

Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington, Mar. 21—(U.P.)—The first day of spring is just up the road. And like as not that'll mean a house-cleaning time in the light-houses of our shores.



Harman Nichols

The job will be done by the keepers' women folks—un-sung and un-paid heroines. Wives of the keepers have been acting as assistants for years without drawing a dime from Uncle Sam. But a bill now before congress would rectify, at least in part, an old wrong. It wouldn't put the wives on the federal payroll, but it would provide benefits to widows of lighthouse keepers.

The house marine and fisheries committee is looking into a bill introduced by Rep. Edward A. Garmatz (D. Md.). It's a sort of deferred salary payment measure to benefit widows of lighthouse keepers.

Right now there are 389 such widows and their average age is 76. Thomas A. Lee, secretary of the active retired lighthouse service employees, points out that a civilian lighthouse keeper's wife has been part and parcel of the lighthouse service in all respects but one—she isn't on the federal payroll.

Lady Keeps Job
During fog time, who keeps the lighthouse while the tired keeper is asleep? The man's lady. Who has to know about wind, rain, snow and fog? Who gets on the somersault, the wig-wag or flag hoists when the old man is tied up? In the old days, who had to know a rum-running vessel off shore when she saw one? Who got out the broom and dust mop to have the place spick and span for a surprise inspection by the feds? Who was just as lonesome as the keeper?

The lady, of course, according to Tom Lee.
The proposed legislation seems of little consequence to people who never visited a lighthouse, but congressmen have been shelled, via the mails, with letters from lighthouse widows.

Yet the University of Chicago's Dr. Urey—the discoverer of a kind of heavy hydrogen, without which an H-bomb might not even be possible—asserts in the Bulletin that "a very great service has been done" by Senator Johnson. The Federation of American Scientists, with some 1,500 members, has fully agreed.

"Quite unwittingly," asserts Urey, "he has brought to the attention of the people of the United States a problem which should have been considered by them a very long time ago."

Grave Danger
J. Robert Oppenheimer, chairman of the Bulletin's sponsors, chairman of the U. S. atomic energy commission's general advisers, wartime chief of the Los Alamos A-bomb laboratory, adds: "The decision to seek or not seek international control, the decision to try to make or not make the H-bomb are issues... that touch the very basis of our morality. There is grave danger in that these decisions have been taken on the basis of facts held secret."

"The relevant facts could be of little help to an enemy. Yet they are indispensable for an understanding of questions of policy."
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One letter came to a representative from Mrs. Nellie Aronson of Riverside, R. I. Joined in 1899

Her hubby, she said, was in the lighthouse service for 38 years. He joined the service in 1899 as seaman on Hog Island Shoal Lightship No. 12. Later he was assigned as keeper to Pomham Rocks light station in 1908.

"At Pomham Rocks, which was a one-man station a quarter of a mile off shore," Mrs. Aronson said, "I had to know how to handle a boat in good as well as nasty weather. Shortly after we were married in 1900 I learned that I, too, actively was in the lighthouse service, although I didn't get any money for it. One thing I had to learn was how to take care of the fog signal, which is a large bell struck by machinery—a double blow every 20 seconds. It has to be wound by hand—or did in those days."

Entirely Different
"I can assure you, sir, that winding a fog signal and winding a clock are entirely different. It was hard work—manual labor. When something went wrong with the machinery, and it often did, I'd have to pick up a heavy sledge hammer and ring the bell that way—every 20 seconds."

Mrs. Aronson is one among many. She's not complaining, she said, but she thinks she has a right to tell her story. During the 38 years her man was with the lighthouse service he had only 10 days' leave. His sick leave amounted to two months when he was hurt in an accident while on an errand of mercy between lighthouse and shore.

As soon as he was able to hobble after his foot was amputated, he was back on the job.

Use Mail Tribune Want Ads

Drink Will Make Fingers Tingle Sans Drunkenness

Washington, Mar. 21—(U.P.)—The Smithsonian institution claims it has found a drink that will make your fingers tingle but won't make you drunk.

"Some of its effects seem little short of miraculous," the Smithsonian said today.

Made From Bark
The drink is yocco. It is made from the bark of a vine which flourishes in the Amazon jungles. So far only a few small Indian tribes of southeastern Colombia have tumbled to its powers.

Dr. Richard E. Schultes, an agriculture department plant explorer, has gathered specimens of the vine and sent them to the Smithsonian's national herbarium.

Schultes, who has drunk yocco in the jungle "on many occasions," said it has the effect of delaying fatigue and hunger for hours.

"A tingling of the fingers and a general feeling of well-being are noticeable 10 minutes after drinking," Schultes reported. "I have made long trips through the forests and, taking nothing but yocco, have felt neither fatigue nor hunger."

Hunger Quelled
Nor did he ever feel intoxicated. Schultes attributes the vine's power to a high concentration of caffeine in its bark.

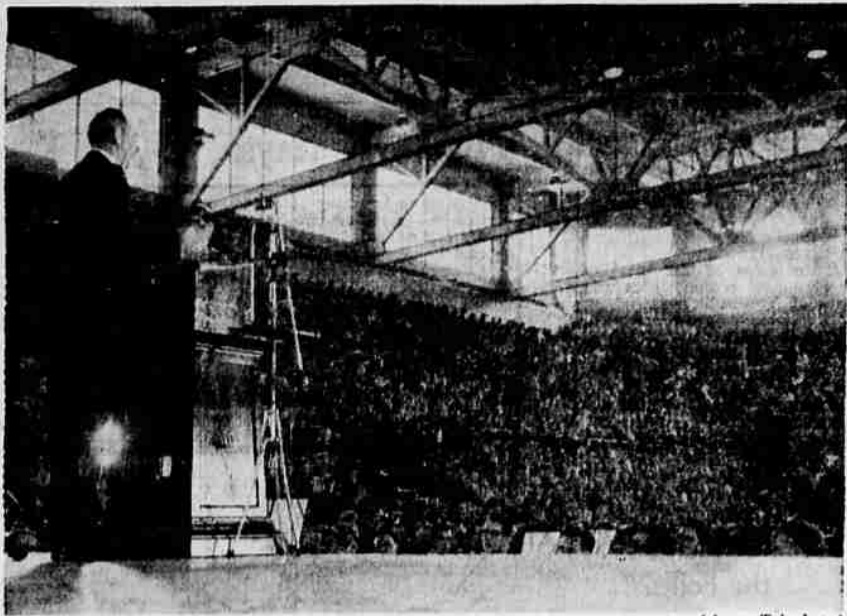
The few Indians who know about yocco's ability "to allay all sensations of hunger for at least three hours and supply muscular stimulation" save a lot of food.

They down several snorts of yocco early in the morning and then, Schultes said, "eat nothing until noontime."

Dead line Sunday Classified is at Noon Saturdays.

MOUSE BROADCASTS
Memphis, Tenn. (U.P.)—Mrs. Billy McCallum wondered why the cat kept watch at the small kitchen radio until she heard a faint sound inside, and it wasn't music. The cat had chased a mouse into the cabinet.

DESERTED TOO OFTEN
Uniontown, Pa. (U.P.)—When Judge W. Russell Carr asked Donald Calhoun why he refused to support his wife, Calhoun replied she had deserted him "50 times." A non-support charge against Calhoun was dismissed.



'PEACE—BUT NOT AT ANY PRICE'—Speaking to a hushed audience of 8000 persons, jammed into the Men's Gymnasium at the University of California in Berkeley, Secretary of State Dean Acheson warns the U. S. S. R. that the United States cannot begin any negotiations until convinced of Russia's good intentions. He said the U. S. "wants peace—but not at any price" and challenged the Soviet to enter into a seven-point program to end the cold war.

Scientists of America Worried Over Hydrogen Bomb Destruction

(Editor's note: The American Society of Newspaper Editors' Committee on Atomic Information, in collaboration with the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, has prepared six articles on the A-bomb and H-bomb. The following is the first—the hydrogen bomb—distributed by the United Press.)

A great number of America's top scientists are worried. They are worried by the new means of destruction that may soon be given to man in the hydrogen bomb.

They fear that Americans have not been told what this and other new weapons can do to them... and that Americans are not deciding—and not even being given the means to decide—how to behave in a world that contains these new weapons.

The scientists fear that whether or not a hydrogen bomb can be built, the total of all modern weapons is affecting our nation's security so rapidly that congressmen and generals and the people are being left far behind.

Could Be Eve Of War
Many fear that 1950 could be the eve of war, and that America is not properly using science to prevent or win it.

Three weeks ago a representative of a publication called the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists visited a midwestern editor, chairman of the committee on atomic information of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

The representative carried a sheaf of magazine proofs—the pages of the still-unpublished March issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.

A scientist who worked on the war's Manhattan project edits the Bulletin. Scientists and scientist-educators like J. Robert Oppenheimer, Albert Einstein, Harold C. Urey and Lee A. DuBridge, president of the California Institute of Technology, are its sponsors.

"For four years," the visitor said, "scientists maintained a self-imposed censorship on talk of the H-bomb. They were reluctant to foster any belief that America was actively developing such weapons, for fear of stimulating the arms race and further straining world relations."

"But now the lid has come off. Now they feel they must talk. They do not all agree on the issues, but they all agree that Americans ought to be thinking

and talking. How can we give the people this message?"

The editor conferred with colleagues all over the country. The result is this series.

Its purpose is only to report what the scientists are saying—and to raise, as the scientists are now raising, a number of questions.

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists started raising these questions in late 1945. In June, 1947, the Bulletin put a clock on its cover, the hands stopped at eight minutes to midnight to mark the little time that remained to solve nuclear fission's immense human problems.

Last October, when President Truman announced Russia's atomic explosion, the hands moved four more minutes ahead.

H-Bomb Issue
Today, finally, there appears the Bulletin's March issue—an H-bomb issue with discussion by top men of science, including men being called on to build this new weapon.

It is only by chance, the Bulletin reminds us, that we know of the H-bomb at all. "It was left to the naive and monumental indiscretion of Senator Johnson, and obvious leaks of official information to journalists such as the Alsop brothers to precipitate public discussion," says the Bulletin.

Sen. Edwin C. Johnson (D., Colo.), member of the joint congressional committee on atomic energy, had appeared on a television program and been asked if there was not too much atomic secrecy.

No, he replied, not enough. "Now our scientists already have created a bomb that has six times the effectiveness of the bomb dropped at Nagasaki, and they're not satisfied at all. They want one that has a thousand times the effect of that terrible bomb that snuffed out the lives of 50,000 people just like that."

"And that's the secret that's the big secret that the scientists in America are so anxious to divulge."

Scientists Gulp
The scientists, who had said nothing, gulped. For better or worse, the secret was out.

For worse, say some scientists—a group of 12 for whom Cornell's Dr. Hans Bethe, important H-bomb consultant, is a principal

spokesman.

Bethe believes that the reasons which induced scientists to impose their self-censorship are still valid. He believes Senator Johnson and others who quickly took up the discussion have damaged U. S. security and peace hopes.

"In the case of the fission bomb, the Russians required four years to parallel our development," wrote Bethe and 11 colleagues.

"In the case of the hydrogen bomb they will probably need a shorter time. We must remember we do not possess the bomb but are only developing it, and Russia has received through indiscretion the most valuable hint that our experts believe its development possible."

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Strange Facts about Water

How long could you live without water?

Man is known to have remained alive without food for as long as 60 or 70 days, yet we would die in just a few days without water. In a normal day, our bodies consume three-fourths of a gallon of water.

THE BEST DRINKING WATER

Many acceptable drinking waters are not desirable for brewing and must be treated to rid them of chlorination, iron content, or other undesirable minerals. The Olympia Brewing Company uses only water from its subterranean wells. It is this rare water that helps give Olympia its constant purity and distinctive flavor.

Enjoy OLYMPIA

"It's the Water"

VISITORS WELCOME
"One of America's Finest Breweries"
OLYMPIA BREWING COMPANY
Olympia, Washington, U.S.A.



Best way to spruce up a telephone is with a soft, dry cloth... never with water, or any other liquid.

HOW TO TREAT YOUR TELEPHONE

Suggestions to help protect your service



1. A twisted cord can lead to trouble. Although the wires are especially designed for flexibility, too many twists and kinks may eventually break them and interfere with service until a repairman can call. Good idea to get the curls out by letting the receiver dangle and unwind by itself... then keep them out by remembering, each time you call, not to put turns in the cord as you handle the receiver.



2. It's built to take it... but your telephone can develop ailments if it's dropped. So make sure the stand it sits on is solid and is in a spot where it won't be accidentally bumped. Other ways to help protect service: Avoid "gadget" attachments for your telephone... keep cords clear of doorways where they may be pinched... and always keep water away from wires and fittings.

3. Did you ever stop to think that your telephone is one service or piece of equipment in your home that's repaired and maintained for life at no extra cost to you? This maintenance is one of the values included in the rates you pay for service... rates that, together with the day-by-day usefulness of your telephone, make it one of today's real buys.

Your telephone is one of today's best bargains

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company