

Herald and News

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BILLBOARD



By BILL JENKINS

Trips seem to be the order of the day. Now we learn that Clark Weaver is showing off Saturday on a three weeks trip to Bermuda. The trip courtesy of Personal Finance Company as a result of his winning their latest contest. Taking his wife, Nancy, along, Clark, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Weaver up on Auburn street, is the manager of the Stockton branch of the company. Have a good time U.S., we're leaving, right now, for Hart Mountain.

The picture at the head of the column shows that fire fighting is not all riding around in radio equipped trucks and spitting smokes from the top of a mountain.

The fellow in the foreground is in the process of chopping an old log apart and the lad at the top is slaying the fire areas with a hose from the pumper truck.

Taken last week near Kirk when a small fire broke out along the railroad tracks.

JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON (AP)—At this moment the clearest thing that can be said about the Geneva conference on Indochina is that it is not clear at all. Visibility should improve in the next few days. The conference is near a climax.

The Communists have victory within their grasp. But if their appetite is too big Indochina might turn into a shooting war that could involve the United States.

The French for almost eight years have been fighting the Communist-led Vietminh in Viet Nam, one of Indochina's three states. Now they want peace.

It seems certain French Premier Pierre Mendes-France, meeting at Geneva with Russia's V. M. Molotov and Red China's Chou En-Lai, is willing to let the Vietminh have the northern part of Viet Nam while the French retain the southern half.

Being able to force the French into this kind of settlement would, by itself, be a clear victory for the Communists. That much, and no more, seems certain now.

What isn't clear is this: Will the Communists demand only half of Viet Nam or all of it? And if only half, on what conditions? And if the Communists press Mendes-France, will he go to peace at any price, yield all of Viet Nam?

When he took over the French government almost a month ago he promised he'd get peace in Indochina within 20 days or quit.

If he quit and the French left their efforts for an "honorable" peace had been spurned, their fighting spirit might revive to carry on the war with greater sacrifices than they've been willing to make in eight years.

They probably would not do so without assurances of active help from their side by the United States. Just how much help the United States and Britain would give has been one of the most thoroughly unclear parts of the whole picture.

Mendes-France met two days this week in Paris with Secretary of State Dulles and Britain's Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden. They later issued a cheery statement which threw no light on a military agreement, if any, had been made.

Nevertheless, the Communists have to gamble on settling for less than everything or asking too much

and facing the prospect of full-scale resumption of the war, plus the danger of American and British intervention.

From Dulles' public statements they could hardly guess what the United States might do. On April 17, nine days before the Geneva conference opened, he said it was "unlikely" American troops would be sent to Indochina.

On May 7 Dulles said unless there was an "honorable" truce there would be urgent need for "united action" to defend the area. He said Congress would have to be consulted and "only Congress can declare war."

On May 25 he said, "We don't go in alone. We go in where the United Nations gives moral sanction to our action." On June 11 he said France must pledge to fight on until victory before American and Allied intervention in Southeast Asia.

If the Communists settle for northern Viet Nam—and the United States and Britain guarantee to help the French if the Vietminh ever cross the dividing line—the Communists will be agreeing to letting the Allies make southern Viet Nam an armed camp and an almost insuperable barrier against further advance.

They may demand this, a temporary division of Viet Nam with French agreement that within a certain time the Vietnamese will be allowed to vote in free election for the government they want, after which the French would withdraw.

If the French buy that, the Allies can just about kiss off Indochina. Reports from there have indicated the Vietnamese in French territory now would vote for the Vietminh.

If the French make any deal by which they agree to withdraw from all of Indochina, the Allies can kiss off all Indochina. The Communists won't have to attack the rest of it. They can be depended upon to subvert it from within.

The Communists may decide the best way to foul up the West is simply to demand part of Viet Nam under a truce arrangement. That would turn Indochina into another Korea. There'd be no peace. But the Communists would have time for maneuvers.



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What conservation we have in the United States today is not because of politicians, but in spite of them. For politics breeds upon personal selfish interest and the exploitation of natural resources. Conservation breeds upon the "intangible values" which are those that stir human emotions; influence our happiness and contentment; and make the good life worth living. These "intangible values" are so important that without them life loses its meaning. One can easily measure resources in the cold appraising values of commerce, but it is almost impossible to measure or explain the "intangibles" that influence the human emotion.

We readily recognize the great inspiration people derive from beautiful paintings, music and poetry and we do not question the value of the intangibles inherent in the arts. By the same token, there is no question of their value in conservation. Intangibles are so involved and integrated in all conservation work that it is impossible to separate them from the basic physical elements present.

There have been many definitions of conservation, however, it is probable that the definition used by Paul Sears of Yale University comes the closest of fusing all the various thoughts together. Sears said: "Conservation is a point of view and involves the whole concept of freedom, dignity, and the American spirit." Remember this definition for it is a beautiful, meaningful concept that will be repeated for many generations to come; it is a philosophy and a way of life.

What do we mean by our way of life, and how many of us know what the good life is? Generations of Americans have enjoyed the "good life" through the years and have taken for granted the breathing space, freedom and the outdoors. We need but look back into history and see how our historians have studied and traced old civilizations along the migration routes used by man in passing from east to west. Today it has become clear that these people moved in search of food, mistaking their lands, their forests and their waters, all the while, and by so doing, they, at the same time were losing their way of life. Was life any less precious to them as it is to us?

These early people failed to recognize the relationship between merely useful needs and intangibles before it was too late. The pattern was so definite that one great historian put it in these graphic words: "In dust and rubble along these great migration lanes are the palaces, pyramids, and temples of the past. Merely markers to indicate that man had passed that way thinking merely of his own convenience and the greatness of his political exploits.

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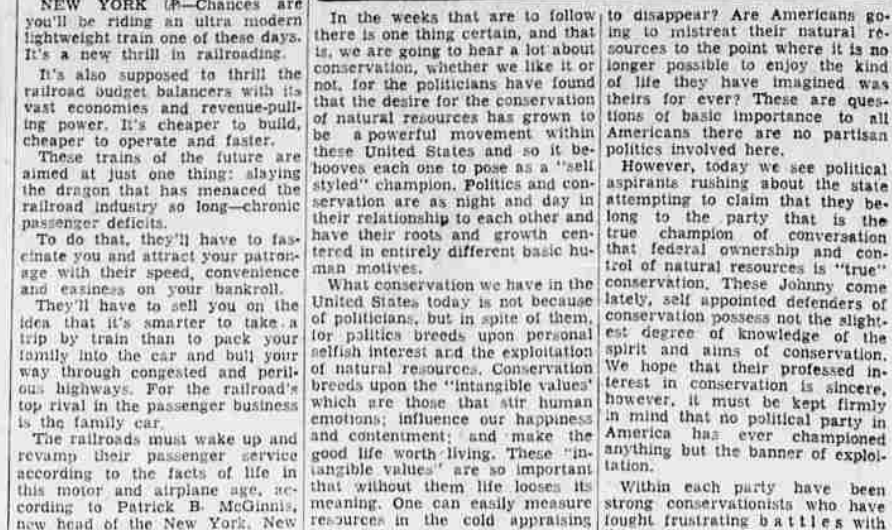
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Sure as ice floats

Ice is nice... because, among other things, it floats in drinks and makes them cold. And millions agree that ice is nicest when it's floating in a tall cold superfine drink made with Seagram's 7 Crown—America's favorite whiskey.

Say Seagram's and be Sure

Seagram Distillers Corporation, New York City. Blended Whiskey. 86.8 Proof. 65% Grain Neutral Spirits.