

Tenants Keeping LA Coliseum Personnel Busy

Los Angeles — The troubles that beset most landlords can't begin to compare with the problems facing Bill Nicholas, whose tenants ostentatiously rip up the lawn, unthinkingly lose equipment and then have the gall to demand immediate structural changes.

Nicholas isn't in charge of a madhouse — though sometimes it surely must seem that way. He is general manager of the huge Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

His occupants include almost everything and everyone. Last year, for instance, the 101,573 seat stadium was home to gigantic professional football players and tiny bantamweight boxers, dignified religious services and rollicking western rodeos.

Nicholas has run the Coliseum since 1946, but it is only recently that he has begun to feel like an apartment house manager cramming people in. Before 1958 he only had to worry about getting in the Los Angeles Rams, UCLA and Southern California during the football season and a few other events during the spring and summer.

Dodgers Come

Then came the Dodgers. Walter O'Malley decided his team would take up temporary residence in the stadium. So the Coliseum got 77 more playing dates and a much maligned 40-foot-high left field screen, not to mention foul poles and a backstop.

The recent addition of the American Football League Los Angeles Chargers gave Nicholas more experience in schedule squeezing and about left the groundkeepers with the shakes.

During 1960 a chauvinistic Coliseum spectator could have seen 42 football games (not including pee-wee tilts at half-time), 77 baseball games, the Mary's Hour religious program, Coliseum Relays, sportsmen's and vacation shows, a rodeo, July 4th fireworks, two championship boxing bouts, and, of course, President Kennedy proclaiming the "new frontier" at the Democratic National Convention in July.

Needless to say, the many events keep the groundkeepers and work crews on the run. In a weekend in early fall, when the Dodgers are still playing and the Rams and Chargers have started their exhibition seasons, the Coliseum faces changes almost daily.

On a Friday evening the screen and backstop may be up. Saturday no more screen. The baseball structures have been replaced by goal posts and football striping is on the grass. Sunday afternoon after another hectic switch the field is again ready for baseball.

It takes two work crews of seven men each a total of eight hours and costs about \$1,000 every time the screen and backstop go up or down.

By November the field is a groundskeeper's nightmare. There is nothing left in the middle of the gridiron but a few straggly roots and plenty of dirt which sometimes is sneakily dyed green to fool the players and fans into thinking it is grass. According to Nicholas, not even the broncos and Brahma bulls at the rodeo tear up the turf like football players.

The Coliseum grass and the stadium's workers get a rest only during February and March. But if any more teams move to Los Angeles these months might also be filled with events. What might happen to the playing field then is beyond credibility.

Scout News

Troop 38

Hornbrook — The violent wind and rain storm of March 5 brought a sudden end to week end camp-out of Hornbrook Boy Scout Troop 38.

The boys left Saturday morning and had made their camp on McKinney creek where they had planned to set out trees for the forest service. Since they were forced to break camp and return home even before their project was begun, they will undertake to complete the work at a later date.

The troop was accompanied by their scoutmaster, Ralph Chadwick, and furnishing transportation were Louis Hutchins, Oscar Barnum "Buck" Skeahan and James Dickson.

Members of the troop participating were Frankie Cardoza, Steve Eckert, Jim Brown, Mike Dooley, Allen Swafford, Billy Spearin, Bob Hutchins, Danny Thompson, Steve and Dale Farmer, Doug Bennett, Darrell Jones, Mike Turnbow, Ernie Burcell and George Chadwick.

EGG PRODUCERS

Chicago — Iowa, California, Pennsylvania and Minnesota lead the nation in annual production of eggs for market.

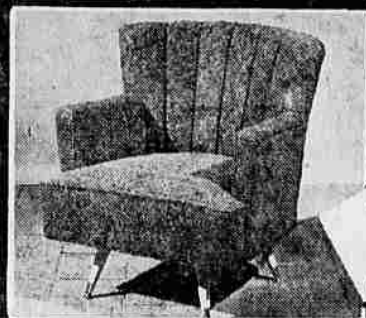
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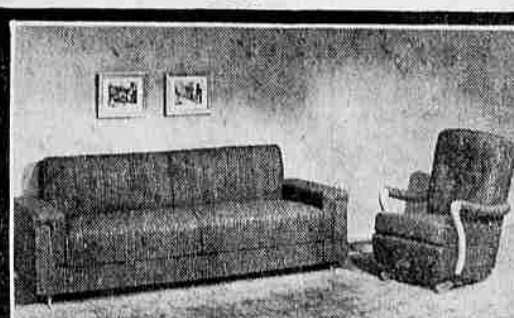
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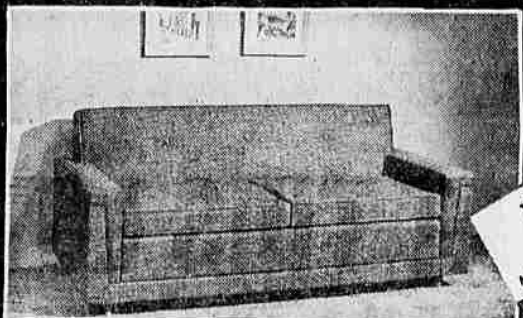
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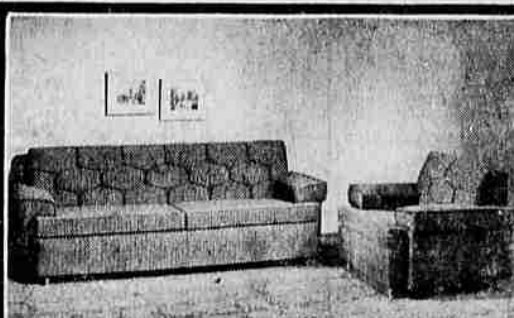
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