

Television's Chilly Eye Exposes Rusty Convention Machinery

The point has been made that the convention system of choosing our presidential nominees must be a good one if it can produce two such men as Stevenson and Eisenhower. That's like saying that because a broken-down, ill-equipped gun factory, powered by a water wheel and manned by gnomes, turns out a gun that will shoot now and then, it is a good factory.

What seems more likely is that good presidential material is chosen in spite of conventions and not because of them. Witness the several men who have gone to the White House to live for four years with little more to recommend them than that they were ready and willing.

And what about the impression made by the farcically frivolous aspects of a convention on a television audience of voters who are attentive mainly to the serious business of choosing nominees and platforms?

The horseplay and time-killing and pulling and hauling are something people watching a convention will put up with because, up to now, those elements of the proceedings have been accepted as somehow traditional.

But that acceptance was before the chilly eye of television brought to millions of people, remote from Chicago and personally unwarmed by its holiday spirit, what actually goes on at a convention.

Now, a lot of people are wondering if our president-making machinery couldn't do with some overhauling and modernization in keeping with the times, of which the spirit is serious and the by-

word efficiency. If conventions got their job done in a completely open manner—simply, directly, easy to see, and reflecting thoroughly the will of the people, it would be one thing.

But a lot of people left their television sets groggily after Stevenson was nominated, wondering just what happened to Kefauver. The last a lot of people knew, the gentleman from Tennessee was nicely placed and moving well. Then the track caved in.

Some of the souped-up demonstrations for favorite sons lent an unbecoming carnival aspect to a show which at its best took on at times the aspects of a high-grade circus. To many people watching such goings-on in the quiet of their darkened living rooms, it was just simply embarrassing.

The same goes for a lot of the moss-laden style of oratory—long on arm waving and yelling and short on common sense. For their own political well-being, in this day of television, such speakers should be curbed. Lacking conviction and thought, such oratory taints the whole proceedings with that same defect.

The interminable roll calls of individual delegations could kill interest in an ascent of Niagara Falls. That they, and some of the other stumbling and fumbling aspects of the conventions, killed the interest of millions of televisioners is illustrated by a fact or two.

The Republican convention had a night-time TV rating of only 36 in New York City, for instance, which is poor. "I Love Lucy" does better, and it has competition, which for the most part the conventions did not.



GO WESTERN, young lady, is the theme which these Centennial Princesses carry during the present days of the Douglas County Centennial. With Queen Barbara Peterson, at left, are four of the six princesses, including Marjorie White, Marlene Lutey, Marilyn Frentress and Janis Dowdy. Not available for the picture are Margaret Ann Smith and Valerie Sparks. (Picture by Photo Lab)

New Polio Cases Last Week Top Total For Year

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government Thursday reported 2,290 new cases of infantile paralysis last week, the highest weekly total so far this year.

The Public Health Service listed the year's total through Aug. 2 at 10,697 cases.

That compared with 10,719 in the record year 1949 and 6,838 last year up to this time.

For the "disease year," which began with the week ended April 5, the total was 9,377 cases, compared with 9,714 in the same period of 1949 and 5,640 for the 1951 period.

August is usually the month of highest incidence for poliomyelitis. During 1949 the new cases in that month ranged as high as 3,100 to 3,500 a week.

But the Health Service said the peak may have been reached in Texas, which has led the nation with 2,079 cases, nearly one-fifth the national total.

Last week's total of 2,290 cases was 37 per cent greater than the preceding week's 1,667, which had been the 1952 weekly high.

"The disease in epidemic proportions continues to be concentrated in the north and south central states," the service said.

Lichens are very widely distributed, being found in most parts of the earth.

4-H Scholarships Won By Oregon Girl, Boy

Joan Karns, Oreono, and Jerry Wipper, Turner, both 17, have been named to receive the 1952 O. M. Plummer 4-H Memorial College scholarships. L. J. Allen, state 4-H leader, announced this week.

These \$100 scholarships are awarded annually to two 4-H'ers, a boy and a girl, who take part in club activities at the Pacific International Livestock Exposition. Contestants also are scored on their general club record, total 4-H projects, and scholastic standing.

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Barkeep Empties Stock Of Whiskey At Gun Point

BAYONNE, N.J. (AP)—Willie McGraw, a barkeep of the old school, wiped a tear from his Irish eyes Thursday and poured 150 bottles of good drinkin' whiskey down the drain.

Willie stood behind the bar of Neil O'Donnell's tavern as he did the tilting. It took two hours. Every bottle in the place was drained dry.

Behind the bartender was a part-time employee with a gun, making sure Willie followed his instructions to "take all that liquor and pour it down the drain."

Then he tied up Willie and fled. As dawn broke, Willie was rescued. He called the cops and told them the story. They started a hunt for the employee.

Willie said he couldn't figure out why the worker took such a sudden aversion to liquor but at least there'll be a few less hangovers in Bayonne Thursday.



TRIUMPH OVER NATURE—Mrs. Alta Ficarelli, 23, born without arms, employs her toes to earn her living as a clerk-typist at McClellan Air Force Base, Sacramento, Cal.

Foreign Oil Firms Drill In Switzerland

BERN, Switzerland (AP)—The Swiss federal government has warned cantonal authorities that they must grant no oil concessions to foreign companies which would prejudice Switzerland's national independence or neutrality.

Foreign oil companies have been authorized by various cantonal governments to prospect for oil deposits in the shale strata along the southern rim of the Jura Mountains.

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