

Comic Strip Aid To Peace Corps Noted in Bogota

By THOMAS BRYAN
United Press International

Albuquerque, N.M. — Perhaps the youngest person working for the Peace Corps in South America is "Copelin," an urchin of about seven who is the title character in a comic strip published in Colombia by "El Tiempo" of Bogota.

Artist Ernesto Franco, 34, works on his daily strip in a dormitory room at the University of New Mexico, where he is a member of a "counterpart" group of 16 Colombians training with the Peace Corps. He compared the newspaper feature to the "Peanuts" comic strip familiar to readers in the United States, and said the life of young "Copelin" typifies the poverty and illiteracy facing Colombia.

Franco, who earns about \$3 per installment of the comic, will return to his country to work in educational television as part of the Peace Corps community development program.

Trains for Corps
Franco is one of about 400 persons training for Peace Corps work at the University of New Mexico this summer. The school is the first year-round center for training volunteers.

The television project is the first of its kind undertaken by the organization, and is giving advanced training to volunteers who will go to Latin America to improve the educational television established there.

Most of the trainees, both Colombian and American, have worked in the field of educational television. Much of their seven week program at the university is being spent at Albuquerque's educational television station, KNME-TV, on the campus of the University of New Mexico.

TV Studies
The course also includes one month on the campus of the University of Nebraska, in Lincoln, for advanced studies in television production.

In charge of the group is Miss Ligia de Guerrero, director of educational television in Colombia, where the educational network supplements primary school education. She said the government-owned Radiotelevision Nacional de Colombia, is the largest television network in South America.

Franco will return to Colombia along with his countrymen and 30 American Peace Corps volunteers at the end of the training program, to work side by side on developing the educational television system there.

Underground Test Held in Nevada

Washington — (UP) — The United States today conducted an underground nuclear test in Nevada, the second announced in four days.

Such tests are permitted under the limited nuclear test ban treaty which forbids other types of experiments.

Today's shot was the second to be held since the agreement was reached in Moscow and the 70th underground test to be conducted by the Atomic Energy Commission.

Announcement of the test was made by the AEC which said it was of low yield. This means that the power of the test was under the equivalent of 20,000 tons of TNT.

The brief AEC announcement said:

"A nuclear test of low yield was conducted underground today by the Atomic Energy Commission at its Nevada test site."

Ukiah Publisher Dies at Age 68

Ukiah, Calif. — (UP) — Bernice Foster Cober, 68, copublisher of the Ukiah Daily Journal was found dead in her home here Wednesday by her husband.

Mrs. Cober had been in retirement for a number of years since suffering a stroke. She was found on the floor of her kitchen when her husband, B. A. Cober, Daily Journal copublisher, returned home for lunch.

She was pronounced dead by her physician and taken to Ukiah General Hospital, where she had donated her eyes to the University of California medical center eye bank.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday.

Mrs. Cober, who was born in Lostine, Ore., bought the Ukiah paper along with her husband in 1931 and in the early years was a linotype operator for the newspaper.

Presbyterian Magazine Reviews First Church for Dodge City

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent

One hot summer day in 1877, the train from the east pulled into Dodge City, Kan., bearing a small, dignified man in top hat and tailcoat. He attracted curious looks and a few snickers as he climbed down from the dusty railroad coach, claimed his valise, and made his way through a crowd of roughly dressed cowpokes to the hotel on Front st.

If the onlookers had known who he was, and why he came to Dodge City, they wouldn't have snickered. They'd have laughed out loud.

Dodge City in those days was proud of its reputation as "the wickedest town in the West." And it fully deserved the title. Front st. was about as wide open as a street can get. The saloons stayed open all night, and the houses of prostitution did a booming business. Any cattleman who got tired of liquor and sex could find a high-stakes poker game to keep him amused. Gun fights and wanton killings were almost as common, in actual fact, as TV Westerns would have you believe. The one thing that Dodge City didn't have — and didn't want — was a church.

Several itinerant preachers had ventured into the "Babylon of the West" but all of them had left precipitately, at the invitation of the townfolk. The little man in the top hat may have thought of all this when he boldly signed his name in the hotel register. "The Reverend Ormond W. Wright."

The Rev. Mr. Wright was a field representative of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions in New York. He had not come to Dodge City to conduct a few preaching services and flee for his life. His audacious purpose was to plant the cross of Christ firmly and conspicuously in this citadel of Satan. He had come, in short, to build a church.

The incredible fact is that he did it. He even managed, in time, to make deacons out of Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp. A prostitute had been killed by a stray bullet during a saloon brawl. A delegation of dismayed and drunken cowboys went to the preacher's hotel room and awakened him with loud knocking on the door. They told him what had happened, and asked him to give the luckless girl "Christian burial."

In those strait-laced days, most ministers would have huffily rejected such a request. But the Rev. Mr. Wright did not. He performed the funeral service, reading over the girl's grave the Gospel account of Christ's tenderness toward a woman taken in adultery. This act of compassion seems to have established a rapport between the prim-looking little preacher and the rough men and women whom he had come to serve. The Rev. Mr. Wright soon began to hold religious services in whatever quarters were available to him — usually a saloon or dance hall. He was able to tell the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, in his first official report, that he had 13 regular members of his congregation.

The board sent word that it would contribute \$450 — a whopping sum in those days — for the construction of a church building, provided the local residents would raise a matching sum. It was taken for granted in New York that it would take the Rev. Mr. Wright a year or two to obtain his half of the building fund. But the word got around Front st. that Preacher Wright needed \$450 to build a church. The hat was passed in the saloons and bawdy houses, and on one roaring Saturday night, the whole sum was contributed, with a few dollars to spare. And that's how Dodge City got its first church.

Jerusalem, Israel — (UP) — Archaeologists reported today they uncovered near the Dead Sea a model home built of clay about 5,000 years ago. A number of Egyptian-made alabaster jars of the same period also were found there.

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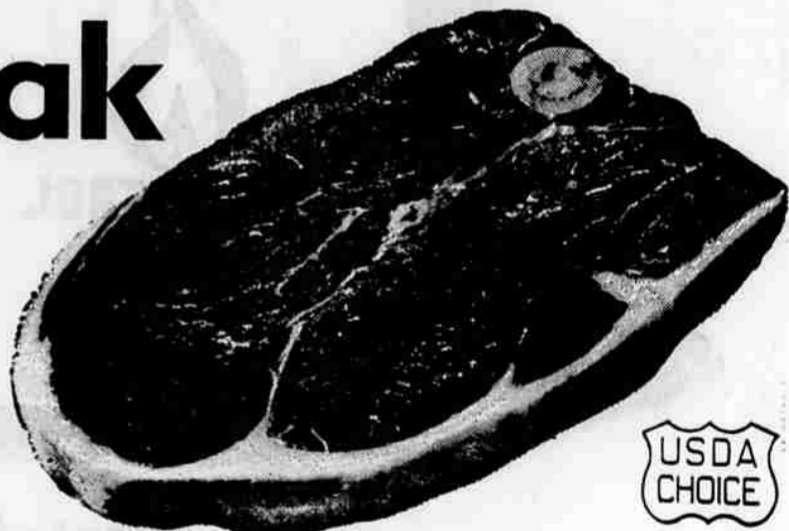
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