

U.S. Firms Cater, Adjust To Taller Population

BY ELMER C. WALZER
UPI Financial Editor

NEW YORK (UPI) — The nation's economy is growing more than a half trillion dollars in size in 1960—and so are its people.

Makers of latex foam cores for super-sized mattresses reported a six-fold rise in big mattress demand since 1947, and wondered why.

The Latex Foam Rubber Council thereupon launched a survey which showed that while in 1909 only one out of every 25 American men measured 6 feet, today in the 20-29 year age bracket, one of every five is 6 feet tall.

Also it showed that more than 18 per cent of the American women between the ages of 20 and 29 are 5 feet 7 inches tall. At the turn of the century fewer than 4 per cent of the American women attained 5 feet, 7 inches.

Edward Welch, chairman of the Latex Foam Rubber Council cited a specific case of a hotel trying to cater to its taller guests.

The new Denver-Hilton specified that 10 per cent of its 1,200 foam rubber mattresses be made 60 inches by 30 inches in size. Purchases of home makers confirm this trend of the hotels. Large-sized sleeping equipment, once only available on custom order, can now be found in most

bedding departments and in many standard brands.

Welch also related an interesting finding of his council's survey. The average sleeper changes position 20 to 45 times a night and hence needs more room for normal body shifting.

Sleep experts, he says, recommend that mattresses be six inches longer than the height of the user and provide at least 36 inches of width for each sleeper.

The latex council found the demand rising also for longer sofas. Where the six-foot sofa once was pretty much standard, today's orders are for king-size installations for hotels—sofas 8-feet, 10-feet, and even 12-feet long.

Big people need big towels. A large hotel chain is substituting bath towels of 26 inches by 52 inches for ones that measured 24 inches by 44 inches.

Architects report that homes also are being made larger for big people. They find new homeowners demanding higher doorways, elevated sinks, and longer bathtubs.

To accommodate the larger dimensions of students, schools, according to a recent study of the U.S. Office of Education, are having to install wider desks and work benches as well as loftier washroom facilities.

On the collegiate level, new dormitories at Cornell University of California and several other institutions of higher learning are being equipped with beds 7 feet long.

The international institute of clothing designers brings in another dimension in which American males are growing. It finds that the average suit now sold ranges between size 41 and size 42, against a size 36 some 30 years ago.

Women's dress manufacturers report a rise in extra-length orders. A department store estimates that 10 per cent of American women now fall into the 5-foot, 8-inch or taller category.

In other words, production sights of manufacturing and serving companies are being raised vertically to keep the comfort of a "growing" America in focus.

They are adjusting their production planning and purchasing to the change in the national stature and to the additional fact that children already are or will be at least one inch taller on the average than their parents.

One place where the length of the citizens doesn't seem to be considered important is the new trend toward automobile building. However, the makers of the compact stress their roominess—space for long-legged drivers and passengers.

But a big guy still has to do a lot of winding up to get aboard a New York taxicab.

And the commuting train, while allowing fair space for length of the patrons, apparently haven't considered their width in the seating arrangements.



WALKING is something most people take for granted, but for little Betty at the Easter Seal agency's Children's Hospital School in Eugene, it is something special, calling for a party dress and starched petticoat. The school, financed by the sale of Easter Seals March 17 through April 17, offers special education, therapy and training for Oregon's physically handicapped children.

Man's Body Identified

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — The frozen body of a man found in the snow field of a Cascade Mountain pass has been identified tentatively as that of Lester Coy Meek, 34, of Glenpool, Okla.

Coroner Fred Buell said Wednesday a routine check of fingerprints indicated the man was Meek.

Two students on a cross-country snowshoe hike found the body Sunday. It was clad only in a tee shirt and pants.

Earlier state police said a motorist had identified the body as that of a hitchhiker whom he picked up March 7.

Police said indications were that Meek had tried to hike on foot across the snowbound pass. The body was several miles from any highway.

Soviet Press Covers Boss

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet press went all out today on coverage of Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev's visit to Paris. Other news was virtually excluded.

Moscow newspapers stressed that the aim was to strengthen French-Soviet friendship. All said Khrushchev received an enthusiastic welcome by hundreds of thousands of cheering Parisians as he drove through the streets.

Various West European newspapers centered on the nature of the French reception, which lacked the warmth Parisians showed on state visits by President Eisenhower and Queen Elizabeth II.

Honeymooners To Visit Venice

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Venice is shaping up as the major port of call on Princess Margaret's honeymoon cruise.

Buckingham Palace announced Wednesday that Queen Elizabeth II was tending the royal yacht Britannia to her sister and Anthony Armstrong-Jones for their trip after their Westminster Abbey wedding May 6.

The honeymoon itinerary was not announced, but British newspapers said Italy's romantic city of canals and gondolas was a likely destination.

Slay Charges Face Youth

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A 17-year-old suburban Ferguson boy is to be tried as an adult on charges of slaying a neighborhood storekeeper and his wife March 8.

Judge Michael J. Carroll ordered Robert F. Kunkel Jr., who became 17 Saturday, tried in Circuit Court because he was "not a proper subject" for the juvenile court. Two first degree murder warrants were issued against Kunkel and he was held without bond.

Kunkel was 16 and legally a juvenile at the time of the slayings. He has signed a confession, admitting he stabbed and shot Mr. and Mrs. Leonard J. Seal to death during a robbery that netted \$36.

Kunkel has never displayed any remorse. He said shortly after his arrest that he'd be sent to the State Reformatory because "I'm too young for the gas chamber."

Teamsters Plan Hearing

SEATTLE (AP) — Three international vice presidents of the Teamsters Union will hold a hearing here April 7 on charges by the international union against Frank W. Brewster.

The charges challenge Brewster's position as head of Joint Council 26 of the union. Details of the charges have not been disclosed.

Brewster is a former president of the Western Conference of Teamsters. He was ousted from this post after unsuccessfully opposing the election of James R. Hoffa as international president.

Hoffa has appointed the three vice presidents to hear the charges against Brewster, the Seattle Times said Wednesday. Brewster has been embroiled in a dispute with George Cavano, secretary-treasurer of Seattle Local 74, who supported Hoffa for president.

Blind Youth Seeks Honor

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — Blind and deaf, Richard Joy hopes to become an Eagle Scout this summer.

Richard, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Joy of Van Nuys, Calif., is only one merit badge away from Scouting's highest honor. No other boy in his condition has ever won it.

When Richard was nearly 3, meningitis left him without hearing. He soon lost his sight and speech.

At the California School for the Blind, he was taught to "listen" by placing his fingers on the chin and lower lip of instructors. He also was taught to speak, which he does in thick but distinguishable tones.

Scoutmaster George Budgen recalls that Richard learned all the knots the first night by holding Budgen's hands as Budgen tied the knots.

SIDE EFFECT
WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Department of Agriculture has found that the removal of stones from fields to facilitate machine harvesting of potatoes may also increase soil erosion.

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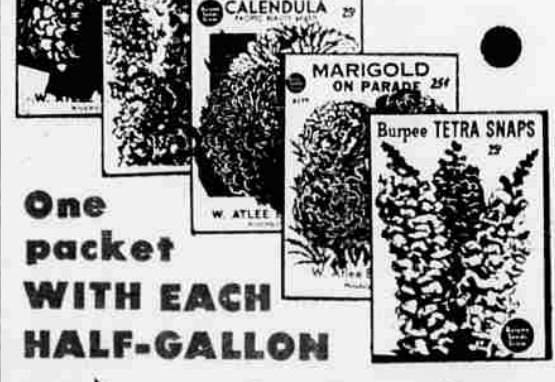
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Woodmen Say Future Sound

PORTLAND (AP) — Reassurance of the industry's sound future was given West Coast Lumbermen's Assn. stockholders here Wednesday.

Thomas McHugh of Boston, president of the National Lumber Manufacturers Assn., said:

"No one has yet invented, and no one ever will invent, a material with the remarkable composition, constitution and versatility of wood."

He described it as light as aluminum, as strong as steel and "more workable than any substance man has ever known."

McHugh also told the annual meeting of stockholders:

"With the launching of our national wood promotion program and related activities late in 1958, we developed a unified offensive strategy to restore wood to its once-dominant position in the market place."

Earlier, an association committee approved spending \$500,000 in the next year to promote West Coast lumber sales and uses.

Jersey Hotel Razed In Fire

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — A seven-story hotel was a collapsed mound of ruin today after a general alarm fire that for a time threatened two other hotels.

The fire Wednesday destroyed the 200-room Wiltshire Hotel. Two firemen were injured.

Occupants were evacuated from the Governor and Morion hotels next door. The Wiltshire Hotel was closed for the winter.

Cause of the fire was undetermined. Estimates of loss ran unofficially up to \$450,000.

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