

# Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A BRIGHT young Martian landed in the U.S.A. and, as luck would have it, found himself in the middle of a rock 'n' roll dance hall in downtown Los Angeles. He surveyed the scene indignantly, and rushed to his interspace phone to call headquarters in Mars. "You lied to me," he screamed to the official who answered the ring. "You told me I'd be the first one here!"



An unusual complaint was registered by a couple of workers at the U.S. Mint. They want to make less money. One quit the job, cleaned up in the frozen food business, bought a 72-room mansion, and invited all his old friends to a house-cooling party.

Herb Stein tells about a Hollywood art gallery that rents out ultra-modern abstractions on a novel basis. If you can find out within a month what the artist was reproducing, you keep the painting for good.

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## Actor Edmund Lowe Remains Hospitalized

Hollywood — (UPI) — Edmund Lowe, 67-year-old veteran actor hospitalized March 11 with a virus infection, was advised by his doctor Sunday night to remain in Doctors' hospital for two or three more weeks for treatment of a blood clot in the wall of his heart.

Dr. W. C. Hixson said that Lowe was seriously — but not critically — ill from the blood clot which developed after he was stricken by the virus infection.

Citizenship of Denmark was extended Greenland residents in 1953.

## Sanity Hearing Due Mrs. Duncan

Ventura, Calif. — (UPI) — Mrs. Elizabeth Duncan, 54, sentenced to the gas chamber for hiring two men to kill her son's wife, will appear in Superior Court Tuesday at a hearing to determine her sanity.

Judge Charles F. Blackstone, 83, the jurist who presided over the trial in which Mrs. Duncan was convicted of the for hire murder of her daughter-in-law, Olga, 30, and the trial in which she was condemned, will make the sanity ruling on the basis of reports by two court-appointed psychiatrists.

Three hearings are mandatory in capital punishment cases under California law — the first hearing to determine guilt, the second sentence and the third sanity.

Usually the same jury sits in all three hearings, but defense counsel S. Ward Sullivan and District Attorney Roy Gustafson agreed to let Judge Blackstone rule on the sanity issue.

Psychiatrists already have testified in the sentencing hearing concluded last Friday that they found Mrs. Duncan

## Porter Tours British Postal Headquarters

London — (UPI) — Rep. Charles O. Porter (D-Ore.), today toured British postal headquarters as the guest of English Postmaster General Ernest Marples.

was sane last November when she hired Luis Moya, 22, and Augustine Baldonado, 25, with an offer of \$6,000 to kill her son's pregnant wife.

Both Baldonado and Moya have admitted the Nov. 17 slaying and face trial next month on their pleas of innocent by reason of insanity.

## Duke, Duchess End So. California Visit

Beverly Hills, Calif. — (UPI) — The Duke and Duchess of Windsor wind up their four-day visit to Southern California today and motor to Pebble Beach, Calif.

The famed couple, traveling around the country by car as "just plain tourists," canceled a visit to Disneyland in Anaheim Sunday and other appointments with the announcement that they just wanted to spend the day relaxing and catching up on their correspondence.

Catherine de Medici was a niece of Pope Clement VII.

Thirty-six million dollars worth of flower bulbs from the Netherlands were retailed in the U.S. during 1952. The Riksdag, Sweden's parliament, has 382 members, 231 in the Lower and 151 in the Upper House.

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## Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

**The Mink is the Most Publicized Animal**

The mink, a relative of the weasel, probably has received more publicity than any other fur-bearer in history; even exceeding that of the raccoon because of its use as a hat in pioneer days, or the buffalo because of the robes that were so popular a half century ago.

Of course we cannot truthfully say the mink has enjoyed this popularity. In fact the mink family has had trouble surviving. Had it not been for the mink farms that now supply most of the pelts that fashion demands for coats and neckpieces, the mink probably would be non-existent.

The mink's fur, that eventually may wind up as a coat, is dense and very soft. Mixed in this fine undergrowth of

fur are many long rather stiff hairs. It is usually dark brown in color.

**Fur is Softer**

The fur of the female seems somewhat softer than that of the male. She is smaller than her mate, usually weighing about a half pound less. A full grown male weighs about two pounds. He is about 20 inches long.

The mink, although common throughout its range, is seldom seen. The animals are secretive and cunning. They have short legs, a broad triangular shaped head and a short, bushy tail. They hunt both by day and by night, feeding on frogs, fish, mollusks and small animals. They swim much the same as the otter and actually can overtake or corner fish under water. Because of their preference for fish, the mink is pretty unpopular with trout fishermen.

Mink are extremely agile but seem reluctant to climb. They have acquired a reputation for being somewhat "sneaky." Their long, slender bodies seem humped, which shortens the animal's wheelbase, but as they glide into their den, whether the den be in a crevice between rocks or a burrow in a riverbank, they lower the hump and glide inside with the slickness of grease.

**One Locality**

A mink family will settle and live in one locality for as long as they are not disturbed or until the food supply is exhausted. They are courageous animals, alert and aggressive. For an animal as small as they are they are tremendously strong with almost unlimited endurance. I watched one once, a full grown male, drag to its den a dead rabbit which must have weighed three times as much as the mink.

The four or five young are usually born in April. They remain with the mother the entire summer learning how to live and survive in a world where their prime coats of fur may some cold, winter day have to be sacrificed, so that milady of fashion may enjoy the warmth and distinction of a mink coat.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1953)

## In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

This modern world note—this one from Hamburg, Germany:

Worried residents of this big West German city are breathing easier about a lot of mysterious signs that have been chalked on hundreds of houses during the past week or so.

After swamping police and newspapers with phone calls the residents of Hamburg learned from the authorities that the signs — mostly a cross and an open triangle — were code marks made by a group of salesmen.

The marks mean: "No sense trying to sell here."

Or—

"I've been here before — no use wasting time on this house."

WHAT is to say: The people of Hamburg have been worrying themselves into a tizzy over something that was really nothing to worry about.

I wonder if a lot of us over on this side of the water haven't been doing the same thing.

WHAT brings up something else — along much the same line. A dispatch on the financial wires says:

If the ancient Greeks had had a stock market like this one, they'd have had a name for it, possibly something like "meridomania." This coined word comes from "merides," which is Greek for shares, and "mani," a Greek-based word that is defined as insane excitement, madness... characterized by disordered thinking and by impulsive and excessive emotion.

The dispatch goes on: "What has induced this state of meridomania? What is the potion that permits emotion to dethrone reason; that places fancy above fact; that substitutes the image for the real?"

MAYBE this is the answer: THE QUICK BUCK MANIA.

HISTORY tells us that when everybody gets to concentrating on getting rich quick reason flies out of the window and foolishness comes in to take its place.

GARLIC FLAVORED MILK London — (UPI) — Dairy men today were trying to clear up the mystery of the garlic-flavored milk. South Londoners complained the milk they poured in their porridge and coffee and tea over the weekend had a garlic flavor. A spokesman for United Dairies said the flavor could have been picked up by cows feeding on silage, kale and certain garlic-like weeds.

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