WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD

by Norman Bicle

RUSSIA

Russia covers one-sixth of the world's land surface, and this month delegates from its most remote corners gathered at a meeting of the Supreme Soviet in Moscow. There were Uzbeks from Central Asia wearing skullcaps; Caucasians in smocks; Yakuts from the Arctic wearing white fickide boots; and others whose appearance and dress mirrored the 189 nationalities—count 'em—189—who make up Russia's population.

The Supreme Soviet includes 1085 members of the Communist party (the only party allowed to exist) and 254 non-party Bolsheviks. And all 1339 of them were simply there for the trip—as they are "yes-men" and nothing else.

They hold sessions to approve the decrees of the Politburo, which controls both the Communist Party and the Ministries of Government. They would no more think of disapproving than of spitting—publicly, that is—on Uncle Joe Stalin's picture. The main order of business was to approve the 1949 budget—in which the Russian armed forces get, 79 billion rubles, as compared to 66 billions last year.

The meeting drew world attention—not so much because of the budget but because of the dramatic shifts in the Soviet high command which has just been announced.

The Politburo was present—and Molotov sat at Stalin's right hand. His appearance there seemed to lend weight to the theory that Molotov has by no means been demoted. Instead, he has been relieved of his duties as Foreign Minister in order to devote more time to bigger policy tasks—possibly that of succeeding Stalin.

Should this occur, there will probably be little change in the Russian attitude toward the "war-mongers" of the west. As one ribald observer put it, "the only real difference between Molotov and Stalin is that Joe's' moustache is more liable to get into the soup."

THE UNITED STATES

Just a month before the Normandy invasion—on May 11, 1944 to be exact — the German radio broadcast a program titled "Vision of Invasion." It depicted an "Ohio mother" dreaming of all the horrors of D-Day. There were vivid sound effects of screams, groans and battle noises and the program was "beamed" both toward the United States and at American troops in England —the play reaching an agonized climax with the death of the "Ohio mother's" soldier son.

The part of the mother was played by "Axis Sally" — in real life Mildred Elizabeth Gillars, now 48, an American who had lived in Germany for years and who had handled many other Nazi propaganda assignments.

Last January Axis Sally went on trial for treason at Washington. Records of her broadcasts were played in court. German actors identified her voice. Her defense was that she had been forced to broadcast — and that anyway she had taken the German oath of allegiance, and so was not guilty of treason to the United States.

Early this month the jury found Miss Gillars guilty of treason, specifically on the count of her participation in the "Vision of Invasion" broadcast. Her lawyer immediately petitioned for a re-trial. If the motion for this is not successful, Miss Gillars faces a minimum sentence of five years in prison.

And, all things considered, if she gets off with the minimum, most folks will think it little enough.

CHINA

In spite of his retirement as President, it seems as if Chiang Kai-shek is still putting a finger, or perhaps two of them, into the Chinese political pie. His influence is still strongly felt, and various high-placed Chinese figures either telephone or visit him regularly.

So Nationalist China seems to be in the state of not being able to get along with Chiang, and not being able to get along without him—especially since a number of key army commanders will take orders only from him.

Before he left Nanking, Chiang appointed his own men to posts along the line of retreat extending along the Fukien coast to Formosa. At the same time he started a southward movement from the Nanking-Shanghai area of government files, equipment of all descriptions, military supplies and the central government's gold reserve.

A considerable sum in gold is in Formosa, where it is conveniently separated from the mainland. Looking on Formosa as their last bastion, top Chinese officials have not been unmindful of the fact that American military men have displayed more than passing interest in that island, which lies along the communication line between Japan and the Philippines.

Chiang himself regards his fight with the Communists as part of the larger international struggle. People close to him have clearly indicated that he is pinning his hopes on an intensification of Russian-American differences in the Far East.

To Fight For The Heavyweight Crown—Ezzard Charles, left above, and Jersey Joe Walcott are set to fight a 15-round match in Chicago next June for the heavyweight crown vacated by Joe Louis. The Brown Bomber himself, now turned promoter, will sponsor the match.

SPORTS &c

by A SIXBIT CRITIC

Among the countless Canadians who take an interest in Big League baseball doings, the Brooklyn Dodgers probably number more followers than any of the other fifteen clubs in the two major loops. If you happen to be one of these, our advice is to keep an eye on how Rex Barney goes this season; as there is better than a fair chance that he might develop into one of the greatest pitching sensations of all time.

* * *

A few words regarding the colorful Mr. Barney might not be amiss. If, in dishing them out to you, we lean rather heavily—although unbeknownst—on the writings of Arthur Daley of the New York Times, think nothing of it. When we started out in this writing dodge we resolved that, should we find it necessary to steal, we'd only do so from the best available sources.

* * *

When Barney first reported, as an 18 year old kid, to the Dodgers back in 1943, Branch Rickey kept insisting that he'd develop into one of the greatest pitchers in the game. Of course Rickey might have been a trifle prejudiced, seeing that he owned Rex; but Joe DiMaggio should be able to give an unbiased opinion. And DiMag—after batting against Barney—declared that he was faster than Bobby Feller in his prime.

* * *

Yet, up to the middle of last season, Rex never really clicked. He was so utterly lacking in control that all he could show for his first twelve games was one 11-inning tie. This caused Lippy Leo Durocher, then manager of Brooklyn, to say "That kid just hasn't got it, and he'll never pitch another important game for me!"

* * *

A few days later Durocher was out of the driver's seat and soft-spoken Burt Shotten was handling the reins. Shotten seemed to have Barney's number; and Rex proceeded to string up eleven wins in a row. He probably made Durocher sorry for his harsh words too; for one of his victories was a no-hit, no run game against the Lippy One's New York Giants.

* * *

One trouble with Barney was that he never had a real chance to learn his trade. After entering organized ball he moved up with dizzying rapidity, going from Durham to Montreal to Brooklyn in the space of four months. And the first pitch he made at each of those stops was—well, out of the ordinary, to say the least.

* * *

The first ball he threw at Durham eluded the catcher, barged through the screen behind the plate, and hit a sports writer on the head—probably the least vulnerable spot he could find on any of that tribe. The kind of support he got at Durham made winning rather difficult. His team-mates made as many as nine errors in one game. He pitched a one-hitter—and lost, 1 to 0. Once he had a 5-4 lead going into the eighth and Bruno Betzel, his manager, grimly advised him that if he wanted to win, he had better strike out the next six men. So Rex obediently struck out the next six men.

* * *

Fresco Thompson, the Montreal manager, didn't want anybody so green—and when Barney got to the Quebec metropolis he sat on the bench until he had a hole worn through it. On orders from above Thompson finally started Barney. His first pitch went a foot behind Goody Rosen's back and tore out the screen. The next few batters were so afraid to take a toe-hold that Fresco Thompson cracked, "It was the only pitch I ever saw that retired eight batters in a row." But Barney lost that game—in the 13th inning.

* * *

That was his only Montreal showing. Brooklyn called him, and he started for the Dodgers the same afternoon he arrived. His first heave hit Eddie Stanky, then of the Chicago Cubs, in the middle of the back, and the score was tied when he was removed in the fifth. His record for that year was 2 wins & losses.

* * *

When he got back from war service in 1946 he was bad when he pitched and spent most of the time on the bench. Although 1947 could have been a big year, it wasn't till the World's Series that he really rose and shone. In a daring move he was started against the Yankees. He walked George Stirnweiss, Tommy Henrich doubled, Johnny Lindell walked to fill the bases. And up to the plate stepped Joe DiMaggio.

* * *

Cyde Sukeforth raced out toward the mound and Barney thought he was going to be yanked. "Nothing to it, Rex," said Sukeforth with a grin. "Just strike the big bum out."

* * *

So, with the bases jammed, Rex Barney fanned baseball's most dangerous hitter. He threw out George McQuinn on a force at the plate. And he fanned Billy Johnston.

* * *

"All my life I'd been a Yankee fan and DiMaggio was my idol," Barney said afterward. "I sorter felt ashamed of myself. But then I thought that if I could do this to the very best of them, I might do all right with the others."

* * *

What happened last year, we have already told you. After a poor start under Durocher, his new self-confidence really blossomed playing for Burt Shotten. He warmed up for his no-hitter with a one-hitter against the Phils—and the one hit was of the lucky variety.

* * *

By the end of the 1948 season there wasn't a better pitcher in baseball. That's why we think it might be interesting to keep tabs on how he goes in the coming campaign.

Merry Menagerie—By Walt Disney

He was dreaming of seafood, and began drooling!"

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PICKUPS

As the little birdies well know, many a love nest is built on stronger foundations than a couple of little limb.—Schleswig Leader.

A psychologist for children says a spanking misses its aim. We didn't when we were a lad.—Marathon Republic.

If you want to kill your wife with curiosity, just clip a brief item from the paper before she's read it.—Estherville News.

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LITTLE REGGIE

By Margarita

Found—Right At Home—12 Acres

Don't cuss those creeks which run through your land—move them instead. The extra land will pay for all in short order—that is if experience is anything like that of A. S. Bledsoe, who farms near Kittitas County in the state of Washington. Here's what happened to him.

A couple of streams which meandered "every which way" across his farm had him pretty well disgusted. Like your own streams perhaps, they flooded every spring, and sometimes during the growing season, if rains were heavy. When the land wasn't too wet to put in a crop, the creeks would sneak out of their banks later and wash most of it away. They were a nuisance all around, too.

Trouble, it's different. Bledescoe's is the driver's seat now, and he has those streams exactly where he wants them!

Handiest place for a creek, he figured, is next to the fence.- And if you've got to have them in the middle of the field, they're a lot less trouble if they're straight. So that's what he did—he moved and straightened. The heavy machinery and common sense did the trick.

Both those streams still empty into the next farm just where they did before—that's important for legal reasons.

The cost?. Rent of the machinery and the pay of the operators amounted to about $1,000. A little steep at first glance, but take another look at his farm. It's 12 acres larger now.

And all of the acres are better land. Spring and summer floods are a thing of the past. The new channels are straight—free of trees and brush. The whole field, as well as the 12 extra acres, is well drained, producing bigger and better crops. Bledsoe thinks he'll have his $1,000 back in the bank by the end of the year.

He isn't the only "stream-straightener" in his area. A E. Snyder, a neighbor, also straightened a branch of Aneicum creek. Other farmers have moved parts of Wilson, Cooke, and Coleman creeks to enlarge and improve their farms.

Several part-time creeks which carry water only during heavy rainfall periods have also been moved and changed with equally good results.

No stream has been straightened for its entire length. It evidently isn't too important that neighboring farmers change the course of your creek on their land. No one has to be "forced into" anything.

The Kittias Reclamation District, which irrigates much of the valley, is 100% behind the farmers. It leases its dragline and bulldozer at three-fourths of actual operating cost. The District makes the reduction because of the drainage benefits to the area.

If you're thinking of straightening the streams and improving the value of your farm, a word of warning. Check to be sure it's okay with anyone who may have water rights on the stream. It's a good idea to talk it over with your neighbor first, anyway.

BUTTONHOLES: HOW TO MAKE THEM LAST

If buttons could talk, they might complain about their buttonholes and say, "You just don't know what I've been through!"

Buttonholes do have a way of getting dog-eared, and the question of what makes a buttonhole wear well is of interest to women who sew as well as manufacturers.

Never caught napping when there is a study to be made, specialists of the Agriculture Department's Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics found that the number of stitches per inch is of first importance in making buttonholes resist friction. Increasing the number of stitches per inch—up to a certain point—has a strengthening effect. The type of thread, the quality of fabric and the kind of stitch also affect wearability.

Buttonholes made with unmercerized thread were found to be superior to those made with mercerized thread.

May Revolutionize The Milk Industry — Dr. Roy Graves is seen inspecting the machinery he helped originate for canning fresh milk. He developed his idea in conjunction with Roy Stambaugh, a dairy farmer, and the two claim that the machine could bring about an economic revolution in the dairy industry. Both admit, however, that much still remains to be done before the process is perfected.

THE FARM FRONT

by John Russell

Here's a hint from a Michigan farmer which might be of value to some of you. He writes, "To have the cleanest-looking potatoes I mark a deep furrow with a one-horse shovel plow, drop the seed, and tramp them in by foot. Then I fill the furrow with chopped straw, and on the straw I sprinkle commercial fertilizer generously.

* * *

With the one horse plow I run a furrow, completely covering the straw. The first rains wet this straw and it stays moist. The fertilizer acts vigorously, the potatoes come in a hurry and make a good early crop, wet weather or dry."

* * *

What happens to chickens if they happen to eat the weed-killing chemical 2, 4-D? Nothing, according to an Agricultural Experiment Station, the workers at which even went so far as to feed the chemical directly to the birds.

* * *

Two lots of 14-weeks-old cockerels were used in one test. One lot received the chemical in drinking water, and the other in mash. In both cases the concentrations were far in excess of the amount birds could get by grazing on range that had been sprayed to control weeds. All birds remained healthy and normal during and after the experiment.

* * *

A second test was conducted by placing six-months-old White Leghorn pullets on ranges and then spraying the foliage with heavy dates of 2,-D; 2,4,5-T; and ammate. Grain feedings were restricted to insure plenty of grass consumption. Again the chickens showed no ill effects.

* * *

Elsewhere on this page appears a picture of Canada's four champion plowmen who — by taking top honors at the International Plowing Match held near Lindsay — won themselves a trip to the British Isles. According to all reports they had themselves a wonderful time, besides bringing fresh honors to Canada.

* * *

The four plowmen, accompanied by Elliot Moses, Director of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, sailed from New York aboard the new British liner "Caronia" which made the Atlantic crossing in six days— a mark she will probably better considerably once she gets properly "soopled up".

* * *

Landing at Southampton they were greeted by representatives of the Canadian National Railways and and after a day spent sight-seeing the Anglo-American Oil Company; in London, they took the train for Newquay, Cornwall, some 250 miles away, to compete in the West England Plowing Match. Both Alvin Mark, of Millbank, and Rhys Bacher of Hagersville won prizes in this, their first competition in the British Isles.

The Canucks did better than this in the International Plowing Match held at Limavady, near Belfast, in the north of Ireland, taking first, second and third prizes, which is pretty close to par for the course. A record-breaking crowd of over fifty thousand watched them do their stuff.

* * *

In addition to the North Ireland match and the West England competition the Canadians were also among the prize winners at the Empire Plowing Match at Workington, England. They also visited Scotland and a tour of the farms around Edinburgh and Glasgow was one of the real highlights of the trip.

* * *

Altogether the Canadian plowmen spent four weeks in the British Isles, returning to New York and then taking the Canadian National Railways Maple Leaf to Toronto. That is to say three of them did — the only unmarried member of the party, Wilbert McFaddin of Millbank, deciding to stay in England for another couple of weeks

* * *

All of which sounds as though plowing a straight furrow can pay, off in other ways besides better crops. With which highly moral sentiment I'll come down out of the pulpit for another week.

Canada's Champion Plowmen are shown above, looking at a map of Great Britain, after they arrived in Toronto on board the Canadian National Railways "Maple Leaf" train from New York. The Canadian plowmen were awarded a trip to the British Isles in order to compete in plowing competitions there, and to better observe British ways of farming. From left to right: Robert Timbers of Stouffville, Alvin Mark of Millbank, Elliot Moses, Director of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, and Rhys Bacher of Hagersville.

Squelch

He was, to put it mildly, a trifle conceited.

"I'll bet you have been out with yellows who were worse looking than me," he suggested to his girl friend.

There was no reply.

"I said," he repeated, "I'll bet you've been out with worse looking fellows than me."

"All right—all right— I heard you the first time," she snapped. "I'm just trying to remember!"

Hints For Home Carpenters

The principal unit of measure for lumber is the board foot, although patterned lumber and some finishing lumber is usually sold by the linear foot.

"What is a board foot?"

One board foot is a board 1 foot square and 1 inch thick or its equivalent in volume. It is abbreviated b.m. The common unit is 1,000 board feet and is designated M.b.m. For example, 5,000 board feet is designated 5 M.b.m.

"Is board measure based on actual or nominal size?"

Lumber is measured and sold on the basis of nominal size, that is, the actual size of a dressed 2 x 4 (nominal dimension is 1½x3½).

"Are there any simple rules for figuring board feet?"

Yes. There are few. To find the number of board feet in a

1 x 4—divide the linear feet by 3
1 x 6—divide the linear feet by 2
1 x 8 and 2 x 4—divide the linear feet by 3 and multiply by 2
1 x 10—divide the linear feet by 6 and multiply by 5
1 x 12 and 2 x 6—take total linear feet
2 x 8—multiply the linear feet by 1⅓
2 x 10—multiply the linear feet by 10 and divide by 6
2 x 12—double the linear feet

"How dry should lumber be before using?"

Interior finish and softwood flooring should not contain more than 11 per cent moisture; hardwood flooring, 10 per cent; and siding, exterior trim, and framing, not more than 12 per cent.

"How many studs are required for walls and partitions?"

When studs are spaced 16 inches on center, an approximate rule is to allow 1¼ studs for each foot of wall and partition. This will allow for braces, headers, and doubling at doors and windows.

"How much allowance should be made for waste in siding?"

This will depend upon width and exposure. The following figures are approximate:

Bevel or Lap	Exposure	Waste Allowance
6-inch	4½-inch	25 per cent
6-inch	4½-inch	33 per cent
5-inch	3½-inch	40 per cent
5-inch	3½-inch	50 per cent
4-inch	2½-inch	50 per cent

This means that you take total square feet of wall surface, and add percentage of waste shown. The result will be board feet to buy.

"What are the waste allowances for flooring?"

Waste allowance varies with wigth as follows: 1½ inches, 40 per cent; 2½ inches, 35 per cent; 3½ inches, 30 per cent; 4½ inches, 25 per cent; and 5½ inches 20 per cent.

"What about sheathing?"

To the actual superficial area, including openings, add the following percentages for waste: For unmatched lumber applied diagonally, 1 x 6, 20 to 25 per cent; 1 x 8, 18 to 22 per cent; 1 x 10, 15 to 20 per cent. If boards are matched, add about 5 per cent in each case.

"How many nails are required for different kinds of work?"

1,000 feet beveled
siding ..... 18 pounds 6d.
1,000 feet
sheathing .... 20 pounds 8d com.
1,000 feet
flooring ..... 30 pounds 8d
1,000 feet
studding .... (5 pounds 20d com.

"What size should lintels and headers be?"

Lintels and headers over openings in farm dwellings should be doubled and set on edge. Spans for lintels or headers should not exceed the following for size given:

Spans up to 4 feet—two 2 x 4's
Spans 4 to 5½ feet—two 2 x 6's
Spans 5½ to 7 feet—two 2 x 8's
Spans 7 to 10 feet—two 2 x 10's

USE OF PARAFFIN CUTS DOWN SOCK WEAR

If your socks are in the habit of developing holes in the heels at a rapid rate, what you need is less darning cotton and more paraffin. In this case, a rub in time saves nine. Hose components recommend rubbing on a little wax at toes and heels of socks to save wear and eventual holes. It will not show and will last through several washings.

Answer to Crossword Puzzle

YOU WOMEN WHO SUFFER HOT FLASHES then FEEL CHILLY—

Here's Good News!

Are you between the ages of 38 and 52 and going through that trying functional "middle-age" period peculiar to women? Does this make you suffer from hot flashes, feel clammy, so nervous, irritable, weak? Then try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to relieve such symptoms! It's famous for this!

Many wise "middle-age" women take Pinkham's Compound regularly to help build up resistance against this distress.

Pinkham's Compound contains no opiates—no habit-forming drugs.

It helps nature (you know what we mean!). This great medicine also has what Doctors call a stomachic tonic effect.

Why don't you may prefer LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S TABLETS with added iron.

Lydia E. Pinkham's VEGETABLE COMPOUND

MAKES GALLANT RESCUE AFTER CAR JUMPS ROAD

1. Swerving to pass a wagon, the car left the road and hurtled 15 feet into the Sea. Anne River. Morin somehow managed to free himself and swim ashore.

2. Hearing cries for help, he saw one of his comrades floundering in the current . . . and immediately swam 50 feet out and brought the drowning man to safety.

3. The gallant Morin then dove in once more — this time in an effort to free his friend trapped in the car. In spite of his speed, Morin was too late to save the man's life.

WINS DOW AWARD