

Medford Mail Tribune

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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: March 14, 1953 (Saturday). New \$12,187 passenger elevator being constructed in Jackson county courthouse.

20 YEARS AGO: March 14, 1943 (Sunday). Victory book drive nets 1,500 volumes in county to be sent to servicemen's centers.

30 YEARS AGO: March 14, 1933 (Tuesday). Medford Mayor E. M. Wilson to appoint committee of seven to act with licensing committee to formulate regulatory ordinance on selling of beer.

40 YEARS AGO: March 14, 1923 (Wednesday). Ashland auto camp is officially opened for the season.

50 YEARS AGO: March 14, 1913 (Friday). Traveling man taken off of SP train and fined for taking a drink on a train.

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

1. Which nutrient provides carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and sometimes sulfur and phosphorus in our diet? 2. Name the capital of Norway.

Russia Announces New Five-Year Plan: Moscow - (UPI) - The Soviet Union has announced it is drawing up a new five-year plan aimed at strengthening the nation's military and industrial might in the years 1966 to 1970.

Danger By Flashlight

At the apparent insistence of the Pendleton Evangelical Ministers association, two novels—both widely recognized works of literary and intellectual merit—have been banned from use in English and literature classes at the Pendleton high school.

The novels are John Steinbeck's "East of Eden" and Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World." The UPI account of the incident concluded with the following paragraph:

"The high school administration said the decision (to ban the books) was consistent with high school policy, which holds that literature which may offend parents or students, and whose use is not clearly justifiable, is not to be assigned."

THIS is a "policy" so patently spineless and ridiculous that one scarcely knows where to begin in scorning it. But, initially, our reaction is one of pity for the administrator who feels so little responsibility for the development of his students' minds as to allow such a policy to be formulated in the first place, much less enforced.

Has a book ever been written which would be totally acceptable to all parents and students, which none would somehow find offensive? Postulate such a book in your mind, if you can, and ask yourself what would be its intellectual and literary value? What possible contribution could it make to the educational growth of the students? It would be pap, without the slightest possibility of nourishment.

THE idea underlying the book-banning is clear and simple: It holds that young minds must be sheltered and protected—in other words, kept ignorant—from certain concepts and facts of life.

It premises that selected areas of human experience must be taboo, that some ideas are so dangerous in their insidious potency that we, as adults, dare not let impressionable minds be exposed to them. We realize our position is vulnerable to those who would employ the reductio ad absurdum technique of argument and ask whether we really felt youngsters should be exposed to "everything."

OF COURSE we don't. But we have found that young people seem to discover new things at just about the time they are ready to find them, and seldom before. If educational hide-and-seek must be played, an attitude of relaxed guidance on the part of the adults is perhaps soundest.

Those responsible for the banning in Pendleton—lacking depth and confidence and security—have allowed themselves to become brittle and frightened. What an example to set. Can't you just see some Pendleton youngsters hiding under the covers at night, reading the forbidden books by flashlight?—G.H.B.

Mockingbird

"To Kill a Mockingbird," the movie which the newly refurbished Craterian theater will reopen Friday, is generally excellent—probably one of the finest, most sensitively produced films to come out of Hollywood in a long time.

It has been widely, though not unanimously, praised in reviews, and has been nominated for an Academy Award in eight different categories. It is certain to win at least some of them.

The movie is based with intelligent fidelity on the best-selling novel by Harper Lee, a book which engrossed and delighted us.

THE plot centers around a widowed attorney, Atticus Finch, and his two children, Scout (a girl who tells the story after she has grown to adulthood) and Jim. They live in a small southern town in the 1930s.

Two separate story lines are developed and gradually come together in a spine-tingling climax. One concerns the youngsters' childish curiosity and fright about the person of Boo Radley, a mentally retarded recluse who lives a few doors up the street in an eerily ramshackle house.

The other line is powerful and mature. The father is appointed to defend a young Negro, who has been falsely accused of raping a white woman. His final summation in the courtroom, with a segregated Negro-white audience listening intently, is particularly moving and effective.

The two Finch children watch the trial up in the gallery with the Negroes. When it is over, the lower floor clears quickly, with the exception of Finch, who slowly and thoughtfully packs his briefcase. The Negroes don't move.

As Finch turns to walk out, the Negroes all rise. One of them, a minister, taps Scout on the shoulder. "Stand up, child," he says softly, "Your father is passing by."

MANY aspects of the production merit real praise. The script (though we regretted some deletions), the dark, moody photography and the fresh, imaginative direction are all of a remarkably high caliber.

Scout and Jim are played by two unknowns who, to our knowledge, have never appeared in a film before. In our lexicon, it is a compliment to say that their acting completely lacked that unhappy, self-conscious quality so common with youngsters before a camera.

As Atticus Finch, Gregory Pack is warm, sympathetic and compelling. He is the man—patient, calm, wise, a hero with quiet dignity—that all children should, but so few have, for a father. Don't miss "To Kill a Mockingbird."—G.H.B.

'What's The Matter? We Don't Say 'Niggers' Up Here'



... 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 Future Is Here

To the Editor: The future is here, if the people would demand it. If it is left up to the politicians we are sunk. The masses had better come to life and quick. Most of us have the attitude "Let George do it." Well there are not enough Georges.

The Supreme Court decision on Rail Road feather bedding should open a few eyes. You can't blame the rail roads. Under our system you must have a profit or perish, and from reports about 65,000 will lose their jobs. What are those people going to do? They talk about training the unemployed for new jobs. What jobs?

Howard K. Smith presented over the ABC network Feb. 17, "Another America." Thirty million Americans who exist in poverty and near starvation conditions, while our government spends \$50 billion for armaments. There are millions of Americans that don't know that conditions like this exist. At the program's end, Smith demanded that President Kennedy initiate a vast public works program that would be of permanent value, that he utilize his full powers to fight the penny-pincher in Congress, and insist that money be provided to restore the dignity of these hopeless people.

Stop this cold war and our race to the Moon, and we could have a few dollars to take care of our starving millions. This economy has been propped up ever since World War Two with this Communist poppycock, and we have had nothing, only one depression after another.

This civil defense program they are trying to shove down our throats doesn't make sense. They are asking us to resign ourselves to a nuclear war. Walter Lippmann says that shelters are an absolute delusion. I will go along with Lippmann.

And as I have said before, all we have to do is to adjust to the age in which we live and our troubles will be over. "Encyclopedia Americana" says whatever the future of technocracy, one must fairly say that it is the only program of social and economic reconstruction which is in complete intellectual and technical accord with the age in which we live. Look it up. Ray Prichard, 414 South First St., Central Point, Ore.

Youth vs. Age: To the Editor: I am not an old lady or a young girl eeking a job, but as a customer that spends my money at these stores in question, I have this to say - so far as fast, courteous, and efficient service goes I will take the younger girls any day, for as a rule I get better service from them, and I would disagree with the lady that says older women are better because of their age and experience and ability to tend to business.

It has been my experience that the older ones will tend to visit with friends and acquaintances while a customer stands waiting patiently. Recently I waited on one such clerk, age about 45, for some 20 minutes. I gave up in disgust and went home without my purchase. Some of these ladies seem to think because they have the experience, and perhaps having been employed for several years at a particular store, they can be pretty independent with a customer and get away with

it, where the younger girl with less experience feels she has to keep on her toes and please the customer or lose her job. Therefore she works harder to please.

As far as experience goes, all of us have to start sometime, and during the time when help was hard to find the merchants were pretty happy to hire these young girls and most of them were pretty hard workers as I recall. I find in the Medford stores there are far more older women clerks than there are young ones, so it must be that these girls protesting have some grounds for complaining. Perhaps many of the older ones do need the money badly. So do the girls. Many of them are pretty disgusted when they graduate from high school. It is hard to find an office job, and with no experience the stores do not want them. Many of them feel it is useless to finish high school as it doesn't achieve them much.

We hear much of kids getting into troubles. It is no wonder when they feel so useless and unwanted. I think these older ladies should be required to be just as courteous and fast as the ones with no experience. In fact they should be able to be more so with their experience. It is true that some of the young girls would not be steady and tend to business, but I think they should all be given the chance to prove themselves and not be turned away because of age or lack of experience as they are being, and I also think having to be age 18 before getting a decent job is for the birds. If a girl feels she wants to work and can do so she should be allowed to do so.

(Name on File), Eagle Point, Ore.

Tourist Promotion: To the Editor: An article that appeared in a recent issue of the Medford Mail Tribune on tourist promotion under guidance of the Medford Chamber of Commerce, called to mind a long treasured wish for Oregon.

You may think it is a far-fetched wish, but I think it is possible for the simple reason that Oregon needs a publication of her own, similar to the Arizona Highways magazine, through which her beautiful scenery can be portrayed in color along with her many natural gifts of nature like the wonderful Columbia river, enlightening the people of our nation who are looking for what we have to offer.

The editor of Arizona Highways deplors the fact that we do not have a similar publication to theirs, as he has traveled over the state and makes much of our scenery and of the opportunity we are overlooking in not showing it and telling people about our many natural resources.

Arizona has made much of what she had, and with the help of the easterners' money she actually transformed the desert into a land of enchantment.

We, in turn, through the pages of a good publication, cannot only attract thousands of tourists to Oregon, but can also be the means of interesting eastern capital to invest in the development of industry.

I feel that Arizona is indebted to Arizona Highways for what she is today, and if a publication can do for Oregon anywhere near as much as it did for Arizona, and personally I think it could do

Strikes Now Sweeping France Could Be De Gaulle's Most Serious Challenge

By JOSEPH W. GRIGG: United Press International Paris - (UPI) - The strike wave now sweeping France has presented the most serious challenge yet to President Charles de Gaulle's authority.

It very well could mushroom into the most dangerous domestic crisis he has faced. It started at the beginning of March with what was to have been merely a "token" two-day walkout by the 200,000 workers in the nationalized coal mining industry to press demands for wage increases.

But the government reacted toughly. In a decree signed by De Gaulle himself, it requisitioned the miners. Requisitioning of workers in state-run French industries is equivalent to drafting them into the armed services. Failure to comply is punishable with loss of jobs and pensions, fines and prison sentences. Most Frenchmen now agree that requisitioning was a major psychological banner. It infuriated the labor unions. Instead of knuckling under, all three - Catholic, Socialist and Communist unions - ordered the strike to go on indefinitely in defiance of the order.

There is strong popular support in the country for the miners, whose wages have lagged considerably behind those of workers in private industry. The strike now has spread to workers in the nationalized gas, electricity, natural gas, iron mining and railroad industries, who also have their own wage claims to press.

All told, some 700,000 workers in state-run industry are affected in sympathy walkouts of indefinite or limited duration. There are a few signs the unrest may spread to private industry too. The miners, whose monthly pay averages only about \$130, are demanding an immediate 11 per cent boost. The government has offered only 5.77 per cent, spread over the whole year.

The government has not yet tried to enforce the requisition order. If it does so, by arresting key workers for refusal to comply, the unions almost certainly will call a nationwide general strike. Close associates say De Gaulle is itching for a showdown. They say he will precipitate it in about two weeks when the nation begins to feel seriously the pinch of coal, gas and electricity shortages.

They say he hopes this will put public opinion behind him when he tries to break the labor unions.

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

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IS SOMETHING UP AGAIN?

Bonn - Among the European Kremlinologists, the rather debilitated publication of Nikita S. Khrushchev's neo-Stalinist lecture to the rebellious Soviet writers has stirred a clamor of questions. Khrushchev's reactionary views on the arts were not much more surprising than Harry Truman's quiet comparable views. But it was downright astonishing that Khrushchev sternly told writers that Josef Stalin, despite all his crimes and faults, was a "good Marxist and a good Communist."

Here, in fact, was a remarkable reversal of the line laid down at the 22nd Party Congress in October 1961, which culminated in Stalin's reburial in unhalloved ground. Since that Congress, the Soviet press has been full of attacks on those who dared to suggest that Stalin had his good points as well as his bad points.

EVERY Soviet school and university textbook has also been rewritten to expunge the 20th Party Congress's wicked-but-constructive judgment on Stalin. And just after the issuance of the schoolbooks painting the old monster all in black, here is Khrushchev asking the writers to remember Stalin's fine white patches.

This odd symptom of internal ferment combines with several other curious signs. At the end of last week, for instance, Pravda published a strikingly curious article on the 7th Party Congress. It pointedly recalled that at this forgotten rally, "a majority of the members of the Central Committee went over and supported" the wicked, heretical views of Trotsky against the all-wise Lenin.

Such a suggestion by Pravda, that the sacred Central Committee of the sacred Communist party is not, after all, infallible, is about on a par with an attack on the dogma of Papal infallibility in the Osservatore Romano.

THEN there is the fact that the party leaders' meeting with the troublesome writers, originally scheduled for January, was inexplicably put off and put off until last week. Then there is the similar fact that the long-promised new constitution of the Soviet Union has never been promulgated.

Then, too, there is the fact that after months of public use Senator Morse's hi-falutin word for reporters) have failed to report events truthfully, it is because they have to quote so many politicians.

MORE from Washington: The federal government could define areas for daylight saving time under a bill introduced by Chairman Warren Magnuson, of the Senate commerce committee. Senator Magnuson (from the state of Washington) says he neither supports nor opposes the bill, but merely introduced it at the request of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

HE ADDED: "The commission itself is not unanimous in its thinking on the bill, but we are both agreed as to the need for some additional time legislation. . . . The ICC claims it is often injected into local controversies over daylight saving time with no power to resolve them reasonably." Under the bill, the ICC could fix daylight saving time in ANY area from the last Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October.

HMMMMMMMM: Every now and then somebody in Washington comes up with an intelligent idea. If we have to tinker with the time of day, let's have the same kind of tinkered time all over the country.

Strictly Personal

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

PERSONAL PREJUDICES

Not only beauty, but sexual desirability as well, is in the eyes of the beholder—in the Orient, women conceal their bosoms and necks, but reveal their thighs in slit skirts; and the Occidental man visiting there keeps the angle of his division directed toward the legs, while the Oriental man looks only at the Western woman with their necks and shoulders exposed.

Biographies of geniuses are always at bottom unsatisfactory, because truly great men cannot be understood; they can only be admired. This is why it is easier to write a convincing biography of a rascal than of a genius—we share the limitations of the former, but lack the "x factor" of the latter.

A woman gets mighty restless, unless, from time to time, she can find something to "forgive" a man for.

The phrase "United Nations" is as big a contradiction as "civilized warfare"; for as long as the concept of nation remains pre-eminant, the unity will last only when it serves the self-interest of each.

Few of us are as candid as Mark Twain when he wrote on the envelope of a letter addressed to his wife: "Opened by mistake to see what was inside."

Speaking of wives, it seems to me that when a woman nags her husband it is not because she wants to dominate him, but because he has been unable to dominate her—nagging is usually an expression of the woman's unsatisfied need to be dependent.

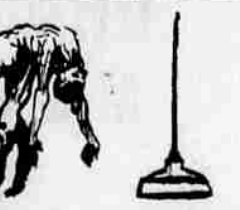
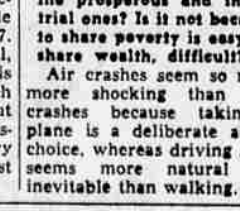
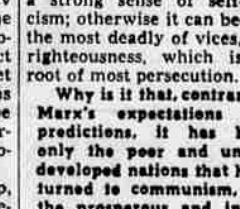
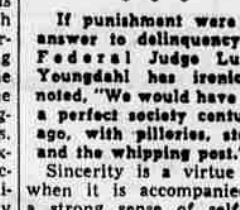
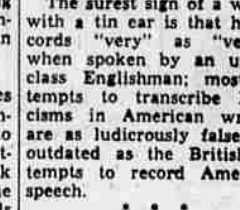
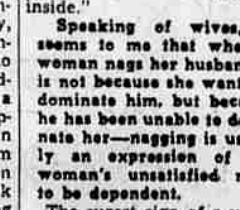
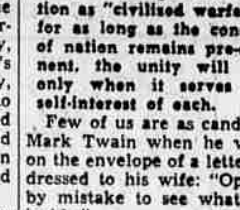
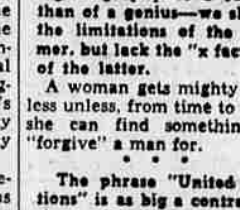
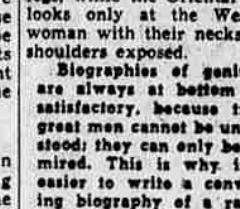
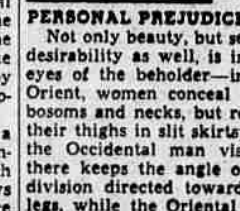
The surest sign of a writer with a tin ear is that he records "very" as "veddy" when spoken by an upper-class Englishman; most attempts to transcribe British accents in American writing are as ludicrously false and outdated as the British attempts to record American speech.

If punishment were the answer to delinquency, as Federal Judge Luther Youngdahl has ironically noted, "We would have had a perfect society centuries ago, with pillories, stocks and the whipping post."

Sincerity is a virtue only when it is accompanied by a strong sense of self-criticism; otherwise it can become the most deadly of vices, self-righteousness, which is the root of most persecution.

Why is it that, contrary to Marx's expectations and predictions, it has been only the poor and underdeveloped nations that have turned to communism, not the prosperous and industrial ones? Is it not because to share poverty is easy to share wealth, difficult?

Air crashes seem so much more shocking than auto crashes because taking a plane is a deliberate act of choice, whereas driving a car seems more natural and inevitable than walking.



"You hate women!"