

Norblad Goes To Florida To Take Part in Spring Baseball Training

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington — Congressman Walter Norblad's recent sprint around the state of Oregon in his abortive quest of the governorship wasn't completely in vain after all.

His colleagues in Congress now figure he must certainly be one of the more physically fit lawmakers—so they enlisted him as a member of the GOP baseball squad. So Norblad left Friday for Daytona Beach, Fla., to round out his spring training with the more portly colleagues during the Easter congressional recess.

Oregon now must look to Norblad to do honor to the state in the annual charity contest between the Elephants and Donkeys which will be played here in Washington in a few weeks.

Sam Feels Age

The past two years, Congressman Sam Coon has been the star from Oregon. He was the catcher for the Republican Elephants. But this year, Sam said, he began to feel his age.

"I could get down in position," said the 53-year-old ex-cattleman and Sunday sand lot ballplayer from Baker, "but I couldn't get back up."

Most Capitol Hill oldtimers will tell you that the annual junket to Florida is the main reason for Congress taking a week's recess in the spring. The Daytona Beach Chamber of Commerce picks up the tab for the trip for the congressmen and their families.

Everyone seems to gain by the venture. The ballplaying poli-

ticians get a chance to swat a few foul balls without getting beat over the head for it by their opposition; underprivileged kids of the nation's capital get to go to summer camp on the gate receipts; and Washington fans get to see a game, the only one of its kind anywhere, that has the principle virtue of making whatever the Washington Senators do look good by comparison, even in last place in the American league.

Morse Loses Glasses
Senator Wayne Morse was treating everything and everyone at arm's length this past week. He explained that the joke was on him because he had lost his eye glasses last week-end while pitching hay on his nearby Maryland farm.

Wearing an old pair of specs that pre-dated his bi-focal days, the senator looked like he was playing a trombone every time he picked up a document and pushed it back and forth, closer and farther away from him, trying to get the proper eye range.

Dana McBarron, a lumber buyer from Rogue River, came to Washington a few days ago for the first time in his life to testify before a congressional committee on the freight car shortage that plagues his industry's mills.

"I've never been in this city before and obviously never have appeared before so distinguished a group as this," McBarron told the senators.

Senator Scheepel of Kansas, hardly cracking a smile, boomed forth:

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

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington—(U.P.)—And there stood the nude lady, howling her blonde head off in the aisle of the pullman car.

There was, she cried, a mouse in her compartment.

The conductor looked into the matter while the porter supplied a towel to cover the embarrassment.

Sure enough a mouse was aboard.

This sort of thing happened to the same lady so many times on so many railroads that the railroad police got tired of paying the blonde a nuisance fee. Turned out it was a racket and the "lady" carried her own mouse in a shoe box.

According to my friend H. S. Dewhurst, who used to be with the protection section of the railroad police working with the American Association of Rail-

roads, this sort of thing goes on all of the times.

H. S. (nickname Steve) doesn't recommend the performance.

The gumshoes of the railroads are on their toes.

"Sooner or later," is the way Steve put it across a table loaded with club sandwiches and iced tea, "We catch 'em."

60,000 Arrests Yearly

Steve knows whereof he speaks on account of he once authored a book called "The railroad police." It was very revealing.

About 60,000 folks are arrested by railroad police each year for law violations. They run a gamut from felonies to misdemeanors. And if you have a mind to violate the rules consider this: The police of the rails hold an exceptional record of getting convictions in 98 per cent of the cases tried.

The files of the rail police show some interesting cases.

Like the missing depot clock out in a Chicago suburb. A short time later it showed up back on the wall where it belonged. Turned out a commuter was worried about the lousy time the clock was keeping and had taken it home to adjust it. It works fine now.

The gumshoes of the rails have to be all over. In the freight yards, where vandalism occurs. Like the four-year-old cherub who admitted he had watched the handlers of the switches until he finally managed to witness a wonderful train wreck.

The Suitcase Trick

"That sounds fantastic," said Steve, "but it really happened."

According to the rail police, there are a lot of tricks the confidence folks pull. Like a lady traveler comes into a terminal and has a large bag, a purse full of lady gear and another small grip she wants to lug with her. She, of course, is having a devil of a time handling everything.

Up comes this "nice man." He offers to help and before the lady knows it she has everything locked up and the crook hands her a key. Of course it doesn't fit. And of course she never sees him again.

Most of the time, though, the railroad police are around to prevent that sort of thing. They have sharp eyes as well as gum on their shoes.

Salem — (U.P.) — Funeral services will be held here at 2 p.m. Wednesday for William Herman Wirtz, 71, deputy state corporation commissioner, who died Saturday.

Communist Organ Condemns Stalin For First Time

Moscow—(U.P.)—The most authoritative organ of the Communist party's Central committee condemned Josef Stalin by name for the first time today.

Kommunist, the party's theoretical and political journal, denounced the former Soviet Premier for usurping the supreme and absolute leadership.

It followed an article in the party newspaper Pravda last week which accused Stalin of immodesty, falsification of history and attributing to himself achievements of the country and the army.

The Kommunist editorial did not refer to Stalin's personal traits as did Pravda, but it mentioned his name three times in connection with the development of the cult of the personality.

Considerable Harm

"The cult of the personality practiced by Stalin caused considerable harm to party work," Kommunist said. "By ignoring party principles of collective leadership Stalin brought about violation of internal party democracy, diminution of the activity of Communists, lowering of initiative and impeded criticism and self-criticism."

The Kommunist article said the 20th party Congress "carried out its work under the slogan of 'Leninist unity' and the further rallying of the party around its general staff, the Central committee, under the banner of complete and undivided trust in its tried leadership."

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Back Stairs: Wilson Shocks Traveler

By MERRIMAN SMITH
United Press White House
Writer

Washington—(U.P.)—Backstairs at the White House: A local traveler long familiar with the sight of Washington officials moving about in special automobiles and government aircraft was somewhat shocked one day last week by Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson.

Wilson, who has a large fleet of federal aircraft at his disposal, was standing quietly in a line before the Eastern Air Lines ticket counter at Washington National Airport.

An airline official couldn't believe his eyes at first. But then he quickly asked Wilson if he could be of assistance.

No, said the secretary quite calmly. He was waiting for a friend and together they were making a quick trip down to New Orleans.

From the start of the Eisenhower administration, there has been a feeling at the White House, at least, against using government facilities for personal travel for anybody but the President.

While many top Washington officials still ride in federally owned and operated limousines,

they probably wince when they pass Serman Adams.

The assistant to the President certainly ranks as high as any cabinet member, but since the administration has been in office he has driven himself to and from work.

The egg rolling yesterday on the south grounds of the White

Roseburg Youths Test Chemistry Knowledge

Roseburg — (U.P.) — Roseburg police agreed today that some times studying at home can be dangerous for teenagers—especially if the course is chemistry.

A pair of 14-year-old lads, freshman chemistry students at Roseburg high school, Saturday night took their chemistry sets to an isolated spot of the Mt. Nebo residential area of the city.

They found that, when compounded in the right proportions, potassium chloride and magnesium make a terrific explosion.

Police settled by relating the regulations of the city fireworks ordinance to the two youths.

House is believed to have originated many centuries ago at Easter time in Wales. In the early days of the Easter custom in Wales, however, the people did not roll eggs. They rolled themselves down the nearest and smoothest hillside.

The gentle slopes on the south lawn of the White House did not offer much opportunity for truly active body rolling, but there are a few down hill areas where the kids could spill themselves if the crowd is spaced to permit falling down.

Mr. Eisenhower's first rear platform speech of 1956 came last week when his train stopped at Clifton Forge, Va., en route back to Washington from his White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., conference with the President of Mexico and Canada's Prime Minister.

The President, chatting informally with a group of about 50 people, didn't get into politics but he did talk about his golf. He seemed more pleased by his game at White Sulphur than any golf he has shot since his illness last year.

He was proudest of his birdie three on the 380-yard fourth hole the day before he left.

DIDN'T READ IT
Neubiberg, Germany — (U.P.) — Airman 1st Class John DeHope paid a fine at a hospital here because he forgot to return a book. The title was "Three Weeks to a Better Memory."

HEADS FOR WASHINGTON
Tokyo — (U.P.) — Gen. Lyman Lemnitzer, commander-in-chief of U.N. forces and U.S. Far East command, left Tokyo today for consultations in Washington.

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