

Calendar Date for Spring Not Always Reliable; Other Signs Not Dependable

By H. D. QUIGG
New York—(U.P.)—How can you tell when spring is here? The calendar date for spring obviously is a fraud and a delusion.

Well, how about the time-honored "sign of spring"? Are they he? Let's see. In the spring, as everybody knows, "a livelier iris changes on the burnished dove." That's what the poet says. But it's a suspect line. It's 2-to-1 that Lord Tennyson just burned up a dove and shoved

it into his poem as a prop. He wanted to bring on his next—and justly famous—line. He desperately needed a dove to rhyme with the thing (in the next line) that, in the spring, a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of.

So that explodes the dove theory. How about the robin theory? When the first red robin comes bobbin' along, is it always spring? No indeed. More often than not this eager beaver pilot of the bird flyways gets his land-

ing gear stuck in the last snow of winter.

Robins are notorious for jumping the gun—and getting their rudders soiced up that they can't steer . . . and making crash landings. . . and living on the bread-crumbs charity of old maids and moppets till worm-thaw.

Well, if not the birds, how about the bees? Tell you the truth, bees don't get a buzz on until the flowers start flying the proper signal flags—and flowers are awful liars about spring. E. B. White once hailed the first spring flower, if memory serves, as follows:

A bulbous plant, the little cro-

cus. Always first in spring to pocus Head up.

But even a crocus will croak in the freeze that follows the first false spring. So scrap the bird-bee-flower theories. What time—honored signs are left? Love and April. And both seems to be fairly reliable.

Let's consider the month first. Sam Coleridge pointed out: " 'Tis the month before the month of May, and spring comes slowly up this way." Bob Browning longed "Oh, to be in England, now that April is there." Jeff Chaucer allowed it was a fine month for pilgrimages.

Some time during the magical 30 days that April is laugh-

ing and weeping her girlish laughter and tears, the young man's fancy starts to turn, and up pops—as Jim Thomson has said—"Gentle spring! Ethereal mildness!"

Just Plain Logic
No less an American personage than Ralph Waldo Emerson has summed up the whole thing with irrefutable Emersonian logic:

The April winds are magical And thrill our tuneful frames: The garden-walks are passionate

son. The tinkle of the ice cream cart replaces the aroma of the hot roasted chestnut wagon. Kids begin sidewalk hopscotch, a game known in Brooklyn as "potsy." The first convertible rolls with top down. Ad agencies get giddy with icky prose.

The first whiff of hot breath comes from bus exhausts—harbinger of gaseous days ahead. Soft wind puffs through Rockefeller Center, tickling the top-coats of thousands of tourists. The smell of the circus billows out of Madison Square Garden.

Spring in the big city is a little girl with patsy face, looking soberly out a tenement window over a lone potted flower.

Port Huron, Mich. — (U.P.) — A slender man walked into the Western Union Telegraph Office here, filled out a telegram form and handed it to Margaret Allen, 19, a clerk. Miss Allen handed the man \$516. The man had written "give me your money" on the form and backed up the demand by drawing a pistol.

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS
Washington—Rep. W. R. Poage (D-Tex.) on the majority House rejection of the attempt to override President Eisenhower's farm bill veto:

"Ike's coattails are the safest place to be in this election year."

Pittsburgh—Adlai Stevenson on Sen. Estes Kefauver's poor showing in the New Jersey primary:

"I was beaten in Minnesota; I have no alibi for that. But after New Jersey, evidently I am not eliminated after all."

New York—Margaret Truman on her coming marriage, only three days after the international hubbub of Grace Kelly's Monaco wedding:

"I feel that marriage vows are sacred, and I hope that mine will be spared the hurly-burly attending a news event."

Los Angeles—Councilman Don A. Allen when told Councilwoman Rosalind Wyman expects to become a mother in November:

"This is the first time a city father will become a mother."

London—Lady Elizabeth Pakenham, Roman Catholic representative, at a debate on birth control:

"Before I came here tonight the oldest of my eight children told me, 'Mother it's up to you to prove we're here by choice and not by chance.'"

Washington—Ludwell Denny, Scripps-Howard foreign editor, on U.S. foreign policy:

"It's insane the American idea that we can cure everything with a few billion aid dollars, a few Madison Avenue advertising stunts, a few divisions and bomber bases abroad—all without sacrifice of luxury living at home."

McAlester, Okla.—Convict Jacob B. Fidelman, who escaped from Minnesota State Penitentiary, on walking into a police station and surrendering:

"I'm just tired of walking and running away. I've dodged and ducked the police so long I'm tired of it and want to get it over with."

Heavy Snow Pack in Northwest Mountains Make Experts Worry

Portland, Ore.—(U.P.)—One of the heaviest snow packs on record in the Northwest's mountains has caused alarm among officials of three states that spring floods may be as bad or worse than in 1948 when the community of Vanport was wiped out.

Adding to worries around Portland is the Willamette river which flows through the heart of the city. The Willamette gets backwater from the Columbia. In 1948 the crest in the Portland area was about 27.5 feet when Vanport was inundated. Predictions this year call for crests of from 25 to 28 feet.

The mighty Columbia river, which cuts through eastern Washington from Canada and borders both Oregon and Washington farther downstream, annually goes above flood stage. The period from May to mid-June usually is considered the most dangerous along the Columbia.

Additional upstream storage space made possible by new dams will help somewhat, but if reservoirs should be full when a thaw and rain strike, there would be no place to hold the extra water.

Sometimes Good Sign
Some tributary streams go over flood stage earlier. Sometimes this is a good sign, however, because it means the snow-pack is melting gradually. What officials fear is a sudden late spring thaw accompanied by heavy rains.

COACHING BRAIN
Philadelphia —(U.P.)—Haverford College's 93rd intercollegiate cricket season looks bright with eight returning let-terms (out of the team of 11) and A. Brain as coach. The suburban Philadelphia Quaker college has secured the coaching services of the visiting professor of Latin, Arthur Brain of Ashbury College, Ottawa.

In 1948, a mighty crest spilled through into Vanport, a war-built housing area. Several persons drowned and the area was finished as a place to live.

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

The weather bureau and Soil Conservation Service both have issued early warnings that this year's snow pack has produced a situation which could cause even higher water than that of eight years ago.

Officials Prepare
Civil defense officials throughout northern Idaho, Washington and Oregon are busy making plans to cope with emergencies. Army engineers have been alerted as a matter of formality, ready to step in at the first sign of disaster. State government officials have met with city officials to map flood plans.

Flood stage varies along the Columbia. At Vancouver, Wash., just across the stream from Portland, the flood mark is 15 feet. Each spring the stream rises above that mark, but the situation doesn't become serious until it is several feet over flood stage. Willamette Adds To Worries

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