



The annual Military ball always attracts officers and retired officers from several towns in southern Oregon. Among those attending the 1962 event, held December 8 at Rogue Valley Country club, were (left

to right) Lt. Cmdr. R. E. Bridenstine USN, and Mrs. Bridenstine, and Capt. Eldon Everett, United States Army, and his wife. Both couples are from Grants Pass.

Veni-Vidi

By MARGARET SCHULER

Roma—Suddenly it is winter. The trees bordering the avenues are bare and the leaves have been whisked into little dustpans and carried away by the hundreds of blue-smocked street sweepers. The chrysanthemums on the Via Veneto have been yanked from their dying beds and supplanted by thousands of primroses all up and down both sides of the boulevard. Santa Claus, looking exactly like the American products, and baubles looking straight out of Japan, are in evidence in all the ten cent stores.

Many Italian women are in fur coats these crisp days, and it may be that Mrs. Kennedy's influence is felt here, as there are leopard skins all over the place. Or, it might be that she bought hers over here. Men and women, even in December, do not wear hats—at least the young, and near young.

Cinemas are crowded. Guess who are the movie-going people in the world? Statistics prove the Italians to be. By the end of this year, so the paper states, 750 million tickets will have been sold. A booming film industry also reached an all time high; 270 pictures were made in Italy, and 183 foreign films with Italian voices dubbed in, were shown. There must be almost as many cinemas in Rome as churches—and that is a lot. Certainly there are many more than in Vienna. People there bypass movies to go to the opera—especially young people, and in Vienna you can go to a concert, or symphony, or good play any night of the week. During the winter months here there seems not much good music. Opera season does not begin until late in December.

I saw George Peppard recently. I wanted to say to him that I knew when—the "when" being, when he went swimming in the Barnum pool the summers he worked with the Shakespearean festival. One could not guess then that the skinny, not too, prepossessing youth, would climb to consort with such as Audrey Hepburn. He is now making a picture in Italy—star studded also.

The jamming of Italian roads is going to get worse. In Rome there is an average of one automobile for every nine persons. In considering traffic, that does not include motor scooters, motorcycles and the obnoxious little three-wheelers, nor the government, military and postal vehicles. The Fiat 600—the pigmy of them all—is the most popular, and wait until the other nine persons all get them! However, some progress in the traffic situation is being made. The number of traffic fatalities declined from January this year to July. Instead of killing 4846, "Loro" (they in Italian) only killed 4790. The best news of all to those who will be fortunate enough to be here is that great road construction is under way—work which will cost \$1,600,000,000.

The cost of living in Rome, unlike fatalities, is going up and up. Coffee jumped five lire more a cup, and Italian State Railroads announced recently that on the first of January, travel will cost fifteen percent more for a train trip. Even though it is against the law to advertise cigarettes, the prices are increasing. And all food will cost more than ever before.

The European Common Market is beginning to be felt in Italy. In such things as the marketing of a new cigarette, using tobacco from the countries belonging to

will cost less than other foreign brands, (41 cents as compared with seventy cents for top imported brands). In Italy, the state monopoly controls tobacco sales and fixes prices. That is the reason one goes to the "tobacchi" shop to buy stamps and salt.

In Play

Ted Lawson, son of Dr. and Mrs. Earl L. Lawson, 301 Windsor avenue, took the part of Gryphon in the University of Kansas Children's theater presentation of "Alice in Wonderland," given in the university theater December 6 through 8. The student is a senior at the university.

Group Meetings Planned Tuesday

Group meetings for the Women's Fellowship, First Christian church, will be Tuesday, December 18. Gifts for a Beaverton home, Beaverton, Ore., will be collected.

Clark group will meet with Mrs. Frank Chapman, 1041 West 14th street, at 10 a.m. with a luncheon following at noon.

The following will meet at 1 p.m. McCracken group with Mrs. George Brecoe as hostess at the Rogue Valley Manor; Swander group with Mrs. Harold Ottosen, 109 Geneva street; Mrs. Chester Peterson will host the Troxell group at her home, 907 Beall lane and Wear group with Mrs. Herb Sims at 47 North Peach street.

Guild Holds Election

Mrs. Eloise Winklebleck was elected president of Westminster guild of First Presbyterian at their Christmas meeting.

Other officers are Mrs. Robert Brewer, vice president; Mrs. Stanley Jones, secretary, and Mrs. George Tucker, treasurer.

The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Merlyn Harvey, 612 Newtown avenue. She was assisted by Mrs. Eva Marsh and Mrs. Clara Ziegler.

A program was presented by students from Jackson school. Catherine Watson was soloist and songs were sung by the Fourth grade chorus. The stories were told by Christine Bell, Michele Kennedy, Donna Wells, Marilyn Zimmers, and Linda Powers.

Coordinator for the program was Mrs. John Medley

with Mrs. Norene French and Mrs. Joanne Sousa in charge of the chorus. School principal is H. Bruce Metzger.

Salem Orchestra Plans Concert

Salem-Oregon's capital city will have its own symphony orchestra Monday, December 17, when the premiere concert of the group will be given at Leslie Junior High school auditorium.

Conductor is Haimo Haitto and more than two-thirds of the orchestra members are professional musicians in Salem and surrounding communities.

Tickets to the concert may be purchased at the door.

Orchestra rehearsals are each Monday at 7:30 p.m. at South Salem High school.

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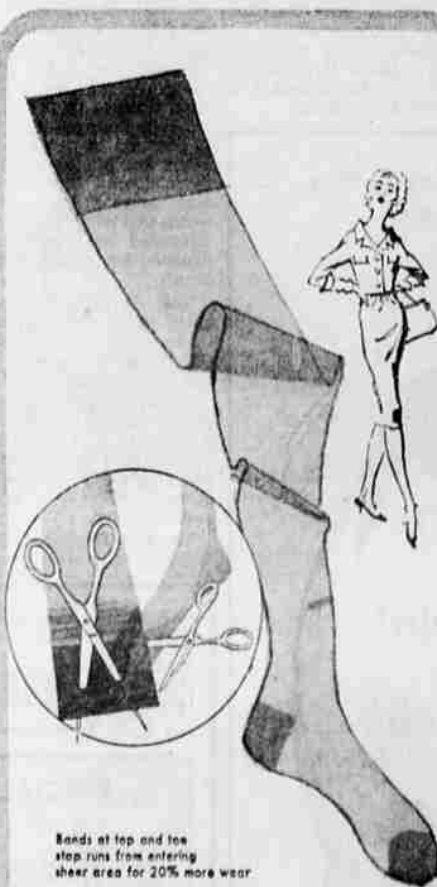
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