

Back Stairs: Capital Banquet Season

By MERRIMAN SMITH
United Press White House
Writer

Washington—U.P.—Backstairs at the White House:

With the cherry blossoms each spring, the banquet season comes to this beautiful capital city. Ballrooms of the major hotels are filled several times weekly with men in dinner clothes listening to speeches, watching entertainment and eating essentially the same food.

President Eisenhower is back on the banquet circuit. He has four big ones within the next five weeks.

Banquet attendance is a chore for any chief executive. Because of his illness last year, Mr. Eisenhower was able to miss some of the big affairs of the late winter and early spring. But now he is back in dinner table action again.

Why is banquet-going a chore in the White House? For one thing, the food usually is rich. If he is watching his waistline, as Mr. Eisenhower is, the heavy cream soups and calorie-laden gravies, plus desserts swathed in whipped cream, can cause a quick bulge in the middle.

Some Presidents have gotten around hazards of banquet diet by eating first at the White House, then just dabbling at the food at the head table. A President also knows that at every banquet he attends as an eating guest, the hundreds of persons spread out before his dais watch every mouthful he takes. It is like eating at home plate in Yankee Stadium, facing the crowd.

Another uncomfortable aspect for a President at a banquet is that he usually eats in the less-than-flattering blaze of assorted spot and floodlights. These lights are not necessarily on all the time, but they blaze into being with sufficient frequency to make the average affair uncomfortable.

At some banquets of the past, Presidents have found themselves seated near mortal political enemies. And they still had to carry on some semblance of civil conversation.

Suppose a President doesn't smoke, as is the case with Mr. Eisenhower. If his luck isn't running too well at the moment, he sometimes finds himself seated between cigar smokers.

Strange stories can come out of banquets attended by a President. Several years before his death, President Franklin D. Roosevelt attended an evening affair at one of Washington's leading hotels. And during the evening a hot rumor spread through the room that he feared being poisoned that night and as a consequence, had his meal sent

Spring Meeting for ICEC Set at Talent

Ashland—The spring meeting of the International Council for Exceptional Children will be held this year at Talent elementary school May 8, Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Alva Graham, president, has announced.

Karl Hays of the Phoenix pilot school for mentally handicapped children and Mrs. Kay Baalman of the Talent school will discuss respective programs and show slides. After refreshments the members and guests will visit Mrs. Baalman's classroom.

A recent questionnaire sent to ICEC members and others interested in exceptional children revealed interest in problems of children who are emotionally disturbed; speech defectives; non-reading; hard of hearing; mentally retarded; cerebral palsied; and gifted.

Response indicated a belief that the ICEC is needed in this particular area. More than 50 persons agreed to support the work of the organization which is designed primarily to improve programs of aid to exceptional children and to inform the public about the needs of children who differ from the norm in any one of several ways covered by the study.

Dr. Graham is professor of education at Southern Oregon college.

Actress Waits Return To Carpentry Practice

Hollywood — (U.P.) — Actress Elaine Aiken says that as soon as she returns from location for "The Lonely Man" she'll resume her practice of carpentry.

Miss Aiken, a sleek blonde who startles friends when they learn she is a do-it-yourself girl with hammer and saw, says she isn't kidding. "To me carpentry is wonderful," she said. "It helps me relax. I enjoy it—and you should see all the cabinets

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under guard from the White House kitchen.

This was true up to a point—the poison point. What happened was this: During the afternoon before the affair, F. D. R. developed an excruciating sore tooth, but he did not want to cancel his appearance. He had an aide call the hotel and inquire about the menu for the evening.

Then he had the White House kitchen prepare a mushy, chopped-up version of each item on the menu so he would not have to chew with appreciable energy.

Ex-President Truman had another unusual banquet experience. One of the White House staff members who was to accompany him to a dinner suf-



TELLS OF SLAYINGS—With thumbs hooked in his belt, 11-year-old Robert A. Curgiven shows investigators where he hid his .22-calibre rifle on the family farm in Mansfield, Conn. The lad is charged by police with slaying his mother, father and brother.

Medical School Research Plays Part in Discoveries

Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles prepared in connection with Medical Education Week, April 22-28, on the status of medical education in the United States.

New York — It took more than 30 years, million of dollars and thousands of scientists to carve out the research trail which led to today's polio vaccine.

It also took at least 65 different medical schools.

When newer polio vaccines, or cancer drugs, or techniques of heart surgery, are developed, medical-school research projects will play a large part in their discovery.

Medical Research

More than half of the medical research in the U.S. is conducted in the nation's 81 medical schools and their affiliated hospitals.

No approved school is without laboratories, technical equipment, and skilled scientists. The range of their efforts is as broad as medicine itself.

Many studies are basic research, aimed at gaining more understanding of fundamental life processes in terms of physics and chemistry. They are not linked to any single disease problem, but their results may be useful in many.

Others Projects

Others are clinical projects, conducted in hospital wards — the safest, best-controlled testing grounds for medical advances.

In many projects, medical students participate. Some become full-time researchers; others combine research with practice; many have little further contact with the laboratory.

Public support of research and training is overwhelming. Last year the public gave some \$240,000,000 for research on cancer, polio, heart disease and other illnesses; and millions more came from the government.

But paradoxically, as money flows into medical schools in the form of research grants, it creates new economic problems. Most of the grants are for specific projects, and for the required equipment. For each project, the medical school must find space, supply heat and light, take care of purchasing and accounting — all tedious but essential tasks.

Add Equipment

As research leads to new knowledge, and medicine becomes more complex, schools must add new equipment for teaching purposes.

ferred from stomach ulcers. His wife called the hotel in the afternoon and said her husband was to be served nothing but a clear soup and some dry toast.

Came the hour of the banquet and somehow the kitchen orders got mixed. The President was served only a bowl of clear soup and a few dry toast wafers while the rest of the diners plowed into a fish course, steaming roast beef, fried potatoes and the works.

Finally, Mr. Truman could stand it no longer and inquired, "Say, what is this—don't I get to eat, too?"

A mortified head waiter quickly remedied the situation. By this time, the ulcer patient had contentedly plowed through his roast beef.

What is the ideal leg measurement? More than six well formed young females competed for the position of leg model for the exploitation by photograph of a new brand of nylon hosiery. The winner's leg measurements were as follows: Length, 32 inches; calf, 13, and ankle, 7 3/4 inches.

Warning

It was Montaigne who said, "Dreams are the true interpreters of our inclinations, but art is required to sort and understand them." Keep that in mind. Don't tell anybody what you dreamed last night, or the night before either. The person you tell might understand the significance of certain dreams. As I said before, in describing a dream you may be revealing something about yourself you wish to remain a secret.

Asking

Queries from clients. Q. Who was it said, "She was divinely tall. I hate a dumpy woman"? A. Byron . . . Q. Who is the richest living actor? What living actors are millionaires? A. Richest living actor is probably Bing Crosby. Other millionaire actors are Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Ed Gardner and Humphrey Bogart . . . Q. Isn't "stogie" a slang term for a cheap cigar? A. It is so used by some people but that is due to ignorance. A stogie is a reasonably priced cigar of distinctive shape made in the United States, mostly in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Connecticut, from domestic tobacco. Webster's dictionary defines a stogie as follows: "A type of inexpensive though not necessarily inferior, slender cylindrical cigar."

Asides

Am asked in what show George M. Cohan sang "Life Is a Funny Proposition After All." That was in the play titled "Little Johnny Jones," in which George also first sang "Give My Regards to Broadway" . . . Is the seventh son of a seventh son always lucky as is claimed? Well, Perry Como, the vigorous vocalist, is a seventh son of a seventh son and he is certainly doing all right.

Passing By

Sonja Heine (pronounced sonya haynee). Scintillating skater. One of the world's wealthiest career girls. Among other possessions, she is said to own her weight in diamonds. Say Sonja weighs 115, what would you figure her diamonds are worth? Guess, and then ask the nearest jeweler.

Please Note

Saw the film version of the O'Neill play titled "Mourning Becomes Electra" on television. There were two murders and two suicides in that play. O'Neill was the most morbid of all modern playwrights. In 31 plays by

him were depicted 11 murders, seven suicides, 19 accidental deaths and six insanities.

Among the Married

Are you still childless after a number of years of marriage? If so, don't get the idea you are never going to pace the hospital floor waiting for the news of your wife's first blessed event.

A resident of London, England, named Mrs. Marian Loew, had been married many years and had no children until she was 38. Then she gave birth to quadruplets! If quadruplets, all boys, arrived at your house what would you name them?

Long Overdue Letters

'Returned To Sender'

Hoopeston, Ill. — (U.P.)—Two letters mailed by Earl Benner of Hoopeston in Russia in 1918 and 1919 were "returned to sender" Thursday.

Benner wrote the letters home when he served with the Allied North Russian Expeditionary Force in Russia. The yellow-marked letters came back in a white envelope postmarked Washington, D. C., with no explanation for "the slight delay."

European Industries Invited To Puerto Rico

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He said the government is looking for European technicians and industrial know-how, especially from Britain, Germany and France, "where they know how to make things with less money."

Julia Adams Expecting Stork Next November

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Cooper gave Deputy Sheriff Georges Lewis a signed statement saying he poisoned her beef stew last October saying, "I guess the devil got hold of me." His murder trial was tentatively set for May 7.

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On The Side

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

By E. V. Durling

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