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:

Harman Nichols

In this congested city, the Washington Parking Association has done something pretty nice. Anybody who wants to drive down town for church can park in any lot or garage free on Sunday. The program will run past the yuletide—from now on.

The Farm Bureau news letter reports that if each of the 50,000,000 families in our land serves just a single kraut, pork and apple dinner, a 100,000,000 pound dent could be made in the pork supply. The suggestion originates with the kraut packers, naturally.

Maybe you never heard of the Peripophthalmus barabusus. Well, according to the Smithsonian Institution, which knows most everything, it is commonly known as the Mudskipper, described as a "pop-eyed aquarium fish that can skip, or jump as far as 20 feet. It has two large eyes with an extension on top of its head that allows them to be raised or lowered at will. Each eye is capable of independent sight. One may be looking under water, while the other is observing out of the water." You learn something every day.

The National Democratic Committee received a letter addressed to "President or Sen. Adlai Stevenson." There was no signature, but there was a $5 bill inside.

Reporters covering the Joint Congressional Economic Committee hearings on tax policies stopped loafing and put pencil to pad when Sen. Paul H. Douglas, the Democrat from Illinois, started to spiel. Why not, he said, let the government take over collections of all state income taxes, and redistribute the money? Turned out the senator was just talking, not proposing. That was a joke, folks. But it happened here.

The postmaster of the House of Representatives, Hap Morris, says that mail going out of the House Office Building is heavier than usual this Christmas time. Packages and cards and letters back home. The incoming mail, for some reason, isn't so heavy.

Vice-President Richard M. Nixon has a Christmas card from a little girl named Judith in Tucson, Ariz. "I know we have never met. You are my vice-president and I feel it necessary to give you a Christmas card."

Nixon also had a long hand-printed letter from a young fry in New England who said he wished the vice-president would "pass a law so we could have school a lot longer. Maybe 14 months a year."

Mr. Nixon is giving that one more than considerable pause.

Indians Pessimistic On Beaver Dams

New Delhi, India —(U.P.)—An Indian woman politician today failed to convince the government that American beavers are dam builders of the highest order.

Mrs. Kamlendumati Sha, member of Parliament from Tehri-Sarhwal, said beavers should be imported from the United States to help fight erosion. But the deputy minister for irrigation, Jaisukh Lal Hathi, said no.

Mrs. Shah asked the following questions:

1. Whether it is a fact that an animal called the beaver is used to construct dams in the United States.

2. Whether it is a fact that the above animal can finish an 18-foot-long, six-foot-wide dam in about three weeks.

3. Whether it is a fact that beavers have been credited with saving thousands of acres in Northwest America from erosion, and whether the government proposes to import these animals for a similar purpose.

Hathi replied that "it is understood beavers are used as such in logging areas," but he said he had no information on parts two and three, and did not plan such a program.

The two largest cities in Missouri—St. Louis and Kansas City—were linked by railroad service for the first time in 1865.

They'll Do It Every Time — By Jimmy Hatlo

Russian People Go On Shopping Spree But There's No Christmas Celebration

By HENRY SHAPIRO
United Press Staff Writer

Moscow — (U.P.) — Tall fir trees, strung with lights and capped by shining stars stand in all the principal squares of Moscow.

Figures of Santa Claus are in every store window.

People shopping for gifts crowd the big department stores and the scene looks just like Macy's basement.

But all this has nothing to do with Christmas.

There is no Christmas, officially, in Soviet Russia. This season of exchanging gifts is the celebration of the new year.

Grandfather Frost

The decorated trees are not Christmas trees but something called the "yolka" which Russians have used for generations to mark the mid-winter season. The star on the top is the five-pointed star of the Soviet flag.

And the man who looks like Santa Claus is really "Ded Morroz," or Grandfather Frost, a character of Russian folklore dating back to pre-Christian times.

It is Ded Morroz who, on New Year's Eve, descends from the North Pole with a team of reindeer bringing cheer and gifts to Russian children and grown-ups. His companion is "Segurocha," the snow maiden who helps him decorate the yolka.

Grandfather Frost and the snow maiden were in disgrace for a few years after the Communist revolution but by the mid-30s they were welcomed back by Soviet officials. But as symbols of the new year, not Christmas.

Dec. 25 is an ordinary working day on the Russian calendar. The Soviet encyclopedia defines Christmas as "The birthday of the mythical founder of Christianity."

Devout members of the Russian Orthodox church quietly celebrate Christ's birthday. But for the great mass of Russians, the occasion for giving gifts and general merriment is New Year's Eve.

As in the West, Russians are advised to do their holiday shopping early. They have been jamming department stores to buy anything from inexpensive toys to prohibitive priced television sets.

Popular Trees

"Yolka" trees are on sale at 10 to 30 rubles, depending on size. Yolka decorations can be bought anywhere. There is practically no home in Moscow without its yolka tree on New Year's Eve.

Moscow's 48 restaurants are advertising warnings to customers to make reservations early for gala midnight dinners costing from 50 to 100 rubles.

There will be all night dancing to jazz orchestras in the restaurants and hotels and around yolkas in city squares.

The big event for many children will be a public party at the Kremlin, in one of the Czar's palaces. Dancing will take place around a giant yolka tree standing in the middle of St. George's hall where President Klimenti Voroshilov usually entertains the diplomatic corps.

Court Records

DISTRICT COURT

Lawrence L. Clark, reckless driving, $40; operator's license suspended 20 days.

Clarence G. Hedgpeth, overload, $153.

David H. Griffiths, drunk in public place, $15.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Willard Julian Baysinger and Alta Helen Good Solomon, both Jacksonville.

Alex Henry Vahle, Pine Knot, Ky., and Monnie King, Glendale.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

Western Germany Television Star Like American TV Aces All Rolled Into One

By WILLIAM EWALD
United Press Correspondent

New York — (U.P.) — The chances are you've never heard of Peter Frankenfeld, but he's Arthur Godfrey, Ed Sullivan and Hal March all rolled into one.

In West Germany, that is.

Frankenfeld, says Frankenfeld, is the No. 1 TV star on the network that links Berlin, Stuttgart, Munich, Cologne, Frankfurt and Hamburg.

"West German television," explained Frankenfeld as he whirled through here last week "is on only 14 hours a week. I am on two hours each Sunday, one-seventh of that time. And I am also on radio six hours a week."

Offers Everything

Frankenfeld's TV program offers everything but free beer. It combines singers, dancers, an 18-piece band, magicians, dog acts, Frankenfeld telling jokes, Frankenfeld chatting with the audience and Frankenfeld running a quiz game.

"We have a different kind of audience than Amercian TV shows," said Frankenfeld as he tried to explain this cornucopis of razzmataz. "They pay to get in—as much as $1.50. They expect a much faster show, something always has to be happening.

The name of Frankenfeld's two-hour extravaganza, which originates in Hamburg, is "One To Zero For You."

"It is like the score in a football game," he explained. "It means you can win, you will win if you come up here," he added enigmatically.

Toured United States

Frankenfeld, who recently completed a six-weeks tour of the United States, saw many things he liked on American television.

"Some of your comedians are very fast—like Bob Hope and Milton Berle. They are much too fast for Germany. We have not reached that stage in our comedy yet. But your Abbott and Costello," Frankenfeld shrugged "we passed that stage sometime ago."

Jack Benny, said Frankenfeld, is the sort of comic who would get the yoks in Germany. "Also your situation comedies like 'Life of Riley' and 'Father Knows Best.' If some American writer could write something like these for Germany, he would make a fortune."

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