

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

Aug. 16, 1953 (Sunday) Foresters battle blaze on slopes of Mt. McLoughlin.

20 YEARS AGO

Aug. 16, 1943 (Monday) Medford connected directly with Washington, D. C., by United Air Lines.

30 YEARS AGO

Aug. 16, 1933 (Wednesday) William Grenbender endorsed by Democrats as Ashland postmaster.

40 YEARS AGO

Aug. 16, 1923 (Thursday) Rich territory to be opened by proposed Nastron cutoff.

50 YEARS AGO

Aug. 16, 1913 (Saturday) Sale of Jesse Richardson stock ranch in Sams Valley brings \$22,000.

What's Your I.Q.?

1. Is the Alaskan Brown bear or Grizzly the larger?

2. According to astrologers, persons born between Oct. 23 and Nov. 21 are governed by what sign of the zodiac?

3. The New Testament tells us that Jonah spent how many days in the belly of a whale?

4. Madagascar was formerly a colony of which European nation?

5. In reference to the quotation "Sugar and Spice and everything nice," what are little boys made of?

6. How long is a fortnight?

7. Are spiders insects?

8. Was the Reconstruction Finance Corporation established under the administration of Hoover, Roosevelt or Truman?

9. Lightning never strikes twice in the same place; true or false?

10. Do the pistons in an automobile engine come to a standstill before reversing their thrust?

Answers: 1. Brown. 2. Scorpio. 3. Three days. 4. France. 5. Walls and snails and puppy dog tails. 6. 14 days. 7. No (arachnids). 8. Hoover. 9. False. 10. Yes.

SHOP ENTERED

Central Point - C. V. Bowers, 535 North Fifth st., Central Point, reported to police that his shop at 510 East Pine st. had been entered and small tools were taken sometime recently according to Central Point police.

The Letter-Writers

We have long suspected, without any proof but with considerable evidence, that the John Birchers and others of the ultra right have a pretty well-organized letter-writing system.

Several who espouse this radical point of view write to the Mail Tribune's Communications column on a regular basis, so that the voice of the far right appears there quite consistently. Whether there are writing "assignments" or not we do not know, but the results are the same.

There is an amazing consistency of point of view, too. But that is to be expected in the tightly-knit ranks. Robert Welch issues his dictum as to what line to take, and almost immediately it is parroted the length and breadth of the land.

THE current "word from on high" is opposition to the treaty banning nuclear tests in the atmosphere or water. Samples can be seen on this page today. It seems unlikely that such letters are spontaneous. They are too similar in outlook and phraseology.

Norman Cousins, editor of the Saturday Review, recently wrote an editorial in which he recounted an experience which tends to substantiate the suspicion that the letter-writers of the far right are, indeed, well organized.

After a talk in Portland, in which he supported the United Nations, he was approached by a woman who said she opposed his views, and scoffed at his appeal for letters to U.S. officials supporting the U.N.

SHE said:

"Last week alone, just by myself, I wrote 300 letters against the United Nations. I wrote them to the President, Senators, Congressmen, businessmen who advertised in newspapers or magazines that supported the U.N., to letters-to-the-editor departments. And more than 30 people in my group have been doing the same thing."

Cousins added this comment:

"There is good reason to believe the lady was not exaggerating. For many months, the mails of public officials and periodicals have been flooded with angry letters on a wide variety of subjects, of which peace in general and the United Nations in particular seem to be prime targets. . . . Whether the Portland lady and her group are part of a nationwide systematic effort I have no way of knowing. But there can be no doubt that the mails have become a battering ram for extremist views."

COUSINS' theme was less to disparage the letter-writing activities of the right-wing extremists (it is, he carefully points out, their right) than to deplore the lack of such activity on the part of the educated, intelligent and informed members of the community.

His title, indeed, was "The Default of the Educated Man," and he says, "By and large, educated people can be counted upon not to write on important public questions."

He confesses bafflement:

"One of the attributes of a truly educated man in a free society is his awareness of the way that society functions. Yet an astonishing illiteracy exists among otherwise intelligent, educated people about the workings of public opinion. Letter-writing to officials is part of the phenomenon of public opinion — not the only part and perhaps not even the most effective part — but it is a part nonetheless. Yet this fact doesn't seem to make a dent in the thinking of many well-educated persons. And so they become part of a massive default — a default gleefully exploited by those who are using every trick in the democratic book, as is their right, to create the impression that their view is the dominant one."

IN SIMILAR vein, the editorial page of the Eugene Register-Guard not long ago had cause to complain that many of the community's best informed citizens, and notably faculty members at the University, often were guilty of a similar default in failing to communicate their views — either by not writing to the "Letters" column, or by being stuffy, pedantic and long-winded when they did.

The situation has improved in recent months, the R-G commented with approval.

Still, Cousins' thesis is valid, and it is true that many literate people, schooled in history, political science, philosophy, literature, the sciences — people who are acutely aware of the dangers of the time — do not bother to lend their voices to the cause of political and social sanity. The "great debate" is not served when the best minds fail to communicate, and leave the field to the extremists. —E.A.

New Fire Retardants

There have been great strides in fighting fires in the forests and on the ranges in recent years. Better access, better and more specialized vehicles, tighter systems of detection, and more widespread use of aircraft, all have contributed.

One of the more notable of the improvements has been the development of "bombing" fires from the air. Borate has been used successfully in recent years.

Borate's big drawback has been that it sterilizes the land, killing vegetation where it hits. For that reason, new experiments with other materials are of interest.

THE state department of forestry has started to experiment with two other materials, both of them fire-retardant in nature, but which do not sterilize what they hit.

Rather, they have some of the effects of fertilizer, and actually encourage regenerative growth on burned-over areas.

One hopes the experiments will be successful, that new techniques can be worked out whereby fires will not only be contained and extinguished, but where the land will be prepared for new growth, rather than sterilized. —E.A.

"As I Was Saying, A Test-Ban Agreement Might Have Resulted In A Fatal Gap"



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.

Signing the Treaty

To the Editor: The following letter has been sent to both our senators:

Dear Senator: I am writing this in regard to signing the test ban treaty. I am very much concerned because I feel the moral aspects involved are being completely ignored. Should we ever sign any agreement with our mortal enemy? For the present Russian government is our mortal enemy. Furthermore it is becoming on the part of Mr. Rusk and our other representatives to carry on as though they were attending a convivial party among friends? Should not such an occasion be a time of gravity and responsibility, and not one of hilarity?

There is also another aspect that should be considered, namely: What advantage do the Russians expect to gain because of this treaty? For if they do not expect to gain from it they never would have signed it. After having signed it how long will they keep it? For the record shows they will keep it only as long as it is advantageous for them to do so. The last time they kept it only long enough for them to evaluate data from previous tests. Then they broke their agreement in order to obtain new data. We kept our agreement and so lost valuable research time. How many times are we going to be suckers?

Anna M. Streed
36 North Peach st.
Medford.

P.S. When are we going to cease being suckers?

Birch View

To the Editor: What of the "Treaty Ban"? Many thanks to those who have requested this letter. Yes! I will answer as a member of the John Birch Society. The self proclaimed organ of the Communist Party U.S.A., the "Political Affairs," the "Worker" and the "National Guardian," all Communist newspapers, are stepping up activities for passing of the (a) Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. (b) The planned Aug. 28 "March on Washington" and (c) the President's "Civil Rights" legislation. They are all related.

What is really being demanded, is that all progressive and "left" forces and especially all Communists, throw themselves fully into these battles which lie ahead, and mobilize all possible support for Kennedy's Civil Rights bill, which is part and parcel of the Communist drive to destroy the sovereignty of the U.S.A.

It is pure folly to enter into any treaty with barbarians who boast that they make treaties with no slightest intention of keeping them, but only as a means of gaining strength for themselves.

The preamble of this treaty commits the U.S. as proclaiming as their principle aim, the speediest possible achievement of an agreement on general and complete disarmament under strict international control in accordance with the objectives of the United Nations.

The Reds and their allies throughout the world are already shouting that the U.S. will sign and MUST sign this treaty, because of our fear of Soviet might.

Walter Reuther has joined Hobson Reynolds, head of the 400,000 Negro Elks organization, calling for massive participation in the Aug. 28 march on Washington.

Behind all of these plans are the socialists and liberals such as Sens. Paul Douglas and Jacob Javits and Reps. James Roosevelt and John Lindsay, who have invited 38

senators and 80 representatives to meet with A. Phillip Randolph, who is president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, who is to explain to these senators and representatives the March on Washington and its aims . . . for the rights of the whites . . . if you please?

These are facts, which the readers will have to decide, whether they are for or against, such traitorous treaties and decisions coming out of Washington. Write your representative and senator.

Edith Pletteplace
3939 Hilyard st.
Eugene, Ore.

Test Ban

To the Editor: This is an open letter to President Kennedy.

Dear President Kennedy: If the American people knew the truth about the test ban treaty, there would be an angry outcry across our land that would frighten our Senators into throwing this monstrous treaty right back in your teeth. But our "managed news" has very cleverly and very carefully kept from the people the frightful danger in this "slick deal" with Moscow. And that is the fact that it takes many, many months of preparation for a series of atomic tests, and that Russia is again being given an opportunity to do this work in secret and betray us for the second time, as she did before, with massive tests in the atmosphere.

That this is the fatal danger is proven by the first test ban which Khrushchev brazenly broke, making massive gains in nuclear technology while we lagged dangerously behind. In 1961 you soundly denounced the Soviets' prolonged preparations to betray the test ban while going through the motions of negotiations with us. Where is the common sense you displayed then?

Why are you now leading America back into the very same trap again which, according to Admiral Chester Ward, former judge advocate in the U.S. Navy, could be a fatal national disaster?

He declared on the Manion Forum, Broadcast 462, that ratification of the test ban treaty "will freeze the U.S. into second place to Russia in the technology of strategic weapons heads. U.S. nuclear strike capability will be reduced so fast, relative to the Soviets' super weapon strength, that within 18 months we will have lost our power to deter a Soviet surprise attack, or to retaliate effectively against the overwhelming military power of their super weapons of annihilation. If this is allowed to come true, it will be the end of our country."

President Kennedy, I thoroughly believe Admiral Ward. Therefore I'm writing the "gist" of this letter to my Senators, and praying to Almighty God in the name of His precious Son that they and their colleagues will recognize this treaty as a trap set to weaken us for the final kill.

I'm sorry for you, it is possible that you may go down in history as the U.S. President whose stupid test ban treaty betrayed the American people into the hands of one of the most cruel, most cold-blooded men ever known, Nikita Khrushchev, "the Mass Murderer of the Ukraine" and "the Bloody Butcher of Budapest." You may go down in history as the man who stupidly put the brutal yoke of Communist tyranny on the necks of your own children. There is only one word for your test ban treaty, and that word is "surrender."

L. C. Powell,
316 SE Eighth st.,
Grants Pass, Ore.

In a Hurry

To the Editor: It used to take me 3 hours to drive the old Brush car from Ashland to Medford. If I wuz in a hurry, I could push it to Medford in 4 hours.

Everett Acklin
Ashland, Ore.

Perez Jimenez Leaves Mark on Country, Despite Swindles and Later Overthrow

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst

Whatever the rascalities of one-time Venezuelan dictator Marcos Perez Jimenez, the plump and pompous former army colonel left his mark upon Caracas and upon its people. It has been nearly five years since he gathered his family

about him and fled to the Dominican Republic in the face of the same sort of violent revolution by which he himself had risen to power.

But in Caracas the people still refer to him familiarly as "P.J." "P.J." built it," one may remark.

And the reference might be to the broad highway which sweeps up to Caracas from Maiquetia Airport, or to the magnificent modernistic buildings of the University of Caracas.

Or it might be to the gaudy, skyscraper apartment buildings which "P.J." built as a slum-clearance project but which quickly became merely vertical slums under conditions of anarchy worse than that from which its inhabitants came.

Ironically, that district meant to be a monument to Perez Jimenez today is called "January 23rd," commemorating the date of his fall.

"P.J." left Venezuela \$400 million in debt despite its oil riches which pour \$3 million a day into a country whose population is only about six million.

And beyond the monuments of stone and steel which Perez Jimenez left behind, few of these six million had benefited.

But besides the hatred which he also left behind, one may also detect a note of grudging admiration in those references to "P.J."

For in many a Latin American nation the successful swindler is regarded as no great criminal.

Former Argentine dictator Juan D. Peron retained millions of followers despite looting his country of amounts whose estimates run as high as \$600 million.

A one-time Cuban minister of education made off with \$172 million and aroused no great indignation.

In Rio de Janeiro, U.S. citizens urgently wanted by Uncle Sam to answer for a fast shuffle with the dollars of American investors travel freely in the best cafe society.

Perez Jimenez himself was the first such former high-ranking figure permitted to be extradited from the United States. Other guests have included Fulgencio Batista of Cuba and various members of the Trujillo family of the Dominican Republic.

Strictly Personal

By Sydney J. Harris
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THE USES OF HUMOR
The most devastating critique that can be made against extremist movements is a very simple and yet deadly one: without exception, they lack a sense of humor. What ever the political, economic, or intellectual flaws in such doctrines as communism and fascism,

the really telling charge against them is a kind of ferocious solemnity that is at bottom alien to the human spirit. No humor, no satire, no nonsense, can flourish in a country, or in a movement, that views life in black-and-white only.

A few weeks ago, for instance, the official Communist Party newspaper in Italy attacked the American comic strip, "Peanuts," for its depiction of characters ranging from the "suicidal" to the "stupid." One of the cartoon characters was even stigmatized as a "fascist."

And, of course, in Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, no real humor was ever permitted. For genuine humor is the eternal enemy of all pomposity, all officialdom, all fanaticism, all the political creeds and doctrines and dogmas that strive to become, in one way or another, state religions.

We all know that artistic expression dries up in a totalitarian country: writers and painters and musicians, who are by nature rebels, cannot produce in response to official decrees. What is even more significant, however, is that the sense of humor atrophies in such an environment: people are afraid to be funny.

This is a worse enslavement than the economic injustices that Marx inveighed against. The slavery of the intellect, of the spontaneous emotions, is more killing than any of the capitalistic excesses of the 19th century. It is one of the wry paradoxes of "freedom" for more dullness and drabness and conform-

ity than they had ever known before.

The most effective way to combat the extremists is with humor and satire and parody; and a democratic nation that begins to limit and censor its satirists has already fallen under the corrupting blight of totalitarian attitudes. Mocking self-criticism in a nation is a sign of health, not of sickness; the hand that salutes the flag must also be free to thumb its nose at those who wave the flag for venal or hypocritical reasons.

Freedom of speech must include the freedom to speak impertinently, or it means nothing; it must include the freedom to laugh at, the freedom to deflate the important, deride the orthodox, and dissect the "received wisdom" of the people. Otherwise, we will lose the capacity, and the will, to correct our national stance when it slumps or sways.

The best method of testing the strength of a doctrine is by subjecting it to humor and irony and burlesque. The extremist movements invariably fail this test, for they are based on a grimly unyielding view of man's nature. Exposed to shafts of comedy, these doctrines turn nasty, brutish and violent. Which, of course, they always were in the beginning.

Let us pause today in our busy rounds to salute the most dignified peace worker of our time.

As a hundred nations rush to sign the nuclear test ban treaty, as mankind basks in a new era of good feeling between East and West, as we rejoice in renewed hope for peace in our time, let us not fail to pay tribute to the unassuming toiler - behind the scenes primarily responsible for this breakthrough at last in the long, grim Cold War.

I am speaking, of course, of Miss Christine Keeler. May she win the Nobel Prize.

I know that others would see the prize go elsewhere. The Americans would give credit for the test ban treaty to Mr. Kennedy; the British

The Girl Who Saved the World
By Arthur Hoppe

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I know that others would see the prize go elsewhere. The Americans would give credit for the test ban treaty to Mr. Kennedy; the British

would hail Mr. Macmillan; the Russians, Mr. Khrushchev. But this is no time for crass nationalism.

Oh, I confess that at first I felt the same way. When the treaty was signed I was filled with gratitude toward our Leaders. It made you realize, I said, how ordinary human beings like Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Macmillan and Mr. Khrushchev could set aside domestic political squabbles and rise above petty personal ambitions in order to achieve universal good for all mankind.

And personally, my heart overflowed most in Mr. Macmillan's direction. For of all three Leaders, it was he who pressed hardest for the treaty. It was he, obviously, who selflessly thought most of humanity, who stood ready to give his all for the happiness of men everywhere. And it was he, I said, who should be awarded the Nobel Prize.

At least that's what I said before I read what experts are saying. But do you know what the experts say? They say the reason Mr. Macmillan pushed so hard and successfully for the treaty was to take the British voter's mind off the Profumo scandals. So that he could get re-elected. Which makes sense.

And thus, if there be any justice, the prize should go not to Mr. Macmillan, but to the little lady responsible for his dedication to peace: Miss Keeler.

Who can deny that night and day she, too, devoted herself to the happiness of men everywhere? Who can deny that she, too, gave her all? And who can view newsreels of her striding into Old Bailey without paying silent tribute to her Movement? It may save the human race yet.

So it is due to her dedication and devotion to her work that all of us are a little safer from war today. If it were not for Miss Keeler, the British Empire might not have thrown its prestige behind the cause of peace. So I say that when it comes to peace work among our Leaders she takes the prize.

Oh, I know some cynics will argue that while Miss Keeler may indeed have saved the world, it wasn't precisely the first thing on her mind at the time. And they're right to contend that it was all personal vanity and status building.

But I say if we're going to start getting into the motives of the candidates, we're never going to pick a winner.

In the Day's News
By FRANK JENKINS

In New York the other day, a Spanish-speaking woman who holds U.S. citizenship through birth in Puerto Rico began a court suit against the New York state law requiring an ENGLISH literacy as a requirement to vote.

She is a citizen of the United States by birth. She has lived in New York since 1948. She says in her suit that as a reader of Spanish language newspapers and periodicals her understanding of government and politics is at least equal to that of the average New York adult.

But because she can't pass an ENGLISH literacy test she can't vote. She asks the New York supreme court to direct the New York board of elections either to register her as a qualified voter or to provide a literacy test in SPANISH.

LET'S do some supposing. Mrs. Cardona alleges in her suit that as a reader of New York Spanish language newspapers and periodicals her understanding of government and politics is at least equal to that of the average New York adult.

Let's suppose she has read in Spanish in which, of course it is available—the great literature of the world.

SO LET'S compare her with New Yorker who READS ENGLISH—and so is able to keep up with all the dirt and the scandal and the fluff that make up so much of our modern day-to-day reading—especially in our modern megalopolises, such as New York.

Question: Which is best equipped to vote?

One fears that a brutally candid answer wouldn't be very flattering to us as a nation.

IN PORTLAND the other day, rules for the use of the Rogue River trail between Alameda Bridge and Marial, a distance of 26 miles, were announced. The decision was made by Bureau of Land Management Director Russell E. Getty after a hearing and a conference of interested federal and state agency people. It restricts use of the trail for these 26 miles to hikers.

Proofreader

To the Editor: Does the Mail Tribune have a proofreader?

Mrs. E. J. Collins
2224 East Main st.
Medford

Editor's note: Yes, a couple. Between them they read up to 85,000 words a day. Like to try it?



"The syndicate takes in billions every year, and the cheapstakes offer a mere \$100,000 to 'rub out' that squealer — now, if we had a union . . .!"