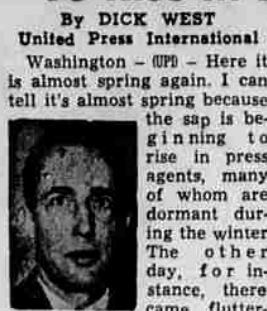


When Spring Comes, the Sap Begins To Rise in Dormant Publicity Men



By DICK WEST
United Press International
Washington - (UPI) - Here it is almost spring again. I can tell it's almost spring because the sap is beginning to rise in press agents, many of whom are dormant during the winter. The other day, for instance, there came a fluttering into the office of a robin-like notice that Alfred Hitchcock, the movie director, was coming to town.

It said he planned to visit Lafayette park near the White House and feed the pigeons from the famous bench that Bernard Baruch once used for an office.

Reading that gave me the same sensation I get when I spy the first crocus, or inhale my first whiff of fertilizer.

Awash With Pigeons
On the appointed day, Hitchcock arrived at the park in a long limousine and deposited himself on the bench while a press agent sprinkled peanuts around him. In a trice, he was awash with pigeons.

Some of the more astute observers at the scene were able to detect a tie-in between this ornithological tableau and Hitchcock's new movie, the name of which momentarily escapes me.

My own thoughts, however, were flying off in another direction. It occurred to me that we were witnessing the creation of a new status symbol.

After this, nobody who is at all interested in keeping up appearance will dream of feeding the pigeons in the park unless he can afford to hire someone to sprinkle the peanuts for him.

Another harbinger of spring came my way in a press release announcing that

a new liqueur, created in Japan "from the fragile petals of the cherry blossom" would be introduced here during this year's Cherry Blossom festival.

Fairly Reeling
A sheet of vital statistics listed the liqueur as 40 proof, but the press release must have been close to 100 proof. By the time I had finished drinking in its heady hyperboles, I was fairly reeling.

What intoxicated me was a narration telling how "the magic mood of Japan" had been captured in liqueur so that the "gossamer enchantment" of the islands could be enjoyed in bottled form.

"In the cherry blossom forests of Japan in early April, you will find thousands of men, women and children strolling among the cherry trees picking the beautiful, fragrant, fragile blossoms."

"They take these lovely blossoms home, place them on

a wooden tray and pickle them with the addition of salt. For to the Japanese, the pickled cherry blossoms are an exotic delicacy."

This ancient tradition has now been carried a step further by a distillery, which "collects the most perfect and fragrant of these blossoms and through a process known only to themselves extracts from the blossoms the essence of the 'yae sakura'."

Think of that! For years, people have pickled cherry blossoms and now a way has been found for cherry blossoms to pickle people.

Pearson Prepares Income Tax Bill

Salem - (UPI) - The state income tax would be a simple percentage of the federal income tax under a bill being prepared for introduction in the Oregon House.

The bill is being drafted by Sen. Walter Pearson (D-Portland) but since it is a revenue measure it must be introduced on the house side.

House Tax Committee Chairman Richard Eymann said he would seek to have the bill introduced for study purposes.

Under it, an income taxpayer would simply take a percentage of his federal income tax and that would be what he owed the state.

Pearson said the percentage could be adjusted by the legislature to produce whatever revenue was needed.

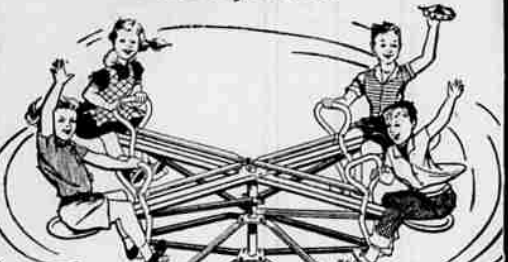
GENERAL DIES

London - (UPI) - General Sir Hubert Gough, last surviving senior British commander of World War I, who was made the scapegoat for the unsuccessful German offensive in March, 1918, died Monday at his home. Gough, 92, also a veteran of the Boer War, was vindicated by Prime Minister David Lloyd George after World War I.



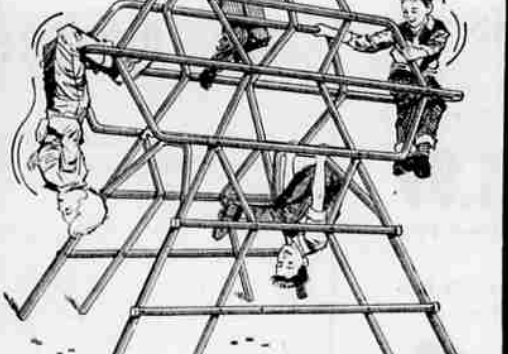
MASTODON TUSK—Anybody want a tusk from an extinct mastodon, estimated to be 400,000 years old? Mrs. Kenneth Straub of Santa Rosa, Calif., is selling hers, and is asking \$3,500 for this unique 13-foot, 200-pound item, which has been in her family since her uncle discovered it, in 1888, while gold mining in the Klondike. Mrs. Straub is tired of hauling it around every time she moves, and feels it should be on display somewhere. (UPI)

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Area Hospitals on Accredited List

Rogue Valley Memorial hospital and Sacred Heart hospital in Medford and Josephine General hospital in Grants Pass are on the list of hospitals accredited by the Joint Commission of Accreditation, Chicago.

There are approximately 7,000 hospitals in the United States but only approximately 4,000 are accredited, according to the report.

An additional 2,000 hospitals are listed as eligible non-accredited hospitals.

"Statistics show that the eligible accredited hospitals account for 85 per cent of all hospital admissions," Dr. Kenneth B. Babcock, commission director, stated. "Also, 87 per cent of all hospital births, and 61 per cent of all hospital days spent by patients in hospitals" are in accredited hospitals.

"Accreditation of a hospital means," Babcock continued, "that it has voluntarily submitted to a survey of its facilities and its patient care. It is a badge of recognition

LABEL SWITCHER
Buffalo, N.Y. - (UPI) - Max Phillips, 63, was placed on six months' probation Tuesday for a petit larceny conviction on a limited form of shoplifting. Phillips was convicted of removing 85-cent labels from two cans of turkey, replacing them with nine-cent labels and paying the lower price.

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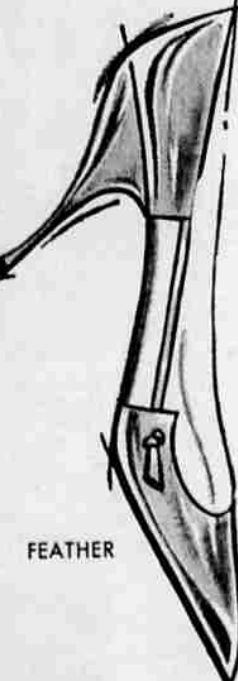


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