

Potpourri

The Mail Tribune society department has a "Believe It or Not" story this week. Four of the weddings reported in today's issue were performed by relatives of the couples—two by fathers, one by an uncle and one by a brother.

The Rev. D. Kirkland West, pastor of First Presbyterian church, officiated for the wedding of his daughter, Priscilla, to Christopher Williams; H. O. Martin, an elder of West Main Church of Christ, read the ceremony which married his daughter, Eleanor, to Burton Lloyd Clifford; when Betty Joan Hershiser became the bride of Leroy Nicholas Martin, of Portland her uncle, V. L. Hershiser of Eugene, performed the rites of the Christian church for the couple and John Bigham of the Church of Christ, Crescent City, California, officiated for the ceremony which married Ellen Elizabeth Hansen to his brother, David Bigham.

Dr. West is telling this story of the wedding. Just before the ceremony was to begin Priscilla asked her father if she could speak with him. Thinking the bride had some confidence to impart, or wanted some last-minute advice, the minister took her aside only to hear her say, "Now daddy, don't be nervous."

However, Dr. West, who has performed hundreds of weddings, admitted he did have to stop a couple of times to remind himself that he was performing the ceremony as a minister, and not as a father. The Rev. George R. V. Bolster took over that part of the ceremony where the father gives the bride in marriage in order that Dr. West might say "her mother and I do."

Mrs. H. S. Sagle and Mrs. W. E. Bartlett, Ashland guests at the Provost-Bearden wedding, shook in their shoes when confronted with the wedding cake they were to cut. Made with loving care by the bride's father, it was one of the largest and most elaborate ever served at the Country club. However, Hostess Ethel McGraw briefed them efficiently, and the two women made out famously.

During the reception the bride and bridegroom shared attention with the bride's appealing little nephew, Johnny Skyrman. Orphaned by a tragic accident, Johnny calls his Aunt Joyce "mother" and her new husband has long-since been known to the little-boy as "Daddy Dom."

One of the best Christmas presents at our house was a long letter from the Army Wife in Berlin.

"There is snow on the ground, about three inches," she wrote, "and it has been below freezing for several days. It is a dry cold, and not too bad."

Kenny had guard duty Saturday just after the snow fell, and it was pretty cold. He was lucky, though, because he was on the vehicle gate and had a little brick house to sit in which had a heater in it. The man on the pedestrian gate has to stand outside all through the shift, which is on 2 hours and off 4, weekdays and on 2 and off 6 week ends. Really, it's a little silly to have American guards, because the Army has a complete staff of German guards, and many of the posts are duplicated.

"Christmas preparations have not been too different from those in the states. The stores are crowded, trees are for sale everywhere you look, and there are decorations up in the stores and on the lamp posts."

"One custom which I have not noted in America is the burning of Advent candles. A wreath of greenery is arranged to cover a round wooden stand which is built to hold four candles. On the first Sunday in Advent and during the week following, one candle is burned. On the second Sunday, another is burned with the first, and so on until the Christmas tree takes over. (By this time she should have her copy of the Tribune with the picture of Mrs. Thomas Cardona and her Advent wreath, believed to be one of the first ever used here.)"

"Since the space in our room is limited, we bought a very small tree growing in a pot for \$1, and put it on top of a cardboard box that we are using for a cupboard in front of the window. Kenny wrapped the pot in aluminum foil and has contrived tinsel and a star from left-over bits of Christmas paper. Really, it doesn't look as bad as it sounds! Our only trouble is that we can't make the star stay on. We even have presents under the tree."

"I recently invested \$6.75 in a gadget called a West Bend Ovenette. It looks like a big cake tin, and is designed to be used on top of a gas stove. It has a thermometer in the lid, and it works very well. It is all aluminum, and comes with a heavy base, lid, rack, cake pan, pie pan, roasting pan and 7 muffin cups. So far we have used it to bake potatoes, short cake and cookies, and to heat rolls and bake biscuits."

"Part of my Christmas present from Kenny was a Wearever cooking gun, which can be used to make cookies, and both of us have gotten a big bang out of it. We found that the Lunch Basket cookie recipe from your old Sunset cookbook is excellent for it if we keep the dough fairly cool."

"Tomorrow night we will become parents—temporarily. The school is having a Christmas party for a group of orphans ranging in age from 3 to 19. Our orphan is a 5-year-old girl named Monika Frenzel. We bought her a small stuffed dog; it is stuffed with foam rubber and is so cute and cuddly we hate to give it away. He looks lopsided, because one ear sits out and the other lies flat, and he has a red bow around his neck."

"We had a perfectly marvelous time at Berchtesgaden. In fact, we decided that it was the honeymoon we didn't have two years ago. Out of the eight days we were there, three were clear, and we took quite a few pictures. The Bavarian Alps are beautiful; on a clear day it is exhilarating to just look out the window, and the air is like a shot of Vitamin B complex; it makes you want to go out and climb mountains. That's just about what you have to do to see Berchtesgaden, because the town is built on the side of a mountain steeper than the Lewiston (Idaho) grade. At the higher levels the streets are nothing but paths, with drainage troughs cut across them. We walked everywhere we went, and somehow we never seemed to get tired. There are many guided tours to places such as Hitler's Eagle's Nest, the local castle, etc., but we only went on the one to the Salt Mines. Our money just didn't go far enough, and we couldn't have seen anything on the foggy days, anyway. We spent quite a bit of time looking at the shops, and I bought two butter presses in a tiny shop that sold nothing but articles hand-carved from wood."

"We stayed at the Deutsches Haus, which is a hotel for EM's, although officers may eat there. The food and service were excellent—the hotel is run by Germans, and the headwaiter was marvelous. They have a tank full of lake trout just outside the hotel dining room, and when I ordered a trout dinner, he went out in his tuxedo, netted a trout and brought it in for my approval before they cooked it. It was very good, too."

Christmas postscripts: The Ansley Hutchinsons and daughter, Potpourri's Pal Peg, included in their Christmas decorations at their home on South Holly street what the people in New Mexico and Colorado call "luminarias." Used outdoors, these are medium-sized brown paper sacks folded down and filled with a couple of inches of sand or soil in which a candle is placed. The candle lights up the paper, giving a glowing effect. The Hutchinsons described how these are used by the thousands in that section of the U. S. and was originally a Spanish custom whereby the Christ child is lighted on his way when he visits the earth during his birth week.

Our nomination for man of the year: The husband who gave his wife a Christmas check made out for "One Free Morning Each Week." They have three small children.—O.S.

Teenagers Diets Said Worse Over Week Ends

Washington.—The week end off from school only helps lower the rating of a teenager's diet, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports.

The department said an Idaho experiment station study of 15 and 16-year-olds found them missing more noon and evening meals on week ends than during the school week.

"The lower food intake at week end meals was not made up by an increase in the amount eaten, as snacks," said the station. Snacks usually were some form of sweet, the station reported. "They were high in calories but usually furnished few of the essential vitamins and minerals."

Valances and cornice boards should measure in depth about one-sixth of the total length of the drapes.

New Egg Canape

Chicago.—For an excellent appetizer, try an egg spread on crackers. Mash hard-boiled eggs and add diced pimento-stuffed olives and mayonnaise; season with onion juice, salt and pepper.

Toy Firm Produces Satellite Launcher

New York.—The toy world is out with its own version of Sputnik.

One manufacturer features a "satellite launcher," which fires disc-shaped satellites into the stratosphere—well, anyway a distance of 75 feet or so.

The same firm has introduced the "sky sweeper," a searchlight projector to track "satellites" and "aircraft" which sweep across the sky. If the plane is "hostile," the toy shoots them down with "nike" rockets.

Women Make Better Shoppers Than Men, Says Branch Head

By PATRICIA WIGGINS
United Press Correspondent
Washington.—A look behind the government's soaring cost of living index indicates something the men have long suspected: women like to "shop," even if they don't buy a thing.

All but a handful of the 245 persons checking price tags across the country every month for Uncle Sam are women.

The few males who help collect rent statistics only—a job that entails some evening work in sometimes rough city areas.

Miss Fay M. Bean, chief of the program operation branch of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Prices and Cost of Living Division, said "women seem to like the job better than men and they do a better job."

Men Too Impatient

Miss Bean noted that shopping for all manner of items is part of a woman's "upbringing." A man might feel embarrassed at getting specifications and prices on girdles, for example. But a woman accustomed to shopping for sons, husbands and brothers would feel no qualms at approaching the men's furnishing department.

The fair sex also willingly takes on for Uncle Sam the pricing of items in such spots as lumber yards, barber shops, and second-hand car lots.

Miss Bean said women do a better job at the price gathering because of the "detailed nature" of the work. Men get impatient with the details. One look at the specification table a "pricer" must check for the cost of a can of peas or a "woman's cotton street dress" shows how "detailed" the job can get. About 300 items are included in the tally.

All of the Bureau's 125 food pricers are women working part time. Most of them are housewives.

Another 100 part-time workers collect rent statistics (75 per cent of them women). The remaining pricers all are women working on a full-time basis in the 36 cities which are sampled each month.

Two of the full-time workers are Ann McDermott and Marjorie Partridge, both stationed in the capital.

Eight-hour Day

Ann does pricing here. Marjorie more often heads for another city as a substitute or as extra help. In the past five months, she has "shopped" Pittsburgh, Pulaski, Va., Seattle, Portland, Sands Point, Ida., and Rawlins, Wyo.

What kind of pricing is most fun?

"It depends on the weather," Marjorie said, with a smile. "It

is lovely to do the suburban stores on a nice day. But a rainy day a department store is a heaven," she explained.

"An average day" may mean all eight hours in one department store. Or it may mean

"miscellaneous" stops checking prices at a barber shop, two shoe repair shops, a lumber yard, paint store, plumber, and a doctor's office."

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