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Leap Year

By FLORENCE JENKINS
The Scots are to blame for Leap Year being declared open season on bachelors, according to the research of World Book Encyclopedia.

Scotland is said to have decreed in 1283 that ladies "of both high and low estate" shall have the privilege of proposing marriage during leap years.

If a man refused the offer, he was fined as much as one pound, unless he could show that another woman had a prior claim on his affections.

Undoubtedly the canny Scots saw the custom of permitting women the initiative as a way to put money in the treasury and take spinsters off the welfare rolls.

The ladies, however, had to give fair warning that they were out to catch a man.

If the edge of a scarlet flannel petticoat wasn't clearly visible, a man was absolved from paying the forfeit. Maybe from that fact of the plot comes the resurgence of interest, from time to time, in red for women's lingerie. A long ad for Valentine's Day is an appropriate time for stores to display all red windows featuring frills and ruffles for the gals.

France is reported to have passed a similar law several hundred years ago. The ladies of Florence and Genoa are said to have been given the privilege, too, before Columbus sailed to America.

The gallant English supposedly didn't need a law to make them give the fair (but single) sex a break. The British backed up the custom to the extent of depriving a man of benefit of clergy if he scoffed at a leap year proposal, however.

Even if he didn't hurt the lady's feelings, he was obliged to present her with a silk gown — as a consolation prize.

Bang-Jensen Case

By LYLE C. WILSON
United Press International

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Povel Bang-Jensen is dead and gone, his body cremated and the ashes shipped home to Denmark. It just could be that Povel Bang-Jensen will talk louder from the grave than ever he did as a living man.

You remember Bang-Jensen, of course. He was the discharged United Nations official who disappeared last November and whose body was found, finally, in a New York park. Bang-Jensen was listed as a suicide and that was that. Or, was it?

Bang-Jensen lost his U.N. job because he refused to give to the U.N. authorities the names of Hungarians who had discussed with him the Hungarian rebellion. It was as a U.N. official that Bang-Jensen questioned the Hungarians and it was as a U.N. official that he promised to protect them by not revealing their names. He and they feared with reason that the Communist apparatus would take revenge on them all if the names were revealed.

Bang-Jensen refused to surrender the names because he believed that Communist agents in the U.N. would instantly obtain them and as quickly secretly denounce the Hungarians who had given him their confidence. So he was fired and now he is dead. Questions now pending fire are these:

Did the Communist espionage police apparatus in the United States have urgent cause to wish Bang-Jensen dead, and, if so, did he kill himself or was he murdered? The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee may seek the answer to those questions. Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.), heading one of the subcommittee's "task forces," told United Press International that his aides were talking to the writers of 40 or 50 letters received by the subcommittee, each urging that the Bang-Jensen case be investigated. This preliminary exploration will take two or three weeks whereafter Dodd will decide whether to summon up Bang-Jensen's ghost.

If Dodd wants another letter, I hereby contribute one just received by me from Robert Morris, of New Jersey, who was Bang-Jensen's legal counsel. Morris is campaigning against Sen. Clifford P. Case for New Jersey's Republican senatorial nomination. His letter to me was in response to an inquiry whether the Bang-Jensen case really was important. More important than the Alger Hiss case, was Morris' estimate. He wrote:

"Yes it is important. In fact the burden of the Bang-Jensen case is more serious than was that of the Hiss case as far as national security is concerned.

What Povel Bang-Jensen was trying to tell us was that the secretariat of the United Nations and our foreign intelligence had been penetrated by the Soviets and he was standing by to give us proof. He was let down badly.

"But in my opinion, even more serious than the security aspect was the fact that in letting down a devoted friend of the United States, we were establishing another precedent of the West trampling on a good man, who spoke for the cause of freedom, to appease evil men who never will be appeased."

Morris knows as much as any man outside the FBI about Communist activities in the United States. He knows much more than he wrote to me about the Bang-Jensen case.

The Lighter Side

By DICK WEST
WASHINGTON (UPI) — It looks like the nation's hair styling experts have given up trying to make American girls look like Italian boys.

I got a peek at the latest hair fashions at a "sneak preview" of spring and summer styles for 1960 as drafted by the National Hair-Dressers and Cosmetologists Assn. This is the outfit that dictates the way ladies should arrange their hair. Since men, as onlookers, have vested interest in the matter, I felt it my duty to see what was in the wind.

On the whole, it was an encouraging premier. Mrs. Pat Nixon, wife of the vice president, was there, as were the wives of a goodly number of senators. So were about a dozen beautiful models.

The association announced that one of the new hair styles had been named the "Pat-Tress" in Mrs. Nixon's honor. I couldn't tell what her present style is because her hat was too big.

We had a \$6 chicken lunch and then settled back while the models showed us what the association's official hair fashion committee had cooked up for the coming months.

It seemed to me that the committee is getting conservative. I saw nothing that resembled an Italian boy or even a French poodle.

That Italian boy fad was one I never could understand. If an American girl wants to look Italian, I say she ought to look like an Italian girl, say Gina Lollobrigida.

I also was happy to note that the recent upswept, or Swiss Alp, hair style, which required that all locks be piled precariously on top of the head, is being toned down.

To quote from the association's press release, "The top will have natural height to suit the individual. Hair will be dressed in a natural flow of soft draped waves, drifting with its natural growth direction. Its silhouette will be less bouffant than in previous seasons, with an almost total absence of forced support of back-combing."

I don't know exactly what this means, but on the models it looked good. As for color, the association has decreed that "the brownette has definitely returned to the fashion scene."

Some of the ladies in the audience, most of whom were professional hairdressers, hadn't gotten the message yet. I saw one coiffure that was tinted, so help me, pinkish-orange.

"What color is that?" I asked a lady sitting nearby.

"Pink champagne," she said. Shuddering, I inquired whether female hairdressers dressed their own hair.

"Heavens, no!" she exclaimed. "We wouldn't want our customers to get the idea they can do it themselves."

This thought occurred Monday

night after watching a repeat of a Father Knows Best episode on CBS-TV. At the show's conclusion, the announcer made the comment about the use of a canned cacophony but he said nothing about our having seen a repeat. If a mention of canned laughter is essential, shouldn't the audience also be told about reruns.

Lend-Lease Debt

By JAMES MARLOW
Associated Press News Analyst
WASHINGTON (AP) — For the third time in 13 years the United States and the Soviet Union are trying to settle the Soviets' lend-lease debt for American help during the war. But don't read too much into an agreement, if there is one.

The two sides talked about it in 1947-48 and again in 1951-52, without success. They started talking again Monday, but this time under different circumstances.

Premier Nikita Khrushchev, when he was here last September, made a pitch for trade as part of better relations in a number of fields between the U.S.S.R. and the United States. He was told a lend-lease settlement might remove a major obstacle, and the new lend-lease talks are a result of his urging.

So there may be a settlement. If there is, trade between the two countries should increase a bit, but probably not on a large scale for a good while.

Agreement on trade doesn't necessarily mean agreement on other big issues such as disarmament or the Soviets' demand that the Western Allies get their troops out of Berlin. It has been past Soviet practice to haggle on each issue individually, as if none was related to any other.

During the war this country provided the Soviet Union with \$10,000,000,000 worth of military and civilian equipment. After the war the United States wrote off the military equipment and concentrated on getting paid for the civilian goods still in Soviet hands.

The value of the civilian goods was pegged at \$2,600,000,000 by this country. After the two previous talks the United States had scaled down its claim to 800 million dollars. The Soviets offered 300 million.

There are various legal restrictions on trade with the U.S.S.R. Some go back to before World War I, because the Communists have never paid on loans made to the Russian government before the Soviets took over.

The result is trade between the two countries is in tiny terms, compared with their economies. Last year the United States exported 3½ million dollars worth of goods to the Soviet Union and imported about 17½ million dollars worth.

When Khrushchev met President Eisenhower last fall at Camp David he was reportedly very upset over American restrictions on trading with the U.S.S.R. He was said to feel the Soviet Union was being treated like an outcast.

Undersecretary of State Douglas Dillon said last September Khrushchev was told at Camp David that if the Soviet Union is reasonable about paying off on its lend-lease debt it may pave the way to easing American restrictions.

He said the Eisenhower administration may ask Congress—provided there is a settlement—to remove some legal prohibitions against dealing with the Soviet Union and to extend more favored tariff treatment.

But one of the main roadblocks to any big increase in trade with the U.S.S.R. soon—even if there's a settlement—is that goods that American purchasers want from abroad in substantial quantities, and which the Soviets have available, are already being supplied by free world countries.

Veep Candidates

By SAUL PETT
NEW YORK (AP) — This is the time of year when no one wants to be vice president of the United States.

Surely, somebody must want to be vice president. Of course, even if a man wants the job, he must, by tradition, act like he isn't interested. The psychology of this is easy to understand. Did you ever hear of an unmarried woman campaigning to become bridesmaid?

If you really want to be vice president, you have to start by denying you're a candidate or active candidate for president. Then, after a decent interval, you have to be persuaded to become an active candidate for president. Almost any amount of persuasion will do—a nudge from your mother or a letter from your old scoutmaster is enough.

You make your big announcement and insist you're in this fight for the top nomination, and only the top nomination, to the bitter end. And you start fighting, and just before the bitter end, just before they close that last door at the convention, you succumb to an unselfish glow of party harmony and national duty. You rush up to the speaker's platform and, in a burst of sweaty rhetoric, ask your delegates to vote for the other guy, who then will agree that you're the best man for the vice presidential nomination.

The timing has to be perfect. If you jump too soon, you indicate weakness. If you wait a moment too long, you won't even be able to get a traffic ticket fixed in the next four years.

That's just practical politics. A man who begins with a modest ambition has nothing to trade. If he starts out publicly wanting only to be vice president, he may end up secretary of interior or utility infielder for the Washington Senators.

That's practical politics and I'm against it. After all, being vice president is still a pretty fair job. It pays \$35,000 a year and \$10,000 in expenses and you make your own hours. And despite all the jokes, the chances for advancement are good; of our 34 presidents, eight were vice presidents first.

Personally, I'm opposed to all coyness in politics, especially for the two biggest jobs. If a man wants either, he ought to say so. As a taxpayer, I resent thinking I may be imposing on someone by making him president or vice president of the United States.

In fact, I think there ought to be a constitutional amendment to eliminate campaign coyness. If a man really doesn't want to be president, he ought to be obliged by law to make a Sherman-like announcement and then he ruled ineligible. If he doesn't want to seek the office but will accept a draft, he ought to have to say so. If he wants the job and will take it under any circumstances he can beg, borrow or steal, he ought to have to say that, too.

And if he thinks he's too good to be vice president, he should say so and then not be allowed to change his mind when nothing better comes along.

After all, any personnel director will tell you you can't expect much of a performance from a sore loser or anyone who has to be pushed kicking and screaming into the job.

Editor Boyle is on vacation this week. His column is being written by Saul Pett.

The Almanac

By United Press International
Today is Tuesday, Jan. 12, the 12th day of the year, with 354 more days in 1960.

The moon is approaching its full phase.

The morning stars are Venus, Mars and Jupiter.

On this day in history:

In 1959, the followers of Fidel Castro executed 75 persons at a single grave in Cuba.

In 1737, John Hancock, American patriot and statesman, was born.

In 1932, Mrs. Hattie Caraway of Arkansas became the first woman in any state to be elected to the U. S. Senate.

In 1956, the FBI announced it solved the Brink's robbery.

A thought for today: Henry Wallace said during World War II: The object of this war is to make sure that everybody in the world has the privilege of drinking a quart of milk a day.

Quotes

United Press International
MOSCOW, Tenn. — Mrs. Clotel G. Morton, expressing surprise over her election as mayor of this small town by a 71-31 vote: "I didn't think the people in Moscow would vote for a woman."



Pair Killed In Air Crash

NEWHALL (UPI) — Two men were killed Monday night in a single-engine private plane that crashed in a rainstorm after apparently striking a power line.

The victims were identified as Ralph B. Ellis, 37, Northridge, and Houston F. Stokes, 38, San Gabriel.

Sheriff's deputies described the plane as a Beech Bonanza owned by the Ellis Construction Co., North Hollywood.

Officers said they believed the craft hit a powerline about four miles north of Castaic while attempting an emergency landing because of the stormy weather. There is no airstrip in the area.

They said the crippled plane then traveled about three miles before crashing on a hill near Highway 99.



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Legal Chief Raps Judge On Ruling

WASHINGTON (AP) — Atty. Gen. William P. Rogers told the Supreme Court today that a Georgia federal judge "fell into gross and manifest error" by ruling parts of the 1957 Civil Rights Act are unconstitutional.

The case is the first to be filed under the act to protect voting rights of Negroes. As a measure

of the importance he places on it, Rogers arranged to argue the appeal personally in his first formal argument before the high tribunal as attorney general.

In an advance brief, Rogers said Judge T. Hoyt Davis of the Macon, Ga., U.S. District Court went beyond the facts of the case in dismissing a government complaint.

The complaint charged that voting registrars of Terrell County, Ga., discriminated against qualified Negro voters who wanted to get on the voting rolls.

Davis ruled that parts of the act were unconstitutional because they gave the attorney general the right to file injunction suits against individual citizens as well as state officials. He said Congress exceeded its constitutional powers.

Appealing directly to the Supreme Court, Rogers contended the Georgia suit sought to enjoin state officials—the voting registrars of Terrell County—and not private individuals.

In his brief, Rogers said "It is a primary obligation of the courts to determine the constitutionality of a statute within the actual context of the facts involved. It is not the function of the courts to conjure up remote, hypothetical situa-

tions to which the statute conceivably might be applied—and if so applied might be unconstitutional."

Charles J. Bloch of Macon, counsel for the registrars, argued in support of Judge Davis' action.

"If the statute is so broad in its scope as to be unconstitutional," he said in his preliminary brief, "the attempt of the Justice Department to narrow it, to amend it and to save it by alleging 'under the color of office' doesn't save it."

Dave Brubeck Raps Officials

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Dave Brubeck is passing up an estimated \$40,000 in bookings because he refuses to drop a Negro musician from his jazz group for a Southern tour, the San Francisco Chronicle said today.

The jazz pianist had planned about 25 performances, but cut the bookings to 10 as Southern colleges and universities learned his quartet is not all-white.

Eugene Wright, a Negro, plays bass. Brubeck said he felt the cancellations do not reflect Southern student sentiment, but that of state-aid-conscious officials.

"The students know my group, I'd be selling those kids short to go down South with an all-white group," he asserted.

Brubeck said the University of Jacksonville, Fla.; Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.; and the University of the South, Seawance, Tenn., accepted the integrated quartet.

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SHORT RIBS By Frank O'Neal

