



GIVING GALS A LOOK at his specialty, wild rice casserole, Andrew Wilson, St. Paul, Minn., bachelor, is lone male to reach finals in national cooking contest at New York. From left: Mrs. C. L. Comstock, Millbrae, Cal.; Mrs. Paul Scheffer, Port Island, Ore.; and Mrs. Lillian Ballenger, Chapel Hill, N. C. There were 100 contestants. (International Soundphoto)

Five-Legged Frog May Become Champion

Rochester, N. Y. —(U.P.)—Thirteen-year-old Gerard Gerstner, the envy of his playmates, may have a champion jumping frog.

Young Gerard is the proud possessor of a frog that has five legs. The youth, a frog-hunting enthusiast, found Freddie when the latter was just a tadpole.

"People may laugh at Freddie because he's got five legs," he said. "But just wait until he becomes the champion."

Gerard hopes that Freddie, with the extra jump-off power afforded by the fifth leg, some day will beat the 9-foot, championship leap made by Gas House Gus in Sarasota, Fla. in 1936.

BOY SCOUTS

Pack 8

Pack 8 Cub Scouts will hold their monthly meeting at Jackson school gym at 7:30 o'clock tonight. A bob cat ceremony is scheduled and all parents of Cubs are urged to attend. There will be games for both Cubs and their parents.

WRONG MAIL BOX

Durango, Colo. —(U.P.)—Postmaster Schuyler Parker asked city officials Wednesday to move a new trash bin away from the Durango post office because people keep "mailing" Christmas cards in it.

Iron Curtain Fence Signs Mean Just What They Say

Mogersdorf, Austria —(U.P.)—A few hundred yards from this village there's a bend in the road where Communist Hungary touches Austria. You can walk up to the Iron Curtain and actually touch it.

It's peaceful looking f2a2r2m country, and as you approach the Curtain it looks at first like an ordinary barbed wire farm fence. Then you see the black-and-white signs: "Achtung, Drahtverhau, Vermin!"—meaning "Beware, Barbed Wire, Mined."

The signs mean what they say. An Austrian woman and her two children were blown to pieces near here by the pressure of one child's body against the fence.

This Soviet-occupied part of Austria is out of bounds to all non-Austrian westerners except diplomatic personnel and accredited newsmen who have four-power passes signed by the Russians.

"Belt of Death" Armed with such a pass, you can approach in relative safety, but Austrian gendarmes warn you to take no pictures and not to linger.

Here is what the Iron Curtain looks like from an arm's length: The barbed wire fence is a double one, two spiky barriers about five feet high strung on stout wooden posts. There is a

space of about five feet between the barriers, and beyond them a 20-foot-wide strip of grass and weeds.

After that comes the "belt of death" which has killed and maimed countless refugees before they could reach the barbed wire. It is neatly plowed soil about 30 feet wide and it stretches like a highway along hundreds of miles of Hungarian frontier.

Buried in this plowed belt lie the heaviest concentration of Communist land mines. The Austrian gendarmes say you have chances of crossing the belt safely at Mogersdorf would be nil without a blueprint of the hidden minefield.

Peaceful? Beyond the "belt of death" the Hungarian countryside appears serene. Farmers move across their fields in the distance, and smoke curls gently up from farm chimneys. Church spires rise above faraway trees.

But in the placid scenery there are more reminders that you are looking into one of Europe's most tightly controlled police states. Standing at that bend of the road, you see three Communist watchtowers within a mile.

They stand several hundred yards back from the fence—tall, rickety structures on legs, poorly camouflaged with brush. You can see moving heads silhouetted in the windows at the top. The Austrians say each tower is equipped with powerful lights as well as weapons, and that often at night the countryside turns suddenly white as the big electric beams sweep the fence in unison.

Driver Voluntarily Gives Up License

Salem, Ore. —(U.P.)—A driver voluntarily turned in his driver's license to the secretary of state's office here after admitting he was wrong. He said he hit a log truck and got a ticket for failure to yield right of way. He wrote: "I always said that if I was to blame for an accident I would never drive another car, so I'm sending my driver's license back. It's no good to me." "I'm 77, so it's time to quit."

Further Cut Seen In Armed Forces

Washington —(U.P.)—The administration plans a further cut in the size of the armed forces in line with its belief that the threat of an immediate war has subsided.

Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson announced Wednesday night that military manpower will be reduced to "something less" than the 3,047,000-man level he had decreed earlier for the new fiscal year beginning July 1.

This reduction would be apart from any cut that might result if Congress adopts the President's proposed new plan for greatly enlarging military reserve forces.

Assistant Defense Secretary Carter L. Burgess emphasized, however, that adoption of the Broadened reserve program "will not give us a chance to do a lot of immediate cutting" in active military strength.

Wilson said he could not give any "particular figure right now" on the extent of the new cut in active military forces. The services currently are undergoing a reduction of 210,266 men which will be completed by June 30.

Landslide Covers Union Pacific Line

The Dalles —(U.P.)—A landslide during a blasting operation covered about 100 yards of the Union Pacific's main line about 24 miles east of here yesterday.

Heavy equipment was brought in to clear the right-of-way where rock had been piled 10 feet deep in places.

Union Pacific trains were rerouted temporarily to the Washington side of the Columbia river onto Spokane, Portland and Seattle railroad tracks.

The blasting was part of a project to relocate tracks in the area of The Dalles dam. It was the third such accident during the building of The Dalles dam. The mishap occurred one mile east of Biggs junction at a point where the Oregon Trail highway was blocked for several weeks in 1951.

Call for Paddy Wagon Brings 29 Fire Fighters

Milwaukee —(U.P.)—When Patrolman Everett Lieske arrested two men here recently, he decided they were too "drunk and disorderly" to leave, so he asked a passing soldier to pull the hook for the paddy wagon at the next corner.

The obliging soldier pulled a hook—the fire hook that is part of the same box—and 29 firemen and two policemen answered the call in three fire engines, two battalion chief's cars and a police squad car. The soldier watched the proceedings quietly and then melted into the night.

Process Makes Safer Track for Railroads

Champaign, Ill. —(U.P.)—The University of Illinois claims 90,000 track miles of railroad laid with tracks made safe by a university-invented process. The U. of I. claims credit for perfecting controlled cooling of the molded rails to prevent rail "cancer" or the breakup of rails started by minute "shatter-cracks" under the rail surface. The controlled cooling process has been used since 1936, but railroads still send rails with suspected failures to the University of Illinois for testing, so the cause may be determined.

Sausalito Opposes Parking Of Houseboats on Streets

Sausalito, Calif. —(U.P.)—If you must live on a houseboat, don't park it on the city streets.

So says Sausalito's city council, and that's what all the fuss is about in this picturesque community that is 20 minutes from downtown San Francisco but seems as far removed as Venice. And like Venice, Sausalito has a few watery streets. To be sure, they are not gondola-laden canals. But the law calls them streets, and they are made of nothing but water.

Sausalito's officials are mighty tired of seeing houseboats parked in the middle of them.

Specifically, there are eight of these streets, created in 1870 when the state of California made a tidelands grant to Sausalito. The city has the option of filling this area—which it doesn't choose to do—but "access by the people to navigable water shall be kept clear." That is state law.

Crossed by Arterials

Four of these streets—Mono, Turney, Pine and Johnson—run vertically from the waterfront to San Francisco bay. They are crossed by four arterials paralleling the shoreline.

Like any other streets, these aquatic thoroughfares divide the area into a series of "blocks."

It's okay with the city if the arks moor there—just so a strong tide doesn't carry them out into the streets where they begin cluttering up the right-of-way.

Down through the years the city has judiciously treated the watery streets just like their paved counterparts elsewhere in the town. When it was necessary to post notices of some proceeding or assessment, city officials hopped in a boat, rowed down the streets and sank posts into the muddy bottom 12 feet below the surface of the streets. Thereon they posted the notices.

Sausalito police have never purchased a seagoing squad car to patrol the salty beat, but City

Attorney John Ehlen says it may be necessary in the future. The houseboat battle started several years ago when one Don J. Arques decided adverse possession or "squatters' rights" entitled him to stay put—street or no.

Ehlen went to bat for the city and dug up the musty statute holding that access to navigable water must be kept clear. A superior court judge ruled that the city had title to the under-water streets and it was a misdemeanor worth \$500 and 30 days in jail to trespass on said streets.

Decision Upheld

California appellate courts recently upheld the decision and the city council thought it had the guns to evict the 20 to 30 arks and their 100 inhabitants.

The ark dwellers were given notice to shift ship into some designated city block or put out in quest of a less restricted residential area. The quaint armada—manned chiefly by artists—stoutly refused to sail so the city brought legal action.

It sued Mrs. Hjordis Hedges, skipper of the good ship Mayo on Litho Street. Mrs. Hedges lately countered that she is no

more guilty of over-parking state health examiners to look into the problem. He says the whole thing smells so much he's wondering if it might not also be a bit unsanitary.

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CHRISTMAS BELL AND TREE COOKIES
Developed by Betty Crocker of General Mills

RECIPE FOR BELL AND TREE COOKIES

Mix with:
1/2 cup Snowdrift
1/2 cup sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla

Sift together, then stir in:
1 1/2 cups sifted Gold Medal Flour
1/2 teaspoon soda
1/2 teaspoon salt

* If you use Gold Medal Self-Rising Flour, omit soda and salt.
Yield: about 5 dozen cookies.

Color 3/4's of dough red or green. Mold this into 1 1/2" x 10" roll and chill. For Bell Shape: squeeze top half together, leaving lower half flared and curving like bell. For Tree Shape, squeeze into triangle. Chill.

Save 1/4 cup of white dough to form bell clappers or tree trunks. Roll out rest of white dough on waxed paper into a 10x5" rectangle large enough to cover colored dough. Trim edges. Wrap around colored dough. Chill.

Slice dough with sharp knife 1/8" thick. Place on ungreased baking sheet, 1/2" apart. Press tiny balls of white dough to bottom of bells to form clappers or to trees to form trunks. Bake 8 to 10 minutes at 375°.

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Suit Seeks \$55,000 From Jacksonville Man

Coquille — A man whose leg was injured in a shooting near Powers, Ore., last July 22, has filed suit in Coos county circuit court here asking \$55,000 damages from Harold S. Bush, formerly of Medford and now of Jacksonville.

Raymond Helton filed the suit and asks \$30,000 general damages and \$25,000 punitive damages. His complaint says his leg was permanently crippled by a bullet wound.

Court records here show that Bush pleaded guilty last Oct. 19 to a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon, and was released on probation, with sentencing delayed two years. Bush now operates a health center in Jacksonville.

Premature Baby Born, Marine Seeking Leave

Marine Corps. Pfc. Frank D. Martin is applying through the Jackson county chapter of the Red Cross for emergency leave from his new station at El Toro Marine base, Santa Ana, Calif., so that he can be with his wife, who gave premature birth to a daughter yesterday at Osteopathic hospital.

The couple was en route from their home at Scobey, Mont., to the base and stayed in Medford Tuesday night at the Bear Creek motel. Mrs. Martin, early Wednesday, was taken to the hospital where the child was born. The baby, which was about two months early, weighed 4 pounds and 3 1/2 ounces. Hospital reports indicate that the infant and Mrs. Martin are in satisfactory condition.

This Woman Confused On Her Geography

Lake Placid, N. Y. —(U.P.)—East is west and west is east in a letter that the Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce just received. "I write to you for information with reference to Sun Valley, Idaho," a woman wrote. "I understand that this is up in the Adirondack Mountains."



Turns away — With "I don't care to look at them," Dr. Samuel Sheppard turns his head away as Chief Prosecutor John J. Mahon offers a photograph of murdered Marilyn Sheppard on her deathbed for him to see. (Courtroom sketch by NEA Artist Ed Kudlady.)