



POTPOURRI

"Cuban Society Editors Aghast at Tax Plan" read a recent headline in the New York Times. And well might they be. The society editor of The Mail Tribune was aghast, too. Not only at the tax plan, but the rest of the story.

Society reporting in Havana, Cuba, isn't what it is in Medford, Ore. According to the Times reporter, R. Hart Phillips, the government of Fidel Castro proposes to put a tax on appearing in the society pages of Cuban newspapers. Under the proposal, the mention of one's name on a society page would cost a person \$1, or \$100 if one has a title of nobility, plus \$1 for every adjective describing the person. A photograph would cost \$5 a column inch, or, if more than one person is pictured, \$10 an inch. The newspapers would be required to collect the tax, and could retain 10 per cent for their trouble.

It seems this bright scheme was cooked up by the Minister of the Treasury, Ruffo Lopez-Fresquet. It is in line with Castro's idea to create a one-class economy—the middle class. The society editors didn't take kindly to the idea, and no wonder. There's more. According to the Times, society editors in Cuba are always men and traditionally have been the best paid newspaper men in Cuba. "Many have spent a lifetime gathering power and worldly possessions," Hart Phillips wrote. "The yearly saint's day party given by each society editor is attended by hundreds. No one turns down an invitation. The presents to the society 'cronista' include checks that run into thousands of dollars."

Well, great day in the morning! The whole thing could hardly be different in Medford. To begin with, the society editor of The Mail Tribune doesn't give parties—she just attends and writes about those that others give. And if anyone ever offered money to the gals who turn out the society news, we'd be insulted. Of course, we've had people ask "what is the charge" for publishing news items and we always explain that there is no charge and wonder how in the world such an idea ever got started. Then there was a time, during the last war, when a happy and quite tipsy father came in to say that his son was safely home from the wars and would we please say so in the Tribune. We were glad to take the item, and when he had finished with the details, he reached in his pocket, drew out a quarter, threw it on the desk with a sweeping gesture and said in a grand manner, "Here, sister, buy yourself something." But that's not quite what Mr. Phillips was describing in Havana.

There seems to be other differences between Medford and Havana, too. The Tribune gladly prints all sorts of news about all sorts of residents—young and old, rich and poor, well known or unknown. And when the society staff is seeking news, we're sometimes turned down. This, too, is the privilege and right of the individuals concerned. However, the society editor and her helpers are apt to be a bit irked when some resident wants space for his, or her, church, lodge, charity, business or pet project, but refuses to let us print personal news. "Taint fair, we declare. Even Emily Post once wrote that if individuals want the newspapers to print articles about their project, they should be willing to give permission for the papers to print personal news."

We had a long and interesting conversation last week with a woman who wanted to know why certain bits of information appear in some wedding stories, and not in others. We tried to explain that what is printed depends on what type of information is supplied by the family, which writer happens to handle the story (each uses her own best judgment) and whether or not the typesetter or proofreader loses a paragraph or two along the way. It would be silly, of course, to pretend that some families or persons are not more newsworthy than others. But wedding stories basically follow the same pattern and contain much the same information, regardless of who has been married. And the published story shouldn't be used to measure the prominence of the families involved.

Some families offer only meager information, others offer a wealth of material, some of which cannot be printed. The mother who called said she was surprised to read in so many stories that the bride, her mother or perhaps a relative had made the wedding dress. She considered that a personal matter which should never be mentioned in a story. We said 10 years ago it was almost never included. Ditto on the cakes. Our caller said she had made her daughter's wedding cake for two reasons—first because the daughter had wanted her to make it, and second because all her friends told her professionally made cakes were expensive. Later she found out that the prices quoted by her friends bore little relation to the actual prices charged by the professional bakers. "Why don't the bakeries advertise what their cake prices are?" she wanted to know. "I thought we couldn't afford a professional baked cake, and it wasn't true." She wondered if the same was true of other services in connection with a wedding, such as flowers and pictures. The society editor agreed that it is certainly more businesslike to inquire and have a precise quotation from the firms involved, rather than listening to well-meaning but ill-informed friends and relatives.—O.S.

Visitors Attend Friendship Night Of Local Lodge

Members of other lodges in the district were guests at the Friendship night of Olive Rebekah lodge recently. Mrs. Alice Smith, noble grand, presided.

Plans for the late summer annual bazaar and card party were discussed. Reports of the Oregon Rebekah assembly convention in Roseburg were given by delegates.

Mrs. Donald Ivie was presented the deputy president's commission by the noble grand.

An invitation from Ruth Rebekah lodge to attend their Friendship night July 20 was accepted.

Mrs. Joe Cave and Mrs. Willard Cave sang "My Prayer for Today." Each visiting lodge also presented a number for the program.

Guests included Mrs. Rosa Wallis, past Rebekah assembly president of Arkansas; Mrs. Anna Jewel, Rebekah lodge, Melbrook, Mich.; Mrs. Elizabeth Connor, Sunrise Rebekah lodge, Artesia, N. M.; and Mrs. Fern Hughes of Indiana.

There were 18 members from Ruth Rebekah lodge, Jacksonville; six from Amethyst, Gold Hill; five, Mt. Pitt, Central Point; 11 Etta, Grants Pass; 12, Hope, Ashland; and one each from Hebron and Culver lodges.

Centennial decorations included favors of little felt bonnets trimmed with lace made by Mrs. W. H. Dyer and Mrs. Joe Cave. Mrs. F. A. Daugherty arranged flowers from old-fashioned gardens in antique pitchers for the tables. Lodge officers wore Centennial dress.

Indiana Couple Valley Visitors

Recent valley visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Rettig, Wabash, Ind., parents of Mrs. William E. Preston, 2520 Jacksonville highway.

The couple, who spent a week in the valley visiting their son-in-law and daughter, left by train Friday to return to their home by the northern route. The Rettigs, who left Indiana May 23, first visited relatives in southern California before arriving in the valley. They drove here with their grandson, Clinton Osthimer, coach at Kern Valley High school, Kernville, Calif., near Bakersfield. Mr. Osthimer, son of Mrs. Preston, visited at the Preston home for three days prior to returning south.

While in the valley Mr. Rettig, who is a stamp collector, spent some time at the Camp White domiciliary where he sends stamps. The domiciliary is one of three Veterans administration institutions where Mr. Rettig mails stamps and while there he met many of the Stamp club members who have received them. The visitor was taken to Camp White by Mrs. Edward Leach, with whom Mr. Rettig had corresponded regarding the stamps, and who is active in the American Legion auxiliary.

Last Wednesday Mr. Rettig attended the Kiwanis weekly meeting. A member of the Wabash, Ind., club, Mr. Rettig has had nine years of perfect attendance in the organization.

Patio Dinner Held by Group

A patio dinner was held by the Insurance Women of Jackson County at the home of Mrs. Ann Davis, 1710 Barnett road, Medford, June 16.

Hostesses for the dinner were Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Carolyn Bagley. Co-chairman for the games were Mrs. Helen Ivie and Mrs. Carol Robertson.

Guests were Mrs. Lola Curl, with the Oregon Public Utilities commission, and Mrs. Julie Sanford, with Spencer-Bagley Agency.

The next meeting will be a luncheon in the Medford City park, July 7, with the members to bring a sack lunch.

Past Noble Grands Plan Coming Events

Past Noble Grands club of Olive Rebekah lodge met at the Girls Community club June 11. Mrs. Homer Vinzant, president, was in charge.

Refreshment committee members were Mrs. Fred Schaefer, Mrs. Blanch Robinson and Miss Caroline Leaders.

The group plans to hold a picnic at the home of Mrs. W. H. Dyer this summer and a rummage sale June 26 in the Fehl building.

Rummage is to be brought to Mrs. Vinzant, 848 Stewart avenue, SPring 2-2283, or to Mrs. Frank Chapman, 1041 West 11th street, SPring 2-6946.

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Visitors In Mayor's Home Averages 600 a Week

By ROSE McKEE
New York—Imagine an average of 600 people a week streaming through your home, bedrooms and all!

Mrs. Robert F. Wagner, wife of New York city's mayor, takes this in stride. Since 1954 the Wagners have lived in Gracie Mansion, the famous 18-19th century house that New York provides as a home for its mayors. The "First Lady" of the world's largest city said that because she is "always aware that the house isn't mine," she has wanted to share it with others as much as possible yet maintain a home atmosphere for her husband and their two sons.

She permits charitable organizations to use the mansion for teas but not during vacations when her sons are home from school. Unlike the White House where tours are restricted to the public rooms, Gracie Mansion has family living quarters only—and those attending the teas get to see pretty much the entire house, one way or another.

Visitors Locked In
Mrs. Wagner told an interviewer from the National Association of Home Builders that a woman at one of the teas once got locked in the broom closet. The door to the closet had been closed but the tendency of visitors is not to miss anything.

The other afternoon a "comparatively small group" of 125 women came for a program and tea. Their caterers filled the kitchen with trays of strawberry pastries and other sweets. Furniture in the drawing room was pushed back, folding chairs moved in through the French windows and a coat rack was installed in the bedroom of one of the Wagner boys. Most of the guests, after leaving their coats, took a good look at the other upstairs rooms, too.

New York's "First Lady," an attractive blonde, indicated that getting the mansion back in shape after such a function is not too much of a problem. Her real concern has been to give Gracie Mansion a friendly, homey look rather than the appearance of a museum, which it once was.

It is a two-story, white frame structure with a frontage of 65 feet and a depth of 50 feet. Piazzas on three sides overlook the East river and the Harlem river. Around the mansion are lawns and state trees.

Although its history goes back to 1646, the mansion gets its name from Archibald Gracie, a wealthy shipowner who bought it in 1818 and enlarged it in 1891 and in 1942 made it the "mayors home." Wagner is the fourth mayor to live in it.

Furnished by City
The city furnishes the mansion. There are treasured chests, tables and oil paintings, many of them on loan from the New York museums, in the reception hall, drawing room, library and dining room. Mrs. Wagner has used photographs, books, flowers and clusters of green leaves to give a homey air to these downstairs rooms.

The mayor uses the library for frequent business conferences. Books by former President Truman are among those on one of the coffee tables, as is an information almanac. The drawing room, across the reception hall has a grand piano and huge breakfast. Among the photographs are one of Britain's Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. Soft beige rugs give continuity to these rooms and the dining room, which has a table that seats a maximum of 24.

Considering the large numbers who are in and out of the mansion, its staff is surprisingly small—a butler, cook, laundress, upstairs maid, downstairs maid and a general supervisor, Charles Speckman, Jr., who keeps things running smoothly.

Mrs. Wagner said that one of the first things she did when she moved into the mansion was to take down the Venetian blinds on windows facing the rivers. She explained, "I like Venetian blinds, usually, but here, wouldn't you rather have the view?"

Mrs. Wagner has brought in some of her own furniture. She has her own sofa in the huge master bedroom, where the Mayor has four telephones at his bedside. There is a TV set in the room, many books, and near the sofa, a pair of easy chairs and a coffee table. Like every other room in the mansion, the bedroom has its own workable fireplace.

Record players in the room of Duncan, 12, reflects his absorbing interest in Hi-Fi and tape recording. Robert, 15, has an electric train from Germany set up in his room, with a "Please do not touch" sign on it. There is a reason for that. The only real headache the Wagners have had as a result of sharing the mansion was the disappearance of a silver mug that was given to Robert by his grandmother when he was a baby.

Once, after an organization tea, the Wagners found a set of false teeth on the arm of the sofa in the library. Mrs. Wagner said they worked out a way the owner could claim the teeth without embarrassment but "no claimant ever appeared."

SWISS CUISINE
New York—(UPI)—Swiss cuisine, which borrows from its neighboring countries of France, Italy and Germany, includes this French-inspired main-dish cheese pie.

Spread one 9-inch unbaked pie shell with 2 tablespoons of softened butter. Pour custard into shell and bake in 450-degree oven 12 minutes. Reduce heat to 300 degrees and continue baking for 35 minutes or until custard is set.

Brides Advised On Furnishings

By MARGUERITE DAVIS
United Press International
Chicago—(UPI)—Interior decorator Jane Derrick offers newly-weds a yardstick by which to choose furniture that can be moved from the first apartment to the larger quarters which the young couple eventually will want.

Miss Derrick said it's best to consult a professional decorator, who will help a young couple furnish an apartment with a \$1,000 budget and guide them to choices that will last. This she said, is the least expensive and most satisfactory way.

But for the bride who wants to proceed on her own, Miss Derrick had these suggestions:—Stick to the good straight lines of traditional furniture. The design is always good, and "there is a lot of bad design in modern." "Modernizing" touches can be added in fabrics, pictures and other accessories.

—Buy good wood pieces. Excellent wood will withstand almost unlimited rough treatment and can be refinished and repaired without losing its beauty, while cheap wood will always look like what it is. Upholstered furniture must eventually be recovered, no matter how fine the fabric.

—Avoid bulky furniture which looks fine in the showroom but overwhelming in an apartment living room. Small pieces almost always can be transferred to new quarters, but over-scale furniture might dominate the scene.

—Keep the rooms simple, sparsely furnished. They can be brightened with flowers, pictures or greens, "and remember there shouldn't be a room without some place for books."

—Deal in monotones, with only an occasional printed fabric or figured wallpaper for accent.

—In pictures, "it's better to have a good copy than a poor original."

—Consider a portable television set which can be tucked out of sight in a cupboard when not in use, and costs as little as \$200.

Regional Habit
Chicago—(UPI)—Service Master, which calls itself the world's largest professional house cleaning organization, says that while spring cleaning is traditional in colder parts of the nation, where the winters are long, fall cleaning goes with regions which have long, hot summers and mild winters.

The experts say that these regional cleaning habits date to the days before air-conditioning and central heating made the seasons pretty much the same, as far as the accumulation of household dirt is concerned.

CALENDAR..

Monday:
6 p.m.—Cruiser's club of First Presbyterian church, picnic at TouVelle park.
6:30 p.m.—Chrysanthemum circle, Neighbors of Woodcraft, Eagle hall.
6:30 p.m.—Scottish Rite Women's club, Medford Masonic temple.7:30 p.m.—Civil Air Patrol, Medford Composite squadron, CAP building, airport.8 p.m.—Degree of Honor lodge, Girls Community club.Tuesday:
10:30 a.m.—Woman's Society of Christian Service, First Methodist church.
12 noon—Elta Duell Hubbs tent, court courthouse auditorium.
12 noon—Jackson County Home Extension Advisory committee—Alumnae picnic, home of Mrs. Curtis Stockstill.2070 Houston rd.
8 p.m.—Natural Foods Associates, courthouse auditorium.
8 p.m.—Nevita chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Masonic temple, Central Point.
8 p.m.—American Legion auxiliary Red Cross building.
8 p.m.—Pythian club, home of Mrs. Arnold Matschenbacher, Old Stage road.
Wednesday:
11 a.m.—Medford Townsend club, Carpenters hall, 123 1/2 West Main st.
12:30 p.m.—Mistletoe club, Girls Community club.
12:30 p.m.—Roxy Gardeners, home of Mrs. C. C. Hoover, Gregory rd., Central Point.
7:45 p.m.—Medford Toastmistress club, Girls Community club.
Thursday:
12 noon—Medford Zonta club, Jackson hotel, Pioneer room.
12:30 p.m.—Medford Sojourners, Girls Community club.
1:30 p.m.—Jacksbnville Garden club, Community hall.
8 p.m.—Reames chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Medford Masonic temple.
Friday:
1 p.m.—Electa Social club, Girls Community club.
Saturday:
1 p.m.—Daughters of the American Revolution picnic, TouVelle park.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Ore., Saturday, June 21, 1968

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"Let's talk dry cleaning"

By KEN HARDY
SUMMER WHITES and light colors show up dirt, graying and staining more readily than darker clothing. They need more frequent cleaning to look fresh and crisp. Spots and stains are especially evident on light colors.

Here we want to say a friendly word of warning about "home spotting." While some spots may yield to home treatment successfully, without damage to the fabric, in most cases there is a definite risk. Unless you thoroughly understand the "fabric chemistry" of your garment and the chemical content of the spot or stain, it is dangerous to attempt to remove it yourself. The result could be discoloration or permanent staining and a ruined garment.

Some stains are so stubborn or difficult to remove that they challenge even the best efforts of dry cleaning experts. This is particularly true when stains have been left in too long. So don't gamble with ineffectual "do-it-yourself" methods. See your dry cleaner promptly!

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