

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

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington — (U.P.) — I don't want to hear any more yak from the folks in the back seat about my driving.



Here I am to tell you all that, if I had the right union card and was pressed by the right concern, I could drive one of those 10-ton trucks.

Fact is I did. It happened on the concrete apron that flanks the National Guard Armory. Sort of a test of newsmen in advance of the championship finals by the drivers at the American Trucking Association's annual rodeo.

The newsmen were a motley crew. Fire chasers mostly. People who don't follow the rules. Like Harry Gabbett, the witty little man from the Washington Post and Times-Herald. There was Art Edson of the Associated Press, who preferred to watch rather than drive, although he did pilot for a few seconds. And Frank Sartwell of the Washington Star, who doesn't even own a drivers license to steer a private vehicle.

Woman Driver Included
Not to mention Mary Britton, a cute little chick from the International News Service, who had curves in her favor, acted like a woman driver, if Mary will pardon me. Although, heaven knows she tried and didn't do too bad. There were others who chose to sit in the cab of a \$25,000 trailer truck for pictures rather than try the obstacle courses.

My particular truck was a White. My instructor was a bright young trucker from Washington, Dave Luening. He is studying transportation at the University of Tennessee. Dave was pretty fancy. He raced across the area with nothing behind his cab, wheeled about and backed it into the trailer. Backed it square, too. There was a click. We were tied and locked to the some 30 feet of storage space behind. All in a nonce.

AUTO HITS "BOAT"
Trenton, Neb. — (U.P.) — A little Council Bluffs, Ia., boy received only bruises when his "boat" was hit by an auto here. The "boat" was a log Sidney Porter, 2, was floating on in Swanson Lake. The log was hit by a runaway car that ran into the lake.

Milk cows on North Dakota farms in June, 1955, numbered 370,000 head—down 10,000 head from June, 1954.

Dave said: "Take her over." Others Fall Course
Everybody else had knocked over the rubber balls placed on tees over what looked like a straight course. Ahead of me Gabbett had knocked over a couple of props while trying to back and park. Frank Sartwell bruised a couple of curbs and the lovely Mary Britton scored a near-miss on the big armory itself.

She said she was sorry. No damage done.
This tough one, with the rubber balls, leaves you about four inches on either side of the big tires. You start out straight. Knock over a ball and you are out. Dave warned that it isn't really a straight course. The rubber balls are moved in by the sixteenth of an inch so that the work with the steering wheel is all important.

This old driver of trucks put the White truck in third, closed his eyes and went right ahead. You might call it blind luck, but every rubber ball was at its proper station when the test was over.

Fertilizer Should Improve Saleable Fruit, Cordy Says

Fertilizer is valuable to orchardists only if it increases the amount or improves the size and grade of marketable fruit, according to Cliff B. Cordy, county horticulture agent.

Improving the health of the tree is important only because it is then capable of producing more and better fruit. Increased crops result from a large amount of fruit set, or by growing the fruit to a larger size, Cordy said.

Improves Anjous
Anjous always produce an abundance of blossoms but frequently fail to set a heavy crop. Tests have indicated that 20 pounds of sulfate of ammonia per tree is a minimum likely to materially improve fruit set. Smaller amounts will improve tree appearance but have little effect on crop yield.

Other varieties generally set plenty of fruit. In this case crop increases are dependent on a more vigorous tree which can hold and produce a larger tonnage. Five pounds of sulfate of ammonia per tree will give some improvement.

However, if trees need more growth or the foliage is sparse and poorly colored, up to 20 pounds per tree can be profitably used, according to Cordy.



MARCH OF DIMES STEER—Patsy Charley, 4-H club member of Central Point, is shown with Pogo, the March of Dimes steer she has been caring for the past month. The steer, sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, has passed the 750 pound mark on a fattening ration provided by Fisher Mills and hay provided, this month, by Medford Feed and Seed company. Bred by John Bohnert, Central Point, Pogo will provide funds for the March of Dimes fight against polio when tickets are sold in January.



DRIVING TO COUNTRY for weekend meeting with Princess Margaret, Capt. Peter Townsend is in happy mood as Englund assumes he is to marry Queen's sister. (International)

Reservists May Become Eligible For Commissions

Young men entering the Army reserve and completing six months of active duty may become eligible to apply for a commission in the reserve, the Army has announced.

Personnel must attain the grade of sergeant while participating in reserve training after completing their initial six months training period. Men seeking appointment as second lieutenants will be required to complete appropriate Army extension courses.

Recommendations
Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 28 and be physically, morally and professionally qualified for the appointment. A board of officers will make recommendations as to qualifications of applicants.

The eight year enlistment program offers men under 18½ years of age a draft-deferred status if they agree to take active duty training for six months and then satisfactorily participate in training with their local unit for the balance of the eight year enlistment.

High school students who enlist may be deferred from the six months training until they complete high school or reach the age of 20, whichever is earlier.

Flaming Object Falls Into Yard at Portland

Portland — (U.P.) — Paul Moretz told police yesterday a "fiery object" fell from the sky and buried itself in a lot at the rear of his residence.

Moretz said he and his son were watching television about 6:30 p.m. yesterday when the flaming object plunged into the ground.

Firemen were called to investigate but because of darkness were unable to locate the object. They said it might have been an airplane flare. The investigation will continue today.

Timber valued at more than 70 million dollars was harvested in national forests in the year ended June 30, 1955.

Clark Gable To Be Father in May

Hollywood — (U.P.) — Film star Clark Gable, childless in four marriages, expects to be a father next May.

A week ago the 54-year-old actor, for two decades one of the nation's top matinee idols, denied that his wife was pregnant. Mrs. Gable, the former Kay Williams Spreckels, said they learned from her doctor on Friday that she is expecting a baby. The child will be delivered by caesarean section in late May, she said.

She has a son Adolph, 5, and a daughter, Joan, 4, by her third husband, sugar heir Adolph Spreckels.

Mrs. Gable said she had hoped to keep her pregnancy secret for a while but the actor "spilled it to everybody" at a party Saturday night.

"He's certain it'll be a boy," she said.

The couple was married last July 11 in Minden, Nev. When they returned to Gable's Encino

Ranch after a brief honeymoon, the couple told newsmen that they both wanted to have children.

Broadway Gang Mauled Theater Usher

Portland — (U.P.) — Benjamin Tangeman, 16-year-old usher at a downtown Portland theater, said today he was knocked unconscious and was scratched with a knife late Saturday night when about a dozen so-called "Broadway Gang" youths crashed the theater.

Tangeman, who also suffered a bruised cheek, was not badly hurt.

He said about 12 youths, from 16 to 18 years old, rushed past him just before midnight Saturday. He tried to stop them but was knocked out in the melee, after which the theater crashers fled.



WORKING ON HOBBY as amateur chef, Mickey Cohen is busy in kitchen these days at Los Angeles home following release from McNeil Island prison after serving term for income tax evasion. With him is wife, LaVonne. He hopes to open restaurant on Los Angeles' Sunset Strip. (International)

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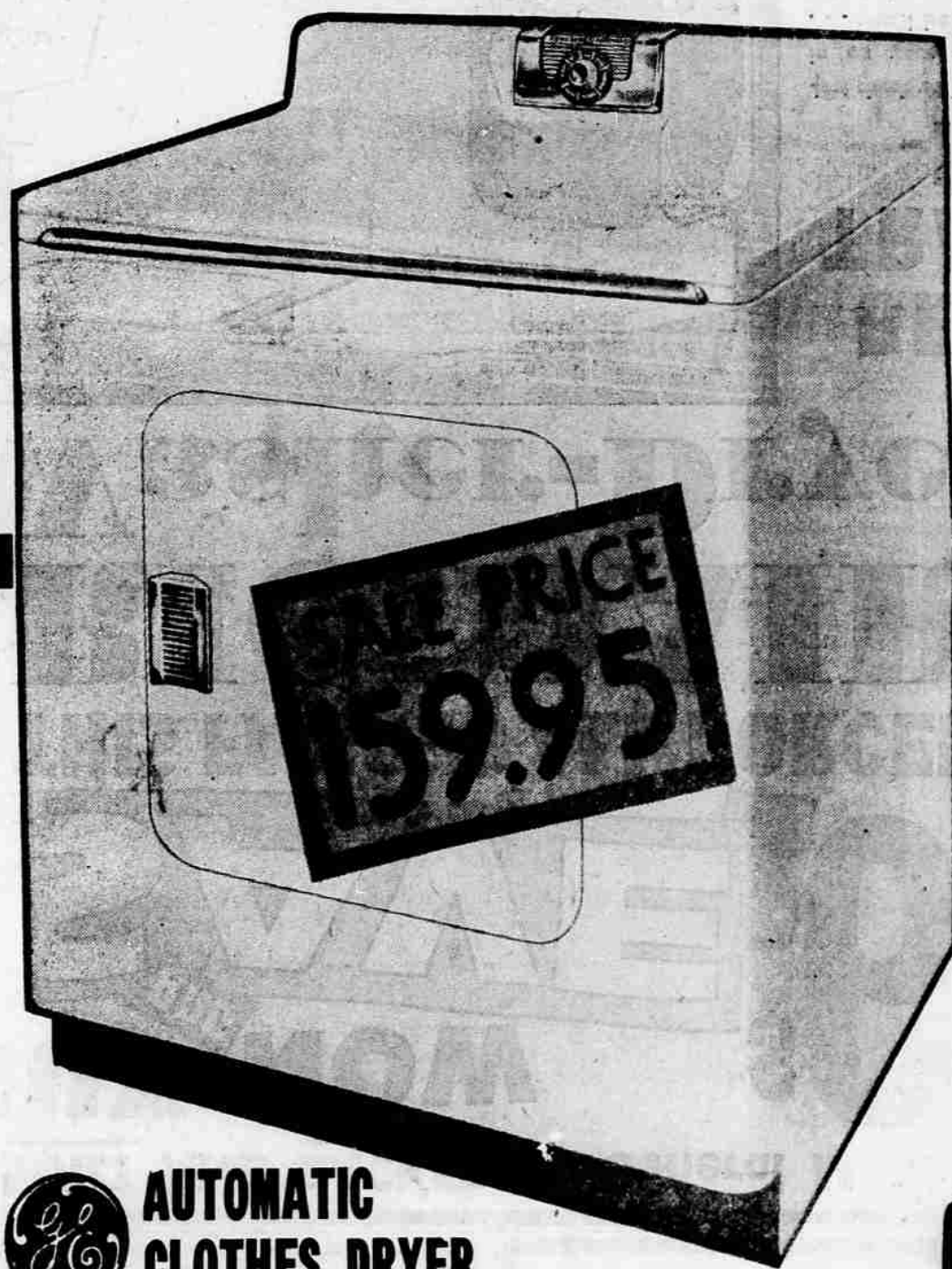
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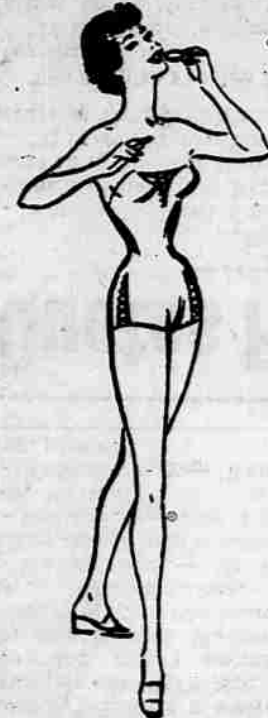
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