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Salem, Oregon, Tuesday, March 21, 1950

BY BECK
Wives



KRISS-KROSS

Everything Went Fine, Except One Little Detail

By CHRIS KOWITZ, Jr.

Rehearsals had been completed the day before... this was it... this was a coast-to-coast broadcast... the technician's arm signalled the crucial moment... the 84-voice Willamette university capella choir was to be heard over a coast-to-coast Mutual broadcasting hookup.



Chris Kowitz, Jr.

But, after the half hour program had been reeled off smoothly and without a blemish, the technician discovered one little slip-up... The tape had broken during the first two minutes of the broadcast, and the last 28 minutes had just gone through a dead mike.

Members of the capella group didn't believe it when they were first informed of the tape's breaking... Here's another suggestion on how to economically tear down the old courthouse:

Flying Saucers Are Real to Him

Los Angeles, March 21 (AP)—Not only has S. K. Bennett seen a flying saucer, but he's also been floored by one. A staff member of Angelus temple, Bennett was helping set the stage there yesterday for an illustrated sermon on "flying saucers and men from Mars."

AILING INDUSTRY

Coal Worries Producers, Workers and Government

Editor's note: President Truman says the coal industry is "sick." He has asked congress to authorize a coal commission to study the industry. There is no indication whether congress will take such action as, if it does create a commission, how long it will take to complete its work.

By ROBERT E. LEE

Washington, March 21 (AP)—How sick is the coal industry? Will it lose even more markets to oil and natural gas when customers feel the effects of price rises resulting from the new wage and welfare benefits won by John L. Lewis?

Those are the questions being asked today by producers, by government economists, and—quietly—by Lewis and his United Mine Workers.

Some soft coal operators announced price increases last week to cover at least part of the 23 cents a ton they estimate the new coal contract will cost them.

Other producers—and retailers—are expected to follow suit soon.

But they are moving cautiously. Many will try to absorb as much of the added cost as possible to keep from driving more consumers to other fuels.

For coal, which powered the world's industrial revolution and until recently has been the only important source of industry's energy, is losing ground rapidly in the fuel market.

In some parts of the country, it has priced itself out already because of rising production and transportation costs combined with the greater availability—and comparatively lower price—trends—of oil and natural gas.

The coal producers' answer to this new competition is: Chop it.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Czech Communists Ousted to Make Way for Russian Rule

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—One day last December, an American newsman walked up to a stocky, pipe-smoking diplomat in the delegates' lounge at the United Nations—Vladimir Clementis, foreign minister of Czechoslovakia.



Drew Pearson

"Mr. Minister," said the newsman, "what's this I hear about a purge in the foreign office in Prague?"

"Ridiculous!" "A purge which, they say, might even eliminate you."

"A absolutely ridiculous. Look here, why don't you fellows print something true about my country? Why don't you tell the story of our great advances in agriculture and industry under the communist regime, instead of printing silly rumors about purges!"

Clementis wouldn't call them silly rumors today. He has now been purged.

NOTE—Reason for the latest Czech purge probably was to pave the way for a complete taking over of Czechoslovakia by Russia. Hitherto the country has been run by Czech communists. But Poland is now under the dictatorship of a Russian general and this will probably follow in other satellite countries as a crackdown on growing unrest.

TAXATION HUMOR

High taxes brought a fusillade of forensics from congressional republicans last week.

"Suppose a young man decides to propose," opined congressman Bob Rich of Pennsylvania "He has to pay 20 per cent tax on the engagement ring. Then another tax on the wedding ring. And suppose in due time they acquire an offspring.

"Then the taxes really start—20 per cent on baby oil, baby powder, baby lotion and baby creams."

Mom and Sis also had a defender in representative Les Arends of Illinois. "And when the tax gougers made up their 'sucker' list," Arends said, "You ladies were placed at the top and you have been there ever since.

"These are not 'luxuries,'" continued Arends, referring to toilet articles and cosmetics. "The American way of life has made these articles as essential to you women as shaving to men-folks. The truth is that the Washington tax-masters regard you women as a 'soft touch'."

Rep. Edith Norton Rogers of Massachusetts, not to be outdone, got in a plug for the men-folks. "From the time they get up in the morning men pay a tax on everything," she said, "their pajamas... their bath soap and shaving lotion... their razor and hair tonic... everything they eat for breakfast... and that all-important smoke."

Democrats seemed to enjoy the show as much as republicans until GOP Rep. Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania tearfully recited: "No baby oil for you, young man, Bareback babe, with cheeks of tan.

By the rule of Uncle Sam You're a luxury, little lamb. The skin we loved to touch with powder

We sadly pat while you yell louder; So now you know, my little man, Why mama votes republican."

BYRD BATTLE

The senate hasn't seen the end of the feud between Minnesota's breezy, young senator, Hubert Humphrey and Virginia's applied-commerce senator Harry Byrd. Humphrey is still trying to sprinkle salt on Byrd's tail.

The brass Minnesota-raided Byrd's favorite nest, the senate economy committee, with a charge that instead of saving money it was wasting money. He pointed out that the committee hadn't even met for two years.

This brought the Byrd forces to the senate floor in full array. More republicans and Dixiecrats turned out to defend Byrd than listened to the debate on the Marshall plan and Atlantic pact.

One by one they lambasted Humphrey, who couldn't get a word in edgewise. When he finally gained the floor, the Byrd forces drifted out, left him to talk to a near-empty chamber.

Bouncing Senator Ken Wherry of Nebraska, the republican leader, actually hustled among the republicans urging them to leave Humphrey stranded "This guy has given us a rough time."

OPEN FORUM

Time-Saving Daylight

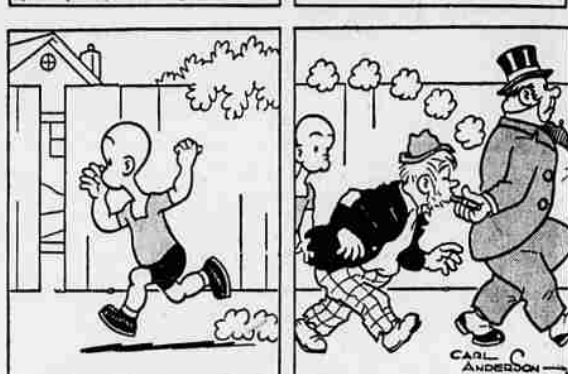
To the Editor: A tribute of gratitude is due, in a measure, to our saviors of daylight, acknowledging a much greater praise if in saving saving-daylight, a most logical manner is used by allowing our clocks to continue in truth. And applying a prudent exercise of our will in a benefitting manner.

If we arise at the present time at six o'clock, set the alarm dial at five o'clock. Or whatever time you arise, arise one hour earlier and look up to the clock in truth.

MRS. MAE A. HOVENDEN
Box 247, Rt. 1, Hubbard

BY CARL ANDERSON

Henry

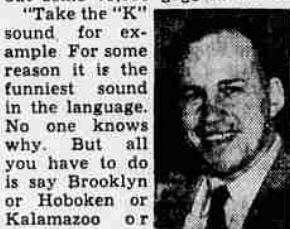


POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Why Is a Thing Funny? Why Do Folks Yuk at Keokuk?

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—When a man writes 12,500 jokes a year, he feels he ought to know why a thing is funny or not. "But there are some things you just can't explain," said Walter Kiernan, a radio humorist who figures he has turned out some 75,000 gags in the last six years.



Hal Boyle

ever got on the stage came when he stepped out and said, "My name is Benny Kubelsky—which is his real name. But the audience died laughing."

Unfortunately a jokesmith can not just keep saying "Keokuk, Keokuk, Keokuk," like a flattened trainwheel. He has to go on to other things to earn his yuks. "Another standby in the trade is known as the rule-of-three joke," said Kiernan. "For instance, if you say 'she is not only pretty... she is not only wealthy—but she is also stupid—well, a certain percentage of people will think that remark is mildly funny. The sequence builds up to an anti-climax."

Always popular also is the "rule of opposites" or "upside-down joke." Example: Instead of saying, "drink is the curse of the working man," you turn it around: "Work is the curse of the drinking man."

There are dozens of similar tricks, but Kiernan doesn't believe anybody can become a successful humorist merely by following formulas.

"It can't really be taught at all," he said. "It's just an attitude of mind. I doubt it's some of the best gagwriters even can read. It isn't essential, certainly."

Kiernan, a pleasant, easy-going man of 48, shows little of the strain that afflicts many laughter merchants. He doesn't have an ulcer, one hallmark of success in this clan, nor does he support a staff of psychiatrists.

This may be because he specializes in what is called "Throwaway humor," casual pleasantries aimed at stirring chuckles instead of the explosive yuks which are the goal of high-pressure buff artists, such as Milton Berle.

During a 70-minute morning broadcast, interspersed with phonograph records, Walter generates a minimum of 30 low-pressure wisecracks on news of the day, and tosses them off spontaneously. But it takes him an hour-and-a-half of hard writing to develop and whip into pattern the 20 gags he packs into a five-minute ABC network program.

"You can't write them by a formula," he said. "But after a few years you find you can write them by reflex. One joke sets the stage for the next one. 'I mumble out loud as I write, because the material has to sound right as well as read right.'"

Unlike many comedians, Kiernan doesn't keep a card file of jokes. "When you've used a joke, it's better to throw it away," he said. "You can't keep yourself alive long trying to keep old jokes alive."

He avoids dialect jokes, atom bomb jokes ("It's too serious to joke about"), or deformity words—such as blind drunk, blind date, cock-eyed or cross-eyed.

"Anyone who has a deformity doesn't think it's funny," said Kiernan. "What is his funniest joke? He doesn't know but the one copied most often by other humorists was his story of how he made an electric blanket by using some wiring from an old toaster but had to give it up "because it started popping me out of bed buttered on both sides."

"Everybody seemed to pick that one up," said Kiernan wryly. "They were all being thrown out of bed covered with marmalade or toasted on both legs."

Lopping Off Protection

The status of the dam projects in the Willamette valley basin is uncertain at this time. Word has not been received from Washington, D.C., yet to indicate the specific projects which are scheduled to receive money for next year.

At stake during this uncertainty is proper development of the Willamette valley itself.

The 1938 authorization for the valley projects called for seven dams. Three have been constructed. Those are at Fern Ridge, Cottage Grove and Dorena. Two more are being constructed. Those are at Detroit and Meridian. The other two of the seven projects were abandoned. The abandoned projects were at Sweet Home and Quartz Creek. In each case three dams on tributaries were substituted.

It is with those substitute projects that the uncertainty lies. Major General Pick, chief of army engineers, indicated that present authority for the Willamette valley basin was adequate to permit substitution of the projects. But apparently the director of the budget and the chief engineer don't agree. The director of the budget left out two of the three substitute dams on the South Santiam river and one of the three substitute dams on the McKenzie river.

Since the dams are built for flood protection purposes, the number of dams obviously controls the amount of protection to be offered. But for President Truman's program at this time, the benefits to cost of the individual dams is what counts. That's why some were lopped off. However, if it takes three dams to curb flood waters in the South Santiam, for instance, then one dam won't be very effective.

'Pure Coincidence'

The political party war drums are beating. The faithful of the parties are gathering for the coming May primary election battles. And the "non-political" junkets are well under way.

The democrats—purely by chance—are going to bring the great white father into Oregon to see if enough democrats can be inspired to break the republican hold on the state. President Truman is going to make another one of those non-political visits to the west.

Announcement of his coming was made at a political rally in Klamath Falls by the national democratic committeeman for Oregon, Monroe Sweetland. The coincidence of the Truman visit so close to the primary and the announcement by Sweetland at a gathering of the faithful had nothing to do with the presidential tour being strictly a political show of strength. Oh, no—not that. And strictly by chance, too, the democratic national committeeman from the state of Washington revealed the same day that Truman and Vice President Barkley would be in Spokane for a dinner for democrats in the middle of May.

But let no one suggest that there was some plan tying the similar announcements by the two national committeemen. And the fact that the notices were made at special meetings of party followers was another bit of sheer coincidence.

Yes, it's spring. And the political sap is beginning to run again.

Planes for British

Last October the military assistance program went into effect. That was the program to give arms aid to signers of the North Atlantic pact. Monday a new phase of that program took form. The first batch of American B-29s took off for Great Britain.

Behind this military assistance program is a determination to strengthen the collective defenses of the free nations of Europe. When the United States senate voted to accept the Atlantic pact, our nation then admitted there no longer was any hope of staying clear of Europe's problems.

The military assistance program was assigned to achieve three fundamentals of military preparedness: Manpower, materials, and suitable positions from which to employ them. The North Atlantic nations had plenty of manpower reserves and strong defensive positions but they lacked armaments. The treaty called for a pooling of resources to make up for the lack of armaments.

The military assistance program is an essential part of the country's foreign policy. It likewise is an integral part of the nation's defense program. How long it will be necessary to supply arms is anybody's guess.

So long as Russia continues its avowed policy to rule the world, however, the arms program will have to be kept in force, along with the other points of an aggressive United States foreign policy.

Reunite Sisters After 32 Years

Chicago, March 21 (AP)—Two sisters who became separated from their only brother as children in 1918 were reunited last night and learned they had lived 10 blocks from him for the last 15 years.

The reunion was in the home of Mrs. Rose Gamberdine, 25. She and her sister, Mrs. Pauline Rieck, 37, had not seen their brother, Orlando P. Salerno, 31, since they were separated during the 1918 influenza epidemic.

Salerno learned a few months ago that he had sisters when he obtained his birth certificate in a loyalty checkup at the naval ordnance plant where he is a painter. After further investigation he located his sisters.

Round Trip With Death

Marlin, Tex., March 21 (AP)—Earl Hancock, Jr., of Marlin recently hitchhiked to Huntsville, 125 miles away, where he is a student at Sam Houston State college.

His first ride was with Carl Allen, Marlin tombstone salesman. Then he was picked up by a salesman for a casket company. Next, an undertaker.

Hitchhiking back, he caught a ride with three men enroute to a funeral. When they dropped him he was picked up by a minister on his way to visit a man in the state penitentiary's death row.

He told his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hancock, Sr., about it. They took him back to school—in the family car.