

Medford Mail Tribune
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Playland of the West

In prior discussions of the Rogue Basin project, which will involve the construction of three dams, most of the emphasis has been placed on two factors — additional irrigation water, and on improvement of the quality of the water in the lower Rogue.

These factors are, of course, immensely important, and will benefit the entire area. Some discussion has been noted of the recreational benefits, too. But not, in our view, as much as the potential justifies.

Anyone who has watched Howard Prairie lake become one of the area's major recreational sites can understand this.

SO CAN those who have seen Detroit dam and reservoir on the Santiam river. It furnishes a play area for thousands upon thousands of people on summer week ends and week days.

Howard Prairie covers some 2,000 acres at maximum height. Detroit reservoir, when full, covers 3,580 acres. The Lost Creek reservoir of the Rogue project will cover some 3,100 acres — half again larger than Howard Prairie, and nearly as large as Detroit.

None of these are as large as the Shasta Lake impoundment, but they are large enough to accommodate boating, water skiing, swimming — all the water sports which have become so popular in recent years, and which provide the basis for any good recreational site.

WITH THE completion of the Rogue Basin project, Jackson county will have the potential for one of the finest recreation and vacation areas in the west. In summer, it will have three major lakes, each with unsurpassed recreational opportunities — Howard Prairie, Lost Creek and Applegate — to say nothing of the mountain lakes already here. It will have the Shakespearean Festival, hopefully the Britt Music Festival, an improved Rogue river and — again hopefully — Bear creek, as well as the scenic and natural beauties already enjoyed.

In the wintertime, it will have the Mt. Ashland ski area, now abuilding, which promises to be one of the best in the entire west. Given time, recreation could be our major "industry." What's even better, we can enjoy it too. — E.A.

Burning the Stubble

We have our smudge smoke for a few mornings in the spring, the mill smoke the rest of the year, and slash smoke in the fall. But we don't have the summertime pall caused by the burning of grass stubblefields.

This is a relatively new phenomenon in the Willamette valley, but for the past ten or a dozen years it has become a familiar thing. Driving down the valley last week, we saw pillar after pillar of dense smoke rising from burning fields. On windless days, particularly when there is a cold-air inversion, the resulting pall is a nuisance at best, and an eye-smarting, cough provoking threat, and air and auto traffic hazard, at worst.

THE GRASS crop is valued at some \$15 million per year. It was almost wiped out about 15 years ago by a fungus disease. It is to destroy this fungus, plus insects and rodents, that the 3,000 Willamette valley grass farmers burn the fields — some 100,000 acres in all.

Air pollution control men deplore the smoke, but there is little they can do. Agricultural burning is exempt from Oregon's air pollution control law. And, according to the Eugene Register + Guard, little if any research is being done to develop means other than burning to sterilize the fields.

It's something else to live with in the name of "economic necessity." — E.A.

Freeways and Scenery

An editorial writer on The Daily Astorian bemoans the loss of the pleasure of driving through towns, now that the freeway by-passes virtually every town along its length. He has a point, of course. But then, no one forces anyone to remain on the freeway.

A friend remarked the other day that you "just have to get off the freeway if you're going to really see Oregon." And that is true. In some ways the freeway has improved the scenery, opening up new (and mostly billboard-less) vistas. But it also skims around and past some beautiful and interesting spots.

AS A CONVENIENCE and as a time saver, the freeway can't be beaten. But, if not in a hurry, one ought to get off it once in a while. The highway down the Umpqua river, particularly between Scottsburg and Reedsport, is one of the loveliest drives in the west. The McKenzie pass, now by-passed by most drivers in favor of the Clear Lake cut-off to the Santiam, is another magnificent drive.

So is the length of the Oregon coast (excepting, of course, the "20 Miracle Miles"). So is the old Columbia Gorge highway. Route 97, north of Madras, has a charm and fascination of its own as it winds through sage and wheat, the ghost town of Shaniko, and down to the Columbia.

There are hundreds of parts of Oregon worth seeing, but you have to get off the freeway to see them. But, of course, often times the freeway speeds you to them. — E.A.



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.

Responsibility To the Editor: Perhaps because of its simplicity and obvious nature, you have ignored the responsible "Tax Alternatives (MT 8-23)."

During the last 140 day legislative assembly, some \$26 million was cut from the overall budget. Was the inclusion of this vast amount responsible? If not, there may be a reasonable possibility of further cuts being justified.

Action on the part of the state legislators concerning the state budget was second hand. The Ways and Means committee made recommendations, they had to be taken as being sound, and after the legislators approved certain expenditures it was only reasonable they vote for some tax program to provide for the expenditures. But the issue of the voters (those who support the referendum), is to take another, deeper, longer look at the justification of the expenditures, especially in education. Jane Galespie said it quite succinctly on "Public Opinion" last week. As I remember her thoughts — in the past we've all voted to support education, as parents we are concerned about the education of our children. We have voted yes and then taken it for granted everything was all right. But now it is time to do a little more than take things for granted. It's our money and we should be sure of the need when we vote to have someone spend it. I hope I have not committed an injustice against Jane's position. I hope I have made the same point as she did.

Along this same line — is it sound fiscal and/or educational policy to argue such things as bowling, roller skating, etc., are essential to education? Can school buildings be used for split-curriculum? This way facilities have to be duplicated but not facilities. Wouldn't this reduce costs?

So much of what the educators and their spokesmen (often arrogantly), plan, takes on the semblance of frightful urgency! After all, when a baby is first conceived and makes his presence known there is cause for great joy and anticipation, but the situation is not urgent until the water breaks and the mother is still 25 miles from the doctor!

Be a little more sympathetic and a little less extreme toward the level of intelligence of your readers, Mr. Allen. This tax referendum reflects the electorate practicing the highest dedication to responsibility, not as you say, the opposite.

Robert J. Howard 702 Beekman st. Medford.

Unconquerable Force To the Editor: The following is a "Statement of Faith," its author anonymous, but not unworthy.

"I have faith to believe that, despite the failure of administrators of our departments of government, our country will stand forth unscathed if only her people remain true to their colors.

"I have faith to believe that, neither depression at home, nor peril abroad shall be able to reduce our country in honor or strength, if only her people remain independent in spirit, and strong at heart to battle for the victory whatever the terror.

"I have faith to believe in the final triumph of Liberty in all places if but the peoples of the world shall take Liberty itself to their hearts, and cleave to Justice with all their minds. For these are the imperishable, the unconquerable forces among men everywhere, always and forever."

Contributor (Name on file) Medford.

Writers' Club Sets Meeting Wednesday Persons engaged in the writing profession are invited to attend a writers' club meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the home of Helen Bartley, 3478 New Ray rd., Central Point.

Plans for fall activities of the club will be made. Those wishing additional information about the group may call Mrs. Bartley at 864-1924 or Mary Lou Skinner at 462-3993.

Mid-East Border Clashes Could Result In Major Conflict; Nasser's Role Eyed

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst In the trigger-quick emotional state which is habitual in the Middle East, any long drawn-out series of border incidents between Arabs and Israelis could be the beginning of a major conflict. And that explains why both the United Nations forces in the Middle East and the UN Security Council in New York are moving as quickly as possible to halt the latest series of incidents along the Israeli border with Syria and Jordan.

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop (c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

(Joseph Alsop is 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 ROBERT J. DONOVAN

Washington — All of the surprising number of Americans who are wandering about the Far East this summer will bring back their reflections on the teeming civilization beyond the Pacific. My own, having just returned from random vacation travels from Indonesia to Japan, are a medley of impressions which, annoyingly, refuse to fall into a convenient pattern.

Certainly, a prodigious amount of human energy is being expended on the modernization and, in many outward aspects at least, the Westernization of Asia.

The air in Bangkok is gray with the dust of new roads arising out of canals that from ancient times carried the commerce of Thailand. Women are doing heavy work along with men for \$1 a day.

In Indonesia, troubled though its economy may be, the busy highway from Djakarta to Bandung is a revelation in gcescent of mile after mile of pleasant houses being built with red brick walls and thatched roofs. In Djakarta itself a vast new ultra-modern hotel looks out upon an embankment where cattle graze in the sunset.

WITH deep introspection, the Japanese, led by their Emperor, have just, for the first time, memorialized their war dead on the 18th anniversary of V-J Day. According to the Tokyo press, however, half the people paid no heed at all to the national moment of prayer. Instead they went about their daily work in a country that is miraculously clear of all vestiges of the devastation of 1945.

The highways leading to Mt. Fuji are jammed with tourist buses and motorcycles, and on every one of the pitifully few vacant lots around the cities an eternal sandlot baseball game is in progress.

The clutter of heavy construction in Tokyo with the Olympic Games only a year off is distracting. This is particularly true of the new subway construction. The planking on the streets enables the Tokyo taxi drivers to keep their customers not just on the edge of their seats but in mid-air as well. Many American chiropractors should reap the benefits this fall from their patients' ride from the Hotel Okura to the Ginza.

The Japanese are inveterate television watchers. Even in remote areas one walks down a village lane at night and sees the glare of television screens on the walls of the dingiest shack. These remote areas are reached, incidentally, on trains whose comfort, service, speed, and punctuality convinces one that American railroads should go back

to establish positions from which to win a favorable decision from the United Nations. Although the Israelis have fought the Arabs twice and came out on top both times, they have had to face continued Arab hostility.

On the other side, among the suspicions and intrigue which tear at Arab nations, a single unifying factor has been a common hatred for Israel.

And this makes interesting a somewhat cynical view held by French sources with long experience in the Middle East and close ties to Israel.

This view places the responsibility on Syria but holds it is more from a desire to put Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser on an uncomfortable spot rather than any desire to stir up a major fight with Israel.

Therefore the French discount the possibility of a major conflict. The reasoning goes back to the now defunct plan to join Syria, Iraq and Egypt in an expanded United Arab Republic.

The plan fell through because the Baathist party which is in control in both Syria and Iraq refused to accept the supreme leadership of Nasser, insisting instead upon democratic procedure and full equality of member nations.

Both side presumably stand for Arab unity and socialism. But in the three months since the grandiose plan was announced in Cairo, relations Egypt and Syria have worsened steadily.

Nasser not only has renounced the merger but has called the Syrian Baathists "fascist murderers" and Michel Aflak, a founder and secretary general of the Baathist party, a "coffee house theoretician."

The Syrians have accused Nasser of enslaving his people and squandering their money on conspiracies against other Arab states.

In this atmosphere of sweet harmony, the current Arab-Israeli dispute broke out and, according to the French theory, the Syrians put Nasser in the middle. He could oppose the Syrians or he could support them. Either way he lost some of his claim to leadership.

THE Little Old Lady lives in New Zealand — and, like many of us, she has an itching foot. And she wanted to see the U.S.A.

So — A little while back, she took off.

SHE came by ship to San Francisco. From San Francisco, she came by stage to Klamath Falls. The stage paused here for a brief rest period, so she took off for a walk on Main Street.

And — In the window of Vern's store she saw an electric appliance that was just what she wanted. It was a fry pan with a coil in the bottom and another coil in the lid. She went in and Vern demonstrated it. It was just the ticket. The minute she saw it, she knew she wanted it.

BUT — She was starting on a long trip. And the fry pan would be cumbersome to carry. So, reluctantly, she passed it up.

FROM here she went — by stage — clear around the perimeter of the U.S.

BUT — She still wanted that fry pan. She simply HONED for it. And it couldn't be had in S.F. So she TOOK OFF AGAIN FOR KLAMATH FALLS.

And, as soon as she arrived, she headed for Vern's store. Meanwhile, however, Vern had sold out of the fry pan gadget. But Don Kirkpatrick had one in stock, and Vern knew it.

So, as a good merchant should, he sent the Little Old Lady down to his competitor — and Don closed the sale.

THE Little Old Lady then hastened back to Vern's store to thank him for his courtesy and to tell him how proud she was going to be when she got back to New Zealand and showed her friends and neighbors what she had found in her travels.

At this point, it occurred to Vern that in New Zealand their electric current is different from ours — as many an American has discovered to his sorrow when he first tried to shave with the foreigner's electricity. So he explained the situation to her.

It didn't faze the Little Old Lady. "Oh," she said, "my electrician can fix that in a jiffy. But it's nice of you to tell me about it. You Americans are wonderful."

She then hastened back to the depot, caught a stage back to San Francisco and from there she caught a ship for New Zealand.

WELL, if EVERY tourist who pauses in Southern Oregon were treated as courteously as Vern and Don treated this Little Old Lady from New Zealand, it wouldn't be long until we were stopping MILLIONS of tourists here in our amazingly beautiful area.

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Flight o' Time Medford and Jackson County history from the pages of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO Aug. 27, 1953 (Thursday) The State Traffic Safety division office in Salem reported it has received word from Ashland that the southern Oregon city has completed its third consecutive year without a traffic fatality.

General rain with amounts ranging from light to moderate fell over southern Oregon last night and this morning.

20 YEARS AGO Aug. 27, 1943 (Friday) Russian, German tank battles rage in Ukraine.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "A congressman fooling around a Wisconsin dairy farm was chased by a bull and pursued — just did make it over the fence in time. The bull was trying to get revenge for being thrown so much by the statesman."

30 YEARS AGO Aug. 27, 1923 (Friday) City and county to be checked for blue eagles.

Annual Southern Oregon golf tourney opens.

40 YEARS AGO Aug. 27, 1913 (Monday) Reginald H. Parsons to exhibit fancy stock at state fair.

Business on Pacific coast shows steady increase.

50 YEARS AGO Aug. 27, 1913 (Wednesday) Rich strike reported at Kane creek mine.

Prosperous year predicted for fruit growers.

What's Your I.Q.?

Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.

1. Which State of the Union leads in the production of Irish potatoes?

2. Is a road runner a bird, squirrel, hobo, or painted strip?

3. The land borders of Korea touch China and what other country?

4. During the War Between the States, what group was known as Copperheads?

5. In which state is Rocky Mountain National Park?

6. In which state was Will Rogers born?

7. Hair, does, or does not grow on a body after death?

8. In what year did the Boston Tea Party occur?

9. Are the Philippines nearer to Australia, Borneo or Hawaii?

10. Name Dewey's flagship at the Battle of Manila Bay.

Answers: 1. Maine. 2. Bird. 3. Soviet Russia. 4. Northerners sympathetic to Confederacy. 5. Colorado. 6. Oklahoma. 7. Does not. 8. 1773. 9. Borneo. 10. Olympia.

INDUSTRIALIST DIES Indianapolis, Ind. — Harper Ransburg, 77, Indianapolis industrialist who served as director of the Central Indiana Council of Boy Scouts for more than 50 years, died Sunday. Cause of death was pending.