

Medford Mail Tribune

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Flight 'o' Time
 Medford and Jackson County History from the first issue of The Mail Tribune in 18, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years ago.

Society of Innocents

"Today we are a society of innocents." In this statement, made by the very knowledgeable manager of the Medford Chamber of Commerce, true?

Don McNeil makes a good case for it. "Caveat emptor"—(let the buyer beware)—may have held water in Roman times, McNeil says, but no more. And he adds:

"Our trust has been enhanced through the years by brand names, high quality, gilt-edged warranties and guarantees. Nowadays a purchaser can even get his money back if a product is unsatisfactory. Merchants bend over backwards to keep customers happy, even though no law requires that a dissatisfied customer be refunded his money."

AS A RESULT of these, McNeil indicates, today's buyer no longer is sufficiently wary of the slick gimmick, the fast buck boys, the sly underworld where man's essential honesty (or gullibility), and his modern-day "innocence" are turned to costly advantage.

An example: Jackson county people in considerable numbers have been receiving important-looking envelopes, labeled "official notice" from a "claim adjusting" outfit. Inside are lists of incredible bargains, sold in quantity—such things as coffee at \$3.40 per case—together with other seeming bargains in appliances, radios, and so on.

BUT the Portland Better Business Bureau reports that those who attempt to take advantage of one of the coffee or similar offers are told the supply is "temporarily exhausted." However, those ordering the appliances do get delivered. In one instance reported by the BBB, the device is a food blender. The BBB said:

"The blender is a flimsy, plastic device of uncertain percentage and even more questionable performance qualities. There may also very well be some serious doubt about the safety of the article. . . . There is not a single identifying name or address of a manufacturer on the blender itself, the packing carton or the 'recipe' and instruction booklet enclosed. . . . Of course it should be mentioned that purchasers have this assurance—the blender carries a 'warranty.' . . . This could be somewhat assuring if it gave the name and address of the manufacturer that so generously offers this meaningless guarantee!"

Anyone taking advantage of such an offer is, to put it kindly, an "innocent." A harsher word is "sucker." Buying brand names, patronizing local merchants here to back up their merchandise—these are still the way to avoid getting slickered.—E.A.

Covered Bridges

Covered bridges have a special fascination for a lot of people.

A few years ago, the Mail Tribune ran an illustrated feature story about Jackson county's covered bridges, and over the ensuing months we received letters from all parts of the country requesting copies.

One of the most successful publications of the Oregon Historical Society was a pamphlet devoted to the covered bridges of the state. It too, was widely requested.

WE ARE rather fond of covered bridges, but do not react to them to the same degree that the real covered bridge fan does. Among them, a new book entitled "Covered Bridges of the West" should prove highly popular.

It is a well designed, thorough, complete and colorful book, which not only describes practically every covered bridge in Oregon, Washington and California, but also gives pictures of them, some in color; maps showing their location; detailed descriptions of construction methods; tips for photographers; and a discussion as to the "why" of covered bridges.

(The book is by Kramer A. Adams, published by Howell-North Books, 1050 Parker St., Berkeley 10, Calif., 149 pages, \$5.95.)

THE book has numerous anecdotes. Here is one:

"Officials of Jackson County, Oregon, were beginning to wonder what was so damned historic or sentimental about a bridge built in 1927. Since the Wimer bridge had been ordered closed to vehicles as unsafe in 1920, it was more like a playground than an historic landmark. The barricades planted across the bridge approaches had been knocked over four or five times by car bumpers or uprooted by pickup trucks and rope. Horseback riders occasionally clomped across the rotting floor planks. And a man was rescued from one of the buttresses after apparently trying to cross the bridge on the outside.

"Finally, the Jackson County Court came up with the funds and the troublesome bridge was rebuilt in 1963. Officials still wonder whether certain patrons of a nearby beer parlor had embarked on a calculated campaign to preserve the bridge or merely had been playful."

JACKSON county's six covered bridges are listed, with name, location, length, year built and type. Each is pictured.

The oldest, the book says, is McKee bridge (not now in use for vehicles), built in 1918. The newest are the two bridges spanning Evans creek at Wimer and Minthorn, both built in 1927. The Lost Creek bridge near Lakecreek is the shortest covered highway bridge in the west. Near the Antelope bridge and the Yankee Creek bridge, less than a mile apart, is one of four places in Oregon and California where two covered bridges are located within sight of each other.

Bridge buffs should have a fine time with this book.—E.A.

"After All, I have My Pride Too, You Know"



Matter of Fact

(Joseph Alsop will be on vacation this month—and gathering material both in this country and abroad for future columns. During his absence, top members of the staff of the New York Herald Tribune will substitute for him.)

BY DAVID MILLER
 MOSCOW TODAY
 Moscow—Most Americans who come to Moscow for the first time are entirely unprepared for what they see. The main terminal at Sheremetyevo Airport, the main international gateway, is small enough to fit into a corner of New York's Idlewild Airport, but beyond lies another world. Block after block of eight and twelve-story apartment houses line the main road to downtown Moscow. The road from the airport is four to six lanes wide and divided by a central island much like super-highways in the United States. There are even underground tunnels so pedestrians won't have to fight the traffic.

Moscow seemingly bursts with activity. Each year a city one-third the size of Old Moscow rises to help alleviate a crushing housing shortage which makes privacy a thing of the future. The subway is being extended. A major urban renewal project, being cut through the heart of the city.

BUT to an American who lives in Moscow the year round a different picture emerges. The Voice of America broadcasts in Russian are no longer being jammed, and American movies were shown inside the Kremlin during the film festival. But the Soviet Union still has a very long way to go before it can offer what most Westerners take for granted.

Shopping is a daily ordeal. Soviet bureaucracy is an incredible obstacle to even the simplest request. Secretiveness has been part of the Soviet outlook for so long that Western correspondents are sometimes invited to press conferences and not told the subject till they arrive.

Gas stations as Americans know them do not exist. To buy gasoline suitable for a foreign car, a Western resident must first estimate his needs for the month, buy coupons at a single office, and then handle the gas pump's nozzle himself when he finally gets to the station. No one checks the oil, no one fills the battery. It's do-it-yourself living multiplied a thousandfold.

WESTERN correspondents are not supposed to telephone or call on Soviet officials without first requesting formal permission from a committee that only possibly will say yes. When one correspondent went directly to a school where an American Negro girl was enrolled, that was offered as one of the reasons for his ultimate expulsion.

Perhaps the new era dawning in Soviet-American relations will change this. Perhaps increasing Soviet awareness that most Americans are genuinely curious about Soviet life will mean easy access to even routine news sources. But because of the wall that exists today, many Americans know very little about the largest country on earth.

One American doctor, a visitor last summer, told me he was amazed to find stores that offered everyday things for sale. He said he imagined there were warehouses of some sort where people bought up whatever was available. Another recent tourist said he was surprised to find apartment houses or even people walking aimlessly on the sidewalks. He thought he would find a more regimented existence—people going from apartment to work, from work to apartment.

GREAT IDEAS . . . From the Great Books



By Mortimer J. Adler

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SHOULD WE BREAK UNJUST LAWS

Dear Dr. Adler: Recently the South has been alive with racial demonstrations. Wholesale arrests have been made by the local authorities with the local segregation laws as the basis for these arrests. The question I would pose is as follows. What do the world's great thinkers say about the breaking of one law in order to secure the benefits of another? Should a law be obeyed even though it is unjust?

Charles H. Murphy
 1233 Morgan ave.,
 Louisville 13, Ken.

Dear Mr. Murphy: "Unjust laws exist; shall we be content to obey them, or shall we endeavor to amend them, and obey them until we have succeeded, or shall we transgress them at once?" This is how Henry Thoreau put the question of civil disobedience in 1847. His own choice among the three proposed alternatives was to disobey laws that conflict with one's conscience.

Thoreau's doctrine is an unusually radical one. However, it would be difficult to find any serious ethical thinker who would counsel us merely to be content to obey unjust laws unquestioningly. Most moral and political philosophers would agree that there are unjust laws—human laws which violate the moral or divine law. Augustine, for example, said that an unjust law is not a real law, and that we are not in conscience bound to obey it.

Thinkers, however, differ as to just when and in what situation it is right to disobey an unjust law. Most of them advise a reliance on the slow processes of orderly change in customs, public opinion, and legal institutions, and an avoidance, wherever possible, of the disorder that is engendered by disobedience or rebellion.

Thomas Aquinas proclaimed men's right to rebel against unjust laws, but he urged us to weigh the potential disorder involved in disobeying an unjust law against the evil entailed in obeying it, and then to follow the least harmful course. Similarly John Locke urged that we use the legal means of redress available under a constitutional government—to change the law rather than plunge the state into the anarchy which would ensue if we all resorted to instant disobedience whenever we considered a law unjust.

Thoreau dismissed all these cautionary qualifications. He believed that the only full moral response to an unjust law is through direct, immediate, personal action—disobedience. He considered the way of orderly, legal change as dilatory, futile, and an evasion of personal responsibility.

"Even voting for the right is doing nothing for it," he said—it is leaving what should be a matter of personal choice and risk to the decision of the insensate majority.

The main thing for Thoreau was not to commit injustice by consenting in any way to iniquitous laws, institutions, and government actions—such

Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann
 (c) 1963, The Washington Post

RIGHTING AN OLD WRONG

Although the civil rights bill is moving slowly through Congress, it is no longer the burning issue it appeared to be when it was first introduced. The prevailing American view, held, says the Gallup Poll, by some four-fifths of the people even in the South, is that the substance of the bill is bound to be enacted in the near future. It is becoming impossible to uphold the disfranchisement of Negro citizens or to uphold disobedience of the desegregation ruling of the Supreme Court. As for the section forbidding discrimination against Negroes in hotels, stores, public restaurants and places of amusement, it is hard to argue publicly the right to discriminate. There is ample evidence that the blatant discrimination in public accommodations is an indefensible trespass on the rights of American citizens.

WE MUST remember, however, that the current civil rights bill deals with the redress of old grievances. The public accommodations section, which is being denounced as "Communist" and whatnot, re-enacts the Civil Rights Act which was passed by Congress on March 1, 1875, nearly 90 years ago.

"All persons," says the act, "within the jurisdiction of the United States shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of inns, public conveyances on land or water, theaters and other places of public amusement; subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law, and applicable alike to citizens of every race and color, regardless of any previous condition of servitude."

In 1883, this act was declared unconstitutional. But there was one lone dissenter, Mr. Justice Harlan of Kentucky, the grandfather of the present justice of the same name.

THIS dissenting opinion contains, it seems to me, the fundamental argument for re-enacting the law of 1875. The argument of Justice Harlan against it begins with the 13th Amendment, which abolishes slavery.

What did it mean to abolish slavery? "Something more," said the justice, "than to forbid one man from owning another as property." Soon after the amendment had been proclaimed as ratified in December, 1865, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1866, which was directed at the "burdens and disabilities which constitute the badges of slavery and servitude."

To make sure that this legislation would stand up, the same Congress proposed the 14th Amendment which declared that "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside."

THE fact that Negroes became citizens of the United States is the foundation of their right not to be, as Jus-

lice Harlan said, deprived "because of their race of any civil right granted to other persons in the United States."

To realize the revolutionary significance of this declaration that Negroes are American citizens, we need to be reminded of the legal status of Negroes before the Civil War.

This is the declaration of Chief Justice Taney declaring that Negroes do not "compose a portion of" the American people, were not "included and were not intended to be included under the word 'citizens' in the Constitution;" that, therefore, they could "claim none of the rights and privileges which that instrument provides for and secures to citizens of the United States;" that, "on the contrary, they were at the time considered as a subordinate and inferior class of beings, who had been subjugated by the dominant race, and, whether emancipated or not, yet remained subject to their authority and had no rights or privileges but such as those who held the power and the government might choose to grant them."

Segregation in public places is a badge of slavery and servitude, and the obligation and the power of Congress to erase the badge derives from the decision to abolish slavery.

Because our people feel the deep justice of this principle, the civil rights bill is going to pass, probably in this session of Congress, almost certainly in the next.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

This modern world tale: Down in the Bay area the other day, a gentleman named Norman Perry Anderson was thrown in the pokey for a list of offenses against the laws of the state of California.

He blamed California women for his downfall.

If it hadn't been for their "ineffable" charms, he confided to the cops who took him into custody, he wouldn't be in durance vile, charged with bigamy and grand theft, and held in lieu of \$9,480 bail.

IT ALL came about like this: According to the police, Anderson wooed two California women—both at the same time, the story goes. One was a 53-year-old widow. The other was a 48-year-old divorcee.

HE MARRIED the divorcee. A few days after the wedding, she gave him \$500 to invest in a vending machine company—which, apparently, he recommended rather highly. A little later, she gave him \$1,000 to invest in a steel company.

NOT only that. She also staked him to a set of false teeth.

SO MUCH for the divorcee. Now for the widow: She reported to the cops that last January she gave the dapper Mr. Anderson \$3,500 to invest in a San Francisco apartment house. "He promised me that we would live forever in a lovely penthouse," she reported a bit tearfully the other day, "and right after that he vanished."

WHAT about Anderson? Well, it appears that he forgot to tell either the divorcee or the widow that all the time he had a perfectly legal wife down in San Luis Obispo—whom he had married back in 1958—just after getting out of San Quentin, where he had served a term for forgery and grand theft.

He told the San Jose cops: "I want to get back to San Quentin and serve out my full term and then GET OUT OF CALIFORNIA. I never got into any trouble in my life until I met up with California women."

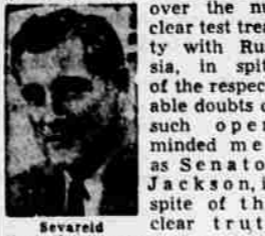
HE HAD another complaint. His new false teeth don't fit.

"They HURT," he told the police.

QUESTION: Can we really blame the teen-agers too bitterly for some of their antics in an age when old folks carry on like that?

Hope and Caution Mingle in Ban Debate

By ERIC SEVAREID



The extreme right wing in American politics is not likely to prevail in the debate over the nuclear test treaty with Russia, in spite of the respectable doubts of such open-minded men as Senator Jackson, in spite of the clear truth that the treaty by no means implies the end of the worldwide contest with aggressive Communism. The long reach of history is accomplished by such short, often unprepared steps; and this seems to be one of those times when it is better to move than to stand, however impossible it may be to identify the next move after that. What we are engaged in with Russia is a game of poker, not chess.

Before this current argument is over, the United States will have again demonstrated to the world that if there is any basic flaw in the American world stance, it is a leaning toward trust rather than distrust, a deep-seated predilection toward lowering our guard, not toward rigidity and ingrained hostility, in spite of the clamorous, guilt-ridden claims of all those groups

which arrogate to themselves the desire for and the label of "peace."

No, if from here on we are led into policy errors by reason of domestic pressures, it will not be the pressure of the overly suspicious right wing minorities but the pressure of the left-wing minorities who persistently equate American with Communist responsibility for the dangerous condition of the world—those groups which would have us detach from Vietnam because its government happens to be nasty in right wing fashion and which would have us draw closer to Cuba because its nasty regime happens to be left wing. Brutality itself does not bother these groups; they are concerned only with the words of the torturer's chant as he wields the whip.

One can hope. One can hope, for example, that the tense and outcome of this debate on the test treaty will demonstrate to these groups and their counterparts in Europe that, while the "military-industrial power structure" of which Eisenhower warned is indeed worth worrying about, it is not determining the foreign and defense policies of this country. The President and the Secretary of Defense are doing that, as much, if not more, than ever.

One can hope that the tranquilizing effect of the treaty agreement will not put the efforts to reorganize and strengthen NATO, already half paralyzed, into a coma. It is entirely permissible to believe that this prospect was one of Khrushchev's various purposes in welcoming the agreement.

One can hope, also, that behind Khrushchev's corollary desire to isolate the nuclear ambitions of the Chinese, there is not something far more immediate and frightening than a doctrinal disagreement about the worth, in Communist terms, of risking big war. With no hard evidence to support it, the nagging thought persists that the Chinese may have been pushing, not merely for doctrinal support from Moscow, but for support of Chinese plans for immediate, overt aggression, whether against Vietnam or South Korea or Formosa or India. It may not be merely the Chinese ideologues who left Moscow in disgust last month; it may be also representatives of the Chinese general staff.

It is a scary notion. Whether or not aggressions do come on such a dire and drastic scale, what we cannot realistically hope for is an end to small-scale Communist aggressions in the Far East or an end to Communist threat

alarms and excursions in Latin America, which could easily snowball. The coexistence Khrushchev has in mind is an intensely competitive coexistence, both political and economic. There is no reason whatsoever to think that he, any more than the dogmatic Chinese, has revised his declaration that "socialism is working for history," which is a program of action, as distinguished from the old Marxist slogan that "history is working for socialism," which was an intellectual abstraction.

It is generally and historically true that tyrannies do pass away in time, that doctrines are always diluted by realities, that any church militant tends to become, "with prosperity, the established church. And it is also true that these processes, like all social processes, move through their cycles at a faster rate than they did before the modern revolution in communications. But the worst mistake we could make would be to assume, on the evidence of the test ban treaty, that these processes have come to completion, even with the Russians. With the Chinese, of course, the processes have scarcely begun.

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Funds Allocated for Four State Airports

Washington—(UPI)—The Federal Aviation Agency has approved an allocation of \$276,328 for Oregon airports under the Federal Airport Act for the 1964 fiscal year, members of the Oregon congressional delegation said Friday.

Under the allocation for airport improvement, Eugene will get \$201,901, Portland \$23,000, Joseph \$36,429 and Powers \$14,998.