

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

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington—(U.P.)—Our sailors consume about 10-million pounds of coffee a year.

But very few of them know that what they are drinking on coffee breaks is something that comes from cherry pits.

Most of us think a crack of java comes from some thing we call coffee bean.

I suppose it is no news to the importers of coffee, but the Navy Subsistence Office here wants us to know that is not precisely correct.

The "NSO" in its little magazine says that, actually, the so-called "coffee bean" is the pit of a cherry that grows on small trees, about the size of shrubs, that are cultivated in tropical regions. Maybe that is the reason America doesn't grow its own coffee.

Blend Of Pits
And when the lady of your house runs down to the super market to pick up a pound of coffee, actually she is getting the product of a whole treeful.

Considering the coffee breaks in the government and consumption around the world, it is easy to see that we put a heavy load on a lot of coffee trees each year. It's a wonder there is enough coffee to go around.

**Planes Collide;
Two Are Killed**
Alamogordo, N. M. — (U.P.) — Two planes taking off simultaneously collided at the municipal airport here Thursday night killing two persons, one of them a former German air force officer who flew the first Nazi experimental rocket plane.

Several witnesses theorized the pilots might have been blinded by the setting sun.

The former German pilot, Heinrich Lau, about 40, was employed at the super secret Holloman Air Development Center near here, presumably as a test pilot.

Lau, who was alone, was killed instantly and a passenger in the other plane, James Perry, 28, Alamogordo, died less than two hours later. He was riding in a plane piloted by F. A. Newell, 30, El Paso, Tex., an employee of the Champs Flying Service.

Lau was a former test pilot for the German Luftwaffe and flew 200 missions for the Nazis in World War II.

According to the Navy, coffee usually is a blend of several different types of "pits."

The bulk, or body, of the finished blend is what is known as "Santos," which comes from Brazil, naturally.

The harvesting of the pits adds up to a shakedown deal. Some native runs around and shakes the little tree until it gives up whatever it has produced. It's a whole year's job for a tree.

The Navy says that much of the fine flavor and aroma found in the best coffee comes from pits produced in Colombia. They are carefully selected at the time of the shakedown, and only the best of class wind up in the famed Colombian coffee sacks.

The different types of coffee are bought separately as green, unroasted "beans."

Flavor Slips Away
While they are wearing the green touch, they lose none of their "fine quality," says the Navy. Just before they go to the public and the Navy, they are roasted in big ovens.

The Navy, by the way, has a little advice for civilian coffee drinkers.

"After roasting, and even more so after grinding, the roasted beans tend to lose flavor. That delightful aroma you smell from a bag of freshly ground coffee is flavor slipping away."

The Navy doesn't keep coffee around just for the smell. It's used up fast.

The head of the galley knows that, but he doesn't have to worry.

The average seaman is a little backward if he doesn't run down for four or five cups a day. More, maybe.

**Senate Committee
Asks Dinner List**
Washington—(U.P.)—The Senate Elections subcommittee has requested a list of all persons or groups who purchased 10 or more tickets for Adlai E. Stevenson's campaign kickoff dinner Thursday night in Harrisburg, Pa.

Committee Chairman Albert Gore (D-Tenn.) sent the request to Joseph M. Barr, chairman of the dinner committee.

Gore said the information should include addresses of purchasers. He requested the date "at your earliest convenience but not later than Sept. 20." The subcommittee has been investigating campaign spending.

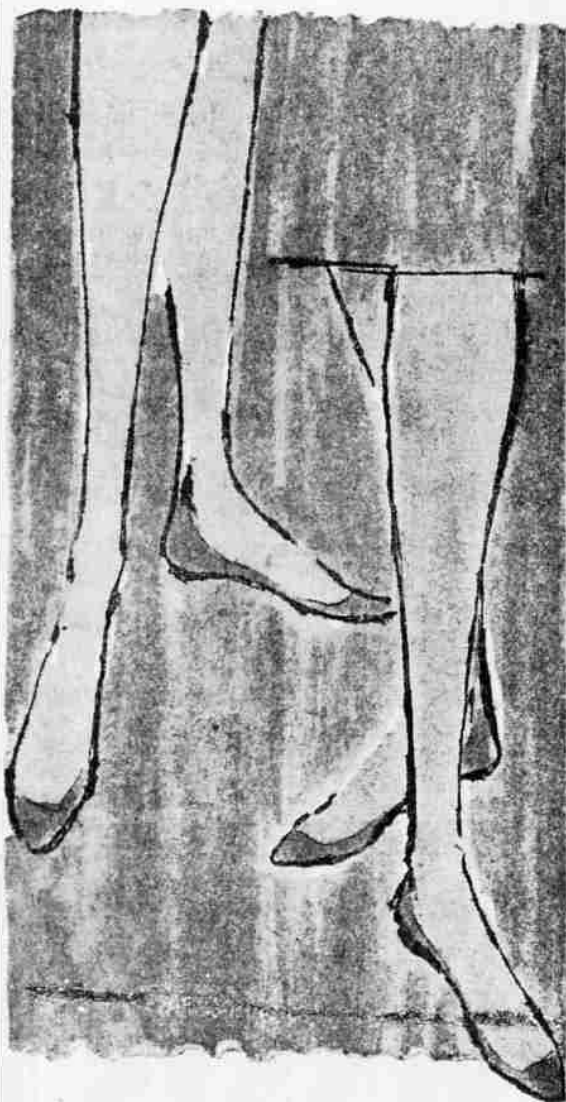
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