Boyle's Column

Wire Editor Proves To Be Handy Man With A Needle

By HAL BOYLE

JOPLIN, Mo., May 22 (AP)—Everette Smart always held the theory a man could do anything a woman could and better.

A year ago he got the opportunity to prove his point. Shirts were expensive and scarce. One day he casually asked his wife, Juel, whether she wouldn't make him a few shirts if he bought her the material.

"Oh, honey, they're too hard to make," she replied.

"Hmphh," grumbled Smart, unconvinced. "I could make a shirt with the sewing machine stuck up my sleeve."

"I'd love to see you do it, and you can leave the sewing machine on the floor," said friend wife.

The matter would have ended there except that at dinner that evening Mrs. Smart announced to their two daughters, Jean Ann, 14, and Mary Jane, 12: "Girls, your father is going to make a shirt. Tee hee."

Ego Offended

His ego offended, the essential male in him challenged, Smart boldly announced, "I will make a shirt, too."

His excited daughters spread the word around and the neighborhood kids began dropping in to see if it were really true. Smart had to produce.

He was 42 years old and telegraph editor of the Joplin News Herald. He had written poetry and fiction and worked simultaneously on two novels. But he had never used a needle for anything but digging out a splinter.

"I got out my mother-in-law's sewing machine that had been gathering dust," he said. "Then I put the male reasoning mind to work. For two days I studied the book of instructions that come with sewing machines. That is something women never do. That is why few women ever learn to use all the attachments.

"I bought a 20-cent shirt pattern and studied it as carefully as a contractor handed the architect's blueprints of the Empire State building. Then I went to work on the shirt. It took me two weeks to finish it.

"My daughter Jean Ann liked it and said, 'Daddy, I want you to make me a formal dress'.

Belle of the Ball

"I cut a hole in a newspaper and put it over her head. I clipped the paper to the shape of the body and used it for a pattern. It worked fine. She was the belle of the ball and got lots of compliments."

Somewhat amazed at his own success, Smart really went to work on his spare time sewing. He began to create his own designs. He made suits for both his daughters, two more shirts for himself, coats for the girls and is now completing a suit for himself.

His fame spread.

Neighborhood women came to ask him just how he set in sleeves or fashioned shoulders. They had seen his sewing and wanted to learn how to do as well.

One husband came to him and complained, "You're causing trouble to the rest of us. My wife is telling me she married the wrong man."

Smart has himself become seriously interested in clothes designing.

"I still insist that a man is the best tailor," he said, "because he is more patient and practical."

He also thinks women act only on impulse. They get impatient and either rush through a job without doing it thoroughly or else they get discouraged and throw it aside unfinished. After all, in the old days it was the men who painted pictures on the cave walls. The women were feeding the children by the fire.

Smart estimates his sewing has cut the family's clothing budget by two-thirds. His wife has become his stoutest advocate.

"She told me she would be glad to cut the lawn," he laughed, "if I would just keep on sewing. But with so much to do for the girls I haven't been able to make much for her.

"She's the orphan in the storm."

50 Doctors On Operation

TACOMA, May 22 (AP)—Facilities of Madigan General hospital were devoted almost solely today to a single purpose as physicians began the delicate skin grafts necessary to save the life of Eldon Clark, 25-year-old Little Rock veteran.

The grafts will be made from 21 of the more than 300 volunteers who responded to calls for assistance after the veteran of more than three and a half years in the South Pacific was critically burned last Thursday in an explosion at his Southwest Thurston county garage.

Well over 300 volunteers offered to aid the youth as his friends and family carried their pleas into lodge rooms, theatres, pool rooms and offices after being told by specialists that the youth might live if new skin could be provided.

Fifty physicians will be in attendance at the operation.

Boys' State Applications

Oscar S. Nissen, chairman for the local Beaver Boys state committee, announced today that applications for participation in this year's state camp must be turned into him by this week as all names must be registered by May 27.

The camp will be held on the campus of Oregon state college, June 29 to July 6.

Nissen patricularly thanked American Legion post 8, the American Legion club, Fred Heilbronner, A. H. Bussman, Odell Motors, J. C. Penney company, Pioneer Tobacco company, Matt Finnigan, Oregon Woolen store, Lions, Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, BPOElks, 20-30 club, and the chamber of commerce for their interest and support in the camp program.

National Guard Recruiting Off

PORTLAND, May 22 (AP)—Oregon national guard recruiting is above average for most states, but is still behind schedule for the national quota of three times pre-war enrollment, Col. Robert Ervin told Oregon guard officers here last night.

The national guard bureau officer, accompanied by a staff of five officers and two civilians from Washington, D. C., reported eastern states were ahead of the west and south in recruiting.

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CARNIVAL By Dick Turner

"Well, how do you like that! The end of the news broadcast and not one word said about me getting 'A' in history!"

Aussie Ships May Visit U.S.

SYDNEY, May 22 (AP)—Australian officialdom talked informally today of sending a squadron of Australian warships to the United States to return the current visit of American task force 38.

The 14 ships of task force 38 now visiting in Sydney and Melbourne are scheduled to wind up a 10-day visit May 27. Australians have been pleased with the Americans and there has been but one untoward incident.

The first Yanks ashore in Sydney spotted some stickers printed in red saying: "Preserve peace—outlaw the atomic bomb" and "Truman for war—Henry Wallace for peace." The sailors tore the stickers down.

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Navy Slates Tribute Trips

SEATTLE, May 22 (AP)—The navy's air arm plans three flights this week to pay tribute to the naval reserve, the 13th naval district headquarters announced today.

Capt. H. E. Regan, commandant of the fleet airwing 4 at Whidby island, has authorized a PBY flight Friday.

On Saturday a flight of 30 navy planes will travel over a route arranged by Capt. C. P. Greber, commanding the naval air reserve training unit, Sand Point. The flight will be made up of naval personnel.

These planes will fly over the crew race on Lake Washington, over Bremerton, Port Townsend and Port Angeles before returning to their base.

Six PBY's from the Whidby island station will fly over Everett, Seattle, Tacoma and Olympia Friday afternoon.

There are 18 cities and towns named Union in the United States.

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PINBALLS OUT

SALEM, May 22 (AP) — The Salem city council, faced with determined opposition of Salem churches, newspapers and civic organizations, decided last night to kill its proposed ordinance to license pinball games.

The measure was sponsored by five of the seven councilmen.

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