

Medford Mail Tribune

Published Daily except Saturday by MEDFORD PRINTING CO. 25 North First St., Phone 2-1111

Subscription Rates: By Mail - In Advance: Daily and Sunday - 1 year \$18.00

Flight o' Time: Medford and Jackson County History from the files of The Mail Tribune

10 YEARS AGO: April 19, 1953 (Sunday) A series of five traffic accidents brought death to one man and injuries to several others in the Medford area

20 YEARS AGO: April 19, 1943 (Monday) Jackson County farmers, short of critical year - round farm labor, urged to place orders immediately for workers

30 YEARS AGO: April 18, 1933 (Tuesday) Oregon State Mining congress sessions scheduled to open in Medford

40 YEARS AGO: April 19, 1923 (Wednesday) Price of milk to go up four cents a quart in Medford dairies because of high cost of hay and labor shortage

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

- 1. What two Michigan towns both claim the honor of being the birthplace of the Republican Party?
2. Whose 'light-of-love' was the 'lady that's known as Lou'?
3. Is the body of a Sphinx that of a tiger, lion, or panther?
4. What city is called the motor-car capital of the world?
5. What metal product is obtained from the ore bauxite?
6. How many shillings are in an English guinea?
7. Which playing card is called 'the devil's bedpost'?
8. What famous American patriot made the copper sheathing placed on the hull of the U.S.S. Constitution, better known as Old Ironsides?
9. Who was King Solomon's mother?
10. Which President said, 'A house divided against itself cannot stand'?
Answers: 1. Ripon and Jackson. 2. Dan McGrew in 'The Shooting of Dan McGrew'. 3. Lion. 4. Detroit, Mich. 5. Aluminum. 6. Twenty-one. 7. Four of clubs. 8. Paul Revere. 9. Bathsheba. 10. Lincoln.

Education--or Indoctrination?

About 10 months ago, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that a prayer, written by the New York Board of Regents of the public school system, and prescribed by them for daily reading in public schools, was unconstitutional.

The ruling created a furor. Many people got the idea that the Court had "banned God from the schools," whereas, in fact, it had merely ruled against an "official" prayer, and a pretty insipid and meaningless one at that.

As, through discussion and study, the decision came to be better understood, the furor died down somewhat, although there is still widespread misunderstanding and resentment of the decision.

TWO OTHER cases in the same touchy area have recently been argued before the court, and decisions may be forthcoming soon. One involves the reading and recitation of the Lord's Prayer in the public schools; the other involves Bible reading in the public schools.

If, as seems possible, the Court rules against these practices as violations of the freedom of religion, will there be an outcry comparable to the one last year?

It may well be. An article in the current Saturday Review discusses this, and these questions:

"Will clergymen, through some mysterious magic, suddenly become authorities on Constitutional law and experts on American history?
"Will our political leaders, blessed with the wisdom of campaign experience, leap up to defend God, attack the Supreme Court, and view with alarm the advance of Communism?
"Or have we learned from the school prayer battle of 1962 that vituperation serves neither God nor freedom?"

WE HAVE LONG maintained that the state, or any subdivision of it, has no right to tell anyone what he shall believe, how he shall worship, or how he must pray.

If the state says that a child MUST listen to a Bible reading or the Lord's Prayer--whether or not it is in accordance with that child's own beliefs--the state is violating that child's religious freedom.

It matters not if the child be Jew, Hindu, Buddhist, Moslem, free-thinker, agnostic, atheist, or merely one who believes that school is neither the time nor place for religious observance. The principle is the same.

IF THE Supreme Court rules against these practices, it will be in effect telling the state (in this case the school) that it cannot establish religion in the schools in this manner.

On the other hand, were the court ever to ban personal, private prayer (such as Grace at lunch, or a moment's pause to request Divine guidance at the beginning of a class), then it would be infringing on the free exercise of religion.

If the First Amendment means anything at all, it means that the state has no business with religion, one way or the other. It cannot impose religion, or its forms, on anyone against their wishes; nor can it deny anyone the right to practice his religion as he wishes.

THE SATURDAY Review article concludes this way:

"If the Supreme Court rules against the Lord's Prayer and Bible reading, we can restage the unhappy religious conflict of last summer. Or we can turn to serious reconsideration of the place of religion in the public school. Instead of bitter battles to maintain a feeble recognition of religion by means of opening exercises with little meaning or educational effectiveness, school boards should be encouraged to adopt a program based on the proper function of the public schools--not worship or indoctrination, but education.

"The purpose of the public school is to impart knowledge, not to instill faith. This, in itself, is not a small task. Real understanding by pupils of the place of religion in the development of our civilization should be the goal for every public school. Parents, clergy, and other citizens should support the schools in working for that goal."

We should keep the distinction between education and indoctrination well in mind.—E.A.

Birmingham Jail

"The Right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state, on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." Amendment XV, Constitution of the United States of America.

Birmingham, Ala.—Sixteen Negroes were arrested here as they marched to register to vote. Police Chief Jamie Moore appeared at the church where yesterday's march formed and told the group: "... If you march in a parade you will be in violation of a city ordinance ..."

The Negroes sat quietly while Moore spoke, but 29 of them later left the church and started toward the courthouse. Thirteen soon turned back and the other 16 were halted after they had covered less than a block. "Let's stop it right there," an officer yelled. "This is not a parade," one of the Negroes replied. "We are going down to register to vote."

Police Commissioner Eugene (Bull) Connor was on hand ... and when someone suggested the marchers be transported to jail in a patrol car, Connor replied: "Car, hell ... put them in the patrol wagon." Police then moved into a nearby park where 400 Negro spectators had gathered and broke up the crowd.

"Congress shall make no law abridging the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." Amendment I, Constitution of the United States of America. The old song, "Birmingham Jail," has an added poignancy these days.—E. A.

"This Guerrilla Stuff Is A Different Type War"



... 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.

Play Liked To the Editor: I am writing this letter because I know there must be hundreds of people in Medford who would be as thrilled on seeing the play, "Five Finger Exercise," as we were when we saw it Thursday evening at the Fairgrounds theater. From the moment the curtain goes up you are witnessing a plot as real and palpable as life itself, and the two hours have seemed only minutes. And what is most fortunate is that every member of the cast seems a natural for his part and performs with feeling, sensitivity, and skill.

Instead of a half-filled theater, this performance deserves one to overflow, and for anyone wishing to spend a truly delightful evening I recommend the light drama, "Five Finger Exercise," which runs through Saturday night. Curtain time is at 8:30 p.m.

Mrs. Esther Robinson 29 Ross Court Medford

Still Our Government To the Editor: Mr. Frank Suniga, P. O. Box 66, Florence, Oregon, within the last few days published a letter complaining that the Department of Interior and particularly the National Park Service vetoed the idea of a road to the south jetty of the Siuslaw River near Florence.

Mr. Suniga does not report, however, that this matter was immediately brought to my attention. I was advised that all that was required from the Department of Interior (BLM) was an easement across Federal lands, and that local interests, including the Port of Florence and Lane County, were prepared to construct the road. I immediately contacted the Department of Interior and urged that such an easement be granted, and that, in my opinion, a road would be beneficial regardless of what transpires in regard to the Park.

Within hours, I was advised that the BLM would grant the easement if the road were constructed and maintained as a public road by the local units of government. They have instructed their local people to negotiate the precise location of the easement with the interested local government officials. This information was widely published in the papers of the 4th District on or about March 20. Apparently, it was not brought to Mr. Suniga's attention. This government of our is big, but it is still our government--yours and mine. Mistakes are made and misunderstandings can occur. But this government is responsive to the wishes and needs of the people and it is my job as Congressman to see that it remains so. Here is one example of prompt remedial action by sympathetic and understanding administrators in the Department of Interior. I hope that no one in the 4th District will hesitate to let me be of service in their relations with the Federal government.

Robert B. Duncan Member of Congress Washington, D. C.

No More Taxes To the Editor: I do not agree with Mr. E. A. that it is a lot of baloney when our legislators say that they are trying to abide by the wishes of the people in holding the line on any increased taxes.

I would say by discussing this with many people the majority of the people are very much against any tax increases for any purpose at this time. In refusing to be pressured into going against the people's will, this legislature has, I am sure, impressed the majority of the people most favorably. I think that we should write to them expressing our gratitude for their consideration.

As to this business of giving the property owners any tax relief by an added sales tax, or any tax method, is a lot of baloney. It is just another way of making us like what we get a little better. For what difference if we pay it in a sales tax or a property tax? I have two children in school and I am as much for good education as any one, but at the same time the old paycheck is already straining to meet the other needs and necessities of my children, not to mention a savings for college for them, and I am sure many others are having the same difficulty as I. I say it is a lot of baloney that the answer to every problem lies in bleeding a little more blood in the way of taxes out of the people. If it were more difficult for them to take more taxes, perhaps they could come up with a better managed budget to meet the needed expenses and trim off a lot of nonsense and unneeded expenses. After they have spent wildly they come to us for more money and tell us we are against progress if we don't want to cough it up. They tell us they have to have it so we may as well take our medicine and like it. Our Federal Government recognizes the need of a tax cut to bolster our economy. We also need the same in our state; with less taxes more business would come into the state, hence more jobs available, hence more taxes for the state treasury. Progress is not made by taking it away from the people and giving it back in the way of welfare, but allowing the people to be independent is the only thing that has made our country great and powerful. Let us not help Mr. Khruschev to bury us as he has said he would by allowing ourselves to be taxed into complete dependency upon our state and government for our existence. (Name on File) Eagle Point, Ore.

Reorganization of Congolese Army Has Many Ramifications; Some Are Political

By BRUCE W. MUNN Neither the United Nations nor the central government headed by Premier Cyrille Adoula wants to risk this happening again.

Under the U.N. resolution which authorized the Congo military operation successfully completed in January, all countries are forbidden to supply military assistance to the Congo "except upon the request of the United Nations through the secretary general."

The seat of Thant's African headache this time is the problem of retaining the Congolese national army.

When the Belgians gave the country independence in 1960, they left a native army of 25,000 men, none of whom ranked higher than master sergeant. Overnight, non-commissioned officers became a me general, and disorder, mutiny and riots followed.

Strictly Personal

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

I admire and envy a writer friend of mine, who takes the proper stance on a matter I feel strongly about, but rarely have the courage to enforce. Sitting with him in his study a few weeks ago, I overheard a telephone conversation between him and a man from a radio station. The man had called my friend to participate in a round table program; as he had a loud, clear, radio-type voice, I could hear both ends of the conversation.

"I get the picture," said my friend. "What fee are you prepared to pay for this job?"

"Well," said the radio man, "it's a sustaining, public-service program, you see, and so we don't have any money allocated for speakers."

"Are you being paid for your work on it," asked my friend, "or are you contributing your services, too?"

"Naturally," said the man. "I'm getting my regular salary. It's part of my job."

"It's not part of mine," said my friend. "What about the engineer in the control booth for the program. Is he getting paid?"

"Well, certainly," said the radio man. "It's his job too."

"I thought that perhaps he was volunteering after hours, as a gesture of generosity and good will," my friend remarked. "Now tell me this - what about the announcer, the producer, the director, and the man who comes in and sweeps the floor afterwards? Are any of them doing it as a public service?"

"No, of course not," admitted the radio man. "But we just don't have anything in our budget for speakers. There's no money available."

"I can go along with that," said my friend. "I'm not greedy for money. But I'm sure you don't want charity either. Since you're asking a service of me, why can't you reciprocate with one for me?"

"Such as what?" asked the radio man. "There's a lot that needs doing around my house - the walls need washing, the basement should be calcimined, and some bookshelves have to be put up. Why don't you come around on Saturday, or send someone around, to do these chores - and then I'll gladly let you have my services for the program."

"I've never heard of such a thing in my life," sputtered the man. "Neither have I," purred my friend. "But I think it's high time we both heard it. You'll let me know, won't you? Thank you - and goodbye."



The whole question of outlawing boxing is ridiculous - it's like outlawing war just because a few men get killed.

Julio and the Capitalistic System

By Arthur Hoppe

Caracas, Venezuela - Caracas lies cupped by the towering Andes in a green valley back away from the sea. It has 1.3 million people. Including Julio, our cab driver. I'm glad it has Julio.

I can't tell much about him even though he drove us around Caracas all day in his cab. He is a lean, brown man of perhaps 45 with a straw hat, a gap-toothed grin and an innate dignity. He didn't speak much because his English is limited. But when he did speak he had something to say.

During the long, hot day I was growing more and more depressed. Because it seemed the more we saw of Caracas, the more I felt it reflected not only what was wrong with Latin America, but what was wrong with our whole economic system. Let me try to explain.

Caracas is sheer chaos. Huge modern apartment buildings have gone up everywhere, seemingly with neither rhyme nor reason. The narrow streets writhe up and down the hills. Traffic is incredibly thick. And freeways, on which work has stopped, lead abruptly into twisting lanes shaded by flowering tulip trees.

The new homes of the wealthy, built in the free-spending days of Dictator Perez Jimenez' corrupt regime, lie on the slopes of the valley, garish and moderne. Most have fences and the wealthiest have armed guards.

And around the fine new homes, and in the shadow of the big new apartment buildings, and under the unfinished freeway, and smeared across the ridge of a hill just behind the post hotel, sit the patches of slums. A dozen, a score, sometimes a hundred slope-roofed little shanties made of scraps of lumber and tin and cardboard huddled jam-packed tight against each other as though for protection. Not one big slum, but little slums here, there, everywhere. Disorganized, disunited, so thoroughly unplanned - like the mottlings of a rare disease.

And then, late in the day, I got talking to Julio. He talked about his wife and his four children and how his oldest son was in the army. And how maybe it wouldn't be a bad thing if the army took over (you hear a lot of this in Caracas), "because they stop the Communists."

We were passing by a slum and I asked him, seriously, why he wasn't a Communist. He thought about that. "Today," he said, "I make five dollars. But tomorrow, maybe I make ten. Maybe not." And then he said with great intensity. "Anyway, I like to try."

Suddenly, I thought of East Germany. So planned, so orderly, so regimented. So grim and gray and dull.

And all at once I loved Caracas. It is beautiful. It is also ugly. But it is much more than either: It is varied, exciting and, above all, alive.

I think that's what Julio encompassed in his limited English. Our economic system may have its faults--its slums and its inefficiency--and we must keep on trying to correct them. But its exciting and alive.

And the defense of our system should not be that it makes life more efficient. (I doubt that it does.) But that it makes life more joyous. For it gives us, as Julio pointed out in his few words, an all-important joy: The joy of trying.

What I'd like to know is what it would sound like if Mark Twain's immortal masterpiece was rewritten in what people of that ilk would call good grammar.

FROM Salem: An amended bill for CONTROL OF STRAY CATS was approved by the senate military affairs committee of the Oregon legislature.

The bill passed the house earlier. As revised by the senate committee, it now authorizes counties to operate programs for control of stray cats. Other provisions were deleted.

QUESTION: How about an amendment providing for control of the characters who are too tenderhearted to drown or chloroform or otherwise painlessly put out of the way litterers of kittens that they regard as surplus and so put them in a sack and carry them out into the country and dump them out on the roadside to STARVE TO DEATH?

ANOTHER QUESTION: What the Sam Hill business is it of the military affairs committee of the senate or the Oregon legislature to draft laws for the control of stray cats?

Are stray cats coming to be a military problem? FROM Eugene: Teenagers here are playing with death by taking injections of chest rub medication into their veins, the Lane county health department warned. It reported three cases of teenagers using this "new form of thrill-seeking" have been reported recently by the Eugene police department.

Dr. Edward Goldblatt, of the county health department, said teenagers may believe that this is a "non-addicting method of achieving roughly the same results as are obtained from narcotics."

Let's not get too badly excited--YET. Remember the corn silk cigarettes out behind the barn? If it's forbidden, it's attractive. If it's DANGEROUS, it has to be tried.

BUT I can't help remembering a teen-ager who visited me in my office a few days ago. She was born blind. She is now 13--just beginning her teens. She reads Braille. She writes Braille on a special typewriter. On that morning, she had just finished reading the Braille edition of the Reader's Digest from cover to cover. She speaks German and French in a beginning way. She is interested in music. SHE WANTS TO BE A NEWSPAPER WOMAN.

FOR this teen-ager, there is no BOREDOM. For her, it is a fascinating world, and she is interested in all the wonderful things that are going on in it. I wish some of these thrill-seeking teen-agers could talk to her. It would do them good.