

Washington 'Cleaned Up' During Long Recess Time

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senators are going to be riding to and from their work more smoothly next year but that isn't guaranteed to smooth the business of lawmaking. The easier riding will be on newly laid tracks for the senators' 100-foot monorail subway line which connects their office building with the Senate wing of the Capitol.

The new rails have just been installed at a cost of \$7,500. They are the first complete track replacement since the monorail system was installed 40 years ago. Time had thinned the rails and rotted the ties.

The two 18-year old passenger cars are going to remain, although they are being overhauled and repainted.

These cars make an average of 225 trips a day and are one of the big tourist attractions of the capital, especially with youngsters. Rides are free to all who can crowd on.

The new tracks are part of the Capitol's biggest general cleanup and rehabilitation in 14 years.

David Lynn, architect of the Capitol, says his maintenance force has been able to accomplish more this year than in any year since before World War II. The reason: Congress was out of session for six months in 1952—longest recess since 1932.

All told, \$695,000 was voted for Capitol maintenance in the fiscal year, which began last July 1 and most of it is being spent in the current six-month period. Here are some of the other jobs:

- Repainting of the dome and all of the central portion of the building.
- Painting of 77 offices and stairways and corridors.
- Converting some elevators from manual to automatic control.
- Cleaning of 60 ornate crystal chandeliers.
- A complete soap-and-water scrubbing for every statue—there are dozens of them.

Youth Gets High Medal

LONDON (AP)—John Bamford, a 15-year-old Newcastle coal mine worker who helped save his mother and three other children from their blazing home, has been awarded the George Cross—Britain's highest honor for bravery outside military combat. He is the youngest person ever to receive the award.

John and his father rescued the rest of the family from the fire Oct. 19. The boy crawled through flames to a bedroom and seized two younger brothers from their beds. He dropped one through a window to safety but the other became hysterical and ran back into the flames. John chased the screaming child, caught him and threw him out the window.

The young hero is now in a hospital suffering from bad burns.

Last night when he heard about the award he said:

"I think it's a bit daft. I didn't really do anything and I can't remember much about the night of the fire."

Minister Has Varied Jobs

CHELTONHAM, England (AP)—A former Congregationalist minister is now a clerk in a gas works because he became a part-time baker.

The Rev. R. Wesley Hining, 39, said today he had to resign his post of minister of the Chedworth and North Leach churches recently because the Congregational Union informed him he could not be both a parson and a cake-and-bread maker.

Hining explained he was unable to live on his clergyman's pay took up baking part-time to make enough extra money to support his wife. They were expecting a baby.

He gave up baking when he resigned his church posts and took the clerk's job.

Woman Gets Pet Settlement

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Four cats and two dogs were the only property demanded by patent medicine heiress Norma Tibbett, 27, in divorcing her fourth husband, Lawrence Tibbett Jr., 33, son of the singer.

Superior Judge Benjamin J. Schein asked yesterday whether Mrs. Tibbett had all the pets before her marriage.

"No, I had only two," she replied. "The others arrived as a consequence of nature."

The jurist ruled that since the latter additions were "an accrual out of separate property" the pets would all be hers.

Yugo Jailed On Spy Rap

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)—A former minister of the Macedonian provincial government has been sentenced to 16 years in prison on charges of conspiring with the Russian-led Communists.

A Yugoslav District Court in Skopje convicted the ex-minister, Djacir Jodra, after hearing prosecution charges that he peddled propaganda against Premier Marshal Tito's government and aided "hostile" groups to escape to neighboring Communist Albania.

U.S. Demands Red Payment

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States has submitted a new demand for compensation for the U. S. bomber and her eight-man crew lost when they were shot down by a Russian plane near Japan Oct. 7.

A note delivered in Moscow yesterday said the B29, "entirely undefended," was on a routine flight at the time of the attack by the Soviet fighter. The U. S. termed the attack "unprovoked and unjustified."

This government rejected a claim by Moscow, made in a note dated Nov. 24 and published by the State Department yesterday, that the bomber had violated the Russian border and fired on the Red plane first. Russia said it had no information on the eight crew members.

Woman Weds 7th Husband

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actress Helen Gilbert's divorce suit against her sixth husband has been dropped. Her attorney says she has married a seventh.

Miss Gilbert, 35, filed the action last March against James E. Durant, 48, Nevada casino manager. Durant had obtained a decree in Phoenix, Ariz., which for a time the actress had claimed was invalid.

Her seventh husband is M. O. Bryant, associated with her in a Hollywood cafe.

Yugos Send Ambassador

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)—Official sources reported today that the British government has accepted the appointment of Vladimir Willebit as Yugoslavia's new ambassador to Britain.

Willebit, a World War II partisan fighter who has been serving as minister to Italy, will succeed Josip Prilec, who has been assigned to the Foreign Ministry.

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