

# Argentina: Contrasts Are Many in Nation

(Editor's note. Did you know that everyone in Argentina over the age of 18 is compelled by law to vote? Or that Buenos Aires has more movies in its downtown district than anywhere in the world? Here is another in the series, "Nations of the World," written by UPI correspondents living and working there.)

By MICHAEL FALLON  
United Press International

Buenos Aires - UPI - Cattle outnumber people two to one in Argentina.

There are 42 million head of cattle pastured in the country, and 21 million persons.

The figures point up a curious condition. In an era of explosive population growth, the rich land of the gauchos has a serious shortage of people.

Argentina is the eighth largest country in the world and second largest in South America. It covers 1,072,700 square miles - roughly equal to the part of the United States east of the Mississippi River.

With all this space, there are only about 18 persons per square mile, compared with 40 per square mile in the U.S. Population density is increasing at the very slow rate of 1.8 per cent a year.

The northern frontiers lie near the Tropic of Capricorn, and southernmost shores are lapped by antarctic waters.

The Andes form a 2,300-mile spinal column along the western border with Chile. Mt. Aconcagua, which peaks at 23,000 feet, is the highest point in the Western Hemisphere. To the east are 1,600 miles of Atlantic and river coastline.

Besides Chile, Argentina's nearest neighbors are Bolivia to the north, Paraguay to the northeast and Brazil and Uruguay to the east.

Beef exports are the country's most important in terms of value. They would have more value still if Argentines were not the champion meat eaters of the world. One report has each of them packing away 232 pounds of meat a year, several cuts above an American's 152 pounds.

As a wheat exporting nation, Argentina trails only the United States and Canada.

Its traditional best trade customer is England, but it does most of its shopping - particularly for machinery and vehicles - in the United States.

Argentina is far ahead of any other Latin American nation in level of development. Some economists feel it could conceivably stand still for the next decade

before being challenged by another Latin American area.

Buenos Aires, the capital, is the largest city in the Southern Hemisphere.

Buenos Aires probably ranks after New York and London in number of theaters presenting stage shows. There are about 40 every season.

On Buenos Aires, "great white way." Corrientes avenue, and the next street, Lavalle, there are reported to be more motion picture theaters per square block than anywhere else in the world. Movie attendance is dipping, however, with the emergence of television.

**Provides Free Schools**  
Eighty-five per cent of the people can read and write. The government provides free primary and secondary schools, and attendance is compulsory up to the sixth grade. Tuition charges are token at the 10 universities.

Argentina's economy is largely free enterprise, but telephones and almost all transportation are operated by the government. They are not models of efficiency.

The country's form of government is similar to that of the United States. There are 22 provinces which elect their own governors and legislatures and a federal, district, Buenos Aires, whose mayor is appointed by the president. Federal legislative power is vested in a two-chamber congress.

There are notable differences, though, from the U.S. pattern. The president and vice president must be Roman Catholic. Voting is obligatory for all men and women over 18.

At the moment, Argentina is ruled by an interim civilian - military government. The military annulled congressional elections last year after followers of ex-dictator Juan Peron scored an impressive victory. The President elected in 1958, Arturo Frondizi, was deposed and replaced by Senate President Jose Maria Guido.

Peronists still wield about 30 per cent of the vote, largely among the working class, eight years after the dictator's overthrow. The other parties are badly splintered. However, powerful forces in the military remain implacably opposed to a return of Peronism, through the polls or any other way.

Thirty-three years of unstable governments and periodic dictatorships have left a deep residue of cynicism, distrust and apathy.

"How can it happen," bewildered Argentines frequently ask themselves, "in a country as rich as this, with so much potential?"

# STARTS MONDAY! OUR BIGGEST

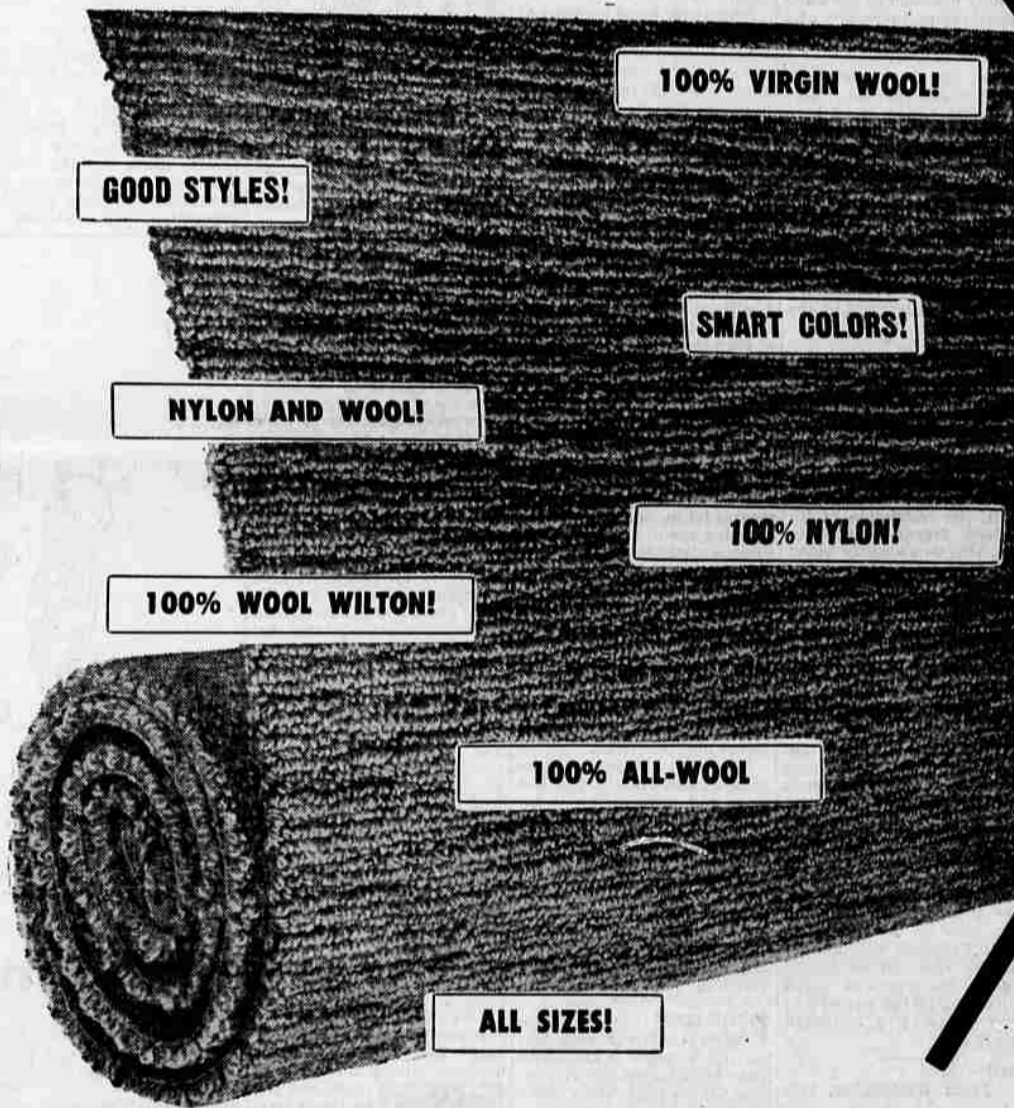
# BROADLOOM

# Sale



FROM THE GREATEST MAKERS IN THE CARPET INDUSTRY!

ELEGANT CARPETING  
At Prices YOU Can Afford!



100% VIRGIN WOOL!

GOOD STYLES!

SMART COLORS!

NYLON AND WOOL!

100% NYLON!

100% WOOL WILTON!

100% ALL-WOOL

ALL SIZES!

YOUR CHOICE!

# \$5

SQ. YD.  
Values \$9.95  
to

Here Are a Few Choice Examples!

**100% Wool Wilton**  
Marvelous carpeting with interesting geometric design tight weave for extra long wear. Fine lustrous wool fibers. Your choice of colors.

**100% Virgin Wool!**  
Elegant luxurious carpeting that will look lustrous and fresh through years of wear. High low texture, moth-proofed permanently.

**100% CONTINUOUS FILAMENT NYLON**

A superlative carpet built for years of satisfactory service. Easy to clean. Your choice of smart colors.

**HURRY! These Will Go FAST!**



**OPEN FRIDAY NITES  
for your convenience!**

**EASY TERMS**

No carrying charges or interest. At Weeks & Orr you pay only for the merchandise. There is no extra charge added to your payments. Shop at Southern Oregon's longest established furniture store where you find quality at lowest prices!

**114 West Main Street  
Phone 772-9351**

## Consumer Credit Week To Be Noted

Consumer Credit Week will be observed here April 28 through May 4 with members of the Medford Retail Credit Association cooperating with the Credit Bureau of Medford.

Clyde Gwallney, credit sales manager of the American Steel and Supply, Inc., will act as the general chairman of the Consumer Credit Week committee. Douglas E. Fosbury, president of the local association of credit executives, announced the observance plans.

Other members of the Consumer Credit Week committee are Twila Lantz, Thelma Allison and Wayne Medford. A special program is planned for the Medford Retail Credit association meeting, Thursday, April 25. The meeting will be held at the Jackson House at noon. All firms granting credit have been invited to attend.

A proclamation calling attention to the observance was issued by Mayor James J. Dunlevy. The proclamation urges all citizens to take special cognizance of the need to use credit wisely and to discharge credit obligations promptly.

## Contract Awarded for Rebuilding Facilities

The local Pacific Power and Light company has announced that the W. H. Conrad company, Medford, has been awarded a contract for removal of paving, sections of sidewalk excavation and replacement in conjunction with the removal and replacement of conduit and wire serving the mercury street light system on Main st., Front st., Central ave. and Riverside ave.

Only your very best for "mom" ...  
And "when you care enough to send your very best" you'll send

Hallmark  
**MOTHER'S DAY CARDS**  
Sunday, May 12

Swem's BOOKS • GIFTS • RECORDS  
217 EAST MAIN • MEDFORD, ORE

**BRAIDED Oval Rugs!**  
Many Sizes - Colors  
LARGE STOCK!  
Add Charm to Every Room

**1/3 to 1/2 OFF**  
of Regular Price  
**ROLL ENDS & REMNANTS**  
Excellent Selection

**EXPERT Carpet Laying Service**

Every job is handled by our own experienced carpet men who specialize in this field ... its your assurance of the very finest work.

# WEEKS & ORR