

BY BECK A Dog's Life



SIPS FOR SUPPER

Cupid Balked

By DON UPJOHN

When a couple of convicts went over the wall at the state penitentiary the other night under a hall of bullets and disappeared into the dark and freedom they probably little knew or cared



Don Upjohn

whether they might be interfering with a chance for building up a new marriage license record for the county this June and maybe disrupting prospective homes. But it seems such is the case. For the posse which has been scouring the neighborhood and suburban areas about Salem has pretty nearly put the auto woe plights in lovers' lanes and dark spots of the vicinage out of business. Yea, orders went out that when such were discovered by the posse members to shoot them on their way. Too many chances were being taken that some kidnapping might ensue and cars be swiped. Or, it might even be possible the missing pair could be parked in some dark spot masquerading as lovers until a chance for a car getaway was in sight. So the local Romeos have been constrained to hustle their Julietts back home to mother's parlor and do their wooing in the old time way, or just quit wooing until the flurry subsides. Which we bet a petunia against a geranium they went do.

As to petunias and geraniums we happen to be caught in the net of a bunch of amateur gardeners reciting their woes this a.m. They were telling tales of damage done by leaf hoppers how flea beetles were ringing the petunias and destroying to

mato plants. Then came the plaint that China pheasants were nipping off the tender corn shoots but the payoff was discovered by one that a cottontail had eaten off the tops of his beet plants. Even nature won't let you love her without going through trials and tribulations.

We got a lesson this a.m., as to how sharp eared a reporter has to be unless he wants to get into trouble. Ed Rogers, the well-known county commissioner, has been an Oregonian for 40 years or more but he still carries with him the Oklahoma accent ground into him when he was driving cattle on the plains of his native state as a kid. So when he started to tell us today that somebody had stolen the "wench" off the Wheatland ferry boat we sorta pricked up our ears wondering just what this was about. And then when he added the information that the missing "wench" wasn't fatal because they kept a spare one at the county shops and hustled it down there to take the place of the missing "wench." However, a little inquiry revealed that "wench" is Oklahoma talk for "winch." If we'd taken Ed's first word for it and printed same as it sounded to us, maybe some of the ferryman and county shop employees would have had explaining to do when they got home tonight.

Might be a good idea on behalf of the male married customers to just offer a reminder that Father's day is Sunday, June 19 in case there might be some forgetful families around.

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

No. 1 Answer Lady

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—"How old is God's grandmother?" This is one of 50,000 questions put last year to the American child's number one answer lady—Ellen V. McLoughlin.



Hal Boyle

Miss McLoughlin is editor-in-chief of the Book of Knowledge, a reference library for children that has sold 5,000,000 20-volume sets since 1910. With each set the buyer gets a book of 100 coupons. Each coupon entitles him to send in a question to the book firm's answer service. "If everyone asked his full quota of 100 questions, we'd have been bankrupt long ago," laughed Miss McLoughlin.

As it is, she requires a staff of 35 research assistants to inform readers on how to install a farm sewage system or the best way to stuff a chipmunk.

The questions come from five continents. A surprising number are from grownups who have to give talks on current affairs and lack the energy to go to a public library and dig out the information themselves. "We won't do the homework for any child or college student," said Miss McLoughlin. "But once they grow up they can be as lazy as they like. We'll help any adult in any field except medicine or law—which require a license."

One uneasy young man, engaged to be married, wrote in to ask if he really loved the girl he was pledged to lead to the altar.

"We told him that, statistically, nearly 100 per cent of young men about to marry felt the same way," said Miss McLoughlin. "And we assured him it was just a case of cold feet that normally should disappear after the ceremony."

More puzzling was the query of a worried woman frightened by where science is leading the world.

"When gravity lets loose,

where do you go?" she wrote. Back went the glad news to her that so far gravity has kept a firm grip on everything. Except maybe prices.

Miss McLoughlin, who receives an honorary degree from Lincoln (Ill.), college this week for her work in child education thinks children often ask more sensible questions than grown-ups.

Her favorite is the child who wanted to know: "Why is honey clean, when bees trample all over it with their feet?" "A natural question like that bolsters your faith in children's intelligence," she said. "But what adult would think to ask it?"

Miss McLoughlin, a pleasant, red-haired woman of middle age, has an almost perfect "Q & A" batting average. Of perhaps 1,000,000 questions submitted to her service in the last 20 years, she remembers only one that completely stumped her staff.

"It came from a visiting South American who owned a zircon mine," she said. "He wanted to know how he could color his zircons to make them more valuable."

"After a long search we found this was a secret trade process in the gem industry—something the man himself had known to be true all along. He stamped out of the office, very annoyed, when we refused to try to spy out the secret for him."

Miss McLoughlin has as little patience with him as she did with a wealthy bootlegger's widow who wanted to know how she could crash her hometown society, now that prohibition—and her husband—were gone.

One of the oddest requests to reach her desk came from a man who inquired as to the best way to wash dollar bills.

"We asked the treasury people in Washington," smiled the answer lady. "They replied rather huffily that they didn't want people to launder their paper money."

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Odlum Operates Backstage In Truman Administration

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—One of the most important and amazing aspects of the congressional furor over B-36's probably won't be touched on by the house armed services committee.

It is the manner in which ingratiating, likable Floyd Odlum, son of a Michigan preacher who became the barfoot boy of Wall Street, has become a gentleman of backstage importance in the Truman administration.



Drew Pearson

Also important is the manner in which Mr. Odlum has sucked various big corporations under his control, sometimes by buying up directors.

Yet Floyd Odlum was called to the White House not long ago and offered the job of chairman of the National Security Resources Board, the vitally important job for which the senate recently turned down Ex-Gov. Mon Wallgren of Washington. It has also been reported that Odlum is now being considered as secretary of commerce.

Just how Mr. Odlum worked his way into White House graces is not definitely known—but his campaign contributions may be one clue to the mystery.

Furthermore, Odlum's friends have a habit of reaching into the government and pulling wires to get his men appointed to key positions.

For instance, Curtis Calder, head of the giant Electric Bond and Share (long dominated by Odlum), has now been offered the post of secretary of the army—which controls the army engineers, who in turn control the government's big power dams. These big dams, of course, vitally affect Electric Bond and Share.

Again, Odlum forces have been maneuvering behind the scenes to have Richard Patterson, now ambassador to Guatemala, transferred to be ambassador to Argentina. Reason: Patterson is a director of one of Odlum's subholding corporations. Odlum's Electric Bond and Share invested \$37,000,000 in Argentine utility companies. Therefore Odlum wants someone in the American embassy in Buenos Aires to cope with President Peron, who has already taken them over.

Incidentally, the Electric Bond and Share investments in Argentina were made by Odlum without the knowledge of its stockholders, who now are irate and indignant.

And it's significant that in 1928 Curtis Calder wrote his chief accountant a confidential letter instructing him to enter the \$37,000,000 advanced to Odlum to buy Argentine utilities in such a way that it would be camouflaged on the company's books.

This is the man—Curtis Calder—whom President Truman and Floyd Odlum now want to make secretary of the army. Incidentally, Calder's letter is in the official files of the securities and exchange commission can be secured by the armed services committee in 15 minutes.

Also in SEC files is other significant data regarding the powerful gentleman who pulls wires backstage in the Truman administration.

Those files show how Odlum paid \$100,000 to Ed Hutton and \$59,646.35 to David G. Baird in 1931 to get them to turn the Chatham Phenix Allied Corporation over to Odlum's Atlas Corporation.

Coughing Up the Evidence

Montreal (AP)—Back-slapping police got the goods on Edouard Belland. Arrested while attempting to swallow a capsule of heroin, Belland was slapped on the back for five minutes. He coughed up the evidence.

BY GUILD Wizard of Odds



MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Commies Don't Smile

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

(L.P. FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANALYST)

When Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Gromyko left New York for Europe at the conclusion of the United Nations assembly meeting the other day, he flabbergasted America by smiling for the reports and news photographers.



DeWitt MacKenzie

Newspapers published pictures of the smile, and commented on this notable event. It wasn't a big smile, but it was an attractive one which softened an ordinarily stern countenance.

America as a whole didn't know Gromyko could smile, but obviously he can, although it's given to wonder whether it isn't in truth a rarity.

I mention the incident merely because it reminded me that recently a reader of this column asked me to explain "why communists never smile."

Well, now, that question assumes a premise which clearly isn't absolutely sound, because Mr. Gromyko did smile—a wee bit. However, broadly speaking it is probably true that dyed-in-the-wool communists don't smile much.

Why? Because they are ideological zealots. They have one-track minds which are directed towards the objective of world revolution to communize all nations and bring them under the rule of Moscow, the oracle of bolshevism. It is a project which leaves little room for other thoughts.

Communism isn't merely a political ism. One often hears it described as a "religion," but that is a fantastic characterization which perhaps has been seized upon because there is a similarity in the intensity of belief between the communist and a highly religious person. The similarity stops with the intensity of feeling, however.

As a matter of fact communism is the antithesis of religion, which under the Red doctrine, is the opiate of the masses. All true communists are atheists.

I think perhaps a good definition of communism is that it is a way of life. It controls not only the political activities of the individual but rules every other phase of his existence with an iron hand. The ism takes control of the individual when he is about six years of age, and from that time on controls his thoughts and actions throughout life.

Under Red totalitarianism the individual belongs to the state, and the sovereignty of the state in turn rests in Moscow. Thus the individual owes his allegiance to Moscow, even to the extent of turning traitor to his own country in event the latter has trouble with Mother Russia.

Obviously there is little of humor in the lives of such ideological zealots.

Why Russia Changed Policy

The magazine United Nations World, a private publication that has no official connection with the United Nations, asserts that the recent change in Russia's foreign policy was brought about by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko, who it declares, convinced Premier Stalin that the United States really wants peace, and that in the event of a real peace American economic aid to Russia and eastern Europe would be made available.

Quoting sources which "would be neither prudent nor proper to disclose," the magazine declared that Gromyko conferred with the Russian leader for three months last winter at Sochi in the Crimea and later addressed the Soviet politburo on the subject.

After three months debate, the magazine said, the politburo adopted what had become known as the "Gromyko plan" and elevated Gromyko and Andrei Vishinsky to the two top posts in the foreign department to carry it out.

Since then Russia has lifted the Berlin blockade and has been working overtime to effect a "cold peace," the magazine declared. The highlights of Gromyko's report were:

1. Russo-American rapprochement is feasible.
2. The UN is the proper agency for composing U.S.-USSR differences.
3. The American people do not want war.
4. President Truman is genuinely determined to preserve peace.
5. The small group of American "Jingoists" is losing ground.
6. U.S. economic aid to Russia and eastern Europe would be available once the political atmosphere cleared.
7. The U.S. would never allow the rebuilding of a nazi Germany.
8. The U.S. distrusts Russian motives, and only a genuine demonstration of good will can convince Americans that Russia sincerely wants peace.

So What?

Instead of wasting time trying to explain who really won the 1948 election, the republican national committee ought to spend some time in finding new leadership.

Looking into the past won't get the GOP anywhere. It will result in more defeats. The current detailed study of results of the November election can "satisfy" no one but the few who happen to be running republican affairs.

The GOP can't seem to get it into its collective head that the people who make up the electorate want constructive leadership. And if the republicans happen to offer it, then those candidates so qualified stand at least an even chance of winning.

"Post-mortems" of how congressional candidates won merely because the national presidential candidate of the opposition party was the victor impresses no one, either way. There is little satisfaction, too, in the statement that the American people voted against the trends and against tradition in November. Such a statement is supposed to save the consciences of the poll takers who missed so badly.

The best reaction to these feeble bits of consolation is: So what?

Apparently the only hope for a strong republican party can come from the recruiting of youthful blood into its ranks. But younger people won't be tempted unless and until vigorous leadership is put forward by the GOP, which in turn, will naturally attract followers. Wendell Willkie was an example of such leadership.

Instead of trying to piece together the shattered remains of past elections, the republican national committee ought to offer a constructive national program and leadership for the good of the country itself. And, at the same time, the policy committee can leave post-mortems in the closet with the skeletons of "almost-won elections."