Kennedy story is told again, again

Washington Window
By MERRIMAN SMITH
UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON (UPI) —In this intensely image-conscious era, it is interesting to see how latter-day personal memoirs about President John F Kennedy tend to show him in somewhat sharper, yet friendly focus than the first round of largely worshipful books by his intimates shortly after his death.

A current example is an interesting book by John Kenneth Galbraith—"Ambassador's Journal: A Personal Account of the Kennedy Years."

The public knows Galbraith generally as Kennedy's ambassador to India, Harvard professor, liberal figure, recognized economist and prolific author. But Galbraith was more than that. He was on close personal terms with Kennedy and his wife, Jacqueline, not only during the White House years, but during the 1960 campaign.

Constant Pain

Galbraith arrived in India to take up his ambassadorial duties in early April, 1961, but returned to Washington for consultation less than two months later. As he prepared to leave the nation's capital and return to New Delhi, his journal entry for June 20, 1961, includes this passage:

"I saw the President on three occasions. Once he was in the bathtub; once in bed; once we rode to the Shoreham (hotel) together for a speech. I think he is suffering a great deal from his back. Certainly it is more serious than he admits or wants to admit.

"The first of our sessions was in his bathroom. While sitting on a stool, I told him about some iniquitous goings-on. Every once in a while, the conversation was interrupted as he turned on the hot water with his foot. Bob Kennedy came in with one of his youngsters. . .I wondered if the boy were cleared by the FBI for we were talking about some very secret matters."

Minimize Ailment

This passage was interesting in that it involved a period when Kennedy, indeed, was in much pain because of a chronic back ailment. The pain but him on crutches for a time, and also led to long hours in hot baths and the heated White House swimming pool where he sometimes swam in the nude while carrying on business conversations with men ranging from cabinet officers to correspondents.

Yet, during the same period covered in Galbraith's journal, the White House was making every effort to minimize the extent of Kennedy's ailment. The first story about his being on crutches appeared at the end of his triumphant trip (from a crowd standpoint) with his wife to Paris, Vienna and London. Actually, the limited facts did not become available until the White House was faced with some rather hard-nosed news stories.

Many Americans simply refused to accept the fact that Kennedy for a time was on the verge of invalidism because of his back. In fact, during most of his White House days, he had to cope and learn to live with almost constant pain which his doctors described as a low-grade type comparable to a dull toothache.

Kennedy's grit and resourcefulness, plus the dedication of his staff, produced an entirely different image for the public—that of an inspirational, eternally youthful, physically active chief executive whose name was synonomous with touch football (which he had not played for ages before becoming President, although his two brothers and close associates were great advocates of backyard football.)

The buck Ends here . . . .

By Ivan D.E. Beaumont

One of the most refreshing annual meetings is the Last Man's club which meets for dinner the night of November 11 and has been meeting at that time for many years since 1936.

The Last Man's club is an organization of veterans. There is a grand prize — a bottle of whiskey. And, according to club rules, the Last Man to survive, gets the bottle.

It's quite a unique and elite organization. Virg Pitstick tells me of another club in another state where the membership puts 50 cents or so in the pot and that pot has now grown to several thousand dollars, the prize for the Last Man in that club.

A belated Happy Birthday to Mrs Edith Fisher, the News-Press correspondent. Mrs Fisher was 90 years young on October 30.

Best wishes to Jack Chadwick and Ralph Fitzhugh on their retirement from the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Jack served as resident engineer in the Nebraska City area for many years. Mr Fitzhugh, "Brandy" to his many friends, was former area engineer here and served in that capacity at Onawa, Iowa, for several years.

No word has been received here at the moment on whether a successor to the resident engineer will be named.

Nebraska City had a whopping Engineer force here at one time, but the numbers have been dropping.

We hear talk now and then of a new post office for the town in the form of a federal building to house the many offices now located in the post office, including the Engineers.

Many hope the Engineers will maintain resident headquarters here. One observer said the other day that he feels confident a force of some size will be retained here because of the service to the area.

Mr and Mrs George Coupe will be leaving soon on a winter vacation that will include a visit with their son in Florida and a Caribbean cruise.

Understand the cruise is a gift to the Coupes in observance of their recent 50th wedding anniversary.

How about that!

The potential of Nebraska City (or any other community in the state) building a trade school is good.

Superintendent James Withee said the other day that too much emphasis has been placed on every student obtaining a bachelor's degree when only 15 per cent of the students actually complete four years of college.

The Career Conference directed so well for 24 years by Mrs Don McGaffey has been geared along the same line of thinking.

The Conference provides much more information in the way of training to those 500 or 600 students. Even the name was changed to "Conference on Careers and Training Opportunities."

Mr Withee said Nebraska Citians will see much more emphasis placed on the vocational programs here utilizing present facilities.

The superintendent pointed out that there are federal funds available for many vocational programs. It's just a matter of a lot of paper work and time to get the wheels turning . . . . . and they are already turning under direction of the superintendent.

From the pulpit·

This youngster was asked by his father to name his favorite songs:

"I have two favorites," the bright-eyed boy replied, "Jesus Loves Me" and "From the Land of Sky Blue Waters."

There's a new book out by Jeane Dixon, the woman who many people believe, really knows the future. The Nebraska City Library will have a copy for check-out here soon, ordered possibly because of the demand for the book now available on a borrow-basis with Lincoln.

Bob Hegstrom, former Chamber manager here and at Hastings, is doing public relations work for Northwestern Steel and Supply Company in Omaha.

Bob, an avid sports enthusiast, naturally attended the NC - Ralston game Friday night.

The NC-Ralston game will go down in my books as a Pioneer defense victory.

The Minnesota Vikings call their defense the "front four." We should have some sort of a name like that for boys like Tom Paap, Lee Miller, Rick McCown, Brian Mabie, and Harold Anderson. The Pioneer defense was just plain superb.

I had something to write about the officiating, but my wife said I shouldn't because young boys and girls may read it.

CITY PLANNING – The City Planning commission will meet Tuesday at 7.30 p.m., at City Hall. Engineer Bob Selander, Omaha, will report at the meeting. Wm. F. Davis, chairman, said.

Built Business

Nahum Stetson was largely responsible for the growth of the Bridgewater (Mass.) ironworks to one of the largest in New England in the 1860s The forgings for the original Monitor were made there



"Roses love sunshine and violets love dew," sing the guitar class of fourth, fifth and sixth graders at Lourdes with Sister Vincent Mary. Front row, left to right, are Wesley Royal, Laurie Reese, Diane Tanking and Kim Kreifels. Second row, Paul Bataillon, Jean Derks, and Debbie Royal. Back row, Dianna Eiserman, Karen Johnson and Barbara Boerner.

COURTHOUSE NEWS

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Edward Flake et al to Herman J Jaeckel et al for $2,100, the north six acres of lot 10 in section 25-7-12, and approximately three - fourths acre in section 26-7-12.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Bill Miller and Deputy Sheriff Tom Durant took Lawrence C Brumbaugh, 50, to the Nebraska Penal Complex at Lincoln Friday afternoon. He had been sentenced to five years in prison earlier by Judge Walter Smith for burglary of the Nebraska City High school.

NEW CARS LICENSED AND TITLED

Robert H. or Elaine L. Teten GMC truck, Novak, James M. or Ruth A Schwab, Syracuse, Ford, Ficken-Grebe Ford, Ashland; Jon W or Prudence J. Gorton, Otoe, Chevrolet, Brinkman Bros., Tecumseh, Virgil or Doris Windels, Unadilla, Chevrolet, Strong.

Edgar C. or Jane E Ransdell, Pontiac, Novak; Four Mile Leasing, Oldsmobile, three Buicks, GMC truck, Novak, Thomas Stubbendeck, Unadilla, Chevrolet, Strong, Sterner Truck Rental, two Trailmobiles, Pullman, Inc., Omaha.

Hauschild Leasing, Syracuse, two Fords, Hauschild; John W. or Lucille P Douglas, Chevrolet truck, Strong. Ernest H or Martha F Ehmen, Syracuse, Chevrolet truck, Strong, Lena or William Kempkes, Palmyra, Chevrolet, DeLeau Chevrolet, Lincoln.

SCHOOL BOARD – The Nebraska City Board of Education will meet in regular session Monday at 7.30 p.m., at Greggsport.

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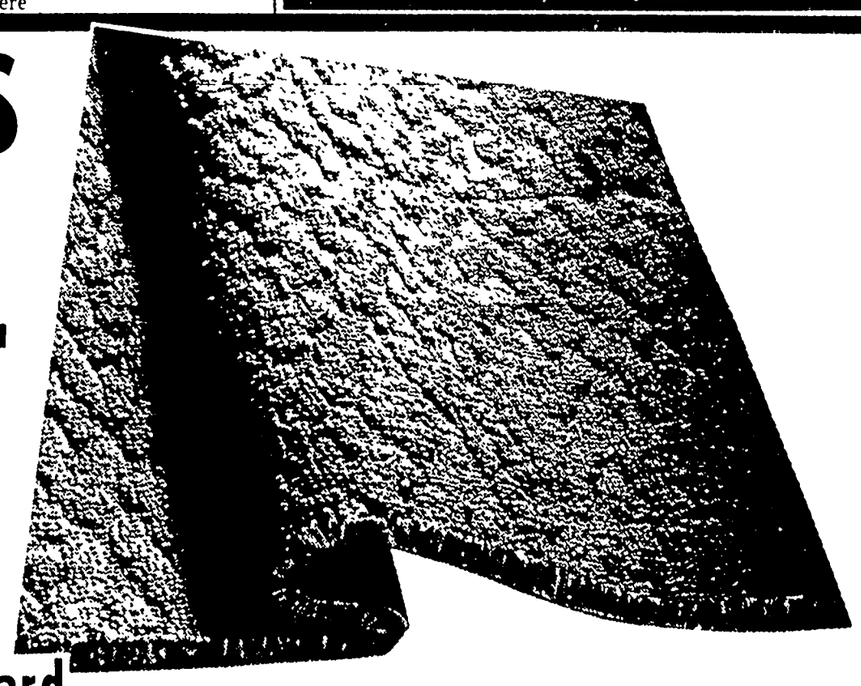
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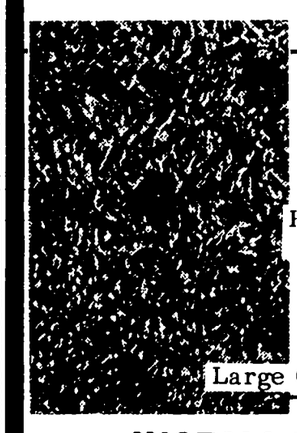
SUNDAY, NOV. 9

- 6:30 To Rome With Love
- 7:00 Ed Sullivan
- 8:00 Leslie Uggams
- 9:00 Mission: Impossible
- 10:00 Weather, News, Sports
- 10:30 CBS Sunday Night News
- 10:45 Big Valley

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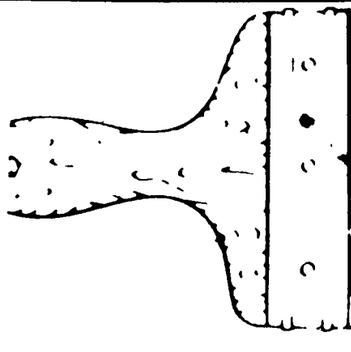
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