

The Herald and News

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Winter

By BILL JENKINS

Yesterday was the first day of winter.

Yesterday we saw a convertible sitting in front of the US National Bank with the top down.

It had been down for quite a while because the seats, the dash and the wheel were all heavily frosted.

It just proves that there are still some rugged people left in this world.

People all over the place are skating.

Or perhaps we should say that people are skating all over the place.

The city's ice rink at Moore Park is in operation. The lake's coves are furnishing skating for lots. The irrigation ditches are getting their share of skaters.

Went up to Aspen Lake on Sunday last and found that body of water frozen solid. At the narrow part of the lake there is an area of some twenty acres more or less that is frozen real smooth.

I checked back in the book and found that on January 6, 1957, I went up to that same place and found it frozen over but that time it had frozen as smooth and clear as a pane of glass. I walked across the lake with my dog and could look down and see the weeds, an occasional bug and quite a lot of junk lying down there on the floor of the lake.

I've never seen it that clear or smooth since.

But then 1957 wasn't long ago.

Grandma America

By FLORENCE JENKINS

There is probably no time in the year when grandmother comes into her own as much as the Thanksgiving - Christmas holiday.

While nobody mentions it, she probably spends New Years baby-sitting.

Comes now the word that Grandma America is to be chosen from the nation's grandmothers.

The first annual contest to select Grandma America - to symbolize the qualities of America's heritage - will be held on June 20 and 21, 1960, in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City.

The news reaches us from George Arons, managing director of Grandma America, Inc., 541 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

The winner will receive the title of the first Grandma America. In addition, she will receive more than \$5,000 in prizes including a one-week paid vacation for two at a famous resort, a portrait by a renowned artist and a \$500 U.S. government bond.

Qualifying candidates for the title will be judged (says the announcement) on domestic achievement, civic achievement and personality.

"The modern grandmother has emerged on the national scene in recent years to the point where she is nationally acknowledged among our most-spirited citizens. Her inspiring influence is felt in all fields of endeavor, therefore each category of the competition will cover the broadest area of participating," states Mr. Arons.

"In the field of domestic achievement, for example, the competing grandmothers need excel in no more than one activity of the category, which includes needlecraft, knitting, baking, dressmaking, original recipes, ceramics and an original type of 'how to' that proves itself beneficial to family life," he concludes.

Application blanks will be sent in response to requests addressed to Grandma America, Inc.

Christmas In Earlier Oregon

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Editor Roseburg News-Review

How would you like to celebrate Christmas by eating boiled spinach?

We're told that boiled spinach was one of the ceremonial foods first used in the Christian celebration of Christmas because it was believed that the Virgin Mary ate spinach the night Christ was born.

Although Christmas is observed throughout the whole Christian world as the anniversary of Christ's birth, it is quite well established that the date is off, not only as it concerns the time of the year but the year itself. Christ was born two to eight years before the time set in the calendar we now use, according to estimates.

Our celebration of Christmas is believed to have grown out of pagan festivals.

Celebrations marked the winter solstice. They came after the shortest day of the year and observed the time when the sun turned back toward spring and the "return of light."

The pagan observance wasn't in keeping with the more pious beliefs and practices of the early

Christians. But they, too, wanted something to celebrate. So, adopting some parts of the pagan celebrations, and giving their holiday a religious meaning, Christians brought Christmas into existence supposedly in the third century.

Concerning early day celebrations in Oregon, the Oregon Historical Society, in a forthcoming issue of its Quarterly, says:

"Spoiled elk meat, pounded fish, roots and buffalo tongue were some of the foods early Oregon explorers attempted to swallow when they celebrated the first Christmas in the Oregon country."

"Lewis and Clark, in addition to putting down the spoiled elk meat and fish, spent the Christmas holidays of 1805 picking fleas out of their rain-soaked blankets."

The article tells about a celebration in 1813 when the day was spent smoking with the Indians "and putting down fifteen gallons of rum," resulting in a "comparatively happy Christmas."

In 1847, it is stated, survivors of the Whitman massacre, still held hostage by the Indians, spent Christmas day attempting to curry favor with the leader of the Indian guards by stuffing him with peach pie. He became ill from overeating and demanded that all women be killed, believing he had been poisoned. Finally cured of his stomach ache and convinced that pie and not poison caused his trouble, he rescinded the death order.

Oregon Annals, as reported by the Historical Society, indicate that some of the early celebrations were quite vigorous. A report by the Rev. Samuel Parker, for example, tells that in the 1830s, at the headquarters of Dr. McLoughlin, work was suspended for the holiday week, "ardent spirits," were circulated and many became "gently inebriated."

But the celebrations reported by the early comers to Oregon were widely different from those in the parts of New England where the Puritans first settled. The religious beliefs of the Puritans did not recognize holy days, which we presently term "holidays." Laws were passed forbidding the cooking and serving of mince pies. Mince pies had become associated with the Christmas observance because originally they were baked to represent the manger in which Christ was born.

But while the Puritans strictly avoided the Christmas observance in New England, colonists "down south" were whopping it up with big feasts and the wassail bowl, an introduction from "Merrie England."

In the United States, where the population is made up of people descended from many races, the observance includes a number of customs brought from other lands. It would appear, however, that the religious side of the holiday has been gaining ground in the United States in recent years as evidenced by the singing of hymns, numerous religious programs in churches, at home, on television and on radio, in messages, in the decoration of homes and, more particularly, in the charity organizations by individuals, civic, fraternal and religious groups.

Trade War

By SAM DAWSON

AP Business News Analyst
NEW YORK (AP)—Now it's out in the open—the prospect of a trade war in Europe and between Europe and the United States and Canada.

A group of experts will meet soon to try to stave it off. If they fail the world could be divided into blocs fighting each other economically just at the time that the Soviet Union says it is ready to take on the West herself in an economic war.

Already two blocs have been formed in Europe. Others are un-

der way in Central America, South America, Africa and Southeast Asia. A return to protectionism is being discussed by many groups in the United States.

The United States has been losing gold and runs the risk of losing more because other nations have been taking in more dollars from us than they have been spending with us.

This is called imbalance of payments. And Washington has been worrying about it for some time.

The United States' financial position took a turn for the better last summer as exports rose, the Commerce Department says. But there's no assurance that this will continue long.

While President Eisenhower was in Paris, the Western Big Four—the United States, England, West Germany and France—tackled the general problem of an incipient trade war among rival blocs. They set up a conference to include other nations involved.

They have two immediate tasks—each vital to American trade. 1. To stave off a trade war in Europe itself between the Inner Six and the Outer Seven, in which innocent bystanders can only expect to be hurt.

2. To stop these rival groups from throwing up barriers against American and Canadian goods. To this the United States will try hard to add pressure to get lowered or ended such barriers as still exist as hangovers from the postwar dollar gap days.

The feuding European nations are the six Common Market partners—West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg; and the seven in the European Free Trade Area, England, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland and Portugal.

There's a chance they can reach economic agreement, barring discrimination against the goods of any of the 13. But there's a fear that they can't, or won't.

And there's an even stronger possibility that they might set up tariff walls against outsiders, keeping the rich European market largely to themselves.

Shopper Remarks

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—Christmas shopper remarks that salespeople get tired of hearing—or overhearing—

"We might as well try on some shoes, Mabel, while we sit here and rest our feet."

"Have you got something like that—for about \$20 less?"

"Willie, put down that toy. You've broken three already."

"Yeah, the size is right and the price is okay, but I don't like the color. Don't you have it in purple?"

"Oh, I almost forgot to get something for my husband. Where is the necktie counter?"

"No, I don't know her exact measurements. But I'd say she was about halfway between Marilyn Monroe and Kate Smith. Can't you figure it out from that?"

"Willie, did you have to put your sticky lollipop on the nice cashmere sweater the lady was showing mommy?"

"Be sure and take the price tag off."

"Gimme something for my wife. It don't make any difference what it is. She'll bring it back next week anyway."

"Can you recommend a good book for an 80-year-old spinster who likes crocheting and sports cars?"

"I'd like a toy for an exceptionally bright child—and be sure it's unbreakable."

"What're you getting for Christmas yourself, doll—a package of corn plaster?"

"Where are the rest rooms?"

"If you don't have it, do you

know any other place in town that does?"

"He couldn't be buying it for his wife, I happen to know she's allergic to silk—and he's allergic to spending that kind of money on her."

"Willie, you're being very naughty. Hand Santa Claus back his beard—or Mommy will spank you right here in elfland."

Vets Mail Bag

While the Veterans Administration makes every effort to assist veterans in paying their insurance premiums on time, responsibility for paying premiums rests with GI policyholders, the VA cautions.

Veterans paying premiums each month receive annually a packet of 12 cards from the VA. They should submit the appropriate card with each monthly premium payment. Veterans paying quarterly or semi-annually also receive notices which should be submitted with the payments.

Changes of address should be reported to the VA but even then it is the veteran's responsibility to make any payment which is due. Likewise, if the veteran fails to receive his premium notice, he should make any payment that is due, furnishing his name, address and policy number.

VA says that many veterans mark their calendars a year ahead to remind them to make payments on time.

Question of the week:
Q—I am a peacetime veteran and I was disabled in service. Would I be eligible for vocational rehabilitation?

A—Under the law, you would not. VA vocational rehabilitation is limited to disabled World War II and Korea veterans, and the World War II program has virtually ended.

The Almanac

By United Press International
Today is Wednesday, Dec. 23, the 357th day of the year, with 8 more days in 1959.

The moon is approaching its new phase.

The morning stars are Mercury and Venus.

On this day in history:
In 1783, George Washington resigned his Army commission and retired to his estate at Mount Vernon.

In 1928, the National Broadcasting Company set up its coast-to-coast radio network.

In 1948, ex-Premier Hideki Tojo of Japan and six other war leaders were hanged in Tokyo on the orders of an Allied War Crimes Commission.

In 1953, a Russian purge resulted in the execution of Lavrenti Beria, former head of the Soviet secret police.

A thought for today: American cartoonist Bill Mauldin said: "Look at an infantryman's eyes and you can tell how much war he has seen."

Quotes

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Eisenhower, speaking at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., on his return from a 22,000-mile, 11-nation tour:

"Everywhere we went, people sent this back: A message of Merry Christmas and good will to all the people of the United States. In that message I join myself."

PINAR DEL RIO, Cuba — Miami Herald reporter James Buchanan, after being told by an interpreter that his 14-year sentence for allegedly aiding an American to escape had been suspended:

"Thank goodness I didn't understand enough Spanish to know I had been sentenced to 14 years hard labor on the Isle of Pines."

NEW YORK — The total English vocabulary of 5-year-old Wilton Larangeira, whose parents did not know he was arriving from Portugal and did not pick him up until nine hours after his plane landed:

"Smart. . . Nuts."

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Animal trainer Robert Tomarchini, of Miami, believed to have taken back "Mr. Moke," a talking chimpanzee he sold to the St. Louis Zoo, in a note on a check left in the chimp's cage:

"Dear sir: Mr. Moke is unhappy at the zoo. . . Please accept the fact that Mr. Moke is a subhuman child in need of all the love and care due him."

SALT LAKE CITY — Andre K. Anastasio, a Russian-born insurance man, on his teaching of Russian to elementary school pupils:

"The youngsters are perfect imitators — they speak Russian like the Russians."

Another Lonely Holiday To Pass For Prisoners

HONG KONG (AP)—It will be another lonely Christmas for five American prisoners in Communist China.

Christmas cards from home may provide the only Yuletide touch to set the day off from the thousands of days they have served and have yet to serve. The modest Red Cross parcels they receive will concentrate as always on basic necessities. There is no room for Christmas luxuries. Even gaily colored Christmas wrappings may be suspect or cause complications or delay.

This will be the eighth Christmas behind Red China's prison bars for John T. Downey of New Britain, Conn., and Richard Fecteau of Lynn, Mass., U.S. Army civilian employees sentenced to life imprisonment and 20 years respectively on charges of espionage.

It will be the ninth Christmas in jail for Robert McCann of Altadena, Calif., and Hugh F. Redmond Jr. of Yonkers, N.Y., American businessmen serving terms of 15 years and life imprisonment respectively on similar charges. Roman Catholic Bishop James E. Walsh of Cumberland, Md., has been held incommunicado since October 1958 on unspecified charges.

These five Americans will probably spend most of this Christmas reading, with one hour out for exercise.

As far as can be ascertained, that is the routine they follow every day. And as far as the Chinese Communists are concerned, Christmas is just another day. Downey shares a cell with two Chinese Communist prisoners. Fecteau is in the same Peiping prison but he and Downey rarely meet.

There is no recent information on how the others are quartered but it is unlikely they meet. McCann is in a Tientsin jail and Redmond and Bishop Walsh are held in separate establishments in Shanghai.

Only the Red Cross is allowed to send them parcels. These are limited to 22 pounds per prisoner per month. The form of packing, paper and even string are prescribed.

Friends and relatives at home may send only letters and some books and periodicals.

Some candy was included in the last food parcels delivered to the Chinese Red Cross representative at the Red China border point of Lowu, near Hong Kong, Nov. 30.

"Christmas pudding would have been very nice, but a little bully beef goes a lot farther," a Red Cross official in Hong Kong said. "And that's the way they (the prisoners) want it. They've asked us to skip the luxuries and concentrate on basic necessities."

This month's packages included,

Book Lists Christmases

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The latest Philadelphia telephone book lists 11 Christmases, but not one of them is Merrie, Merry or Mary.

The closest you can get to the perfect first name is a Mrs. S. Merriweather Christmas. A Micki Christmas is listed, but that sounds rather roughish.

The directory has 40 Noels, but none of the first names sounds at all Christmasy. The same goes for three Yules in the book.

The name of Holly occurs 12 times, but here too, the reader searches in vain for a first name appropriate to the season. There is one surprise in this category. A Holly whose forehandle is curfew.

There are no Kringles, but quite a few persons named Claus. Maybe it would be too much to expect to turn up one who is Santa in the bargain.

as they do every month, such items as dehydrated soup, evaporated milk, sugar, butter, cheese, salmon, sausages and canned fruit.

Fecteau last year received a Christmas card with a string of 200 stars bearing signatures of well-wishers at home. The card was designed by children of the Morgan Memorial Goodwill Youth and Children's Center of Boston in response to an appeal from Fecteau's mother, Mrs. Philip D. Fecteau.

This year Mary Downey appealed to the people of Connecticut to send her son Christmas cards so he would know he's not forgotten.

The mothers of Downey, Fecteau and Redmond visited their sons in January 1958. Downey's brother, William, visited him again last July and brought out a few scraps of information of John's life in jail.

If this information is representative of the other prisoners, they are in good holiday, their food is

"adequate" and they spend most of their time reading, with one hour of exercise a day.

Ten other Americans, turncoats from the Korean War who chose life in Communist China in preference to going home, will probably make some attempt to celebrate Christmas among their Communist comrades.

But judging from reports brought out by former fellow turncoats, it will probably be a hollow celebration filled with lonely memories of Christmases at home.

They'll Do It Every Time

Registered U. S. Patent Office

By Jimmy Hatlo



Demos Tab Louisianan As Convention Chairman

WASHINGTON (AP) — Influential Democrats today tabbed Rep. Hale Boggs of Louisiana as likely choice for permanent chairman of the Democratic national convention next year.

Although it is still early, the affable 45-year-old Southerner and vice chairman of the Democratic National Committee is reported to have the inside track to date to succeed House Speaker Sam Rayburn as chairman.

Rayburn, the Texas veteran who has wielded the gavel over Democratic conventions since 1948, is expected to step aside because of a personal interest in the outcome. He has been pushing a fellow Texan, Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson, for the party's presidential nomination.

In the role of convention strategist for Johnson Rayburn probably will lead the Texas delegation to Los Angeles and occupy a seat on the convention floor.

In the opinion of many Democrats, Boggs would be a natural for the tough job of handling the convention and the frequently unruly delegates.

A major qualification would be his familiarity with the parliamentary rules of the House of Representatives, which are the rules governing convention procedure. Boggs has frequently presided over major legislative debates in the House with a firm hand and authoritative gavel.

Boggs could be expected to have Rayburn's support for the chairmanship. Also, it is reported that no objections have been registered by the potential candidates for the nomination.

Boggs' Southern origin seems likely to be both an advantage and a handicap to him.

As a Louisianan and resident of New Orleans, Boggs' election as permanent chairman would go

well with the South. It might even offset some of the chill generated by National Chairman Paul Butler's intimations the Democratic party could get along without the South.

On the same score, Boggs' candidacy could be expected to stir up some measure of opposition among extreme liberal elements of the party on the issue of civil rights.

Although Boggs has stood with his fellow Southerners against racial integration, he has never been associated with Dixiecrat extremists. His voting record in the House is regarded as consistently liberal.

The nomination for permanent convention chairman is made by the Democratic Arrangements Committee, and then turned over to the National Committee for recommendation to the convention.

The National Committee's recommendations are almost invariably accepted by the delegates. The last exception was in 1932, when Sen. David I. Walsh was named over Jovett Shouse.

Poor Farm Calls It Quits

TRIMBLE, Ill. (AP) — The Crawford County Poor Farm, a haven for thousands of needy persons in its 75-year history, is going out of business—for lack of business.

The 18-room house and 280 acres of farm land will be sold at auction Jan. 23.

"There is no need for a poor farm in these days of social security and state aid," said Thatcher Campbell, county clerk.

Payments Told In Alimony Case

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Night club performer Jack Cassidy must pay his ex-wife, Broadway actress Evelyn Ward, \$100 a week alimony and child support.

The payments were ordered in Superior Court Tuesday. Judge Orlando H. Rhodes also ruled that Cassidy no longer must pay a percentage of his future earnings to Miss Ward as provided in a 1956 Mexican divorce decree.

Cassidy now is married to singer Shirley Jones.

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SHORT RIBS By Frank O'Neal



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