

## In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

This is written on the Fourth of July — which prompts a question: What is the 4th of July?

ONE fears at times that too many people think of it as JUST ANOTHER HOLIDAY.

That isn't literally true. On the fourth day of July in 1776 the 13 colonies of Great Britain in America declared their independence of the mother country and set themselves up as an independent nation — the United States of America.

In many ways, that is the most important date in modern history.

HOW did they come to do it? The answer is simple:

The people of the 13 colonies came to America to find liberty. Their search for liberty was hampered by a despotic government in the mother country. Their resentment grew until in 1775 a convention was called in the colony of Virginia to discuss their grievances. At this convention, Patrick Henry proposed that the Virginia Militia be ARMED for defense of the colony against England.

In support of his proposal, he uttered these passionate words: "GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH." Shortly afterward, the first shots of the Revolutionary War were fired at Lexington and Concord.

THE battle of Lexington and Concord occurred on April 19, 1775. More than a year later, on June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia moved in the Continental Congress that "these united colonies are and ought to be FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES."

His words sparked ACTION. The Continental Congress appointed a committee to draft a declaration of independence. Thomas Jefferson devoted 18 days to writing and polishing the declaration. Benjamin Franklin and John Adams added their suggestions. The Continental Congress as a whole went over it, cutting out some lines, changing others and adding a few.

THE final draft of the Declaration of Independence was formally adopted on July 4, but it was not until three

or four days later that it was first read in public. Copies of it were printed and broadcast all over the 13 colonies.

PERHAPS it should be pointed out here that the word "broadcast" is a little deceptive in these days of almost instantaneous communications. Back in 1776, it took weeks for these copies to be distributed.

But the date of July 4, 1776, the day on which the final draft was adopted by the Continental Congress, is the formal and accepted date of the Declaration of Independence, and it is July 4 that we celebrate as Independence Day.

THE essence of the Declaration of Independence is contained in this concluding paragraph:

"We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in general congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name and by the authority of the good people of these colonies solemnly publish and declare that these united colonies, are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown."

... And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, WE MUTUALLY PLEDGE TO EACH OTHER OUR LIVES, OUR FORTUNES AND OUR SACRED HONOR."

IT WAS in that spirit that the United States of America was founded. If we MAINTAIN that spirit, there is nothing we can't accomplish.

GROWTH POTENTIAL. New York — APB — Pregnated plastics is one of the newest industries in the country. Sales of \$1 million in 1954 climbed to \$20 million last year. Pre-pregnated means reinforcing plastic materials in advance instead of by hand layup in final production of end products. This insures greater uniformity and strength.

SPIRIT OF '76. Chicago — APB — Music teacher Leo Lightner said his Australian parrot, which flew a w a y Independence Day, whistles "Yankee Doodle."

## Hotels at Airports Become Big and Different Business

New York — APB — Running hotels at airports not only is big business, it's a new and different business, says hotelman William B. Rasor.

Rasor is vice president of Knott Hotels, the nation's oldest chain which runs the big International Hotel at New York's Idlewild airport. It is one of seven new airport hotels that serve the 15 million passengers who use Idlewild and LaGuardia airports yearly.

"At Idlewild, we also are

near two huge racetracks," Rasor said, "which complicates the operation. As a result, the International Hotel is the strangest phenomenon in our company's 71 years of existence. Anything can happen at the International and does. Soon after we opened, for example, 125 honeymooning couples descended on us in one night. Then we discovered we only had 60 double beds."

Rasor said the activity at the International — which has only 320 rooms with another

200 to be added as soon as possible — is fully equal to that of a downtown hotel of 1,000 rooms.

Rasor soon discovered after the International opened that 100 per cent occupancy didn't mean a thing. In the course of any 24 hours, the hotel was liable to be 110 or 120 per cent occupied. That forced something hitherto almost unheard of in hotel practice — part-time rates. People stopping at Idlewild can rent a room for overnight or for six

hours or for 10 hours during the daytime at varying prices.

Virtually the entire airport hotel business now has adopted this idea.

Recreation Facilities

The airport hotel is not just a bedroom hotel, though. It has all the community and recreational facilities of the downtown hotel. Knott even is adding a 500-seat ballroom to the International, as quick as it can be built, for conventions.

Rasor warned against overbuilding of airport hotels, but the boom in them is in full swing. Vice President Spear Ellison of Hilton Hotels said not long ago Hilton plans a string of 20 large airport ho-

tels. Hilton has airport units now in New Orleans and San Francisco and will put its next three in Seattle, Wash., Atlanta and El Paso, Tex.

Los Angeles already has seven airport hotels. And many others are in the drawing board and site negotiation stage across the country waiting to be announced.

The airport hotel is primarily a product of the jet age. Cities do not want close-in airports any longer. They don't want the noise of jet planes and fear crashes of jet liners on take-offs and arrivals. A trip into the heart of the city from the new far-out airports nearly always exceeds an hour. From O'Hare airport in

Chicago to the Loop is at least 80 minutes. Toronto's airport is at least as far out.

Incidentally, jet noise presents architects with a stiff challenge in designing air-

port hotels. The most interesting attempt so far to solve it is in the 270-room Miami airport hotel built by the port authority there.

Richard J. Nordquist, D.M.D.

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## Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

COMIC JOE E. LEWIS confided to Scribe Herb Stein that he's writing a book tentatively called *Horses to Lose By*. "Race horses," points out Professor Lewis, "are more than 2000 years old—especially the ones I bet on. Do you know that Noah's Ark contained two race horses—and 300 jackasses to bet on them? The first famous horse player in history was King Richard of Britain, who called in his court handicapper and begged, 'A horse! a horse! My kingdom for a horse.' So the handicapper handed him a plug that came in ninth."



Venida Colwell saw a row of kids sitting in front of her neighbor's garage one afternoon, a look of happy expectancy on all their faces. "How come all you kids are sitting there so quietly?" inquired Mrs. Colwell. "We're waiting to listen to my father," explained one child, "when he comes home and sees what Mom did to the right front fender."

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