

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.

16 YEARS AGO

Sept. 29, 1953 (Sunday) The third annual state conference of Alcoholics Anonymous closed in Medford today.

20 YEARS AGO

Sept. 20, 1943 (Monday) Eagles hall on North Front st. said robbed before fire; blaze damages business firms.

30 YEARS AGO

Sept. 20, 1933 (Wednesday) County charity to be available only on Red Cross approval.

40 YEARS AGO

Sept. 20, 1923 (Thursday) Restraining order issued to prevent using Jackson school as junior high school.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

- 1. What shell fish is commonly believed to be fit for human consumption only in months containing the letter "r"?

CHARGES DEDUCTED NEWCASTLE, England (UPI)—A local shop-owner noted sadly that business fell off when the city put parking meters in front of his store.

Prison Journalism

We have, on a number of occasions, visited penal institutions in the course of reportorial duties, and have a superficial knowledge of what goes on inside them.

But no one who has not been confined as an inmate in a jail or penitentiary or correctional institution can really know, really understand, what it is like.

It is not a pleasant world. But, because the inmates are, after all, human beings, most of them make the best of it, and in whatever ways they can, strive to live as normal lives as possible under the circumstances.

THESE THOUGHTS came to mind this week when we received several copies of "The Forum," the weekly publication of the inmates of the Penitentiary Unit of the Nebraska Penal and Correctional Complex, in Lincoln, Neb.

He told us that he and his colleagues take great pride in producing the weekly paper, and, since he reads with interest, he thought we would enjoy seeing The Forum.

It offers a glimpse into a world which most of us will (we hope) never live in, and into the attitudes of the men who must make the best of it.

ONE OF THE most interesting bits in the paper was an editorial written about an inmate who had been given permission to have an honor leave to attend the funeral of his father, and who had taken the occasion to escape.

The editorial commented: "This act was the severest slap in the face ever felt by a thousand men at the same time. The violation of trust exhibited by the escapee placed in critical jeopardy the most precious privilege inmates have — the privilege, not right, to visit their immediate family in times of severe illness and death.

That was written by the new editor, who was taking over after several years as assistant, when the former editor was to be released.

THE FORMER editor's valedictory was of interest, too. He points out that prison journalism is "similar to nothing else on the face of the earth."

Among other things, the editor of a prison newspaper, he said, must remember "that he works not only for himself, but the inmate body and their interests, hoping that through this weekly medium he will somehow reach someone with a shocking eye-opener, perhaps enabling him to adopt a new philosophy."

"No matter how much journalistic education or experience the prison editor may have had in the free-world, he is never taught the queer style of writing necessary to successfully run a penal publication. . . . In short, this style of writing is that in which the editor says something, while really not saying it at all. His statements necessarily have to be so clouded by subtleties that on the surface the text means something entirely different from what was intended. If this seems like double-talk, well, just chalk it up to frustration. . . ."

HE ADDS that much remains to be done, largely because of apathy or disinterest among the inmates. And he concludes:

"Until the day arrives that inmates will consciously stop to recognize and assume the total of their self-made debt, and then do something about it, then neither we nor any of our successors can ever successfully assist any inmate to adopt a progressive philosophy, promote a just cause for the maligned, or influence our guardians and free counterparts to take a more interested hand in the affairs of we who have strayed. . . ."

How effective this "rare journalism" is in effecting changes among the prison population is open to debate. But it must certainly have an effect on the individuals who practice this form of writing. The mere act of thinking through and writing an editorial such as the one excerpted above is an act of contrition and courage, in the circumstances faced by the writer.

THE REST of the issue includes a couple of columns, sports coverage (the prison All-Stars defeated the Offutt Air Force Base team in baseball, 8 to 7 in 10 innings), news of prison staff personnel, reports on a musical-comedy presented by inmates, news of a recent escape and recapture of an inmate (Floyd Running Hawk "flew the coop," was apprehended 15 hours later, and is now in the "maximum security coop"), and details of volunteers assisting in medical research.

The newspaper varies from chatty and humorous to philosophical. It reflects in large measure the hopes and despairs of men who are not free, who have offended society, and yet who still retain all the feelings that free men possess. We are certain that the prison would be a poorer place without The Forum. — E. A.

"Of Course, I Abhor Violence — Have A Book Of Campaign Matches, Bud"



... 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.

Don't Want Children

To the Editor: What would the residents of Medford do if a family in their own city were to have quintuplets? Would they make sure of the children having diapers and college?

lature go back and figure ways to get our money; make them go back without pay and find a way to get along on the millions we have already given them.

Parents Responsibility

To the Editor: At last you are beginning to ask—"What Do Voters Want?" (MT 9-15-63). You are opening a whole new world of valuable information.

Where, why and how does a state of less than 2,000,000 people spend \$405,000,000? No one justifies the \$405 million is not justified, but too many legislators do not know if this amount is truly justified; and it is not responsible for the voters to want to know—and if the legislators do not know, from whom can the voters get such information?

More participation in, more cooperation with the educators (administrators and teachers). In a previous editorial last week, you hit upon a most pernicious error when you wrote, in effect—education of children is the responsibility of the teachers. No! The primary responsibility of educating children belongs, by nature, to parents. This responsibility is grave and is not fulfilled by a mere acquiescent nod of the head when the bill for education is presented.

Man On the Moon To the Editor: Writers of love songs will be in for a pretty tough time the day a man lands on the moon. He may turn out to be an American with a large family and no longer inclined towards romance. I look forward to seeing a different type of love song being written — with no words rhyming with moon.

Dollar Value To the Editor: It seems our esteemed legislators do not know why the people don't want a tax increase. Kind of looks like they should have found out what the taxpayers wanted before they spent all that time and money dreaming up this mess, and therein, I believe, lies the answer to their big question.

In Memoriam To the Editor: Would you please print this letter and this poem in your paper on Friday, Sept. 20. One year ago this date Mrs. Lola Coffman, wife of Ike Coffman at Jacksonville, passed away. I wrote this poem in the memory of Lola, my dear friend and school days chum when we attended schools in the Applegate and Ruch, Ore.

Happiness is like a crystal—Fair, exquisite and clear. Broken in a million pieces. Shattered, scattered far and near— Now and then along life's pathway—

All Humans To the Editor: In answer to the letter written Sept. 16 by a Mr. Ralph McKinnis, who presumably feels he earned his right to feel so superior.

Look around you, at your superior white race, before you condemn all others. Read in your newspaper about the crimes committed by white

Spain and Portugal Going in Different Directions in Attitude Toward Africa

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst LISBON, Portugal — Spain and Portugal, the two nations which occupy the Iberian Peninsula, are going in opposite directions in Africa.

The Spanish regime of Generalissimo Francisco Franco, moving cautiously toward greater participation in world affairs and seeking to soften its image as a dictatorship before the world, is acting to improve its relations with the new nations of Africa.

In contrast is the embattled Portuguese regime of Premier Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, determined to retain its holdings as the largest remaining European power in Africa.

Salazar has dismissed as of minor consequence either trade or diplomatic boycott of Portugal by independent African nations.

He has declared instead that Portugal will fight to the last to retain its place in Africa.

Spain and Portugal have been bound in the Iberian Pact since 1939, but it pledges them to mutual defense only in the metropolitan areas of the two nations, and not in Africa.

Last May 14 and 15, Salazar and Franco met in a Spanish tourist inn in the town of Merida.

In Portugal the subject of their conversations has been kept a close secret.

But in Spain it was widely believed Franco urged upon Salazar African reforms considerably more far-reaching than those in the new work code placing Negroes upon an equal footing with Portuguese workers and in the organic law giving Angolans a greater voice in their own affairs.

In Spain there also is concern lest the sudden loss of Portuguese overseas territories create a crisis and perhaps upheaval at home which would pose a threat on Spain's own borders.

Whatever the subject of the meeting, it seemed scarcely coincidental that a new wave of arrests followed in Portugal, most of them labelled Communist.

In any discussion of the Portugal situation, the subject of the meeting, it seemed scarcely coincidental that a new wave of arrests followed in Portugal, most of them labelled Communist.

Spanish sources say Spain would fight to hold Ceuta and Melilla but otherwise has little interest.

Portugal, the African overseas territories not only are a source of national pride. They also provide outlets for Portuguese exports and for Portugal's excess population.

And finally there is another worry. Said one Portuguese: "To have 450,000 settlers thrown back on Portugal would mean chaos."

Everybody is very much concerned with the Poor People. Here in America we've got millions and millions of Poor People who can't get jobs and really have it tough.

I know it's a terrible sacrifice, but I'm proud to report most Americans seem willing to make it. And even our congressmen stand ready to go along. Let the chips fall where they may.

The idea is Mr. Kennedy's. He says that if we well-off Americans give our loins and cut our taxes \$1 billion, we'll all have so much extra money lying around that some of it's bound to wind up in the hands of the Poor People.

Personally, I'm highly in favor of The Trickle Down on Them Theory. The whole idea of paying less taxes in order to help the Poor People is enough to make a devout humanitarian out of me.

I wonder if our government is going far enough. Do not we humanitarians have a duty as individuals to do our utmost on behalf of this humanitarian program? Say along about next April 15?

There you are, starting happily at your Form 1040. Will you include your basket bound in your list of dependents? Or won't you? Resist temptation, I say. Include him. Do you realize the \$600 exemption you'll get for him is enough to supply 11,793 fishhook to 47 hungry Navajo Indians in the Great Mojave Desert? Let us, at a time like this, think of others.

And, above all, be charitable. Especially when you get to "Charitable Deductions" on Page Two. Did you slip \$20 into the Poor Box at your neighborhood church this year? Be magnanimous. Make it \$200. Remember: It is far better to give on Page Two so as to receive on Line 19, Page One. (Tax Due or Refund) After all, the Poor People are counting on your charity.

Expense accounts? Profits and Losses? Capital Gains? Try to approach these subjects with a full heart, sympathy for the unfortunate and two sets of books.

These are but a few of the modest sacrifices any humanitarian should be eager to make for the Poor People. It is, after all, the least we can do. And I can only hope that there will be a few saints among us who will be so moved by the plight of our cold and hungry unemployed that they will make the supreme sacrifice, comparable to the self-immolation of the Buddhists: They'll pour gasoline over their Form 1040s and set them afire.

So let's all pitch in and cheat like mad so the Poor People can get jobs. Because under The Trickle Down on Them Theory the more we save on taxes the more things we'll buy. And the more things we buy, the more money our businessmen will

use it to indict his sanity or stability, but we rightly reject this indictment because it tells us little about his true character. And adding up all the facts about an individual still does not give us the essence of his personality.

Grammarians may sneer at the phrase, "true facts," but this is because they are not psychologists, and fail to see beneath the words into a deep human hunger for value and meaning and perspective. In the end, nobody is more deluded and defeated than the man who builds his life on facts.

When there's the case of Kiki, the missing poodle down in the Bay Area. Kiki had been left by her owner, a 45-year-old blonde divorcee, in the car. When her mistress came back there was no Kiki.

The shock sent Kiki's owner into a tizzy, and she wound up in a psychiatric hospital—confused, disturbed and unsure of just about everything except that she missed her dog.

HER sad case got into the newspapers—which, as everybody knows, are public benefactors, ever anxious to help those in distress—and also (especially in our big metropolitan cities) ever anxious for a good story that when played under big headlines will sell a lot of papers.

As a result, Kiki was found and restored to her owner, whose doctors agree that the return of her dog "may help her greatly to regain her grip on reality."

IN CONCLUSION— At a meeting in Portland the other day, I sat next to a distinguished citizen of Oregon who has retired to Southern California. I asked him how all was going in his new location.

He replied, in substance: "Well, when I left to come back up here for a few days our neighborhood was in something of an uproar. Our next door neighbor was having troubles of her own. Her dog was off its feed and was acting in a strange manner."

"So she was having her psychiatrist in every other day to see what might be done to bring the dog back its normal self."

"What a world!"

Everybody is very much concerned with the Poor People. Here in America we've got millions and millions of Poor People who can't get jobs and really have it tough. But at last we live reasonably well and are going to do something about it.

To Build Prosperity We Need Chiselers By Arthur Hoppe

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Strictly Personal

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

"TRUE FACTS" A reader has suggested that I incorporate in my next "prejudices" column a paragraph about the use of the phrase "true facts."

He insists, and properly, that this redundancy is a common error, since anything that is really a fact has to be factually "true." Gram-

matically speaking, he is correct. We use many redundancies in speech and writing; some of them come out of ignorance or sloppiness or the felt need for emphasis. A few, like "true facts," can be defended.

Why does anyone say he wants the "true facts" instead of merely "the facts"? What he means, I think, is that he wants more than the facts — he wants the true significance underlying them.

We all know how master propagandists, orators, politicians and special pleaders can take facts (all of them true in themselves) and glue them together to give a totally false picture of a situation.

All of us, at times, have been overwhelmed in conversations with persons who seem to have all the facts about a particular problem in their possession. They can rattle them off glibly, and yet their position and conclusions do not satisfy us.

This is because facts do not satisfy us. We are often in the strange position of believing them to be true and false at the same time; they may be true in a physical sense, false in their implications or in the values they seem to carry.

It is a fact, for instance, that Lincoln suffered from involuntary melancholia and sometimes contemplated suicide. What can we do with such a fact?

His political enemies might use it to indict his sanity or stability, but we rightly reject this indictment because it tells us little about his true character. And adding up all the facts about an individual still does not give us the essence of his personality.

Grammarians may sneer at the phrase, "true facts," but this is because they are not psychologists, and fail to see beneath the words into a deep human hunger for value and meaning and perspective. In the end, nobody is more deluded and defeated than the man who builds his life on facts.

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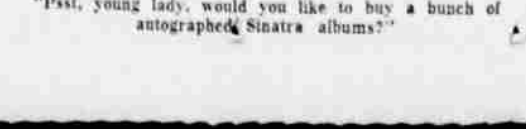
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"Past, young lady, would you like to buy a bunch of autographed Sinatra albums?"