

Laplanders Interested In Recreation, Despite Snow, Cold Weather

(Editor's note: This is the last in a series of articles written for the Mail Tribune by Walter Mattila, Portland newspaperman, while on tour of the Scandinavian countries.)

By WALTER MATTILA
Mail Tribune Special Writer
Rovaniemi, Finnish Lapland—
(By Air Mail) There is a surprising interest in recreation here above the Arctic circle, despite heavy snow, low temperatures and ice-covered roads.
Some 100 miles northeast from

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
I'd like to talk today about an old-new town down in southern Arizona—Casa Grande. It is old in the sense that it has been sitting out there in the hot desert sunshine for goodness knows how long. It is new in that it has been hit by a new industry—the growing of cotton in the Southwest.

Casa Grande is in Pinal county. Pinal is one of America's two largest cotton-growing counties. The other is Kern county, in California. I wonder what our Southern ancestors would have thought—and perhaps said—if someone had told them a century and a quarter ago that the center of the cotton industry would some day move into what was then an unknown region.
I imagine they would have scoffed at the suggestion.

CASA GRANDE is a flourishing little city of some 5,000 permanent residents. At the height of the cotton-picking season, which in the past has ended along in the latter part of February, the population has been about 15,000.

The extra 10,000 has been made up largely of workers in the cotton fields and the gins and the seed-crushing plants. During this period, Casa Grande has been a beehive of industry, with everybody in the town working at top speed to keep up with business.

I HOPE you'll note that I've spoken here in the past tense. Something new has been added to the cotton industry of Pinal county. The new ingredient is the MECHANICAL COTTON PICKER. The machines moved in in a big way for the first time last fall. As a result, the cotton crop was pretty well stowed away by the first of January.

The cotton-picking crew has been nowhere near as large this winter as in the past. The tradespeople have noticed the difference in their business.

FOR as long as I can remember, the mechanical cotton picker has been talked about. The prospect of it has given the towns in the cotton states the shivers for many decades.

Well, it's here. We'll see what we'll see.

PERSONALLY, I doubt if cotton picking machines will wreck the economy of the cotton belt. I don't know, of course. But ever since the beginning of the mechanical revolution in Britain—the power loom was the first startling innovation—short-sighted persons have been saying that the machine will ruin everybody by TAKING AWAY JOBS.

It hasn't. There are fantastically more jobs now than before the advent of the machine. The end result of the machine has been to cheapen production and thus make it possible for everybody to have MORE THINGS.
I think it will work out that way in Pinal county.

I'D LIKE to mention another thing here. The short-staple cotton industry in Pinal county has been made possible by WATER. Presently, the water is pumped up from the underground water reservoirs. There is PRESENTLY enough of it.

But it looks very much like water is being taken out of the ground faster than nature is renewing the supply by the process of rainfall. What will happen if the underground reservoirs begin to SHRINK?

One thing that will happen is that southern Arizona will go HARDER after a larger share of the waters of the Colorado river.

I'LL CLOSE this piece by harping on an old string. AS OF NOW, southern Oregon and far northern California have enough water for all their needs. We have water enough for irrigation, for power, for industry and for recreation.

But if we LOSE any considerable portion of our water by exportation, we WON'T have enough. Without ENOUGH WATER, our future will be dark and uncertain.

And—
Nothing is more certain than that, as the years pass, the pressure for importation of water to meet the needs of the almost waterless Southwest will grow stronger and the prices that will be bid for imported water will go HIGHER AND HIGHER.

here Norwegians, Finns and Gypsies have just completed a full day of horse racing on an oval track made by a logging camp bulldozer on the ice of the Kemi river, which drains most of Finnish Lapland.

Several thousand people witnessed the races and repeatedly skied from the track to the bookies who held forth in a shack.

Women Drivers
Late in the day women drivers handled the steaming racers with remarkable skill. Excellent driving also featured a handicap race in which 30 sulkies were entered.

Just after they made peace with the Russians, the Finns held two days of horse racing on Kemi ice at this site at Pelkosneemi. Appearance of more cars in Lapland has aroused interest in car racing at the expense of reindeer, horse and motorcycle competition on ice.

Everyone here from two years of age is on skis. Skiing spectacles include cross country and jump events at Rovaniemi, the provincial capital, and the logging center of Kemijarvi. Among entries at these events this spring have been Olympic champions.

Three Jumps
Rovaniemi has three jumps, one for children. Among its jumpers is Aauno Luuro, who at the age of 18 in 1952 established at Biersdorf, Germany, the present world's record for distance—462 feet. He is now at a sanitarium for consumption and also suffers from diabetes. His 16-year-old brother ranked fifth among Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish entries at the latest Rovaniemi contests.

In the spring Lapland snow is the skier's delight. It is firm but not crusty and makes for fast skiing until the thaw every afternoon. Special trains and buses bring skiers from southern Finland and northern Sweden to ski events at Rovaniemi.

School children have cross country contests and groups of skiers go on long distance jaunts to remote parts of Lapland, living with the native Lapps. One Helsinki expedition builds igloos of ice for shelter and has come down rivers on floating ice when surprised by an early thaw.

Large Hotels
Large and attractive hotels have been built at Rovaniemi and Kemijarvi for the needs of expanding industry and tourist trade. These have the class of a Lapp costume. Uniformed doormen are on duty at both hotels in all weathers and the cuisine and wine cellar measures up handsomely to continental standards.

Lapland is showing its growing prosperity by having a good time in its grand spring sun over an empire of white and snow-hooded forests.

7,000 Candy Eggs Easter Hunt Plan

A total of 7,000 candy eggs, each in a cellophane sack, will be distributed in the annual Medford Kiwanis Easter egg hunt.

The hunt will be conducted at 9 a. m., Saturday, April 9, at Hawthorne park.

Residents of the Medford vicinity are invited to bring their youngsters, who will hunt in three age groups, 1 to 3, 4 to 6 and 7 to 9 years. Three prizes for boys and three for girls in each age group, 18 prizes in all, are planned for finding lucky eggs. There will be one grand prize.

Committeemen serving with Chairman L. C. McLaughlin are Dr. Bill Bracker, Vern Thorpe, Dell Wright, Cliff Lacy, Bob Church, Bill Singler, Bill Ruffner and Jennings Pierce. Pierce will be master-of-ceremonies.

Kiwanians will package the eggs Friday night at the Bracker home in the Griffin Creek district.

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EN ROUTE HOME—Mrs. Adele Austin Rickett (right) is whisked to waiting auto by friend Arthur Link (center—warding off reporters), a University of California professor, after she stepped from ship which brought her to San Francisco from Hongkong and Red China imprisonment.

Japanese Atom Bomb Victims Due in States

New York — (U.P.) — Twenty Japanese girls, so disfigured by the Hiroshima atom blast that they have lived as virtual recluses, will arrive here within the month for plastic surgery and medical treatment which may return them to normal life, it was announced here today.

Legislative Heads Look To April 16 For Adjournment

Salem — (U.P.) — Senate President Elmo E. Smith (R-John Day) and House Speaker Edward A. Geary (R-Klamath Falls) have set April 16 as the target date for winding up the 1955 session of the Oregon Legislature.

They said it was an elastic date and they wanted no major legislation to be cut off before full consideration of both chambers.

Whether the target date for the sine die adjournment can be reached is dependent largely on the fate of the House-passed tax bills now being studied by the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee headed by Sen. Rudie Wilhelm (R-Portland).

Tax Meeting Set
Sen. Wilhelm has called a meeting tonight at which time his committee will discuss the tax program prepared by the House Tax Committee headed by Rep. Loran Stewart (R-Cottage Grove).

Tax committee members and others in the legislature are concerned over the probability that the three-cents a pack tax on cigarettes and the increase in state personal income taxes, major points of the House tax program, will be referred to the voters if passed by the Senate. Because of this concern, a special election may be provided to give the voters a chance

to decide upon the issues. Just how many measures would be submitted at such a special election has not been determined.

Detroit — (U.P.) — A Wayne county road patrolman investigated a report that someone scattered roofing nails in front of a real estate office. He arrived on foot. He reported his patrol car had a blowout when a nail pierced a tire.



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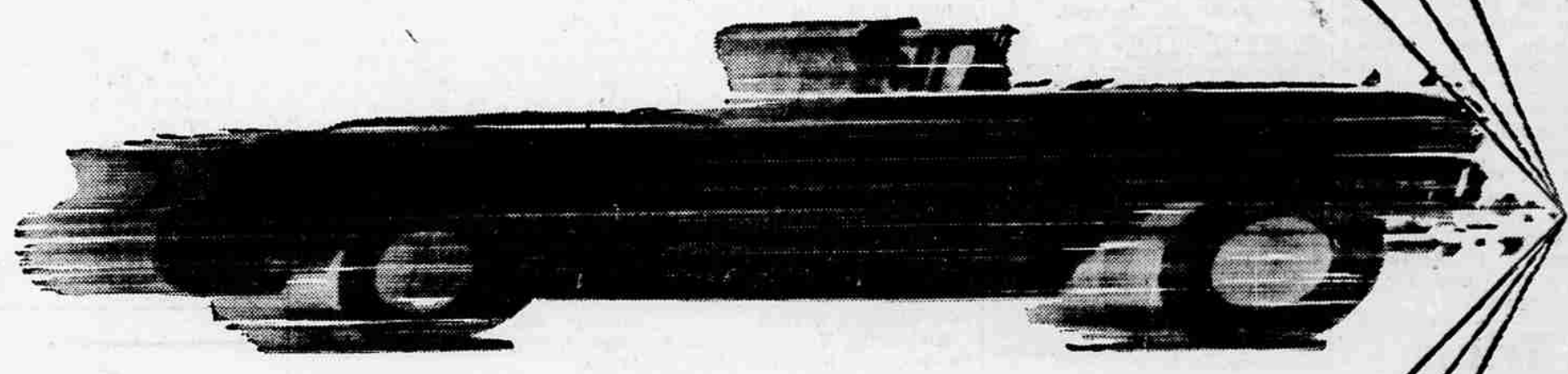
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