

Around the Plaza

By JEFF DAVIS

The "Comite Defensa Social" is putting all its eggs in one basket and has hired two crack bands to play for the dance they have prepared to raise money for the "Boy's Club." At the Olmos Dinner club Wednesday night, Rex Prets and the Emilio Caceres bands will alternate in furnishing civilized swaying for the Comite Defensa. While Eddie Martinez will act as master of ceremonies and floor show arranger.

A lady with a buoyant voice called us yesterday to tell us about it. It seems that the R. O. T. C. at Brackenridge High school was having a review (we don't know where our unseen informant fitted into the picture as a witness), and some majors, no less, came out from the army to watch the military goings-on. Here came the R. O. T. C. boys, hearis high, faces shining in the early morning sun.

And the band broke out into music. And do you know WHAT



music? They broke out into a highly spirited version of The Beer Barrel Polka. At least that's what the lady told us.

Jay Ralston, one of the runners-up in the Laskey Gateway to Hollywood contest here, is an amateur radio fan.

Gladys Eckhart and that stunning new evening gown.

Harold Gordon, who plays the harassed producer in the Hollywood satire "Boy Meets Girl" is the versatile boy, ain't he though. He owns one of the finest and largest collections of classical records in Texas; is master of ceremonies for the "So You Think You Know Music" program; an amateur actor, and a business man.

Here's another one of those stories currently going around, and if it isn't true, then you needn't come bothering us with your complaints: Go directly to the Vice President in Charge Of Getting Things Straightened Out.

Anyway, true or no, it seems that this gentleman, (a jurist, as it was told to us), went hunting and used an expensive shotgun which he borrowed from a good friend.

The gent returns from the hunt, parks his car, and drops into a



place where he has a beer or two ... just to pick him up.

Outside, sometime later, he discovered that he had locked his car, with the shotgun inside. He was willing to leave the car there but he began to worry about someone stealing the shotgun, so he illogically picks up a brick and knocks a hole in the windshield, through which he sticks his hand and unlocks the door ... only to discover that he had the wrong car.

So, according to the one we heard, he takes the same brick and knocks out the windshield of his own car, parked a bit down the street.

Miss Eloise Moss of San Antonio acting as the preacher in a mock wedding at Mary Hardin-Baylor college, Belton.

Evangeline Nunez finds that almost everyone has an avoidance complex as she heels off five miles every day in her avoidance of putting on extra weight.

Frank Sullivan goes around flipping coins much in the manner of George Raft.

Jack Bardwell, the filling station man classifies certain type of motorists as the I. W. W. kind.—Information Wind and Water.

Melba Jansen finds that the Mexican dulcero and his tempting display of ill-bits always land her in a commercial transaction as her sales resistance becomes uncontrollable with the sight of the colorful assortment.

A sign on a roadhouse near Talco, as reported by G. W. White: "Busy Bee Club. Come in and buzz around awhile and bring your own honey."

Claude Dorsey and Tom Powell, San Antonians, are now on the cruiser, S. S. Helena, stationed at New York harbor. They are U. S. N. petty officers.

"Daisies:

"What do you think of this one?" "Driving out Broadway and turning into (?)atherine court, which runs one block east to west, you notice that the street sign is spelled 'Katherine court'.

On leaving this street at the other end you observe that the street sign is spelled 'Catherine court'.

"Which is right: K as in Beautiful K-K-Katy, or C as in Chicago?" JOHN E. BUTNER."

Gent Klitz, boy drummer, who is now with Joe Buzzo's orchestra, playing out of Waco, visited his mother, Mrs. Gloria Klitz, 133 Wickes street, over the week end. Gene is now touring North Texas with the band.

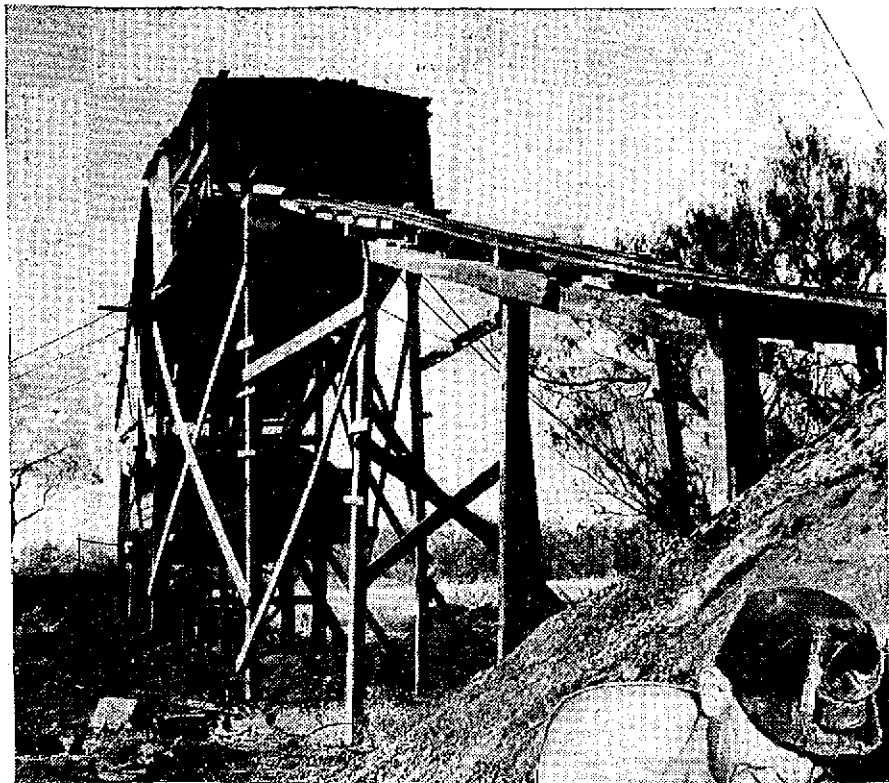
THE LIGHT

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1939.

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SECTION B.

SOME COAL FACTS ABOUT SOMERSET



This photo shows structure above ground of Belco mine where coal is hauled in flat cars and loaded into trucks.



JOHNNIE BELTO WITH LOADED MINE FLAT-CAR. Family owns and operates one of coal mines.

DRIVE OPENED ON NARCOTICS

A sharp increase in recent narcotic thefts Tuesday resulted in the starting of an intensive drive on the West Side by local and federal officers.

Cause of the thefts, police said, was the European situation, which made it difficult to smuggle drugs in from foreign countries.

Officers sent to the western sector early Tuesday, all dressed in shabby clothing, included Federal Narcotic Agent Bill Williams, Deputy U. S. Marshal Houston Minor and Vice Squad Officers L. E. Russell, J. R. Chambers and J. A. Munger.

Police believed that most narcotic deliveries were made to addicts during the early morning hours.

Later, the officers brought a man and woman to headquarters, booking them "hold for narcotic agents".

Recent drug thefts have been from a car owned by Dr. W. M. Wolff Jr., Nix building; office of Dr. H. S. Tullos, 103 West Huff street, and a drug store at 1017 Main avenue.

Hospitals also have reported prowlers breaking into physicians' autos parked near the institutions.

Expansion Planned by 'We Americans'

Plans for a statewide organization of "We Americans" Tuesday had been made tentatively, following a meeting Monday night at the Robert E. Lee hotel attended by more than 200 persons.

A state organization meeting was set for October 30 at the Municipal auditorium, with Leo Genard as chairman of meeting arrangements.

Genard, chairman of the state organizing committee, declared chapters would be organized in other major Texas cities.

Theo Simmang and Rev. F. J. Ledwig were speakers Monday night.

Highlights From the Want Ads

A 5-room house at 2115 South Hackberry for sale at \$2500. Pay \$200 down and \$25 monthly. See Classification 19.

Furnished apartments available in the Coronado, 302 East Huisache. See Classification 27.

A 4-room unfurnished apartment at 500 West Gramercy for rent at \$37.50 a month. See Classification 28.

Fifty dollars a month rents a 6-room unfurnished house at 910 W. Craig. See Classification 30.

Rooms available at the Continental Hotel, 722 West Commerce St., at 50c a day and up. Details in Classification 73.

A 1938 Plymouth coupe, with good rubber, excellent mechanical condition, for sale at \$525. See Classification 73.

Reconditioned bedroom suites, 26 in. set from, on sale at \$15 to \$69.50. See Classification 111.

All-porcelain ice refrigerator, 50-pound capacity, on sale at \$15.00. See Classification 112.

NARROW GAUGE RAIL REPAIRED IN COAL MINE.

Mike Belto, son of operator, does the job.



LEONARDO CORONADO WEARS CARBIDE LAMP. Somerset mine employs half a dozen workers.

MAVERICK TO REST AWHILE

Mayor Maury Maverick Tuesday anticipated a few nights at home during the week. This was the result of the statement he made during a city council meeting Monday morning.

"It's impossible for any one man to make the rounds as I am expected to do," announced the mayor.

"I wish I could go everywhere but it's reached the point where I can't do my duty. My duty is at the city hall. If I spend all my time making speeches and attending parties I cannot do my work at the city hall," he continued.

The mayor then asked the city commissioners to assist him in these "pleasant" duties in the future. Maverick pointed out he had been at some function every night for the past three weeks.

Baering Down On The News

By ARTHUR ("BUGS") BAER.

There's a lot of debating and whooping broadcasted about the war. But we've noticed that the loudest fog-horns don't clear away any fog.

We don't know what they're doing in Europe. But it's as queer as homemade money. It looks like one of the gymnastum fights.

P. S. We saw a picture of a general jabbing plus in a war map. If he had been real mad he should have been using an ice pick.

A great assortment of furniture and appliances offered through Classifications 105 to 116. Light Want Ads.



ROMERO SANDOVAL CHOPS COAL FROM WALL. Shown with pick in Somerset mine interior.

Aviation Factor in Defense, Topic

"Aviation as a Factor in National Defense" will be the topic of an address at 8:15 p. m. Tuesday before the Scientific society of San Antonio.

Lieut. J. E. Smart, assistant officer in charge of the civil elementary flying school at Randolph field, will be the speaker.

Flight Training Increase Asked

Application for increased enrollment for student flight training at St. Mary's university had been made to Washington Tuesday, Rev. Bro. Louis P. Theln, registrar, announced.

Twenty students already have registered for government sponsored flight training and the University has a waiting list of applicants, officials said.

Flag Burns High Above S. A.

Firemen Tuesday had made a record run—straight up—when they battled a blazing American flag atop the Smith-Young tower, 310 South St. Mary's street.

The huge flag was being lowered Monday night when it came in contact with neon lights, causing a short circuit and setting the flag afire.

A squad of firemen, headed by District Chief E. G. Dullin, ascended 26 stories by elevator and climbed the remaining four to the dome, extinguishing the blaze with a hand pump. Damage to the flag and pole was estimated at \$60.

An elevator operator's determination to suppress the news and prevent embarrassment to the flag tinders caused several anxious moments to a morning paper's reporter.

The newsman boarded the elevator but the operator refused to let him out. After several trips up and down, the reporter's yell attracted Chief Dullin, who succeeded in liberating him.

Colonel Goes to Aid Of Missing Cadet

Col. E. A. Lohman, assistant commandant of the Air Corps Advanced Flying school at Kelly field, was to fly to Brownsville Tuesday to arrange for the return of Flying Cadet Carlton Chamber, 26, of Trenton, N. J., who lost his way Monday on a training flight and landed in Mexico.

Colonel Lohman planned to confer with customs officials of the United States and Mexico, to facilitate the cadet's re-entry into the United States. His plane was reported down without fuel 25 miles from the border.

Chamber had left in the morning on a routine flight to Corpus Christi and was unreported until late in the afternoon, when he phoned from Los Alamos, Mexico. Meanwhile, several planes from Kelly field had begun a search for him.

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT COAL MINING IN BEXAR?

Coal is where you find it. But nobody (well, hardly anybody) seems to want it. In Bexar county, that is. And those legends of lost mines might even be applied to the area located, roughly, between 15 and 20 miles south of San Antonio. Except that the mines aren't lost—just abandoned.

You may have heard vague rumormongers of the Somerset coal mines. We hadn't.

Discovered about 1878, the "pockets" of lignite are located in the flat country around the communities of Somerset, Lytle and Bexar.

Only one of the score or more shafts is still being operated as a commercial venture. It is near Bexar.

FOUND IN "POCKETS." Operators of the once active mine, the Bello family, explain that the coal in that region is not in a continuous vein, as is the usual case. Instead, the Bexar coal, of the soft, lignite variety, is found in "pockets," about 500 feet under ground and scattered over the southern portion of the county.

Mrs. Elizabeth Wright, one of the first settlers in the Somerset-Bexar region, recalls that the first mine there was opened in 1878 by her father, a Scotch immigrant.

He had worked in the mines of Scotland before coming to this country.

After operating about 15 years and seeing other mines spring up around it, the first Bexar mine ended its activity due to the lack of market for fuel.

OBJECTED TO ODOR. Mrs. Wright remembers that people objected to the odor of the burning soft coal and had an abundance of firewood anyway, so the mines were abandoned one by one and left to fall into disrepair as havens for snakes, vermin and the small animals native to the region. A few of the ancient shafts still are kept open to supply farmers with a small amount of the lignite for heating their own homes during the short winter season.

Abusive attempts have been made from time to time during the past 60 years to operate some of the scattered mines commercially.

In the largest of these, John Belto, veteran of almost 50 years in the lignite mines around Bastrop, reopened one of the shafts at Bexar about five years ago.

Operating with a certain amount of success since that time, Belto estimates his mine yields between 4000 and 5000 tons of the soft fuel per year.

TRUCKED INTO CITY. It is trucked into San Antonio and sold to factories and a few buildings that still use coal for heating.

But the Bello venture has not assumed the magnitude of the Somerset coal mining industry in its heyday of 20 or more years ago when railroads built trucks into the area to bring out the lignite.

A few of the old rails remain as mute evidence of the region's era of industrial activity—but even these are now being carted off to scrap-iron dealers, possibly to find a new usefulness as implements of death and destruction on Europe's battlefields.

For, it may be said of the coal mine owners of Bexar county (on the "hole," as it were): They have coals—but they don't mine.

Or, are we just heaping coals on our own head?

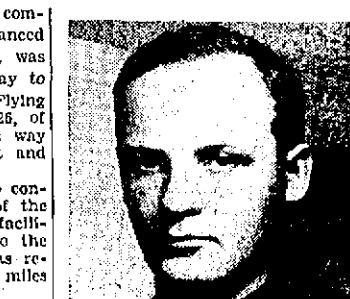
Does this story leave you cool? (Editor's note: Yes!)

\$10 Fine Assessed in Lottery Case

On a plea of guilty to establishing a lottery, Henry Lee, no address listed, Tuesday was fined \$10 and costs by Judge Charles J. Matthews in County Court-at-Law No. 2.

Lee, together with Gee Schung and Joong Jim, were accused of establishing the lottery on October 3 in the Remwood addition.

Complaints against Jim and Schung were dismissed.



CADET CHAMBER. He does a Corrigan