

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: Dec. 9, 1953 (Wednesday) The habeas corpus hearing in the case of Gerald T. Macomber, 30, will open in circuit court here tomorrow.

20 YEARS AGO: Dec. 9, 1943 (Thursday) War Production Board bans use of community Christmas tree for Medford.

30 YEARS AGO: Dec. 9, 1933 (Saturday) Glen Fabrick elected president of newly formed Winter Sports Club.

40 YEARS AGO: Dec. 9, 1923 (Sunday) Newly elected officers of Jackson County Bar Association include William Briggs, president;

50 YEARS AGO: Dec. 9, 1913 (Tuesday) Portland - Beaver Cement Company has 65 men working on construction of new plant at Gold Hill.

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

1. Name the Chief Justice of the United States. 2. Lower California is a part of the Republic of Mexico; true or false?

3. Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution authorizes income taxes? 4. Correct the following: "He is a backwards pupil."

5. Is a sea horse a fish, mammal, or reptile? 6. Is tetanus another name for diabetes, tuberculosis, lockjaw, or arthritis?

7. What is genocide? 8. Are dates produced commercially in the United States? 9. Does Champagne contain a maximum of 4, 14, or 24 per cent alcohol?

10. Do you connect the name Marquis of Queensbury with the rules of auction bridge, boxing, tennis, or canasta? Answers: 1. Earl Warren. 2. True. 3. Sixteenth. 4. "He is a backward."

Responsibility Abdicated

Members of the Oregon Legislature have closed up shop for the time being. Most residents of the state, one gathers from the street-corner comments, are perfectly happy to have the legislators do so.

The lawmakers, just as they did in the regular session earlier this year, managed to drag out their chore for a longer time than was felt necessary. By no means all of the extra length was caused by the Boardman hassle.

The Legislature, in one regard at least, abdicated what many feel was one of its prime responsibilities in the special session. This was the job of drawing up a sales tax proposal by the Legislature, to be submitted to the voters next year.

AFTER the Oct. 15 special election, it was obvious some sort of sales tax proposal was in the works. A considerable portion of the vote against the Legislature's tax program was predicated upon the belief, perhaps mistaken, that such a vote would make a sales tax election mandatory.

Prior to the time the special session convened, it was known that at least three different groups were preparing sales tax measures for possible initiation.

Each was busy grinding its own axe. Each exempted different things, and each treated the income from the potential tax in a different manner.

THE only possible way to make sense out of the whole thing would have been for the Legislature to write a sales tax proposal itself.

The Legislature is not perfect. But it does represent a wide variety of geographic, economic, and political differences in Oregon. Its membership was far better equipped to draw up a reasonable sales tax measure for submission to the voters than was any single pressure group. It is unfortunate it did not take that opportunity.—The Bulletin, Bend.

Compassion Appropriate

In the anger, frustration and rededication following the events of last month, it is understandable that the fate of Marina Nicolaevna Oswald, mother of two babies and widow of Lee Oswald, has been forgotten by many. It is less embarrassing to our consciences simply to ignore her.

Yet in this vast tragedy, she too deserves sympathy as does the mother of the alleged assassin. Oswald's widow is in a strange country. She cannot understand our language.

Her husband died accused of an unspeakably, cowardly crime. She is the alien widow of a miserable man. Her children involved in this tragedy seem to have nothing ahead of them but a legacy of shame.

As we know, President Kennedy was a compassionate man. We are sure that he would have wished that this unhappy woman, and her two babies (blameless and frightened victims of this great tragedy) should share some place in prayers of this humbled nation during this time of national mourning.—The Reporter, Portland.

Love of Knowledge

Fundamentalists in education would take us back to readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic—period. Certainly these fundamentalists require the most attention, and probably educators have neglected them to some extent in recent years.

But there is a real need for more than fundamentals and learning by rote, and it is a need which goes beyond the abstract.

This need was expressed well by Laurence B. Johnson in Gladly Learn and Gladly Teach (Scott, Foresman, 1961), quoted in the last bulletin of Salem Public Schools:

"If we believe that the prime value of education in our fast-evolving world is its power to enable students to invent and to create new learnings, to prepare them to test, absorb, and use in the future things which nobody knows today, then the goal of the 20th century teacher must be, more than ever, to implant a love of knowledge and the desire to expand it, and to create in the student a climate of receptivity for knowledge that does not yet exist." —Capital Press, Salem.

Peace Pageant

One of the trustworthy harbingers of Christmas is the arrival in Washington of the giant national Christmas tree for the Pageant of Peace. The tree, a gift which was cut at Pickens, W. Va., will sit on the Ellipse, south of the White House. It is hoped that President Johnson will throw the switch to light the tree about Dec. 18. He performed a like task two years ago when President Kennedy was out of town.

Lighting a tree is an annual custom that has been observed by the White House since 1923, when President Calvin Coolidge officiated. Ten years ago it was decided to make the observance a Pageant for Peace. Last year President Kennedy told the nation at the nationally-televised ceremony that the world's hopes for peace were "a little higher" and that the nation could "enter the Yuletide season with more than usual joy in our hearts."

Though prospects for world peace remain about the same this year, little joy can attach to the holiday season. The words "Peace on Earth Good Will to Men" become full of bitter irony in the context of recent events.—E.R.R.

"Did He Say 'Let Us Continue' Or 'Let Us Work Continuously'?"



Strictly Personal

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



THE RIGHT TO BE WRONG You have to earn the right to be wrong. This statement would strike most modern ears as peculiar, if not perverse. Yet I believe that unless we understand and respect what it means, we cannot approach the works of the mind or the spirit with the proper attitude.

Two qualified historians might disagree about the causes of World War II: one might be right, and the other wrong. But the wrong one has earned the right to his opinion, for he has studied the subject earnestly and at length.

Two musicologists might argue about the respective merits of Bach and Beethoven: one might be right, and the other wrong. But here again, the wrong one has earned the right to his opinion, for it is based on love, diligence, and seriousness.

And the right to be wrong can be won only in this way. The works of the mind and the spirit—history, philosophy, literature, the arts—are much more than a mere matter of taste and preference. They demand our active collaboration; our objective study; our willingness to lay aside our preconceptions and open ourselves to new possibilities and combinations.

The person who says, "I know what I like," almost always stigmatizes himself as an ignoramus. We like what we are used to; what we expect; what reassures us and makes us feel comfortable; what massages our egos and confirms our good opinion of ourselves. That is all that "I know what I like" really means.

Every man, we say, is entitled to his opinion. But "opinion" is a tricky word; it should mean a "reasoned view" or a "judgment," and not just a prejudice. When a judge hands down an opinion, it is based on something more than his personal preference; it rests upon a tradition and an organized body of knowledge in the field of jurisprudence.

Not everyone, of course, can be, or should be, an expert. But all of us have an obligation to refrain from passing off our prejudices as "opinions." If we go to a football game, and do not understand what is happening on the field, we will not pretend to judge the teams or the players; but if we attend a play, a concert or an opera, we are quick to ventilate our prejudices, defending them as our "opinions."

They are not opinions, because in most cases they are not based on anything but subjective preference, like choosing vanilla over chocolate ice cream. And it is the most profoundly unconscious arrogance of the common man that he can evaluate uncommon works without even the minimum of expertise he would bring to a sporting event.

Who Did It? -- Who Really Did It?

By Arthur Hoppe



How strange the mood of the country seems. "Let's not talk about it," people say. And then they talk about it. "Who did it?" they ask. "Who do you think really did it?"

And each, with increasing excitement, contributes his theories, his tid-bits of information, his growing conviction of who did it. Of who really did it. "They'll never convince me Oswald could fire three shots in five seconds with a bolt-action rifle and hit a small, moving target like that."

"No, he must have had help. And if he was just a psychopath who did it for attention, how come he denied it when they caught him?"

"Yes, and then he was silenced. Very convenient. How come Ruby got that close to him? Tell me that!"

"Yes, and what happened to that fellow Weisman who put the anti-Kennedy ad in the Dallas paper and then mysteriously disappeared? I'd like to know where he fits in."

"Yes, people say eagerly, yes it must have been a conspiracy. No one man like you or I could have done it alone. It must have been a conspiracy, a vast conspiracy. But then they grow uneasy. Who was behind it? Who really did it?"

"There's no question Oswald was a left winger."

"Maybe, but who had the motive? Who really hated the President? And in Dallas, too, I'm not at all sure Oswald hadn't been elaborately set up by those right wing nuts as the fall guy and then silenced."

"Yes, but those years he spent in Russia. How do we know what he was really doing there?"

"But where does Ruby fit in? He doesn't look like a political fanatic to me. Actually, I read where he may be connected with the Costra Nostra. It isn't so far-fetched. They had no love for the President."

"Do you think the Dallas cops were in on it? Letting Ruby get so close? Why wasn't the FBI watching Oswald? And the Secret Service? And . . ."

And the uneasiness grows. There must be a conspiracy existing among us, a vast conspiracy. But how vast? Who did it? Who really did it?"

"He was such a great President. Such a great man."

"Yes, I'm convinced he would have led this country into a new era of greatness."

"I may have disagreed with him sometimes, but I always knew he had true greatness."

"Yes, I'll admit I was against some things he did. But I always loved him when he was alive. Nobody loved him more than I."

"We all loved him. No one was more loved than he."

And so, now that he is dead, we all ask, who did it? Who really did it?"

How important it is to all of us who failed in our duties in some small way—and all of us sometimes fail—to find some vast conspiracy to blame.

How very sad. EXTRADITION EYED LISBON (UPI)—The Portuguese government will ask for the extradition of former army Capt. Henrique Galvao when he arrives in the United States to be heard as petitioner by the United Nations, an official spokesman said Saturday.

Foreign News: Christmas Visits To Be Allowed in East Berlin; De Gaulle Alone



By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst

Notes from the foreign news cables: Christmas Spirit: An East German agreement

to permit West Berliners to visit friends and relatives on the East side of the Berlin wall during Christmas is seen as the result of economic pressures. Trade between East and West Germany now amounts to about \$220 million annually each way, a drop in the bucket to East Germany but vital for the West. It is based entirely on barter which the West Germans cut off at will whenever East German deliveries fall behind schedule. Recently, the West Germans indicated they might be prepared to grant the East German Communist regime long-term credits in exchange for an improvement in the lot of the East German people. Officially, the East Germans scoffed at the idea. However, the Red decision to let West Berliners visit East Berlin at Christmas may be the first down payment.

No Substitutes: President Charles de Gaulle is said to have vetoed once and for all a plan to create a post of vice president to take over in the event that he should fall. De Gaulle reportedly told leaders of his ruling Gaullist political party (UNR) that he wouldn't know what to do with a vice president who would have no other function than to sit around waiting for him to die. Johnson vs. De Gaulle: De Gaulle can be expected to take his time about setting a date to meet with President Lyndon Johnson. Insiders say the crusty French leader wants to see first whether Johnson is likely to be as tough on such matters as nuclear sharing as the late President Kennedy was.

A showdown rapidly is approaching between France and West Germany on Common Market farm price policies. In the German view this could mean the downfall of the Common Market and, at least temporarily, the dream of a united Europe. The French are insistent that German farm subsidies be cut to the same level as that paid to French farmers, and that French agricultural products receive preference within the Common Market, composed of France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. The Germans are resisting on both counts. Chancellor Ludwig Erhard's Christian Democrats drew their strongest support from German farmers.

Japanese Elections Japanese Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda's Liberal-Democratic party won a major victory in last month's elections, but there are indications that Ikeda may face a fight for his political life when the party holds its convention in July. The party is divided by factionalism and party rivals may be willing to blow it apart to prevent Ikeda's serving a third two-year term.

Communications

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Bowed in Shame To the Editor: America, as a nation, stands before the world today, head bowed in shame.

And "shame" will sit upon the doorstep of Dallas and the state of Texas, in bold relief, down through the ages.

A Pandora's Box of crass commercialism supplies the roots from which spring such tragedies as the murder of President Kennedy and the killing of his murderer. We have, as a nation, nurtured "acts of violence" in the form of adult preoccupation with, and childhood indoctrination in, amusements and play of types such as "cops and a robber," "quickdraw," "cowboys and Indians" and "junior Tarzans" activities, that leave their imprint permanently.

John Steinbeck recently asked: "Are the children practicing quickdraw with cap-pistols, the same ones who later are shooting-it-out with the cops, to use their skill?"

Driving through Dallas recently I was impressed and depressed by the recklessness and belligerence of auto drivers, by the surly and discourteous attitudes of the people, by the unkempt and littered condition of roadsides, hotel rooms and restaurants and by several items in the newspapers. One such item told of a group soliciting money to permit the entertainment of the children in the Orphanage by taking them on a deer hunt!

Bitter words will not now heal wounds. But Americans now want to know whether American Legislators can see the light, as a result of the present tragedy, for the need to prevent the continuing pushing of lethal weapons into the hands of the incompetent and the lunatic fringe? Are we to be forever deterred by the loud and infantile breast-beating of the National Rifle Association and similar groups of grown-up children who like to play with their guns? Are we to continue to be fooled by such devices as "hunter safety programs" that essentially are more sales promotions than actual safety? Are we just asking for "more of the same lawlessness and murder" if we fail to provide legislation to solve this national problem, of the magnitude of a national disgrace?

From a concerned citizen. Henry M. Weber, M.D., (Commander, Med. Corps, USN-ret.) 62259 Miles Ave. Indio, Calif.

Not Fatalism To the Editor: In her letter published on Dec. 2, Mrs. Robert E. Ellis of Rogue River says that if it had not been President Kennedy's "time to go," he would have escaped as Gov. Connally did. This is fatalism, the belief that whatever one does and in spite of all precautions, nothing can avert the expected disaster—a prearranged fate. The essence of the fatalist doctrine is that it assigns no place at all to the initiative of the individual or to the rational sequence of events.

The idea of an omnipotent fate overruling all affairs of men is present in various forms in practically all religious systems. If the fatalists are right, the time had come for all the people killed in traffic accidents, airplane crashes, earthquakes, cyclones, hurricanes, drownings, and other mishaps, including among the victims infant and young children. Nothing could be more absurd.

If everyone accepted the doctrine of fatalism there would be no point in our trying to solve the traffic accident problem—caution everyone to drive carefully and observe the rules of the road. If anything is common sense, it is not the doctrine of fatalism.

There are those also who believe that losing one's life in a cyclone, earthquake or volcanic eruption is a form of retribution for sins committed. Such upheavals of nature are natural phenomena. Human beings have not a thing to do with their occurrence. If there were no life whatever on this planet, the elements would go on a rampage just the same from time to time.

Scientists know that the earth is a minor planet in an important solar system, perhaps of a second-rate galaxy, in the vast expanse of the cosmos.

Man, in perspective, has shrunk to a biological incident in the form of life which has been favored by the conditions happening to occur on that planet. Such a cosmos cares nothing for man's fate. This is shown by the natural disasters that assail him and by the diseases which afflict him. Dr. Albert Einstein, the noted physicist, spoke of an intelligence, but said it had no regard for man and did not concern itself with what became of him.

This disposes of the nonsense that it was President Kennedy's "time to go" when he was brutally assassinated. Lydia Burnham 814 Warne St. Prescott, Ariz.

The True Alternative To the Editor: In the issue of Dec. 1 of the Mail Tribune is a letter by a Clarence M. Crews in which he refers to my question, "Can you imagine (George) Washington advocating peaceful co-existence with Communism?" He writes, "Yes, Mr. Weaver, I can. No sane informed person in today's circumstances could advocate anything else. . . . But today the alternative to peaceful co-existence is NUCLEAR WAR."

I wonder where he heard that. I heard it from Nikita Khrushchev in a public speech about the time the U. S. Senate was debating the Test Ban issue. It sounded like a threat.

As to being sane and informed: Who is perfectly sane? I had a teacher who said, "We are all smart in spots and fools everywhere else." Maybe I am spotted like a leopard. Informed? Much depends on where and how you get your information. I believe it was Mark Twain who said something about "More people who know more things that are not true, etc."

The rumors of the past week, for instance, led me to believe that I advocate nuclear war because I do not advocate peaceful co-existence with Communism. Since he and Kroosh declare there is no other alternative, ergo the inference.

I have lived long enough in this, my native land, to see this nation go through four wars into which we were drawn without being prepared. I did not advocate war, but I tried to do what I could to support my country. Once in our history, viz 1867, our nation prevented a terrible war by being prepared and willing to stand by the Monroe Doctrine.

No, Mr. Crews, nuclear war is not the alternative. The alternative is prepared prevention. It has already been proven. Go back to October, 1962. Why did Khrushchev agree to get his missiles out of Cuba? Was it because President Kennedy advocated peaceful co-existence? Or was it because he saw a brave young president of a strong prepared nation stand up and say, "If one bomb falls on the United States we will smother Moscow with all our power?" This may not be the exact wording but it is the content.

Referring to Washington's Farewell Address, we read, "Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence . . . the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake. . . . Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalry, interest, humor or caprice?"

No, my imagination is not brilliant enough to think of Washington being weak or foolish enough to advocate peaceful co-existence with Communism. I do not hate people, but I hate the isms that lead people into wrong. I hate Communism because it is the most heinous conspiracy of evil the world has known in a thousand years.

A word from our new President Johnson: "We must be ready to defend the national interest and to negotiate the common interest. Those who test our courage will find it strong and those who seek our friendship will find it honorable. We will demonstrate anew that the strong can be just in the use of strength and the just can be strong in the defense of justice."

L. G. Weaver 301 Haven St. Medford

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