

DEFINITION OF PEANUTS

Goobar Described in Congressional Bill for Purpose of Legislation

By DICK WEST



Washington - (UPI) - The House Agriculture Committee held a hearing last week on a bill whose heading I had to read twice to make certain it wasn't a myopic illusion.

According to its title, the measure would "amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, to extend for two years the definition of peanuts."

Well, sir, I have been around Washington since the Truman administration and I am not easily nonplussed. But this bill, I'll admit, had me temporarily flabbergasted.

I couldn't figure out any logical reason why Congress should be involved in the definition of peanuts. Under our free enterprise system, that sort of thing is usually left to the dictionaries.

Explains Bill
It was Rep. D. R. (Billy) Matthews, a Florida Democrat and peanut connoisseur, who eventually enabled me to see the light.

In writing farm legislation, Matthews explained, Congress does not necessarily go along with Webster, who defines the peanut as "an erect Brazilian herb with biguate leaves, hairy stem, and bright-yellow flowers."

For price support purposes, he said, peanuts are defined as all peanuts produced except those produced for "consumption exclusively as boiled peanuts."

The purpose of defining peanuts in this manner is to exempt boiled peanuts from acreage controls.

Southern Delicacy
In the South, Matthews continued, boiled peanuts are regarded as a "delicious delicacy." Many southerners think they are even superior to cracklings as snacks or appetizers.

Peanut farmers have found, however, that they can make more money by growing peanuts for roasting, or for use in peanut candy, peanut butter and peanut oil.

So what they do is plant their entire acreage allotments in peanuts for these uses. Then, taking advantage of the congressional definition of peanuts, they plant a few unallotted acres to satisfy the regional craving for the boiled variety.

That cleared that up, but it left me puzzled on another point. Although I lived in Georgia and Florida for several years and thought I had sampled every southern dish known to man or mammy, I never even heard of boiled peanuts before.

Small Town Belle
I asked my wife about this and she said it probably was because I lived in big cities. My wife used to be the belle of Siloam, Ga., which is down the road apiece from Social Circle.

She concurred in Matthews' opinion that boiled peanuts are delicious beyond description. Just the mention of them had her taste buds whistling "Dixie."

If you are one of those benighted souls who have never tasted this ambrosia of the Peanut Belt, you may be pleased to learn that relief is on the way. A couple of plants are now putting boiled peanuts on the market in cans.

Civil Rights Bills Scheduled

Washington - (UPI) - Democrats planned today to introduce - at President Kennedy's request - six joint bills in the Senate and House aimed at carrying out the civil rights pledges of the 1960 Democratic campaign platform.

Sen. Joseph S. Clark (D-Pa.) and Chairman Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.), of the House Judiciary Committee announced that Kennedy had asked them last September to prepare the legislation.

The six measures included constitutional amendments eliminating poll taxes and literacy tests as voting requirements for federal elections. Another would require school boards operating racially segregated public schools to submit a plan for desegregation, including "first step compliance" by June, 1964.

The bills also would make permanent and stronger the civil rights commission due to expire Sept. 9; authorize the attorney general to initiate civil injunction suits in federal courts to bar denial of civil rights on grounds of race, creed or color; and provide administrative and court remedies to assure fair employment practices.

CONSIDER DIVORCE TAX
Montgomery, Ala. - (UPI) - The Legislature had under consideration today a measure which would impose a \$50 tax on every divorce granted in Alabama. More than 17,000 so-called "quickie" divorces were granted last year, said Rep. W. P. Gordon, who wants to see the tax money used in medical care for the aged.

SPELLMAN IN HOSPITAL

New York - (UPI) - Francis Cardinal Spellman entered Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center during the week end for observation of an eye ailment. A hospital spokesman said the eye condition was not grave.

Super-Simple

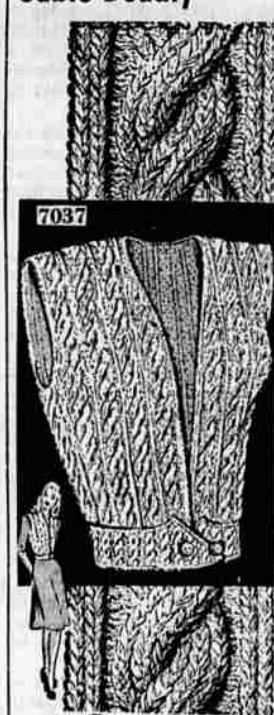


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All-Number Telephone Service In Ashland After Countdown

Ashland - All-number calling arrived in Ashland Saturday at 11 p.m. after a countdown befitting the most carefully planned astronaut launching.

The deed was accomplished precisely on the scheduled minute.

And it was over in a matter of seconds when technicians pulled a series of strings releasing blocking plugs from the gleaming number 5 crossbar switching equipment.

The first official call on the new system was completed by Mayor R. L. Neill to Elmo Stevenson, president of Southern Oregon college, at his home.

The order to put Pacific Telephone Northwest's \$730,000 central office system into operation was given by Sid Shaw, supervising wire chief from Medford.

His voice was heard over a loudspeaker in each of three vital locations. The old central office at 111 Oak st., the Medford phone building and the new central office at East Main and Sixth sts. in Ashland.

Go-Ahead
Shaw gave the go-ahead after a last minute check with the cutover coordinator Howard Rickman, Medford chief switchman, who was in the Medford test center. Rickman was connected by special lines to the long distance units where Chief Operator Valerie Perdue had made sure there were no Ashland customers making emergency long distance calls.

The last big outside task in the overall program began at 4:30 p.m. Saturday when phone installation men began the task of replacing all Ashland coin telephones with the type that requires a dime before dial tone is heard. This was necessary to make the phones work with the new crossbar switching equipment.

The installers worked till midnight Saturday, all day Sunday, and expected to complete the coin conversion by noon today.



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins
(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1961)

Nothing Deters the Hardy Shell Collector from His Task
One of the most dedicated collectors is the so-called pack rat. He has no particular choice in what he collects; he takes anything he can carry.

The crow is nearly as bad; anything that is bright and shiny takes his eye, and he desires it. Blue jays will collect plant labels from garden shrubs, carefully unwinding the wires that attach the label to the plant; later he hides the labels in some convenient bark-crevise.

Raccoons are avid collectors, as are many other species of animals; all apparently derive a great deal of satisfaction in assembling many objects in one place.

The human collector is little different; he may concentrate on one particular item, such as stamps, syrup pitchers, collar buttons or sea shells, and he is motivated by the same consuming urge that drives the pack rat, raccoon or blue jay.

The hardy shell collector is afraid of neither hard work nor early rising. Burning sun, aching backs, cold winds, wet feet and long walks without food or water are as much a part of his equipment as the urge itself.

Keen Eyesight
These determined ones are combining exercise with knowledge and acquiring an eyesight as keen as a hawk's.

There are sections of the U. S. that border the sea where great numbers of shells come ashore, that play host to human shell collectors who hunt with flashlight. They literally "burn the candle at both ends," by pursuing their hobby at night. They present an eerie sight; dots of flashing light bobbing along a deserted beach when the tide is right. The serious collector watches the calendar, he gauges his activities by the moon; full moon and new moon are the times when the tide is lowest. That's the time to be afield, and that's the time he will be there with his collector's bag and his determination.

Has Language
As could be expected, the true shell collector has a language of sorts and phrases that describe his actions. It is a slogan among professional collectors that their "coat of arms" is decorated with the outline of two probing fingers and an arched back.

Even the "once-in-a-while" collector is treading on dangerous ground, for after he has found a few choice shells he, too, is a fit subject for the "collecting bug" to nibble on him. He may think he can overcome the urge and turn his back, but the chances are he will look forward to many other walks along the ocean's edge; once the camel gets his head in the tent, he will push his way inside.

COSTLY TRAFFIC JAMS

New York - (UPI) - Traffic jams in New York are liable to become expensive as well as irritating. Police Commissioner Michael J. Murphy over the week end called a new campaign against honking auto horns unnecessarily. A rarely-enforced traffic law sets up fines of \$2 to \$10 for first offenders but the last time the law was revived to quiet things down was in 1958.

HELD ON DOPE CHARGE-Mrs. Betty Caroline Taylor, 61, has been jailed in Los Angeles and accused of running a state-wide dope peddling operation. The widow of a one-time deputy police chief is being held after sheriff's and federal narcotics officers allegedly purchased three ounces of pure heroin for \$900. (UPI Telephone)

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