

SCANNING THE WEEK'S NEWS of Main Street and the World

Korean Peace by Christmas Possible; U.S. Casualties Now Total 100,176

KOREA—Peace in Korea by Christmas is the one gift the people of America's home towns desire more than any other. Although there is no assurance that such a peace will be forthcoming, the possibility does exist.

The hope that the world will have peace by Christmas was bolstered by reports from Korea that the Communists and Allies had reached agreement on a cease-fire line across that war-torn country.

Agreement on the cease-fire line, however, does not mean peace by Christmas. After ratification of the line, it becomes the final buffer zone across Korea provided the two sides agree within 30 days on all remaining armistice issues. If no 30-day agreement is reached on supervising the truce, exchange of prisoners and recommendations to the governments on troop withdrawals, the buffer line will be revised when a full armistice finally is signed.

Considering past experiences in negotiations with the Communists, the 30-day talking period would seem very short. Their delaying tactics have consumed months thus far and it is unlikely they will change them.

THE DEAD—Meanwhile, this limited Asian conflict, called a police action by many, has turned into the fourth costliest war in this nation's history. The casualty list now totals 100,176, the Defense department reports.

The actual battle figure is higher than the latest released figures, because official announcements of this kind are generally two or three weeks behind combat action.

In comparison, the total battle losses for the entire war in the south-west Pacific was 113,991. Of this total, 84,200 were killed or wounded.

DISARMAMENT—The most important question discussed at the U.N. meeting in Paris thus far has been disarmament on a world-wide scale. Both the west and the east have offered their plans.

General disarmament would give the people in the home towns of this country and elsewhere in the world a new sense of security. The outlook, however, is gloomy.

The Russians insist that prohibition of atomic bombs ought to precede any disarmament move, followed by a big five disarmament conference, and an immediate one-third cut of all conventional armed forces and weapons.

The western idea is for an orderly, stage-by-stage process, starting with a census of existing armaments, including atomic and armed forces; real inspection and verification of any arms cuts; and ultimate prohibition of atomic weapons.

The possibility of a compromise between the two views is unlikely. As a result, the world can expect the general assembly to become mired in debate and world tension to continue at the present level.

THE COLD WAR—On the Cold War front there was one important development during the past week. President Truman ordered withdrawal of all American tariff concessions to the Soviet Union and Poland. In addition, the President imposed a complete ban on the importation of luxury furs from the two Communist countries.

Some weeks ago Russia halted all shipments of manganese to the U.S. and since that time the fur trade has been an important source of dollar revenue for the Communist bloc.

The President's action does not completely halt imports from the Soviet Union and Poland, but it does mean the two countries will have to pay higher tariff rates. Similar action had previously been taken against Communist regimes in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and China.

EUROPE—Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe, told North Atlantic Treaty nations last week that "baby" A-bombs and other new weapons eventually may cut Europe's military requirements, but in the meantime everything possible must be done to build western defenses.

The general said he wanted as many divisions as fast as they could be supplied—between 30 and 40 in 1952 and between 60 and 70 by 1954.

He warned the Atlantic Treaty nations "there is no possibility, if war comes, of any of us, our children, or our children's children, living a life of decency again."

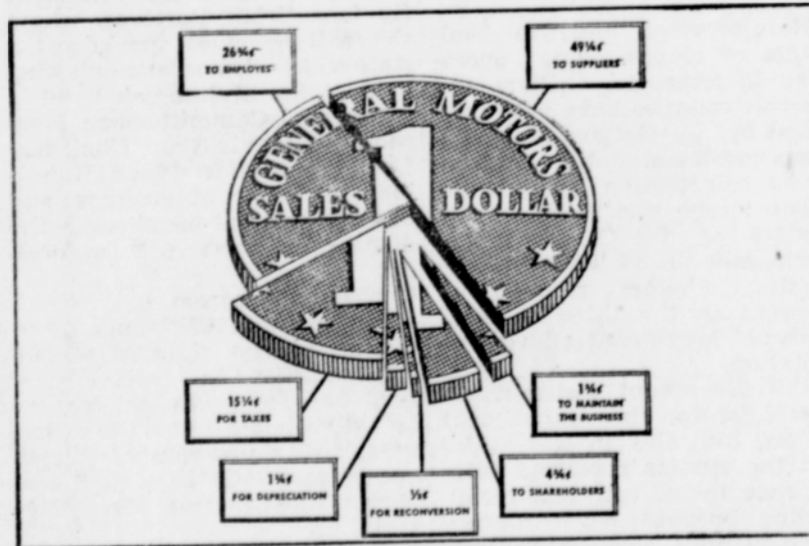
FARM TREND—The latest Bureau of the Census report reveals there has been a decided trend toward fewer but bigger and better equipped farms between 1940 and 1950. In 1950 there were 5,384,000 farms in the United States compared to 6,097,000 in 1940.

During the decade, however, the average size farm unit grew from 174 acres to 210.5 acres. Despite the decrease in the number of farms the total acreage remained approximately the same in 1950 as in 1940.

Other statistics in the report included: (1) About 870,000 fewer persons were working on U.S. farms in 1950 than in 1940; (2) Less than one-third as many horses and mules were on farms in 1950 as in 1920; (3) In 1950 there were 59,764,000 cattle and calves more than three months old on farms as compared to 60,674,736 in April, 1940; (4) The number of chickens on farms was 2,500,000, or 0.7 per cent more than in 1940.

GAMBLING—The new federal tax on gambling may reach into hundreds of home towns as a result of a new ruling by Revenue Commissioner John B. Dunlap. The commissioner has ruled that the 50 license fee on gambling applies to thousands of stores which have punch boards on their premises.

Each clerk in such establishments as tobacco shops, gas stations and other retail stores where the owners accept money from a customer for a punch board chance must purchase a license, he ruled.



What happens to the millions big corporations take in each year has often baffled the man on Main Street. Here is how General Motors, one of the biggest in the nation, spent its sales dollar: 26 3/4 cents to employees, 49 1/4 cents to suppliers, 15 1/4 cents for taxes, 1 3/4 cents for depreciation, 1/2 cent for reconversion, 4 3/4 cents to shareholders, and 1 3/4 to maintain the business.

NATIONAL DEBT

U. S. Debt Nearing \$275 Billion Limit

Barring unexpected changes in the present economic trend, the United States debt is expected to push past the present legal limit of \$275,000,000 during the next year. As a result, Secretary of the Treasury Snyder is expected to ask congress to raise the national debt ceiling.

At the end of November the national debt was estimated at \$259,000,000,000, an increase of \$4 billion since April and the highest in 4 1/2 years.

By June, 1952, the debt is expected to amount to \$262,500,000,000. If present spending and tax receipt forecasts are correct the debt will pass the \$265 billion mark during the following six months. This would necessitate lifting the legal debt ceiling.

THE WASHINGTON Merry-Go-Round BY DREW PEARSON

Peace and Prestige

ONE REASON President Truman ducked out for the Key West sunshine was to work undisturbed on two major issues that have been keeping him awake nights—world peace and the administration's sagging prestige.

White House assistants were warned about the Key West trip by Mr. Truman at a staff conference. "This won't be any picnic. We've got plenty of hard work to do."

On the first headache, peace, Mr. Truman assembled all the plans and ideas dumped on the White House doorstep to study at Key West. He hopes to come up with a tangible, imaginative program to stop the spread of communism and prevent war.

The President, for all his other faults, has an almost mystic, though sometimes naive sense of his role of a peacemaker and constantly repeats to close associates: "The only thing that counts is to find a way to world peace."

Mr. Truman has in mind a type of point 4 program which would teach other nations how to build their industry and agriculture as an alternative to the huge armaments race. He is also deeply concerned about a related problem which the columnist has frequently reported—namely, the hundreds of thousands of iron curtain escapees who have fled to the west but are treated no better than under Communist regimes, simply because the Atlantic Pact nations have no plan of action.

Before he left for Florida, Mr. Truman suggested to several senior friends who planned European junkets: "Look around while you are abroad, and tell me really what is happening, what people over there are thinking, and what we should do."

On the second major problem—sagging prestige here at home—Truman remarked to new Democratic chairman Frank McKinney that the corruption issue had sunk deeper than he realized and there had to be a house cleaning. He indicated to McKinney that he would try to work out something drastic along this line.

One top presidential adviser has recommended that Howard McGrath, the do-nothing attorney general, be dropped, and a hard-driving independent reformer be appointed to crack down on crooks and grafters. Two names were suggested: Sen. Wayne Morse, the Oregon republican, and Sen. Estes Kefauver, the crime-busting Democrat.

Truce Talks

Here is the inside story on the Korean truce talks.

General Ridgway has cabled a strong recommendation to the Pentagon that we keep the military pressure on the Communists until all the terms of the armistice are settled. Otherwise, he warns that the Chinese will stall over such matters as inspection teams and exchanging prisoners.

Ridgway also claimed that his forces can hurry the final armistice—provided they remain free to twist the Communists' arm. On the other hand, he argues that after a truce his men won't feel like fighting for ground that they know is going to be given back anyway. Ridgway's gamble is that his tactics won't cause a breakdown of the talks, but will actually speed the final armistice.

However, there is no question but that Ridgway's proposal represents a definite and important change of policy.

Here are the background facts which they are considering. When we went into the truce talks, the biggest obstacle seemed to be drawing a truce line. We agreed—in fact, urged—that the truce line be settled first. This has been the whole question of the past several weeks. We even drew our proposed truce line on a map so the Communists could have no doubts about it. After months of haggling, the Communists finally came around to our terms. Their last proposal was so close to our demands that there was nothing left to haggle over. At first Washington couldn't understand why Ridgway didn't snap it up, but sent his negotiators back instead with a flat rejection and a warning that the truce line couldn't be drawn until the other terms of the armistice were settled.

Backstage

The ABN underground in southern Russia claims three Soviet republics, Kazakh, Uzbek and Turkmen, are boiling with revolt and vast purges. (ABN is an underground of Moslem and Mongolian groups in south and east Russia. A peasant revolt in all the European satellites has brought a shake-up in Communist agriculture ministries plus short rations. . . . Argentina's dictator Peron has just fired eight of his top generals.

THE HOME TOWN REPORTER IN WASHINGTON BY WALTER SHEAR, WNU Correspondent

A New Warning

FEW folks in this country, of whatever religious belief, or of whatever race or color, can disagree wholly with the recent warning issued by the top hierarchy of the Catholic church in the United States, in annual meeting here in Washington.

And this warning is that an alarming parallel exists between the situation which faces this country today and that which faced the Roman Empire 1500 years ago—namely, barbarism on the outside as exemplified by Communism, and refined materialism and moral decay within. It is not a pleasant or complimentary picture painted of us as a people by the three Cardinals, six Archbishops and four Bishops which made up the administrative board of the National Catholic Welfare Council.

Here are some barbs which hit home: "We have sent our young men on military expeditions to far-off lands so that justice and freedom may be kept alive in the world; and yet at home we have become careless about the foundations of justice and the roots of freedom." "Expressions such as, 'my life is my own affair', or 'I may do as I please', or 'in politics, anything goes', are all too common today. There is no time in man's life when he is excused from obeying the moral law. The clergyman, the educator, the doctor, the lawyer, the politician, the employer, the employee, husbands, wives and children are all alike strictly bound. All human rights and obligations have their source in God's law.

"Dishonesty, slander, detraction and defamy transgressions of God's commandments when resorted to by men in political life as they are for all other men.

"There are not two standards of morality. One and the same standard prohibits false statements about private individuals and false statements about members of minority groups and races. It will not do by way of excuse to say that statements of the latter kind can be excused because of long-standing prejudice.

"Morality has its place in business and industry because the conditions under which men work, the wages they get, the kind of work they do, all are subject to the jurisdiction of the moral law. When economic conditions are such that the raising of a family by working people is made difficult and at times impossible, then those responsible for this deplorable situation are guilty of breaking God's law and they are also accomplices in the sins resulting from their injustice." The prelates called upon Americans in every walk of life to reeducate themselves to the wisdom of our founding fathers and quoted the following passage from Washington's farewell address: "Of all the disposition and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. . . . reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion to religious principle."

Senator McCarthy

In the final edition of the Congressional Record for the first session of the 82nd congress, Sen. Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin has caused to be inserted eighteen separate speeches, statements or what-not, no doubt to be used in his campaign for re-election in Wisconsin. The theory is that the articles are supposed to have more authority when clipped from the Congressional Record.

Classroom Needs

The Office of Education of the Federal Security Agency points up the need for 600,000 new classrooms to accommodate public elementary and secondary school pupils each year until 1958 and the fact there will be something like 8,000,000 additional children enrolled by that time. Enrollment in elementary and secondary schools by that date will be 37,186,000. Costs of construction will run several billions.

Agriculture

First state to complete its streamlining of the Agricultural department into a one-stop service with all state offices of the department housed in one building, most significantly in Iowa. Iowa is the home of Allan Kline, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, most outstanding critic of Secretary Brannan and his department.

Economic Help

The Committee for Economic Development, non-partisan group of top business and professional men, in a recent statement says: "The economics of the free world calls for greater efforts by American businessmen to help in applying their 'know how' in raising the production and the standard of living of underdeveloped countries through the Point 4 program, expanding world trade and strengthening the North Atlantic nations.

Farm Topics

Small Town Utility Serves Farm Folks Gas Made Available To Farms for First Time

The farm folks within 20 miles of Antigo, Wis., have gone in for gas in a big way. This new interest of farm folks in heating and cooking with gas started over a year ago with the reorganization of Antigo's City Gas company.

The Antigo utility which manufactured gas from oil, coke and steam converted its plant to "propane-air" gas and offered service



Mrs. Dale Madison, a rural homemaker, has converted her kitchen to gas, and reports it gives her more freedom from kitchen duties.

to farm homes and rural firms within a radius of 20 miles. The new rural customers have their own "backyard utility" in the form of storage tanks for large users and "bottled" installations for homes with smaller consumption.

Because they are a part of the Antigo utility system, country customers receive monthly fuel bill just like the town. Fuel consumption is recorded on a meter attached to their cylinders or tanks. Bad weather can't interrupt service, since a sufficient supply is stored on the premises in advance of use. Empty cylinders are periodically replaced by company service men.

Since the reorganization, rates have been reduced for town and farm users three times.

Contour Farming Cuts Soil Losses in Half

Iowa agronomists report that contour farming cuts soil losses in half, boosts corn yields as much as 7.4 bushels per acre and ups soybean production by 2.7 bushels.

Other advantages from contour farming include lower fuel and operating costs for tractors and other machinery and an increase in the length of corn rows.

The need for more contour cultivation will increase with the steadily expanding acreage of row crops to meet the nation's food needs.

While contouring is a vital step in keeping soil at home, other soil building measures are needed to keep farm land at high yielding levels. Every crop turns up organic matter and uses up plant nutrients. The organic matter can be replenished by growing well-fertilized deep-rooted legumes regularly in the rotation and by returning manure and crop residues to the soil.

Safety Plug

A new safety plug has been developed that should be of interest to most farmers. It has a tiny replaceable fuse. Electrical cords are connected to the plug exactly as they are connected to the wall socket itself. The fuse blows out should a short circuit develop in any connected cord. This prevents current from reaching the danger point, instantly cutting off the source of fire.



Nebraska farmers paid High Cost for Corn Crop Nebraska farmers paid with two lives, 194 fingers, 18 hands, 10 arms, one leg, four toes and 10 feet in gathering approximately 225 million bushels of corn. That is last year's accident record. Failure to stop the cornpicker before trying to remove the stoppage of the machine accounted for almost every accident. Farmers should discuss safety problems with their harvest crews.

SPORTSMAN'S HORIZON BY JIM RHODY

When to Fish?

We have proclaimed often in this department that the time to go fishing is "any time you can get away to go." Naturally, there are many who won't subscribe to that, pointing out that weather conditions too frequently determine whether or not a man may go fishing.

That is true, of course; and we don't mean a man should always go fishing in freezing weather, a roaring gale or when the rain is streaming down in torrents. However, there are times when what would be considered "bad weather" for fishing pays off handsomely.

It did for us and a couple of companions only a few weeks ago when, with streams high and muddy, we set out to a nearby pond to do some panfishing.

Our companions were equipped with minnows and worms. We toted a fly rod and some No. 14 trout flies.

When we reached the pond, the day, which already had started out windy, turned into one wherein the wind was almost of gale proportions. The wind waves on the pond were almost a foot high and whitecaps were running. The wind was so strong that a fly rod, held vertically in the air, took a bend as if a heavy fish were on.

On that particular day and under those specific conditions, we would have wagered that our flies would not have enticed a single strike all day; and our companions agreed with us.

Despite the velocity of the wind, we were able to lay a respectable length of line occasionally and—to our amazement—whenever we did, we got a strike. The bream and crappie were hitting furiously at flies which one would have thought they couldn't even have seen in that kind of water.

The men using minnows and worms caught three fish between them! We point this incident up here to bolster a contention we have made before, that no one will ever get angling down to an exact science.

About "Lead"

By now, the nimrods in many states will be out after rabbit, quail grouse and other upland game. There will be many hits, many misses, and those who miss will always be wondering "how come?"

The answer is not a simple one. Millions of words have been written and spoken on this subject and there has been much discussion as to whether good wing-shooting can be taught.

It can be taught, of course—but only to a degree. That instinct in a hunter which makes him swing his gun muzzle the right distance ahead of a flying bird or a hurtling hare is a mystical something which cannot be completely gleaned from books.

The only answer, as we believe any honest instructor would tell you, is sufficient practice in the field to become a good wing-shot by instinct. But, with our waning fond and game supply, the modern hunter doesn't have the chance to "get good" that his dad and granddad had.

The next best thing, then, is skeet and trapshooting. These are only substitutes and we do not guarantee that religious application to trap or station will make you a good gunner; but it will help to some extent.

Learning to "lead," which is the secret of successful wing-shooting, must be done in the field for best results; and, in the end, wing-shooting is an instant reaction to the three factors of speed, distance and alignment which must be correlated properly if the bird is to be downed or the bunny stopped.

Boys & Guns

The question of when to give his son a gun and when to turn the youth loose in the field with it is a recurrent and serious one for all fathers who sincerely want their offspring to enjoy the pleasures of hunting.

And, it is one which each father must decide for himself; but there are a few guideposts which, if kept in mind, might simplify the problem. They are:

If there is any doubt about the boy's sense of responsibility and awareness of safety, don't let him take the gun out unless you, or some other adult is along.

Try to instill—by repeating as often as possible—the cardinal rules of gun-handling safety into the boy. Don't let the boy take his gun out with just other fellows of his own, or even older, age along.

Weight of Reel

The weight of a fly reel, in the classic specifications, should be one and one-half times the weight of the fly rod. That's what sportsmen used to think. But after the trial and error method proved the fallacy of that thinking, fly rod users came to the commonsense conclusion that the reel should weigh whatever it takes to make the assembled outfit feel "right" in the hand—balanced so as to perform a maximum of service with a minimum of fatigue.

A Young Mechanic Can Make These Toys



A WHOLE fleet of toy trucks of different types, and a warehouse where an endless variety of bales, boxes and packages may be loaded and unloaded. All made of blocks and scraps of wood. Parts of trucks are shaped with actual-size guides. Every step is shown on pattern 212, page 25c.

WORKSHOP PATTERN SERVICE Dept. 18 Bedford Hills, New York

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MENTHOLATUM RELIEVES HEAD-COLD MISERY... ACHY CHEST MUSCLES... COUGHING!

TRY MENTHOLATUM FOR COLDS, CHAPPED SKIN... SO MANY USES!

A LOVELY PARTY! THANKS TO MENTHOLATUM!

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If you have trouble with plates that slip, rock, cause sore gums—try Brimms Plasti-Liner. One application makes plates fit snugly without powder or paste. Brimms Plasti-Liner hardens permanently to your plate. Relines and reties loose plates in a way no powder or paste can do. Even on old rubber plates you get good results six months to a year or longer. YOU CAN EAT ANYTHING! Simply lay soft strip of Plasti-Liner on troublesome upper or lower. Bite and it molds perfectly. Easy to use, tasteless, colorless, harmless to your teeth and gums. Removable as directed. Money back if not completely satisfied. Ask your druggist!

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Here's the secret millions of folks have discovered about FEEN-A-MINT, the modern chewing-gum laxative. Yes, here is why FEEN-A-MINT's action is so wonderful—so different!

Doctors say that many other laxatives start their "flushing" action too soon . . . right in the stomach where food is being digested. Large doses of such laxatives upset digestion, flush away nourishing food you need for health and energy. But gentle FEEN-A-MINT, taken as recommended, works chiefly in the lower bowel where it removes only waste, not good food! You avoid that typical weak, tired, worn-out feeling. Use FEEN-A-MINT and feel your "peppy," energetic self! (Get FEEN-A-MINT! No. 1000 in price—still 25¢, 50¢ or only 10¢.)

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