

How's Your IQ?

Oxford Dictionary Supports West's Recollection of Grundy's Demise

By DICK WEST



Washington — (UPI) — In the long run, I'm convinced, life's little irritants are more damaging to our nervous systems than the major shocks and fissures. A trifle that has been gnawing away at me, making Swiss cheese of my composure, is a daily newspaper feature called "How's Your IQ?"

I can't just dismiss this question as rhetorical, reply "fine, thank you, How's yours?" and go on about my business. I have to stop and take a little test that it in-

roduces. The test comes in 10 parts and in order to be rated as a "memory genius" you have to average 9 or 10 correct answers daily. This is what has been galling me.

I have had many near misses, getting 7 or 8 right for a "very superior" rating, plus a whole flock of 5 or 6's for an "excellent." But I have never been able to measure up as a genius. If I remember the name of the chief mountain range of Mexico (Sierra Madre), I am certain to stumble over the relationship between Louis XIV and Louis XV (grandfather and grandson). And so on.

A year or so ago I hit eight on the nose in a quiz which included the fol-

lowing: "Solomon Grundy was born on Monday; on what day did he die according to the nursery tale?"

My answer was "Saturday," but according to the published answer list "Sunday" is correct. This kept me out of the genius circle.

I had a feeling that something was amiss, but I bit my lip and accepted the decision as manfully as I could.

This week, by coincidence, the same question turned up again. I again answered "Saturday." "Sunday" was again listed as correct and I again fell short of genius.

This time, however, I refused to go down without a struggle. I got a copy of the Oxford dictionary of nursery rhymes and looked up the complete text of "Solomon Grundy." It was as remembered it from my own nursery days.

"Solomon Grundy, born on a Monday, christened on Tuesday, married on Wednesday, took ill on Thursday, worse on Friday, died on Saturday, buried on Sunday. This is the end of Solomon Grundy."

The Oxford dictionary, by its own admission, is an authority in this field. It claims to have assembled between the covers "almost everything so far known about nursery rhymes."

I contend that its verification of my answer regarding Grundy's demise entitles me to be recognized as genius-for-a-day even though the authors of "How's Your IQ?" may dissent.

Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER

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SOCIAL SECURITY TAX BOOST TO HIT NEXT WEEK

One week from tomorrow just about every employee, employer and self-employed individual in the United States will be hit in the pocketbook. On Jan. 1, your Social Security tax is going up for the ninth time since the Social Security system came into being in the late 1930s.

The tax on you, as an employee, will rise from the present 3-1/4 per cent to 3-1/2 per cent on your first \$4,800 of earnings. You maximum tax will increase from \$150 this year to \$174 next year. The tax on you, as an employer, will go up an identical amount. The combined tax will be 7-1/4 per cent, up a full 1 per cent, and will pull out an additional \$2 billion from employees and employers in 1963.

The tax on you, as a self-employed person, will rise from the present 4.7 per cent to 5.4 per cent on your first \$4,800 of income. Your maximum tax will climb from \$225.60 this year to \$259.20 next. If you earn considerably more than \$4,800, your take-home pay will be substantially reduced in the early months of 1963. For instance, if your income is \$200 a week, you'll pay \$10.80 a week in social security tax alone until you have paid up your tax for 1963.

What's more, under the law passed last year the combined employer-employee tax is due to rise again to 8-1/4 per cent in 1966 and to 9-1/4 per cent in 1968. On self-employed persons, it's due to rise to 6.2 per cent in 1966 and to 6.9 per cent in 1968. And this doesn't consider what rates might be set if new benefits are voted. (If Congress had passed Medicare—which would have been financed through Social Security taxes—the rate would have been boosted to 9-1/4 per cent.)

Even the most violent anti-welfare conservative no longer argues about Social Security benefits. These taxes are helping millions of Americans to be financially independent in their older years. The system has become a major prop under our economy because the benefits paid to so many millions are immediately and regularly spent day after day. While we who are now paying the taxes are providing benefits to others, eventually we too will receive benefits. As the taxes have jumped, so have the benefits. In 1940-49, the maximum an individual worker retired at 65 could get was \$45.60 a month. Now, the minimum is \$40, the maximum is scheduled to go to \$127 in 1963, and widows with young children can get much more.

Still, it's a heavy tax, and the rates already in the law will be approaching the limits taxpayers will stand for. We're carrying an income tax load which is obviously a drag on our entire economy. We're struggling under a mounting burden of state and local taxes.

We'll not retreat on Social Security taxes. With our soaring population and expanding needs for hundreds of state and local services, there's scant hope that the load will be eased at these government levels.

What's the way out, then? The way out is through across-the-board, top-to-bottom cuts in federal income taxes on individuals and corporations—the reductions President Kennedy has once more pledged he'll fight to get from Congress in 1963. By increasing our tax burden when we so much need relief, the Social Security tax hike will add urgency to Kennedy's request.

This table will put the maximum Social Security tax you'll soon be paying in perspective. (Combined rate is for employers and employees.)

Period	Combined tax rate	Wage-earner payment	Employer payment	Self-employed payment
1937-49	2%	\$30	\$30	None
1950	3%	\$45	\$45	None
1951-53	3%	\$54	\$54	\$81
1954	4%	\$72	\$72	\$108
1955-56	4%	\$84	\$84	\$126
1957-58	4 1/2%	\$94.50	\$94.50	\$141.75
1959	5%	\$120	\$120	\$180
1960-61	6%	\$144	\$144	\$216
1962	6 1/4%	\$150	\$150	\$225.60
1963-65	7 1/4%	\$174	\$174	\$259.20
1966-67	8 1/4%	\$198	\$198	\$297.60
1968-7	9 1/4%	\$222	\$222	\$333.20

If a 10 per cent social security rate is, as many experts believe, the limit taxpayers will stand for under our country's present tax structure, where do we go from here? Where we go is in federal income tax reduction.

Dennis the Menace



"HEY, IT'S ALMOST DARK! YOU'D BETTER GET GOIN'!"

Seven People Appear in Circuit Court Friday

Llewellyn Ford, 44, of 836 Morrison ave., Medford, of Oregon Bookkeeping Service, appeared in Jackson county circuit court Friday afternoon on charges of embezzlement by agent.

The case was continued to allow Ford to consult with his attorney. He is charged with embezzling \$12,959 from

Thomas - Hunt Construction company.

In other court action, Jake Albert Toews, 20, Prospect, was sentenced to 2 1/2 years in the Oregon State Correctional institution on charges of burglary in a dwelling.

He pleaded guilty to breaking into a Medford garage last January.

Paulette Bone, 15 Amy st., Central Point, pleaded guilty to charges of forging a check. She was released on her own recognizance to await the further order of the court and at the direction of the state board of parole and probation.

Pleds Guilty

Allen Fredrick Harris, 27, of 240 Hershey st., Ashland, pleaded guilty to obtaining benefit by false pretenses. He was placed on probation and imposition of sentence suspended for three years. He was ordered to make restitution on all bad checks issued in Jackson and Douglas counties within six months.

The case of Tommy J. Bumstead, 26, of 1139 Morrow rd., was continued to allow him to enter a plea to charges of issuing checks without sufficient funds in the bank. He is scheduled to appear in court at 8:30 a.m. Jan. 2.

William Robert Eberhardt, 516 S. Riverside ave., Medford, was sentenced 2 1/2 years in the Oregon state penitentiary on charges of receiving and concealing stolen property. He had pleaded guilty earlier to the charges.

Steven Lee Fowler, 1136 Court st., Medford, pleaded guilty to charges of larceny from a person. A pre-sentence report was ordered.

BLM Job Projects Employ 149 Men

Portland — (UPI) — The bureau of land management said today its two new projects to supply jobs for the unemployed currently have provided 28,724 man hours of work at a cost of \$167,000.

The BLM said 62 people presently are working on the Klamath project and 87 on the Southwest Oregon project in the Roseburg-North Bend-Coos Bay area.

Both are conservation projects. The work so far has included trail and road improvement, site clearance, construction of recreation facilities, timber stand improvement and forest thinning.

Post-War Era Sees Boom in Home Owners

New York — (UPI) — America has switched from a nation of renters to one of homeowners in the years of the post-war housing boom and it's "dollars and sense" that worked the change.

With living conditions at new highs and real income continuing steadily upward, urban Americans have been earning more, buying more and investing more in home ownership, notes H. Dorn Stewart, president of Allied Chemical's Barrett division, a leading building materials producer.

Conditions Credited

Contacted during the National Association of Home Builders convention in Chicago, Stewart said prosperous business conditions in recent years — in which the net income of the average family living in a large city or its suburbs has been hiked by more than 20 per cent — have made it possible and practical for most families to own their own homes.

He cited a recently published 10-year study by the federal bureau of statistics which indicated an increase of real purchasing power — after cost of living expenses and taxes — in the seven key metropolitan areas of Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, New York, San Francisco and Washington.

Percentage of increased income after taxes and cost of living deductions was approximately 15 per cent in San Francisco, 20 in Atlanta, Washington and New York, 23 in Chicago, 17 for Detroit and 44 per cent for Boston.

Average family income, after taxes, in the cities studied ranged from \$3,400 in Atlanta to around \$6,870 in Boston. "By applying the real estate rule-of-thumb that a family generally can afford a home that costs about two and one-half times its net income, the 'average' family in Atlanta could afford a home costing about \$13,500 and the 'average' Boston family one costing about \$17,175," Stewart said.

The median value of \$12,500 for all U. S. homes, however, is below either the Atlanta or Boston figures which, Stewart said, helps explain why so many Americans now own, rather than rent, their homes.

Financial ability, the Barrett executive said, new styles, materials and building techniques developed in the last 15 years have helped make home owning more desirable. For instance, he said, while 20 years ago only one of every three new homes was properly insulated, today eight of every 10 homes built are insulated with mineral wool or other quality heat saving materials.

Radioactive Plutonium, More Valuable Than Gold, in Space

By JOSEPH L. MYLER

Washington — (UPI) — There's stuff far more precious than gold out there in space.

In another decade there'll be enough of it in orbit to tempt the most avaricious space pirate ever conceived by science fiction writers.

This dream stuff of hypothetical orbiting hijackers is radioactive plutonium-238, a non-explosive form of the man-made fissionable metal used in nuclear bombs and reactors.

\$450,000 a Pound

It is known in scientific shorthand as PU-238, but it is nothing to turn up one's nose at. It is worth \$450,000 a pound. It is about 800 times more valuable than gold.

Right now nearly seven ounces of PU-238, worth \$190,000, is orbiting the earth at regular intervals aboard the Navy navigational satellites Transit 4-A and Transit 4-B.

In another decade, according to projections by space officials, nearly \$133 million worth of PU-238 will be orbiting the earth or flying among the planets.

PU-238 has gone into space because it is an ideal fuel for easily-shielded, light-weight, long-lasting power units needed to keep satellite instruments and transmitters operating in a hostile environment where most other sources of electricity quickly fail.

Transmutation of Elements

It is manufactured in atomic reactors by nuclear alchemists who have succeeded where the gold-hungry alchemists of the Middle Ages failed — in transmutation of elements.

Natural uranium is the ultimate source of all forms of plutonium, including the rare PU-238. There are two nuclear processes by which PU-238 may be produced. Each involves repeated transmutations in a nuclear reactor plus tedious and expensive chemical separation processes.

Dr. Robert E. Eilson, a member of the Atomic Energy Commission, has estimated the cost of PU-238, thus produced, at \$1,000 a gram or \$450,000 a pound. This compares with \$360 a pound for gold and nearly \$24,000 a pound for fissionable uranium.

Not being easily fissionable, PU-238 is useless for weapons or power plant reactors. But its radioactivity generates heat which may be converted into electricity.

It is long-lasting—only half of its radioactivity is used up in

90 years — and it does not emit penetrating rays which would require heavy shielding. It is more durable than solar energy cells because it is not affected by the radiations encountered in space.

No Moving Parts

It operates in the dark and cold of space as well as in light. It needs no moving parts to generate small currents.

Transit 4-A, launched June 29, 1961, carried aloft about 3.4 ounces of PU-238 in a 2.7-watt generator weighing nearly five pounds. Transit 4-B, launched Nov. 15, 1961, carried a similar unit. This one started working after last Aug. 2 because of a circuit failure. But the Transit 4-A generator was still going strong nearly 18 months after launch.

In each case the precious fuel load would remain intact until the satellite, after a lifetime of years, re-entered the atmosphere and was vaporized by air friction.

The cost per watt of electricity produced continuously by large coal-fired power stations on earth is about 13 cents. The cost per watt of electricity generated by PU-238-fueled units aboard spacecraft is \$44,300.

Expensive Electricity

This puts the power price of the 2.7-watt transit satellite generators at \$118,610 each. A 25-watt PU-238 generator is nearly ready for another

transit satellite to be launched in 1963. At the \$44,300 a watt figure, this means an investment of \$1,107,500 per satellite for atomic electricity.

By 1972, it has been estimated, there will be need in space for PU-238 generators capable of producing a steady output of 3,000 watts. Costs may have gone down by then. But by present standards the 1972 investment would be \$132,000,000.

The AEC refuses to estimate the weight of PU-238 aboard these generators of the future. Whatever it is, if space pirates have come into existence by then, it will well be worth hijacking.

Rep. Edith Green Files for Divorce

Portland — (UPI) — Rep. Edith Green (D-Ore.) has filed for divorce from her husband, Arthur, in Multnomah county circuit court.

She charged in the divorce complaint that her husband had been guilty of personal indignities. Mrs. Green sought and was granted a legal separation from her husband more than a year ago.

The divorce complaint asks custody of one son, Richard Allen Green, 20. The couple also has another son, James, 28.

Health Information Center Established

Corvallis — (UPI) — A health information center has been established at Oregon State university to assist health education teachers in junior and senior high schools.

Formation of the service was announced today by Dr. Benjamin L. Simmonds, Salem, Department of Education and Dr. C. L. Anderson, OSU chairman of hygiene and environmental sanitation.

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27 NORTH HOLLY STREET

Portlander, Son Led to Safety

Portland — (UPI) — A research engineer and his 3-year-old son were led safely from Forest Park early today after being lost for about 11 hours in subfreezing weather.

Daniel Gibson Jr. and his son, Daniel, became lost in the park made treacherous by Columbus day windfall.

Portland police had combed the area's trails since dark Sunday for the pair. Mrs. Gibson had called police when the two failed to appear at a rendezvous.

A fire was spotted about 1 a.m. today and members of the Mountain Rescue council went through the dark underbrush to guide the lost pair to safety.

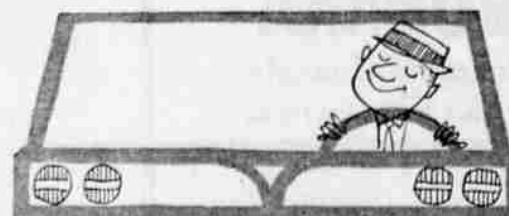
More than 30 persons were searching when word of the rescue came. Bloodhounds were also being used.

Gibson said he had been in the park about four hours when it became dark. He started a campfire and waited rather than try to get out through the dense fallen timber left from the Oct. 12 storm.

Bullet Holes Found in Telephone Equipment

Bridal Veil — Five bullet holes were found in three pieces of Western Telephone company-owned equipment here Sunday night.

Multnomah county sheriff's deputies said the shooting was the result of "vandalism." The equipment, housed in metal cabinets, was located just off a road.



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