

The Herald and News

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Here And There

By BILL JENKINS

Economy note: The government's executive branch has three percent fewer civilian employees now than it had five years ago.

But before you start a loud huzzah over this apparent if minute fall of manna consider the fact that Uncle Sam is paying the remaining ones 30 percent more.

That is pretty much like climbing a shale slope and slipping back two feet for every one gained.

But, as we say in newspaper circles, lose a few, lose a few.

Reminds me that it was pretty easy to lose a few in that fog the other morning.

I don't suppose there is anything in the world as maddening as to stand out in a good stubble field on a foggy day and hear the birds going over just a few feet over your head but still be unable to see them.

And birds can be smart: As witness a story that Scott Warren was telling me the other day. Seems like it was several years ago and Scott was driving a big load of baled hay from somewhere to somewhere close down in the south end somewhere. It was during the pleasant season and foggy as all got out.

Scott says he stopped along the road because the load didn't feel right and climbed up on top of the big truckload to tighten the bales.

Up there he was out of the fog, he said, and could see a pleasant and perched on every telephone pole within sight. They were just up there soaking in the sun and enjoying themselves while down in the muck below the hunters cursed in futile rage at their dogs, the fog, the luck of hunters and the lack of horse sense that led them to be out on such a morning.

It might be of some slight interest to know that you probably blink your eyes about once every three seconds.

If you are a man, that is.

If you are a woman you blink about once in every four seconds.

At least that is what Dr. George Jensen says. He is chairman of the November Contact Lens Month.

November, being contact lens month, you see.

A blink is accomplished in about four-tenths of a second.

November is also Havin' Bread Sales Month.

Goody.

Solution

By FLOYD L. WYNNE

It's always good to see a problem resolved satisfactorily rather than see it booted from pillar to post.

The solution of hiring an adult guard for the bypass crossing is a good example.

It appeared for a while that the question of just whose responsibility the problem was might becloud the issue and throw it into a stalemate between the council and the elementary school board.

Instead, the city council took the issue in hand Monday night when presented with a petition from 64 parents whose children had to cross the intersection.

While the question of responsibility was considered, the overriding problem was concern for the children's safety. It was not a time to question whose responsibility it was.

They met the problem immediately by hiring a guard on a temporary basis until such time as a long-range solution could be worked out.

THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL board met the other half of the obligation in a meeting on Wednesday with the council.

There may be other solutions to the problem, but certainly none could be found that met the situation as well as the posting of an adult guard at this crossing.

While there will be those who will point to other crossings and demand the same type of an adult guard, none can compare to the hazards created at the intersection in question. The bypass brings traffic through on one of the two busiest highways on the West Coast. In addition to this, the grade of the bypass as constructed represents a hazard unparalleled anywhere else in the city.

Both groups agreed on this point, and indicated that it was only because of these factors that they approved the guard.

THE SOLUTION eases the worried mind of parents who became alarmed at the situation and resorted to the petition route to get some action.

It is regrettable that parents, themselves, had to go out and get a petition passed and signed be-

fore anything was done about the problem.

It's apparent that the question of responsibility prevented the school board from taking up the issue earlier. Admittedly, it should have been an issue brought to the attention of the public not by worried parents, but by the school board itself.

However, they, in turn, cannot be roundly criticized in the matter because the exact pattern that the bypass would take at that point was not clear, and highway department officials themselves were not able to give any satisfactory explanation of just what would happen at the corner.

One of the engineers from the department admitted that the island construction was wrong at the intersection and would have to be altered. The lack of signs on the bypass also was thoroughly aired.

There will unquestionably be both problems and hazard at this crossing until such time as the final link is completed on over Lake Ewauna.

It is hoped that the State Highway Department will recognize this fact and put this final link on their plans for next year's work.

In the meantime, one other point has been giving school officials great concern. Some parents have been instructing their children to walk down the bypass to school. This is like asking your child to play with a loaded revolver.

Until proper fencing is erected around the bypass, every parent should see to it that their children stay completely away from this busy arterial. The result of ignoring this advice can be tragic.

Kites

By FLORENCE JENKINS

"Go fly a kite" means different things in different parts of the world.

Boy Day in Honolulu is an occasion for kite-flying as part of the celebration. This is a carry-over from Boys' Festival Day in Japan when fathers fly kites shaped like fish, particularly the carp, one for each son in the family.

Polynesian and Melanesian fishermen use kites to troll bait for the wily ray fish.

From the year 4 B.C. when a Greek named Archytas flew a kite over the city of Tarentum to the present day, kites have been known around the world. It is estimated that more than 40 million kites are sold each year in the United States.

As early as 1749, two Glasgow Scotsmen, Alexander Wilson and Thomas Melville, used kites to send thermometers into the upper air to take high-altitude temperature readings. Weather bureaus get kites up to more than four miles into the air to take readings. Government meteorologists at Mount Weather, Virginia, set a high-flying kite record when they lofted a train of 10 kites to a height of 23,835 feet.

In 1792 Benjamin Franklin used a kite and a key to test his theory that lightning was a form of electricity. In 1894 Guglielmo Marconi transmitted the first radio signal across the Atlantic by utilizing a kite-borne antenna at the receiving station in Newfoundland.

Many centuries ago, a Chinese farmer had a dream. In it he felt that a terrible disaster would befall his family. Deeply disturbed, he decided to spend the entire day with his loved ones on a picnic. Late in the afternoon, the farmer sailed a kite high into the sky, and everyone became so interested in the sport that the picnic lasted well after dark. Arriving home, the farmer found his house had collapsed during the day, destroying all his possessions.

However, he had kept his wife and children safe, so on that same day of the same month each year thereafter he flew an elaborate kite to commemorate their salvation. The custom spread throughout China where it was known as the "Festival of Ascending on High."

Kites were used early in the 19th century to heat the English road tax. A man named George Pocock invented a carriage called a Charvolant which was towed by two huge kites. It could travel up to 25 or 30 miles an hour on a straightaway if the lines didn't become entangled with buildings or trees.

The Charvolant won a mention in history when a group of Englishmen bought one to use on the King's road. The toll tax was levied on horse, mule or ox-power, but there was no regulation covering a kite-drawn buggy.

Kites are used in some areas by water skiers, although we haven't seen that method of propulsion used on Upper Klamath Lake yet.

Kite-flying is an exciting sport—so long as metal guy wires are kept off Copee and the telephone company's lines. Each year, at the close of the school year, a warning goes out to kite-flyers to use care. It is a good thing to keep in mind if kites are on your Christmas shopping list. A wire guy line coming into contact with a power line can cause grave injury and even death.

Pope John

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign Editor

The man - of - the - week - Pope John XXIII.

The place: Vatican City.

The event: His 75th birthday.

"Look at the people, listen to their voices. What do they ask? What do they implore? Not monstrous arms but peace... but justice... but tranquility and concord."

Pope John observed his birthday this week (Wednesday, Nov. 25), his eyes firmly fixed on the future and two major objectives. As one of the world's great moral leaders, one objective is world peace.

It will be the top subject when President Eisenhower calls upon him next month.

As spiritual leader of more than 500 million Roman Catholics, his second objective is a reunion of Roman Catholic churches with the Orthodox churches of the East, and to win back other Christian groups now separated from Rome.

To this end he has called an Ecumenical Council, a meeting of all the world's Catholic church leaders. No exact date for the council has been set but it will be the first in around 90 years. It is among the highest of all church councils.

It was last month that Pope John rounded out the first year of his reign, a year which effectively killed the belief he could be an "interim" Pope whose accomplishments generally would be limited to a consolidation period after Pope Pius XII.

But even more than his accomplishments, the Pope's own personality has seized the imagination even of those outside his church.

This rotund peasant's son demonstrated early his genuine fondness for people and his impatience with tradition.

In the last year, the Pontiff has made some 40 visits outside the Vatican, one to the Rome central prison.

Exalted, titled and humble have encountered the earthy warmth of Pope John in the last year.

He has received the Shah of Iran, King Hussein of Jordan, the king and queen of Greece and Princess Margaret of Britain. He also has seen the sick and blind in Rome, and exchanged the time of day with street cleaners.

The sweep of his interests has

included languages, so that at 77 he began learning to speak English.

But while even the Communists have found it difficult to attack this new leader, he has demonstrated that for him there will be no compromise with Communism.

He told Catholics throughout the world they could not remain good Catholics if they cast their ballots for politicians or parties which cooperate with the Reds.

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Biggest Christmas

By SAM DAWSON
AP Business News Analyst

NEW YORK (AP)—The biggest Christmas yet is what the nation's merchants are counting on. They hope—and seem pretty sure—that you won't let them down.

Today is the traditional date for the start of Christmas sales promotions. But many retailers jumped the gun and began decorating their stores and placing Christmas ads in the newspapers well ahead of Thanksgiving.

They report considerable consumer buying already. Some of this is for relatives overseas. And much of the rest is under lay-away plans.

The average of estimates of increased dollar volume in the nation's stores between Thanksgiving and Christmas is 3 per cent better than last year.

But an executive of the National Retail Merchants Assn. believes sales will rise by 6 per cent or more in most sections of the country.

Even merchants in the steel districts are feeling better now that the men are back in the mills, although some expect the workers to use current paychecks more for settling bills run up during the long work stoppage and for replenishing nesteggs against the chance the strike might be resumed late in January. High-price goods may move slowly.

The problem is more acute in those communities where steel-shut factories are still shut and many workers either payless or working short hours.

But in the garment district here there are reports of orders for apparel now coming in even from stores in the strike-hit areas.

And merchants and manufacturers alike are counting heavily on the use of various credit plans to help move merchandise into the hands of consumers who may be hard pressed for extra cash now but look for plenty of work when the strike's effects wear off.

As for the cash itself, banks report large payments going out to members of Christmas clubs, putting them in a position to be generous with gifts if they choose.

Retail prices on a number of things are a bit higher this year, reflecting the steady rise in the cost of living in recent months.

But many merchants report there is less consumer price resistance now than a few years back—maybe folks are getting resigned to prices always seeming to know only one way to go: up.

The Almanac

United Press International

Today is Friday, Nov. 27, the 321st day of the year, with 34 more days in 1959.