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WEDNESDAY, December 29, 1954

Worth Saving

Current efforts to preserve the old Jones Point lighthouse and the nearby District of Columbia boundary marker are timely, in view of plans for construction of a bridge across the Potomac River at this location. These relics of a colorful early era on the Alexandria waterfront have historic interest and should be protected from destruction or defacement during the bridge building operations. In fact, as Representative Broyhill pointed out in a letter to the National Park Service, both the lighthouse and the boundary stone could be fitted into the landscaping scheme for the bridge approaches.

When the Jones Point light first beamed over the river more than a century ago the Potomac was a busy artery of commerce between the Washington area and downriver and Chesapeake Bay points. Alexandria was a thriving port in those days and its beacon on the point was symbolic of the importance of the river trade. In 1926 the lighthouse and the boundary stone (marking what was once the Alexandria corner of the District) were conveyed by an act of Congress to the Mount Vernon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on the condition that they be maintained in a reasonable state of repair. The DAR carried out its part of the bargain until 1933, when the Army took over the point for a secret Signal Corps installation. A security fence barred all visitors. Two years ago the Army decided to dispense with the installation and turned the tract over to the General Services Administration for disposal. Meanwhile the old lighthouse and the stone have deteriorated.

Mr. Broyhill is seeking the co-operation of the Park Service in obtaining congressional consent for restoration of the beacon and marker as part of the Jones Point bridge development. The cost would be relatively small. Such an investment would be well worth while.

Pie-Baking Contest

If two competitors for city business submit identical bids for a contract, the Commissioners certainly should have discretionary authority to choose between them. To leave such a choice to the toss of a coin or drawing straws is plainly ridiculous. The best interests of the city should be the controlling influence, other things being equal.

Two pie bakers submitted identical bids for selling pies to the school cafeterias. One of them is located out of town. The other is a Washington concern, a substantial taxpayer, property owner and employer. In the majority of counties, towns and cities throughout the country, a certain degree of credit would automatically go to the bidder domiciled within the taxing area. As a contributor to the community's upkeep, that credit is warranted. Furthermore, the outof-town bidder in this case lost a previous contract because of complaints, from the schools, about the product. Does that record play no part in making a decision between identical bids now?

The matter apparently is being left to the Controller General. If he decides that the Commissioners have no discretion, and that the bidders must gamble for the contract, then we need another law. A local taxpayer deserves the breaks, especially when his bid is as low as that of the fellow whose tax allegiance is elsewhere.

Toyland Revisited

It becomes apparent, in this week after Christmas, that the spring on the mechanical automobile, the built-in cry of the doll, and both halves of each roller skate are not going to last forever. They are getting particularly strenuous use, and there are unmistakable signs of imminent breakdown. The doll wheezes instead of crying. The mechanical automobile starts with a sound of stripped gears. Half of a roller skate has only this morning been an impediment to one in the daily rush of getting out of the house and off to work.

It is one of the hazards of parenthood, to be called upon trustingly for repairs in this post-Christmas week, without having any idea of how to go about making them. If a repaired doll sounds more like a kitten than a baby, one is in for trouble from a small mother. If the mechanical auto runs in circles, or fails to run at all, after one is through tinkering, faith and face will be lost. If, no matter how one hammers and pries, a skate which has come apart will not go back together again, there will be rumblings of discontent at the family hearth.

The publishers of "How to Do" books seem to have overlooked a good bet. There is a need for detailed drawings and numbered instructions on the inner workings of dolls and toy autos and roller skates. A display of these books at Christmas time, right in the middle of Toyland, would assure financial success for any proprietor. It is

commonly recognized, in this week of hindsight, that such a book would be a welcome present for the harried parent.

All Bark and No Bite?

In once again attacking the United States and reaffirming Red China's determination to "liberate" Formosa, Premier Chou En-lai has done little more than repeat what he has said several times before. However, in doing so, he has displayed enough persistency and enough bellicosity to suggest that the Peiping regime, with the Kremlin's blessing, may really be planning to launch an armed assault in an effort to seize the Chinese Nationalist stronghold from Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

On its face, of course, the possibility of such an attack seems to be very remote right now for two reasons above all. The first of these is that the powerful United States 7th Fleet is in the area in a combatready status and under firm orders to strike back with full force against any attempt to invade Formosa or the outlying Pescadores. And the second reason is this: That our country has formally committed itselfin the mutual security treaty signed with Chiang's government a few weeks ago-to take whatever other military action may be necessary, in the event of a Communist assault, to help the Chinese Nationalists hold on to the islands.

As Secretary of State Dulles has explained it, this commitment—a purely defensive undertaking designed to deter aggression-means that if Peiping tries an invasion. American forces will join Chiang's in counteraction of a sort that could include heavy blows against the mainland of Red China. Such blows, according to Mr. Dulles, would not necessarily be atomic, nor would they automatically result in general warfare, but unquestionably the worst kind of potentialities would be inherent in them. Accordingly, since there is reason to believe that the Chinese Communists do not want to take on the risk of all-out hostilities at this time, and since they apparently still lack the great amount of shipping and naval-air strength that would be needed to challenge the 7th Fleet with an amphibious attack across 100 miles of dangerous sea, their threat to "liberate" Formosa seems to be a rather empty mixture of bluff, bluster and braggadocio.

Yet, with all that said, the fact remains that within recent months the Peiping Reds have been going out of their way, with increasing frequency and mounting stridency, not only to demand the withdrawal of American political and military support from Chiang, but also to vow before the Chinese people and the entire world that nothing will deflect them from their "liberation" course. Is this just propaganda on their part-a bark that they cannot implement with a bite? Or could it possibly mean that they are preparing—with a promise of full support from the Soviet Union-to attempt to do what they have repeatedly threatened?

Considering the role of "face" in Asia, and the importance attached to it by the Chinese Communists, there is at least a little ground for cautious hesitancy before dismissing their rumblings as mere sound and fury signifying nothing. Conceivably, especially if they have the idea that the United States is bluffing, they may actually decide one of these days to strike out against Formosa. Hence, remote as it may appear to be at the moment, this is a possibility that our country-in view of its commitment to the island's defense-would be prudent to reckon with at all times.

Tito and Nehru Speak of Peace

President Tito of Yugoslavia and Prime Minister Nehru of India, after five days of consultation in New Delhi, have joined in a statement concluding that peaceful coexistence in the world must be accepted "not merely as an alternative but as an imperative." Not only the hopes of the people of the world, they explain, but "even the survival of civilization" renders such an acceptance a necessity.

On its face it is difficult to dispute successfully such a grave conclusion, for the development of awesome weapons projects a picture of near-total destruction if a great global war should occur again. But without attempting to dispute the conclusion of these statesmen of Europe and Asia, it must be remembered that the term peaceful co-existence-holding the key to their thesis—is one that requires careful definition. To be truly meaningful, it is obvious that the same definition must be applied by the rival forces in the world and that if genuinely peaceful co-existence is to be the goal it must not then be used as a screen for more cynical objectives. President Eisenhower has discussed this question eloquently at press conferences.

On November 23, for example, he was asked about fears that Soviet Russia may be promoting peaceful co-existence as a sort of Trojan horse to lull the free world into a sense of false security. In brief, his Bethesda, "I wrote you about a Baltianswer was that co-existence means not trying to destroy each other but that the adjective peaceful has many connotations. We think of peaceful in a sense of friendliness but if others use the term as a mask for unfriendly actions, the President said, it is something to watch very closely. Unfortunately, the Kremlin Communists have demonstrated by their aggressions and their threats that they must be watched that closely. It is likely that Marshal Tito and Mr. Nehru know this, also, even though they do not suggest it in their joint state-

However, these two leaders, while disclaiming any intention of forming a "third bloc" of neutralist powers, have pledged themselves to every effort toward relieving world tensions. They are strong figures whose influence has been proved not only in their own countries but beyond. Certainly, even though they are controversial in many respects, with views that sometimes seem much too vague or unrealistic to be reassuring, they can contribute to the conditions of peace which they espouse and certainly the free world welcomes their enlistment in this cause.

Germany Has Never Lost a Trade War

BONN.—To those industrialists, politicians or just men-in-the-street who believe that West Germany, in its attempt to shake off the shackles of defeat, has overreached itself and, by round-the-clock work in factories, homes and cities, has overstrained its industrial muscles, let me my the industrial muscles, let me—on the strength of a tour of Germany's indusemind them that there is a great deal of difference between over-

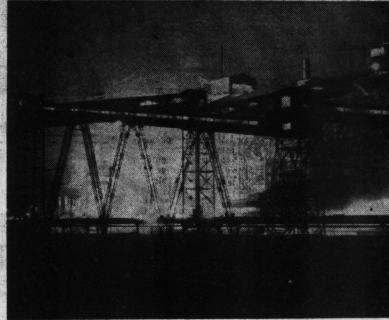
Popularly speaking the Germans are supposed to have "shot the works" in their postwar trade offensive. From now on, say non-German optimistic exporters, the intensity of the German trade drive will slacken appreciably as the workers demand higher wages at home in an attempt to reap some of the fruits of the harvest of foreign orders and foreign good will they have helped to gather in. What those fore-casters overlook is the fact that the current German trade boom, based on expert and carefully calculated planning, is likely to continue for many

As for the workers, they and their families are already receiving so many top-quality goods, shop windows over-flowing with a competitive variety of products that keep prices down—that they are unlikely to endanger this tide of prosperity by clogging work and output with wage negotiations. German capital, meanwhile, is looking ahead 20 years or more. Capital and technicians are filtering into the backward areas of the world-areas which, the Germans calculate, will be booming in a decade. They intend to be wellentrenched in these spots when the

booms begin. As an example of this long-term strategy, overtures to a country ruled by one family, Yemen, have prospered to the extent that Yemen is contemplating allowing German technicians to prospect there for oil. Instead of askng aid from other countries with considerably more experience in drilling, Yemen has reportedly granted the Germans a concession giving Yemen a 75 per cent share in both costs and profits. German firms meanwhile are receiving substantial orders from Yemen for building roads, supplying textile machinery and installing mine

Perhaps the most spectacular example of long-range German trade planning is Volkswagen's foreign subsidiary program.

Ordinarily Volkswagen is viewed as a "now and then" competitor of British motor manufacturers. This is true. But it is also true that Volkswagen—



Night'view of one of the busy steel mills in Germany's Ruhr, which is on the way toward regaining its prewar position as Europe's top industrial workshop.

thanks to its foreign plant construction is going to get tougher to outsell as the years pass.

Volkswagen is being sold today in virtually all West European countries as well as in India, Indonesia, Ceylon, Siam, Ireland, South Africa and Brazil Where high customs and tariffs make import of Volkswagen virtually imassembly plants are being established, using local labor.

Australia, for example, will soon have its own Volkswagen plant-ultimately to produce 1,000 units a month. In Brazil and other Latin American countries, German steel experts are helping governments and private firms to streamline Latin steel production.

Hardly a German diplomat leaves for South America who does not consult with German business experts prior to his departure. German official private observers in the Middle East keep a sharp eye on Egypt and India, countries where construction of huge power plants should enable them make tremendous progress toward industrialization.

What Krupp and Demag experts are to steel, Siemans is to power. Siemans, for example, has been offered a part in the building of a huge power plant

The Indian government, on advice from its German consultants, will lo-cate its first 500,000-ton steel plant at Rourekela in Orissa State. The Krupp-Demag experts decided on the site because of nearby iron deposits.

But more than India, the Near and Middle East, crisis-ridden and suspicious of any of the great world powers, are leaning toward the Germans.

German producers, however, not only to make sure that certain German products are shipped on German-built cargo vessels flying the German flag.

Today Germany (whose cargo fleet was mostly destroyed during the war or sailed under the flags of the countries entitled to German reparations) is in eleventh place in Lloyds of London's gross tonnage list with 1.749.543 tons.

Observers agree that the West German Federal Republic's success in foreign trade makes up for much of the -called "German economic wonder" cited time and again by Western states.

The Germans may have lost two World Wars, but, as they point out, they have never been beaten in a trade war. The answer, the Germans will tell you, is planning—planning 20 years

ahead.
(North American Newspaper Alliance)

Letters to The Star...

I have just finished reading Day Thorpe's criticism of the concert given by the Landon School chorus and I am sorry that he found so little to praise.

I also attended that concert. I went to enjoy the singing and to find therein the spirit of Christmas. That I did completely, as did several hundred others, to judge from the applause. It was a lovely and rewarding experience which brought me such pleasure that I must defend it after this unwarranted attack by Mr. Thorpe. I strenuously disagree with most of what he wrote, and was impressed by the following:

1. The program included traditional Christmas carols from many lands— France, Spain, Austria, Germany, England. There were also religious songs. some sung in Latin. Is this the "excesdepartment store variety" of which the critic made mention?

2. I did not notice any faulty diction on the part of the boys, and their attention was unusually good. Had Mr. Thorpe been paying close attention, how could he have failed to notice that these children never took their eyes from their chorus master and his direc-

Does Mr. Thorpe take into account that these boys are not professionals? They have limited time to practice, but they and their director worked hard together to put on a program of Christmas music. It was a long program, and a difficult one for these children, and feel that it is a cruel inaccuracy to dismiss them as "slovenly" and "queru-

I can only say that Mr. Thorpe must have a lot to learn about the art of enjoying music and I would suggest to him that he owes an apology to the Landon boys and to the fine musician who directs them.

Betsy S. Kiernan.

On December 20, Day Thorpe reviewed a concert given the previous vening by the Landon School Chorus and Glee Club at the National Gallery

The program was described by Mr. Thorpe as "largely of the assembly-hall kind, of no great distinction or

variety." and "of the excessively traditional department store variety." As a member of the glee club, I would like to give The Star's readers certain facts:

The first selection, "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light," is a portion of one of Johann Sebastian Bach's "The Christmas Oragreatest works. torio." Also included was a little-used work arranged by Bach, "A Child Is Born in Bethlehem."

Another seldom-used selection was "Christmas Rondelay," recently arranged by Ralph E. Marryott. The program also included a study in tone, "We Have Seen His Star," written by Everett Titcomb about five years ago. It was our music master, Wilfred A. Briggs, who introduced this work to the Washington area in 1950. Further, "Tell Us, Shepherds, Clear, All That You Have Seen," a Spanish traditional carol, was first performed in the District this year by the Landon Chorus. Mr. Briggs also took from manuscript derlein." since only two inaccurate English editions are available, and none in

"What Star Is This With Beams So Bright," another carol of German origin, was first put into the Episcopal Hymnal in 1940 to acquaint people with since it was considered an excellent but little-known carol. .

The whole group sang "Tolite Hostias," a portion of Saint-Saens' "Christmas Oratorio," which is one of his greatest works. Gustav Holst's arrangement of "Come Ye Lofty, Come Ye Lowly," effectively uses "The First Noel," as a descant. The two selections done by the glee

club alone, "Master in This Hall, Hear Ye News Today" and "The Boar's Head Carol," are used by many of the better college organizations with good effect. The only strictly "traditional" carols

were "Adeste Fideles," with a soprano descant and "Silent Night," which closed the program. I deeply regret that Mr. Thorpe did

not enjoy a program which we had a great deal of fun giving. Malcolm Sparhawk Langford, jr.

(Editor's note: Mr. Thorpe's review contained the complete program, as

All letters are subject to condensation. Case of Non-Saluting GI

Pen-names may be used if letters carry

writers' correct names and addresses.

The case of the Army private who was recently threatened with court-martial for "failing" to salute the flag seems to be a case of "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel." For why would officers of the United States Army consider what seemed to be a case of ducking into the orderly room instead of coming to attention when retreat was sounded and the flag was lowered as a threat to national se-curity? And at the same time the Army continues to cover up for officials re-sponsible for the promotion and hurried "honorable" discharge of the Fifth Amendment Communist, Major Irving

Of course, the boy may have taken to heart some of the left-wing propaganda which promotes internationalism at the expense of nationalism, devotion to our own country. Or he may have read the booklet recently issued by the United Nations instructemployes to consider their first loyalty as belonging to the United Nations, not to their own counhaving abs phy, he may have believed that saluting the flag was just "lip service" with no

If this is the case, then we are to blame, not the young man.

Too Much of a Puzzle

Being an occasional enthusiast of your cross word puzzle column, I wish to bring to your attention an obvious misleading and repetitious error that exhausted my patience and forced me to write you this letter.

If you look in The Star of Decem ber 20, you'll notice that the eighth entry down says "The immortal Duce," which should be "The immortal Duse." This same mistake appeared in a recent ouzzle again, adumbrating "Duce of italy." Of course, they both meant Eleonora Duse, the Armenian-Italian tragedienne of world-wide reputation of her time. Her name was changed from Armenian (Dusian) to (Duse) for professional reasons. I am aware of unavoidable, certain typographical errors that happen every now and then, but let me record this fact for the sake of let me record that historical accuracy.

This and That . . . By Charles E. Tracewell

Return of the oriole-'Late last winter," says B. B. of more oriole which had spent the winter in our vicinity, feeding from our back

porch tray every day.

"In your reply you gave us the impression that you thought we were mistaking a towhee for an oriole. But we are very familiar with the towhees and have had them very often in our

"So I took some colored snaps of our oriole in late February in order to show them to you, as we know you are interested in all birds.

"However, it was summer before the roll of film was finished. We were

away all summer so did not send you

away an summer so that not send you might never have received them at all—
"But Sunday noon, we spied our beautiful little visitor on the trellis over the tray. Needless to say, we were thrilled to see him again. And he has been feeding regularly since then been feeding regularly since then.

"Last year we thought his stay had been an accident, that he had failed

to stay with the rest of the orioles migrating to the tropics. But his arrival this year certainly seems deliber-

"He has resumed his little routine right where he left off late last winter. "So I am inclosing two snapshots which I think you will enjoy."
We are glad our correspondent mentioned trellises.

The trellis is a favorite of all birds

The yard that has one, though it may be small, is sure to have more birds than the garden without. There are many spots in and around

a yard where this form of simple decoration will go nicely. Especially on a porch.

The modern vogue of the one-story

house has ruled out the trellis, in many cases. Somehow, there seems to be little use for one. But still this fabric little use for one. is simple and fetching, when properly made and used.

Often a small porch takes on added coziness when a trellis is erected. The new vogue for "do-it-yourself" can take in a trellis easily, as it is just straight lines, and may he made from old

Properly put up, nailed securely, and correctly painted, the trellis still has uses around a modern home.

And the best part of it is that wild-birds love it.

This means that the spaces between

the lathes, as they often are, are not too wide, and that the material "goes" with the house

The builder of a modern trellis has

to be very careful, if he wants to get the best effect, and if he is to make the best appeal to the birds. That is why a narrow piece of wood

what the birds like is claw-width. The bird claw is a marvelous instru-ment, and the combination of claws much resembles a human hand. That

is, the birds somehow manage to get the same purchase or grip on things, and so are able to approach the dynamics of the human hand and arm operating

together. It will be realized that a fine place to erect a feeding station is close to

If there is a rose vine there, this also pleases the birds.

The thorns do not deter them in any Their claw material is thorn-

Birds possess elemental caution, and like to approach a feeding place, even a familiar one, a step at a Centuries have taught them not to

rush in, because a cat may be lurking The trellis next to the feeding tray enables all wintering birds-including the oriole!-to look the situation over first, before alighting close to the seed.

There is no prettier garden sight than that of a redbird perched on a rose vine in the exact center of the square of a The trellis or lattice has an ancient

history, and comes down to us with the aroma of vines and grapes. City and suburban people plant few grape vines nowadays, but if they put up a trellis, even a small one, they somehow connect themselves with old

times, and manage to keep some por-tion of it as their very own. This is particularly important in a day when people seem to want to throw overboard the good as well as the evil of the past.

Burning Dwarf Stars Studied by Scientists

Ejection Forces Seen Shooting Out Gases

By Thomas R. Henry Stars which weigh about 10 tons per cubic inch, among the weirdest objects in creation, are being studied by Car-negie Institution of Washington astron-

These are enormously hot, white dwarf stars revolving at speeds of nearly 100 miles a second. Some of them, according to the observations of Dr. Jesse L. Greenstein described in the institution's annual report, apparently are surrounded by thick envelopes, or at-

mospheres of turbulent gas. This indicates, says the report, that there must be enormous ejection forces in the interiors of these stars from which the atmosphere must have come. The gases must have been shot out at speeds of close to 5,000 miles a second.

Only 20 Known.

The white dwarfs, of which about 20 are known, are believed to be almost "solid matter." The atom, of which matter as known on earth is composed is mostly empty space with the distances between the nucleus and the outer electrons comparable, considering the sizes, to the distances between the sun and the planets. This kind of mat-

ter exists through most of creation. In the white dwarfs, however, a greater part of the outer electrons have been stripped away and the protons constituting the atomic nuclei pressed together so there is very little unoccupied space. There still is some left, though, or the matter composing them would be much heavier, approaching, according to some theoretical calculations, 1,000 tons a cubic inch. All these dwarfs are believed to be very old stars. perhaps in the final stage of their

Dr. Greenstein also has searched the heavens for stars which apparently are on the way to becoming white dwarfs and obtained spectra which may throw considerable light on the stages through

which they are passing. Most of the white dwarfs known are in the stellar neighborhood of the sun. They may be very numerous, but for the most part unobservable, throughout the entire Milky Way galaxy.

Appetite Centers.

Experiments with appetite centers in the brain, where lesions will cause rats to starve themselves to death, are reported by two Johns Hopkins Uni-

These centers are located in the hypothalamus, near the base of the brain, according to findings of Drs. Philip Teitelbaum and Eliot Stellar. If they are deliberately injured, the animals refuse to eat voluntarily and die of starvation in a few days. can be kept alive, however, by artificial

When this is done, the psychologists explain, the animals regain es tially normal feeding habits in from

six to 65 days. "There is an initial period." they say in a report to the American Association for the Advancement of Science here, "of complete refusal to eat." After this animals will accept only evaporated milk or, somewhat less readily, milk chocolate.

Accept Water Later.

Only later will they accept water and only after they have been drinking water will they accept the regular laboratory food. Individual differences in the time spent in each of these stages of recovery is very great, but the sequence of stages is almost in-

"Starvation itself is never a sufficient inducement to eat. Even after animals had been eating evaporated milk and chocolate they still refused to eat laboratory food when deprived of these special foods, to the point of

great weight loss.
"It seems that the hypothalamic le sions impair an excitatory mechanism important in eating. Fat may elicit eating behavior sooner and more readily than other foods. Thoroughly re-

covered rats still seem to have a heightened fat appetite."

The research was sponsored by the Army Quartermaster Corps' Food and Container Institute.

Questions and Answers A reader can get the answer to any question of fact by writing The Evening Star Information Bureau, 1200 Eye St. N.W., Washington 5. D. C. Please inclose 3 cents for return postage.

By THE HASKIN SERVICE

Q. Are business firms using the giant electronic calculators to any extent?-

A As yet few of the hig electronic computers are being used by business firms, but it is expected that the number will increase as their usefulness becomes better known. The cost of these machines is tremendous. One model sells for \$1 million, or can be rented for \$300 an hour. Others are leased only, the fee being about \$25,000

Q. Where does W. Somerset Maughan live?_R. S. Z.

A. Villa Mauresque at St. Jean-Cap Ferrat on the French Riviera is the celebrated author's home. Visitors have ommented on Maughan's use of the cabalistic motif on the gates and over the door of the house. The sign, which, appears in all Maughan's books, was discovered in Morocco by his father a hundred years ago. It is supposed to ward off the evil-eye.

Madonna of the Poinsettias

This verdant yuletide spirit cannot fill My winter heart, I thought; but there she stood Knee-deep in waves of red-her shadow would Have drawn my eye, so sharp it was,

until noticed how her face was dark and How deep her thoughts that were se-

renely good
Yet bore no roots to blossoms growing; could Triumphant color warm my winter

Her shadow leaned against the field of flame A slender stem in floods of Christmas flowers. Rich bracts of bloom upon the earth-

brown bed;
And where she stooped to pick, the beauty came And crowded out my loneliness-the

hours Of wanting snow—with hallelujah red Bernice Ames