

Ney Grave Protected

CLEVELAND, N. C. (AP) — Souvenir hunters will no longer bother the grave of a man who may have been Marshal of France. The gravestone inscription in Third

Creek Presbyterian Cemetery reads: "Peter Stuart Ney, a native of France and a soldier of the French Revolution under Napoleon Bonaparte. Departed this life Nov. 15, 1846. Age 77." Nichel Ney, Marshal of France.

When Santa Came To Uncle Noah

By CHARLES MERCER

WHENEVER ANYONE asks "What does Christmas mean to you?" I'm reminded of what Christmas meant to my great Uncle Noah. Since he is dead and unable to defend himself, it is now safe to tell what Christmas meant to him.

He was, to begin with, an irascible man. By that I mean he refused to drift with the tide of human events. He called it being independent. But the way my grandmother put it: "If you tell Noah to go north, he'll go south. If you want him to go south, just remotely suggest that he go north."

On St. Patrick's Day he'd wear an orange tie and on Orangeman's Day he'd wear a green. In his youth he was forcibly restrained from raising a Union Jack on the Fourth of July. In middle age he often wore a straw hat in winter.

You can readily see that Christmas would be a thorn in the side of such a man. He suffered nobly under its good spirit for about 50 years. Although he came from a devoutly religious family, he refused to enter a church. So the religious significance of Christmas was quite wasted on him. Grimly working out his years as an office manager for a railroad, he was filled with anguish by the annual throngs of holiday travelers. A bachelor, he knew no joy in buying gifts for wife or children.

Each Christmas for many years, however, he summoned the moral strength to go to my Grandmother's house for the annual family celebration. He would sit there, glumly chewing on a cigar, only aroused from his mournful meditation on the merriment when he could draw an unwary nephew or niece into argument.

Then, one Christmas about 20 years ago, he failed to appear at Grandma's. Eventually the story came out. This is what happened:

ON CHRISTMAS EVE, Noah suddenly decided he was tired of going to Grandma's. He was disgusted with the whole ceremony of Christmas, its joy which he called "forced," its gifts which he called "commercialism". So he locked the door to his small apartment in the rooming house where he lived. He went to bed early and slept late into Christmas morning.

He cooked his own breakfast and sat down to read Voltaire, his favorite author, trying to shut out the sounds from downstairs where other roomers were exchanging gifts around the landlady's tree. Once someone knocked on his door, but he did not answer.

The day crept on and gradually Noah grew more and more restive and irritable. Again someone knocked, and this time Noah shouted, "Go away!" But in a few minutes the knock was repeated

and this time Noah angrily flung open the door. He faced a small, brown-haired, pleasant woman about 40 years old, who smiled at him and said: "Good afternoon. I'm Agnes, the landlady's niece. I understand you're ill and I wondered if there was anything I could do."

"I'm not sick," said Noah. She just smiled at him and said, "You don't look well to me."

"I'm fine!" roared Noah. "Prove it," she said. He gaped at her.

"If you're not sick, come downstairs and join the rest of us," Agnes said. "I won't!"

Agnes looked at him steadily for a long time. Then she said gently, "Of course you will. Come along now or must I lead you by the hand."

THEN OCCURRED the thing that no one, least of all Noah, ever could explain.

He quietly followed her downstairs. He had dinner with her and her aunt. In the course of the afternoon he learned that Agnes was a widow.

Everyone could easily understand what he saw in Agnes. But no one could fathom what she saw in him. Still, she must have seen something, for a couple of months later they were married.

They took a small apartment and several months later they adopted a small baby boy.

CHRISTMAS rolled around again. Agnes and the baby were invited to Grandma's with Noah, of course. Everyone watched him expectantly after they arrived. Yes, he'd changed. He was pleasant and smiling — but still rather quiet.

The gifts were opened amid a great babble. Finally, when everyone had opened his gifts, Agnes said she had one more for Noah. We watched breathlessly as he opened the package. The silence became oppressive as he slowly took out a summer straw hat.

Suddenly he threw back his head and roared with laughter. It was the most tremendous laugh we'd ever heard. It seemed to fill and shake the house.

Then he put on the straw hat and started to talk. He was the most talkative man I ever heard. He wore the straw hat to the table and kept it on and everyone agreed it was the merriest Christmas ever.

LATE THAT NIGHT as we all left for our homes, several of us paused for Noah and Agnes. They came out the door into the snowy night. Gravelly Noah handed the baby to Agnes. Taking off the straw hat, he kicked a hole in it and sealed it away in the snowy darkness. Then, shaking with laughter, he took the baby from Agnes and they walked off into the night.

'Blue Book' Turns Out For White House Dinner

By JANE EADS

WASHINGTON—It was a busy

day for Mrs. Herbert Brownell, wife of the attorney general. The sleek and slender brunet spent the afternoon on the "Hill" listening intently to her husband testify in the Harry Dexter White hearings, then rushed home to don evening clothes to accompany him to the White House dinner for the Supreme Court.

Ranking guest at the dinner was Chief Justice Earl Warren. Mrs. Warren is still in California getting packed to move to the Capital.

The full court was present for the elegant affair, the second state dinner to be given by the Eisenhowers. Justice William O. Douglas also came alone, but Justice Hugo Black, whose beautiful wife died recently, was accompanied by his young and attractive daughter, Martha Josephine, who is now his official hostess.

Three major characters in the controversy over the White case sat down together — Brownell, FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover and Justice Tom Clark. However, everyone is said to have avoided talking shop and enjoyed himself so much that the dinner lasted longer than most similar White House affairs. The guests didn't adjourn to the East Room for the entertainment

Appeals to U.N.



PROFESSOR Walter Hallstein (left), Undersecretary of State for West Germany, is interviewed by a reporter prior to his appearance before the United Nations, in New York, to appeal for help in securing the release of thousands of German POWs still held in Russia. The Communists released some of the World War II prisoners, but German authorities insist that many are still held. (International)

"Hat Trick"

Error Rectified

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Because of a scorekeeping error, rookie Parker MacDonald of the Pittsburgh Hornets in the American Hockey League was deprived of a well-earned "hat trick" (scoring of three goals). The three goals he tallied against the Syracuse Warriors were erroneously given to teammate Johnny McClellan. The error, however, was rectified the next day and MacDonald had his first professional "hat trick" record.

—a two-piano recital by Miss Virginia Morley and Livingston Gearhart—until nearly 10:30, and the last guests departed at 11:45.

Mrs. Ivy Baker Priest, treasurer of the United States, is on her toes when she gets home no matter how late it is or how trying the day has been. She finds her greatest relaxation in dancing. First thing she does is turn on radio or phonograph and whirl about the room. She's not a bad tap dancer either!

Mrs. Arthur Summerfield, wife of the postmaster general, piped up at a ladies' luncheon recently when someone mentioned Swedish Ambassador Boheman. "He must hold the lightweight record," she said. "He first got his diplomatic uniform 25 years ago, and it still fits him to a tailor's T. He looked very handsome in it at the White House reception the other night."

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