

The Herald and News

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Warm Trip

By BILL JENKINS

Just back from a quick trip to the Sonoma Valley area where we took in a day or so of just plain resting.

Might as well have gone down in the summer except that the thermometer was registering in the 70s instead of near 100. The weather here was warm enough if somewhat crisp when we left. By the time we got to Wood it was positively summery.

The road down through the canyon was pretty. Washed by the brief rains of a week or so ago, dust-free and shining in the sun. Not much construction to worry about and most of the road in excellent shape.

There is some reason to think that that job will be finished someday. At least there is enough equipment tearing into it to make it seem so.

Paused in Red Bluff for a visit with Curly and Helen Walker. He is the bossman of the newspaper there. Found them in the final throes of a new house. They will move in sometime in the next couple of weeks and all was confusion. But fairly orderly confusion at that.

It is located in a new subdivision just south of Red Bluff and lying right along the river. Can't remember what it is called but they live on a street called Bear-cliff Drive. The Sacramento River rolls along in front of the house, down the bank, and the house is so built that you look out over the river through glass walls. Really quite spectacular.

Paused for the night at Gene Valla's Blue Gum where we stayed in the adjacent motel. Always find it comfortable there and enjoy the convenience of coffee in the room the next morning. The food at the Blue Gum was as good as usual.

Up early and away for Sonoma, reaching there at around ten in the morning. Noticed as we went by that the Nut Tree, widely known restaurant this side of Vacaville, was closed for Thanksgiving. The first time we have ever seen the place shut down.

It is a great, sprawling affair now and probably very nice but we can't help remembering that the old place was nice too. You stopped and got a snack and a cool drink right alongside the road. Very handy.

But, then, I suppose that progress is here to stay and the freeway is the badge of achievement.

Noticed lots of the new little American cars on the road and the usual number of foreign imports.

Volkswagens, in particular, always impress me. They are invariably going full tilt, the driver working at it like the devil beating tanbark. Used to be that the Cadillac passed everything on the road but nowadays it is the small cars. Impressed again with the idea that it doesn't really make much difference how much horsepower you have under the hood. You can travel only as fast as the traffic ahead allows anyway. And that gets slower and slower each year despite all the highway work that is done.

But then such is travel.

Saucer And Blow

By FLORENCE JENKINS

"Saucering and blowing" coffee seems to be staging a comeback. Saucering started in Europe long before good Queen Victoria sipped her coffee from a porcelain cup. The custom dates back to a time before cups. In England as late as 1700, coffee was served only in shallow bowls, actually deep saucers. Coffee was ordered at coffee houses by the dish, not cup.

Handled cups came into use in the mid-18th century. To prevent the searing of fingers and was regarded by the press of that day as obviously a woman's novelty.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat has been widely quoted on its recent editorial which stated: "One custom we would like to see stage a renaissance is drinking coffee after it is 'sauced and blown.'" "Saucering and blowing was a pleasant, unhurried ritual, performed simply and without affectation. Father poured a part of his strong, hot coffee into the saucer. He set the cup down on a special oilcloth dolly. Unhurriedly, he lifted his saucer and blew upon it. His children watched as his breath caused little ripples to run across the rich, brown liquid."

The St. Louis editorial writer continued: "With his left hand, he parted his moustache and with his right, he lifted the deep, old-fashioned, blue-patterned saucer to his lips. He drank the saucered and set the saucer down. Then he looked at Mother with a twinkle in his eye. 'Nothing like good coffee, Nellie, to make a meal,' he would say."

An Oregon woman is said to have reported to her local newspaper that she has tried to cure her husband of "saucering and blowing" for the 25 years they have been married.

"He still insists that coffee sipped from a saucer tastes best," she said. "And, who knows—maybe he's right."

Cowbells

By ANDREW GENZOLI

In Humboldt (Eureka) Times

Cowbells and memories — To walk along a rippling creek in the warmth of an autumn sun brings to view the finale of a gracious season. . . . Adding to the goodness of the day is a distant "tank-tank-tank" of a cowbell . . . a cow grazing on the hillside. . . . There are two or three bells of various tones, you find when you stop long enough to listen.

For all their homely sound, there is something beautiful about a cowbell ringing in the pastures. . . .

There was a time when farmers stacked a great deal on the hollow ring of a cowbell which helped them to locate herds which strayed into the woods. . . . or wandered in a blanket of coastal fog. . . .

Sometimes the bells would serve to ward off predatory animals. . . . Cowbells aren't in as great a use now-a-days . . . but you can still buy them at most hardware stores. The gal with an eye for the "decorative effect" is often caught figuring how to put a weathered cowbell to use in the home. . . .

The cowbells we occasionally hear ringing in our hills had their beginning in the fifth century when in Ireland, the Roman missionaries craved the bells from iron and steel. . . . They hammered out the metal until it was almost square. . . . then cut off corners, bent the sides together, and then fastened them with rivets. . . . The results most nearly resembled the American cowbells which are still being manufactured. . . . They're the ones with the "tank-tank-tank."

Cowbells became part of the art of bell-casting which began long before the first cowbell was made. It is believed that bell-casting dates back to 2897 B.C. in China, and is supposedly one of the oldest methods of bellmaking known. . . . There are various methods of making cowbells. . . .

In the United States, three methods of cowbell manufacture is used since the founding in the early 19th century of the country's first bell foundry, the William Barton Foundry in Connecticut. . . . The methods include casting by use of a mold, stamping with a press. . . . and handcrafting. . . . The pleasant Swiss bell is cast in a sand mold from an alloy of 20 per cent copper and 80 per cent tin. The well-known Kentucky cowbell, once a favorite in this country, is made from a piece of stamped metal that has been folded in half. . . . then spot welded on each side.

There is a "long distance" cowbell popular in mountainous areas made from strip steel. . . . The steel is stamped in large pressed sheets and then formed into seven different shapes. . . . each group of a single size having a similar tone. . . . depending on the properties of the steel. . . .

The New England farmer displayed his frugality by making his cowbells from scraps of sheet metal, which he shaped with a hammer. . . .

Switzerland's majestic Alpine country . . . and love for dairy farming . . . is most famous for the beauty and tone of cowbells. . . . Swiss cowbells are highly prized because of the skill required to make them. . . . The large family bells worn by the lead cow are the pride of the Swiss.

bellmakers. . . . The heavy family bells which are elaborately embossed.

An English poet once said that a lead cow develops a sense of pride with her bell. . . . to be deprived of it manifests a sense of disgrace. . . . She would even go on a hunger strike to emphasize her displeasure. . . .

Because the bell was so large, the herdsman always fed the lead cow aside from the rest. The bell made it difficult for the cow to graze. . . .

Next time you hear the distant "tank-tank-tank" of a cowbell . . . you too can be inspired by the legacy of the bellmakers. . . .

Vets Mail Bag

The new pension law effective next July 1, in no way changes the basic eligibility for a veteran seeking a pension, the Veterans Administration pointed out recently.

The veteran still must be totally and permanently disabled from causes not traceable to his service. Must have 90 days or more of honorable wartime service, and an income below prescribed limits.

Extending the present income limits of \$1,100 a year for a single veteran and \$2,700 a year for a veteran with wife or child to \$1,800 and \$3,000 respectively, the new pension law attempts to relate the amount of pension to need. Veterans with higher income will receive lower pension payments and those with smaller incomes will receive larger pensions when the law becomes effective.

But the basic eligibility requirements for veterans remain unchanged, the VA reiterated, in contrast to the requirements for veterans' widows and children.

Widows of World War II and Korean conflict veterans under the new law no longer will be required to show that the deceased veteran had a service-connected disability. Like widows of World War I veterans, they will have to show only that the veteran had 90 days or more of honorable wartime service. Widows must also come within the income limitations.

Postage Stamps

By FRANK ELEAZER

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Post Office Department lately is busy explaining to people why it can't issue a Christmas stamp. Its stamp experts say they have to steer clear of subjects identified with religions.

For other equally good reasons Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield has been advising that he also can't issue stamps commemorating Elvis Presley, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, and Marilyn Monroe, among others proposed for this immortalization.

According to post office standards for commemorative stamps, Elvis, Doug, and Marilyn suffer one crucial failing in common. They aren't dead. The late Dr. Ephraim McDowell, of Danville, Ky., qualified on this score. He also met other tests for exaltation by the post office, and a maroon four-cent stamp bearing his picture will go on first-day sale at Danville on Thursday.

In 1803, according to post office researchers, Dr. McDowell opened the abdomen of Jane Todd Crawford and cut out a tumor weighing 22½ pounds. In preparation for undergoing the knife, without anesthetic, Jane had jogged 80 miles through the mountains on horseback. Any proposals to issue a stamp in her honor will be considered by the Post Office Department.

Dr. Crawford W. Lang, reportedly a kinsman of Jane's, came along later with ether. He got his face on a stamp in 1949 as part of a "famous Americans" series. The McDowell four-center is another of this series and is the last

of 26 postage stamps issued this year.

The department has lined up 18 new stamps for 1960, including a few regulars and the rest commemoratives. Commemoratives are bigger, more colorful, and prettier than ordinary stamps. They usually are kept on sale only six months or so.

Currently available commemoratives include beauties honoring Hawaiian statehood (pink); the oil industry (brown); dentists (green); and the 10th anniversary of the first air mail, featuring a red white and blue balloon named Jupiter. A full-color 49-star flag also was issued last July 4.

So many people want so many places, events and heroes commemorated on stamps that Summerfield in 1957 passed part of the buck to a committee. It set up rules, including one that nobody is hero enough for a stamp until dead for 25 years. Events commemorated must have "widespread national appeal." Stamps will be issued only on anniversaries starting with the 50th. Fraternal, religious, charitable and commercial groups will not be honored.

The McDowell stamp is the 40th commemorative since the first one in 1893 honoring the Chicago World's Fair. Later world's fairs also have been memorialized. Their stamps featured tritons and perispheres and the like and none of them included Sally Hand.

There's no rule specifically covering Sally and in the absence of something covering her pretty specifically I'm sure Summerfield would never let her get on a stamp. But his predecessors weren't all so squeamish. In 1875 and 1895 special stamps were issued for mailing newspapers and periodicals. These featured a number of handsome ladies, some of them fully clothed.

Both Whistler's mother, and Whistler's mother's son, Jas. A. McNeill Whistler, have been immortalized on stamps. Her appearance in the traditional pose on a three-center in 1934 set off a loud protest that a vase of carnations had been added to her son's original work. She wasn't off her rocker, according to the complaint, but somebody in the post office was.

The Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Monday, Nov. 30, the 34th day of the year, with 31 more days in 1959.

The moon is new. The morning star is Venus. The evening star is Saturn. On this date in history:

In 1762, a preliminary peace treaty was signed in Paris in the Revolutionary War between the United States and Britain.

In 1804, the first time in U.S. history, a justice of the Supreme Court went on trial to face impeachment proceedings.

In 1835, American author, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, was born.

In 1874, Sir Winston Churchill was born.

A thought for today: American novelist Mark Twain said: "A baby is an inestimable blessing and bother."

"He said: 'I can't do it,' and he kept on wandering about in the desert for 40 years, and they weren't lost at all, but he was training them for war. I think he was a great guy, Moses."

LONDON — Christopher Florio, who presided over baking Sir Winston Churchill's 85th birthday cake, revealing how he got the ingredients:

"I wrote to embassies and heads of state of almost every country in the world asking them for an ounce of ingredients from each country. I received almost three hundredweights of ingredients."

BLAINE, Kan. — Navy Cmdr. Malcolm Ross, who made a 13-mile balloon ascent with a Cambridge, Mass., scientist, stating that the temperature dropped as low as 80 degrees below zero: "It was cold as hell."

LONDON — Earl Mountbatten, Britain's highest ranking military officer, calling President Eisenhower a great commander in war and a president of peace: "He gave the order to go (on D-Day), and I believe that single order was one of the greatest orders anyone was called upon to give, and history has shown how right that decision was."

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



Weather Table

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

High Low Pr

Albany, cloudy	51	21	.01
Albuquerque, clear	54	32	
Anchorage, clear	41	20	
Atlanta, clear	54	21	
Bismarck, cloudy	39	33	.01
Boston, clear	43	23	
Buffalo, snow	26	22	.03
Chicago, clear	30	24	
Cleveland, cloudy	34	22	.02
Denver, clear	43	26	
Des Moines, cloudy	36	29	
Detroit, cloudy	36	25	
Fort Worth, clear	53	32	
Helena, cloudy	45	33	
Honolulu, cloudy	62	73	T
Indianapolis, clear	27	16	
Kansas City, cloudy	40	33	
Los Angeles, clear	85	57	
Louisville, clear	34	23	
Memphis, clear	38	21	
Miami, clear	39	43	
Milwaukee, clear	26	22	
Mpls.-St. Paul, cloudy	32	22	
New Orleans, clear	49	33	
New York, clear	37	25	
Oklahoma City, clear	46	29	
Omaha, clear	40	27	
Philadelphia, cloudy	37	25	
Phoenix, clear	71	43	
Pittsburgh, cloudy	26	20	
Portland, Me., clear	33	17	
Portland, Ore., cloudy	45	39	.10
Rapid City, clear	47	33	
Richmond, clear	41	21	
St. Louis, clear	35	26	

JUST ABOUT GONE

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—This city, which claims to be the site of the first street electric railway, has only 8.6 miles of trackage left—and no street cars. The last of the track is scheduled for removal.

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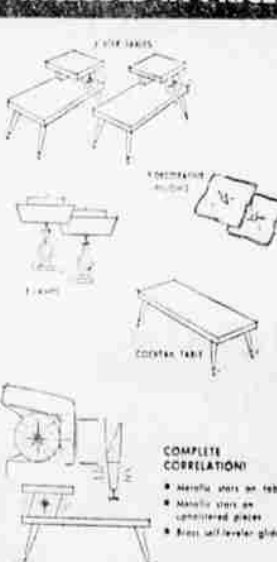
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