



COMFORTS WOUNDED — Reaching out to comfort a wounded Chinese Nationalist soldier, Madame Chiang Kai-Shek makes her first public appearance since her return to Formosa. The Madame visited more than 600 patients during her first day's tour. She plans to make a "front-line" visit to Nationalist soldiers on Kingmen Island, separated from Communist-held Amoy on the Chinese mainland by a narrow strip of water. Photo by Acme/NEA staff correspondent Richard C. Ferguson. **EXCLUSIVE**

A Nichols' Worth of—

Comment On This and That

By **HARMAN W. NICHOLS**
United Press Feature Writer

Washington, Feb. 23—(U.P.)—To Hattie Williams, presidents, vice presidents, big shots, and people are all the same.



They all leave a ring around the bathtub, towels on the floor, and lug away bathmats and ash trays as souvenirs. Hattie ought to know. She has been a maid at the Mayflower hotel since it opened on Feb. 18, 1925. She was pretty ho-hum about it last night when the folks downstairs were fishing through the turkey and fish with the 14-karat service as the famed hotel observed its 25th anniversary of the "cocktail center of the world."

Hattie has cleaned up after every president since and including Calvin Coolidge, who once left part of his fishing gear behind.

"You don't know who you're cleaning up after, really," Hattie said. "But I'll tell you this—they all leave a mess."

Well, Hattie is as much a part of the Mayflower as Conrad Hilton. More so, maybe, since Hilton has owned the place only three years.

Watched Place Grow

Hattie watched the place grow from the first turn of the spade at ground breaking. Hilton never saw the hotel until he put the long green on the line. Last night's elaboration was in sharp contrast to the opening. There was, at the time, a big dinner in the main dining room for a few hundred people and then a big dance in the ball room.

Press notices from the early days say that Charles G. Dawes, Coolidge's vice president, was a little backward about accepting an invitation. He finally did—and, history records—"he was one of the last to leave."

Last night, it was a "6 to 8" deal. But that didn't mean that the folks didn't get something to eat. There was buffet table in the main dining room. It was loaded with all sorts of good things. For color there was a sunken garden with azaleas blooming.

Gold Service Used

The gold service, much of it of great historical value, was in use. "We trust our guests," said Bab Lincoln, the public relations lady for the hotel.

"We hardly ever lose any. I don't know how many plain clothesmen we have looking on." The expensive service stuff is a copy of the fine things Dolly Madison had when she was in the White House.

Where as the hotel in 1925 opened with a fabulous banquet, all they had last night were tid-

bits like: **Chicken Livers** Chicken livers on toothpicks in chafing dish. Hot snacks. Canapes moscovite, saltines surprise. Chicken a la king in chafing dish, served on wheat cakes with grilled tomatoes. Louisiana Lobster, crabflakes, and shrimp Newburg with cherry in chafing dish with risotto au safran. Old away bathmats suckling pig with apple renette.

Not to mention the turkey, frozen eggnog in bulk on ice with strawberry sauce, and chocolate mousse in bulk on ice with chocolate sauce.

Hattie looked down on it all from the mezzanine and said: "Looks like a pretty nice party, sir."

Finishes Phone Call Before Killing Snake

Wyalong, Australia, (U.P.)—James Lett, garage man, finished a long-distance telephone call before killing a poisonous, four-foot male snake which slithered into his living room.

Lett was on the telephone when he heard a hissing noise at the door. He yelled for his wife when he saw a snake crawling towards his small baby, told her to remove the baby and close the door.

The call was important, so Lett finished the conversation, then killed the snake.

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4 Versions Explain Valentines' Origin

Kansas City, (U.P.)—You can take your choice of four versions of the origin of Valentines. The ancient custom of exchanging love notes on February 14, according to Jeanette Lee of the Hallmark Greeting Card company, has been traced to (1) the old Roman feast of Lupercalia, (2) a naturalists' discovery that birds begin to mate about the middle of February, (3) "Galatin's Day," a Norman holiday in the Middle Ages, and (4) Valentine, a third-century saint.

No less than three St. Valentines are mentioned in church calendars, Miss Lee noted. One was martyred on Feb. 14, 270 A. D., and left a note for the jailer's small daughter signed,

Motorless Cars Now Foreseen By Science

Cambridge, Mass. (U.P.)—The work of a Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor may take the motor out of the motor car.

Dr. A. R. Von Hippel says a chemical crystal the size of an overnight case can be used to store up to 100,000 volts of electricity which can be used to power an automobile.

Use of stored electric power would eliminate gear shifting and slash the cost of cars with

"Your Valentine." Whatever the origin of the day, Valentines are the oldest known greeting cards, Miss Lee said. They even antedate Christmas cards.

involved conventional engines, he claimed. Crystals made of barium titanite, a material that looks like ordinary porcelain, can store

Thursday, February 23, 1950

10,000 times more electricity than conventional condensers, Von Hippel said.

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