



NAVAL FAREWELL — Warrant Officer Harold Edward Skidmore, Sr., (left) is shown receiving the good wishes of Lt. Cmdr. Richard Bridenstine, USNR, at the retirement

ceremonies conducted in Medford. The cake given Officer Skidmore by the Medford Naval Reserve Unit and the painting given the unit by Skidmore are in the background.

Naval Reserve Officer Retires

Commissioned Warrant Officer Harold Skidmore, who recently retired from the Naval Reserve, was honored by the local reserve unit at a retirement

ceremony conducted in Medford. Attending were seven young men, who chose this time to enlist and received the oath of service from Officer Skidmore, who completed 37 years of service.

During the past four years Skidmore was associated with the local reserve unit on a volunteer basis as he received no remuneration for his participation. The cake presented him at the retirement ceremony was decorated with a "four stacker" destroyer, the backbone of the fleet at the time Skidmore enlisted in 1929.

Painting Is Presented
Skidmore presented the unit with a painting he had made of a Navy original, which has disappeared from the Naval archives in Washington, D. C. It is the object of a wide search. Skidmore informed the unit.

Skidmore enlisted in the Naval Reserve in Los Angeles in 1927. His advancements came rapidly and he is one of the few permanent commissioned warrant officers in the Naval Reserve. He received his commission in 1942. His active duty was performed in the South Atlantic and Philippine areas during World War II.

After Skidmore gave the new recruits the oath of office he conducted a personal inspection of the unit and, as a final tribute to him, the men "Piped him Ashore," an honor normally accorded senior officers.

Stone Throwing By Glass House Dwellers Eased

WASHINGTON (UPI) — As far as Rep. John Dent, D-Pa., is concerned, glass house dwellers should go easy on stone-throwing.

The dweller in this case is Ohio Republican Rep. William H. Ayres.

Dent was one of four Democrats scheduled to go to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands for four days of House Education and Labor Committee work.

Committee chairman Adam Clayton Powell, D-N. Y., had announced plans for the trip but later announced it had been postponed because of the press of pre-adjournment business.

Would Hurt Image
Dent read to the House a newspaper account of the postponement which quoted Ayres as saying the trip would have "hurt the image of the committee and the House."

"This person," he said, "who is worried about the 'image of the House' still has the smell of leis around his neck that he got in Hawaii just two days ago as the representative of this same committee."

Rep. Wayne Hays, D-Ohio, who came under heavy fire earlier this year because he took the head waiter of the House restaurant along on a trip to the NATO meeting in Paris, asked Dent if he didn't realize that the trip to Hawaii was official business.

"Just what is the difference between an official business trip and a junket?" Hays asked in a snarky question.

Dent said one member's official business trip sometimes is another's junket.

De Gaulle's Foe May Be Western Friend
PARIS (UPI) — A handsome Socialist mayor who favors Western unity is expected to be President Charles de Gaulle's leading opponent in the next French presidential elections.

Gaston Defferre, 53, the mayor of Marseilles and a member of the National Assembly, has announced he is willing to represent the French left against De Gaulle. The next national elections must be held within 18 months. At present, no one is being given much chance of defeating De Gaulle, unbeaten in a series of elections and referendum votes since 1958.

Farmers Produced Record Yield of 1963 Field Crops

WASHINGTON (UPI) — American farmers produced a record volume of field crops in 1963, valued at an all-time high of \$21,396,816,000, about \$1.09 billion more than the value of the 1962 crop.

The field crop production this year was 4.6 per cent greater than 1962 production, 3.7 per cent larger than the previous record output in 1960, and 12 per cent greater than the 1957-59 average.

The Agriculture Department's year end report Wednesday showed that the record crop was planted or grown on 309 million acres, 2.5 per cent more than last year's record low of 301 million acres. The harvested acreage for the 1963 crop was 292 million acres, 1.9 per cent more than the record low of 1962.

There were record high yields for corn, cotton, oats, peanuts, and rice, and near-record yields for barley, wheat, sorghum, soy beans, and hay. Many other crops, less important in the nation's total output, likewise reached record or near-record yields.

Favorable growing conditions in most of the north and south central states helped push production to high levels. Total output of feed grains, food grains, oilseeds, cotton, sugar crops, seed crops, and fruits and nuts were larger than in 1962. Hay, tobacco, and miscellaneous crop production totals were smaller while total vegetable output about equaled last year.

The composite index covering yields per acre for 28 major crops rose to 116 per cent of the 1957-59 base period. This compares with 112 for 1962 and 109 for 1961.

Up 12 Per Cent
Corn production reached 4 billion bushels for the first time, paced by a record yield of 67.3 bushels per acre. The cotton output for 1962 was 3.6 billion bushels, and the yield was 61.2 bushels. The output this year was 12 per cent more than harvested in 1962.

Iowa retained its rank as the No. 1 corn state with a production of 669 million bushels. The Iowa yield was 89 bushels per acre. Of the corn belt states, Indiana had the highest corn yield—87 bushels per acre. Illinois was a close second with 85 bushels.

Production of the four feed grains in 1963 totaled 155.9 million tons, 9 per cent more than last year's 142.9 million tons.

Food grain production increased 3 per cent for 1962, oilseed production went up 5 per cent, hay production dropped 4 per cent, tobacco was 2 per cent smaller, sugar beets were up 27 per cent, sugarcane was up 21 per cent, and potato production was up 3 per cent.

Value Estimated
The department estimated the value of the corn crop at \$4,463,162,000, about \$460 million greater than the 1962 output.

Other top value crops with a value of \$1 billion or more: Cotton lint and cottonseed, \$2.07 billion; hay, \$2.06 billion; wheat, \$2.11 billion; soybeans, \$1.54 billion; and tobacco, \$1.31 billion.

Other top value crops included: Oats, \$621 million; sorghum \$569 million; potatoes \$426 million; and oranges, \$332 million.

The department did not include in the total value of 1963 crop production such minor crops as popcorn, field peas, mung beans, mint for oil, tung nuts, nectarines, dates, avocados, strawberries, tangelos, and filberts.

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Rocky-Goldwater Battle Visioned

PORTLAND (UPI) — Former State Republican Chairman Robert A. Elliott says he believes the fight for the Republican presidential nomination would wind up in a contest between Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York and Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater.

Elliott told an East Side Commercial Club meeting that he believed the prospect of President Johnson being the Democratic nominee increased Rockefeller's chances.

He also said he believed ex-Vice President Richard Nixon "has his track shoes on and is running" but that he did not think Nixon would get very far.

Memorial Service Slated for Climber

ROSEBURG (UPI) — A memorial service was held Thursday for David Wyatt, 20, killed in a fall while on a hiking and scientific expedition in Nepal Dec. 4.

Wyatt, a student at the University of Chicago, slipped on a glacier and fell over a 500-foot cliff while collecting biology specimens near the approaches to Mt. Everest. His body was buried at the site.

He and two companions, Steve McCarthy and Gary Payne, left Oregon in September. The accident was reported when the others reached Katmandu, Nepal, Monday.

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