

THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR



BRILLIANT SOCIAL SEASON — The social season of 1863-64 in Washington, D.C., was the most brilliant thus far during the Civil War. Newspaper society editors wrote about it for all they were worth. It started with the wedding, in November, 1863, of Kate Chase, 23, daughter of the Secretary of the Treasury. Then, by mid-December, festivities were

The Brilliant Social Season

By MERTON T. AKERS
United Press International
The Washington social season of 1863-64 was the most brilliant thus far of the Civil War.
Newspaper society editors said so and wrote it for all it was worth, perhaps then some.
It all started on Nov. 12 when Kate Chase, 23-year-old pretty daughter of Secretary of Treasury Salmon P. Chase, was married to William Sprague IV, former governor of Rhode Island, colonel at first Bull Run (Manassas) now a senator and possessor of a textile fortune.
He was the catch of that year and many other, and Kate Chase, everybody agreed, was the belle of that and several seasons.
The wedding was held in the evening at the Chase home at Sixth and E Streets.
Everybody who was anybody in Washington society was there. Many of the rest stood outside the Chase home and stared at the bejeweled, bearded and plug-hatted arrivals. They couldn't see much because the Chase windows were covered by mirrors to reflect the festivities for the guests inside.
Lincoln Attends
President Lincoln attended alone, brining the bride a dainty fan as a wedding gift. Mrs. Lincoln, still in mourning for their son Willie, remained at the White House.
After the ceremony in the double parlor Secretary Chase kissed his daughter before the bridegroom had a chance. This was distinctly in character, for Kate and her father were close and Sprague, husband though he was, was something of an interloper in the house and overshadowed by the radiant bride and the galaxy of guests this night.
Kate wore a white velvet dress, real point lace veil and orange flowers, one reported recorded.
"The victuals and drink were lavish," he added.
The President's own Marine band was there and played the "Kate Chase Wedding March" especially written for the occasion.
Secretary Chase, who handled millions of Federal dollars, had none of his own that day. He still owed \$1,400 for the wedding and his bank account was \$100 overdrawn. All told, the wedding cost him \$4,000, expensive for that era. Wedding gifts were estimated to be worth \$100,000.
Eventually Sprague would buy the Chase residence and the secretary would live with him and Kate as a paying guest.
"She Had Arrived"
John Hay, one of the President's secretaries, was there and wrote in his diary that "Kate looked tired out and languid especially at the close of the evening when I went into the bridal chamber to say good-night. She... seemed to think she had arrived." (Hay had squired Kate to several affairs.)
She had arrived — for the moment — but her marriage was destined to go on the rocks and the Sprague fortune to vanish in the panic of '73.
Society still was gossiping about the wedding when the Russian fleet anchored off Alexandria, Va. By mid-December the festivities for the Russians were at their peak.
Washington drawing rooms were filled with bearded Russian naval officers, for the fleet received the honors of the capital.
The visit of the Russian fleet — part of it to the east coast and part to San Francisco — was something of a mystery. One squadron appeared without warning in New York harbor on Sept. 24 and the west coast squadron on Oct. 12. No one seemed to know why the fleet had decided to pay a visit to the United States. Few professed to care.
"Bless The Russians"
"God bless the Russians," Secretary of Navy Gideon Welles wrote in his diary. "The Russian government has thought proper to send its fleet into

American waters for the winter... It is a politic movement for both the Russians and Americans and somewhat annoying to France and England."
Anything annoying France and England at that period was welcome in the United States. Confederate commerce raiders were being built in England and Louis Napoleon had moved into Mexico. The United States seemed to be without a foreign friend except Russia and the fleet's visit was considered a friendly gesture, something for the English and French to heed.
Fifty years later the real reason was dug out of czarist files. It turned out to be simply a matter of self-protection.
During the Crimean War, nearly a decade before, the Russian fleet was bottled up in the Baltic Sea by the English and French fleets. Now the Poles were rebelling against the Russians. Intervention by Britain and France seemed likely.
The Russians took no chances this time. They removed their fleet from the Baltic and posted it where it had room to maneuver and where it could strike against British and French commerce.
The fleet remained seven months until the European situation was settled without war.
Official Parties
The capital staged a round of official parties for the fleet's officers.
The admiral paid a formal call on Secretary Welles. He returned it. Then he threw a big evening party for the Russians. Secretary of State William H. Seward entertained them at dinner. Then the Russian Minister, Baron Stoeckl, entertained everybody.
Even Congressmen and their wives ate luncheon on one of the frigates. Flowers from the White House greenhouse were piled high on the tables. A martial touch was added by stocking candles into musket muzzles to highlight the affair.
The common people could look at the fleet, too, from excursion steamers which ran from the Seventh Street wharf.
One of the young officers on the fleet who made all the parties was Nicholas Rimsky-Korsakoff, who would go on to fame — not as a naval hero, but as a composer of operas and symphonies.
Society hoped that Mrs. Lincoln would give a grand ball for the Russians but this was not to be. There was a White House reception, however, before the fleet left.
Smallpox Scare
Along with the Russians there was a smallpox scare in the capital. President Lincoln was one of the victims, but his case was only varioloid, a mild form of the disease. He was suffering at the time the fleet was in and saving that now he had something he could give to everybody — referring to the herds of office-seekers who bedeviled him all the time.
The capital had no isolation hospital. Everybody was wary and a mottled complexion was likely to touch off a great scurrying.
Speaker of the House, Schuyler Colfax, "Smiler" to his friends, cracked down one day on the press gallery when it was reported that a newspaperman there had visited the pesthouse. The offender, if he had offended, was asked to leave.
An abandoned camp on Twelfth Street was burned as a suspected source of infection. But smallpox scare or no, Washington continued to enjoy itself.
Theaters did a record business during the holidays. The two better theaters, Ford's and the National, maintained resident stock companies and imported big stars — James H. Hackett, Charlotte Cushman, Edwin Booth and his younger brother, J. Wilkes Booth, considered a rising young actor.
At the time of the Chase-Sprague wedding the younger Booth was appearing in a comedy called "Money," the theme being whether a girl should

marry for love or pelf. The coincidence of the play and the wedding was not lost in society chit chat.
One of the popular places of amusement was the Varieties Theater on Ninth Street near Pennsylvania Avenue. There the chorus girls wore little and the soldiers loved every minute of the performances. They showed their appreciation with hand-clapping, foot stamping and cheers. Drinks at the theater bar cost a dime and lent emphasis to the enthusiasm. The more delicate customers complained about the tobacco juice on the floor and flying roasted chestnut shells.
As Christmas approached the Russian sailors with strange devices on their pancake hats gazed in wonder at Yuletide merchandise on display.
Especially intriguing to them were the dolls which cried, talked and even walked.

Hearings Stated On Wilderness Preservation System

Hearings on legislation to establish a wilderness preservation system will be held next year in three Western cities, Congressman Robert B. Duncan, D-Ore., announced today. Duncan is a member of the subcommittee and plans to take part in the hearings.
Duncan said the House Interior Committee's subcommittee on public lands will convene Jan. 8 to 16 in Olympia, Wash.; Denver, Colo.; and Las Vegas, Nev.
He said that approximately 20 measures affecting wilderness legislation were before the Interior Committee.
The Congressman explained that those wishing to testify in person must send their names, addresses, occupations, organizations and general positions on the bills to the Interior Committee before Jan. 3.
All letters, statements and resolutions should be addressed to Wayne N. Aspell, chairman of the Interior Committee, and sent directly to Congressman Duncan at Room 125, Cannon House Office Building, Washington 25, D. C. Twenty-five copies of resolutions and statements are required.



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THE WEEK IN CALIFORNIA

Court Decision Clears Way For Oroville Dam Construction

While front page news during the week concerned the kidnapping of Frank Sinatra Jr. and the flood in the Los Angeles area caused when the reservoir dam in the Baldwin Hills broke, elsewhere throughout the state there were these developments:
Bases — Defense Secretary Robert McNamara announced the government would shut down 26 military installations around the nation as part of a spending cutback, including installations at San Diego, Ontario, Stockton, and San Francisco. The Pentagon was pelted with criticism from Congress after the announcement. Rep. Bob Wilson, R-Calif., called the decision to close the San Diego naval repair facility "ridiculous."
Bonds — The California Supreme Court upheld the validity of two bond issues and cleared the way for construction of Oroville Dam. The court authorized issuance of \$327 million worth of Central Valley Project bonds following a dispute over the legality of their use in the state project. The court also allowed issuance of \$1 billion in bonds from a \$1.75 billion issue approved by voters in 1960.
Religion — The State Board of Education adopted a policy stating that "schools should

Northwesterners Get Rhodes Honors

PORTLAND (UPI) — Four seniors from the northwestern district were named winners of Rhodes Scholarships for two years of study at Oxford University, Oxford, England.
The four were selected from a field of 11 finalists here Saturday. Two are from Washington, one from Oregon and the fourth from New York City attending a Montana school.
Named were:
Jon N. Westling, Olympia, Wash., Reed College; Robert T. Kudrle, Eugene; Harvard; Richard H. Holmquist, Richland, Wash., University of Washington; and Lee W. Saperstein, New York City, Montana School of Mines.
Four students, usually college seniors, are selected from eight districts throughout the nation. The Northwestern district takes in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and Alaska.
Fire Levels Lincoln County Grade School
EDDYVILLE, Ore. (UPI) — Fire destroyed the grade school in this Lincoln County community late Friday.
No one was in the building at the time. About 100 first to fifth graders attended the school. They will attend other schools until the structure can be rebuilt.

Gift Horse
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126 EAST MAIN
MAKE YOUR PRESENTS KNOWN

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have no hesitancy in teaching about religion." The action was concurred in by Dr. Max Rafferty, superintendent of public instruction. The policy statement came after teachers had complained they were fearful of repercussions if they mentioned religion in classrooms.
Autos — A top executive of the Chrysler Corporation said in testimony that the United States needs to recapture its domination of the world automotive market. Clare E. Biggs, president and general manager of the Chrysler-Plymouth Division, estimated the United States would account for only 46 percent of the 19.7 million cars and trucks built during 1963. He said the world market had doubled since 1950 and had become something to "consider seriously."
Cohen — Les Cohen, once known as "San Francisco Betting Commissioner," was indicted by the Federal Grand jury on nine charges of taking telephone bets from San Francisco on sporting events. Cohen, 60, was arrested in Las Vegas where he manages the multi-million dollar Saratoga race sports book. The one time sports editor of the old San Francisco Bulletin was indicted under a law which became effective in 1961 which forbids persons in the gambling business from transmitting wagers and wagering information by wire in interstate commerce.
Rapid Transit — A spokesman for a citizens' committee told Southern California motorists not to be "misled" by rail rapid transit schemes as, he said, the San Francisco Bay area had. Ad Fried, a representative of the Citizens for Reconsideration of Rapid Transit Taxes, Oakland, said it would cost nearly \$2 billion, but would serve only three per cent of the three county district of the Los Angeles area.
Inmate — San Quentin Prison's oldest inmate, Antonio Di Tardo, died. He was 89. Di Tardo entered the "big house" 43 years ago after pleading guilty to the fatal shooting of his wife, Madeline, as she lay sleeping. They had three children. At regular intervals, the past 18 years, he had been offered — but rejected — parole. Di Tardo, a model prisoner who always presented a twisted black Italian

cigar to a parole board member, had explained he didn't want to leave the prison until "the Big Boss calls."
Warrant — That \$15 parking ticket received by Air Force Maj. Alan W. Sanders has been paid. Sanders raised a furor at Navato, Calif., police headquarters when he wrote from Viet Nam saying he would welcome arrest and return to Navato for not paying the fine — just to get out of the Far East. Police Chief Robert Di Grazia accused him of action "unbecoming an officer." But De Grazia acknowledged that letters from citizens were running 20-1 against him.
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Small Worlds Around Us
Lynn W. Watkins
By Register & Tribune Syndicate, 1963
Nature Despises Freaks—But They Do Draw Good Crowds
Part of P. T. Barnum's fame and fortune came from his belief that there was a sucker born every minute. He made money cashing in on what he preached; he proved his point. He showed freaks to the world and the world paid to see them.
Since then many thousands of freaks have been exploited and exhibited. Invariably people by the thousands have paid money to see the unusual. Even today, the world is being searched for odd things, both animal and vegetable, that may bring money into the box office.
Many freaks are advertised as "missing links" and are supposed to prove something. However a freak, all freaks in fact, have little or no value as evolutionary evidence. They are mostly all abnormalities. When, in the normal course of events, nature goes haywire or something slips or a cog refuses to mesh properly, or something else happens, a freak may be born, and naturally we call it a "freak of nature."
Gland Trouble
When, in animals, a gland becomes over active, under active, dormant or two glands which under ordinary circumstances get along nicely together suddenly have trouble, the resultant creature or even plant may be born with more than the normal number of limbs or with the head in the wrong place, and is a freak.
Sometimes there is a scientific explanation, sometimes there is not. Freaks occur in nearly every form of living thing. Fish, birds, frogs, or man, are included in the list. Any abnormality in size, shape, or development becomes a freak. Even the albino, being a departure from the ordinary, is actually a freak.
As a general rule freaks do not live long lives. Nature apparently despises anything out of the normal. If the abnormality is exaggerated, life is of a relatively short duration.
Also Freak Freaks
There have been many genuine freaks that have made history. The man with wool instead of hair on his face and body; the lady with the full beard; the boy with two heads; the girl whose body is male on one side and female on the other; two-headed cattle; sheep with five legs and a host of others.
Of course, too, there has been misrepresentation. A few years ago a traveling carnival attracted patrons by the score in a rural community by advertising: "The horse with its head where its tail ought to be." After the curious paid their money and walked in they found an ordinary horse standing backwards in a stall. This hoax was short lived; the police moved in and shut off the flow of admission money. But it did prove one thing rather conclusively, that old P. T. Barnum was right.
Some freaks are made, but most are born that way. Sometimes an accident or maladjusted growth causes a living being to become different than his kind and a freak is created. Human freaks were often advertised as "missing links"; their connection between themselves and normal people were supposed to prove something.
Barkers at sideshows, in a loud voice, tried to imply the freak was proof the human race was slipping. Of course, freaks are not "missing links"; they are only abnormalities; they have no significance in evolution; they are unfortunate victims of accident by birth.

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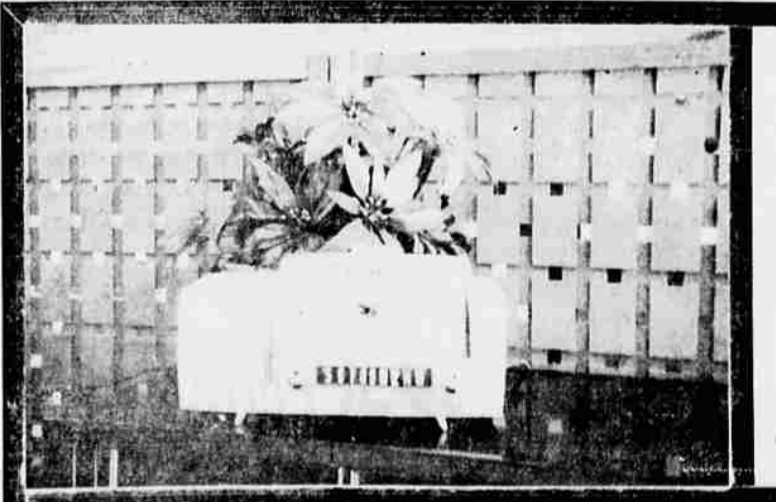
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DIRECTOR'S WIFE DIES
NEW YORK (UPI) — Funeral services will be held Tuesday for Mrs. Molly Kazan, 53, wife of the well-known movie and Broadway director, Elia Kazan, he died Saturday of a cerebral hemorrhage.