

LYNN NISBET: Around Capitol Square

WATER — Water is rapidly becoming one of the most important elements in politics, as well as in the physical and economic life of our people. Biblical stories about the destructiveness of the flood and about miniature wars waged over wells digged by Abraham and Isaac; historic references to the Euphrates, the Nile and the Rubicon; significance of oceans, rivers and canals in commercial, transportation and protective barriers, have served to emphasize the importance of water in the developing experiences of the human race. Until a few years ago the influence of water was economic rather than political, so far as North America was concerned. Pioneer homesteaders located near springs, and large communities grew up adjacent to ocean harbors or natural landings on navigable rivers. Factories were built where water power could turn the wheels of industry. Political prestige acquired by these water side communities was incidental to the economic advantages enjoyed.

POLITICAL — The inventive genius of man discovered how to use steel rails and concrete pavement instead of rivers as avenues of transportation, and how to convert local water power into transmissible electric current. It was no longer necessary for cities to be connected with navigable water, or that factories should depend for power upon an immediately adjacent waterfall. Rivers were diverted into irrigation projects, while

concentrated communities were provided drinking water from open streams and stagnant ponds through new discoveries in chemistry. Practical business men first adapted these ideas to their own advantage, but politicians were not slow to realize the possibilities involved. Result is that water, a physical and economic necessity, has now become a football in one of the greatest political games in history.

INEVITABLE? — That was a natural if not an inevitable development. As other families moved into the community, the pioneer homesteaders lost exclusive rights to his spring. Additional communities along the river required sharing of privileges by the first town established. As conflicts arose between these claimants, some sort of referee authority had to be recognized and government moved in to assume that prerogative. It was a relatively short and easy step for government to change its attitude from referee to assumption of ownership. So we have such governmental institutions as the Tennessee Valley Authority, huge installations at taxpayers expense on the Colorado and Columbia rivers, proposals for development of the Missouri and dozens of smaller rivers (including the Roanoke in North Carolina and Virginia) under the guise of flood control for the public good, but actually for generation of electric power, in competition with private enterprise.

TOTAL — Comes now a much more comprehensive total program for federal government control of all streams in the United States. This proposed scheme is involved in recent appointments by President Truman of a National Water

Resources Policy Commission. Tentative plan calls for ten to fifteen regional "river basin" commissions whose authority would extend to the remotest branch-head constituting the origin of tributaries to all rivers.

CENTRALIZED — There are two significant phases of tentative recommendations. First is that "for purpose of developing the resources of a river basin a single unified plan for entire basin be the basis for such development," and, "that the proposed minimum organization as suggested would consist of a representative from each of six or seven affected federal agencies, an independent chairman, and some form of state representation." In other words, the plan calls for at least six federal representatives, probably one state member, and possibly one private enterprise spokesman on each regional commission. States another way, the commission would be called regional, but it would in fact be completely controlled by Washington.

RAW — That was a bit too raw even for the North Carolina state government, which under leadership of Governor Kerr Scott has been pretty thoroughly committed to federal control of water power and other items traditionally reserved to state and local governments and to the people. Back in September the president's commission submitted the proposed plan to North Carolina. No action was taken until last week when George Ross, director of conservation and development, called a conference to consider and reply to the September inquiries. Fourteen people attended that conference, twelve of them federal or state employees. The two "strangers" were representatives of an electric power company. Consensus of the conference, as reported next day in a letter signed by Director Ross, was that the overall idea had merit; but that North Carolina could not go along entirely until some questions of state autonomy, local government participation and limitation upon the power of a national central "review board" had been clarified.

GOVERNMENTAL — Questions raised had to do with relationship of states to the federal government, with inter-state compacts, with ultimate relations among federal, state and local governments. Refusal of the questions submitted by the national commission and answers approved by the conference last Thursday, as contained in the Ross letter, fail to disclose any attention to or recognition of the rights or activities of private owners of land, water, machinery or devices for converting these resources to the use of the people. Inescapable conclusion is that majority of the conferees are committed to

VAN NUYS, Calif. — George R. Wilson complained to police yesterday that his pocket was picked in municipal court as he stood in line to pay a traffic fine. Fortunately, he was holding the fine money in his hand.

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — For 20 years until he was 66, Francois la Siege gulped down a daily shot of gin. Then he switched from gin to brandy at his doctor's advice. Last Saturday, when he celebrated his 87th birthday, la Siege predicted he would live to be 100. He died yesterday.

LEMOORE, Calif. — City Judge W. W. Shenahan has a standard of fine of \$200 for drunk driving and he makes no exceptions—even for himself. After having difficulty negotiating a turn in his car after a party, the judge had himself arrested, arrested the complainant against himself, and pleaded guilty before himself.

He then fined himself \$200 and warned himself not to appear in court again on the same charge.

the idea of governmental, rather than private enterprise control, and that the main question is whether that control shall be exercised at national, state or local governmental level. So it is that water has become a political football, subject to being kicked around by every public official from county commissioner to president of the United States.

LIGHT And BRIGHT

OAKLAND, Calif. — Otto F. Maynard, 42-year old gardener whose photography hobby caused a brief "spy" scare, comes up in court today on a simple vagrancy charge.

Maynard was arrested Sunday on the complaint of neighbors who became suspicious of his activities with an expensive camera. Police found in his flimsy cardboard hut elaborate photographic equipment, pictures of defense installations and notes on the effects of the atom bomb.

However, the FBI decided Maynard was simply a camera enthusiast. His notes on the atom bomb were taken from civilian defense pamphlets and dealt only with the effects of the bomb.

DETROIT — The home haircut was on its way back in Detroit today. Detroit department stores reported a rush for home haircutting equipment.

Behind the rush was an announcement by barbers two weeks ago that the price of a haircut probably would be raised 25 cents to \$1.50 before Christmas.

GROTON, Conn. — Col. M. J. Retrosy says that the easiest way to make a few dollars is to send the government a bill.

He asked Uncle Sam to pay \$23 for gasoline purchased for a government plane at the Groton Flying Service.

The check that he got back was made out for \$655,505.48, roughly 20,000 times more than the \$23 he asked for.

Petrosky locked the check in his safe and wired the government that a "slight overpayment" had been made, and would they please tell him what to do with the check.

As an afterthought, he added: "What about the \$23?"

OKLAHOMA CITY — Jack Woody wasn't serving on a district court jury today, but he had one of the best excuses the judge ever heard.

The prosecutor asked the 28-year-old salesman if he knew any reason why he couldn't serve as an impartial and unbiased juror in a bookkeeping case.

"What, yes, I believe I do," Woody said. "I'm a full time wholesale bootlegger myself. They arrested me last week for the same thing you have this man charge with."

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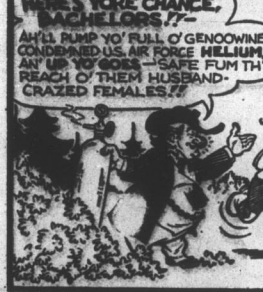
HOPALONG CASSIDY



LIL' ABNER—By Al Capp



NANCY—By Ernie Bushmiller



DICK TRACY



MICKY MOUSE



BLONDIE—By Chic Young



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TOUTE THE ALL NEW PHILCO REFRIGERATOR

11 CU. FT. UNEQUALLED FOR FEATURES AT ITS PRICE

Here's as much as 2 cu. ft. of extra storage space—plus 1961 Advanced Design features—at the price of smaller refrigerators. Built-in freezer.

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DUNN Your Family Theatre

TUESDAY

Anne of the Indies

Also NEWS & COMEDY

STEWART BRANCH

TUESDAY

M. MURRAY PARKER

Also NEWS AND SPORT

HARNETT TUESDAY

Strangers in Town

Also GINGER BROWN WALK

Also COLOR CAROON

CENTER VIEW DRIVE-IN

2 Shows Nightly

TUES & WED.

RUTH BOWMAN IS ALL WOMAN IN LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE

THURS. — FRIDAY

SAMUEL GOLDWYN

OUR VERY OWN

BOX OFFICE OPEN 6-10

Show Start 8:15 and 9:30

Under 12 in. com. F. R. E. E.

Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer—Sponsored By Wellons Mercantile Co.

IT WAS AUNTIE NICE OF YOU TO HELP MY WIFE FIND HER BRIDLE IN THAT RUDOLPH!

GOSH, GROVER, GROUNDHOG, WHEN YOU'VE GOT A BRIDLE NOSE LIKE RUDOLPH, YOU MIGHT AS WELL GET SOME USE OUT OF IT!

SPEAKING OF YOUR BRIDLE, NOW'S SANTA GOING TO MAKE USE OF IT THIS YEAR?

I DON'T KNOW, GROVER, BUT I'VE GOT A BRIDLE NOSE LIKE RUDOLPH'S SANTA'S BRIDLE!

AND THE BRIDLE NOSE, YOU USED TO BE AN ANGEL LIGHT FOR SANTA!

THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH MY JOE, GROVER, HE'S NOT MUCH CHANGE FOR AN ANGEL LIGHT!

IT'S GETTING PRETTY CLOSE TO CHRISTMAS, RUDOLPH--

AW! I'D BETTER ASK SANTA RIGHT AWAY WHAT PLANS HE HAS FOR ME!

THE HOUSE OF SANTA-CLAUS Barber Set 99c

HAS THE TOYS YOU WANT Sparkling Hot Rod \$1.39

Furnished Doll House \$3.98

Jet Roller Coaster \$7.99

Super Service Station \$3.95

Auto Speedway

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