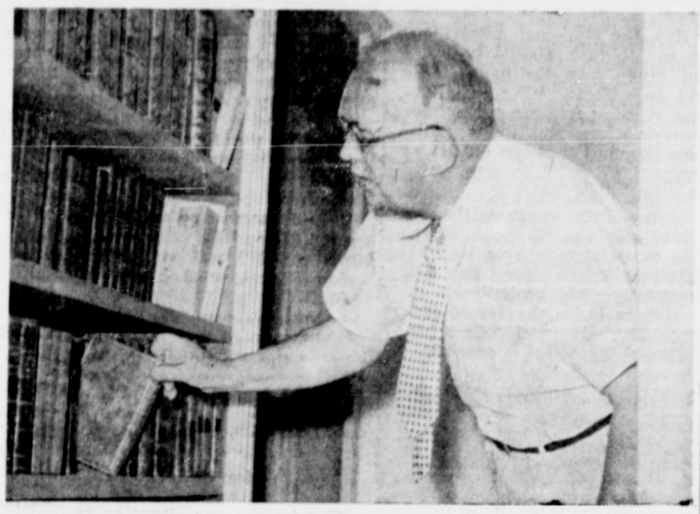
● Every summer the President of France and his family leave the Elysee palace in Paris to spend several weeks on his peach farm 40 miles southwest of Toulouse. Above is an informal picture of the President away from the cares of state. He is scheduled to visit President and Mrs. Truman at Blair House between March 28 and April 3. In the above picture (left to right) are Paul Auriol, the President's son, Jean Paul, Madame Michele Auriol, Jean Claude and President Vincent Auriol.



● The President's library at La Bordette is a treasure of favorite volumes of the French leader. Above he is shown selecting a book from a cabinet that holds mostly French classics. Fishing is one of the favorite pastimes of the President. With his grandson, Jean Claude, the President is pictured at the left getting his equipment ready for an expedition.

● Bowling is another popular game with President Auriol. Above he bowls with grandson Paul and Madame Auriol. President Auriol likes to keep a close check on chores on his peach farm. In the picture below he inspects the cultivation of young trees.

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

The Iron Curtain

WINSTON CHURCHILL'S well-coined phrase "the iron curtain" has now become so universal that some people really believe the Soviet border is encased in iron. Actually, however, the curtain is made of barbed wire—and rusty barbed wire at that.

This writer visited the southernmost segment of the iron curtain today at a spot where democratic Turkey and Communist Bulgaria meet. This border is the start of a long tangled barricade zigzagging north past Hungary, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany and Poland. And though the fields of winter barley are just as green on both sides of this barbed-wire barricade, it might just as well have been made of iron as far as free exchange of human intercourse is concerned.

I drove up to the curtain in a jeep with Captain Feths Seckin and Lieutenant Ali Aksoz of the Turkish army. The latter is in command of a ten-man detachment guarding the Kaprikule outpost. The road leading to the curtain was paved with centuries-old stone and beside the road were Roman wells built by Emperor Adrian. But the traffic leading to the barbed-wire curtain, aside from an ox team pulling a John Deere disc drill, a tribute to the Marshall plan, was nil.

Suddenly the road ended. Ahead was an iron gate bearing that international English word known to every tongue: "Stop." Beyond it was another gate slightly rusty and delapidated bearing the words "Bulgaria" in both French and Cyrillic. This was the iron curtain and the place which Turks call Serhad, which significantly has two meanings: the frontier and the neckline where one's head is chopped off.

Blockhouses Guard Curtain

Alongside the gate was a series of blockhouses—one on the Bulgaria side, a little shabby with some of its windowpanes missing, and two on the Turkish side, both new and orderly. One Turkish blockhouse—set back from the iron gate but connected with it by a series of trenches—housed troops.

I climbed stairs inside the thick-walled parapet to the tower on top of which a Turkish soldier stood scanning the landscape through field glasses. Through his glasses we could see a Bulgarian guard in the tower on the opposite side of the iron curtain, scrutinizing us. From time to time he would run to the telephone evidently to notify his headquarters about our party. Aside from this, there was almost no movement on the frontier. The sturdy walls, pierced with rifle slots, looked down on nothing more than the winter barley fields and the long, long barricade of barbed wire extending north.

Prisoners Escape

A herd of water buffalo grazed in the distance. They did not know the difference between communism or democracy, between Russianized Bulgaria or Turkey—to which the Truman doctrine is supplying arms and Marshall plan aid. They only knew that the grass was just as green on either side.

"Sometimes," remarked Captain Seckin, "sheep or buffalo get under the wire and cross to the Bulgarian side and the Communists shoot them. Our farmers get no chance to herd them back." Sometimes, also, I learned, Bulgarian political prisoners sneak through the barbed wire at night to give themselves up to Turkish authorities. This happens at the rate of two or three times per month and they tell a story of harassment and political suppression in what once was a relatively democratic country.

Climbing down from the watch-tower we moved closer to the iron curtain to the second Turkish building. This one was just six feet from the gate separating the two countries.

On rare occasions an official with a properly visaed passport is permitted to pass through this gate and customs officials are kept on the Turkish side to handle such transits. We sat down a few feet from the gate to drink coffee with the customs officials. The weather was cold but the sun was warm, and I pulled my chair out onto a stone platform in the sunshine in full view of the Communist guards peering down through rifle slots in their watchtower fifty feet away.

I don't know and never will know what they thought of the stranger—the civilian dressed in western clothes who sat and drank coffee just below them.

I don't even know whether they recognized me as an American but the Turkish guards, who watched them from the tower with their field glasses, reported that, on the opposite side of the iron curtain, there was more scurrying and more frantic telephoning back to their headquarters.

However, the sun was warm and the coffee delicious and we lingered talking about the days when the army of Sultan Beyazid battled with the armored knights of the Polish king and the grand marshal of France.

THE READER'S DATE BOOK

It's Time to Take Advantage Of Special Days and Weeks

This typically American institution of special "weeks" and "days" is undoubtedly here to stay. It is a natural outgrowth of the kind of national economy we have and the kind of salesmanship and marketing efforts we use to keep the economy operating at a prosperous level.

The modern device of special days and weeks is a sound one. Its avowed purpose is to sell more goods to the consumer, and it achieves that purpose.

A MAIN STREET FEATURE

Of course, the original concept of special days set aside for some particular celebration or observance is very nearly as old as civilization itself. It originated in the idea of public holidays established to perpetuate the memories of great religious, military and social events.

Such ancient civilizations as those of Egypt, Greece and Rome placed great stress on their annual festivals of one kind or another.

We in this country have our universal celebrations of Easter, Christmas and New Year's, and the legal or public holidays like Independence Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day and the rest.

Every one of these holidays is of great significance to our newspapers, particularly to the small town weekly papers. And, traditionally, the big majority gives them journalistic treatment in proportion to their significance.

The feature, "The Reader's Date Book," that will occupy this space in your paper during the weeks to come proposes to utilize the newspaper "holiday treatment" by expanding it to cover the more important social and commercial "days" and "weeks."

The position that "The Reader's Date Book" will take in this matter is that arranged events like National Pickle Week, National Noise Abatement Week, National Restaurant Week, and all the rest of them are, in the aggregate, quite important to our economic and material welfare, and that they are analagous to the spiritual and psychological importance that Christmas, Easter and Independence Day hold for everyone.

No one can say for certain when some idea-sharp promotion expert or business man first conceived the notion of applying the mass enthusiasm for a traditional or publicly proclaimed holiday to a privately sponsored event or day.

Mother's Day, which we now regard with considerable national reverence, had its beginnings in much that way when Miss Anna Jarvis carried out her fervent campaign to get a recognized day set aside for the mothers of America.

There are, then, sound and honorable reasons behind the establishment of what at first glance might seem to be a somewhat brash and boisterous sales institution.

As was suggested above, what business is doing in this proclaiming of "days" and "weeks" is simply an effort to channel off some of the normal public exuberance in holidays into constructive commercial selling. It is, in the final analysis, another advertising medium.

America's home town newspapers have shared widely, and stand to share still more, in the selection of advertising space which most of the "weeks" naturally require to put their campaign messages across.

"The Reader's Date Book," by itself, has nothing to sell. It should not be construed as an advertisement in any sense of the word—no matter whether the subject matter in a particular edition deals with St. Patrick's Day, Palm Sunday, National Boy Scout Week, National Tie Week or National Peanut Week.

This column is, rather, a unique attempt to bring together on a common stage of action the newspaper reader, the publisher, the advertiser and the manufacturer. Each one of these need not pursue his life in his own hard and fast compartment. It is better for them to get together, for the common good. "The Reader's Date Book" will try to provide them with an adequate forum for that purpose.

What may you expect to find in this column during a typical month? Taking May as an example, here is a list of the occurences on which you might reasonably expect coverage in the form of stories and pictures:

May	1-31	Milk for Life Month.
	1	May Day
		Child Health Day
	1- 6	National Home Demonstration Week
	6	Humane Sunday
	6-12	National Cutlery Week
		Be Kind to Animals Week
		National Hearing Week
		National and Inter-American Music Week
	6-13	National Family Week
	7-13	National Restaurant Week
	8	VE-Day
	12	National Hospital Day
	13	Mother's Day
	15	Straw Hat Day
	18-27	National Pickle Week
	19	Armed Forces Day
	19-26	National Foot Health Week
		V.F.W. "Buddy" Poppy Week
	20	I Am an American Day
	20-26	World Trade Week
	30	Memorial Day

Judging from the size and scope of the above list, it is patently impossible, in the space at hand, to give thorough and complete coverage to each one of the events. Coverage will be based on the importance any given week or event has for the merchants and consumers in the small community.

The "days" or "weeks" not treated in detail will be listed, however, in advance of their occurrence so that if local preparations are called for there will be time for them to be made. As a matter of fact, all coverage will be in advance of the actual dates.

Also, you may note from the list of May events that this column will not confine itself strictly to commercial observances. All the major holidays and many of the minor ones will be given detailed attention—Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Independence Day, Christmas, Hallowe'en, Armistice Day and the others.

"The Reader's Date Book" will devote space to such worthy efforts as National 4-H Club Week, National Boy Scout Week, National Girl Scout Week, National Camp Fire Girl Birthday Week, National Boys Club Week and similar social institutions.

Finally, the column intends to cover the traditional nation-wide philanthropic campaigns on behalf of victims of tuberculosis, heart disease, cancer, rheumatism and arthritis, cerebral palsy, infantile paralysis and the other crippling diseases which can only be controlled and eradicated through the support and cooperation of the entire American people.

In short, "The Reader's Date Book" wants to help all it can everywhere it is able.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Prevention, Protection Stressed At Community Health Confab

How to get rural people to cooperate with townspeople to discover what their real health needs are, and what they themselves can do to expand and improve important health services, was the subject of a national conference on community health held recently at Memphis, Tenn. Approximately 600 doctors, health workers and farm leaders attended.

Dr. F. S. Irockett of Lafayette, Ind., chairman of the rural health committee of the American Medical association, which sponsored the conference, reported one of the main conclusions of the meeting was that "the problem of improving rural health in America is a lot broader than just providing more country doctors and hospitals.

The really good health program, directed by a community council, must work for ways in which health can be improved and protected. This is the concern of laymen quite as much as that of the physician.

State and county health councils have proved to be the most effective means through which lay and professional people can co-operate. On the county level, councils should be composed of leaders and representatives of all groups concerned with public health and sanitation.

Some rural communities that have been clamoring for a local hospital or doctor are simply not able to support them. In many smaller communities, the country doctor may never return. These are the communities that should form councils to promote local health.

Councils at Work

The Madison county, Kentucky, health council was cited for its excellent work in the field of rural health. The unit took health information to mountain families, got them interested in pure water, balanced diet and improved schoolhouses. The volunteers even popularized tooth brushes, which many mountain children had never seen before.

Odds and Ends Make Handsome Hooked Rugs

Make A Hooked Rug Any Size

USE ODDS and ends of woolen fabrics and worn garments to make this handsome design.

• • •

Pattern 333 gives directions; how to estimate material to be used and how to bleach and re-dye for blended tones. Actual-size pattern of Early American rose design is included. Pattern 333 is 25c.

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Satisfaction Guaranteed
At All Drug Stores
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IT ALWAYS POPS —AND TASTES SO GOOD

You need more than a 'salve' for
ACHING CHEST COLDS
to relieve coughs and sore muscles
You need to rub on stimulating, pain-relieving Musterole. It not only brings fast, long-lasting relief but actually helps check the irritation and break up local congestion. Buy Musterole!
RUB ON MUSTEROLE

IF YOU CAN'T GAIN WEIGHT
• If you are skinny, thin, underweight, due to no organic cause, read these facts.
To help you gain weight — nature usually requires two things. One—a good hearty appetite. Second — better digestion to change food into flesh. Thousands who recognize these medical facts have tried a great medicine — developed by a doctor — often with amazing results.
It's Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. Instantly, it starts its wonderful stomachic tonic action. First, makes you really want to eat. Second, helps you get more good out of food . . . helps turn it into pounds of added flesh. Try it. Get Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery today. Recommended by druggists everywhere. (Cut this ad out—it means extra pounds.)

WHEN SLEEP WON'T COME AND YOU FEEL GLUM
Use Delicious Chewing-Gum Laxative
REMOVES WASTE NOT GOOD FOOD
• When you can't sleep — feel just awful because you need a laxative — do as MILLIONS do—chew FEEN-A-MINT.
Doctors say many *other* laxatives, taken in large doses, start their "flushing" action too soon . . . right in the stomach where they often flush away nourishing food you need for pep and energy! You feel weak, tired.
But gentle FEEN-A-MINT is different! Taken as recommended, it works chiefly in the lower bowel — removes only waste, not good food! You avoid that weak feeling — you feel fine, full of life! Get FEEN-A-MINT, 25¢, 50¢, or only 10¢
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WNU—13 12—51

Housework Easy Without Nagging Backache
When kidney function slows down, many folks complain of nagging backache, loss of pep and energy, headaches and dizziness. Don't suffer longer with these discomforts if reduced kidney function is getting you down—due to such common causes as stress and strain, over-exertion or exposure to cold. Minor bladder irritations due to cold, dampness or wrong diet may cause getting up nights or frequent passages.
Don't neglect your kidneys if these conditions bother you. Try Doan's Pills—a mild diuretic. Used successfully by millions for over 50 years. While often otherwise caused, it's amazing how many times Doan's give happy relief from these discomforts—help the 16 miles of kidney tubes and filters flush out waste. Get Doan's Pills today!
DOAN'S PILLS