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SFKTCSAAY

By FLOYD L. WYNNE

No, it's not a typographical error . . . this is about the SFKTCSAAY.

I received an invitation to join the organization the other day, and just on the strength of one contact, and that by letter, I'm ready to join.

From Cleveland, Ohio, I received a letter the other day that had marked for a return address simply SFKTCSAAY.

It also had the notation at the bottom of the envelope, "Your membership card is enclosed."

I could envision some wacky organization that was using this as a pitch to inveigle persons into joining, but little did I expect what I read.

Inside, the little pink folder said, on the front, "Welcome to our club!"

I found that SFKTCSAAY stands for "Society for Keeping the Christmas Spirit Alive All Year."

A little card informed me that the society was a division of the National Key Company of Cleveland, and that I was a lifetime member of the society and will do my best to live up to the rules on the back of the card.

What are the rules? Pretty simple, but fairly wonderful.

1. I will always practice "good-will towards man."
2. I will not bite back little children who bite me.
3. I will laugh at all jokes told to me.
4. I will do my share of pushing revolving doors.
5. I will be allowed three days a year to be grouchy.

Those stipulations don't seem too impossible, so I'm willing to become a member.

My wife will have to worry which three days I'm going to be grouchy, however.

Oh . . . yes, there are dues, also.

The dues? One thousand smiles a year. That's clearly within my ability to pay. That's only three smiles a day as an average. I think I can make it.

How about you? Why don't you join SFKTCSAAY also?

Real Estate

By FLORENCE JENKINS

The real estate market in the first half of 1959 will be characterized by stable home prices and a rising volume of transfers of good quality existing residences.

Those are the words used by the National Association of Real Estate Boards to say that business is expected to be as good during early 1959 as it has been for the last quarter, and, in many respects, it is expected to be better.

The results of the association's 66th annual survey were released this week. The survey reveals a composite picture gathered from real estate boards and realtors in 372 communities as a cross-section of real estate activity in the nation.

In most areas, an increased demand compared with 1958 is anticipated, the report stated. Improvement in the supply of offerings, as upgrading is resumed, will hold back price advances, it added.

Approximately one-fourth of the houses for sale in metropolitan areas is made up of homes built in 1950 or later. In the $12,000 to $20,000 category, the prices are expected to be the same or higher than during 1958. With respect to the under $12,000 group, 44 per cent of the realtors said prices will be higher, 40 per cent report they will be unchanged and 16 per cent predict lower prices.

For homes built between 1940 and 1950, residences of $20,000 and above are expected to be higher in 24 per cent of the areas surveyed and to remain the same in 38 per cent of the areas.

The survey found that homes built between 1930 and 1940 are selling at prices prevalent to a year ago in more than 50 per cent of the South and Middle West. Thirty one per cent of the Western communities reported prices above those of a year ago. The volume of sales in Western market areas of homes built during those years is higher than in the rest of the nation.

With respect to residences built prior to 1930, the survey shows that it depends on the care, upkeep and modernizing of the property what it is worth on today's market. It also depends on what part of the country it is located in. Again, the West has a greater market for houses than elsewhere in the United States.

The reason the real estate market is expected to be better in 1959 is simple. Americans each year demand better houses, more conveniences and a higher standard of living. And nowhere is there more evidence of our nation's young, ambitious and growing spirit than in our own Klamath Basin.

Historical Warning

By NELSON REED

Very interesting book review in the Wall Street Journal of a modern condensation of Mommsen's History of Rome, which was published 100 years ago. What is left tells how the nation succumbed to its own dazzling successes, its aristocrats corrupted by easy living and its poor encouraged to become chronic beggars by the free distribution of grain, which brought in the beggars from all over Italy to a capital whose only industry, besides government, was the construction of public works.

Though Mommsen wrote long before the New Deal in America or the cradle-to-the-grave security in England, it is gravely prophetic. The authors point out "the unnerving similarities between the political strategies and tactics of Gaius Graccus and Franklin Roosevelt."

"One of the relevant conclusions to be drawn from Roman history is that total annihilation of one's enemy is always dangerous. As long as Rome was fighting Carthage and never knew when Hannibal and his elephants might come down on the Italian peninsula, the rich and the poor in Rome did not dare to turn and rend each other. Could be old Khrushchev knows his Roman history and is always threatening us with war to keep out of trouble at home.

Julius Caesar, though a dictator, postponed Rome's collapse. He was smart enough not to push his conquests to total victory, and to leave the Germans alone as long as they stayed behind the Rhine and the Danube. Too bad we couldn't have followed his example and left the Germans strong enough to keep the Russians off our backs, as they had been doing for years.

Nero tried inflation and Diocletian tried price fixing. Both were miserable failures and only postponed the fall of the Empire a few years.

The authors point out that the great difference between Rome and the U.S. is that while Rome had capital acquired from its conquests it used that capital only to acquire more slaves, not to create new productive industries. Unlike the U.S., it lacked a capitalistic system of production that puts people to work. In the last analysis it failed because it could not create a real middle class.

Kathy Crosby

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—Life holds a triple challenge these days for Kathryn Grant, the young wife of singer Bing Crosby.

It has given her three roles to play—all at the same time. She is a busy mother, a busy actress, and she is busy studying physiology because she wants to get a degree as a registered nurse.

Although she is a bit reluctant to discuss it, she is quite serious in her ambition to learn nursing.

"A nurse learns discipline, and how to give service with her hands," she said. "This is a very satisfying feeling. I think it will be a big help to me in my domestic life."

The Texas-born beauty came here for public appearances preliminary to the release of her 17th film, which was shot in Spain.

Even wearing a black chemise dress and with her dark hair drawn back into "a severe chignon"—her words—Kathryn still looks startlingly young. She still feels her youthful look is something of a burden in her professional career.

"This is the real handicap—the round face," she said. "My husband says I can't get away yet with playing a well-kept broad. Actually, I'm a hag of 25."

Her visit here left Kathryn — she doesn't like to be called Kathy—homesick for Crosby and their 4-month-old son, Harry Lillis Crosby Jr.

"We call him 'Tex' or 'Little Mouse' or 'Little Man,'" she said. "Bing calls him 'Little Drunk' because of the expression he gets after finishing his bottle. He just sits there contemplating his navel."

Miss Grant's marriage to the celebrated crooner was regarded as a real Cinderella romance by movie fans, but she doesn't like to break the privacy of her present home life.

"So many people ask me what Bing is really like," she said.

"Actually Bing is exactly the kind of person most people think he is.

"He is a heavenly father. He sings incessantly around the house, and he loves to sing to the baby.

"Church means a great deal to him. It does to both of us."

In meeting the problems of her triple life—as wife, actress and student nurse—Kathryn says she likes to remember two sayings of her own mother:

"Do the best you can.

"You can do anything you have to."

Then she added: "Happiness is an elusive term, but I feel I am a woman fulfilled."

Big Spending

By JAMES MARLOW
Associated Press News Analyst

WASHINGTON (AP)—How high is up? Or, what's President Eisenhower's idea of big spending?

On Nov. 5 — at a news conference the day after the Republicans' election disaster—he protested against what he called the big spenders among the Democrats.

He told the newsmen his last two years in the White House would be devoted to economy.

But government spending under his administration has been going up steadily since 1956 and this year is running at a record peacetime high of nearly 80 billion dollars.

And the deficit—the difference between what the government gets in revenue and its expenses—will be about 12 billion dollars, according to official estimates.

One of the main reasons for the deficit, of course, was the recession, which reduced individual and corporate income and thus meant a drop in tax revenues.

But Monday, after a White House conference with Eisenhower on his programs for next year, Republican congressional leaders came away figuring that spending next year will be around 80 billion again.

But they said Eisenhower is determined to balance the budget—meaning, to make spending no greater than revenue—if possible, and may do so. It's quite an if, especially with no indication of any move to boost taxes.

But the GOP leaders challenged heavy spenders in Congress to go along with the balance.

This repeated Republican tactic —of referring to big spenders in Congress while Eisenhower's administration keeps spending at a peacetime high—is beginning to look thin and sound monotonous.

It's just a hope and a guess that Eisenhower can spend 80 billion and balance the budget too.

If the economy continues its upward movement next year, the government should get more revenue than this year. But, even so, will it be enough to match the outgo?

Twelve days ago the No. 1 tax man in Congress—Rep. Wilbur D. Mills (D-Ark), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, where all tax changes start —said he expected government revenue next year to be around 78 billion dollars.

That would mean two billion less n revenue—and therefore a continuing deficit—below the 80 billion in spending Republicans said Eisenhower is thinking of for next year.

Sen. Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, said after Monday's meeting with the President: "I think they (the Eisenhower administration) will submit a balanced budget."

He added that if a balance is upset or a deficit increased, it will be on the "shoulders of the wild spenders in Congress, and there are plenty of them."

At this point we're being treated pretty much to political talk. The real meat-and-potato financial talk begins in January when Eisenhower submits his programs and budget to Congress, where figures will have to speak for themselves.

When those figures are turned loose, some of the Democrats may scream Eisenhower is the big spender. At least, that's the way it was early this year after his budget reached the Capitol.

Sen. Harry Byrd (D-Va), an outspoken economy advocate, protested at the time: "I call the new fiscal program for the coming year reckless."

Hobbies

Sacramento (To the Editor) — For the overwrought brain worker, a shock absorber is to be had in some hobby. Should there not be childhood and adolescence education toward hobbies? After one is plunged into our strenuous American life, it then usually is too late.

Studying camouflage color-patterns, as of caterpillars, is one such outlet. The caterpillars that came to the porch of the writer's Sierran cabin in the Canadian Life Zone were marvelously camouflaged. They disclosed how Mother Nature had successfully worked out the problem of concealing-coloration millenniums ago.

One caterpillar dropped from the 180 foot silver fir at the corner of the porch. It was a remarkable zigzag of brown, gray, green and yellow. Placed on either a gray branch or on green needles in this season of yellow pollen dispersal, this larva's color blended so perfectly, it would take a sharp-eyed chickadee or robin to spy it.

The out-of-doors can be used to so educate kiddies that biological illiteracy will be reduced. If we could obtain in America absolute biological literacy, as did Iceland of reading and writing, our country would eventually have lawmakers with clearer vision. We have only had two presidents really educated in biology, Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt. Writer has had much to do with social service legislation, both at Sacramento's state capitol and Washington's national capitol. The lack of grasp of the fundamental principles of biology which affect human life there is appalling.

C. M. Goethe

Commendation

Lakeview (To the Editor) — In behalf of Miss Evelyn Cooper, recently dismissed Klamath County librarian, members of her Lake County Library Board wish to make the following statements. In 1948, Miss Cooper came to Lakeview to set up a newly organized county library, which has continued to operate and grow for 10 years. During the time she spent with us, she was a loyal and faithful public servant, who accomplished a tremendous task.

With dispatch, she established circulation throughout the county, placing books in all our rural schools and various sub-stations. She developed an interest in reading among our children and was generally liked by young and adult readers.

A spirit of harmony and cooperation prevailed throughout her dealings with the various members of her board and teachers in the county. We accepted her resignation with considerable regret when she was hired away from us by Klamath County.

Miss Cooper was a civic minded individual who served her community well. She was a willing worker in the organizations to which she belonged and left a host of friends behind. We were sincerely sorry to have her leave and are concerned about her future. We hope she will be given every consideration to be vindicated of any charges brought against her.

Lake County Library Board members

Mabel McDonald, Chairman (1948-'53)

Lucile Dykeman, Secretary, (1948-'56)

Miriam Blair, Treasurer (1948-'54)

SHORT RIBS By Frank O'Neal

They'll Do It Every Time By Jimmy Hatlo

Army 'Scotches' Bagpipe Band

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Hoot, mon, the U.S. 6th Army's in such a tight fix it cannae longer afford to keep it's kilted bagpipe band a-going.

An official announcement said the Army was disbanding the colorful band, made up of ordinary American GIs thrust into kilts and taught to blow the pipes.

"The pipe band was considered a marginal activity in comparison with other vital tasks which the Army must perform with greatly reduced manpower," the announcement said.

Passports Given To Oklahomans

MIDWEST CITY, Okla. (AP)—Passports have been issued local residents jestingly allowing them to visit Oklahoma City.

The passports were issued as a buildup to today's municipal elections which would change the charter so this city cannot be annexed to Oklahoma City, without majority approval of its citizens.

Oklahoma City officials have complained services are being provided suburban residents at the expense of Oklahoma City taxpayers.

IN SELF DEFENSE

ATLANTA (UPI) — Merchants are hoping to head-off vandals who annually chop down and carry away decorated Christmas trees along Atlanta's famed Peachtree Street by offering free (but undecorated) trees to citizens unable to afford them.

WANTED: OLD PARROT

NORWICH, England (UPI)—The local theater company advertised today for an old parrot to play a role in "Treasure Island."

"No young parrots need apply, since the young ones only peck at strangers' ears and repeat everything they hear," said production manager Gerald Batty.

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