

Medford Mail Tribune

Published Daily except Saturdays by MEDFORD PRINTING CO. 23 North Fir St. Ph. 772-6141

ROBERT W. RUIH, Editor. HERR GREGG Advertising Manager. GERALD T. LATHAM, Bus. Mgr.

Subscription Rates: Daily and Sunday—1 year \$18.00. Daily and Sunday—6 mos. \$10.00.

By Mail—In Advance: Daily and Sunday—1 year \$18.00. Daily and Sunday—6 mos. \$10.00.

Official Paper of City of Medford. Official Paper of Jackson County.

United Press International. U. P. 1. Telephone News Pictures.

Advertising Representative: NELSON ROBERTS & ASSOCIATES.

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Shaky Look Ahead

A new year begins at midnight. Let us gaze into the smudged paste-pot which serves us in place of a crystal ball, and make an assessment and a shaky forecast of the future as 1963 departs.

THE NATION—Gradually recovering from its state of shock which began Nov. 22; still in a mood of reassessment and introspection; gratified at the quick, orderly and positive transition of power.

THE CONGRESS—Still muddling and bickering, jealous of its outrageous and outgrown prerogatives; little sign of improvement in sight.

LYNDON JOHNSON—Less effective in getting what he wants from Congress than he was as majority leader, but still an effective and vigorous President.

THE SUPREME COURT—As the defender of individual liberties, it still will be sharply criticized from the extremes of right and left.

THE STATE OF OREGON—The full dimensions of the financial crisis will begin to become evident; progress in solving it will be slow; many political careers will be concluded.

GOV. HATFIELD—His prestige somewhat dimmed by the taxpayer revolt of October, 1963, he still will be a glamorous political figure nationally; despite faint disclaimers, he will eye national political office hopefully; will travel far and wide.

HOWELL APPLING—In his last year in office, he will speak out vigorously, often sharply; will remain a factor in Oregon politics.

OREGON'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION—The rumored "split" among the five Democrats, caused largely by Sen. Morse's prickly personality, will emerge into the open; all four House members will be re-elected.

JACKSON COUNTY COURT—While remaining the most dilatory body this side of Congress, the moderately progressive trend evident in recent months will continue and increase; there is still hope that it may enter the second half of the 20th century.

MEDFORD CITY COUNCIL—Look for some sharp and acrimonious by-play, as political ambitions becloud the issues of the public interest; one or more top-flight employees may leave; the number of unpublicized rump sessions may increase.

DOWNTOWN MEDFORD—It will continue to become more attractive, as merchants rebuild and redecorate; more trees and shrubs will improve the appearance of streets and parking lots.

THE AIR AROUND US—It will continue to be dirty, but will gradually improve as mill men and orchardists cooperate to clean it up.

BEAR CREEK—It will remain an open sewer during the year; but plans will be announced to clean it up and increase the streamflow; it may once again become a major scenic asset.

THE ROGUE VALLEY—It will continue on its way to becoming a major recreational and playground area; tourism will become an ever-increasing factor in the economy; Mt. Ashland will be successful, and before too long will be one of the best-known winter sports areas in the west.

Happy New Year!—E. A.

Wigwams on Decline

The wigwam type mill burners, so long familiar to western Oregonians, eventually will be gone. The State Sanitary Authority has given them what eventually will be a "death sentence."

"This passing of the mill burner" the Oregon Statesman comments, "is just another evidence of the evolution which has been taking place in forest products industries in the past half-century. Paul Buyan wouldn't know the place."

Despite the fact that the burners are, in a way, colorful and picturesque, particularly at night, we'll welcome the day when the last of them is gone. They are costly nuisances.

THE STATESMAN makes two other observations which may be largely true in the Willamette valley, but are not wholly true here. "... Technological advances have made burners obsolete, for mill owners found a market for wood chips at pulp mills," it states, and adds, "No one worried much about the smoke as an air pollutant..."

While chips are solving the problem of much wood waste, the problem of the disposal of sawdust and bark remains—particularly in this area.

And, under fog and cold air inversion conditions, which are relatively frequent in our bowl-like valley, mill burner smoke and ashes constituted an extremely serious air pollution source. Anyone who has parked a clean car in the downtown area for only a few hours, and returned to find it covered with soot and ashes, knows what we mean.

MUCH MORE needs to be learned about wood waste and disposal before the wigwams can be finally discarded.

Studies to this end are under way, and are producing some hopeful results. One possibility is the increasing use of sawdust as fuel to produce electricity. This is done in the Medford area now, to a certain extent.

Another hopeful, though still undeveloped, possibility is the greater use of wood as a source for chemicals.

When all such methods are fully explored and developed, then we will have seen the last of the wigwam burners. And it can't happen too soon.—E. A.



"GOODBYE!"

... 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 initials 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.

New Evidence To the Editor: New evidence is revealed concerning the Lindbergh kidnap-murder and "Trial of the Century" (1935), related by George Waller in True Magazine (December 1963). More enthralling than a novel is the heartland of a novel is the author.

Bruno Richard Hauptmann, accused, was a good family man, had a German wife, Anna, and a baby son, "Bubi." Both judge and jury were prejudiced. Lindbergh was world famous and wealthy, Hauptmann a mere human jelsam.

As the courthouse bell tolled, the jury returned a verdict of guilty without mercy, and the judge passed sentence, amidst court proceedings faltering and hesitant. Outside a mob howled. "Kill Hauptmann! Kill Hauptmann! Kill Hauptmann!" Defense attorney said, "This is a cry for blood." Hauptmann merely remarked, "They cannot kill an innocent man with false witnesses and circumstantial evidence."

Governor Hoffman granted reprieves, but courts would not review the case. The governor could not pardon Hauptmann, man of steel, then realized he must die.

He could not eat his final meals. Outside the prison a huge crowd gathered. Anna visited him the last time, left as sounds of testing dynamo surged up. Now he wrote a letter to his mother in Germany in which he bade her goodbye, and wept.

Two ministers and his chief lawyer came. The lawyer shook his hand, and Hauptmann said again he was innocent. The lawyer left. The minister led the way into the death chamber reading from Bibles. Hauptmann sat down in the death chair eagerly grasping the arms firmly. Fifty official witnesses watched. The executioner fastened the electrodes, and while the ministers read on, the warden nodded. The executioner spun the wheel. Lights blazed up, and 2,000 volts fled into Hauptmann's body. The Seventh-day Adventist stopped intoning, but the Lutheran continued without a pause, while three lightning bolts sped on their pathway.

The prison doctors examined the body to make sure it was dead.

In her hotel room, Anna Hauptmann wept and cried out, "Ach Gott! Mein Richard!" Defense Attorney Fisher proclaimed, "This is the greatest tragedy in the history of New Jersey."

Meanwhile, in England, Charles and Anne Lindbergh spent a quiet evening at home.

Two years before, unknown to all these, a man had confessed to a Catholic priest, then committed suicide—on the little Greek island of Poros. He might have been Hauptmann's twin, had Lindbergh money, a criminal record, and had been loitering on Lindbergh grounds before the kidnaping.

L. C. Powell 316 SE 8th St., Grants Pass, Ore.

Editor's note: Mr. Powell's letter is a virtual re-write of a full page John Birch Society advertisement which ran in a number of newspapers before Christmas. Under the title "False and Contemptible," the respected St. Louis Post-Dispatch had this to say about it: "The current advertising campaign of the John Birch Society is much worse than just an incredibly tasteless effort to capitalize on the national tragedy represented by President Kennedy's assassination. Its purpose is to disseminate a false and propagandist falsehood. The falsehood is that the alleged assassin, Oswald, was a Communist acting under orders. That is contrary to the belief of the FBI and every other responsible and reasonably well-informed person. Oswald undoubtedly thought of himself as a Marxist, but he was first of all a de-ranged. Attempting to picture him as a tool in an international Communist conspiracy is ludicrous; the propagation of such a falsehood by cynics who know better is contemptible."

As Much Ahead To the Editor: So ends the long and dreary year. And Father Time moves on—Three-sixty-five old days depart, and the new year breaks at dawn. Though I'm as weary as the year just passed, I'll pause to celebrate the new. Cause I feel I have as much ahead. As I left behind—Don't you? George Distell 156 Vashli Way Medford

Laying the Blame To the Editor: Communism killed President Kennedy. No amount of whitewashing Russia and Cuba from the taint of guilt by our government officials—no amount of tortuous reasoning by the left wing smear mongers in their attempt to point the finger of guilt away from the Communists and toward the innocent right wing—no amount of red-baiting...

Smokescreen To the Editor: I wish to congratulate Mr. Tony Gall on his Dec 11 article, "Here We Go Again." I hope the editor was able to see the truth behind the Communist smokescreen, how they have been able to brainwash so many intelligent people into believing white is black, and black is white. It's gratifying to hope the editor has now discovered the deceit in how the Communists mean exactly the opposite as to what they say.

I have felt, in fact I have had confidence enough in true Americans to know, if they knew the truth, they would not willfully turn over their homes, families, defense every vestige of freedom they had, for a mess of Communist potage. "Each according to his ability, each according to his need." And he is not the one to decide either. Then go behind prison walls, separated from all he held dear to this life and willfully throw himself to the mercy of his bloodthirsty enemy.

Israeli Water Development Opposed By Arabs, But They Can't Agree on Action



By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst

Running westward and southward from the rocky shores of the Sea of Galilee, a \$200 million complex of canals, tunnels, pipelines and reservoirs is almost ready to start carrying precious water to Israel's arid Negev.

It is a project that has been 10 years in the building and is part of a still larger scheme to reclaim 625,000 acres of land, to permit new cities and the settlement of more than one million immigrants.

Arab nations have threatened to go to war to prevent its completion.

Chief source of the Sea of Galilee is the River Jordan which rises in the mountains of Lebanon and Syria, flows through the Sea of Galilee (or Lake Kinneret as the Israelis call it), and finally loses itself in the waters of the Dead Sea to the south.

The Arabs charge that diversion of the Jordan waters damages not only their lands but changes the military situation as well.

Both charges have been rejected by the Israelis who have proceeded with at least the moral support of the United States.

Arabs Call Meeting The near-completion of the project is the reason for next month's Arab League meeting in Cairo called by U.A.R. President Gamal Abdel Nasser to seek unified Arab action. Of the 13-nation membership, 12 have responded favorably.

Arab opposition already has forced Israel to make substantial changes in the original outline of the plan.

At first, Israel planned to take about half the water from the almost mineral-free upper Jordan before it emptied into the Sea of Galilee. Syrian interference in the de-mineralized zone altered that plan.

Jordan's decision to divert waters of the Yarmuk River, the Jordan's major tributary, to an irrigation project of its own procedure and should be resorted to only in emergencies.

We are getting apprehensive of some of our recreationists. According to what we have read in the Western Livestock Journal the deer hunters in California are trying to force the cattlemen and ranchers to open up roads through their properties to the public (a few years ago).

And in a conversation with a former member of the Oregon Game Commission, we were told that it was just a matter of time until we would be compelled to open our farms to duck and other hunters, if not willingly, then by condemnation.

John L. Nealon Route 2, Box 279 Central Point, Ore.

The Unknowable To the Editor: The verbose letter by Lydia Burnham in the Dec. 24 M.M.T. Communications induces yours truly to say a few words about her wisecracks. She infers that it is ridiculous to believe that man has a soul or that there can be a future life for such a soul.

To this I must answer, that whether there is or isn't, can neither be proved nor disproved.

Albert Einstein, the greatest scientist the world has ever known, was interviewed in 1929 by the famous press reporter, Sylvester Viereck, and was asked, "Do you believe in a future life of the soul?" He answered: "Life ends definitely when the subject, by his action, no longer affects his environment."

He was also asked: "Do you believe in God?" To which he replied, "Your question is most difficult. It can not be answered by simply yes or no. I am not an atheist. The problem can not be solved by our limited minds."

The human mind, no matter how highly trained, can not grasp the universe. We are in the position of a child entering a huge library, whose walls are covered to the ceiling with books in many different tongues. The child knows that someone must have written those books. It does not know who, or how. It does not understand the language in which they are written. That apparently is the attitude of the human mind, ever the greatest, and most cultured, toward God.

Our limited minds cannot grasp the mysterious force that sways the Constellations."

He was also asked, "Do you believe in predestination?" He replied, "I believe everything in the universe is predetermined," which jibes with the belief of Mrs. Frank Duncan I also believe that the fate of some individuals are predetermined by the Almighty God, and that this Almighty Power is Nature's God, who rules the entire space which has no beginning and no end.

John E. Ring 1049 W. 11th St. Medford.

Requiem To the Editor: He walked the long and lonely road—The road that leads to peace—And paid the price that brave men pay That wars and strife should cease. The flag at half-mast sadly hangs Against the autumn sky. While all the world in silence grieves That such as he must die. Too late!—All words of praise but reach The unresponsive sod! He'll walk no more that lonely road. For now he walks with God! Barbara Pauli Mt. Angel, Ore.

Japan Withdrawal Of Troops Revealed

TOKYO (UPI)—The United States announced today it will withdraw 3,500 airmen and 2,000 dependents from Japan in the coming year, along with 78 fighter, bomber and troop transport planes.

The withdrawal will mean a cut of less than eight per cent in the U.S. forces assigned to Japan under the United States' defense treaty.

Li Gen, Maurice A. Preston, commander of U.S. forces in Japan, pledged that the move will mean no change in the United States' intention of defending Asia from communism.

"The United States assured the government of Japan that it continues to have every intention of fully meeting its mutual defense commitments in Japan, elsewhere in the Far East, and throughout the world," he said.

There are presently about 46,000 U.S. military men and 54,000 dependents stationed in Japan.

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Strictly Personal

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

NO MAN CAN CHANGE HISTORY'S TRENDS As we enter the fateful year of 1964, I am somehow reminded of an entry in the log of Peary when he was trying to reach the North Pole more than 50 years ago.

On this trip, he traveled a whole day toward the North, his sled dogs unflagging in their speed. At night, when he checked his bearings to determine his latitude, he found to his surprise that he was much further South than he had been in the morning. All day, it seems, he had been driving toward the North on an immense iceberg drawn southward by an ocean current.

And sometimes it occurs to me that we are all standing on this iceberg, racing forward in one direction, while the very ground beneath us moves implacably in the other direction.

With tremendous speed and power, we are moving toward discoveries and inventions that utterly dwarf Peary's conquest of the North Pole. In medicine, in technology, in food supply, in materials and techniques and processes, we have made more progress in the last 50 years than was made in the previous 500.

Yet, at the same time, the ground we are standing on steadily seems to move backward, drawn not by ocean currents, but by social currents too vast and deep for us to comprehend, much less to control.

As we check out bearings to determine the latitude of the human condition at this point in history, we are more surprised and appalled than Peary to learn that we are "farther South" than our fathers or grandfathers were.

The first two-thirds of the 20th century have witnessed a monumental regression from the hopes and aspirations of the 19th century. For now, with all the new techniques at our disposal for mastering nature and controlling our own destinies, we appear further than ever from our goals.

The gigantic iceberg we stand on is the whole world; and no man, no nation, can alone change the current in its course. But, hopefully, unlike the ocean currents, the social currents are not immutable. They are made by us (however slowly, however unconsciously), and can be redirected by us. But not while we continue to race against each other.

Perhaps we shall never know unity (which is not unanimity), or harmony (which is not uniformity), but then our children and their children will have inherited from us only a handful of fool's gold. Nearly 2,000 years after the birth of Jesus, it may possibly be time for us to take His message seriously, or to stop pretending that we do.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Mishmash in the Holiday Week news:

At his ranch in Texas, President Johnson names nine top administration officials as a committee to produce new ideas for cutting waste, red tape and other deficiencies from the foreign aid program.

He gave his new committee a seven-point program "to seek all possible ways to simplify procedures and to make the administration of foreign aid assistance as speedy and effective as possible."

He says his action, "far from reflecting any lack of conviction in the necessity of foreign assistance, demonstrates my strong determination that these programs be so administered as to yield the greatest benefit to our country and the free world."

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IT SOUNDS like he means business. But he could have made it stronger by adding one more brief directive: CUT OUT THE BOONDOGGLE.

IN CLEVELAND, a New York economics professor, addressing the 130th meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, urged overhauling of the federal income tax laws to allow deductions for "human depreciation" resulting from age and general wear and tear.

He added: "My proposal resembles the way credits now are allowed

THIS word in conclusion: It looks so far like President Johnson's objective is to give the nation a businesslike administration. If so, more power to him,

