

## A Nichols' Worth of— Comment On This and That

BY HARMAN W. NICHOLS  
United Press Feature Writer



Harman Nichols

Washington — (U.P.) — It was just 150 years ago that Congress authorized a small appropriation to start the Military Academy at West Point.

The beginning was humble. The net result across a century and a half was to help win wars and to influence the nations of the world.

West Point, in 1802, was nothing more than a small engineering school. At first only one course was offered and that provided lessons on how to build fortifications.

One regular Army captain taught a smattering of algebra and another hammered the elements of plane geometry into the heads of the first cadets.

Not Many Students

There weren't many students around in the beginning. In fact, during the first 10 years there were only 71 graduates.

The first of these was one Joseph G. Swift, who grew up to be a colonel. According to old records in the Library of Congress, Swift attained some measure of distinction by standing up and sassing Congress. He told the lawgivers he thought they

were silly to kick in millions of dollars for coastal fortifications when the money ought to be "put to work building up a mobile Army."

**Congress Woke Up**  
Congress, during the War of 1812, woke up to the fact that West Point might amount to something in the national military picture. It authorized an increase in the size of the academy to a point where it could accommodate 250 cadets. Money was allowed for the addition of three more instructors.

The first cadets were accepted without worry over age limits. They took no entrance exams, had to meet no physical qualifications, and they were not even subject to the Articles of War.

Today, a man can be turned down if he has a skin rash on his elbow.

**Commander Famous**  
One of the most famous among the commanders at the "Point" was the fifth. He was Capt. Sylvanus Thayer. It was he who first placed an emphasis on character building, leadership, and discipline.

Some of his ideas still are on the books at the academy.

While he headed up the staff, and shortly after he left, there appeared a number of raw recruits who went ahead to become famous. Among them were fellows by name of Lee, Grant,



**PLUCKED FROM SWOLLEN MERCED RIVER** by Coast Guard helicopter, Curtis O'Hagan, Merced, Cal., taxi driver, is lifted to safety after clinging 12 hours to tree where he was marooned while on frog-hunting expedition with friends. Note second helicopter high to left as dramatic rescue occurs minutes before flood waters from brimful dam would have swept him away. (International)

### Mrs. Burton Appears Winner of Election

Portland — (U.P.) — Mrs. Lillian M. Burton, Portland, appeared Tuesday to have won election as Oregon's Democratic national committeewoman in the closest race on the state's Friday primary ballot.

With 1756 of the state's 2269 precincts reporting, Mrs. Burton had polled 68,726 votes to 67,928 for Mrs. Margaret Cawood, also of Portland, and was pulling steadily ahead on the basis of upstate returns. Mrs. Cawood had carried Multnomah county by 4451 votes and led Mrs. Burton through most of the early counting.

### NO ENEMY NOW

Milwaukee — (U.P.) — Peter Umann, 21, is going to fight for his former enemies. Umann, who fought as a 14-year-old German soldier against the Americans in France in 1944, has enlisted in the United States Marine corps. He came to this country in October, 1951.

Jackson, Meade, McClellan, Longstreet, Sheridan, and Sherman.

Later came men like MacArthur, Eisenhower, Bradley, and many another.

**Funds Once Lacking**  
On three occasions the academy nearly shut down because of a lack of funds. Once a superintendent borrowed \$65,000 from a friend to keep the place going.

During the war with Mexico, Army Chief of Staff Winfield Scott, no West Pointer himself, paid high tribute to West Point. "But for the graduated cadets," he said, "this war would have lasted some four or five years."

Use Mail Tribune Want Ads

### Former Minnesotans Set Picnic June 1

The fourth annual picnic for former residents of Minnesota will be held at TouVelle state park at 1:30 p. m., Sunday, June 1, it was announced today. The picnic will start with a covered dish dinner.

Those attending are to bring their own food and service. Coffee will be furnished and a collection will be taken to pay for it. Anyone wishing transportation or further information is asked to see or call Mrs. Mary De Berry, 522 Crater Lake avenue, telephone 2-9181.

Entertainment will be provided.

### FRIEND FOLLOWS SUIT

Kalamazoo, Mich. — (U.P.) — Lloyd Brooks, 25, stopped at Bronson hospital to visit Richard Pfau, 23, who had undergone an emergency appendicitis operation. While sitting in Pfau's room, Brooks suffered an appendicitis attack and was wheeled to surgery.



## SPOT NEWS

By BOB AND JOE

### How to Protect Draperies

Draperies are, nowadays, a pretty expensive item in the average home. In some instances they're a downright major investment. As such they deserve the maximum protection which you can give them.

**MAJOR CAUSES OF DAMAGE AND DETERIORATION IN DRAPERIES ARE:**

1. Sunburn—actually, oxidation, or to put it more bluntly, burning. Weakens the fabric.
2. Smoke, gasses, fumes, grime and stains. (The principal reason for stains is brushing against a sweaty window.)
3. Lack of frequent cleaning thus hastening deterioration.

To lengthen the life of your draperies and prolong their beauty in your home, do these three things:

1. CLEAN YOUR DRAPERIES OFTEN. This alone will go a long way toward increasing their life span.
2. PROTECT THEM FROM THE DIRECT RAYS OF THE SUN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. Here, use of shades, awnings, linings on the exposed sides of the fabric, and other expedients of a similar nature are eminently worthwhile.
3. KEEP THE DRAPERIES FROM BRUSHING AGAINST SWEATY WINDOWS. The brown discolorations or stains caused by sweaty windows are usually permanent and cannot be removed. And remember that once the fabric in your draperies has begun to deteriorate, it's then too late to expect mere cleaning to restore it. So let us repeat again: CLEAN DRAPERIES OFTEN! AND whether it's draperies or clothes, they'll both be cleaned better when you bring them here.

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## Congressional Probe Of Spud Lack Asked

Washington — (U.P.) — Rep. Robert Tripp Ross, R-N.Y., has proposed a congressional investigation of the potato shortage.

He introduced a resolution to direct the House Agriculture committee to determine whether government regulations caused the shortage and whether foreign potatoes imported into the country are being marketed illegally.

Tuesday, May 20, 1952

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—THREE

## Radio Operator Exams Scheduled May 24

Klamath Falls — Examinations for radio operators, covering radio telegraph, radio telephone, amateur code tests, written examinations and tests for novices and technicians, will be held starting at 8:30 a. m., Saturday, May 24, in Room 38-A at Klamath Union high school here.

Examinations will begin promptly, and those taking the

## DP LEARNS FAST

Holly Springs, Miss. — (U.P.) — Austra Obols, 13-year-old seventh grader who spoke very few words of English less than three years ago, won the Marshall County spelling bee championship. Austra was a member of a displaced Latvian family before coming to this country.

tests should bring pens, ink, rulers and pencils, and those desiring code tests should bring telephone receivers.

Washington — (U.P.) — President Truman will attend Tuesday at West Point a celebration commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Military academy.

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★ Hand-rubbed mahogany finish, selected wood cabinet.

# TRAV-LER

## RADIO PHONOGRAPH

## STATEMENT of ALMUS PRUITT Proprietor

This is the best value in a table model radio-phonograph we have had since the war.

We sold many of the older model Trav-lers, which were similar to this model, and these are giving excellent service. But the older model had only one needle to play all record speeds, whereas the new model has the flip-over cartridge with two needles—one for 78 r.p.m. records and the other for 33 and 45 r.p.m. Either needle may be replaced independently. This feature alone is easily worth \$10.00 extra.

The new model has 3 position tone-control and a wood cabinet completely finished in mahogany veneer.

The new model also has the well-known VM automatic changer which shuts off at the end of the last record and which will handle 10 inch and 12 inch records intermixed. Components like this show that Trav-ler does not stint on quality, in spite of being low-priced.

Come in and hear these now. Arrange for a demonstration while stocks are ample.

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