

Comment On This and That

By WARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington—(U.P.)—Our only lady senator admits that in the long ago she played boy games. Lovely Margaret Chase Smith of Maine—Skowhegan, to be exact—says that as a pig-tailed little girl she not only knuckled down to a game of marbles, but was more than a little fond of flying a kite.

What brought this up was that someone looked out a Senate office building window and remarked that it sounded like spring on the marble and kite time.

One of Mrs. Smith's male colleagues recalled how he used to go kicking down a side road as a kid with the tail of a kite overhead and thinking that if the kite let loose and headed for the moon he could always play a game of marbles.

The lady senator said she had some memories along that line, too. All of which put this old marble player and kite flyer on the phone.

Nary a senator would deny that at some time or other during a normal youth he had not aimed an agate at a "commie" in a game of marbles. And not a few of the law makers confessed that sometimes they had "fugged" a little.

History of the marbles games is interesting. Also how the kite happened to come by its tail and hit for the wide blue yonder.

Way, Way Back
Research reveals that marbles go back a good way. The National Geographic Society, which knows most everything, is forced to admit that time obscures the origin of marbles.

At any rate, it is known that kids in ancient Rome, Greece and Egypt had a try at the game. The little round balls have been made of everything from marble chips to glass, banded agate to colored glass.

City children seldom see any kids knowing about a finger-drawn ring any more. But the

young in the outlands must do a bit of marbling still. Countless millions of marbles are produced and sold each year. Fact is, plants in Clarksburg, W. Va., have machines that pop out 200 marbles a minute.

What, No Supper?
Kite flying, like marbles, can be a contest of skills. Not too many springs ago an aproned housewife kept a kite aloft for 28 hours—about six hours longer than Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) filibustered the tideland bill in 1953.

The housewife, from Columbus, O., would have kept her tail-flipping kite up there longer if it hadn't been grounded by an unexpected snowstorm.

In Eastern countries, like China, Korea, Japan and Burma, adults take kite flying seriously. In America, Benjamin Franklin did, too, and proved to the world that there was electricity in lightning.

The kite also is a vital part of aviation history. So much so that Paul Garber, head curator of the National Air Museum here, is putting together a permanent kite collection.

A Korean general, way back in 600 A.D. or so, used a kite to fight off an ill-omen—a shooting star.

The star was scaring the dickens out of his troops. In the dark of night he sent up a kite with a torch on its tail. The troops believed the star was going back where it belonged and the next day gave the battle their best—and won.

Standard To Increase Prices of Gasoline

San Francisco—(U.P.)—Standard Oil of California has increased its retail price on Ethyl gasoline by four-tenths of a cent per gallon and its Standard Chevron by two-tenths.

A Standard spokesman said the increase was caused by the cost of better quality products required by new high compression motors on the market.

The increase brought the retail cost of Ethyl to 36.3 cents a gallon and of Chevron to 32.8 cents.

Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSSBY

Hollywood—(U.P.)—In this day of racial tensions, Hollywood can boast of one happy case history involving a beautiful Indian girl from Peru.



Alina Mossby
Joan discovered little Martita, then 5 1/2, living in a mud hut in a remote village atop the Andes in Peru while the star was touring the country.

"I saw Martita sitting on the wall of this home—she was the caretaker's daughter," the actress said at MGM on the set of "Until They Sail."

Destined for Each Other
"It was fate—we were destined for each other," Miss Fontaine said. "I thought, 'She's mine.' It was a spur of the moment impulse. She had lots of brothers and sisters so her parents wanted me to take her because they said, 'You can give her more advantages and we feel this girl is worthy of opportunities.'"

After arrangements were made with the parents and American consul Joan brought Martita home and became her legal guardian.

"It was difficult at first," the actress admitted. "Everyone was so beastly. They accused me of doing it for publicity. They said, 'You've adopted a colored girl.'"

Enthralled With Child
"But one by one they became as enthralled with her as I was. Soon she was playing with other little girls and within six months the situation was adjusted. She wore braces on her legs for months because they were bowed from carrying her younger brother on her back."

The part Inca, part Spanish Martita never had seen ice cream or airplanes before, let alone a beautiful actress such as Joan Fontaine. The child, now 11, goes to a private Catholic school with Joan's own child, Deborah, 8. The actress says the girls are happy together.

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Moscow—Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Georgi Zhukov, warning there is "no place in the world" the Soviet Air Force cannot attack:
"The Soviet Air Force is able to strike shattering blows at any enemy, no matter where he is or where he is hiding."

Washington—Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson, discussing technical military personnel who leave for civilian jobs:
"We have got too many people training too many people who don't stay with us long enough."

Milwaukee, Wis.—The Rev. Irving A. Deblanc, a Catholic priest, on "steady dating":
"Going steady is pagan unless there is a reasonable chance of getting married within two years."

London—Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, leaving for his Bermuda conference with President Eisenhower:
"I'm not taking my golf clubs, but I dare say I could borrow some."

Charlotte, N.C.—Newspaper publisher John S. Knight, on inflation:
"It is useless for Eisenhower to admonish both business and labor on the subject of inflation when the government itself, by its gargantuan expenditures, is contributing to inflation."

Man, 72, Living Alone, Dies in House Blaze

Battle Ground, Wash.—(U.P.)—A 72-year-old man who lived alone in a two-story house near here burned to death early today when five leveled his house. The victim was identified as Oscar L. Johnson.

A passerby saw the fire about 2:40 a.m. and called the sheriff's office. By the time firemen arrived the entire house was on fire.

Yaquina Project Bill Sent To Senate Floor

Washington—(U.P.)—The Senate Public Works Committee yesterday sent the omnibus public works bill to the Senate for action.

The bill includes the \$19,800,000 Yaquina Bay project. It gained the committee's approval after Sen. Richard L. Neuberger assured committee members that there were definite commitments to develop and encourage maritime trade and commerce of the area.

Elizabeth Taylor Expecting in November

Hollywood—(U.P.)—Film Star Elizabeth Taylor has announced that she and husband Mike Todd will become parents in November.

The couple was married Feb. 2 near Acapulco, Tex. Miss Taylor is the mother of two small boys by her second husband, English actor Michael Wilding. Her first husband was hotel scion Nicky Hilton, whom she married in 1950.

Multnomah Grand Jury Returns Indictment

Portland—(U.P.)—Multnomah county's vice-probing grand jury returned another secret indictment yesterday and continued today the current phase of its investigation.

The current grand jury returned nine indictments last week and earlier had returned three others.
Dead line Sunday. Classified is at noon Saturday.

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