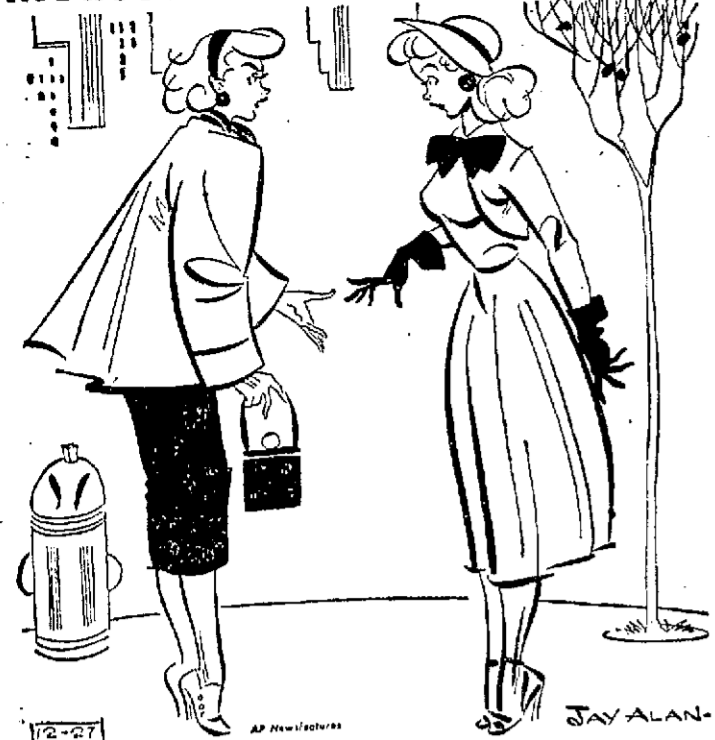


Modest Maidens

By Jay Alan



"These shoes just kill me but after an hour or so my feet get sorta numb and they feel fine."

Questions, Answers

Pie Custom Attributed to Crusaders

By HASKINS

A reader can get the answer to any question of fact or writing. Long Beach Press-Telegram, Information Bureau, 315 E. 1st St., N. E. Washington, D. C. Please enclose three (3) cents for return postage.

Q. How many states have banned the sale of colored margarine? E. F. T.

A. Nineteen states bar colored margarine and other states have put additional taxes and license requirements on the colored product.

Q. Where did the custom of eating mince pie originate? C. A. Y.

A. According to tradition mince pie was brought to England by the Crusaders in the Middle Ages though this has never been proved. However, English mince pies resemble the patties filled with chopped nuts and fruit sold by Oriental bakers.

Q. If an alien in the United States is not required to register for the draft must he carry with him a document stating this fact? C. McC.

A. Selective service regulations require that each nondeclarant who is in one of the categories exempting certain aliens from registering must have in his personal possession at all times an official document making this clear.

Q. Is it a fact that sardines are caught off the west coast only in the dark of the moon? S. E. D.

A. Sardines are caught only in the dark of the moon when their phosphorescence guides the fishermen. It is almost impossible to see the sardines in bright moonlight. In the daytime the sardines appear as tiny black spots, causing ripples.

Q. What is the purpose of the high heels on cowboy boots? D. D.

A. They are to prevent the foot's slipping forward in the stirrup when riding.

Q. How many B vitamins are now known? T. E. P.

A. There are known to be 12 B vitamins and there are probably more awaiting discovery.

THOUGHTS

Remember that my life is wind; mine eyes shall no more see good.—Job, 7:7.

This life is but the passage of a day. This life is but a pang and all is over; But in the life to come which fades not away Every love shall abide and every lover.—Christina G. Rossetti.

MOPSY

By Gladys Parker

"BUT IT'S ONLY MY FINGER I WANT REDUCED. IT'S CAUGHT IN MY BOWLING BALL!"

REDUCE BY MASSAGE

GLADYS PARKER

(Released by The Associated Newspapers)

Today's Smile

By Dick Turner Sen. Soaper Says:

By H. V. WADE



"He THINKS a spark plug needs changing! That means before he's through we'll need a new carburetor, battery, fan, left front spring, generator and engine overhaul!"

The one coming up is a new Congress. Also a new Harry, not to be confused with anyone of the same name and age didn't want to be President.

Legally, it now is asserted, the U. S. has no control whatever over Gen. MacArthur. And if it had, it would be somewhat like directing a Barrymore.

Next to getting the G. O. P. elephant on its feet, the hardest thing is nursing back to winning form a pitcher who had a good good year in '45.

Einstein has said that in mathematical theory it is possible to turn a tennis ball inside out without breaking the cover. But we still don't believe that Chinese armies simultaneously encircle each other.

Its laughable assertion that men spend more for clothes than women do, now corrected by the Department of Labor, never fooled the husband who is outnumbered two to one in his own closet.

No word of any exchange of Christmas cards between the two U. N. factions, though a little shopping around should turn up something that features seven-foot icicles.

NOT ALL GLUM

Tired of hearing about the Berlin disagreements? Fed up with murders and other bizarre crimes? Robert B. Jung, a Swiss newspaperman in America, thinks a lot of people are, and he has set out to do something about it. The first issue of Good News Bulletin went out the other day, full of happy happenings and cheerful people.

Juvenile delinquency has dropped 90 per cent in Baker, Ore. At least 50,000 Arabs are living peacefully in Palestine. Pennsylvania is going to get better drinking water. These are samples of what Mr. Jung feels are pleasant occurrences in a gloomy world. He claims he's a cheerful cherub nor a demagogue—he's willing to admit that terrible deeds are done, that politicians wrangle, and that people have a frightening talent for rocking the boat. He simply wants to give the good news a break.

More power to Mr. Jung—Baltimore Sun.

has done a whale of a job. Of course, she's had to scrape a lot on the small salary the department store pays her, but she never once complained to me about this. She did say, however, she wishes you'd been there to be a father to the girl; she knows you were ashamed to come back after five years in jail, but she wants you to know she's not ashamed of anything, and if you ever get around to Toledo, you'll find her door wide open.

Naturally, you're wondering why I, a stranger, took the trouble to trace down Butterball. Well, maybe it's because I have a lot of time on my hands these days, and then again maybe it's because of the last item in your diary, dated Dec. 24, 1934:

"Me and my soft heart! On the way home tonight, happened to see a couple of skinny kids looking into my shop window. Got taken y'en to play Santa Claus, took them inside and bought them 20 bucks' worth of happy stuff. Crazy, I guess, but some day if things don't go right, maybe somebody will do the same thing for Butterball."

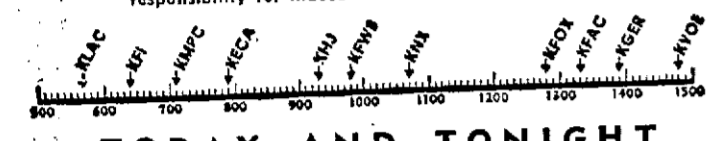
And that's the reason for this letter, T. H. F. I just wanted you to know that someone did.

Happy New Year, A FRIEND.

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RADIO PROGRAMS

As listings here are supplied by radio stations, responsibility for inaccuracies rests solely on them.



TODAY AND TONIGHT

Table of radio programs for today and tonight, including stations like KLAU, KFI, KFI-TV, and various time slots.

PROGRAMS TOMORROW

Table of radio programs for tomorrow, including stations like KLAU, KFI, KFI-TV, and various time slots.

OPEN LETTER TO MR. T. H. F.:

Butterball Is Doing Well, and You Could Go See Her

By BILLY ROSE

SATURDAY afternoon, at the Parke-Bernet auction galleries on 57th St., a man came up and asked if he could borrow my column for a day. I thought he was kidding until he reached into his pocket and handed me as tiny black spots, causing ripples.

Open Letter to Mr. T. H. F.: Wherever you are, I'm sure you'd like to hear the latest news about Butterball.

First, though, I'd better explain how I happen to be butting into your affairs. My name isn't important, but what is important is that I'm the father of two grown daughters whom I haven't seen for 15 years. That many years ago I committed an indiscretion, and when my wife found out about it she divorced me, won the custody of the kids and moved to South America. That, I hope, is enough about me to explain my interest in Butterball.

Now let me tell you how I happened to come into your picture: Some months ago at an auction, I bought a set of Balzac that I've always been meaning to get, and the following day when the box of books was delivered to my house, I found it included—by accident, I'm sure—a green leather diary, the cover

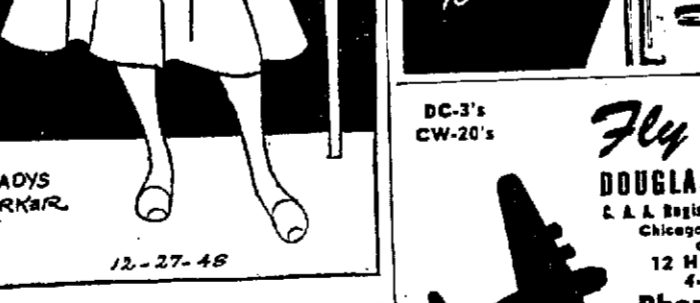
of which was stamped "T. H. F.—1934." Being as nosy as the next fellow, I thumbed through it to see what sort of man T. H. F. was. Well, it began with items about "flowers for Millie" and "wrist watch for Millie" and "theater with Millie." Next came the ones about the birth of the ones about how much she weighed, her hair, her smile and her first tooth. And then, a few pages later, the laconic notes about "business bad" and "job very shaky."

There was one item, however, about Butterball that impressed me more than all the others and made me decide to locate her. Of course, T. H. F. this wasn't easy, but with the aid of several private investigators—yes, I'm rich enough for that kind of nonsense—I finally found her last week. And this is my report about your little girl.

Butterball is living with her Aunt Charlotte in Toledo, Ohio. She's 15 now, of course, a junior miss with the baby fat melting away fast and as pretty as the entries in your diary. Aunt Charlotte told me the whole story of your troubles. About what an intelligent fellow you were and how you sat up nights reading, and about how Millie never scolded you for it even if you didn't have the go-getting spirit to push yourself at the office, because she loved you as you were. And about how, when things got tough during the depression and it looked as if your firm were going to fire you, you took \$2000 out of the safe because Millie was ill and had to be sent to Arizona. And about how they caught and sent you away.

Aunt Charlotte, I'm sure you'll be glad to know, T. H. F., doesn't blame you for anything. When Millie knew she was dying, she asked her aunt to take care of Butterball, and judging from what I saw last week, Charlotte

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STATISTICIANS REASSURING

Small Pocketbooks Should Get Some Relief Next Year

By SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK (AP) The man with the small pocketbook should find it easier in 1949 to make ends meet.

The cost of keeping himself alive should be a little less. The little man's problem will be to keep his take-home pay as high as in 1948.

If the little man can't notice much change yet in the stratospheric cost of living, he should turn for reassurance to the statistician and to his wife.

His wife can tell him she gets a little more for her dollar at the grocery store than she did a year ago, that many clothing items are either cheaper or better quality for the money, and that there are few things she wants to buy that aren't in good supply at last. She can shop around. And the old-fashioned bargain sale is back in style.

The slide-rule boys will tell him that almost every index they keep—commodity prices, consumer, wholesale price, food, cost of living—has been falling recently. The downward trends are expected to continue for awhile. They disagree as to how steep the slope.

The Bureau of Labor statistics figures the cost of living as about 172 per cent of the 1935-39 average. This is a drop of 2 1/2 per cent since August.

But don't get too optimistic. Many things cost more now than a year ago—the B. L. S. index is still 44 per cent higher than a year ago—and some of the things you use are likely to go higher still.

Rents have risen in some places, and may be allowed to go up here and there across the country. You are not likely to see them go down.

Now are you apt to be able to build a house in 1949 much cheaper than you can now. Yet in some places, there are new houses standing empty and waiting, with fancy price tags on them. And lumber prices have dropped 15 to 25 per cent.

Telephone, electric light and gas rates went up in 1948 some way to raise them in still other places. Home fuel oil and gasoline prices tended upward in 1948, but the supply of petroleum is

working into balance with demand and there are plentiful signs that many oil products may be cheaper before 1949 is over.

Metal prices are high. Many have never been higher. And the most important ones are scarce steel, copper, lead, zinc, tin, aluminum. So that the maker of every product you use that has metal in it may have trouble holding his price line.

Your new car costs you more than it would if you had bought it a year ago. And if you're waiting for that new model next year, be prepared to pay still more for it. But used car prices have softened recently in many places.

If the railroads get their rate increase, on top of the hikes they made in 1948, the cost of moving food and other products from origin to your door will be a little higher—either bolstering commodity prices or pushing them up.

Passenger fares went up in 1948. Commuters pay more to ride the rails to work in some places, and other increase requests are pending. Bus and subway fares were hiked during the year in some cities.

However, furniture has moved over into a buyer's market. So have radios, home appliances and gadgets. High production costs may limit price cuts, but from now on rather than your trying to get on a dealer's list.

Food—the most immediate and pressing part of the little man's family budget—is cheaper than it was, down more than 4 per cent from the record July peak, and most observers think it will become even cheaper as the year goes on. However, food is still at least 2 per cent higher than a year ago, and 42 per cent above OPA days of July, 1945.

Livestock prices hit all-time peaks in August and September but have fallen since. Retail meats at year-end were averaging 20 per cent lower than in September.

Van de Kamp's Bakeries Specials for Mon, Tues, Wed, Dec 27, 28, 29

Advertisement for Poultry Dressing, 37¢ pkg.

Advertisement for Butterfly Coffee Cakes, 4¢ ea.

Advertisement for Drive Carefully, Don't Let Death Take Your Holiday

Advertisement for Smith Bros. Fish Shanty, Shanty Bar