



97 YEARS OLD - The Navy's oldest living ex-chaplain, retired Capt. Curtis H. Dickens, celebrates his 97th birthday at his home in San Diego, Calif. Dickens, who smokes six cigars a day, said he is still living because he loves people and life. (UPI)

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SECTION C MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1962 PAGES 1 to 10

Five Accidents Are Reported to Police

Five automobile accidents involving cars, two of them hit and run, were reported to Medford city police Tuesday.

The hit and run accidents involved parked vehicles. One car was owned by Raymond R. Reter, 327 South Fir st., which was hit shortly after 8 a.m. while parked on Fir st., between 10th and 11th sts., and the other parked vehicle was owned by Joseph Benjamin Sparks, 9 Rose st., which was damaged near his residence about 8:35 p.m.

Three vehicles were involved in a collision about 4:45 p.m. in front of 2391 North Pacific highway, according to city police. The cars were operated by Edward Wayne Morris, 47, of route 1, box 596, Cave Junction; Victor Eledge Noel, 49, of 231 North Second st., Central Point; and Thomas Francis Vasche, 26, of 319 Bridge st., Ashland. Vasche was cited by city police for violation of the basic rule.

Glenn S. Taylor, 65, of 1554 Webster st., Ashland, suffered minor injuries in a two-vehicle accident at 11:38 a.m. at the intersection of Central ave. and Main st. He was cited by city police for disobeying a red light. The operator of the other car involved was Thomas Ewing Austin, 31, of 1541 South Ivy st., police reports show.

Reginald Paul Breeze, 20, of 912 Murray st., was cited by city police for failing to yield the right of way to a vehicle on the right after the vehicle he was driving was involved in an accident with a car operated by Lloyd Harold Wales, 33, of 466 North Second st., Central Point. The accident occurred at the intersection of Summit and Palm sts., about 4:30 p.m., according to police.

POSITIVE REACTION

London - (UPI) - A man was reported on the Westminster Bridge Wednesday holding a water-divining twig over the Thames. "He got a positive reaction," said the Daily Telegraph.

Historic Hacienda Found in Caracas

By CLAIRE COX United Press International Caracas, Venezuela - (UPI) - A house that dates to 1590 nestles as an oasis in the heart of this traffic-jammed, modernizing South American capital.

Believed to be the oldest inhabited place in the Western Hemisphere, the Hacienda La Vega belongs to the descendants of the original owner, one of the conquistadores of the Valley of Caracas.

Like New York City, Caracas is constantly tearing down and rebuilding. Sleek, modernistic apartment houses and commercial buildings are replacing much of the old Spanish-style architecture.

The Herrera Usar family hopes to cling to their hacienda, however, as one of the truly historic places in the new world. It once was situated in the middle of a thousand-acre ranch where horses

grazed and carriages were the principal means of travel. Half the acreage has been sold, and a broad avenue passes the hacienda. Nearby are glass and stucco apartment houses.

Dr. Jose Herrera Usar, a lawyer and former diplomat, owns the hacienda. He moved from it eight years ago to a new Georgian mansion from which he has a view of Caracas, and his brother, Reinaldo, occupies the hacienda now with his family.

Original Thick Walls

The original section of the house was built by Garci Gonzales de Silva at a time when there were only 700 Spaniards in Caracas. It was constructed with walls two feet thick. The living quarters were upstairs, the patio and stables below. Now a Rolls is parked in the stable and the patio is equipped with the latest in charcoal grills.

ber of a Spanish family named Rojas Herrera. One of his descendants lost the house when he went into debt, but in 1890 Dr. Herrera's grandfather bought it back.

By the time the house had returned to Herrera hands, it had been added to and improved considerably. The Count of Tovar, a president of Venezuela, made the alterations in 1780. The 80-room arrangement has remained largely as it was except for the addition of spacious, colorfully tiled bathrooms throughout the house and cement floors. Electricity long since has been added.

Tropical Growths

A high wall surrounds the gardens adjacent to the house. Orchids grow on trees in the garden and other tropical growths abound. The original section of the house is covered with ivy. A Spanish tile roof covers the yellow stucco building and the interior

floors are mainly of tile. There are several patios, each with trees and shrubs.

A veranda runs along two sides of the house, with doors from bedrooms opening onto it. The rooms are furnished with priceless antiques, four-poster beds of rare woods, paintings and other objects d'art.

"Like all old houses, this one has a ghost," Herrera said. "He is one of the Tovar who was assassinated. He used to come around when I lived there. I have felt his presence."

The hacienda, with its fortress-like walls, has withstood two great earthquakes. Whether it will withstand the pressure of twentieth century growth of Caracas is a matter of concern to the Herreras.

"We would like to see it preserved," Herrera said. "whether we occupy it or not. It is one of the truly historic places in the entire world."

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