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WASHINGTON COLUMN

By FETER EDISON NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NEA)—Kansas Sen. Arthur Capper's Agriculture Committee is expected to report favorably this week on a bill "to establish a national soil fertility policy." If this sounds as if Congress was about to pass a law to make the ground yield more crops per acre, that isn't quite it.

First thing the bill would do is give the Tennessee Valley Authority \$8 million to build an experimental plant at Mobile, Ala., to make triple superphosphate fertilizer by a new blast furnace process, using Florida phosphate rock and Alabama coal.

Then the Department of Agriculture would be empowered to take the 100,000 tons of fertilizer this plant would produce, buy another million tons or more from private industry, and give it all away free except for the freight costs.

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson is again doing it on this lavish scale. But the idea of the bill is to conduct test demonstrations on 2 per cent of all the farms in every state in the Union. This means the tests would be run on an average of 30 to 60 farms in every county.

All this would go on for five years. Then the test plant would have to be sold to private industry and the farmers who wanted triple superphosphate would have to buy it on the open market.

Now this looks like a nice fat subsidy for the fertilizer trust. It makes the government do a basic research job, it develops a lot of new customers and then it turns the business over to private enterprise. But strangely enough, fertilizer manufacturers are trying to kill the bill.

American Plant Food Council and National Fertilizer Association, the manufacturer's trade organizations maintaining lobbyists in Washington, are against it. What their battle boils down to is another round in the old struggle of private enterprise vs. government operation of anything, any time.

Leading fertilizer manufacturers testified they feared that if the government made a success of this experiment, it might tend towards nationalization or socialization of fertilizer resources, manufacture and distribution. Also these manufacturers fear Co-op competition.

Original sponsor of this soil fertility bill is the American Farm Bureau Federation. Co-sponsor is the National Farmers' Union. This gives the bill support of big and little farmers, and it isn't often that they get together on anything.

The Farm Bureau's real inspiration for this idea comes from Tennessee Valley Authority experiments on use of fertilizers. In 1933 TVA started test demonstrations on 2 per cent of the farms in its area. Fertilizer use increased up to 400 per cent.

Then TVA developed an electric furnace method of producing phosphates. During the war TVA produced 60 per cent of the phosphorus used in munitions. In spite of all these benefits which the industry has gained, it still bucks any extension of this type of research.

With really bothers farm experts is the need for re-enriching U. S. soil. Heavily drained by over-production in recent years, the fertility of American farmland is said to be running out.

TVA tests indicate that what is needed is the application of 75 pounds of triple superphosphate per acre per year to establish and maintain fertility on pastures and cropland. Present U. S. use averages only 14 pounds per acre per year.

In other words, what the country is said to need is an annual production of six million tons of triple superphosphate. What it is getting under the fertilizer industry's production of what it thinks it can sell is one million tons a year.

'Hey, C'mon! Finish That Corral! Time's Awastin!'



SCIENTISTS OUT TO PROBE AMAZON JUNGLE SECRETS

NEW YORK (UP)—The first effort on an international scale to open up the mysterious Amazon jungle to colonization and development of its vast natural resources has started. The project is under auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

FUNNY BUSINESS



"I guess we'd better call this new vitamin PDQ!"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Representative and Vertical. Representative clues include Lasso, First man, Rhode Island, etc. Vertical clues include Exclamations, Nautical rope, etc.

20 years ago. Nothing has been reports that he is living with a heard of him since save occasional jungle tribe. The institute's work will be carried on cooperatively by all countries with areas in the Amazon region. They include Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, France, Britain, and Holland. The United States, the Pan-American Union, and the Food and Agricultural Administration are also being invited to take part.

Although it is not the longest river in the world, the Amazon is the largest carrying more water than the Nile, Mississippi and Yellow river put together. Everything connected with the river is on a huge scale; thus one of the islands in its mouth, the Marajo, is the size of Denmark. One of its tributaries is 20 miles wide at the point at which it joins the main stream.



THE TOLLIVERS By MATEEL HOWE FARNHAM. I DREADED to face Annabelle; so I kept out of her way. That was easy enough. It was not so easy to avoid Flora, though I sometimes dreaded to see her too.

One June morning I went over to the Forbeses' with a big dish of extra special strawberries. Flora was still in bed, propped on embroidered pillows and as pretty as a pink and white peony.

"Yes, I love doggies," I heard Gloria say. "I love kangaroos too." She was the proud owner of a mechanical kangaroo that jumped.

"Kangaroos?" the woman asked. "Surely you don't mean kangaroos, darling." My heart turned over. Gloria was talking to Mrs. Finneran.

"Those child is that?" she demanded. Her eyes were hungry. I told her that it was Flora Forbes' oldest child. Mrs. Finneran turned and walked swiftly away, dragging the dog on the leash.

"Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye," Gloria called after her. When we got to the shoe store, I was afraid of the turn Gloria's catechism was taking and managed to divert her attention by promising that Leah would have cookies when we got home to my house.

Luckily, Leah had made some just that morning and while she fed Gloria, I telephoned Sam and told him of my unfortunate encounter with Mrs. Finneran.

"Oh Lord," Sam said. "Oh, my gracious Lord." (To Be Continued)

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS BY MERRILL BLOSSER



RED RYDER BY FRED HARMON



ALLEY OOP BY V. T. HAMLIN



Living With Fire



Pauline Garcia, left, and Jessie Urias, workers in a Los Angeles laboratory, "attack" each other with flaming blowtorches, but neither gets burned. They demonstrate heat-resistant qualities of new plastic, which forms shields they hold. Resinous plastic, combined with spun glass, can be woven into flame-proof fabrics, used in airplane parts or molded into decorative furniture.

Worth Big Smile



W. Z. Copper beams over 27-pound, 11-ounce Kamloops rainbow taken from Pend Oreille Lake, Coeur d'Alene, Ida. It has a girth of 24 inches, at 39 1/2 is two-and-a-half inches longer than this year's world record trout caught in the same waters by Clint Shephard of Opportunity, Wash.

'Eggbeater' Delivers Food to Strike-Bound Hotel



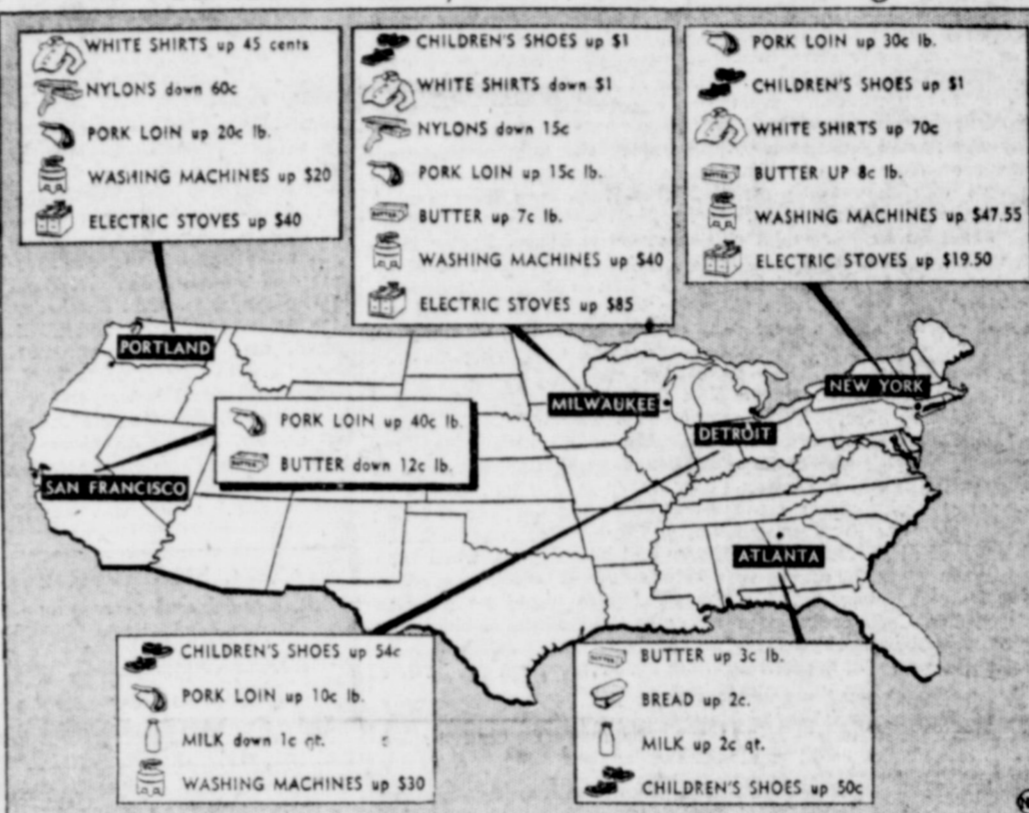
How to make food deliveries without crossing a seven-month-old picket line was the problem. Roy Wayland, right, owner of the Westward Ho Hotel in Phoenix, Ariz., solved it by using the helicopter seen above, where chef Oscar Zink, center, receives his day's groceries. The "windmill" flew over the picket line and landed on the hotel's patio.

He's Eliminating Guesswork



Newest wrinkle in beauty contest judging is measuring curves by "contour callipers." Beauty judge Paul Mahoney shows how to remove guesswork as he sizes up Linda Lombard, candidate for Miss Los Angeles County at Ocean Park, Calif. Curvesome helpers are Janet Dempsey, taking down statistics, and Ann Melton.

A Year Since OPA, and Prices Still Going UP



Price rises of more than 50 per cent in many consumer items in the year since OPA's death seem to prove wrong the argument of price restriction foes that freedom would bring lower prices. Rises in New York include nearly 100 per cent for pork loin, 25 per cent for washing machines. But in some cities items such as nylon hose and milk edged down or remained at the OPA level. San Francisco shows best record of stability among the six representative cities shown on the photo-map, with shoes, nylons, the same, and washing machines and electric stoves up only 8 per cent.

King Gustav Hails National Parade



This latest picture of King Gustav V, 89-year-old Swedish monarch, shows him in full dress uniform and plumed hat reviewing a parade of athletes, students, and children during the annual National Commemoration Day ceremonies at the Stockholm Stadium.

Child of Hunger



Warmly-dressed Romanian soldier holds a starving, rag-clad child at railroad center in Moldavia—famine-stricken northern province bordering Russia. Hundreds of children like this were transported to southern Romania for hospitalization.

Quick Thaw



"Mr. America" and "Miss Quick Freeze," otherwise known as Mr. and Mrs. Alan Stephan, kiss just after getting their marriage license in Minneapolis, Minn. Stephan got his title in a male body beautiful contest in Chicago, while his bride won hers at a frozen food convention.

New Traffic Hazard: 'Drunken Flying'



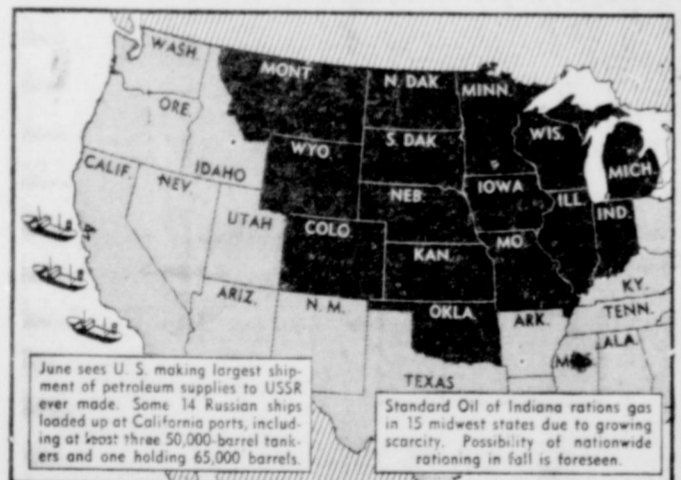
James Fronimos, the Los Angeles student pilot who crash-landed this plane in downtown Pasadena, Calif., has the doubtful distinction of being the first man ever booked at the local jail for "drunken flying." He only had two hours of solo flying to his credit when the accident happened and escaped with only a scratched face.

What Gasoline Shortage?



American farmers have more mechanized equipment than any other farmers in the world, but now and then Oscar Sayles likes to use his team of oxen to plow his fields near Rocton, Wis.

Reds Get Gas--U. S. Users Get Rationed



Washington reimposed wartime controls on export of petroleum products after Congressmen denounced paradoxical situation illustrated on map above. Domestic gasoline shortage is so acute rationing is imposed on midwest farm states, shown in black areas. Meanwhile parade of Soviet tankers has been steaming from California ports bearing gas and oil shipments totalling hundreds of thousands of barrels.

New 25-Cent Airmailer



This is the Postoffice Department's new 25-cent stamp for Pacific, Asiatic, and Africa airmail. Blue, of special delivery size, it depicts a four-motored plane over the San Francisco-Oakland Bridge. It goes on sale July 30, conforming to an international rate of 25 cents a half ounce for the above named areas.



Here is one of 1947's most courageous men—Claude A. Watson, the Prohibition Party's candidate for the presidency in 1948. He accepted the nomination at the party's convention at Winona Lake, Ind.

READ CLASSIFIEDS DAILY

R. Parker Hamilton of River Edge Manor, N. J., "grows" a buzzing, chest-covering beard of bees to demonstrate his apian technique before the North Jersey Beekeepers' Association at Woodcliff Lake, N. J.

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EVERYTHING FOR THE OFFICE

Under The Dome At Austin

AUSTIN, Tex., (UP)—June was the anniversary month for the state's two biggest spending departments - highways and public welfare. It was the 30th birthday for the Highway Department, and the Public Welfare Department was 11 years old.

The Highway Department was organized and opened for business on June 4, 1917. Since that time it has expended \$875,205,493 through last March. April, May and June expenditures have been about \$5,000,000 a month so that the total is well over \$890,000,000, to date.

The Public Welfare Department paid out the first two old age assistance checks on June 29, 1936

in public ceremonies at Welmar, Colorado County. Former Gov. James V. Allred personally handed \$25 warrants each to Frank Cainer, a 103-year-old Fayette county farmer and to his wife, Anna, who then was 95. They lived on a Fayette county farm near the Colorado county boundary.

Since that \$50 was paid, the Public Welfare Department has distributed approximately \$327,000,000 to old folks.

Beginning September 1, the State General Land Office will keep a closer check on what is due on oil and gas royalties, lease rentals and resale.

The new departmental appropriation made by the 50th Legislature authorizes a force of four auditors and five field men to make a check on the approximately \$7,000,000 a year that comes into the state coffers through the Land Office.

The money goes to the permanent school fund. For lack of appropriation to pay more persons, the office has been going along with just two persons to do all the checking.

How inadequate the force has been will be apparent to any oil operator when he is told that there are in excess of 500 producing oil wells on property leased by the Land office.

And the 500 wells are scattered over the state, and some are out in the water over submerged areas.

The new branch of the state Land Office will be known as the Mineral Auditing Division.

Texas has inherited a problem from the Corpus Christi "freedom of the press" case.

The U. S. Supreme Court has returned its mandate to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals holding that three Corpus Christi newspapermen were not guilty of

contempt for their writings about a case tried before the county judge, who had committed them for contempt.

The problem that the state has inherited is what to do about \$1,300 court costs in the case. It can't be charged against the newsmen, so the sheriff and other officials may have a long wait before they can be paid fees for their services in connection with the case. It may take and act of the legislature to authorize the payment, judges here say. The individual officers, however, will not suffer. They are paid on a salary basis and the fees they earn go into the county salary fund.

Murder is the most popular crime in Texas to judge by the classification of cases that reach the state court of criminal appeals for final decision. Of course, it may be that more of the murder cases result in a contest carried through to the court of the last resort than do other offenses.

At any rate, the check on the work of the court of criminal appeals for the term just ended shows that if affirmed 46 murder cases and reversed 14, sending them back for retrial. The court has been assailed for strictness on murder indictments, but the term shows that of seven indictments held bad by the court but one was in a murder case (the stamping case). The others were indictments for misdemeanor.

Chances are not high of getting a reversal to judge from the term's nine months of work. Of a total of 332 cases decided, 257 were affirmed and 75 reversed.

Of the murder cases, six of those that were affirmed carried death sentences. One death sentence case was sent back for retrial and the other was ordered dismissed. Four life sentences for murder were affirmed and two ordered re-tried. Murder cases in which sentences of from two to 99 years were assessed by the jury, resulted in 36 affirmations and 10 reversals.

Hopes to Break Record With Model T



Wonder what became of the model T? Well, Frank Hovevar, of Chicago, Ill., is out to prove it's as dependable as ever. Here he is pictured with his 1927 model T Ford in New York City prior to his cross-country take-off in an attempt to break the record of 5 days, 2 hours, and 13 minutes set by Cannonball Baker in 1926. Hovevar plans only one stop during the trip to San Francisco.

Party Line Gossips Out In This Town

AUBURN, Mo. (UP)—Backyard conversations are taboo on telephone lines here. The community welfare committee sent all residents a letter asking each telephone subscriber to limit his use of the telephone to five minutes a call.

It asked subscribers to pledge to 'fairness to all other subscribers of the telephone and to all my neighbors and friends.' The pledge read further: 'I agree to limit my use of this telephone to limited calls of every nature, including social as well as semi-business and business and further agree to keep all calls both in and out to a maximum of five minutes in so far as possible. From eight to 12 parties are on most Auburn lines.'

Elected Unanimously SPOKANE, Wash. (UP)—A Grand Army of the Republic convention here, 100 year old Past National Commander Hiram Gale ran away with an election.

Business of the day was the election of a new G.A.R. commander for Washington, Alaska. Gale nominated himself, cast the lone ballot and swept himself into office. He was the only survivor present.

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OUT OUR WAY By J. R. Williams



THE NUDE 3-22 J. R. WILLIAMS

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RANGER JUNIOR COLLEGE Ranger, Texas



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