Pipe Dreams And Personal Safety Top Priority Items On Pakistan Black Market

By G. MILTON KELLY

NEW DELHI, India, Dec. 4 (AP)—Pipe dreams and personal safety have been added to the myriad commodities in the black markets of India and Pakistan, to which lush new fields were opened by communal rioting and the troubles in Kashmir.

The eruption of fierce communal fighting caused acute shortages of food and other necessities in various sections, and to those complaints were added the voices of opium smokers, who said their normal supply sources had been upset and that black marketers took advantage of the situation. Opium smoking is illegal in both dominions, but there are many addicts.

Safety and access to safety have become recognized black market commodities. Statisticians of the Tata industrial empire in India recently made pointed comment that a governmental crackdown was in order.

"Smart money" bought large numbers of airplane tickets, with bookings far in advance, wherever communal troubles erupted. These tickets were resold at fantastic prices, sometimes more than 100 times the face value of the ticket, and wealthy refugees in terror of their lives were glad to pay.

Pilots Get Rich

Some private pilots reaped rich harvests for the transport of wealthy refugees and their precious possessions to areas of safety.

Automobile owners fleeing from trouble centers had to drive their cars to airports, and leave them behind. Bargain hunters haunted the airfields, bought these cars at distress prices, and they now are reappearing at the usual black market prices.

Matches, cigarettes and other commodities periodically disappear from normal markets without any apparent explanation. They are available in small quantity in the black market—for a price. The press has charged that some of these shortages were artificially created.

Operate In Reverse

Some black marketeers operate in reverse, however. In Lahore, Pakistan, Mohammedan looters of Sikh and Hindu shops set up business on curbstones. Many of them had not the vaguest idea of true values of the things they had stolen. Scotch whisky sold for three rupees (less than a dollar) a bottle, and one man told of having bought a case of gin for one rupee because the seller thought it was bottled water. This situation did not last long, however.

Some strangely inept vendors appeared in New Delhi after the rioting here. These new merchants had queer price lists for the first few days of their new careers in business which indicated they might not have much information about wholesale prices.

Black marketeers in housing seldom made a mistake. A friend reports that he had to pay a bonus equivalent to about $16,000 to obtain immediate possession of a home he had purchased. "Key money" rates to circumvent rent controls are high—sometimes more than $500 for two or three rooms.

Medicine is an old standby of the black marketeer. Any pill—aspirin or sugar pill—can be sold as a sulfa drug for home medication to illiterate buyers.

Mother, Son Found Dead

NORTH HOLLYWOOD, Calif., Dec. 4 (AP)—A mother and her 10-month-old son, principals in a broken marriage and a custody dispute, lay dead today.

The body of little Neil Ellis Wartnik, born last January 24, was found in bed yesterday in the blood-spattered nine-room Wartnik home in the exclusive Toluca lake district. Thirty miles away attendants of a Hermosa beach hotel found the body of his mother, Mrs. Lena Mae Wartnik, 30, a former model.

The estranged husband and father, Sam H. Wartnik, 45, sportswear manufacturer, was in San Francisco and today is believed en route here. The Wartniks were married in Las Vegas, Nev., May 19, 1946, separated last November 9 and he filed a divorce suit November 24, alleging that Mrs. Wartnik drank to excess.

Wartnik had obtained an order on Mrs. Wartnik to appear tomorrow in superior court to show cause why he should not be given custody of the child. In an accompanying affidavit he alleged that his wife threatened him and threatened suicide herself at various times.

Detective Lt. Edward W. Smith said there were no cuts on the child's body and he may have been smothered or strangled. Police Chief Jack Harlow of Hermosa beach said there were superficial cuts on Mrs. Wartnik's wrists and body and that he had found an empty pill box and bottle in the hotel room closet. Autopsies were ordered.

Pinball Decision Under Attack

SALEM, Dec. 4 (AP)—A group of district attorneys today challenged Attorney General George Neuner's position that pinball games are illegal even if the only prize is a free chance to play again.

Marion county District Attorney Miller Hayden, without revealing the sponsorship, said the group of district attorneys has prepared a brief attacking Neuner's position. This brief will be submitted today to the statewide convention of district attorneys in Portland.

A committee of district attorneys met with Neuner yesterday to discuss pinball games and slot machines, but Neuner said nothing was decided.

Student Proposes "Peace Bonds"

PORTLAND, Dec. 4 (AP)—The International bank should issue $25 denomination "peace bonds" to give citizens a personal stake in world affairs, a veteran and Vanport college student suggested today.

John Hakanson said the bonds would bind citizens of all nations closer together through mutual financial interest in world reconstruction.

The World bank was established at Bretton Woods and Savannah, Ga., monetary conferences to provide funds for world loans and is now selling large denomination bonds.

Turn those no-longer-used articles into cash now! Herald and News Want Ads are inexpensive and bring quick results.

Man On Ladder Crash Victim

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 4 (AP)—Edwin Grash was injured in the collision of three cars—while on a ladder a half block from the scene of the crash.

Policeman Edward Kennedy said a car collided with another automobile and a taxicab yesterday and then one car continued on, striking the ladder on which Grash was standing to repair a screen.

None of the three drivers was injured, Kennedy said, but Grash was detained in a hospital for observation.

THIEF!

WORCESTER, Mass., Dec. 4 (AP) Helen Pedone and Julie Carelli complained to police today that their wallets were stolen last night at the annual policeman's ball.

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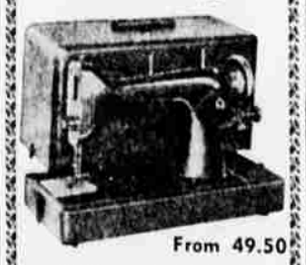

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From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

Marry Young? Marry Old?

When Jeb Crowell's daughter, Sue, married nineteen-year-old "Slim" Blake, a lot of folks (especially older ones) began to shake their heads. Young marriages! Tut, tut!

So I looked up some figures. It's true, young American girls and boys marry younger than in other countries. And where do you suppose they had the least chance? I won't name it, but maybe you've guessed. One of those countries that before the war suppressed all individual freedom and tolerance.

That's why I'm not worried about *our* younger married couples. They were raised in a country that respects one another's right—a country of tolerance and temperance (a lot of bridegrooms are ex-G.I.'s, and it looked to me like their favorite beverage was beer!)

From where I sit, it isn't *when* you marry that's important. It's the all-important spirit of tolerance and understanding that you bring to marriage.

Joe Marsh

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