

Cornerstone Laying Beautiful Tribute

IMPRESSIVE in its simplicity was yesterday's ceremony of setting in place the cornerstone of a building which was born in dreams and made a reality by high courage, sacrifice, work and devotion whose other name is love.

The building is the Gracia Gannett Rathbone Memorial, the home-to-be of the Elmira Association for the Blind.

The association and the workshop it has maintained through good times and bad were close to the heart of Mrs. Rathbone, for 19 years the association's generous, able and selfless president.

One of her great ambitions was a modern, fireproof workshop for the sightless folk who were her friends. When she died in 1950, Mrs. Rathbone couldn't know that the time was close at hand when her dream would cease to be a dream and become a reality in brick, mortar and steel.

The story of the association's struggles through the years was put into words admirably by Frank Tripp, master of ceremonies. The stone was set into place and sealed by Frank Gannett, Mrs. Rathbone's brother, and Henry Winner, her grandson. Mayor Strachen, Mrs. William T. Boland, the association's president, George Jarvis, head of the men's advisory committee, and Mrs. Gannett added their tributes.

A group of workers from the shop stood in the crowd, their faces mirroring their affection for the woman who shared her means and greater still her heart in the movement to help them to help themselves. Their heads bowed as the Rev. Raymond M. O'Brien and the Very Rev. Frederick Henstridge of Grace Church spoke the words of invocation and benediction which opened and closed the ceremony on a note of dependence upon divine guidance and blessing.

Perhaps these blind folks, whose hands and hearts owe so much to Mrs. Rathbone and her associates, were thinking of another day when a man offered help when he could so easily have made his way along on the other side of the road.

Mrs. Rathbone was much like the Good Samaritan of old whose memory lives because he did the extra thing his heart inspired him to do. The memorial building rises in her honor as the old story keeps alive the goodness of another generous, self-giving soul.

Frank Tripp on TV

FRANK TRIPP, vicepresident of The Gannett Newspapers, who writes a column on this page every Sunday, had a highly important one this week. It told of the devastating effect of a decline in reading. He said the young who do not read can not hope to get on in the world.

While observing there are some things on the air which are worth while and useful as entertainment, he pointed out that those who permit TV to distract them from books, magazines and newspapers deny themselves of information and the power of thought based on knowledge.

His words of wisdom came from a man of long experience with men of affairs. They are to be considered by parents and by those who wish to be persons of understanding.—Utica Observer Dispatch.

Trading with Enemy

THE United States government officially doesn't like trading with our enemies. But enemies now constitute or control half the people in the world, almost. The question of who is boycotting whom in this situation can be painful in places.

There's Japan. President Eisenhower went out of his way in a recent speech to 600 smaller-town editors and 150 assembled brass in Washington to emphasize the peculiar position in which we find ourselves.

The President said we, officially, shouldn't trade with the enemy and we can't let imports bankrupt our own industries. He also said it seemed true enough now that we can't win friends with handouts and we can't police the whole world by ourselves.

The economic aspects of his talk he illustrated with comments on Japan. The Japs, like the Germans, are beaten enemies; we hope to weld both these lands into the service of the civilized half of the world. The Germans have gone ahead to recover and make themselves again important members of the family of nations.

Germany is blessed with raw resources in the Ruhr. Japan had to get materials from which it fashioned a prewar living from Asia. Asia has been slipping behind the iron curtain, something else our sloppy diplomacy didn't figure on in the reckless 40s.

So the President said we might have to let Japan trade with an enemy—Japan can buy coal in Red China for \$6 a ton. Since we have to underwrite such purchases one way or another, it's a better deal for the taxpayer than buying it from West Virginia at a cost in Yokohama of \$36 a ton. (You might have difficulty convincing a coal mine operator of that, of course.)

Our occupation force and use of the islands as a Pacific staging base have helped Japan's economy. But Japan, like Britain, must import and export or die. This is something else we have to face. Shall we buy Japanese goods or keep Japan on a dole?

If Japan is to take its role as a Pacific ally against Russia the Nipponese must be permitted to strengthen themselves economically and militarily. If we drive them down into more poverty and resentment, they, like others in Asia who distrust us Occidentals, may go over to the Reds out of ignorant despair.

An enlightened policy toward Japan is a must factor in the gamble we are taking for freedom and friends in the Far East.

When trying to follow the "party line" some Communists get dizzy, others defunct.

The perfect pavement, one that doesn't have to be renewed every so often, has yet to be devised.

The battle for the Eastern League pennant this year certainly is close. The sixth place team is only a half dozen games out of first place.

'Thank Goodness We Didn't Lose Face'



What Do You Want to Know?

By HASKIN

For answers to questions of fact write The Star-Gazette Information Bureau 316 Eye St., N.E., Washington, D. C. Enclose 3 cents postage.

Q. Can atomic bombs be stored for any length of time without losing their effectiveness? J.P.P. A. A-bombs present no great problem in this respect because uranium and plutonium can be stored for centuries. Stockpiling of H-bombs is another matter. Tritium, which is indispensable in making them, has a half-life of 12.1 years, and within a fairly short time it decays into helium-3.

Q. Where is the oldest tourist camp in the United States? L.D.W.

A. The Askins Cottage Camp, at Douglas, Ariz., claims to be the first, dating back to the horse and buggy days of 1901. It lies near the U. S.-Mexico border, and was originally set up because of a housing shortage. By 1924, horse-drawn vehicles had given way entirely to automobiles.

Q. Is it important for kennel dogs to be allowed to run free in order to get enough exercise? T.T.

A. Dr. A. J. Baker has said that dogs exercise a great deal by jumping up and down. They should not be allowed to run loose unless they are taken to a safe place. Dr. Baker is the head of the new Cornell Research Laboratory for diseases of dogs at Ithaca, N. Y.

Q. Has any American novel ever exceeded "Gone with the Wind" in length? P.N.

A. Yes, Madison Cooper's "Si-ronia, Texas" is longer. With well over 2,000 pages and 893,000 words, this is represented as the longest novel ever published in the United States. It came out in two volumes in 1952. Hervey Allen's "Anthony Adverse" is also longer.

Q. How much did the bat boy of the New York Yankees receive as his share of receipts from the 1953 World Series? G.S.

A. He was voted \$400 as his share.

Q. What has science decided as to the common ancestry of man and the anthropoid ape? G.McE.

A. No modern biologist believes that man has descended directly from some extinct anthropoid ape. After long study of fossil men and apes and of the principles of heredity, science had concluded that man and the anthropoid apes—including gorillas, chimpanzees, and gibbons—sprang from the same limb of a common family tree. What caused the limb to branch is not known.

ELMIRA STAR-GAZETTE
Consolidation July 1, 1907. of The Elmira Evening Star (1888). The Elmira Gazette (1828). The Elmira Free Press (1878). The Elmira Evening News (1894).

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
Published every evening except Sunday by Elmira Star-Gazette Inc. Frank E. Gannett, president; Frank E. Tripp, vicepresident and publisher; Thomas V. Taft, general manager; George S. Crandall, executive editor; George McCann, managing editor.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication, of all the local news printed in this newspaper as well as all AP news dispatches.

Entered at Postoffice at Elmira, N. Y., as second class mail matter under act of March 3, 1879.
Subscription rates—First and Second Postal Zones: 1 year \$9; 6 months \$5; 1 month \$1. Beyond second zone, 1 year, \$12; 1 month, \$1. Delivered by agent or carrier, 30 cents a week. Single copies five cents.

Worse than Munich:

Sell-Out to Reds

By CONSTANTINE BROWN

WASHINGTON—The gigantic tug-of-war played at Geneva has ended in a complete victory for the Reds. The rights of some 20 million people who wanted to live free—free of Communist domination and French colonialism—have been trampled under foot by the great powers.

The cries for justice by the representatives of Viet Nam were drowned by the advocates of "peace in our time at any price," and by the Reds who were holding them up at pistol point. The policeman of the world, the United Nations, was strangely silent. The appeals of the Indo-Chinese people for U.N. control at least of the so-called armistice terms were scornfully rejected by the very founders and charter members of that peace-loving organization.

ONE OF THE Soviet members is reported to have said at Geneva:

"This is a he-man's job, not one for an old woman."

Since the parley opened last April, the Communists have not yielded an inch. While the Western representatives were running in circles, smiling, courting and kow-towing to the new diplomatic star, Peiping's Foreign Minister Chou En-lai, Chou and his Soviet colleague and mentor, Molotov, have maintained a stern attitude.

The "after you Gaston" act of Bidault (and later Mendes-France) and Eden was accepted literally by the Communists. They did take precedence at all the functions held at the conference.

Judging from what has been released in connection with the armistice terms, Geneva will go down in history as a diplomatic catastrophe worse than Munich. It also may have more far-reaching consequences.

The fighting in Indochina is about to end, and so are the

hopes for freedom of the 20 million people.

The deal was made across the diplomatic table by nations which claim to be defenders of freedom.

THEY SOLD their one-time wards to the ruthless Communist dictatorship. They provided Communist China with complete control over the "bread basket of Asia," and also with strategic points in the South Pacific, from where they can eventually wage war against the remaining free nations, including the United States, with greater expectations of success.

The strategic importance of Indochina is so considerable to us that when the Japanese early in 1941 began to move towards that country Secretary of State Cordell Hull sent a stern note of warning to Tokyo.

Today, the peninsula has more importance than in the past. Japan, which we are now striving to keep on our side, depends to a large extent for her food on rice imports from Indochina.

France and Great Britain, with our approval, have handed the richest portion of Viet Nam to the Communists. It won't be long before Peiping tells Tokyo to give up their association with the United States or suffer unbearable economic consequences.

What puzzles many American observers is the reason which prompted sending such a high-ranking diplomat as Undersecretary of State Walter Bedell Smith back to Geneva. Mr. Dulles had followed a healthy instinct when he quit the conference, and ordered, shortly after his departure, that his deputy come home, too.

He rushed back to Paris after two weeks, at the pressing request of the French and British to talk over, apparently, the creation of a South Pacific pact for the purpose of preventing any further Communist advances in the south.

THE TERMS of the armistice leave no doubt, however, that the whole of Indochina is doomed.

According to Geneva reports neither southern Viet Nam nor Laos and Cambodia will be permitted to join any coalitions such as Mr. Dulles had in mind. Yet, despite the warnings at Geneva by lesser American officials that France and Britain were determined to sign an appeasement contract, Mr. Dulles last Friday ordered the ailing General Smith back to the "Swiss Munich." His presence is bound to be viewed by free Asiatics as a tacit American endorsement of the sell-out of Indochina to the Communists.

The Secretary of State explained to some friends in Congress that this "gesture" of sending General Smith was necessary to patch up our difficulties with France and Great Britain. Mr. Dulles could not refuse the pressing demands of our Allies without threatening Allied unity.

Congressional leaders of both parties, bitterly opposed to our surrender in the Far East, question whether it is wise for Americans to condone the selling of another large batch of free peoples into Communist slavery.

Letter

Elmira Looms Big In Clemens' Life

Dear Editor:—In reply to criticism of a proposed plan to change the name of Main St. to Mark Twain Boulevard.

The opinion was expressed that Elmira hasn't much claim to Mark Twain and that "Mark Twain did the least of his writings in Elmira. Many of his best writings were done at his favorite home in Connecticut."

I quote from a booklet, available at the Steele Memorial Library, titled "Mark Twain and Elmira," by Jervis Langdon and published by the Mark Twain Centennial Committee in 1935.

"In what sense was Elmira the home of Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain? A sketch of his connections with this city will perhaps be a welcome answer to this question from many who live here."

"... the deep, and lasting romance of Mark Twain's life... was begun in Elmira."

"On Feb. 2, 1870, the wedding of Olivia Langdon and Samuel Clemens took place in the Langdon home (in Elmira)."

"They and their children spent many summers at Quarry Farm, overlooking Elmira."

"Three of Mr. and Mrs. Clemens' four children were born in Elmira."

"... the greater part of 'Tom Sawyer' was written in the study and parts or all of some of Mark Twain's best known works originated there."

"The following volumes were written in whole or in part in Elmira:

1871—"Greater part of 'Roughing It.'"

1874—"First half of 'Adventures of Tom Sawyer.'"

1874—"Play, 'Colonel Mulberry Sellers.'"

1876, 1880, 1883—"The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

1877-1880—"The Prince and the Pauper."

1879—"A Tramp Abroad" (many chapters).

1882—"Life on the Mississippi."

1888—"Greater part of 'Yankee in King Arthur's Court.'"

1903—"A Dog's Tail."

"Mark Twain was buried beside his wife and three children in Woodlawn Cemetery, Elmira" (April 24, 1910).

I think Elmira has a just and fair claim to Mark Twain; at least enough to name a street (or why not a park or swimming pool?) after him.

ROBERT PENSINGER,
371 Fulton Street

Mrs. Frank Colby's Among Words

THIS WEEK'S BONER

Wrong: "What was it you wished to ask me?" No. Since the question has yet to be asked, the past tense should not be used. Better say: What is it you wish to ask me?

Wrong: "What did you wish to see him about?" (A favorite phrase of young ladies who preside over reception rooms.) Right: What do you want to see him about?

Avoid: "Could I assist you?" Improved: May I assist you?

Wrong: "May I have a cold glass of water?" No. Cold should modify water, not glass. Right: May I have a glass of cold water?

Wrong: "I should like a hot cup of coffee." Right: I should like a cup of hot coffee.

Wrong: "I'll have a rare cut of roast beef." Right: I'll have a cut of rare roast beef.

Wrong: "I bought a new pair of glasses." Right: I bought a pair of new glasses.

Wrong: "He wore an old pair of shoes." No: the shoes are old, not the pair. Right: He wore a pair of old shoes.

And be sure to take care of that little bugbear, "only." No: "We Only Live Once"; better: We Live Only Once.

Not "I only have one dollar"; improved: I have only one dollar.

A much overworked word is QUITE. Quite means "entirely," and should not be used in the sense of "rather, very, considerably." Example: I have quite finished (entirely finished). We are not quite satisfied. She sings rather (or fairly) well. (Not... quite well.) He stayed a long time. (Not... quite a time.)

Always Horizons

The whole history of human thought is as various, as marvelous, as unexpected and as inexplicable as any mysteries of this universe. Science, with its search for laws, always oversimplifies.

But the wise scientist always makes his way through the realm of law into the region of wonder. In a few years he can master the principles of plant and animal life, reproduction and distribution—and then, forever thereafter, he remains astounded by the incalculable multiplicity of animal forms, the unthinkable subtlety of plants, knowing that when new varieties are discovered they may contain something as unpredictable as a new divine creation.—Gilbert Highet.

Have a Chuckle!

By the time we decide a television program is something the children shouldn't see we're too interested in it ourselves to shut it off.

Side Glances



Mary Margaret McBride:

Pride Goeth Before a Fall

Did you ever notice how every time you brag out loud about anything it makes a fool of you by being just the opposite?

What I mean is, I tell a friend about the delightful little restaurant I've discovered that has the best popovers and curry I've ever tasted. The friend can't wait to try the place and so we make up a party. Almost unfailingly the establishment suddenly seems possessed by a demon. We have to wait for a table, the service is bad, the curry flavorless, the popovers pallid and stone cold.

If it's a store where I've found bargains, the bargains are all gone or the bargain if there, proves no prize when the friend to whom I've been enthusiastic goes there. As when I told somebody about a wonderful shop for purses and she had to return the one she bought three times before it would even stay closed.

I FIND a television show so adroit and well-done that I praise it at dinner. Later I turn it on with a flourish and it is so bad that I can't believe it's the one I saw before. Neither can my friends, who sit in grim puzzlement while I heavily apologize.

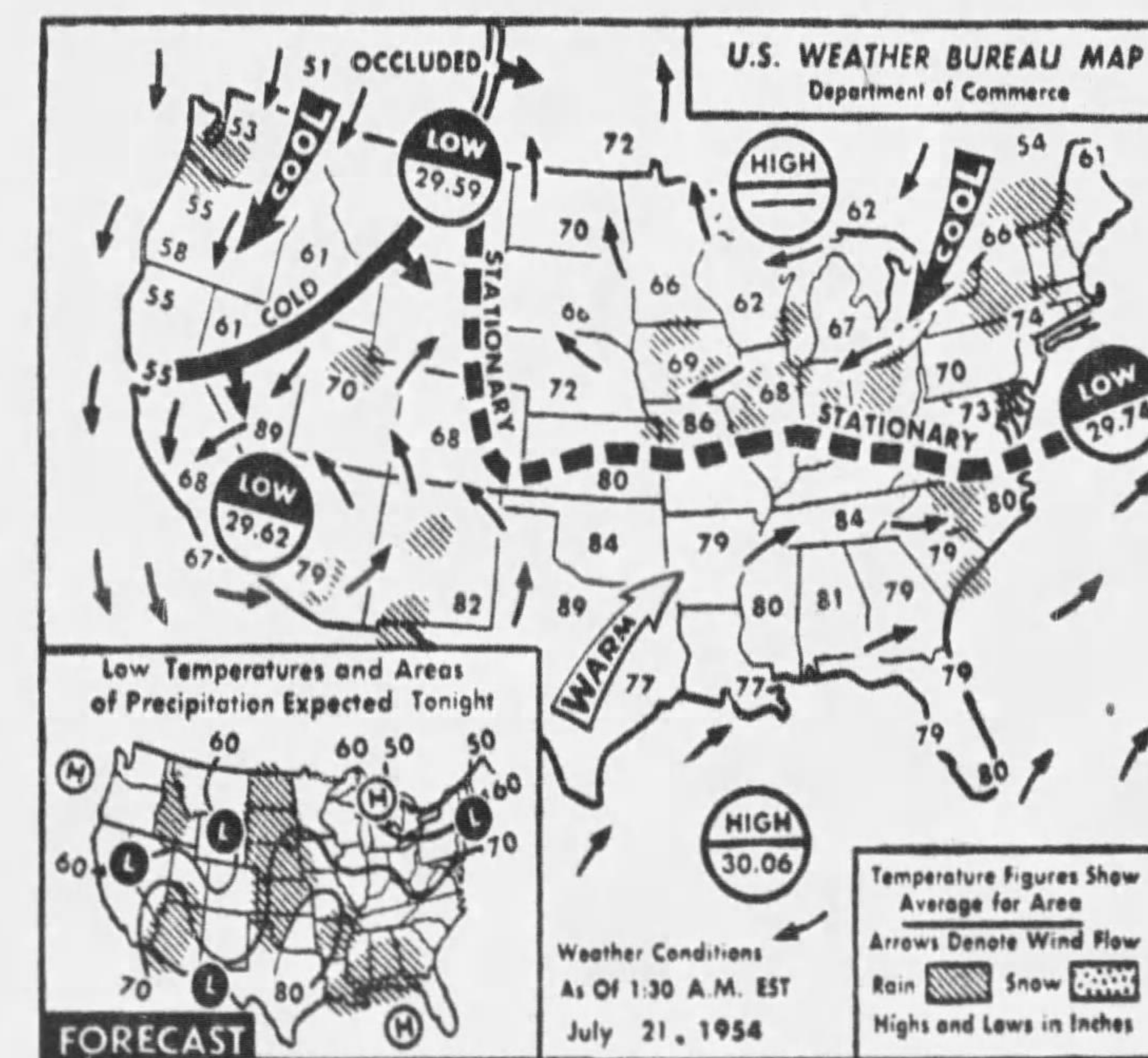
I'd hate to count the times I've heralded a new acquaintance as "entertaining... intelligent... fascinating" and then later, when he sat all evening like a sleepy lizard on a sunny log, had to explain that he was tired, or was suffering from a headache or had eaten something that disagreed with him.

You'd think after all these years I'd learn to restrain my enthusiasms but I never do. Not even, though I certainly know my limitations as a story teller, do I refrain from trying to tell the anecdote which has appealed to me so much. First thing I know I'm challenging family or friends to laugh by prefacing my recital with something like, "I heard such a funny story today..." and a minute later I'm roaring with laughter and the people around me are smiling painfully.

I SUPPOSE I'd be dreadful if I had children and grandchildren to brag about, for mothers and grandmothers are always boasting about how well-behaved their little darlings are as they trot them out for you to admire. Then, little Herman chooses the occasion to show off by answering all questions at the top of his lungs with an accompanying wagging of his body. And little Mabel races around knocking over every object that isn't nailed down.

That's when their fond relative apologizes feebly by saying, "I don't know what's got into them today. They're NEVER like this."

Today's Weather Map



THUNDERSTORMS are forecast tonight for the eastern Plains and lower Mississippi Valley, while a few showers are expected in the northern Rockies. It will be cooler in New England, the coastal Middle Atlantic area and in the northern Rockies.