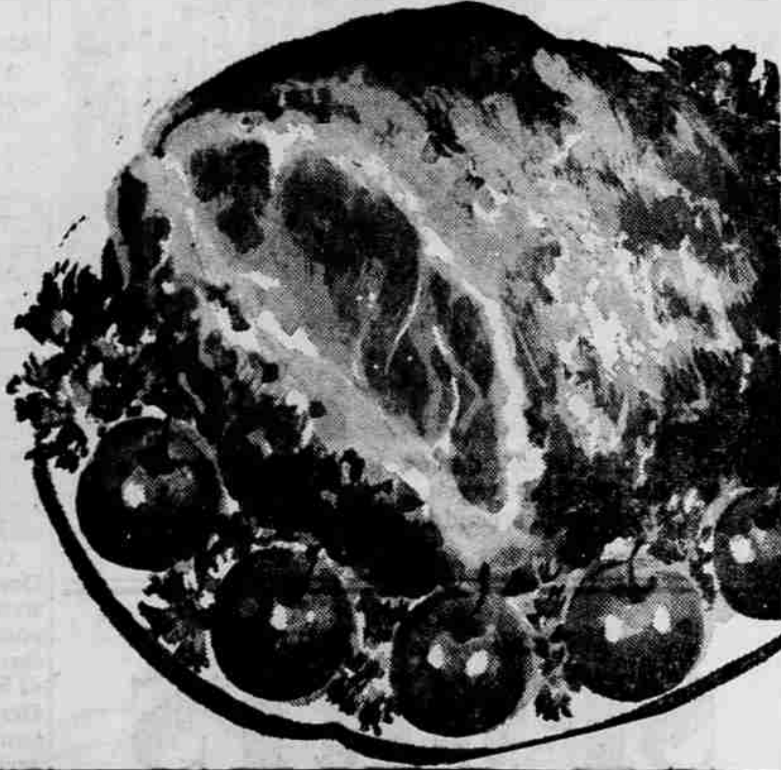


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U.S. Steel Hour Offering Said Inoffensive Nothing

By WILLIAM EWALD
New York—UPI—There are two kinds of nothings—big nothings and little nothings. The big nothing is offensive and the little nothing is inoffensive. Wednesday night's CBS-TV U.S. Steel Hour offering, "The Square Egghead,"

William Ewald was an inoffensive little nothing. Louis Pelletier's story about a group of businessmen who are shipped off to college one summer to complete their education certainly was a useful take-off point for a comedy. But Pelletier's exercise was almost painfully formula-strapped.

Tom Ewell, in a typical Tom Ewell role—the slightly perplexed wolf—fell in love with June Lockhart who was emmeshed in a typical June Lockhart part, the prim schoolteacher, primed for love.

Stereotypes Come Out
Then like a neat little row of ducks, all of the stereotypes came trotting out. There was the sexy blonde stripteaser, a friend of Ewell's, who made Miss Lockhart jealous; there was the young maniee bucking for the job Ewell wanted; and there was, of course, the wispy semi-comic professor of

philosophy. In the movies, the professor is the one who jitters in the last scene when all the bright young students save the college from going under by putting on a swinging musical show when all the time, the stiff old dean thought they were going to do Antigone.

There was even, heaven help us, the scene in the college library where the loving pair start yelling at each other while the librarian shushes madly.

Brainpainted by bosh like this, I sometimes suspect that no one in TV has ever really safaried into the academic jungle. The groves of academe are almost always presented as gentle, mellow and slightly sleepy, peopled by innocents tuned in to life by remote control. As a matter of fact, the academic life has always struck me as a pretty fierce go, a rough and tumble campaign, a kind of Madison Avenue with books.

No matter. It was an hour poured out of a mold, but it was not painful, merely depressing. Ewell and Miss Lockhart labored skillfully under the circumstances and Roxanne Arlen as the stripteaser wiggled to fair effect.

Rockefeller Stock Soars With Budget

Albany, N. Y.—UPI—Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller's political fortunes rose today with the passage of his \$2 billion budget in the state legislature.

The Rockefeller balanced budget, including \$234 million in new taxes, was pushed through the state Assembly Wednesday night by a vote of 78-70, two more than the required 76 votes needed for passage. It had passed the Senate earlier.

Supporters of the governor said his victory over rebels in his own Republican party in the first major political battle of his term had strengthened his chances for the 1960 GOP presidential nomination.

The budget bill puts New Yorkers on a pay-as-you-go income tax program to start April 1. Income taxes for 1958 were cancelled. Under the governor's program taxes were increased on motor fuel, cigarettes and estates.

Washington fisheries produce about five-ninths of the total supply of salmon for U.S. consumer markets.

Plan Drafted To Send Test Convoy Through Blockade

Washington—UPI—The United States has drafted a plan for sending a test convoy through a Berlin blockade if the Communist impose one.

The need for a test convoy would arise if Russia abdicated its Berlin responsibilities, signed a treaty with East Germany and gave the East Germans control of traffic routes to Berlin.

Blueprints Exist
It can be reported that blueprints for the test convoy and for putting America's 330,000 military men in Europe on increased alert now exist. Further, they can be adapted to whatever needs emerge from Allied conferences.

The plan as it now stands apparently calls for sending a normal size unarmed convoy of four to ten trucks over the 110-mile road from Helmstedt in West Germany through East Germany to West Berlin.

Tank Use Possible
If the convoy were stopped, it might then be strengthened with tanks and go ahead. What would happen if it drew fire from East German guards was not known.

It can be said that there are plans for Western military forces to establish control of the highway through East Germany if high policy dictates.

The increased alert presumably would apply to French and British forces as well as to U. S. Army and Air Forces in Europe. The U. S. Army has about 230,000 men in Europe, of whom 175,000 comprise the 7th Army.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

DIZZY DEAN, one of the all-time baseball greats, tells his story on himself. When he was pitching for an Arkansas hillbilly nine in his salad days, a rival outfit, determined to undo him, sprinkled broken glass around the mound. Diz, barefoot, hurled six shutout innings without a squawk, but then he stalked over to the rival manager and grumbled, "Joe, you just gotta get this broken glass away from here. It's cuttin' up the ball!"

Can you explain the difference between a hurricane, a typhoon, a tornado and a cyclone? Well, there really isn't any. A severe storm and wind in the West Indies is called a hurricane; in the Far East it's a typhoon; in the Indian Ocean it's called a cyclone, and in the U.S.A. it's usually referred to as a tornado.

When countless quiz shows were infesting TV, a contestant was asked, "What's a metaphor?" He stumped both M.C. and audience by responding, "To keep cows in."

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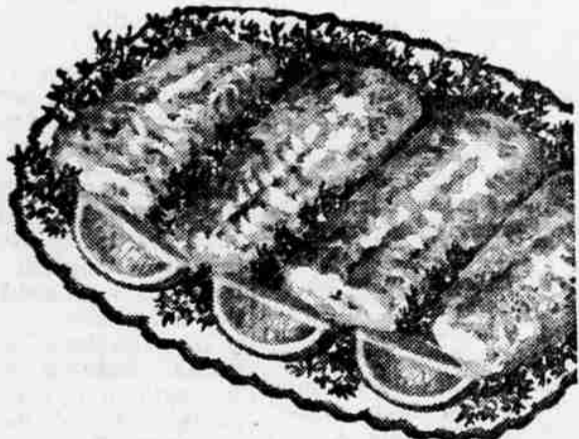
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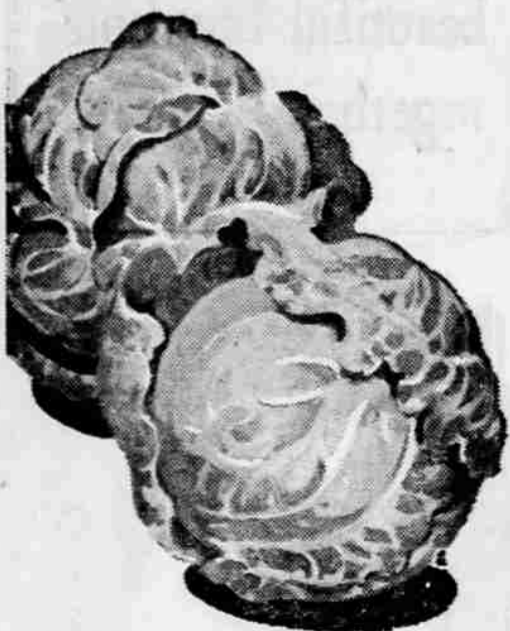
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