

The Lighter Side... BY DICK WEST

Smashed Pinkie Hampers Typing

WASHINGTON (UPI) — On Thanksgiving Day I went outside between football games to perform a ritual, familiar to all suburbanites, that is known as "putting the lawnmower away for the winter."

While I had the thing upended, trying to remove the blade, the wrench slipped and mashed the end of the little finger on my right hand. It was excruciating. Besides that, it hurt. I ran into the house where I encountered my wife coming up from the basement with a load of laundry. She could sense from the way I was screaming that something was wrong. My wife is very perceptive that way.

"What's the matter?" she asked. "I hurt my pinkie," I said. "You poor kid," she crooned. "Come here and I'll kiss it and make it all well."

Sarcasm Unappreciated I didn't appreciate her sarcasm one bit. Besides that, she lied to me. This happened more than two weeks ago and my finger is still sore.

Mashing one's finger is not, I'll admit, a mortal wound. But for someone who earns his livelihood playing the typewriter, it is just about the worst thing that can happen.

Outside of discovering that one's wife can't really heal a mashed finger by kissing it, I don't know of anything more traumatic than having to change one's typing technique.

Under the typing system I employ, the right little finger has jurisdiction not only over the

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1963

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Cows Delay Landing Of Dutch Airliner

MANCHESTER, Eng. (UPI) —Nineteen cows Sunday night held up the landing of a Royal Dutch Airlines KLM Viscount airliner when they strayed onto the main runway of Ringway Airport.

Fortunately, however, the soreness is about gone now and I'll be all right as soon as my ears quit twitching.

CHOU IN CAIRO

CAIRO, U.A.R. (UPI) — Communist Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai, launching a two-month campaign to bolster Peking's influence among emerging African nations, Saturday called for a fight against both old and new "colonialism."

U. S. Serviceman On Patrol Defects To North Korea

SEOUL, Korea (UPI) — U.S. Army SP4 Jerry Wayne Parrish had a good service record before his alleged defection to Communist North Korea, a United Nations Command (UNC) spokesman said today.

Parrish, 19, of Henderson, Ky., had no access to classified information, he added. Communist North Korea's Radio Pyongyang said Sunday that Parrish defected Dec. 6. The UNC confirmed that he had disappeared while on patrol on that date.

In accordance with the usual regulations, Parrish was simply listed as absent without leave. If he does not show up within 30 days, he will be listed as a deserter.

Tail Position

The UNC said that Parrish had the tail position in a six-man patrol along the demarcation line between North and South Korea on the day he disappeared.

When the other members of the patrol noticed he was missing they turned back and found his M-14 carbine, cartridge belt and an unsigned hand-printed note.

It said, "tell my mother I love her. I will be back some day. Tell my friends goodbye."

Parrish would be the third third defector since the Korean War ended 10 years ago. Pvt. Larry A. Abshier, 20, of Garfield Heights, Ohio, defected in May, 1962. PFC James J. Dresnok, 21, Glen Allen, Va., defected Aug. 15, 1962.

Young Airman Stands Christmas Tree Guard

COLUSA, Calif. (UPI)—Michael Hoffman, 19, on leave from the Air Force, stood two hours of guard duty Saturday night—at Colusa's community Christmas tree.

Last year Hoffman sped by the tree in a car, plucked off two large lights, and then ran a signal light. Judge Richard Patton made this year's guard duty at the tree a condition of the young airman's probation.

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Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor, and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Floyd D. — There's no reason why we can't be married in a few weeks.

Paula N. — I'd like a long engagement so we can know each other better.

Floyd D. — At the time Paula and I became engaged we spoke of getting married in midwinter so we could honeymoon in the South at the height of the season. We have an apartment, mine, which Paula helped me to decorate. I hold a good job. What's the delay? Now she wants to wait till her birthday next October. I don't get it.

Paula N. — An engagement is a wonderful period and I don't want to skip it. I've only had my ring since Thanksgiving and I can't rush into wedding, honeymoon, housekeeping plans until I've had a chance to enjoy being Floyd's fiancée. He's 27, I'm 21, and we met two years ago as camp counselors. We need time now to concentrate on being in love.

The Council: There are many reasons for a long engagement, most of them good ones. The only one to worry about is one which is rarely admitted, fear of the sexual relations. If this lurks among Paula's fine-sounding arguments, it requires attention and resolution from a doctor or a marriage counselor. Otherwise, the months between that romantic "yes" and the prayerful "I do" serve well in the getting-to-know-you department. But a warning to Paula: There are some things you'll never know until after the wedding. The engagement is a best-foot-forward period. Why not yield to Floyd on that point and shorten the wait, because you won't really know one another much more after a year of betrothal fuss and fluff, than after a few months of same. Will he love you in December as in the month of May? To engaged couples, it's May every month. But don't kid yourself, and Floyd, for too many months.

GRADUATED

Ens Stewart F. Schroeder, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Schroeder, Box 442, Medford, has graduated recently from Officer Candidate School at Newport, R.I.

A graduate of Oregon State University, Ens Stewart Schroeder will report to San Diego, Calif., and serve as communication officer with the Commander Carrier Division 3.

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