

Medford Mail Tribunes

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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.

30 YEARS AGO: An entry of 60 drivers and 60 to 75 boats is anticipated for the speedboat races Sunday at Emigrant Lake.

35 YEARS AGO: California Oregon Power company receives award of honor for best effort.

40 YEARS AGO: Funds sought by city to fight earwigs on Siskiyou Heights.

45 YEARS AGO: T. E. Daniels buys interest in McCurdy insurance company.

50 YEARS AGO: Dr. E. H. French offers to deed city 20 acres on Barneburg hill for park.

What's Your IQ?: Name or ten correct in superior; seven or eight in excellent; five or six in good.

Answers: 1. Admiral Halsey, 2. Vermont, 3. All are kinds of type, 4. Moses, 5. George Washington, 6. ... for work, 7. Lisbon, 8. No, 9. John Steinbeck, 10. 1880.

Uncle Sam--Brainwasher

Good old Uncle Sam—in the person of some nameless bureaucrat in the General Services Administration—has gone into the brainwashing business.

Complaints have been registered by certain residents of California about "girlie" magazines on racks in federal buildings. So the GSA, which operates most government buildings, set out to censor the magazine racks—most of which, incidentally, are operated by blind businessmen.

They didn't call it censorship. Oh my, no. They took the "positive approach" of putting out a list of "acceptable" magazines. The fact that no others could be sold did not, of course, constitute "censorship," in the eyes of the bureaucrats.

WELL, why get excited about that? What's one or two girlie magazines more or less?

The point is that when the dead hand of the censor moves, no one knows where it will stop.

Yesterday, the San Francisco Chronicle revealed that the list of "approved" magazines has been trimmed of such publications as "The Nation," "The New Republic" and "The National Review," among a number of others.

These staid journals of opinion—with nary a girlie picture among them—are thus forbidden to any who would wish to read them. And that, friends, is brainwashing. It is censorship.

IT IS TRUE that the magazines are available elsewhere. But the principle remains. It is a denial of freedom of choice, of freedom of the press to print and to circulate. It is a limitation on the freedom of citizens to read what they will, think what they will, say what they will.

"The Nation" and "The New Republic" are magazines with a liberal slant; "The National Review" is a spokesman for the far right.

Is the GSA fearful that some citizens might become contaminated with an idea?

If the GSA can ban girlie magazines, then it can ban magazines devoted to political debate—so what assurance do we have that next time it won't be Time, Saturday Evening Post or Popular Mechanics?

Knock it off, GSA. You're in dangerous territory.—E.A.

"Sundown" No More

Medford has long had a reputation as a "sundown" town. The reputation once was justified. Is it still?

This question was brought up at a recent meeting of the Human Rights Council. It is a good question, and one that needs answering, in these days when so much attention is being given to civil rights and equality of treatment and opportunity for all.

A "sundown" town, of course, is one where people of colored minorities are hustled out of town "by sundown"—either through official action, or by more subtle pressures. It is a town where the human right and need for accommodations and food is denied, out of prejudice and fear.

MEDFORD once was just such a place. Negroes and other racial minorities were definitely not welcome here. In some cases of record, many years ago, police officers were assigned to see that no such individuals were permitted to remain here overnight.

Later, overnight lodging was denied them. They were not welcome in restaurants. And it was rare indeed that any found a way to stay here.

What is the situation today? Despite some lingering evidences of prejudice, Medford hostilities and eating places by and large accept minority race individuals without any fuss. And increasing numbers of them are staying here, partly as a result of this change, and partly simply because there are more Negroes on the West Coast, and thus more of them are passing through, on business or as tourists.

A MAN in Portland who is close to civil rights matters in the state recalls that at one time colored people coming through Medford would recount to their friends the difficulties they had here. Today, however, the discussion is more apt to be about the kind of accommodations they had and the unemotional and courteous treatment they received.

What has been responsible for this turn toward enlightenment and decency?

Most likely it has been a combination of things. These would include an ever-rising level of education, a new spirit of tolerance and good will, a realization that the money spent by a Negro is just as good as that spent by a white man, an understanding of the Oregon laws which forbid discrimination in places of public accommodation because of race.

WHATEVER the cause, it is good to know that Medford's long-standing reputation is no longer entirely justified, and to hear from people who should know that the "sundown" taint is fading.

As recently as a decade ago, it was a rare thing to see a colored face on Medford streets. Now hardly a week goes by without the sight of a Negro tourist entertainer.

And why not? We're all Americans. Those who would deny their fellow-citizens the privileges and rights they demand for themselves only betray the ideals on which this nation was founded and has prospered.—E.A.

"Oh, Sorry—We Thought It Was A Goldwater Rally"



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.

Editor's note: A recent letter in this column criticized the operation of the concession at Howard Prairie Lake. A reply and statement of policies and operating procedures has been prepared by Concessionaire Bob Johnston. It appears on Page 65.

Deficit Spending: To the Editor: An economic fallacy has gripped our nation; unless its grip is broken, we will soon be living in a bankrupt America.

The fallacy with which we and our government are enthralled is deficit spending, better known as the "spend yourself rich policy." Despite federal deficits in 27 of the last 33 years, we are still not rich and we have a debt of \$300 billion. Still our government persists in deficit spending and plans another deficit next year. You and I who elect the government, must bear the blame for this. We elect men to office to do what we desire and it's high time that we tell them to get the government back on a sound financial basis.

I will now pause, so our liberal friends may say, "it's not so bad, we owe it to ourselves." But we don't—ask your liberal friend how much he has loaned the federal government! The answer is usually nothing. And you yourself, how much have you loaned them? Again nothing. So you see we don't owe it to ourselves. We do owe it to the banks and moneylenders both here and abroad. These people rightly expect to be repaid. Do we pay them? No, we are even forced to borrow to even pay them the interest on what we already owe.

I pause again so our liberal friends, if any are still with us, may say, "It's not so bad, our gross national product is \$500 billion and our debt only \$300 billion." Another fallacy, the gross national product does not belong to the non-profit federal government, it belongs to the nation's business firms and their stockholders. The only claim the federal government has to the gross national product is the taxes on it, after expenses. And despite what our liberal friends may say, the federal government does not have an unlimited claim on the earnings of business or individuals. So we still have a \$300 billion debt and comparatively little income to pay it.

We all know what happens to a business, a family or an individual who lives beyond his means. The same fate awaits the nation that does so as well. Even if John F. Kennedy himself should tell you it isn't so, don't you believe it. Write your senators and representatives, tell them to get the government back on a sound financial footing or next time we'll elect men who will.

Remember, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

James K. Shafer, Route 2 Box 210X, Medford.

Preserve Flyway: To the Editor: Duck and goose hunters should come to the rescue of their public hunting grounds by contacting their Congressman, Robert B. Duncan, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. A telegram of 15 words can be sent for 75 cents.

Land in question is known as Klamath Straits unit. It contains a famous "Firing Line" which extends 5 1/2 miles along Oregon-California line on North boundary of refuge area of Lower Klamath Lake.

S. 793 has passed the Senate. Its purpose is to promote conservation of wildlife resources of Pacific flyway in Tule Lake, Lower and Upper Klamath National Wildlife refuges. Bill declares policy of Congress to preserve intact necessary habitat for migratory waterfowl and to prevent depredations of such birds on agricultural crops in Pacific Coast States.

Klamath Drainage district tried unsuccessfully for many years to have Klamath Straits unit of 6,386 acres homesteaded into private ownership. As a compromise they now propose that this land be sold or exchanged into private ownership. As an inducement they propose that hunting rights be reserved for the public. Senate turned down their ideas so now they will try to get the House to go for them.

Basic question is whether to preserve the area primarily for conservation or to permit agricultural purposes and management techniques to limit conservation purposes in certain respects. Senate resolved issue in favor of conservation, primarily waterfowl management purposes, because such a priority is in public interest for reasons of

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Betancourt, Once Distrusted, Now Seen As Leader in Latin American Progress

By JAMES R. WHELAN United Press International Caracas, Venezuela—(UPI)—Romulo Betancourt is a symbol of changing times. Once, nearly 10 years ago, Betancourt was sniffed at by the U. S. State Department as a "radical leftist."

Now 55 and approaching the end of his term as president of Venezuela, he has won the acclaim of the United States. When he was received at the White House last Feb. 19 President Kennedy told him: "You represent all that we admire in a political leader."

Years ago Betancourt flirted with Marxism, but when he went to Washington Kennedy called him the "number one enemy of international Communism in this hemisphere."

The United States, impressed with the reforms he has achieved in always explosive Venezuela, now is reported considering him as the man needed to help bolster the sagging Alliance For Progress program once his term expires next March.

Betancourt has said nothing about a post-presidential ambitions (under the constitution he would not even be eligible to run for another 10 years) beyond expressing the wish to take an extended vacation and do some writing. But he long has been an open and fervent admirer of the alliance and had launched Venezuela on major social and economic reforms envisioned by the alliance before

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The happiest marriages are those between a husband who knows how to listen and a wife who knows when not to talk.

A fine semantic definition was made by Proust, when he observed that "Everybody calls 'clear' those ideas which have the same degree of confusion as his own."

Those discontented souls who are perpetually searching for someone to "understand" them would be most discomfited if they understood what they are really looking for is someone to misunderstand them in a way they find acceptable to the ego.

Animals react to our words, not to our words and so do children, who rightly say more attention to the way we say things than to what we say. Speaking of animals, I have long relished the anti-sentimental remark by Karl Kraus, after hearing about the "loyalty" of dogs. "To be sure, the dog is loyal. But why, on that account, should we take him as an example? He is loyal to men, not to other dogs."

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A philosopher in love is just as ridiculous as anybody else and even more so when he tries to philosophize about it.

A servant may work in a house a month without knowing where the spoons are, but not for a week without knowing where the skeletons are. It is a dangerous half-truth to believe that "history repeats itself;" in a more profound sense, history never repeats itself, and each age commits great follies by wrongly applying some lesson of the past to a unique event of the present, which it only loosely resembles.

Biographies of second-rate men are always more illuminating than biographies of geniuses—the reason being that it is precisely the essence of genius to be indefinable, uncapable, and mysterious. No cook ever thinks his own finger does anything but improve the taste of the dish.

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When these were not heeded, the Soviet leaders did not trouble to conceal their feelings. Even here in America, both Nikita S. Khrushchev and Anastas Mikoyan spoke of the Chinese rural communes with brutal and open contempt. In addition, Khrushchev personally encouraged the effort to reverse Mao Tse-tung's policy, which was made by Marshal Peng Teh-huai at the Lushan conference in the summer of 1959.

This encouragement of Peng Teh-huai was the Soviet "interference" in the "internal affairs" of the Chinese Communist party, which the Chinese are always complaining about. It was wholly fruitless. Mao's policies were sustained. Peng Teh-huai was placed under house arrest. And China plunged onward, to the total disaster the Soviets had forecast.

FROM the disaster was born the second phase of the dispute, which the Soviet document so horrifyingly describes. As early as 1958, before the full disaster occurred, the Chinese were already tempted by a high-risk policy. They made their attack on Quemoy that year, with Soviet consent. But the consent was cautiously given on condition that the Chinese pull back at a word of command, and the Soviets ordered a pull-back when the U.S. became involved.

THERE came then World War II. The warring countries stockpiled gas masks and manufactured vast quantities of highly perfected poison gas. No one knows how close the Germans (led at that time by a MADMAN) came to using it. The Allied high command was prepared to FIGHT BACK WITH POISON GAS. But even Madman Hitler never used it.

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Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

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AT LAST WE KNOW!

Washington—A flood of lurid light is cast upon the origins and cause of Peking's row with Moscow, by the astonishing new Soviet denunciation of the Chinese leadership which was published on Sunday. At last we know, or at any rate we can quite easily reconstruct, the actual course of this bitter Sino-Soviet quarrel which is probably the central event of current history. It is now plain that the quarrel has had two distinct phases.

The first phase is not much discussed in the new Soviet letter to Peking; but it is well documented and has often been obliquely referred to by the Chinese. In this first phase, probably beginning rather early in 1957, the Chinese and Soviet leaders had a sharp falling out about Chinese internal policy.

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