



BURRO-ING OUT—Pretty Linda Forest, 13, tries out a burro-drawn Indian travois in Albuquerque, N.M., as pelting snow assaults the patient donkey. Schools closed, lights failed and hundreds of drivers were stranded on drift-clogged roads as snow piled up 10 inches deep.

'MISH MASH'
He Was The Very Last One Of Famed 'Thin Grey Line'

By GRADY PANNELL
 Observer Staff Writer

Sing the requiem!
 Lower the Stars and Bars to half mast.
 Tap out the message on muffled drums to Dixie's National Anthem.
 The old soldier has faded away. He is dead.
 It was fitting that the last veteran of the War Between the States should have been a Texan. Old Soldier Walter Williams would have preferred it that way, but he was so feeble as he lay half dead for several weeks near his Houston home that he didn't really care.
 Lost on his deaf ears was the ruckus some Yankee newspaperman was raising up North, saying that Williams never actually rode those cavalry chargers nor had he seen a day of service fighting for his beloved Southern cause.
Saw Everything
 The old veteran really wouldn't have cared, for he had seen everything in his time and was around even when they were all talking about moon flights and trips to far-out yonder.
 He died a General even if the title was mere ritual or honor befitting the last of his kind. He even died with his "boots on" and was to be buried with the leather about his gnarled feet. The boots were exact replicas of those worn by the famed horse soldiers of Texas Brigadier John B. Hood.
 He died in the Texas he loved so well and was turned under her soil which he had vowed to defend almost 100 years before.
 He was the last of the long grey line, the men of Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Pickett, Jeb Stuart and others who are immortal to sons of the South.
Salling's Wish
 We are sure that old John Salling, next to the last Great War survivor and a Rebel true and through, would have wanted Williams to be the Last Soldier.
 Salling, Virginia's one of tens of thousands of volunteers with Lee, Jackson and the rest during the Civil War and a member of the famed "Flower of Virginia" Army in his youth (though his job was to dig salt-petre from a Virginia mine for explosives) also wanted it that way.
 Williams was the oldest and in the days of antebellum the older boys had command.
 "Leave him be the last general, for he is the oldest and wisest; me and Walter will outlive them all the meat the Blue-

matter of FACT

WELL PROTECTED
 NEW YORK (UPI) — More than 123 million Americans were protected by some kind of health insurance by the end of 1958, the Health Insurance Institute said Sunday.
 Old Salling. Old Walter died the last one of his kind and very last of the Great War.
 Sing the requiem for an Old Soldier!

Many Descendants
 "Yep," he growled, "it wuz legal tender fer me and my kin-folks then and I ain't about to part with it now."
 Salling was a spry and able man until he reached about 90 years of age. The entire mountainside of the Slant area swarmed with descendants. He had outlived at least three wives and they all had large families by him.
 In Salling was the same spirit that made up the Williams character. When Salling spoke it could as well have been Williams drawing of those glorious days when the Dixie boys drove up into Pennsylvania and won practically every battle in the Keystone state except the one fought at Gettysburg.
 Salling claimed he never "drew a sight" on a Yankee but he did hear the sounds of gunfire and galloping horses at King's Mountain, site of a Civil War skirmish which was won by Colonel Mosby's mounted.
 "We hid in a salt-petre mine for three days, and those Yankees were beating the bush for us all the time," Salling recalled. He claimed they didn't engage the Union men because they "out-numbered us 50 to one."
 Yes, Williams had his wish. So

No Overhaul Of U.S. Tax System Seen

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Chairman Wm. D. Mills of the House Ways & Means Committee today ruled out the possibility of a major overhaul of tax laws next year.
 The Arkansas Democrat commented as his committee would up five weeks of hearing during which he heard tax reform proposals from 175 tax experts, economists and others.
 Mills said in a prepared statement that the hearings were "exploratory" and the next step would be for the staffs of the committee and the Treasury to sit through the mountain of suggestions.
 He said it would take "at least until 1961" before the staffs could lay a tax revision plan before his committee, which originates all tax legislation in Congress.
 Mills' closing statement dealt only with the theme of the hearings—how to broaden tax coverage to permit a rate cut, without reducing overall government revenue. He did not address himself to whether Congress in the coming election year might vote an across-the-board tax reduction.
 However, reliable sources said the administration has no intention of asking for a general tax

cut in 1960. Democratic congressional leaders have indicated a readiness to abide by the administration's wishes on this matter.

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