

Uncle Sam May Soon Take Real Kick at Slot Machines

By WILLIAM J. CONWAY

Chicago, May 13 (AP)—Nobility knows how many broke and bitter men have tried to kick slot machines to pieces. About all they have to show for their efforts is scuffed shoes. But Uncle Sam soon may take a whack at the things with a new law. He may put quite a dent in the business.

The senate has approved, and the house is considering, a bill to stop the shipment of slot machines into states where they are illegal.

A lot of people in Chicago, capital of the slot machine industry, are wondering what will happen if the legislation is adopted.

The coin-fed contraption has had a long and lush life. Its origin is clouded by the mists of time. But old heads of the trade believe the great-granddaddy of them all was invented in about 1885 by Charles Fey in California.

Production began in Chicago at about the turn of the century. Chicago became the manufacturing center because it had a pool of skilled mechanics. Now there are at least eight firms that make the devices here.

(The slot machine is but one of many types of coin-operated machines. The industry as a whole is widespread and thriving (soft drinks, gum, cigarettes, scales, etc.); amusement machines (such as juke boxes and pin-ball games); and slot machines.)

The slot machine came out about the same time as the automobile. Both have taken millions for a ride. But the slot, unlike the motor car, hasn't been changed a great deal through the years.

The machines usually have three verticle wheels. On them are pictures of such things as cherries, oranges, plums, bells and bars. You put in a coin and pull a lever.

The wheels spin. When they stop, you can see three pictures in small glass windows. When certain combinations of pictures show up, you win. When they don't, you don't. And, usually, you don't.

The gadgets will take nickels, dimes, quarters, half dollars and silver dollars. They are utterly indiscriminate. They will take loose money, rent money, grocery money. And they will take it from anybody tall enough to reach the slot.

The apparatus often is called "the one-armed bandit." You can find the reason for that in the literature on the subject in reference libraries. But here are some of them:

Manufacturers claim the machines, as built in their plants, are geared to pay 75 cents on the dollar. But they can be fixed to pay out nothing or ten, 20, 40 or 60 per cent of the cash poured into them.

William B. Herlands, who looked into the matter for city officials in New York in 1941, figured the pay-outs at around 40 to 50 per cent of the gross receipts.

Most players, of course, shoot for the big payoff—the jack pot. The odds on hitting it have been calculated all the way from 1,000 to 1 to 4,000 to 1.

Back in the thirties, when Fiorello LaGuardia was mayor of New York, the cops rounded up some of the contrivances. Citizens were invited to take a helping of slugs and give them a whirl. One machine coughed up the jack pot at the end of 2,674 plays and another after 2,845 plays.

Whatever the odds, there seem to be thousands of folks eager to buck them. Some like to play 'em "hot." Some like to play 'em "cold." They have a hunch that a machine that hasn't given out anything but metallic clicks for a spell is about due.

The only consistent money makers are the owners. It has been estimated that there are 200,000 slot machines in the U.S. There is no way to arrive at the precise total. The internal revenue bureau collects a tax of \$100 a machine. It keeps statistics in a manner that does not show the number of machines but does show that 69,788 places paid taxes last year.

These places presumably are saloons, road houses, clubs, gambling halls and other establishments scattered from coast to coast.

The slot, frequently called "ubiquitous," does get around. But it enjoys hospitality by law or license in only seven states.

Nevada allows all forms of gambling. Idaho permits coin-operated devices for gaming on a local option basis. Washington and Montana allow them in private clubs. Criminal codes forbid gambling in Louisiana, Tennessee and Alabama but they have statutes that set license fees for gambling devices.

One manufacturing firm says the bulk of the machines are shipped to clubs. Many lodges and clubs use the revenue from them to pay at least part of their overhead, and channel some of the cash into social, charity and building funds.

There are no available records to show who owns all the machines around the land. Nor are there any records on how many millions they yield to their owners.

The California commission on organized crime said last year the gross "take" by people who control slot machines "probably" is around two billion dollars a year.

That's a heap of cash—even from a gadget that has been termed the most efficient mechanism ever devised to separate a man from his money.



Show to Help Athletic Fund

An old-fashioned minstrel show with a cast of some 80 persons will be presented at St. Joseph's hall, Chemeketa and North Winter streets, at 8 o'clock Sunday night for the benefit of the Sacred Heart high school athletic fund.

The minstrels are residents of Verboort, Ore., where they recently presented their show twice to capacity audiences. Father Neugebauer, formerly pastor at St. Vincent's parish in Salem, is the Verboort pastor.

The cast is headed by Charlie Vandehey and the leading characters include Ervin, Joe, Bob, Howard, Jeff and Ralph Van Dyke; Robert and Sylvester Van Looy and Harold Kemper.

The minstrels will present about 30 musical numbers, including such favorites as "Sweet Georgia Brown," "Darktown Strutters Ball," "By the Light of the Silvery Moon," and many others.

Liberty Girls Honor Mothers at Banquet

Liberty—The Young Girls Group of the Christian Endeavor church of the Liberty Christian church of Christ honored the Mothers at a Mother-Daughter banquet at the church on Skyline road.

The tables had a motif of yellow, green and pink, with tulips and lilacs. Donna Plenge was the chairman of the banquet, and gave the welcome, doxology, and Mrs. Ellery Parish, the blessing. The banquet followed.

On the program was a trumpet solo by Margaret Seeger, girls trio, by the Liberty Bells, a poem, "If" read by Shirley Peterson, vocal selection by Donna Behrens and the speaker was Mrs. Kenneth Johnston, wife of the pastor of the First Christian Church in Dallas. The group sang "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" and Mrs. Luther Billings gave the benediction. About 65 persons attended the affair.

Sacred Heart Card Party Sunday Night

Gervais—The Sacred Heart parish will hold a card party Sunday evening, at the parish hall with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kuhn in charge of arrangements. Pedro, 500, pinochle and canasta will be played and refreshments served.

participation in the trail ride should be sent to Mr. McKillip, in care of the St. Paul rodeo association, as soon as possible.

John McKillip and Lester Kirk, both of St. Paul, have been named co-chairmen for the trail ride. Assisting with arrangements are Fred Viesko, Van Weider and Robin Day, all of Salem; Claude Smith, John Smith, Carl Kirsh, all of St. Paul; Harold McNamara, Newberg, and Bill Robbins and Chuck Nestlund, Portland. Reservations for the breakfast and

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Walter Musgrave has been Service Officer for Kingwood Post American Legion for several years . . .

John E. Black, Secretary Musgrave for Mayor Committee, Salem, Oregon.

Irate Citizens in Fire Truck Capture Fleeing Bank Robber

Carnation, Wash., May 13 (AP)—A young rifle-toting gunman held up this town's only bank Thursday but was captured 15 minutes later by the bank manager, a posse of irate citizens and volunteer firemen driving a fire truck.

Elroy Oster, 20, Monroe, Wash., said he decided to rob the bank "on the spur of the moment" while driving down the main street.

Bank Manager Willard J. Brown said Oster obtained "about \$700," all of which was recovered.

Brown, driving his own car, overtook the gunman at the top of Novelty Hill, six miles south of here, when Oster's automobile radiator started boiling over.

Close behind was the fire truck with its sirens screaming and the posse.

Brown had stopped only long enough to pick up a farmer, Core Cinnamon, along the way.

Bob Lawson, garage operator, saw Oster leaving the bank with the rifle and a paper sack, herding Herman Amsler, the only customer in the bank at the time, in front of him.

Lawson found Oster in custody. Brown had Oster in custody without a struggle.

Oster had turned his 1936 model car sideways across the narrow road when Brown's car rounded the top of the hill. Brown said he swerved into a ditch to avoid a collision.

"When I climbed out of the car," Brown said, "Oster was leveling a .22 rifle at me."

"He said, 'Will you make it easy for me if I give all the money back?'"

"I said I don't know, but would do all I could if he surrendered. Then the boy just gave up. He got out of the car and handed me his gun, saying, 'I know it was a foolish thing to do, but I just got desperate when I couldn't get a job.'"

The bandit, who was discharged from the army last year after serving four years in Japan, was jailed in Tolt, Wash., and later transferred to the King county jail in Seattle.

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Japan's Exports Show Increase

Tokyo, May 13 (AP)—Japan's exports soared to \$530,000,000 in the last fiscal year—the highest since the war, official sources said today.

The total represented an increase of \$180,000,000 over the last fiscal year, which ends on March 31 in Japan. But the new total was below the official estimate of \$578,000,000 for the 1949-50 fiscal year.

Textiles again led the field as the major export. Some 50 percent of Japanese goods sold abroad were textiles. Metals and machinery made up about 20 percent and chemicals, ceramics, medicines and miscellaneous products the balance.

Asia continued to be Japan's best market. But officials noted that trade with Red China now is "almost nil." Before the war China took about 20 percent of Japan's exports and supplied Nippon with about 10 percent of her imports.

Japanese officials noted that competition increases as Japan's trade expands. They said Nipponese products now are meeting more opposition from goods in Britain, West Germany, Belgium and Italy. Britain is a major competitor in textiles and machinery and the Germans, Belgians and Italians are becoming increasingly active in the machinery markets.

Berry Crop Badly Damaged
Lebanon—A blight believed caused by excessive moisture and cool weather has seriously damaged the local strawberry crop, members of the strawberry fair discovered after a tour of local patches.

Growers in this area are expecting one of the best prices in several years for their crop, but expectations are for only a small amount of berries. Some estimated an 85 per cent loss in production, according to the festival members.

Where berries are being formed, growers have set a tentative price of 20 cents a pound for commercial sales.

Few producers are accepting large numbers of orders for their crop, but are waiting further developments in the weather and berries which are now forming.

Social Night at Red Hills Grange
Liberty—It was social night at the Red Hills Grange. A covered dish dinner was served and guests were Mrs. Victor Ballantyne, Mrs. Frank Judd, and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mercer.

A program followed with games and singing. Frank Judd read a poem on Mother's Day.

and Bill Berndt showed colored slides.

A short business meeting followed when the tansy ragweed was discussed, and Mrs. Olga Northrup was elected as an alternate to the state grange.

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His tireless efforts against strong opposition on the West Salem merger and the new bridge shows he can get things done.

As you probably know from personal experience there should be some things done at the City Hall and I believe Walter Musgrave can also do them.

This "ad" paid for by Hobart Kiggins, 379 N. High St., Salem, Ore.

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How Much Your Hands Sweat Gives Clue on Your Ailments

By ALTON L. BLAKESLEE

(Associated Press Science Reporter)

New York, May 13 (AP)—How much your hands sweat and tremble gives clues on how to treat some illnesses, a medical exhibit shows.

The answers help tell whether your ailments are really physical, or are caused by anxiety or emotions.

Everyone's hands sweat, and everyone's hand trembles a bit. But a lot of sweating and a lot of trembling probably means you're the anxious type or an emotionally bothered person, the study shows.

The anxiety makes many people believe they have heart troubles or other physical ills. They have pains or other signs, but there actually is nothing organically wrong with them.

The exhibit is being shown by Dr. Jacob L. Silverman, heart specialist of Staten Island hospital, to the New York State Medical society meeting.

Dr. Silverman set up ways to measure the sweating and trembling.

He takes fingerprints of sweating. The fingers are dabbed with a tincture of iron, and then placed on paper treated with tannic acid. Moisture from sweating makes the fingers leave inky blotches on the paper. The more sweating there is, the darker the ink marks.

Trembling is measured by a machine that records the vibrations of the fingers as wavy lines.

The two records are additional clues in spotting people whose heart troubles are emotional, he said. The treatment then is to reassure them, help them solve

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