

## 'Russians Have More Respect for Our Air Power Than Some at Home'—General Clay

By DREW PEARSON

### Teeth for Children

Sodium flourine, the magic chemical that helps prevent teeth decay in children, now is in general use throughout the country. President Truman was informed this week by officials of the American Dental association. Virtually all dentists are using it to various extents, chiefly on school children.

"I'm mighty glad to hear that progress is being made," the president told a delegation led by Dr. Clyde M. Minges, of Rocky Mount, N. C., president of the American Dental association. "I've been very interested in sodium flourine since the public health service first revealed its amazing qualities."

Then the President added with a smile: "It would be a wonderful thing if we could shed our teeth when they start bothering us and grow a brand new set."

Truman promised to give serious thought to a proposal by Dr. Minges and his colleagues that he proclaim a national children's dental health day next February to stimulate greater interest in the care of teeth by school children and their parents.

NOTE: The Washington Merry-Go-Round on March 5 first reported the amazing progress of the public health service in using sodium flourine to preserve children's teeth, and gave credit to Congressman Frank Keefe, Wisconsin Republican, for helping the public health service. It was reported that sodium flourine would save about 50 percent of the chil-

ren's teeth from decay. At that time the American Dental association's journal was critical both of this column and the public health service for publishing this claim, but ADA officials now admit that painting children's teeth with sodium flourine at proper intervals when under the age of 13 will preserve them in about 40 per cent of the cases.

**'No War'—Clay**  
Powder-Keg-Sitting Gen. Lucius Clay expects the Russians to intensify the cold war, but to stop short of a shooting war.

Talking privately to visiting congressmen from the house armed services committee, Clay predicted that the Russians would haunt Europe with the specter of war, but would not fight their cause on the open battlefield. Their game is to stir up chaos and fear, as a breeding ground for Communism.

The general admitted, however, that a misfire in this delicate battle of nerves could easily precipitate a war.

Greatest factor holding Russia back is American air power, Clay said, despite the fact that he is a ground soldier. "The Russians have more respect for our air power than some of us at home have," he declared.

The constant droning of the Berlin airlift in Russian ears has only increased that respect, he added, and, at the same time, impressed the rest of Europe. It is Clay's belief that Russia wants to test whether the airlift can survive the winter before backing down from the Berlin blockade.

Clay told the congressmen that the Communists are going from door to door in Berlin as systematically as magazine-subscription salesmen, trying to scare individuals into the Communist camp. At night their threats are backed up with kidnappings and acts of terror, hundreds of individuals have disappeared forever behind the iron curtain.

**Bouncing Bob Butler**  
For years controversy has raged inside the state department regarding the relative merits of the career and the political diplomat. Career diplomats resent the intrusion of ambassadors appointed because they have ponied up during a

political campaign—and this resentment is sometimes justified. So, also, political appointees resent the lack of imagination, the routine viewpoint of many career diplomats.

One political ambassador who got cuffed around at first is bouncing Bob Butler, the former St. Paul, Minn., shipbuilder, who became U. S. ambassador to Australia.

Today, however, Butler is ambassador to Cuba and doing an A-1 job. Not only does he have the warmth and human quality which some career diplomats lack—and which Latin Americans love—but he has imagination. It was Butler who conceived the important idea of bringing President Prio of Cuba up to the United States on a good-will visit.

Good will between the United States and our Latin neighbors is something which needs a lot of working at. Since Statesman Sumner Welles got out of the state department it has been woefully neglected. But today, energetic, likable Bob Butler is doing a great job of warming up our good-neighbor policy—which is a lot more important than deciding who should sit where at dinner.

## Inman Pupils in 2-Act Operetta

INMAN—"Red Candles," an operetta in two-acts, was presented Thursday, December 23, in the school auditorium by the grade pupils of the Inman consolidated school to a capacity crowd.

The high school mixed chorus sang Christmas carols, under the direction of Supt. R. L. Gray. The operetta was under the direction of Miss Keyes Mrs. Bright, Mr. Coon and Mrs. Gray.

Those having principal parts in the operetta were: Carolyn Watson, as "Gilda"; Roger Krueger, "Jibby"; Evelyn Davis, "Mabel"; Ronald Coventry, "Lawyer Snidge"; Max Bohn, "Teddy"; Myrna Scholz, "Milly"; Jeanne Scholz, "Celia"; Yvonne Smith, "Mary"; Linnelle Tompkins, "Spirit of Christmas"; Shirley Sparks, "Madam Clara"; Bobby Davis, "Patsy"; a ragged urchin; Clayton Krueger, "Santa Claus," and Albert Kopejtka, "Snow Flake."

Santa's helpers, the gnomes, were played by Dickie Appleby, Roger Tompkins, Dale Coon, Arlyn Couch and Dewaine Krueger. The waifs were: Kay Coventry, Janice Sample, Jimmy Sawyer, Sammy Watson, Ronald Hansen, Bobby Reimers and Dickie Coventry.

The carol singers were: Delbert Farewell, Carolyn Reimers, Jimmy Scholz, Bert Smith, Doris Farewell, Harold Sobotka, Robert Ruther, Wilma Stamp, Olive Watson, Charles Geary, Luetta Coon, Lyle Kopejtka, Anita Sample and Beverly Britnell.

Portraying tinsel dancers were: Elizabeth Sobotka, Lois Morsbach, Irene Kopejtka, Frances Scholz, Carol Kadwalader, Vickie Sue Hutton, Beverly Smith and Brenda Coleman.

Norwegian dancers were: Carolyn Watson, Shirley Sparks, Ronald Coventry, Max Bohn, Anita Sample, Beverly Britnell, Harold Sobotka and Bert Smith.

Carolyn Reimers played "Mary" in the "Tableau"; Robert Ruther, "Joseph"; Delbert Farewell, Lyle Kopejtka and Jimmy Scholz were shepherds, and Luetta Coon was the reader. The primary pupils were the singers.

After the program, Santa Claus appeared and distributed treats provided by the Inman businessmen and the teachers.

## Golden Gloves Dates Are Set

NORFOLK—The twelfth annual AAU amateur Golden Gloves tournament will be held January 26 and 27 at the Norfolk city auditorium under the sponsorship of the American Legion post 16, of Norfolk. Preliminary bouts in all classes will be held the first night, January 26, with the semifinals and the finals being run off January 27.

The tournament this year will be a wide open affair as there will be no returning class champions. Bill Tannehill, winner of last year's fly-weight division, is the only returning class champion and he will move up into the bantam weight division this year.

Under a recent ruling by the AAU, contestants this year must enter the Golden Gloves tournament closest to their legal place of residence, so the 1949 tournament will be strictly for boys from Northeast Nebraska.

**O'NEILL LOCALS**  
Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Gillespie entertained at a family dinner on Christmas. Their guests were their parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Gillespie and Mrs. Della Eby and son, Robert.

For income tax service see: R. H. ("Ray") Shriner in O'Neill, 34-36c.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hynes spent Christmas in Kansas City, Mo., as guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. Vickland.

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## Yuletide Season Is Festive One

By A. STROLLER  
PHOENIX, ARIZ., Dec. 21.—This is the last week before Christmas and this city is aglaze with the beauty and animation of the season. The writer has always from early childhood been fascinated by the Christmas season. As a child, he lived in Northern Michigan, where snow, cold weather and evergreen trees, growing on the hills, made a fitting background for the event and he has also spent many years in the rigorous climate of the Midwest. He has a vivid recollection of the Yuletide in that kind of a setting.

Well, in a big city like Phoenix, situated as it is, in a mild winter climate, Christmas is the same joyous event as it is in a cold climate and the season is just as lively and colorful except for the snow. There is no snow in Phoenix at the Yuletide although the weather is crisp and snappy.

The writer has spent several Winters in Phoenix and the picture of the city at this season is a brilliant one. The streets are beautifully decorated, there is a Christmas tree, covered by bright lights and ornaments, in every store and shop window, there are great displays of holiday goods and vast crowds of shoppers and the home of the city also wear a festive air.

One feature of the Christmas season which the writer likes especially in Phoenix is the music. One hears the old, familiar strains of the Christmas carols in many places downtown and many of the churches present special musical programs during the season, including the famous cantatas and oratorios.

Last Sunday evening, for instance, Central Methodist church presented "The Messiah," sung by a choir of many voices and a number of soloists. It was very fine, as are various other productions in the churches at this season.

There is special thought for the poor and unfortunate at Christmas time in this city and you can hear the tinkle of the Salvation Army bells as they keep their "pots boiling" on the corners.

Yes, Christmas is a busy, lively and fascinating season in a city like Phoenix; but, after all, about the only difference between the event here and in smaller communities is that it is staged on a bigger scale. The spirit is the same.

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