

# Herald and News

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## Caught in the Snow

By DEB ADDISON

In this year of politics it's interesting to take a look at some of the misconceptions and misunderstandings that we're deluged with.

For instance, make this statement in any group and Senator Taft is a conservative. You'll not draw a flicker of argument from a Taft friend or foe.

"Conservative" is synonymous with "Tory." Both, originally meant a person who believed in strong government controls and limitations of the rights of the individual.

These terms are now used to indicate a person who believes that the rights of the individual are paramount and that the best government is the least government, to use the words of Jefferson.

In the true sense, Senator Taft is a radical and President Truman is a conservative.

Chew that one over.

We've been waiting for the stories about the winter of the big snow, and about how much whiter.

## Bruce Biassat

President Truman is in the position President Roosevelt was in during early 1940, when a nation speculated whether he intended to seek a third term. Mr. Truman obviously is enjoying greatly the opportunity to report the President's public over his presidential plans.

The day hardly goes by without "informed" declarations on both sides of the question. A congressman emerges from the White House to report the President's statement that he "never quits" anything he undertakes.

This is promptly interpreted as a sign he is determined to run again.

Then a reporter who says he has talked to someone who ought to know asserts flatly that Mr. Truman has irrevocably made up his mind to retire next January. He even goes on to name the President's choice as a successor, and supplies details.

The President himself is not a deep thinker, for all his avowed love of history and biography. He chafes under the necessity of dealing with heavy subjects laden with figures and other abstractions.

But thrust him into the middle of this kind of speculation, with its inevitable good-natured banter, and he is happy. His news conferences show plainly he regards this as his meat.

We don't get much solid information from these little seances. Mr. Truman does not intend that we should.

For instance, about all we learned for sure a week or so ago was that he would make his decision regardless of the identity of the Republican nominee. Up to now, the wise men have been say-

## They'll Do It Every Time



## JACOBY on Canasta

"I would appreciate your comment on the following question," writes a Larchmont correspondent.

"The pack had been frozen for several rounds. The opponents had the following melds down: 7-7-7-7-7 and A-A-A-2. My husband and I also had one meld down.

"My husband had frozen the pack and had discarded the sixth seven. I held the remaining two sevens in my hand.

"I knew that these sevens were safe discards, but I didn't want to discard them because if the opponents then got the pack they would get a natural canasta. Instead, I discarded an eight. Two eights had been thrown previously, one of them by myself—which had been passed up by my left-hand opponent.

"This time the eight did not get by. My opponent took the pack. This marked the argument. You can probably imagine a good deal of what was said, but it boils down to this: Is it right to throw away a card which will give the opponents a pure canasta if they take the discard pile—assuming that they have about as much chance as we have to get the discard pile?"

I am sorry to say that there is no simple answer to this question. It would be pleasant to say "yes" or "no" but the only honest answer is "it all depends."

If your partner freezes the pack, and if your partner is a good player, there should be good reason to suppose that your side has a far better chance to win the discard pile than the opponents have.

When that is true, you must disregard the risk of letting the opponents make a natural canasta. Your object is to make the most of your advantage, assuming that you have an advantage. You must discard as safely as possible, trusting your partner for your own hand to be better.

If your partner is not a good player, he may freeze the pack when your side has no clear advantage. In this situation, there is considerable risk that the opponents will get the pack away from you eventually. When this risk is big enough, there is something to be said for keeping a natural canasta away from them.

In short, it all depends on whether or not you think your partner is better than he is doing when he freezes the pack in the first place.

## Sam Dawson

NEW YORK — Uncle Sam is talking about limiting the size of the home you can build this year. In return, builders could start as many new homes as the allotment of metal will let them finish.

This may surprise some folks who think the builders themselves have been doing a pretty successful job of limiting living space for some time now.

The new federal rules—which an official of the National Production Administration says are planned for next month—also will come at a time when more and more builders are wondering out loud if they haven't gone too far in limiting the living space left after the expensive gadgets are installed.

Builders started making homes smaller because of the rising cost of construction, and because of the public demand for home appliances as in-place essentials. This sent the finished price soaring. To meet this demand and cut back on costs, builders made the home smaller. For example, they stock a utility room with heater and appliances and eliminate attics and basements. People like the conveniences but they miss the space left after the keepakes they never use but can't throw away.

If Uncle Sam goes through with the new rules limiting the size of homes to be built this year, it will not be to limit living space, but to stretch out scarce materials over as many homes as possible. The new idea is to let builders start as many homes as they like—if they use only the amount of scarce metals chiefly copper products allowed and restrict the size of the house. Government planners think this would mean about 800,000 new homes this year. There were more than a million last year.

The government put in similar limits during the housing shortage at the end of World War II. It limited size, refused to allow more than one bathroom, and banned lodges.

In his budget message this week, President Truman urged Congress to allow the Federal Reserve Board

## C-82 Explodes In Mid-Air

RAUNHEIM, Germany — A blazing American "Flying Boxcar" abandoned by its crewman in mid-air—exploded like a bomb in this village Monday and killed three Germans.

The burning C-82 struck the roof of a small two-family house near the railway station. With a great roar, wreckage scattered for 200 yards and set other dwellings afire.

The plane was reported flying in a formation of 12 C-82s when it caught fire five miles west of its base at Rhine-Main, near Frankfurt.

The five crewmen bailed out from a hazardous low altitude. All landed safely.

## Kinsey May Take Up Jap Study

TOKYO — The Nippon Times said Monday that Dr. Alfred Kinsey is planning to extend his sex studies to Japan.

He expressed his intentions, the paper said, in an exchange of letters with Dr. Sen Nagai, professor emeritus of Tokyo University.

Dr. Kinsey was quoted as writing Nagai he was interested in ascertaining if "the pattern of sexual responses of Japanese females was the same as that of American females."

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## Chinese Pray For Return

TAIPEH, Formosa — Chinese Nationalists toasted advent of the 4,600th Lunar year—Year of the Dragon—Sunday with fervent hope it might mark their return to the Red-hot mainland.

These aspirants pointed out that the Year of the Dragon always is considered a lucky one.

In Peking, Capital of Red China, crowds also thronged the streets. The Red radio said teams of young people carried gifts to families with soldiers fighting in Korea.

Some 10,000 persons celebrated in New York City's Chinatown. There was a parade.

Many of the 18,000 inhabitants of San Francisco's Chinatown, largest such settlement in the United States, thronged Grant Avenue.

## Two Die In Plane Crash

PORT CHICAGO, Calif. — The pilot and a civilian technician died and another man was hurt in Saturday's fiery B-26 crash near the Naval ammunition dump here.

McClellan Air Force Base, Sacramento—home field of the two-engine attack bomber, identified the dead as:

Lt. Lewis E. Hudson, 26, Sacramento, the pilot.

Robert Gordon Weems, 33, North Sacramento, an air base employee.

The injured man, treated at Mare Island Navy Hospital for bruises after he was thrown from the plane was Walter F. Hallett, Sacramento, another air base civilian employee.

## Retired Farmer States Second "Funeral" Service, Plans Blowout For Crowd

BURLINGTON, Colo. — Jim Gerhart is planning a repeat performance of his own "funeral."

"Ain't got my plans all made yet," he told newsmen Monday. "But there'll be something this year."

Jim, who is approaching his 75th birthday, presided at his own "funeral" in June, 1949. It cost him an estimated \$15,000 which included a \$4,000 copper coffin, \$2,500 granite monument and incidentals.

"Don't think it will be near as big a blowout as it was last time," he said of this year's event. "Those big funerals are mighty stirring, you know, but a man can take just so much of them."

Jim, a retired farmer, ran into mild opposition from some of the Burlington townspeople soon after announcing plans for last year's "funeral." He said, "I went about as far as I could to make sure he wasn't buried like a dog," and partly to spend some of his estimated \$75,000 fortune before his death "so that relatives won't get it."

But if his neighbors were opposed to the funeral, they didn't show it when the big day came. Almost to a man Burlington turned out for the services, rubbings shoulders with curious visitors from half a dozen states.

A huge dinner, which Jim cooked himself, followed.

Another event in the area is threatening to "mess up my plans" this year, he said.

"I put a notice in the paper that

## Three State Trucker Law OK Reached

BOISE — Oregon, Washington and Idaho have agreed to truck reciprocity in principle, says Gov. Len Jordan, though, if I went ahead with my plans and took the crowd away from them."

Both Idaho and Oregon will continue to collect their ton-mile tax, the governor said, and Idaho contract and common carriers will go on paying the Washington Public Service Commission fees.

Idaho owners of more than two vehicles over 26,000 pounds will prorate their mileage in the three states and license them in Oregon and Washington in proportion to the miles traveled in each state, the agreement stipulates.

Idaho will waive deposit of the \$20 prepaid highway use tax for out-of-state trucks, but will collect the full levy on tax where applicable, he said.

Jordan said a program whereby truckers paying the ton-mile tax in Idaho could pay a flat fee was being readied. Oregon's ton-mile tax exempts farmers operating trucks under 26,000 pounds.

Paul Vernon, Jordan's assistant in the negotiations, said further meetings will be held with Oregon and Washington officials. Jordan said he will meet with law enforcement officials to discuss licensing of trucks over 26,000 pounds.

## Fuji Cable Gets Protest

TOKYO — It's a long, hard climb to the top of Mt. Fuji—Japan's sacred mountain.

Some enterprising Japanese businessmen would like to pick up a few million yen operating a cable car for tourists to the summit.

There's plenty of opposition. Followers of the Shinto faith must worship at the top of 12,423 foot Mt. Fuji once before they die.

Riding up would be sacrilege.

The Japan Nature Protection Association circulated pamphlets arguing "mountain climbers build character through hardships."

The government transportation ministry is studying blueprints.

## Winnie Back Home Again

SOUTHAMPTON, England — Prime Minister Winston Churchill came home Monday from his American trip and said "I'm sure it's done good."

"It's freshened up many friendships and made new ones," he told about 100 newsmen gathered in the drawing room of the giant liner Queen Mary.

Churchill said he could not comment on government policy.

"I don't propose to deal with any question of policy this morning because I may be asked some questions about it in the House of Commons and I must not give the answers away beforehand," the Prime Minister said.

Churchill said that he had stayed in his cabin during the whole trip trying to cure his cold.

## Bank Robber On FBI List

WASHINGTON — Another bank bandit was put on the FBI's list of "10 out Wanted Men" Monday.

He is Gerhard Arthur Puff, 37, with numerous aliases and a long police record. He is now being sought for allegedly taking part in the \$62,000 robbery of the Johnson County National Bank and Trust Co. at Prairie Village, Kansas, last Nov. 23.

Puff's reputed companion in the holdup, George Arthur Heroux of Providence, R. I., had previously been listed among the bureau's "Most Wanted."

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