

Government Sells Submerged Land In Atlantic Ocean

Washington — (U.P.)—The General Services Administration has sold a non-existent lighthouse located on land found to be submerged in the Atlantic Ocean.

The story starts back in 1710 when Edward Tynte, then governor general, admiral, and commander in chief of the provinces of North and South Carolina, gave 65 acres of land to a William Russel.

The land was known as Thomas Island and at the time was located in the middle of Charleston, S. C. harbor. In 1854 the government bought 6.95 acres of the land on which to build a lighthouse.

In 1938 the government decided to find out what real property it owned that it no longer needed. It decided it no longer needed the lighthouse or the 6.95 acres—probably because no one could find them.

Geodetic and coastal survey charts for 1858 show the lighthouse site to be about one-fourth mile inland from the shoreline. Charts for 1870 showed a slightly changed position, but still inland.

By 1936 charts showed that two-thirds of a mile of shoreline had disappeared and that the lighthouse, if it existed, would be about 340 yards out in the ocean. The coast guard said, even allowing for certain chart corrections, the lighthouse site still would be in the ocean.

But General Service is responsible for disposing of unneeded government property, and no property listed as owned by the government can be abandoned without specific authority from Congress.

So, the Atlanta, Ga., GSA office advertised the 6.95 acres for sale with the warning that it was submerged land. GSA received one bid offering \$30. The bid was accepted.



PICKET RUSS TOURISTS—More than two dozen former Ukrainians picket in front of a Chicago office building as members of the Russian farm delegation visiting the United States hold a press conference and buffet supper in the building.

On The Side

By E. V. Durling

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Before dining for the first time at a restaurant you should ask to meet the chef. If he is thin and sad in appearance that is not a good sign. The food served will probably not be outstanding. However, if the chef is fat and jolly looking proceed to your table and order with confidence. The food will probably be superbly prepared. That's what M. Fernand Point claimed. Monsieur Point was the maestro of the celebrated Pyramids Restaurant in Vienna, France. He has been rated as the greatest modern chef. He was six feet, five and weighed 235.

Asking
Queries from clients. Q. What is your authority for the claim that locale of the poem "The Face on the Floor" was a bar-room on Union Square, New York City? A. Hugh d'Arcy the New York actor who wrote the poem, said so. . . . Q. You can end an argument at our house by telling who is the world's richest man. My husband says it is the Aga Khan. I say it is the Nizam of Hyderabad, and my sister-in-law claims it is a Texan named Hunt. A. World's richest man is Sheikh Abdullah of Kuwait. His income from oil wells averages \$3,000,000 a week!

Please Note
A dry shaver that requires no water, no soap, no blades and no electricity. Am asked if I reported there was such a gadget. I did. It is a British invention. Uses a rotary cutting head. However, while I know there is such an implement I don't know what kind of a shave it produces. Have never tried it. I like to shave with plenty of water, soap and a sharp blade.

Never a Bride
Are men afraid of physically powerful woman? Joan Rhodes is beginning to think so. Joan, rated the world's strongest woman, is a smart looker with a well streamlined figure. She was once a dress model. None of the men Joan hoped would propose to her did. Miss Rhodes can break steel nails with her finger nails, lift a 360-pound barbell and also lift a table with five men standing on it. She can toss a 200-pound man across a room.

Maybe this last named accomplishment is what makes men afraid of Joan. No man wants to worry about a wife who may lose her temper occasionally and start tossing him about the living room.

Passing By
Henry King, hard working Hollywoodian, has been in the film industry over 40 years and never out of a job. Began as heart throb type actor in a serial titled, "Neal of the Navy." Became a director at the time those handling that job used mag-pings and wore puttees. Mr. King's latest film is titled, "Love Is a Many Splendored Thing." It's going to be some struggle to get that all up on a theater marquee. If it isn't the longest film title in movie history, what is?

Secretaries
Am asked what an executive's secretary can hope to receive as a weekly wage in a business office in Manhattan. That depends on how important the executive is. Salaries of girl Fridays for top flight executives in New York City run from \$80 to \$100 a week. Stenographers command from \$60 to \$75. Typists \$55 to \$60. Those outer office queens technically known as "receptionists" get from \$50 to \$60 a week.

Something New
Considerate male inventors continue to originate gadgets that make life much simpler for women. As for example, a gadget designed to make it easy to take tight tops off containers. Also a frying pan that never has to be washed. After it is used once this frying pan is thrown away. Then there is a window washer that enables the user to wash the outside of the window from inside the house. Also recently invented is "a pocket siren." With this a woman molested by a prowler can send out piercing mechanical screams for help.

DEPOT CONCERTS
Ottumwa, Ia. — (U.P.)—Don Watters, a local school teacher, bought an electric organ but found he didn't have room for it in his living quarters. He persuaded the management of a bus depot to house it. Whenever Watters wants to play he goes to the depot and entertains the waiting passengers.

Taking of Vitamins Not Always Necessary

New York — (U.P.)—The question of taking vitamins is a controversial subject. Some doctors and laymen say we need them, others say we don't.

Now a medical journal—M.D.—says sometimes we do and sometimes we don't.

On the authority of its publisher, Dr. Felix Marti-Ibanez, the medical journal makes the statement that "the average American diet contains enough of the essential vitamins and minerals to keep older children and younger adults in good health."

But, the journal says, there are three danger periods in the course of life when vitamins may be necessary. . . . "infancy, old age, and during situations of stress."

Columbia Basin Land Drawings Scheduled

Mesa, Wash. — (U.P.)—The Bureau of Reclamation will hold the last 1955 Columbia Basin land drawing here tomorrow night.

The drawing will give purchase priorities for 80 units in Block 19 near Mesa. The farm units range from 60 to 139 acres in size and will sell for from \$1400 to \$8,000.

The units involved in the drawing are the first to be sold in the Mesa area. Irrigation water will be available on the units next year.

Reclamation officials said they will have three Columbia Basin land drawings in 1956.

Legislation Receives Test In Conference Committees

Washington — (U.P.)—Legislation follows a tortuous path through both houses of Congress, but one of its toughest tests come in a joint Senate-House meeting called a conference committee.

Conference committees have the job of resolving all differences in new bills passed by the two houses and are sometimes called, "the Third House of Congress." Senate and House versions of a bill must be identical before they are offered for the President's signature.

An example of the sometimes wide difference of opinion brought into a conference committee is the case of the tax bill passed this year. The administration's original proposal was to extend corporation and excise tax rates, due to expire April 1, for another year at the same level. But the House tacked on a general \$20 tax cut for all taxpayers.

The Senate knocked out the tax cut provision. A conference committee was then set up to iron out the difference between the two bills. After token opposition by backers of the House version, the committee adopted the Senate bill.

Rules Numerous
Rules under which conference committees operate are numerous. They fill 16 pages in the Senate Manual and 14 pages in the House Manual. Committee members are appointed for the Senate by the Vice-President, after Senate authorization, and for the House by the Speaker. Generally, these include the senior majority and minority members of the Senate and House committees handling the legislation.

When both bodies have passed a bill in different forms, either may call a conference. If the other decides to hold out for its amendments, a committee is set up. The number of members from each house need not necessarily be the same. Each body has only one vote and majority opinion on each side determines how it is cast. The chairman usually is the senior senator of the majority party serving on the committee.

Forbidden
The conferences are forbidden to eliminate or change parts of the legislation agreed on by both houses or to include new material not approved by either house. An entirely new bill can be written by the conference if one house has struck out all the other's version and substituted its own as an overall amendment. Everything in the legislation is then in disagreement and subject to revision by the conference.

All sessions of a conference committee are closed and no records of the proceedings are kept. A report of the work is made on a prescribed form, indicating changes agreed to and rejected.

Written Statement
The House, since 1880, has required that every report be accompanied by a written statement explaining the effect of the changes made by the conference. This is the only written record of a conference because the Senate has no such rule. Oral statements are made by Senate conference members when the report is presented.

Reports must be accepted, rejected or recommitted in their entirety. If either or both of the houses reject a report, a new conference is usually set up.

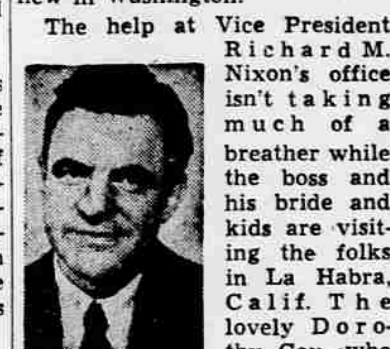
In the House, conference committee members can be discharged if they do not bring in a report within 20 days after their appointment. In the closing days of a session, this time is shortened to 36 hours.

The conference's off-the-record type of meeting has been criticized as being an easy mark for high-pressure lobbyists. Opinion on Capitol Hill, however, is that the method works well.

A Nichol's Worth of . . . Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington — (U.P.)—What's new in Washington: The help at



Vice President Richard M. Nixon's office isn't taking much of a breather while the boss and his bride and kids are visiting the folks in La Habra, Calif. The lovely Dorothy Cox, who ought to be in California making pictures, and the equally lovely Miss Nelson, are up to their pretty ears answering correspondence that should have been answered shortly after the last election. The work has piled that high.

A few unscrupulous people in town apparently are taking advantage of the congestion caused by the transit strike. Thumpers complain that a few drivers in private cars accept hitch-hikers and then try to charge them cab rates when they deliver them to the door. A few, according to the police, have been turned in to the hack inspector.

The Pentagon tells of a complaint from some Army GIs in the 34th Infantry Regiment of the Seventh Division in Korea. The boys were barely seated to see a movie when they were informed the show would not go on. It was announced that some clown had stolen the film. The movie which never was shown was called "The Looters."

Sir Roger Makins, the British ambassador, went to Chicago to make a speech at the Governor's Conference. He told this one. He said he made a point to travel in the United States and had been in most of the states. He said he would like folks to know that not all diplomats tried as hard to learn the territory. One British

diplomatic official, he said, served in the United States without setting foot on the mainland. "He had an office on Manhattan Island, lived on Staten Island and spent his holidays on Long Island," Sir Roger said.

The National Geographic Society wants us to know that airplanes are becoming noisier. New jet engines with powerful afterburners generate 150 decibels, a "fury of sound equivalent to 1 1/2 billion people all talking at once. A horrible thought, all by itself.

The Department of Agriculture thinks that home canners ought to stick to the old methods when it comes to canning tomatoes. Tomato juice is fine in the freeze department, the USDA says. But take a whole tomato and put it in the freezer and it is apt to become "soft and leaky and likely will fall apart when it is thawed." The department quotes recent tests at the Michigan Experiment Station, which knows its tomatoes.

A CHANGE
Campton, N. H. — (U.P.)—Sixty-five town voters decided this year to replace a 50-year-old wooden water pipe with something more modern. It will cost \$20,000 to change over.

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