation over Cuba boosted U.S. prestige at the expense of Russia and caused second thoughts among the so-called neutrals.

It taught the non-aligned or neutral nations that they were not going to run the world by the sheer weight of their vote.

Khrushchev's high-handed methods in dealing with Fidel Castro also gave them new insight of the dangers too close a relationship with the Russian bear.

The myth of any real neutral bloc probably disappeared forever.

When the Red Chinese crashed across India's border, Ghana and the United Arab Republic initiated a half-hearted move which might have resulted in a resolution of censure against the Chinese.

India, the greatest neutral of them all, found she could not count on others fearful of their own skins.

From time to time, the Soviets tried to ignite some of the old fireworks. But without Khrushchev, they seemed only to be going through the motions.

In the end, Russia's agreement to Thant's election and the dismissal of Zorin led to speculation that Khrushchev, with troubles at home and within his party, was content with a period of quiet.

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Strictly Personal

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

CONFESSION OF WORDS Speaking of those "nouns of multitude," as I was not long ago, I became a little caught up in the subject—especially after one of my colleagues remarked that I had neglected that fine designation: "a gaggle of geese." I wonder if any other language beside English has so rich and diverse a collection of words to describe different kinds of groups.

Drawing as we do from Latin and Greek, French and Anglo-Saxon, we seem to have an enormous range of words about assemblages of things and creatures.

To the foreigner, as I suggested in my previous piece, it must be puzzling to be told that we have an assembly of people, a batch of bread, a board of directors, a brood of chickens, a catch of fish taken in nets, a clump of trees, a cluster of grapes, a crew of sailors, a company of soldiers, and a house of senators.

And even English ears find it rather quaint to hear about a flock of hail, a muster of peacocks, a pencil of rays, a skein of ducks, a skulk of foxes, a rookery of seals, and a mute of hounds.

As numerous as the nouns of multitude seem to be, there is evidence that the English language has lost many others over the centuries. Dame Juliana Berners, in her "Book of St. Albans," published in 1486, remarks that in designing companies we must not use the names of groups promiscuously, and gives the following examples:

"We say congregacyon of people, a hoost of men, a felshyppynge of women, and a bevy of ladies; we must speak of a herde of dere, swannys, cranys or wrenys; a sege of herons or bytours; a watch of nightingales; a flyghte of doves, a claterynge of choughes, a pryde of lions, a slewthe of beeres, a gagle of geys, a sculle of trefrys, a pontificalyte of prestys, and a superfluyte of nonnes."

The author added primly that a "strit regard" to these verbal niceties more clearly distinguishes "gentylmen from dinstynghen" than regard to rules of grammar, or even to the moral law.

Some modern writers have tried to add to our already vast stock of these "nouns of multitude," but their fancies have not yet caught on. I believe it was playwright Christopher Fry who wrote of "an exaltation of larks." My favorite, though, came for such sightings. We have found, however, in many cases, that such explanations are difficult to substantiate.

It is the responsibility of our organization to collect, correlate and evaluate all such data, then, to forward such correlation and evaluation to scientific centers around the world for further study.

Thank you in advance for any assistance rendered in this matter.

Robert J. Gribble Director, NICAP Seattle 18, Wash.

What People Think To the Editor: Could you find space for this in your letters for the editor column?

I wonder what people think of when they want to abolish singing the Star Spangled Banner, and the anthem "America" and recital of passages from the Bible in our schools. If that isn't a good way to let the Communists get a foot in our door I don't know what is.

I read that there are groves in different parts of our country trying to put an end to these things that make us Americans and America ours.

Donald C. Milligan 160 Bigham dr. Central Point, Ore.

WHAT about travel 470 years hence? Well, from all we read these days, it seems probable that some 4.7 centuries from now we'll be taking off for Betelgeuse, or some other distant spot.

How far is Betelgeuse? The distance to it is some 300 light-years. A light-year is equal to 6,000,000,000,000 miles. Multiply that by 300, and you'll get the distance. Why go to Betelgeuse? It's surface temperature is estimated at 5300 degrees Fahrenheit. If you get too cold here, you can get warmed up there.

ADDS UP DAMAGES Los Angeles (AP)—The president of a sportswear shop said he was totaling his Christmas business Thursday when the adding machine kept printing \$99,000, exploded flames from its electrical connection and set fire to the shop. Damage was estimated at \$50,000.

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

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 Dec. 28, 1952 (Saturday) Medford youth killed in motorcycle-truck accident in Dark Hollow area.

20 YEARS AGO Dec. 28, 1942 (Thursday) Citizens across nation prepare to take "one last fling" New Year's eve before gasoline, food and liquor rationing go into effect Jan. 1.

30 YEARS AGO Dec. 28, 1932 (Saturday) Emmett Nealon, Table Rock named county commissioner to fill vacancy caused by resignation.

40 YEARS AGO Dec. 28, 1922 (Sunday) Many Medford residents schedule "watch parties" and public gatherings to welcome in 1923.

50 YEARS AGO Dec. 28, 1912 (Tuesday) New Year's eve celebration in Medford expected to be quiet; police warn they will not tolerate any greater degree of noise than on ordinary nights.

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

1. What game birds of favored varieties are distinctively marked by a green head, a ringed neck? 2. What was paper made from before wood pulp was used? 3. Brisket is meat from what part of the animal? 4. According to an old quotation, what belongs to the victor? 5. Re-arrange REOPYF to spell a word meaning lobby. 6. What is the staff carried by a Bishop called? 7. For what popular commercial product are peeler logs used? 8. Is the toe in the boot of Italy on the east or west side of the foot? 9. What is the widest river in the world? 10. In which city in the U.S. was the first gas station, then known as an automobile spirit station, started? Answers: 1. Mallard duck and Chinese pheasant. 2. Mottly rags and straw. 3. Breast. 4. The spoils. 5. Foyer. 6. Crosier. 7. Plywood. 8. West side. 9. Amazon. 10. Seattle, Wash.



"Since the Cuba thing, notice the increase in 'Est. drink and be merry—for tomorrow...' or is it just the holiday season?"