

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

DEAF MINK.
PLUS KENNEDY
Wausau, Wis. — What may be called the new sights seen along the road are often the best rewards of the reporter's trade. You come here to Wausau to test the climate in the swing district of Wisconsin's make-or-buy break Democratic presidential primary. You learn that the climate favors Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts. But you also learn about deaf white mink.

The mink story came from Leroy Jonas Jr., the pleasant, shrewd young chairman of Rib Mountain, which is one of the more considerable townships of Marathon county. Jonas, himself a Republican, also offered a remarkably positive forecast that his Rib Mountain would choose Kennedy rather than Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota in the Democratic primary. But the mink story, for reasons to be explained, deserves to be told first.

The Jonas family, then, "got into mink by accident," as Leroy Jonas put it. The accident in question tragically all but blinded Leroy Jonas' younger brother. To give the boy an occupation and a hobby, the father bought him a few mink. It was an odd but imaginative present, so well chosen that the handicapped brother's hobby soon became the whole family's business. Today, the Jonases not only have a highly successful mink ranch; they also own an even more successful small factory that produces equipment for other mink ranchers.

In this success story, the only unhappy chapter began when the Jonases first tried breeding white mink. Horribly enough, the mink strain that produces the most delicately white skins is also deaf-mute from over-breeding. For the Jonases, these monstrous but luxurious animals obstinately refused to multiply their kind; and so the Jonas ranch now mass-produces a commoner but healthier strain of white.

"Is that just common white mink, or is Mrs. Jones' new coat made of deafmutes?" This splendidly macabre question for the status-seekers was only one of the by-products of a long day's political reporting. Another by-product was the surprising information that Marathon county, Wisconsin, produces much of the world supply of ginseng, an astringent root much valued by the Chinese as a restorative of male vigor.

I record these facts, I must add, with a perfectly serious purpose. They illustrate the marvelous diversity, unexpectedness and richness of this country of ours, which political reporters joyfully rediscover in each election year. Pazans of gratitude for the glorious un-boringness of the United States are not easy to fit into a political report; and this recurring gratitude has therefore been repressed.

Wake up rarin' to go



without nagging backache

Now! You can get the fast relief you need from nagging backache, headache and muscular aches and pains that often cause restless nights and miserable tired-out feelings. When these discomforts come on with over-exertion or stress and strain — you want relief — want it fast! Another disturbance may be mild bladder irritation following wrong food and drink — often setting up a restless uncomfortable feeling. Doan's Pills work fast in 3 separate ways: 1. by speedy pain-relieving action to ease torment of nagging backache, headaches, muscular aches and pains. 2. by soothing effect on bladder irritation. 3. by mild diuretic action tending to increase output of the 15 miles of kidney tubes.

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Crime Conference Explores Cause, Nature, Extent

Salem — (UPI) — The cause, nature and extent of crime and what to do about it was explored Tuesday at the first state-wide conference on crime prevention.

One hundred or more judges, lawmen, district attorneys, educators, lay and religious leaders and others gathered for the one-day session.

It was called by the Oregon Department of Justice. Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton said response to the conference was "greater than expected." He said he hopes the discussions and exchange of information can be a continuing thing.

Increased Effort Asked
Keynoting the conference, Circuit Judge Virgil Langtry of Multnomah county called for increased effort for work in family problems. A great number of criminals, he said, develop from a distressed home life.

Among causes of crime in Oregon mentioned were break-down of families and lack of religious and citizenship training among young people. It was also felt that the courts do not deal severely enough with first offenders.

Executive Director Of Churches Resigns

Portland — (UPI) — Dr. Mark Talney Tuesday offered his resignation as executive director of the Oregon Council of Churches. The resignation is effective May 31.

Dr. Talney will become Pacific Northwest Associate Secretary of the American Bible Society July 1.

He has been with the church council for seven years.

tively indicated. But when we got in touch at last with Hal Verhoven, he told us: "Sure I'm for Humphrey, but nobody ever told me I was county chairman of anything."

At this stage, in short, one would be inclined to prophesy a Kennedy victory in Wisconsin, without any qualification, if it were not for one bothersome point. Wisconsin's make-or-buy primary will only be won on the stump, and the contestants are just now beginning to take the stump.

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ARCH N. BOOTH To Be in Salem

Chamber Official To Be at Session

Arch N. Booth, Washington, D.C., executive vice president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, will be in Salem March 1 in one of a series of meetings throughout the country in which national chamber officials discuss proposed legislation of interest to local businessmen.

Don McNeil, manager of the local chamber, said reservations to and from Salem are being handled by the Medford Chamber of Commerce office, and local businessmen and chamber members are encouraged to attend.

Booth is a member of a national chamber team touring the country to discuss legislative matters of interest to businessmen, who are expected to participate in the program.

The Salem meeting starts at 9:30 a.m., and concludes at 3:30 p.m., McNeil said.

Booth is in general charge of all the chamber's projects, activities and operations in Washington, D.C., and in the field.

Truck Loaded With Eggs Hit by Train

Salem — (UPI) — A truck loaded with eggs collided with a freight train at a Southern Pacific railroad crossing near Aurora Tuesday.

The truck was demolished but driver Daniel H. Weisgram of Salem escaped serious injury. Eggs were splattered along the tracks for a distance.

The truck was owned by Oregon Egg Producers.

Jobless Compensation Claims Dip To 30,200

Salem — (UPI) — The Oregon Employment Department said today that despite heavy rains in western Oregon, unemployment compensation claims dropped to 30,200 last week, 1,382 less than the week before.

The Department said many workers, mostly loggers, were forced out of work because of high water or poor road conditions.

ECLIPSE TIME

Berkeley — The maximum duration of a total eclipse of the sun in the Twentieth century is 7.3 minutes.

Thousands Believed Given in Payola

Washington — (UPI) — A House investigator said today it is evident that record companies have shelled out "hundreds of thousands of dollars" to disc jockeys and others to get songs broadcast.

Rep. John E. Moss (D-Calif.) told United Press International that would be "a conservative, a restrained estimate."

Moss is a member of a House subcommittee which already has uncovered side payments of more than \$70,000 in the Cleveland and Boston areas alone.

The subcommittee was called behind closed doors today

to consider a plea from one of the men responsible for the side payments that he be allowed to testify in secret.

Three Judges To Seek Reelection

Salem — (UPI) — Three judges filed for reelection Tuesday.

They are Circuit Judges Malcolm W. Wilkinson of The Dalles and P. K. Hammond of Oswego, and Multnomah District Court Judge John Mears, Portland.

Also filing for reelection was Lincoln County District Attorney A. R. McMullen.

Body of Worker Found in Millpond

Tygh Valley — (UPI) — The body of Edward Franklin Stephens, 62, of Portland, was found in a mill pond here Tuesday.

Wasco county authorities speculated that Stephens fell into the pond sometime after 4 p.m. Monday and drowned.

Stephens was found after he didn't show up for work at the mill and the mill foreman found his empty lunch box and work gloves in the cab of the log unloading boom he operated.

SIZE COMPARED

Portugal is about the same area as Indiana.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. 5
Wednesday, Feb. 17, 1960

BLOCKED BALLOTS
Mobile, Ala. — (UPI) — Would-be voters who arrived at a polling station Tuesday to cast ballots on 19 constitutional amendments found the station locked tight. The official who was supposed to open up had overslept and didn't get there with the key until three hours later.

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