

Record-Breaking Reception Stuns Bob Hope At Seattle World Fair

HOLLYWOOD (UPI)—Bob Hope was stunned by his record-breaking reception during his seven-day stand at the Seattle World's Fair. "They were the greatest civilian audiences I ever saw," he said. "They had to be seen to be believed."

"The people wanted to be entertained, and there was a festive feeling in the air. They were laughing before they bought their tickets—that's how great they were."

The rapid fire comedian smashed the 13-year record in the Seattle outdoor theater by grossing \$203,000 for eight shows, appearing before some 48,000 people. "The theater held only 5,600 people, but they were sitting in the aisles," Hope continued. "There was a moat filled with water around the stage. By the second show I'd put a shark in it."

"To squeeze more people into the place they floated 40 rowboats in the lagoon to accommodate 240 paying customers."

"Having all that water out there was great. The laughs bounced right up on the stage and it was the first time I'd seen an audience where the first three rows were filled with flounders."

There was no stopping Bob at this point. He laughed into a monologue:

"I told 'em, 'You certainly picked the right comedian for the fair. What other comic has his own space needle?' That fair is the greatest thing to happen to the State of Washington since Bing Crosby left."

"But are the prices high! I told them I knew the fair was a big investment, but did they have to get it back in one day. They raised the rent three times one night while I was sleeping."

"I won't say they took advantage of me, but it cost me \$2 to get change for a \$1 bill. And those international restaurants were great. You can get heartburn in eight languages."

"Almost every country is represented except Russia. Khrushchev is still sore about not being able to visit Disneyland."

Hope, whose doctors have told him to slow down, said his reception in Seattle was the best therapy he'd ever had. He has won more honors, including Oscars and Emmys, than any comedian of his time. But he cherishes an enthusiastic audience most of all.

"A great place to work," he longed.

"Even my brother got a job up there. He made a fortune as a space needle restaurant without track walker on the monorail. Of tipping the waitress. He stepped out the back door."

"But he was better off than the guy who tried to sneak out of the there. He made a fortune as a space needle restaurant without track walker on the monorail. Of tipping the waitress. He stepped out the back door."

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Col. Doolittle Returns As Chief Of Air Guard

SALEM (UPI) — Col. Gordon L. Doolittle, Portland, is returning after a five year absence to the Oregon Air National Guard, State Adjutant General Paul Kliever announced Monday.

Doolittle will succeed Col. Waldo E. Timm, Portland, who has been commanding officer for the past four years.

The change is effective Aug. 1. Doolittle was commanding officer and chief of staff for a five years ago when he left for a one year tour at the Air War College in Alabama, and four years of active duty in the Air Force.

In addition to the other titles, Doolittle, combat fighter pilot in World War II, will become base detachment commander at Portland Air Base.

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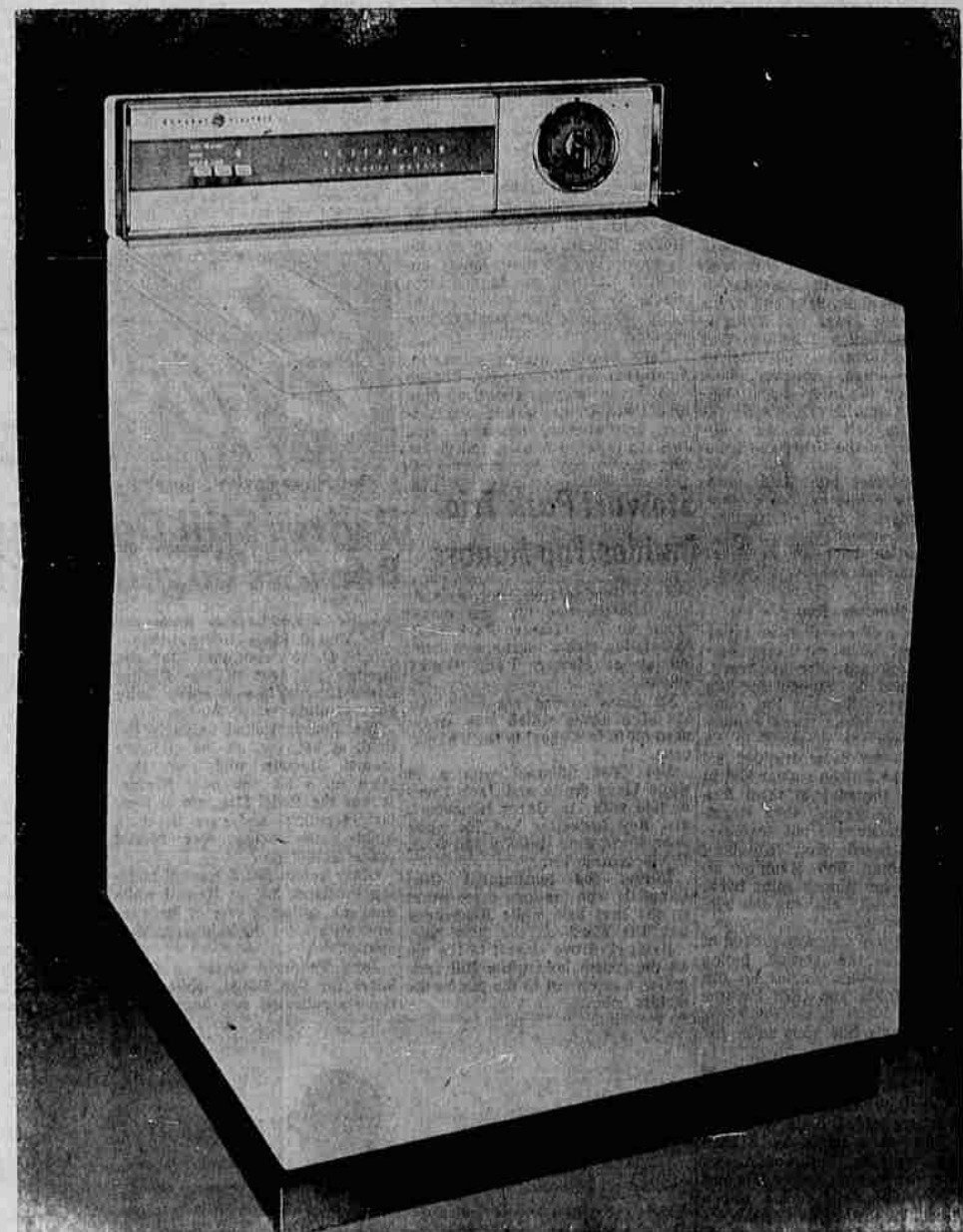
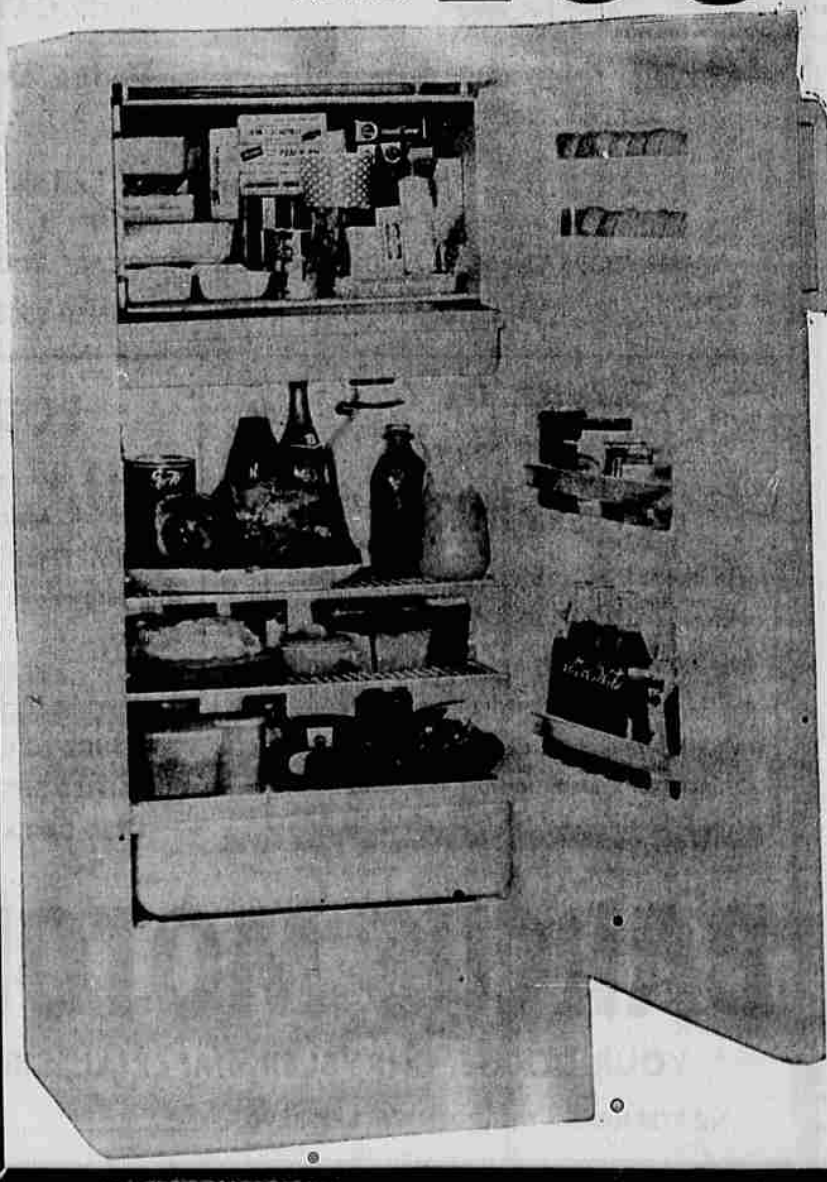
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