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Editorial Correspondence . . .

By Eric Allen, Managing Editor

Indio, Calif.—About three years ago, the California division of beaches and parks, using some of the millions of dollars received from off-shore oil concessions, established a state park on the northeast shore of the Salton sea. On the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's, it was crowded with sun-worshippers, picnickers, water skiers, boat enthusiasts, and just plain tourists, like us.

It is a dirty body of water, scummy and yellowish near the shore. But looking out across it to the Santa Rosa range on the other side, rising in rugged majesty almost straight up, the sea takes on a blueness and freshness one hardly expects of the "Dead Sea of America."

The park has only a few scrawny pepper trees, and the picnic tables, each equipped with a natural gas stove, are shaded by wooden lattice-work. There were more than 20 boats, ranging from two-seat speedsters to 15-foot open cruisers powered by twin 35-horsepower outboard motors, when we counted, just after noon.

To the northeast is the jagged escarpment of the Little San Bernardino, Orocoipa and Chuckawalla mountain ranges—treeless, lifeless and eroded into sharp ridges and gullies. To the northwest is Mt. San Geronimo, 11,485 feet tall, or just over the height of Mt. Hood. It had a dusting of snow on its barren peak. Across the pass through which we drove from Riverside is Mt. San Jacinto, 10,805 feet in height. It, too, had a little snow, but only on the north slopes which escape much of the burning sun of this dry and dreary desert land.

This is the "peak" season for this desert, which is part playground, part farmland and part empty barrenness. The date-harvest is in full swing at present, and many of the date plantations, with their stately palms planted in neat rows, also cater to the tourists, offering illustrated lectures on the "Sex Life of the Date," date "shakes," and gift packages of dates of all varieties.

The California Date Growers Association, a cooperative, maintains what it claims is the largest date plant in the United States and perhaps the world at Indio. It is easy to believe this boast, for the plantations, set in square blocks amidst surrounding sand and sage, are not only beautiful but huge and numerous.

Other crops hereabouts are cotton (though not as much is grown here as in the plains around Bakersfield) and some truck crops (although the Imperial valley, to the south of the Salton sea, is better-known for vegetable raising. The key to all this burgeoning growth is, of course, water. Until the first deep wells were drilled, bringing in their precious and remarkably soft and pure water, this was a wasteland, good for nothing but small desert animals and reptiles. Today it is a rich area. And much of its wealth comes from the pressing millions of people a hundred miles away across the mountains, on the plains around Los Angeles.

Palm Springs is an example. We drove slowly through the desert spa Sunday afternoon. "Fabulous," and "unbelievable" were adjectives which came immediately to mind. But as we kept driving, and watched the flossy motels, expensive restaurants and exclusive homes going by, a sort of inverted snobbery came into play, and we wondered just what sort of a sense of values would find all this glamorous and important.

Swimming pools are everywhere. Even the second-rate motels must have them to stay alive, and the third-rate motels which do not have them are reduced to catering to the honest poor who come for a glimpse of the sun, and cannot hope to afford the expensive facilities which might give them a chance to catch a fleeting glimpse of a "name" personality from Hollywood.

We saw the largest trailer-park in our limited experience in Palm Springs, packed to capacity with huge trailers (or "mobile homes," as their owners prefer to have them called). Most of the gaudy evidence of permanence—or semi-permanence—as they arrived to spend the winter months. Palm Springs, which the map shows as being in the 10,000 to 25,000 population classification, probably exceeds that at this time of year, and probably is closer to the smaller figure in the summer time. But there is no doubt but that it has grown tremendously in the past few years. Most of the buildings are brand new. The "suburbs," if one can call them that, for the entire town resembles one huge "suburb," are mostly composed of rather small, two- and three-bedroom, flat-topped homes—all air conditioned out of necessity. Desert residents say that in the summer, air conditioning is the difference between living and existing.

The more expensive homes, some of them truly palatial, and virtually all of them with the inevitable swimming pool, are higher on the slopes of the ravines above the city itself, many on private roads or drives. Water, here as in agriculture, is the key. A desolate stretch of rock-studded sage borders immediately upon an emerald-green, landscaped golf course; a sand dune is prevented by a defence from encroaching on a date-palm grove which in season is flooded six inches deep. Water, in the desert, is life.

Our visit to the Los Angeles metropolitan complex has, thus far, been relatively free of the well-publicized smog. But returning from the desert in the late afternoon and evening yesterday, we ran into a seizure of it. It is as bad as reputed. The stars and new moon were visible overhead, but street lights only a block away were faded and blurred in the dirty haze, and our eyes smarted from the fumes. But as this is written (in the back seat of the car, and to the accompaniment of "Watcha doin', mister?" from small fry of the neighborhood, and as the wheels of domesticity turn in the house), the smog has gone, and the sun is shining hot through a faint overcast of honest water vapor. We may get to the beach this afternoon, if our desert sunburn isn't too sensitive.

Deep Snow Slows Hillary in Race

Wellington, New Zealand—Unexpectedly deep snow slowed Sir Edmund Hillary today in his race to the South Pole and gave new hope to his rival, Dr. Vivian Fuchs. Hillary was reported about 100 miles from the pole but deep snow has halted his snow-cat half-track vehicles and cut deeply into his gasoline supply. A message filed from his Scott Base depot after nearly a week of smooth, fast running, said "at one time it looked like the end of the road for us."

The sudden rough going gave new hope to a British party led by Fuchs, which set out from the opposite side of the Antarctic continent. Fuchs and his men were still more than 300 miles short of the pole, making slow progress across an ice-field criss-crossed with treacherous crevasses. It is country never touched before by a human foot. Hillary was expected to get to the pole at least a week before Fuchs. But the setbacks caused officials here to revise their timetable.

CHECK THAT, WATSON—Doncaster, England—Sherlock Holmes has been fined \$14 for stealing \$3.80 worth of coal. Holmes is a 37-year-old laborer.



'I INHALED!'

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

SAD LETTER Paris—Dear Stew: You want me to celebrate the New Year by trying to sum up my impressions after 12 endlessly itinerant months as a foreign correspondent. It will be a pretty melancholy sort of celebration. The trouble is, simply, that I am frightened for the first time in my life. I can remember lying on the floor in inky darkness in Hong Kong, straining my ear against a ruined radio that was barely whispering the news of Pearl Harbor, while the Japanese bombs thumped down on the blacked-out city. I was not frightened then as I am now.

Of course I do not mean that I felt no fear for myself. The sound of bombs dropping affects me exactly as it affects the next man. I mean rather that I did not feel even a lingering doubt about the future of our civilization, the future of human decency and human freedom. No such doubt has ever before crept into my mind, even although we Americans have committed great follies and have gone through some very rough patches in the quarter century of my working life. Maybe I have been making the mistake of Ed Gingles, the superbly brave old man who was our leader in the prison camp where the Japs put me for awhile after Pearl Harbor. In his years as a U.S. Navy petty officer, Ed had imbibed the firm conviction that no one on earth could beat the U.S. Navy. The British Navy, he also regarded as a respectable force, but that ended Ed's list of serious fighting forces in the world. Hence Ed flatly refused to believe the Japanese news of our reverses in those first terrible months of the war. But alas the Japanese news was only too true.

MAYBE, in other words, I should have begun to feel doubts about our future long before this. But you and I have always assumed that if the American people just understood the problems confronting them, they would manage to solve those problems somehow. So we have been called pessimists, because we have insisted on the seriousness of the problems, whereas we have been optimists, because we have believed the problems could successfully be solved. If I feel doubts about our future now, moreover, it is not because I have been converted to the view that our basic problems are insoluble. I am plagued by doubt, rather, because it seems to me that the American response to the supreme challenge of the last year has been so sadly inadequate. What has been this challenge? Essentially, it has been a sudden, brutal confrontation with the consequences of five years and more of self-indulgence. We were lulled by leaders who sometimes refused to believe the intelligence and who sometimes simply lied about it. So the American nation allowed its power to be overtaken and surpassed by the power of the Soviet Union. That was the central lesson of this last year's turbulent events.

Hatfield May Yet Run for Governor

Salem—Secretary of State Mark Hatfield today left the door open on the possibility that he may yet file for the Republican nomination for governor, even though State Treasurer Sig Ulander has already announced his intention to seek the nomination. Hatfield has, so far, declined to say flatly that he would not oppose Ulander for the nomination. While remarking that he could not "conceive" of circumstances that would cause him to enter the race, he admitted that his position was open to reevaluation. State Sen. Lee Ohmart of Salem revealed that he was conducting a personal poll of Republican members of the Legislature on preference for Hatfield or Ulander for the nomination.

Hatfield said "A strong showing of sentiment for me in this poll could move me to reevaluate my position, particularly if I were convinced that it represented the views of members' constituencies." He added, "This is something on which, in the final analysis, I'll have to make up my own mind personally. I have always faced such issues without regard to primary election opposition." Ulander made his announcement New Year's eve.

A LOVER SCORNED Turin, Italy—A spurned lover sent 19-year-old Carla Musso a bouquet of roses on New Year's Eve. Carla pinned the roses on her dress before going to a party with another suitor. But she never made it. She passed out for 16 hours. The roses were chloroformed.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

New Year's Eve note: In New York the hot shot night clubs were prepared to handle big crowds. The going tariff was reported to be about \$37.50 per person. What was that talk we were hearing about a recession due to tight money?

IN SAN Francisco, the Fairmont hotel asked revelers in its plush Venetian room \$15 for food, paper hats, serpentine and rattles. Liquor was extra. So you write your own ticket. Who furnished the aspirin was unspecified.

FROM Sacramento: Californians drank more last year than they did in 1956 the state board of equalization says in its 1957 year-end report.

Using actual figures through October and estimates for the final three months, the board's research and statistics division set the apparent consumption of beer at about 206 million gallons this year. Liquor was estimated at 23,500,000 gallons while wine was set at 28 million gallons. A year ago, Californians drank 195 million gallons of beer, 22,527,000 gallons of liquor and 28 million gallons of wine. This amounts to an increase of 11 million gallons of beer and a million gallon hike in sales of distilled liquor. Wine consumption remained stationary.

IT SOUNDS pretty bad.

But—As so often happens, the news isn't as bad as it sounds. For example: The board of equalization points out that since 1950 consumption of beer and liquor has increased by only 27 per cent while the state's population has increased by about 33 per cent. That is to say: PER CAPITA consumption of beer and liquor in California is actually DECLINING instead of increasing.

SOME good advice: When you hear what sounds like disturbing news, dig in and get the WHOLE picture. More often than not, when what sounds like bad news is put against its proper background, it turns out to be not quite as bad as it sounds. Personally, I have a notion that if the whole picture were properly presented and understood by everybody our defense situation wouldn't be as bad as it is being pictured.

Unfortunately, we humans tend to pay more attention to bad news than to good news. But I would not be afraid, if I could only see a new, vigorous and wise American leadership telling the honest truth to our people, seriously mobilizing the vast resources of our country, and sternly preparing to discharge America's heavy but glorious responsibility as the last, best hope of freedom in the world. As ever—Joe. (c) 1958 New York Herald Tribune Inc.

Congress To Open With Series of Hearings Slated

Washington—The incoming Congress will leap back into the investigating business with up to seven separate House and Senate inquiries slated for hearings in the opening week. The House has five hearings starting after Congress convenes Tuesday, and the Senate will begin at least one and perhaps two. Two House subcommittees announced Wednesday they will begin public hearings next Wednesday, the day after Congress convenes. Three others scheduled hearings earlier.

In the Senate the preparedness subcommittee is expected to continue hearings next week on the nation's missile program and the Rackets Committee may also resume sessions during the week. Slum Clearance Due Latest House hearings scheduled deal with the Defense Department's airlift operations and the nation's slum clearance and urban housing programs. Other opening week house hearings: The Ways and Means Committee stars a review of tax laws Monday.

An appropriations subcommittee starts looking Wednesday into the Defense Department's request for an extra \$1,200,000,000—mostly for missiles—during the present fiscal year ending June 30. The Armed Services Committee will begin Jan. 10 an investigation of missile and other defense programs. The last two hearings will be closed to the press and public.

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U.S. Appears To Be Near Full Membership of Baghdad Pact

By CHARLES M. McCANN United Press Correspondent

The United States appears to be edging toward full membership in the Middle Eastern Treaty organization. The State Department has said that there is no plan for the United States to join the so-called Baghdad pact "at this time."

That undoubtedly is true. There are good reasons why the United States should not enter fully into the alliance right now. One is that Allied relations with Egypt, which opposes the pact, are improving.

The decision of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles to attend the annual meeting of METO foreign ministers at Ankara, Turkey, on Jan. 27 seems to be another of several moves which the United States has made toward full membership.

The Baghdad Pact was concluded in 1955. Its members are Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan and Great Britain. It links the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization to form a chain of alliances against Communist aggression extending from arctic Norway to the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand. Sponsored by U. S.

The United States was the chief sponsor of the pact but did not join it. It took the role

Communications

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer, although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with an eye to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Is Oregon "Sucker" State?

To the Editor: Here is another raise in living expenses that is now scaring industry from locating in Oregon—the auto insurance rates will be raised. First gas, milk, food and now this indiscriminate raise in insurance rates—Oregon is a sucker state—an industry such as utilities, food, etc., can raise prices till no one wants to live here.

Also, you will notice this so-called Insurance Commissioner came to his conclusion by data given (slanted obviously) him by insurance people. John R. Scott, Box 199, Jacksonville, Ore.

"Coward!"

To the Editor: To person in black four-door Buick: We came to your fair city for a short visit. You ran over our little dog, Ming, at the corner of Fourth and North Oakdale about 8 a.m. today (Jan. 2). You didn't even have the decency to slow up or stop—in a school zone! It could have been a child. Would you have stopped then? L. J. Budge, 149 Hillside, Klamath Falls, Ore.

Falls City Fire Levels Business Buildings

Falls City, Ore.—A big grocery and appliance store just east of here was destroyed by fire Wednesday night with loss estimated at \$75,000. A food locker plant also was lost in the blaze. Firemen from Dallas and Rickreall helped fight the flames.

UNLIKE Mr. Hagerty's statement on the weekend, which was addressed to the

of observer at METO meetings.

However, the United States has joined three committees of the alliance. After agreeing to take part in the economic and counter-subversion committees, it accepted membership in the military committee last June.

As the danger of Soviet Russian penetration in the Middle East became serious, and the threat of open aggression arose, the United States came up with the Eisenhower Doctrine.

This doctrine was worked out by Dulles, and approved by Congress. Under it the President is authorized to use the armed forces of the United States if necessary to combat Communist aggression against a Middle Eastern country.

Rated Stronger As a warning to Russia, the Eisenhower Doctrine was stronger than the paper METO alliance. But the United States has had little thanks and much criticism for its sponsorship of the Baghdad Pact and its declaration of the Eisenhower Doctrine.

President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt bitterly opposed the participation of the Arab countries in the Baghdad Pact, partly because it clashed with his desire to make himself Mr. Big in the Middle East. Iraq, one of the Arab nations, did join it. But Nasser thwarted an attempt to get Jordan in.

Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

RUMORS AND DENIALS At the week-end, Mr. Hagerty, no doubt on instruction from the President, came forward with a denial of the rumors that the country is now in danger. Those rumors arose from what is supposed to be said in the highly publicized, but secret Gaither report. They found a wide audience because it is known, or at least it is not denied, that the Gaither report calls for an increase in defense expenditure of many billions of dollars a year.

The President and Mr. Hagerty will do well to study carefully the reaction to Mr. Hagerty's denial. The reaction can be described as one of great skepticism as to whether the statement, which deals with national security and is put out by the White House, is more than a part of the truth. It is no doubt true that at the present time the older deterrent weapons, which we possess, are still more powerful than the newer weapons in which the Russians have a lead. But the grimmer part of the truth is that the Soviet rate of progress in military technology is faster than our own, and that is the truth which is causing such deep anxiety among those who know the facts.

Mr. Hagerty's half truth will not dispel this anxiety. What it will do is to increase the skepticism with which Congress and the country will read the President's forthcoming message on the state of the Union. IN PREPARING the message the White House will need to realize that at the political center of the post-Sputnik crisis inside this country, there is a grave impairment of confidence in the judgment of the Administration. There is evidence, which has not been denied and is generally believed, that intelligence reports on the real position in the race of armaments have somehow been ignored by the President or suppressed before they reached him.

As a result, the intellectual credit of the Administration has been seriously damaged. If the President is to establish his leadership in the next Congress, his most important task is to restore faith in the objectivity and candor of the official judgments. Much, therefore, hangs upon the character of the message which is to be delivered on Thursday of next week. (c) 1957 New York Herald Tribune Inc.

Natural Gas Rates Up in California

San Francisco—The Pacific Gas and Electric Company raised natural gas rates today to compensate for an increase put into effect by the company it buys natural gas from. The Federal Power Commission Tuesday granted the El Paso Natural Gas Company temporary permission to raise the rates it charges PG&E.

However, the federal order required El Paso to put up a sufficient bond to refund all the increase if the commission disallows it. The California Public Utilities Commission gave the PG&E permission to raise its rates to make up for the increase from El Paso Natural Gas. The increase will add about 30 cents a month to the average householder's bill. Arctic sled dogs can travel up to 100 miles a day.

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE MEMBER

Flight 'o Time Medford and Jackson County History from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30 and 40 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO Jan. 2, 1948 (Friday) Generally optimistic as to the future, a note of caution sounded by representatives of Medford banks in the annual end-of-the-year survey and predictions for the coming year.

20 YEARS AGO Jan. 2, 1938 (Sunday) The holiday weekend got off to a bad start in the number of auto accidents though no fatalities nor serious injuries were reported in this area.

30 YEARS AGO Jan. 2, 1928 (Tuesday) Origin of the bulbous blue grass in Jackson county is a matter of considerable local controversy.

40 YEARS AGO Jan. 2, 1918 (Wednesday) The first open house New Year's day celebration ever held by the local Elks lodge was reported as a success.

What's Your I.Q.? Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good. 1. If one is said to be "gumshoeing," what is he doing? 2. Bible: Name the apostle establish the fact that Christianity is a distinct religion in itself, rather than a sect of Judaism? 3. Correct the following: "His bride would have liked to have gone with her husband." 4. What is the middle name of Herbert C. Hoover? 5. Where is Bedloe's Island? 6. On what day in 1918 was the Armistice that ended World War I signed? 7. A famous plant breeder lived in Santa Rosa, California. Name him. 8. Why is there an apostrophe in the expression "o'clock?" 9. When Edward VIII abdicated the British throne, who succeeded him? 10. Does the common housefly have a proboscis? Answers: 1. Moving about stealthily. 2. Paul. 3. "His bride would have liked to go with her husband." 4. Clark. 5. In New York harbor. 6. November 11, (5 a.m. Paris time, Monday 11, 1918). 7. Luther Burbank. 8. The apostrophe denotes the omission of the words "of the." 9. His brother, who became King George VI. 10. No. (It cannot bite or suck).

May the Peace which comes of Faith, The Courage that's born of Hope, And the Joy which dwells in Love, Be with you now, and through 1958 Chapel Mortuary Across from the Courthouse Frank Morgan—Harold Snodgrass, Funeral Directors