



A Nichol's Worth of Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
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United Press Correspondent
Washington — What's new in Washington?

The people running the Pageant of Peace here this Christmas thought it would be nice if the grounds of the ellipse could be greened up to look like summer. So some vegetable solution was sprayed across the lawn—50 gallons to the acre. It was hoped that it would not snow and spoil things. It didn't snow, and the grass was as green as

the parade. No notices in the prints, no television or still pictures! Unthinkable!

Herb Heft, the press attache for the Washington baseball club, isn't too excited about the fuss over the suggestion to call the "Nats" the "Senators." It's all right, Herb says, just so they call the club something nice. It could have wound up pretty bad, back there in 1906 when somebody suggested the nickname of "Jake Stalwarts." If that one had caught on, the "Nats" or "Senators" might have had something to worry about.

The Army reports that Sgt. I-C. Donald A. Edwards is sending the Korean family which fed him and put a roof over his head a colossal present for Christmas. Don is sending his benefactors his own car—a 1955 model. It cost him \$750 in shipping and customs charges. Mrs. Edwards is backing him man 100 per cent.

After all, it was Mrs. E's family which gave the GI shelter. He, of course, married the girl. The sergeant is from Freeburn, Ky.



FOR THE OLD FOLKS' HOME—Bimbo, famed San Francisco restaurateur, didn't forget the old folks, as he made his annual trek to San Francisco's Laguna Honda Home with the entire cast of his 365 Club. Here the Smith twins, Lou and Sou, singing for the shut-ins as Anna Bergis holds Sou's hand. Looking on is Claud Anderson.

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Boy Forced To Revise Christmas List But Science Technicians Come To Rescue

Washington — (UP) — Ten-year-old Robert (Butch) Tipton revised his Christmas list a few months ago when he fell out of a tree and grabbed a live electric wire.

Both of his arms had to be amputated.

"You won't have to worry about that bicycle now," Butch told his father from a hospital bed.

Eligible Receiver of M&F Reward Sought

Portland — (UP) — A court action has been filed here by Meier & Frank Co. seeking to determine who is eligible to receive \$25,000 in reward money for information leading to the conviction of a man who bombed the firm's Portland store April 13, 1955.

Meier & Frank offered to turn the reward money over to the court for payment to the person or persons deemed rightful claimants. The reward was offered for solution of the \$50,000 extortion bomb plot for which William Clarence Peddicord, a billed chemist, is now serving a prison term.

Persons listed in the court action as claimants of the reward were Detective Capt. William D. Browne; Detectives B. Prescott Hutchings and James C. Quinn, all of the Portland police department; Jack Dement, Portland; Leonora Hooker, Gladstone; William D. Rogers and Stanley N. Shook, Portland postal inspectors.

Sicily Bandits Find Woman Too Tough

Aggrito, Sicily — (UP) — Two bandits who tried to raid a country home didn't account for 71-year-old Rosalia Lombardo.

When the bandits, wearing scarves around their faces and carrying clubs broke into the house, they found their way blocked by Mrs. Lombardo. The elderly lady let fly with a few hard lefts and routed the raiders. In the melee, she grabbed one of the scarves, making it easy for police to identify the bandits.

all they need is a START!

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Russian Explosion Of Big Bomb Reported

Tokyo — (UP) — Japanese scientists said Saturday Russia may have exploded a nuclear bomb last week more powerful than any explosion since the U.S. test series at Bikini 2½ years ago.

The highest atmospheric radioactivity ever officially recorded in Japan was measured from rain and radioactive fallout this week.

Research scholars said the radioactivity originated in central Siberia, where Russian nuclear proving grounds are known to be.

In at least one case scientists said they believed the radioactivity originated from an explosion in Siberia about Dec. 13 or 14.

The Tajima Research Laboratory of St. Paul's university warned that the atmospheric radioactivity was "dangerously near the maximum permissible dose" of man.

Navy Some Day To Tap Sun for Power

Washington — (UP) — The chief of the Navy's Bureau of Ships predicted Saturday that the Navy some day will tap the power of the sun for use aboard ships at sea.

Rear Adm. Albert G. Mumma said he foresees solar power as "the next technological breakthrough" after nuclear power.

Mumma said the Navy is following the thus far limited experiments in solar power with great interest and thinks it has "tremendous potentialities." At a Pentagon news conference, when asked whether he foresees a Naval application for solar power, Mumma replied emphatically, "We sure do see uses for it."



THE MAIL MUST GO THROUGH—Railroad workers sort through derailed mail car of the Illinois Central near Belleville, Ill. The mail car was one of nine cars of the 14-car passenger, baggage train that toppled down a 15-foot embankment. State police said the accident was caused by a shifting road bed. Two persons were reported killed and 34 others injured.

Pilot Rock Plant Lease Considered

Pendleton — (UP) — Negotiations for leasing the Oregon Fibre Products Company plant at Pilot Rock to the United States Gypsum Company are reported nearing the final stages.

Officials at Oregon Fibre Products declined to comment on when the leasing arrangements would be completed, but they said the negotiations were progressing. Consummation of the deal was expected sometime after the first of the year.

Oregon Fibre Products employs about 125 persons.

Most of Nation's Homes Said To Have Video Sets

Washington — (UP) — The Federal Communications Commission revealed Saturday in its annual report that four of every five city homes and half the nation's farm houses have television sets.

Altogether there were 160 million TVs or radios in operation in 1955 but TV far outstripped radio in revenue gains. TV networks and stations earned a total of \$744 million last year—an increase of 25.6 per cent over 1954—while radio showed a 9 per cent gain for a total of \$453 million.

Generally Fair Christmas Weather

Washington — (UP) — The Weather Bureau predicts generally fair weather Christmas day except for snow flurries in the more northerly states and rain along the Pacific Northwest coast.

The bureau issued a special Christmas day forecast Sunday night. It said snow flurries are likely across the northern tier of states from interior New York to the Rockies, but that it will add little to the total snowfall which resulted from the Midwest storm that spread a white blanket across the upper Mississippi Valley and northern Lakes region Sunday.

Storm remnants may keep the skies rather cloudy through some portions of the East, and snow flurries are likely in the mountains of West Virginia, the bureau said.

A LITTLE TOO OLD

Trenton, N.J. — (UP) — State Civil Defense Director Thomas S. Bignan had to turn down an application from a man who wanted to enter an "extremely rugged" course in heavy duty rescue training. The applicant, Othel Baxter, a member of the Ground Observer Corps, is 75.

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