

# Washington Digest

## Autumn Brings Washington A Potpourri of 'Occasions'

By BAUKHAGE  
News Analyst and Commentator.

WASHINGTON.—After a tropically terrible summer the capital burst into autumnal glory with cool weather providing the zest and zip necessary to meet the feverish renewal of activity after the summer doldrums.

Let me review some of the varied events which provided pungent relief from the news of diplomatic quarrels, political billingsgate, and war.

Out at the airport, an American Airlines plane, christened for the occasion "Don Gaspar de Portola," dropped out of the skies. Down the ramp came a black-bearded, helmeted Spanish conquistador, resplendent in flowing scarlet cape and shining broadsword. Next came a charming Chinese girl in her ruffled dress, alluring as a lotus blossom. Then a less exotic crowd of beauties, sportsfolk, business men, headed by the mayor of San Francisco. They had come to tell us about the resumption this year of the Portola Festival at the Golden Gate. (They visited eight other major cities, too.)



BAUKHAGE

Don Gaspar de Portola was the famous explorer who was sent to America from Spain in 1769 to chase the Jesuits from California, the English from Canada, and the Russians from Alaska. He didn't quite fill that order but he did locate and explore San Francisco Bay and discover a couple of other harbors.

I paid my respects to His Excellency Don Gaspar, to the tall, slim, pretty and modest water-nymph, Ann Curtis, Olympian winner, and to my old pal Jimmy Abbey, one-time international photographer who made even Stalin "look pleasant." Now Jimmy is an ABC commentator on the Pacific coast.

But something better was to come. We sat down to luncheon and I felt right at home! There was Chef John Lischetti, of the Nugget Grill, founded way back in the gold rush days when nuggets were the medium of exchange. And better still there were sand-dabs, that strange flat creature sans-scales in

the ocean and sans-rival when prepared "a la Pescad' oro." (Get the nugget?) But best of all was the crab salad nugget, which makes all other crabs seem crabbed by comparison. The food was all native, flown from San Francisco for the occasion!



PORTOLA AND ENTOURAGE

Viva Portola!

### George C. Marshall As a Humanitarian

The Marine band blares out a march from the platform overlooking the huge Presidential room of the Statler where more than 500 guests are gathered for the ceremony in which Variety International, that cheerful and charitable group of show folk, is to confer its annual Humanitarian award.

In march the guests of honor, statesmen, diplomats, tycoons, actors, legal lights, and whatnot. They stand at their places at the head table which form two tiers banked with roses.

A fanfare and George Catlett Marshall takes his place amid cheers that drown the music. The salute to the colors. We sit down to drown any modicum of sorrow that has survived the preceding reception. Speeches are short and good. Marshall, as secretary of state, could say little that was new, something that was grim, much that was encouraging and all of it "off the record" for we are already in the midst of parlous international negotiations.

Variety club president reads the citation:

"The career of the Hon. George Catlett Marshall has embraced leadership in peace as well as in war.

"Soldier by profession, he has ever displayed a conspicuous and consistent genius for the military.

"Shunning the opportunity to seek succor from the cumulative burdens of two world wars, his devotion to principle and country has led him along the

paths toward world amity and peace since the end of hostilities.

"As author of the Marshall Plan, he translated into generous and inspiring fulfillment the shining hope for liberty, honor and dignity of free men everywhere.

"We salute the breadth of vision and warmth of heart of a great and beloved American." And so to bed.

### Review of Byrd's Antarctic Expedition

Rain pours. We drive through the slippery Washington streets to the navy yard (now the naval gun factory).

The Washington navy yard was planned by President John Adams when French aggression made "freedom of the seas" a menacing international issue. Work began on the site in 1800. Here the "Wasp" and the "Hornet" were built to play their roles in the War of 1812, here the "Constitution" and the "President" came for overhauling and repairs.

We stop at the sentry box: "Guests of Admiral Davis." The marine sentry salutes. We know our way to the officers' club. Handshakes and refreshments and into a bus that takes us to the event of the evening which the rain prevented us from witnessing aboard the hulking LST moored to the dock in the Anacostia river.

So we must go indoors to see one of the most thrilling things I ever saw on the screen. A motion picture made from the actual photographic record of the 1946-47 expedition to the Antarctic under Adm. Richard E. Byrd. I hope you saw or will see it—"Secret Land." It had its premier on Navy Day, in 80 cities. The commercial movie makers used the official film taken by navy, marine corps, coast guard and army cameramen on the scene.

The picturing of disaster, of rescue, of tragedy, of suspense, of achievement, (in most cases the actual event as it happened) are something for which I have no comparison.

One purpose of the 1946 expedition which was a follow-up of Byrd's original 1929 undertaking when he established "Little America" and explored the great Antarctic ice cap, was to train the navy in polar operations.

Another aim was to make further discoveries and release the "unknown treasures" (which Byrd's earlier explorations indicated were there) for the benefit of mankind. Even the "routine" operations, the ships amidst the ice-floes, the landing on the ice-cap, the erection of the tent city and the operation of the planes, was an inspiring and thrilling sight, a tremendous tribute to the American skill in mechanical achievement, in personal endurance, bravery, ingenuity. It will make you proud to be an American.

Admiral Byrd didn't look much older than when we bid him God-speed before he started on his first Antarctic venture. That was close to me for I was connected with the organization that syndicated the story for the press. But I was struck with the passage of time, and the years of study and research that have intervened, when I looked at Dr. Paul Siple, polar authority and geographer. (He was present in the flesh as well as on the screen.)

Paul Siple was chosen to go on the 1929 expedition after winning in a competition involving 600,000 Boy Scouts of America. Then he was a tall, slender lad of 20. Now he's stocky and graying. As a prominent geographer he has done important research for the war department.

The story of the Antarctic is studied with great names — Scott, Amundsen, Shackleton, to mention only three—as well as with sacrifice and tragedy. This picture of the "Secret Land," less secret now, shows the tremendous advances in technology made since the days of the early explorers.

It took thousands of years to shape the penguins' wings into the fins which make his survival in a polar land possible. In a few years in the laboratories and factories of America we have shaped the means which make survival and exploration possible in the same environment — exploration and discovery which some day may be of tremendous benefit to mankind.

The Russians last month kept scheduling Red air maneuvers over Berlin airlift corridors. Perhaps because of the overcrowded condition of the heavens over Moscow, Minsk, Pinsk, Baku, Tartu and Stalingrad?



## Community Nests for Poultry House Urged

### Installation Decreases Number of Dirty Eggs

Taking cognizance of the premium prices paid for clean eggs on the market, poultrymen with large laying flocks are giving increased attention to installation of community nests.

Dirty eggs brought 15 cents less a dozen than clean eggs when sold through Ohio cooperative eggs auctions in June. D. D. Moyer, specialist in poultry husbandry at Ohio State university, points out, adding that the owner of a large laying flock either has to take a cut in price, spend almost as much time cleaning eggs as in all other care of the laying flock or change the

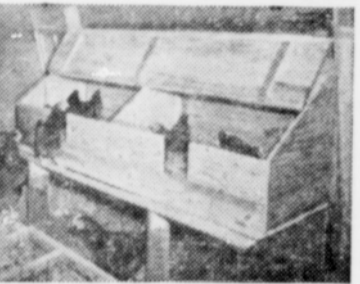


Photo shows community nest for poultry house suggested by Ohio station to assure clean eggs.

poultry house equipment to reduce the number of dirty eggs gathered. Installation of community nests in place of the small box type will decrease the number of dirty eggs by 50 per cent, Moyer claims. They are easier to clean and can be kept free from parasites more easily than the ordinary little cubicles. Original construction cost also is considerably less than that of an equal amount of nesting space of the old type inasmuch as less labor and material are required.

The community nest recommended by the Ohio station is 8 feet long, 2 feet wide, 14 inches high in front and 30 inches high in back. The space is divided in the center so there are 2 4-foot compartments in the nest, providing facilities for 80 to 100 laying hens. The front half of the nest cover is hinged so it can be lifted for gathering eggs. The bottom of the nest can be hinged so it will swing down to dump the nest litter. Hens enter the front of the nest through openings 8 inches square in the center of each compartment.

Materials required for construction include: 9 pieces of 1-inch by 8-inch by 8-inch for lid, front bottom ends and partition; 5 pieces of 1-inch by 10-inch by 8-inch for lid and back; 1 piece of 1-inch by 6-inch by 8-inch for lower front board; 4 pieces of 1-inch by 4-inch by 8-inch for cleats, nest perch and entrance lids; 1 piece of 1-inch by 2-inch by 8-inch for cleats for the ends and partition; 1 piece of 1-inch by 4-inch by 10-inch for bottom supports, with the piece beveled at the ends if hinged; 3 pairs of 8-inch strap hinges, and 3 8-inch hooks and screw eyes if the bottom is hinged.

### WANTED: One Home



If a flock of Leghorn hens were to go househunting, they would look for just about the same comforts as their human prototypes.

Sufficient space, good ventilation, uniform temperatures, a sturdy foundation and floors are a few of the recommendations for housing the birds, according to suggestions in a revised extension bulletin on "Poultry Housing" issued by the University of Minnesota.

Like all construction, building a poultry house is an expensive proposition. As it is difficult to correct mistakes after the building is up, flock owners are advised to consider their problem and needs carefully before starting construction.

### Plans for Farm Wiring Should Envision Future

Plan for future as well as present needs when wiring a farm, rural electrification specialists advise farm families. Wiring is a permanent improvement, so there should be an adequate system in the home as well as in other farm buildings. All buildings should have a proper size load center or protective device, enough sets of wires or circuits and a sufficient number of outlets.



### Good Word for Franco

SENATORS Scott Lucas of Illinois and Bill Fulbright of Arkansas, both Democrats, gave newsmen the slip the other day and paid a private call at the state department. Their purpose was to put in a good word for Franco Spain.

Just back from a trip to Madrid, Lucas and Fulbright said they thought it was about time Spain was admitted back into the good graces of the western nations. They urged the state department to take the lead and review American policy toward Spain.

State department diplomats, however, cautioned against appeasing Franco at the risk of antagonizing the United Nations. It was by a U. N. vote that Spain became an international outcast, the senators were reminded.

### Berlin Trouble

U. S. air force chiefs flatly deny it, but the Berlin airlift is expected to break down in November. Chief difficulty will be weather.

Other difficulties are the fact that planes are subject to terrific wear and tear, with little time for overhaul. Also, it's significant that Britain's RAF actually is carrying 45 per cent of all freight into Berlin. Anglo-American cooperation has been excellent, though the British aren't getting credit for their part of the job.

In November, simultaneous with murky weather, the airlift will be called upon to carry much more coal. Several million people in Berlin will be howling for it. The city already is on minimum rations. A deep-freeze unit in Berlin is worth nothing. Reason: electricity is turned off most of the day. Housewives can't begin cooking until 6 p. m.

Berlin's complete blackout to save coal has made the city a paradise for burglars. They are now so brazen they have been breaking into homes while occupants were still awake.

November bad weather also will coincide with probable political uncertainty in the U. S. If Dewey wins, as seems certain, the American government will be in a state of flux between November and January. That is the time to watch for real trouble with the Russians.

### U. S. Plot Against Peron?

Here is the exclusive inside story of the alleged "assassination plot" in Argentina:

John S. Griffiths, the American named as "chief instigator of the conspiracy," was cultural attache of the U. S. embassy in Buenos Aires under former Ambassador Spruille Braden. As such, he took an active part in Braden's campaign to aid the Argentine Democratic Union, which opposed the presidential candidacy of Juan D. Peron in 1945-46.

When Braden returned to Washington in September, 1945, Griffiths took over direction of this Democratic Union campaign. His activities, however, were consistently hindered by John Cabot, who remained as U. S. charge d'affaires, and who had never sympathized with Braden's methods. After Braden departed, Cabot refused to cooperate with Griffiths in any way, even denying him access to cables received from Washington.

Following Peron's election and the appointment of George S. Messersmith as ambassador to B. A., Griffiths resigned from the U. S. diplomatic service, but remained in the Argentine capital as technical adviser to several U. S. export firms.

Seven months ago, Griffiths was summarily expelled from Argentina, on the charge that he had fomented a strike of bank employees in Buenos Aires. Two bank-strike leaders, who had been fired from their jobs, submitted testimony that they had no connection or acquaintance with Griffiths. However, these statements were rejected by the court and never published in Argentina.

Griffiths returned to the U. S. last March, lined up three export representations from Uruguay, and departed for Montevideo in May. He has since been living there with his son, John Jr., 17, in a \$25-a-month apartment, scantily furnished, making just enough money to get along.

On a strictly voluntary and unofficial basis, without pay, Griffiths has also served as confidential adviser to Ellis O. Briggs, U. S. ambassador to Uruguay, on various Argentine developments. Briggs is really the top man of the U. S. foreign service for the southern part of South America.

The "plot" announced in Buenos Aires named Griffiths as principal conspirator because he was the ideal goat. Although identified in the Argentine public mind with Braden, he is now out of public life and can be accused without automatically causing an international incident.



DID you ever try looking back 34 years? We tried it. We rolled back the years.

The game we were thinking of took place on October 9, 1914. Dick Rudolph was facing Chief Bender, one of the great pitchers of all time. Rudolph was good—but he was no Chief Bender. But the under-rated Boston began hammering Bender. And the smart, cool Rudolph tied up the hard-hitting Athletics. Rudolph beat Bender 7 to 1 in that opening game. This was a hard jolt to Athletic fans.

Not only that, but Hank Gowdy suddenly broke loose and began hitting like a combination of Dickey, Cochrane and Hartnett. As I recall it Gowdy hit .545 in that series. He took Connie Mack's crack pitchers in turn and flayed them.



HARTNETT

The Braves looked to be the best ball club you ever saw. I still recall the fine play of Johnny Evers and Rabbit Maranville at second and short. The overlooked Brave infield made the great Athletic infield look second rate.

That was a long spell back—1914. The Germans had been stopped at the Marne—but they were still close to Paris. The First World War was just getting up steam. I doubt that many of those playing in the 1948 series were even born at that far off date.

We had a great bunch of baseball writers—Ring Lardner, Hughey Fullerton, Damon Runyon, Boze Bulger, Charley Dryden, one of the greatest, Bunk MacBeth, on and on.

Rudolph was at his peak in this first game. He was the Johnny Sain of his time. He won 27 games that 1914 year, so you can compare him with Sain. He pitched and won two games in that 1914 series.

I saw Dick only a short while ago. He was a little bald, but he still looked in condition to pitch a few innings. I've known few brainer pitchers than Rudolph, few who had cooler nerves or control.

What has become of control? Doesn't the plate mean anything any more to 95 per cent of all pitchers?

What else happened in 1914? Babe Ruth was just breaking in. The Babe was a rookie. Bobby Jones was only 12 years old. Ty Cobb was in his prime. Jack Dempsey was five years away from Willard and Toledo. Jack was a stringy kid of 19, weighing 165 pounds.

It was five years away from the start of sport's golden age. Man o' War hadn't been born. No one had ever heard of Red Grange, or Tilden, or Sande.

That year will be remembered as the start of World War I. But in baseball it is remembered as the year the miracle Braves accomplished the greatest feat baseball has ever known—the feat of beating the Mackmen four straight, and forcing Connie Mack to disband, by sale, the greatest ball club he has ever managed.

The Braves of 1914 were only a fair ball club. They were 90 per cent pitching and spirit.

Johnny Evers and Rabbit Maranville had greater fighting spirit on a ball field than any two men I've ever known—barring one—a fellow known as Ty Cobb. And I'll put Pepper Martin up with Cobb.

The only difference is that Cobb and Martin were physically equipped to handle the job while Evers and Maranville had to bank on spirit—head and heart.

### Best Rookie of 1948

Richie Ashburn of the Phillies has been voted the best rookie of the year. There have been several complaints over this decision from other centers, including the Red Sox, who like their own Billy Goodman.

Whether or not he is the best rookie, I can tell you who is the most useful. His name is Alvan Dark of the Braves. Dark has done more for the Braves than any two rookies have done for other clubs. Shortstop weakness hurt them badly a year ago.

This spring in Florida, Billy Southworth told a bunch of writers that Dark was the key man in his club. "I feel pretty sure he will make good. I know Eddie Stanky will help him a lot," Billy said. "Dark's an amazing all-around athlete."

I ran into Bernie Moore, Dark's old coach at L. S. U. Bernie is now the southeastern football commissioner.

"I don't think I have ever seen as fine an all-around star as Alvan Dark," Bernie said. "He was one of the best football players that ever came to L. S. U., and we've had our share, including Tittle of the Baltimore Colts."



When you wrap frosted cake or cupcakes for lunch boxes, grease the inside of the waxed paper with butter and the frosting will not adhere to the paper.

After washing your chenille bedspreads hang them on the line double and inside out. The tufts, by rubbing against each other, will dry fluffy.

You can double the life of glass curtains if you make double hems in both ends, then reverse the curtains each time they are laundered and hung again.

If flower stems are too short to arrange gracefully, try sticking them in drinking straws, which you can cut off at any desired length, and through which the flowers can get water.

Place a small hand brush, bristle side up, in the soap dish. Keep the soap on top of the brush and when you need to use the brush it will already be full of soap.

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