

The President's Serenity

Nation-wide comment has followed the recent exclusive interview President Truman gave to Arthur Krock of the New York Times, probably because his column is not syndicated and Mr. Truman has recently developed an antagonism to syndicated writers as well as newspapers in general—thus following in FDR's footsteps.

There seems little to justify this wishful thinking especially as the president has many times expressed his lack of faith in Russia's Soviet government to abide by any agreements which it might make to avert the crisis, an opinion justified by its sabotage of the United Nations with its veto power and aggressive absorption of Baltic and Balkan nations.

The Also Brothers, syndicated columnists of the New York Herald Tribune, say that the presidential mood "can only be described as euphoria," defined in the dictionary as a psychological state consisting of a "sense of well-being and buoyancy." They hint that Truman's unexpected election obviously gave him "an overriding new sense of confidence in his own judgment."

In other words, power seems to have gone to the president's head, as power usually does. As Lord Acton remarked in his History of Freedom, "All power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Perhaps, however, it is not euphoria, but Coueism that inspires the Truman optimism. Emile Coue was a French exponent of auto-suggestion who developed and introduced a system of psychotherapy known as Coueism that had a tremendous vogue a quarter of a century ago in this country.

All that a sick person had to do to cure his malady Coue taught was to keep repeating from dawn to bedtime at intervals the phrase, "Every day, in every way, I'm getting better and better" and the patient cured himself.

Whether it is euphoria or Coueism that inspires the Truman sunshine it is evident that he echoes Browning's "God's in his heaven, all's right with the world."

McKay Should Demand an Explanation

Governor McKay had no alternative but to comply with the urgent request to put into effect again the air-raid warning system.

As the governor told publishers of the state Saturday, he could take one of three actions regarding the request by Secretary of Defense Johnson for the air-warning system. McKay could refuse to comply with the "suggestion" by the man entrusted with looking after the nation's defenses. The governor could ignore the "suggestion." Or McKay could agree to the proposal that has strange meaning during these "peaceful" days.

As governor of a state which has admittedly been placed in the critical defense category, McKay could do nothing but go along on Johnson's "suggestion." The responsibility for not putting into effect a warning system that must have had the approval of President Truman and must have been requested only after great consideration would be too much for the governor entrusted with the leadership and well-being of this state.

This following of an air-raid warning system pattern when jet planes move faster than sound still makes little or no sense. Nor does the international situation on the surface appear to warrant this extraordinary measure at this particular time. The people who do not have access to top secret intelligence that comes into Washington have reason to be puzzled by this request. Furthermore, the warning system was associated with the slow, out-dated bombers of pre-World War II days.

Governor McKay should demand publicly a statement by Secretary of Defense Johnson as to reasons for this strange request. If the governor is willing to follow out instructions from Washington, then Washington should give reasons for the request.

The United States is still supposed to be a republic in which the authority of the executive department in Washington is limited. And if any request of the importance and significance of the air warning system is made, then the states are entitled to a full explanation, when cooperation is expected. This is still not a nation run by edicts from Washington. Oregon has a right to know the reason for Johnson's warning-system proposal.

Bomb Aids Plowing

Woodland, Calif., Feb. 20 (AP)—A Yolo county farmer got some unexpected help with his spring plowing yesterday when an air-force B-25 dropped a bomb in a field just off U. S. Highway 99-W between here and Davis, Calif.

No one was in the field at the time and damage was limited to an eight-foot hole in the ground.

Deputy sheriffs said the bombing apparently was as much of a surprise to the plane's crew as it was to observers. The bomber circled the field for 45 minutes until deputies signalled no damage had been done, they said.

The Boy in the Car Trunk

Hawthorne, Calif., Feb. 20 (AP)—A woman called police and said she had seen a man stuff a boy in the trunk of a car. As he drove off, she said, she copied the license number. Police traced the car to the home of Harry Scroggs. Scroggs laughed and produced the boy, Harry, Jr., 15. "The car has a rear-end rattle," said Harry, Jr. "I thought I could ride back there and find it."

Parachute Brings Valentine

Burbank, Calif., Feb. 20 (AP)—Mrs. Joan Slater finally got wind of her Valentine.

Her heart's desire—a pound of Roquefort cheese—was found hanging from a tree a half block from her home yesterday. That's where it landed when her husband, Jeff, flew over and parachute-dropped it from 700 feet on the 14th. She'd probably have got it sooner if it had been Birmingham.

BY H. T. WEBSTER

The Timid Soul



KRISS-KROSS

You Don't Have to Go to The Mountains to Climb

By CHRIS KOWITZ, Jr.

An adventure in climbing, without leaving the city limits of Salem... Impossible? ... No, we accomplished as much last week.

Such old landmarks as the courthouse, Washington school and City hall are familiar sights to all Salemites. Most of us have been within their walls on several occasions. Far above their



top of the dome. Up and up... story after story of vast space... no floors... just supports, beams and ladders... you'd never imagine the tower was so tall until you start climbing those ladders.

Walking up to the statehouse dome or the roof of the Livesay building will give you a good view of the city, true Chris Kowitz, Jr. enough. But scaling the less accessible and seldom-climbed other historic buildings in the city presents a much more memorable experience.

Nearly every person who has lived or visited in Salem has heard the courthouse clock toll away on the hour and half hour. But how many have seen the mechanism of the clocks in operation?

The courthouse dome, besides supporting the Goddess of Liberty, contains a central mechanism for all four clocks (one on each side of dome). The same mechanism controls the striking of the clocks. A 3-foot stationary bell, hit by a mechanical hammer, provides the familiar "bong-bong-bong" that daily tells hundreds of people they're late for work, that it's time for lunch, or that they're away from their parking meter for over an hour, etc.

Running competition with the courthouse bell at noon every day is the huge siren mounted in the dome of City hall. That siren, which can barely be seen from the street below, is about 3 feet long, with a huge horn at either end.

Reaching the City hall siren requires the climbing of about 25 feet of ladder. And even then, it's a long, long way to the top of the dome. Up and up... story after story of vast space... no floors... just supports, beams and ladders... you'd never imagine the tower was so tall until you start climbing those ladders.

Ed, the Squirt Man, Hopes Coin Idea Doesn't Fizzle

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS

Washington, Feb. 20 (AP)—Edward Walsh Mehren, president of the Squirt Company, hopes his idea doesn't fizzle.

At any rate, Ed has the assurance of at least one senator that it will get a hearing.

Squirt is a soft drink. Ed's idea has to do with money—2 1/2 and 7 1/2 cent coins which he thinks the government ought to mint to "save the public between five and eight million dollars a year."

Sen. Sheridan Downey, (D., Cal.) said he had requested the senate banking and currency committee to hold hearings on several bills for intermediate coinage sometime in March.

Mehren, a handsome, strapping fellow who used to be a football player, hopes the start of the hearings will come around March 15th—the day we give Uncle Sam his income tax dues.

"It would point up the issue," he said.

Ed really gets to fist-pounding when he starts talking about his pet subject—which is the odd-sized coin.

"If these coins are added to our minor coinage, they will mark a significant advance in enabling Americans to buy more goods with current consumer income," he said.

"Thus," he said, "American business could price goods close to value and diminish overcharges based on convenience."

The Squirt man is hepped on the matter of convenience. He maintains that it cost us around \$55 a head a year—because we have no in-between small coins.

He even goes farther than that. "The biggest chief in American business today," the business man said, "is... an appealing thing called 'convenience'."

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Lewis Says Coal Operators Can't Think for Themselves

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—During one part of the recent meeting of coal operators with John L. Lewis, Lewis challenged Bert Manley, spokesman for the far west operators:

"Mr. Manley, you know you'll sign anything the Illinois operators will sign, the Illinois operators will sign anything the Ohio mine owners will agree to, and Ohio will follow Pennsylvania."

That brings us to George Love (president of the Pittsburgh Consolidation Coal company). When Love signs, the whole lot of you will fall down like tenpins.

"The trouble with you gentlemen is you don't know how to think for yourselves. You're too easily coerced by the big banking interests that control you."

"Speaking of coercion," acidly shot back Love, "how about all those men on your picket lines who are keeping the mines from reopening? I guess you'd call that coercion."

Lewis said the operators would have to meet two "conditions" before he would consider a new contract: 1. All lawsuits against him by operators who are demanding damages for their strike losses would have to be dropped; 2. Any operators who held back payments into the miners' pension-welfare fund during the strike must pay up pronto.

Lewis somberly read the list of lawsuits against him, running into millions of dollars. "I trust that you gentlemen will see to it that these suits are dismissed," he served notice. "The United Mine Workers' lawyers will await your pleasure. As for those deadbeat operators who have held back their honorable obligations to the welfare fund, they had better repay their indebtedness if they expect us to meet with them in good faith."

Frankie Costello Some of New York's high-powered publicity experts have been touting a Hollywood actor's recent attempt to have Frankie Costello deported. Here is what this columnist said about Costello on July 21, 1947, almost three years ago.

"The kingpin of American gamblers, once the biggest liquor racketeer in the country, Frank Costello, could be deported from the United States if anyone really wanted to get tough about it."

"Frankie Costello migrated here from Italy around 1895 and became a naturalized citizen in 1925. At the time Costello took

the oath of citizenship, however, he glossed over certain things which, if discovered in the record of any other less powerful person, would cause him to lose his citizenship and be deported.

"For instance, Costello did not tell the government when he took the oath as a citizen, that he had previously served a term in jail for carrying a concealed weapon.

"Even more important, a new citizen of the United States takes an oath to uphold the laws and constitution of the United States.

"Yet at the very moment Frankie Costello was taking his solemn oath as an American citizen, he was also engaged in the largest scale violation of the Volstead act and the 18th amendment in the history of prohibition.

"The 18th amendment at that time was a very definite part of the constitution. And while Costello was holding up his right hand and solemnly swearing to uphold the constitution, he was also engaged in violating it."

Name on Your \$ Bill Dynamic Georgia Neese Clark, treasurer of the United States, faced her first closed-door grilling from a group of males when she appeared before the house appropriations committee.

"Georgia Neese Clark is a pretty name," remarked young Rep Gordon Canfield of New Jersey. "And it looks good on the paper currency of the United States. I am glad to greet you as the new treasurer.

"Your predecessor (the late W. A. Julian) always indulged in a little salty language," continued the New Jersey republican. "While we do not expect that of you, we do hope that you will have one pet aversion that he had—namely, to an enormous public debt."

Mrs. Clark replied that she would do her best to emulate Julian regarding this aversion.

Note—When Mrs. Clark was divorced, her husband wanted her to take back her maiden name. But Mrs. Clark said she had used the name for some years and didn't want to change. He yielded gracefully. So when the first greenback was issued bearing her name, Mrs. Clark sent it to her friendly ex-husband with a notation: "Clark isn't a bad name to have on Uncle Sam's currency."

(Copyright 1950)

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Ives, Ballad Singer, Wants To Run a Real Fun City

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—Anybody got a used town for sale—cheap?

Burl Ives, the big, bearded ballad singer, is in the market for a second-hand small town, in good condition, if it has a mountain or two around it and the price is right.

He'd like it for a purpose—to see if he can build a community

where Americans can have some real down-to-earth fun again.

"People don't have real fun anymore—no honest-to-God fun," complained "the way-farin' stranger," as he sat in a slippers ease comfortably overflowing an overstuffed chair in the Hotel Plaza.

"I'd like to build a place where they could have fun, and do the things they want—a creative place.

"It would be an inside-out place rather than an outside-in place. By that I mean I'd want people to get the spirit of having their entertainment come from inside rather than from outside themselves."

Burl, who earns more singing folk-songs than Beethoven did writing symphonies, explained he thought people had less fun nowadays because "they are expressed at—instead of expressing themselves."

"And that ain't good for the soul.

"Radios, movies, television, sporting events—they're all good, but they don't allow people to give out with their own talent."

So he'd like to create a community where they could come, either to live or spend a vacation, and develop their talents. They'd sing folk songs themselves, learn square dances—"they're ten times more fun than ballroom dancing"—and paint, make pottery, do leather work, weaving or any other type of handicraft.

"The big need today is self-expression just for the fun of it," he said. "The trouble is now if a kid does show a little talent

of any kind, his parents right away want to put him in the entertainment business."

Burl said if he couldn't afford to buy a town he'd start out with a dude ranch, one "without any phoney atmosphere." He hasn't decided what to name his village yet, but it definitely won't be "Culture City."

"I hate that word culture," Ives said, making a face through his whiskers. "It started as an honest to God word, but it has lost its strength. It is already 'pink tea' and has a curse on it."

Just how he'll find time to develop his project, Burl doesn't know. Last year he gave 131 concerts and 150 benefit performances, made 75 radio and television appearances, sang four deers of hotel engagements, appeared in one movie and three plays, recorded 20 folk songs, learned to fly an airplane and finished the first draft of his second book, "Capra Corner."

This would keep the average fat man thin. But Burl not only gained weight on the schedule—he found time to indulge in his hobbies, sailing, photography and amateur painting.

"I travel so much about the only thing I can paint is the view from hotel windows," he said. "I always ask for an outside room."

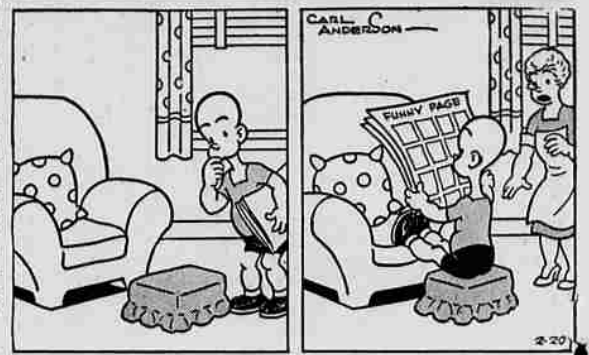
His other pleasures are good food, good beer, good cigars and good talk.

"All I need to get fun is to have something to do that gets me excited—and they keep coming along. I get a lot of fun out of living."

Right now he is engaged in his annual diet to cut his weight from about 300 down to 240. When friends warn him his present pace will kill him, Burl says, "Well, nothing shortens life more than living."

BY CARL ANDERSON

Henry



MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Life in Trenches During First World War Not Filled with Joy

By DeWitt MacKENZIE

(AP Foreign Affairs Analyst)

Warning that when World War III breaks we shall have to scurry into the bowels of the earth for security isn't so strange after all.

It will be history repeating itself on a bigger scale. Those who can remember World War I will recall that millions of soldiers, on both sides, lived underground during much of the four years.

When the fighting finally became relatively stationary after the early rushes, the opposing front-line defenses were trench trenches which ran more or less parallel to each other, sometimes only a few yards apart and sometimes widely separated. Naturally the troops manning these trenches had to have places in which to "live." So great chambers were dug down into the earth at the back of the trenches.

Of course these underground abodes were pretty awful. They were muddy and damp and, in winter, bitterly cold. And they were infested with trench-rats. Still, those holes in the ground were "home."

In some places the underground chambers were extended until whole villages were made. I recall one which even had a railway with little push cars. This was the scene of the adventure of Adolph the Rat (no relation to Hitler), of which more anon.

The most famous trench was the Hindenburg line which ran across France southward from Lens to the Aisne. This was built largely of concrete and was supposed to be impregnable—until British, Americans, Canadians and Australians smashed through it in 1918.

This line was fitted in many places with elaborate rooms. Officers' quarters were so comfy that some occupants used to entertain their lady friends there.

The most elaborate bomb shelter I ever saw was that built for Field Marshal Von Hindenburg deep under the lawn of his headquarters at Spa, Belgium. This concrete refuge, which was reached by a long tunnel from the house, was a large room,

Captain Bob had a lot of book-keeping to do, and he performed this work on a deal table in a small room lighted only by a candle stuck in the neck of a bottle that stood on the table. Soon after he was assigned to this job he had an unexpected visitor—a huge trench-rat which sniffed about for food and finally, quite unafraid, climbed up on the table and continued his hunt.

Captain Bob provided some biscuit crumbs which Adolph ate with vast appreciation. Thus began a beautiful friendship which brought Adolph—as the captain named him—back to the dugout everyday.

Finally came a time when the captain was busy and didn't notice his pal. Adolph climbed on the table and shuffled about until he overturned the bottle with he lighted candle.

The candle dropped out—and fell down into an open box of very lights, a sort of Roman candle of various colors used for signalling. The very lights started to explode, and before you could say Jack Robinson the small room was filled with balls of fire whizzing in every direction.

British officials can not act until after the British vote Thursday, and a new government—either laborite or conservative—is formed. Then American officials will start getting skittish because of this fall's congressional elections.

One reason is that the British may want another loan—\$2,000,000,000 to \$4,000,000,000. Or the British may seek direct aid for the sterling area—a kind of Marshall plan under some other name.

The British and Americans will have to wrestle with Britain's biggest single dollar problem—the so-called "sterling

balances." Great Britain now owes commonwealth countries about \$9,000,000,000 worth of devalued pounds for services received during the war.

These countries have been using the sterling balances to buy goods that Britain otherwise might sell for cash.

The British, when they come to Washington, will want the United States to do something to relieve this drain on British production. They will argue that they cannot cut off the flow of their goods to India, for instance, without causing a drop in the standard of living there and inviting communists to take over.

British exports to the United States spurted after the pound was devalued in September. Britain also has improved its dollar reserve, but they still are about 15 per cent below what the British call a "safe" level. And the effects of devaluation's shot-in-the-arm are wearing off.

British Will Be in Washington In Few Months After Dollars

By JAMES E. ROPER

(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Washington, Feb. 20 (AP)—The British and their dollar problems will be back in Washington before many more months.

This may cost the United States more than last fall's round of dollar talks. At that time, the United States, Canada and Great Britain attacked "fringe" issues.

The "fringe" program, plus devaluation of the pound sterling, has helped ease Britain's dollar shortage—but not enough. Both American and British sources agree on that. They also agree that more dollar talks will be needed urgently as soon as domestic politics in Britain and the United States allow.

British officials can not act until after the British vote Thursday, and a new government—either laborite or conservative—is formed. Then American officials will start getting skittish because of this fall's congressional elections.

One reason is that the British may want another loan—\$2,000,000,000 to \$4,000,000,000. Or the British may seek direct aid for the sterling area—a kind of Marshall plan under some other name.

The British and Americans will have to wrestle with Britain's biggest single dollar problem—the so-called "sterling

balances." Great Britain now owes commonwealth countries about \$9,000,000,000 worth of devalued pounds for services received during the war.

These countries have been using the sterling balances to buy goods that Britain otherwise might sell for cash.

The British, when they come to Washington, will want the United States to do something to relieve this drain on British production. They will argue that they cannot cut off the flow of their goods to India, for instance, without causing a drop in the standard of living there and inviting communists to take over.

British exports to the United States spurted after the pound was devalued in September. Britain also has improved its dollar reserve, but they still are about 15 per cent below what the British call a "safe" level. And the effects of devaluation's shot-in-the-arm are wearing off.