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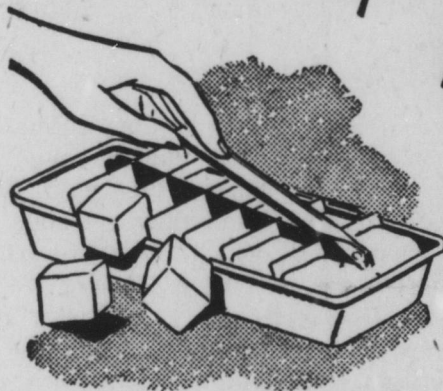
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at

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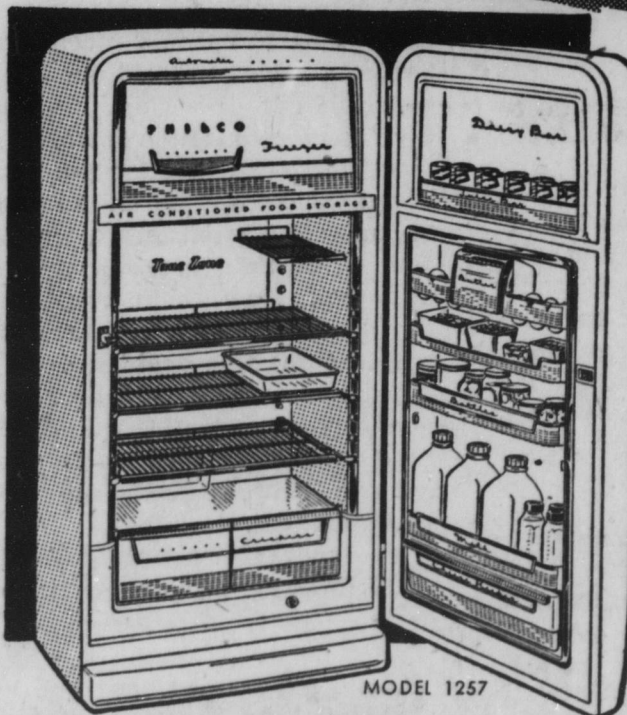
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ZEBULON, N. C.

### EARPSBORO SCRIBBLIN'S

## Soft Cars and Hard Cars

In the Sunday edition of the New York Times Magazine Section of May 15, there is a fascinating, enlightening and highly interesting article of the great tradition of the Imperial Russian Ballet, with, as the sub-title states, Soviet additions.

This essay was written by one of the world's foremost newspaper correspondents of today. (Anybody who works for the Times has to be tops in his field.) The by line of this study of the Russian Ballet Theater reads Clifton Daniel. But to the home folks he is just E. C., Jr.

I had occasion to talk to Mrs. Daniel, the correspondent's mother, who by the way is one of the most charming and lovely persons imaginable, sometime after reading the article. In turn, she gave me a little pamphlet distributed to the paper's staff which is news about the Times' men and women who get the paper out.

In this pamphlet is an article written by E. C., Jr., letter-like and folksy, about his six months and then some in the Soviet Union working as a correspondent for his newspaper. I shall pass some of this on to you, and am sure that you like me will find it most informative and readable.

He begins by saying that for one thing his waistline has become very much reduced, having lost fifteen pounds since leaving the States. This, he hastens to add, is not from a famine, but from irregular hours and overwork.

"I don't believe I have written so much and worked so hard since I covered my first session of the North Carolina Legislature and turned out anything from two to five columns a night."

He mentions the fact that he had three stories on the front page of the Times in one day. He takes no particular credit for this triple play, but goes on to say: "The stories just happened, and I wrote them."

Being the only correspondent for his paper in one of the biggest countries of the world makes for an overwhelming task, E. C. reports. The coverage is so great, what with trying to cover all aspects of Soviet life and policy, and trying to write for all departments of his paper.

E. C., Jr. says that his staff consists of one translator, one driver, and himself. By contrast, when he was in London there were four correspondents. He adds, too, that press conferences on foreign matters have become more frequent in the past six months.

Another interesting aspect of Soviet life is that the people have only one edition of a newspaper a day. This edition comes out anywhere from 2 to 5 in the morning.

Working from foreign newspapers, he says, means that all information has first to be translated. It is necessary to translate two or three times as much as you actually use or more. It may take an hour to translate one piece that will be enough for two-thirds of a column of type.

"Sometimes, for a background article, my translator and I may spend parts of several days gathering material. She read and digested a whole book for my Magazine piece on the Bolshoi Theatre Choreographic School." (This is the article I mentioned at the beginning of the column.)

E. C., Jr. says that he still can't conduct an interview in Russian, even with the intensive seven-weeks' course that he had at Columbia University last summer. He admits that he is still learning though, slowly, with a lesson every day.

Travel in the Soviet Union is very slow indeed compared to the American mode, E. C., Jr. says. He was speaking of rail travel. They average only about eighteen miles an hour.

All cars on long-distance trains are sleeping cars. There are "soft"

cars and "hard" cars. A "soft" car has upholstered seats and mattresses; a "hard" car is furnished with wooden seats.

In the "soft" cars there are compartments, each with four berths. In the "hard" cars the wooden seats are used at night for berths. There are fifty-eight of these and no compartments or curtains.

"When it is time to retire, the gentlemen withdraw to the corridor for a final smoke. Once in bed, the women turn their faces to the wall, the gentlemen disrobe, and the lights go out."

Each railway car carries a samovar — an urn for mawing tea. It is kept steaming by stoking it with charcoal. Two middle-aged women, in this case, tended it. They also sweep and dust, take tickets, and handle the signal lamps and flags.

E. C., Jr. also says that there is no contemporary abstract art in the Soviet Union. Too, vodka, cognac, wines and beer are plentifully consumed here, but they are not advertised in the newspapers or magazines.

E. C., Jr. is now on a 2,000 mile trip through the Soviet Union. On this trip he is visiting and will visit many of the outer towns and cities, farms and villages, reporting the life and condition of the Soviet citizen as he sees it.

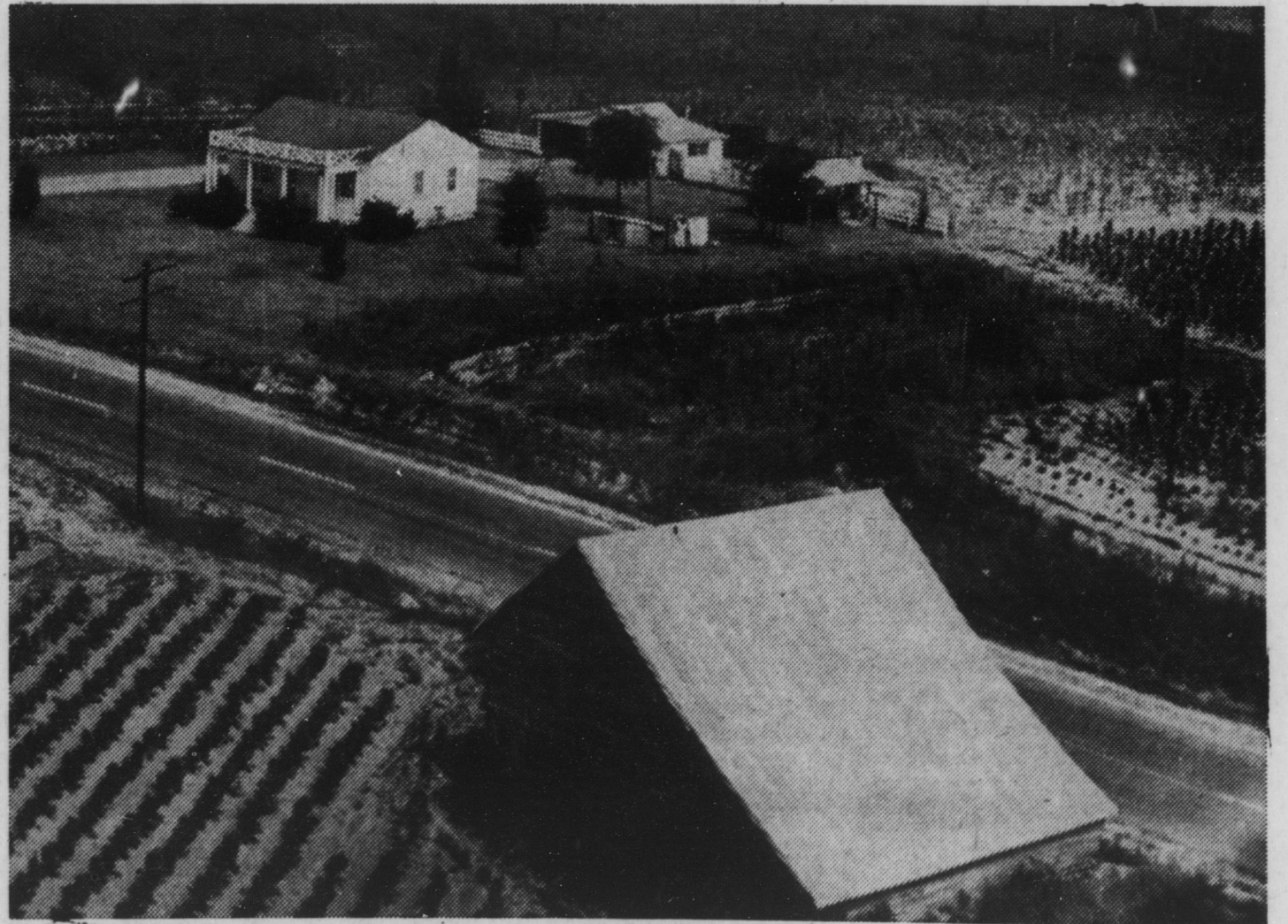
Mrs. Daniel who hears from her son regularly says that he seems very happy with his present assignment. She says E. C., Jr. enjoys any type of news coverage, but leans toward political reporting.

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