Woman, 75, Expert On Skates, on Dance Floor, in Water

By JANE EADS

WASHINGTON — Mrs. Annie Dunbar of nearby Alexandria got a brand new pair of roller skates for her 75th birthday. In addition she was given a party by roller-skating champions from New York, Baltimore and hereabouts at the Alexandria Skating Arena, which she frequents four or five nights a week.

Despite a lame hip, injured while she was shoveling coal in her four-apartment property, she treated her friends to a skating exhibition. Mrs. Dunbar says she decided to "play a little" after 65 years of hard work—running her own floral company and nursing her ailing husband until his death 25 years ago.

"I missed all the childhood pleasures," she told me. "Then I said 'shucks, what's the use of sitting around home getting old?' I saw the children roller skating and thought I'd try. I started on a little side street using a mop handle to prop me, but even then I had plenty of falls."

When she got started rolling she decided to keep it up. Now she's aiming to take up waltzing on wheels.

After her husband died Mrs. Dunbar sold her floral shop, bought the apartment house in Alexandria next to the church where George Washington used to worship. "When I'm not busy taking care of the building and keeping my tenants happy, I just mosey around where I please, when I please—mostly on my own, so I don't have any worries."

Expert Swimmer, Dancer

After taking up skating, Annie Dunbar hankered to learn how to swim. She went to a nearby pool but she couldn't get anybody to teach her. They told her she was too old, that her bones were too set. She stayed in the shallow end with children, watched how they did it, soon mastered the sport.

One day she discovered she could float—for hours. She does not know how she does it, but she says she can lie in the water any old way she pleases and still float. The kids use her as a "sort of a target," she says. Then she tried high back-diving from a board about 12 feet above the water. This feat amazed everybody.

In addition to skating and swimming, Mrs. Dunbar has taken up horseback riding, bicycling and jitterbugging. She loves dancing; is never a wallflower.

"The young fellows try to tag me down when I get out on the floor. But I dance them all out of breath," she said.

"I'm right happy these days. Only thing that bothers me is that folks might think me a bit queer having so much fun at my age." Mrs. Dunbar's only other living relative is her brother, Harry Kramer, who lives in Traveler's Rest, N. C., and who she says is the world's champion trick bicyclist. He's 78.

MOVIES HELP SYMPHONY

PORTLAND, Ore. — (AP) — Portland's symphony orchestra left the stage at a recent concert and went into the pit to supply musical background for a movie. The audience loved it. The symphony board said the same thing would be done at other concerts.

The movie on the screen was a color film of scenes along the Oregon coast. The musical accompaniment was Mendelssohn's "Fingal's Cave." The film was made with that in mind.

Werner Janssen, conductor of the orchestra, decided several years ago that motion pictures carrying the theme of symphonic works could—with good music on the sound track—spread appreciation for music. Several such films were made. But here, the sound track was silent and live music was synchronized with the breaking of the waves against the rocks.

A quarter pound of grated soft yellow cheese may be added to two cups of medium white sauce. Stir the sauce over low heat until the cheese is melted, then use as a dressing for vegetables.

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo

Radio Give-Aways Offer Hope If Americans Can Endure the Strain

By JAMES THRASHER

As if the average American didn't live under enough tensions, trying to keep pace with inflation, foreign wars and such, it comes to mind that modern radio has added a new peril to the complications of everyday living.

We speak of the institution of radio give-away programs. Nowadays, every American—every one with a telephone, that is—lives in the constant jeopardy that he may be called by a radio give-away program, be offered fabulous fortune for answering a few questions, and find himself unprepared to deliver.

There is also the added peril that he may actually be able to recite for fame and fortune and yet be pre-emptorily barred from doing so because of being disconnected by some distant telephone operator. This is the unkindest cut-off of all, and has in recent weeks led to some hard feeling against telephone and broadcasting companies.

Incentive to Education

Now this shaky give-away precipice on which Americans exist is not entirely bad. For one thing, it puts a new and more immediate value on education for our young. There was a time when junior couldn't quite see the percentages in piling up stores of information, such as: "All Gaul is divided into three parts . . ." (or was during Caesar's time), wormed laboriously from the Latin pony. He had to content himself with vague statistical explanations that each year of education would be worth so many dollars and cents over the long haul of his working career.

Now, thanks to radio's incentive, all this has been changed. Junior has but to twirl the dial at random any evening to hear dumb-Johns and Janes raking in electric washers, trips to Bermuda, lifetime supplies of breakfast food, dog food and ball point pens, to be convinced of the value, here and now, of adequate and readily available knowledge.

One anguished housewife's moan that she just doesn't know who was the last president before William Howard Taft to wear a beard is proof positive that one should commit to memory not only the names and birthplaces and dates of all presidents, but also their facial appearances, middle names, outstanding peculiarities such as warts or harelips, and any other data that might conceivably pop into the fertile brains of those geniuses charged with preparing questions for radio quizzes.

Has Its Compensations

Thus, as each new burden on mankind has its compensations, so has this peril of the radio give-away. So far the system has broken very few people completely. And think of all the persons it has either made rich beyond their wildest calculations, or at least provided with some new aluminumware. And, in the realm of intangibles, think of the hope, the extra and immeasurable hope, which the give-away adds to "the American dream" of getting ahead.

Let us brace ourselves, then, for the worst—for either the tragic possibility that we may not know when quizzed, or that, knowing, we may even yet be thwarted by a chance pulling of a plug in a remote telephone switchboard. And strong in the knowledge that someday our call may come—and remain connected—face the future with fortitude and resolution. Meanwhile, of course, boning up on all the miscellaneous information that we can lay our hands on.

MURDER CASE EXPERT

ALAMOSA, Colo. — (AP) — In his 37 years as a lawyer, George H. Blickhahn has defended 25 persons accused of murder. Not one has been given the death sentence.

Only two, in fact, were convicted of first degree murder and both of them won outright freedom on reversals by the Colorado Supreme Court. Two others were convicted of second degree murder and one of manslaughter. The 20 others were acquitted.

Sen. McKellar, 79, Uses Fist, Foot On Gents of Press

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Senator Kenneth McKellar (D.-Tenn.) said today he struck publisher Silliman Evans of the Nashville Tennessean in the face with his fist several weeks ago.

He disclosed also a recent altercation with Jack Anderson, a reporter on the staff of Columnist Drew Pearson. He said he kicked Anderson out of his office—literally.

The senator told a reporter the dispute with Evans occurred in a corridor of the Mayflower Hotel. He said that before striking Evans he asked him:

"Are you the skunk who has been writing those stories about me being old and decrepit, with one foot in the grave, and being in the hospital? Are you the man who has been writing those lies?"

McKellar said that Evans replied, "there's a difference of opinion about whether they are lies" and that he then struck the publisher with his right fist.

McKellar, 79, has been prominently mentioned for the presidency pro tem of the new Democratic Senate. He held that position until the Republicans took control two years ago. He also is in line for chairmanship of the appropriations committee. Evans is 54.

In reply to a reporter's question, McKellar said his forceful meeting with Evans occurred on a Sunday night about two weeks ago.

U. S. Contracts for First Atomic Power Unit

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—(AP)—The Westinghouse Electric Corporation today undertook a government commission to build the world's first atomic power unit for transportation purposes.

The assignment was handed the company by the Atomic Energy Commission.

Primary goal of the project will be the development of a power plant for the propulsion of U. S. Navy ships by means of a nuclear reactor—a uranium furnace with a function quite similar to ship's fireboxes that consume coal or oil.

The game of quoits apparently originated along the borders of England and Scotland in the 15th century.

Railway Wages, Climb in Rates Disclose How Inflation Works

By PETER EDSON

NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON.—The record of railroad rate and wage increases since the end of the war provides a perfect case history of how spiraling inflation works in this country, once it gets started.

The railroads got a temporary increase in freight and passenger rates in February, 1942, but it was subsequently canceled. Then in January, 1946, the first round of wage increases took effect. It was 16 cents an hour for all employes. May 22 it was raised 2½ cents more to avert a strike.

In the fall of 1947, railway labor won its second-round increase of 15½ cents an hour. This brought the total to 34 cents. The third-round increase for operating personnel went into effect Oct. 16. It was 10 cents an hour, bringing the engineers, firemen, conductors and trainmen up by 44 cents an hour since the end of the war. For the non-operating employes — shopmen, clerks and maintenance-of-way men, the increase just recommended by a Presidential emergency board is seven cents an hour, retroactive to Oct. 1. This would make the non-op raises total 41 cents.

The Presidential board also recommended that non-op employes be put on a 40-hour week next Sept. 1 and that they be given the same pay they now get for a 48-hour week. What this figures out to is an average increase of 23.6 cents an hour.

The Endless Spiral

In 1945, the average operating employee got a base wage of a fraction under $1.10 an hour. With his 44 cents worth of post-war increases this average base wage is now $1.54 an hour.

For non-ops, the average 1945 wage was 82.7 cents an hour. With the 41-cents-an-hour increases, the average today would be $1.237 an hour. It is a jump of 51 per cent. If the 40-hour-week plan goes through and if the non-ops average another 23.6 cents an hour increase, the average base wage will be $1.47 an hour. This would be a 79 percent jump in wages.

To meet wage boosts and other increases in operating costs, the railroads have asked and received a number of rate increases. First take a look at the freight rate situation. July 1, 1946, after the first round of wage increases, the railroads got a temporary freight rate increase of 6½ percent. This was replaced Jan. 1, 1947, by a permanent 17.6 percent increase.

Then came three more temporary increases after railway labor got its second round of wage increases. The first was 8.9 percent on Oct. 13, 1947. This was raised to 17.5 percent on Jan. 15, 1948. It was raised again to 21.5 percent on May 6, 1948.

This was replaced by a final increase of 22.6 percent last Aug. 21. The effect of this final increase was to raise freight rates 46.5 percent above the level of June 30, 1946.

The railroads are now asking for an immediate increase of eight percent more and a final increase of 13 percent above present rates.

The passenger fare increase is an even more complicated story because rates vary in eastern, western and southern territories. First appeal for a passenger fare increase was filed by the New Haven road in 1947. All other roads followed in time, so that by March 1, 1948, all coach fares had been increased to 2.5 cents a mile. The rates had been 2.2 cents a mile in the east, 2 cents in south and west.

Pullman and parlor car rates were increased to 3.5 cents a mile. They had been 3 cents in south and west, 3.3 cents in the east. Then in May, 1948, eastern roads were granted a further increase to 3 cents a mile for coach fares, 4 cents a mile on Pullman and parlor cars. What these increases amount to are 36 to 50 percent on coach fares, 17 to 21 percent on Pullmans and parlor cars. It averages out to a 25 percent increase in all passenger fares since 1939.

ABCDEF—GOLDFISH

AUBURN, Ind. — (AP) — The DeKalb County Selective Service Board checked the loss in a burglary and found a typewriter and two goldfish missing. The bowl remained.

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Evans Retained as Office Head Under Partnership Of Wray With N. Y. Firm

David D. Evans (above), who has served as Roseburg office manager of C. W. Wray, certified public accountant, will be retained in that capacity with the announced partnership of Wray with Edward R. Burt and Co., certified public accountants of New York City.

The announcement states that Wray, whose head office has been in Coos Bay, has entered the partnership and will have offices at 821 Equitable Building, Portland. Wray, having purchased the practices of James Dutton, Portland, will be the new managing partner of the Oregon offices.

Established in 1912, Edward R. Burt and Co. has offices in the principal cities of the United States. Recently offices were started in San Francisco and Mexico City.

The Roseburg office at 40 Pacific Building, previously part of Mr. Wray's business, will become part of Burt and Co., but in all other respects will be operated as in the past.

Evans, a member of the Roseburg Lions Club and the Chamber of Commerce, has been associated with Mr. Wray for some time.

BEAR SKIPS HIBERNATION

BELTON, Mont.—(AP)—One of the bears at Glacier National Park has insomnia. While others are sleeping away the winter, the yearling grizzly romps about, tipping over trash cans and being a nuisance in general.

Chief Ranger Naturalist M. E. Beatty says he's probably an orphan cub who didn't get enough to eat in the summer and still is building up fat for the long hibernation.

Birds bathe in cold weather as well as warm weather.

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