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JAIL OR STRAIT JACKET?

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Having a good wife who manages to bring a little extra income into the family coffers, we fall into the category of those taxpayers who must file income tax returns by January 15. Thus we have been wrestling vigorously with the new "simplified" (?) form.

We were greatly encouraged at first when we picked up the instruction pamphlet and found, under the heading "Helpful Information," the statement that—

After reading these instructions you should be able to prepare your own return, unless you had complicated problems.

We didn't figure we had any "complicated problems" when we started the task, but the further we proceeded the more complicated our problems became.

We read 16 pages of instructions. If we hadn't read the instructions, we might have had a chance to fill out the form correctly, but as it is we're No. 1 candidate for the nuthouse.

First we're told to figure our "gross" income.

Now our dictionary defines "gross" as "of relatively great or conspicuous size; thick, bulky, massive, big, burly, fat."

Then the instructions speak of "tentative" income, which our dictionary says means, "indefinite, experimental, makeshift, temporary."

Now, there's the right definition of our income! But does it make sense when we try to figure out our report? Hunh Uh!

We tried to digest the section on "How to Choose Your Return for Simplicity and Lowest Tax," and studied all about long forms, short forms, medium forms, no forms, joint reports, separate reports, married reports and single reports. Then we discovered we had no choice but to take the most complicated of the optional statements.

At last having determined where to start, the next thing was to begin to commence.

The first section of the report deals with "exemptions." Looking up the word we found synonyms to be "absolution, dispensation, exculpation, exoneration." Not knowing what any of those words might mean, we went on to section 2.

"Income." As that ends up with "gross" income, which means "fat," and as we haven't any "fat" income, we could only leave that section blank, as we did No. 1.

The next part deals with addition and subtractions from Sections 1 and 2, and having made no entry in those spots, we had no choice but to leave all the first page blank.

Nothing on Page 2 concerned our income, so we could only leave that page without entry.

Page 3, we found, required lists of contributions, interest, taxes, medical expenses and miscellaneous.

Seems to us that's prying into our private business. As a good American citizen, we object to putting our personal affairs in a public record. Another blank!

Then we get down to "Computation:"

Subtract line 2 from line 1—Multiply \$600 by page 1. Enter tentative tax. Take 17 per cent of \$400, add \$100,000, plus 9.75 per cent of the excess over \$100,000. Multiply by two.

Something must be wrong! Maybe we didn't get things pieced together properly after they found us wandering around in the snow and ice in our shorts, tearing up the pages of instruction into fine bits and tossing them over our head to the chant of "I'm a snowman."

The doctor, after releasing us from the strait jacket, said we weren't crazy; it was just a case of mental fatigue.

Now we can't get our instruction sheet pieced back together. We'll have to send for another. We can't make the Jan. 15 deadline.

So they can put us in jail, can they?

That's better than the strait jacket!

Soldier's Body On Way From Philippines To U. S.

Mrs. W. J. Clarke, 842 Hoover St., Roseburg, received word the remains of her son, Lt. Leon Harold McCauley, are enroute home from the Philippine Islands.

His body will be shipped to Neola, Iowa, Mrs. Clarke's former home, for burial. Lt. McCauley visited his mother in Roseburg several times prior to entering the armed services. He was born in Neola and was graduated from Neola High School.

Surviving besides his mother are four sisters and two brothers. They include Mrs. Esther Dollen, Minden, Iowa; Mrs. Ellen Bantz, Royal Oak, Mich.; Mrs. Irene Bell, 614 Nebo, Roseburg; Mrs. Mabel Drake, 842 Hoover, Roseburg; Herbert McCauley, San Gabriel, Calif.; Wayne McCauley, 1311 Winchester, Roseburg; and Dale McCauley, Detroit, Mich.

City Traffic Court Facing Heavy Docket

A large docket of traffic offenders will be slated for hearing Friday night in the second city night traffic court, reports "Police Chief Calvin Baird, Municipal Judge Ira B. Riddle will preside.

The list includes everything from double parking to reckless driving, and has a considerable number of persons cited to appear for having no 1949 license plates, said Baird. All traffic cases except parking meter violations will be heard.

However, the chief pointed out, traffic violators may continue to appear at 10 a. m. any day of the week. The night traffic court has been arranged for convenience of those persons unable to appear during the day.

Persons cited to appear will be subject to arrest, in which case the penalty will usually be greater, it is announced.

STORE NEARLY FINISHED

The new store building being constructed in Ash Valley in Western Douglas County by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fullhart is rapidly nearing completion, and the Fullharts hope to move their store from its present location at the Duckett Resort on Loon Lake to the new location a few miles up the valley in about another month. A well is being drilled to provide water for the store and for the Fullhart residence, the latter being built as a wing to the store building.

MEETING POSTPONED

The annual Parish meeting and potluck supper of Saint George's Episcopal Church, which was to have been held on Monday, Jan. 17, has been postponed. A new date will be announced later.

Newspaper advertising does not cost — it pays dividends in increased sales.

The Hand Of Friendship



Scrap from the MENDING BASKET

By Vianett S. Martin

Dear me, the things I don't know!

"Do you know," a soft voice was asking, as I paused in dialing to listen, "how many buttons your husband's good shirts have down the front?"

The voice was pleasant, carried along by a series of little explosively emphasized syllables followed by half a dozen lessening in volume until just as the voice was about to be indistinguishable the next little explosion would come. Voices fascinate me! Disembodied voices over the radio with never two exactly alike. Some so pleasant one would be inclined to listen anyway; others so much the reverse that it wouldn't matter very much what the voice had to say... just so long as the listener didn't have to hear it!

Voices tell so much about a person even to one's self. Under a nervous strain a voice will go up and up sometimes as a violin string raises its pitch under greater tension. To hear one's own voice played back is a surprise, too. When our boys were small I made a record for them and when it was played back I was really surprised: I could hear that little trace of an English accent that makes people guess where I was born, and I never had heard it before. I could have believed it was my mother speaking, but not myself! But we're getting away from our buttons—

I was faced with three courses of action: I could dash in and count the buttons, but how should I know for sure my audit tallied with the home economist's unless I took the second course and continued listening? Thirdly, I could skip the whole thing. Never! I owed it to my family to find out. Suppose in the distant and unforeseeable future our still-distant and unpredictable telephone should bring me one of those incredible opportunities to put my family on Easy Street? Suppose the warm, friendly voice would say, "Mrs. Martin, this is the Heart-wingers' program... How many buttons does your husband's good shirt have down the front?"

The placing of the phrase, 'down the front' would confuse me for I'd recall that Kindergarten teachers envelop their charges in Daddy's old shirts—"buttoned down the back"—in which case where would the buttons be?

Now was my chance to add this item to my storehouse of miscellaneous answers to any possible query from the Heart-wingers' program. The voice continued, softly and pleasantly, with its explosions of emphasis, discussing what we housewives should know about 'good shirts' and then—"SIX BUTTONS" she said. I counted one of EJ's—only five! But there were six buttonholes, and there's a needle in the mending basket.

Artie Circle

I haven't completely lived down the kidding yet.

AT A NEARBY table in the dining room this morning there is quite a sight—a father and mother and four boys, the oldest probably six and the youngest less than a yearling, just able to sit up competently in a high chair. The mother looks about 25, but you know us men. She's probably older.

From such a pattern, you'd expect a mess. There is none. The three older boys are models of decorum. The baby sits up and takes his pabulum from his father's spoon like a veteran. Never a yip out of him. He hasn't even learned the trick of throwing his spoon on the floor with a resounding clatter. The father props one foot on the lower rung of the high chair and spoons up the provender expertly and even a little proudly. The fact that he has done it for three others hasn't soured him.

These younger generation parents! They do beat all.

IT DEVELOPS out of overheard conversation that they aren't traveling. They're local residents and their water froze all up and they're just down here to get a warm breakfast—and maybe to use some of the facilities that modern American plumbing has provided but which King Winter plays hob with when he goes on a bender as he sometimes does in these mild climates.

Use Physical Force On Reds, U. S. Judge Advises

SCRANTON, Pa., Jan. 14. —(P) —A federal judge says that Americans should use "physical force" on anyone asking them to become Communists.

The statement was made by District Judge Albert L. Watson as he welcomed 34 new citizens—former residents of 11 foreign nations—as "partners" in the United States government.

Said Judge Watson: "If anyone ever says to you that there is something wrong with your government, and that the government which exists—if it does exist—in Russia today is the type of government which will guide you to happiness and liberty and comfort, get rid of that person just as quickly as you can—and I recommend physical force."

Torn Clothes of Missing Beauty Student Found

TACOMA, Jan. 14. —(P) —Torn clothing, identified as belonging to Noreen McNicholas, 17-year-old beauty college student missing over two months, has been found in a park area near her suburban home, county sheriff's department officials announced.

Every item of clothing she would wear was found frozen to the ground yesterday by a neighbor, Robert Goebel, and has been identified by her mother, Mrs. Noreen McNicholas.

No trace of the girl herself has been found.

The slender blonde girl has been widely sought since she dropped from sight after leaving her home to attend classes on the morning of Nov. 5.

Lumber Industry Safety Conference Topic Here

A safety conference was held by inspectors of the State Industrial Accident Commission in Roseburg Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at the home of George Smith. The meeting was called primarily for a discussion on lumber industry safety problems. In attendance were Bob Eastward, Grants Pass; Drew Campbell, Coquille; Ed Pace, Chet Barnes and Russ Jones, all of Salem; Ernest Olson, Lebanon; Forrest Pitts, La Grande, and Al Freeman and Smith, Roseburg.

TURKEY YIELDS RING

TOWANDA, Pa. —(P) —It was a nice turkey Dr. A. J. Bird brought home to his family. Killed and cleaned, Mrs. Bird prepared the bird for eating. Then she found the untarnished silver wedding ring in its gizzard. But the engraving was too worn to be read.

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Lumber Industry Census Launched

Local lumber manufacturers are being asked this week by the West Coast Lumbermen's Association to aid in a region-wide census and appraisal of the lumber industry. Compact forms will be received by every local lumber processing plant which will give a capsule statement of each firm's manufacturing record.

"We trust that everyone of the 1800 lumber firms receiving this questionnaire will return it promptly because it is to their own best interests," said H. V. Simpson, executive vice president of W. C. L. A. "Complete, accurate information on the entire industry is needed countless times in freight rate hearings, to advance lumber's cause before government agencies, for accurate statistical background and other uses which benefit industry and this region."

The forms will go to some 1800 lumber producers in western Oregon, Washington and northern California in the Douglas fir region. Each firm is being asked to give its total production by species, for the year 1948, total stocks on hand, mill capacity in 8 hours, number of production workers and other important industry data. There will be an accurate check of the number of railroad ties sawed and the percentage of lumber shipped air dried, kiln dried and green.

Simpson stressed that overall industry figures are considered essential to national defense for lumber is one of the most important materials of war.

Soviet Partly Fails In U. S. Broadcast 'Jam'

NEW YORK, Jan. 14. —(P) —A State Department official said yesterday Russia makes "strenuous efforts to jam" the voice of America broadcasts beamed to the Soviet.

George V. Allen, assistant secretary of state for public affairs, said at a news conference that the broadcasts reach many Russian people despite the jamming attempts. Ambassador Walter Bedell Smith recently estimated that "perhaps 8,000,000 Russians have access to the news from the voice of America one way or another," Allen said.

He cited news of the leap of Mrs. Oksana Kasenkina from the Soviet consulate here as an example of the impact of the broadcasts in Russia.

A voice program was devoted to the jump of the Russian teacher and a half hour after it happened and "within three hours, that story was all over Moscow," the assistant secretary said.

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