

# Joan Crawford Turns First Plane Trip Into Elopement To Las Vegas

Las Vegas, Nev. —(U.P.)— Ten years of life as a single woman ended today for actress Joan Crawford when soft drink executive Alfred N. Steele, 54, took her for an airplane ride that turned out to be an elopement. Miss Crawford, 47, and the president of Pepsi Cola Co. were married in a quiet civil ceremony after a spur of the moment flight in Steele's private plane from Hollywood. The actress' marriage to Phillip Terry, her third, ended in 1945.

**Marriage No Surprise**  
Steele, who divorced his second wife, Lillian Nelson, this March in Acapulco, Mex., has escorted Miss Crawford for three years and their marriage came as no surprise to friends in Hollywood.

The couple were dining at Romanoff's restaurant in Hollywood last night when Miss Crawford remarked she had never flown before. Steele at once offered to take her up in his private plane, friends said.

Steele, of New York, hired an American Air Lines pilot and the whole party flew here. En route, the couple decided to make the trip their elopement, and a few hours after they arrived, they were married by Municipal Judge John Mendoza in the penthouse of the Flamingo Hotel.

Burt Knighton, Steele's assistant, acted as best man. Other friends attending were Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Fuller of Fort Worth, Tex., Mr. and Mrs. Ben Goffstein, of Hollywood, and Dave Schiller.

Miss Crawford wore a black, off the shoulder silk dress and a fur stole. The clerk who issued the wedding license described her as "perfectly beautiful."

The actress, who just finished making the film "Queen Bee" for Columbia studios, had planned to leave soon for several months in Europe and it was expected Steele would go along.

making the trip their honeymoon. "I'm the happiest woman alive" Miss Crawford said after the ceremony, "and I'm going to make him the best wife in the world."

The dark haired actress has adopted four children. Before her marriage to Terry, she was married to Douglas Fairbanks Jr., and Franchot Tone.

## Benson Appeals For Womanpower

Washington —(U.P.)— Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson appealed today for womanpower to help "hold the line" against Democratic attacks on the GOP farm program.

"We need your help . . . in keeping public opinion on our side," he told a record turnout of 1,500 delegates to the annual Republican Women's National Conference.

Benson said a recent House vote to junk the administration's flexible farm price support program and restore rigid high supports "is a backward step."

"We need you as our spokesmen to convince the businessman, the farmer himself, and each taxpayer of the need to go strongly ahead with a program of research and market development, and not to fall back on a system that relies chiefly on subsidies and controls," Benson said.

Benson wasn't the only top official asking the ladies' help for administration policies. Others followed suit and the President himself was to address the group today.

## Ex-Medford Boy Earns Scholarship

Robert A. Goff, son of Cmdr. and Mrs. Wayne Goff of Arlington, Va., former residents, has been awarded one of the alumni war memorial scholarships given by Colgate university. Young Goff will graduate in June from the Washington-Lee High school at Arlington. He is a grandson of Mrs. Lydia Goff, 410 Beatty st., and he attended Medford High school for two years while living at his grandmother's home.

## Willamette Dredging Expenditure Approved

Portland —(U.P.)— An expenditure of \$70,000 for dredging in the upper Willamette river harbor was approved yesterday by the Port of Portland. The channel will be deepened to allow deep-water vessels to navigate upstream from the Ross Island bridge.

Dredging of about 350,000 cubic yards is expected to begin late this month and to require 22 days for completion.

Commander Goff is with the coast guard.

Robert is one of 26 scholarship winners, selected from the over 650 applicants from 29 states, District of Columbia and the Hawaiian islands. The honor is the highest recognition which can be given to a freshman entering Colgate university, according to a university release.

Commander Goff recently received orders to make a two-month inspection tour of coast guards of Holland, France, England, West Germany, Denmark and Sweden.

**ENGAGEMENT TOLD**  
Seattle —(U.P.)— Engagement of Dody Heath, Seattle actress, to John Ringling North, owner of Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, was announced here yesterday.

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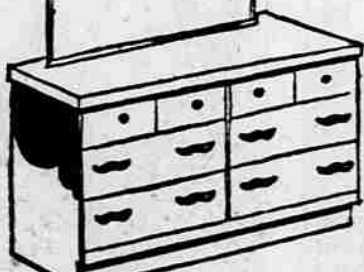
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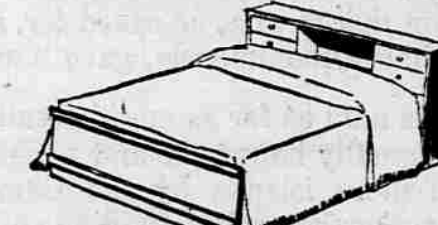
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