

Medford Mail Tribune

Published Daily except Saturday by MEDFORD PRINTING CO. 33 North 7th St., Ph. 772-4141

Subscription Rates: Daily and Sunday—1 year \$18.00

Advertising: Nelson Roberts & Associates, Inc. Offices in New York, Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland & Denver.

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On Offensive Words

Words are funny things. Often, they can take on an opprobrious and emotional character all their own.

There was a time when, if you called an Irishman a "mick," you had a fight on your hands.

The same is true of "paddy" applied to a person of Welsh descent.

The word "nigger" is similarly offensive to Negroes. It has the same derogatory, patronizing and demeaning connotations that other appellations have had, but gradually have lost.

With the situation as it is today, we do not foresee the time when it will lose these connotations, as far as the Negro is concerned.

COMES now the question of how far we should go in limiting the use of words which are offensive, and understandably so, to minority groups.

The question arose recently when a Washington state high school teacher who was coaching and directing a play refused to change the word "nigger" to something less offensive.

It was in the play, she maintained, and was part of it. To change the word would change the play, and she'd be no party to such editing.

Some of Mark Twain's books, notably "Huck Finn," have been criticized on similar grounds.

WHO is right? Those who take offense at the use of such words? Or those who say that they are, after all, a part of the language, and that to change or eliminate them would damage the integrity of a book or play?

Well, this is one of those situations where both sides of the argument are right.

Those who have any respect for the sensibilities of others, particularly those of minority races who are struggling for status and acceptance, will of course take every precaution not to offend needlessly or gratuitously.

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Burn Rehabilitation

Within the boundaries of the Rogue River National Forest there are more than 50,000 acres of potentially productive forest land which now stand idle, grown over to brush which effectively prevents the growth of new trees.

The Forest Service, within limitations of time and funds, has under way a project to rehabilitate these lands, and make them productive.

In the Applegate district alone, some 18,000 acres are in brush. In the Butte Falls district, the huge Cat Hill burn, where some 12,000 acres were burned in 1910, still has some 4,100 acres virtually denuded of trees.

CONSIDERABLE progress has been made on the Cat Hill burn in the last six or seven years. The Forest Service first tried spraying with herbicides, with little luck.

Finally, using huge crawler tractors, they began to make headway. The tractors, equipped with brush blades, literally dragged the brush from the ground, and stacked it in long windrows, which can be seen in the area above Butte Falls.

Working on the bare soil, foresters have seeded and planted about 761 of these acres, and the work is continuing.

THIS is not cheap. Clearing costs have varied from \$20 per acre up to \$60 and more per acre on steep and rocky ground.

The price tag on the more than 4,000 acres which will ultimately be treated will be nearly \$350,000, or some \$90 per acre.

Is it worth it? You bet. The cost of the work on the 1,700 acres to be completed next year will be, roughly, \$153,000.

And that's a pretty good return on an investment.—E.A.

"We Resent Criticism Of Our Leader, And Want It Known That We Lie Firmly Behind Him"



U.S. SENATE

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

(c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

THE NEW KNOW-NOTHINGS WASHINGTON—In the tedious but crucial struggle over the foreign aid bill, the old tradition of national-minded bipartisanship has been saving President Kennedy's bacon.

In the preliminary wrestling with the bill in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the senior members of the majority and the minority, Sens. William Fulbright of Arkansas and Bourke B. Hickenlooper of Iowa, acted together as partners.

Sen. Hickenlooper is not widely known for his reluctance to take a good, hard, partisan whack at the Democrats whenever he sees a chance to do so.

Sen. Fulbright wanted the committee to approve—\$4.2 billion—a bit on the high side. But when Fulbright argued that "we've got to give them something to cut," Hickenlooper loyally went along.

AGAIN, when the leadership belatedly discovered the power of the new surge of know-nothingism in the Senate, a hasty strategy meeting to discuss the best blocking tactics was strictly bi-partisan, and was even held in the Republican cloakroom.

THE result, beyond much doubt, would be a half-crippled foreign aid program. The Alliance for Progress, for instance, will be lucky to get \$25 million—apparently because Sen. Morse and his friends are reluctant to allow the United States to spend as much on the prevention of communism in Latin America as the Communist bloc is now spending for the sole purpose of propping up Fidel Castro in Cuba.

THE employer takes the money out each week. In the past, he has remitted it only every three months. Meanwhile, he has had the USE of it.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Modern Religions To the Editor: People by the thousands attend church and Sunday school on Christmas, but on Easter and Christmas they attend by the millions. Throughout the week days, Christianity drops below zero, some finding it necessary to return each following Sunday to sponge away the sins of the past week.

Religions are born and religions die, but the religions most prosperous are founded on the fear of a few. More than a few find religion is an unwanted burden, and one they don't care to carry around, just to keep up with Jesus.

Our ancestors were wiser men than any of the generation's today. The world frequently take God's advice rather than the social science of man's own making.

Life has no other discipline to offer but man eat dog. All are suspicious, evil, unfriendly, and it is the source of joy to many. Lost contact with brotherly love, charity, good will has turned to distorted facts, defeat, unbelief, envy, backbiters, and hate.

THE house of representatives of the Oregon legislature (now assembled in special session) voted approval Thursday of a bill that would put \$12 million into the state's general fund in this biennium.

WHAT about this withholding tax? How does it work? Why will it put \$12 million into the state's general fund?

IT'S LIKE this: Both Uncle and the states love their payroll children—both on account of their votes and on account of the TAXES they pay. But they don't trust them IMPLICITLY to pay their taxes when the taxes are due.

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GREAT IDEAS...



From the Great Books By Mortimer J. Adler

THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT Dear Dr. Adler: Although Pope John XXIII died only a short time ago, his great feeling for people and his tremendous vision of "unity" is felt universally.

Dear Mr. Boucher: The ecumenical movement is the response of the Christian churches today to a problem that has existed for many centuries—the separation of Christians into many divergent communities of faith.

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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 Nov. 17, 1953 (Tuesday) Russell W. DeForest, 33, associated with the Medford law firm of Robert, Kellington and Branchfield, has been unanimously named municipal judge.

20 YEARS AGO Nov. 17, 1943 (Wednesday) Ed Hanley, 30, pioneer of Southern Oregon, dies in Seattle after brief illness.

30 YEARS AGO Nov. 17, 1933 (Friday) Medford Gleemen schedule first concert of season; plans for event told by Gleeman President R. W. Frame.

40 YEARS AGO Nov. 17, 1923 (Saturday) Porter J. Neff and Col. W. H. Paine take leading part in American Education week program at Medford High School.

50 YEARS AGO Nov. 17, 1913 (Monday) John McGraw's New York Giants defeat Chicago White Sox, 3 to 0, on Medford field in downpour of rain.

What's Your I.Q.? Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.

1. Which is the Terpsichorean art?

2. With what country do you associate the name of William E. Gladstone?

3. Mary Queen of Scots was executed for treason in the belief she was a threat to the throne of whom?

4. Name the two cities that are referred to in Dickens' novel, "The Tale of Two Cities."

5. In what state are the Bad Lands?

6. What single acquisition of land almost doubled the area of the United States?

7. Shenandoah National Park is in which State?

8. The next full moon after the Harvest Moon is called what?

9. In the nursery rhyme, upon what did Little Miss Muffet sit?

10. The agency which stabilizes the supply of bank credit and money is called what?

Answers: 1. Dancing. 2. Great Britain. 3. Queen Elizabeth. 4. London and Paris. 5. South Dakota. 6. Louisiana Purchase. 7. Virginia. 8. Hunters' Moon. 9. A tuffet. 10. Federal Reserve System.



"Thanksgiving isn't even here yet and they're already thinking about our Christmas dollars!"

Memories of War's Horrors Are Needed

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It was my fortune to have entered the caves three months later, a few days after they were re-opened. By candles and torches, Italian medical men were piecing together the human identities represented by the rat-clothing, the rotted flesh and the skulls.

The place is a shrine now. Ivy grows over the raw clay outside. Flowers line the tidy path to the entrance, where a lettered slab of stone asks the Italians to hold no bitterness, to seek no revenge, only to see that it shall not happen again.

It was All Saints' Day, and the relatives were thronging the great, half-submerged common vault where the caskets of stone were stretched in rows, reflecting the light of many candles.

But the Italian Armistice Day was also at hand. All those who prayed and cried again at the cave of the martyrs drove back into Rome, passing long lines of tanks and big guns, awaiting the annual military parade.

In the emotions of the moment, the thought persisted: Let all Armistice Day parades in all countries be a parade of the widows and orphans, the blinded and the halt. Let them carry, not rifles, but the portraits of their dead, for not one was a replaceable face.