Card Trick Gave General Smooth TV Informality

WASHINGTON, D. C. — A card trick enabled Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower to give one of the smoothest television performances on record when he reported to the nation on his European tour recently.

The technique was first used for John Barrymore, who had a great profile, but couldn't remember his lines. The movie studios would print his part on blackboards and Barrymore would read his lines as he went about his acting business.

The plan was modernized and perfected for Gen. Eisenhower. Instead of blackboards, his speech was printed on big cards, about three by four feet. The lettering was over two inches high and the lines were widely spaced for easy reading.

Smooth Performance

People who saw this Eisenhower "show" on their TV screens rated it one of the smoothest performances on record. It looked as if he had either memorized his report or was making it up as he went along. It was smooth and even. No stumbling. Every sentence perfect. Most viewers thought it was extemporaneous.

The TV audience, of course, couldn't see the big cards. They were below the cameras, and he seemed to be looking right into the lens—and the home—every minute. This gave the viewers the impression he was addressing each one of them, personally and individually.

Eisenhower is far sighted and could read the cards without the glasses he uses for close work. That eliminates the reflections which mar the TV appearance of spectacle wearing men such as President Truman.

There were from 100 to 120 hand lettered words on each of the 21 cards. It took three men all afternoon to make them. A number had to be made over, as Eisenhower revised his text up to the last moment. Two army officers stood with the cards, and moved them as he spoke to give an even delivery.

Method Will Be Copied

Words that the general wanted to emphasize were spelled out in capital letters, like this:

"WESTERN Europe is the cradle of our civilization, from her originally we drew our strength, genius and culture. BUT OUR concern in Europe is far more than sentimental. OUR OWN security is directly involved."

Such cards aren't the only method of getting the text before the speaker for easy reading. Manuscript pages can be photographed on microfilm, then projected on a viewer. Or, it can be put on a tape, and the tape run through a projecting machine like brokers use to watch stock market transactions.

Eisenhower's appearance was so successful, however, that political spellbinders will undoubtedly copy his technique. Which means that we may develop a run of far sighted politicians.

Palm Beach Couple Demolishes Mansion to Build Comfy Home

PALM BEACH, Fla.—Mrs. Jose de Landa of New York complained she was tired of living in a ling three floor winter home wanted something comfortable.

So, Mr. de Landa called in a wrecking crew, had the structure knocked down and buried by bulldozers and a small home built on top of the old one.

The huge de Landa home was built several years ago at a cost of $80,000. Builders said it couldn't be duplicated now for $1,000,000.

Sixty-five men, armed with a 3,000 pound steel ball attached to a crane, and squads of bulldozers took one month to rip down the house. There is a six foot elevation for landscaping where the huge pile was buried in a hole 100 feet wide, 200 feet long and 26 feet deep.

Firm Keeps Throwing Away Safe, but It Always Returns

VICTORIA, B.C. — Hall, Richard & Sons, coal dealers of Victoria, just can't get rid of their old iron safe.

Trying to get rid of it several years ago they left it on a vacant lot. Kindly citizens returned it.

The coal dealers buried it on the same spot—hoping to see the last of it. But a bulldozer recently unearthed it while working on an excavation. Detectives hunted up the owners and returned it.

A partner of the firm said :"It's going to the junk pile—I hope for keeps."

Case of a Missing Jury Is Solved After All-Day Search

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The case of the lost jury caused a number of chuckles around Grand Rapids courthouse. Judge Leonard Verdier excused the jury while an attorney argued a motion. When the arguments were finished the jury was nowwhere to be found. After an all-day search, a court attendant happened to walk into the jury room. There was the jury, waiting for someone to call them back to court.

Chorus Line Hoofer Is Honor Graduate Of Hunter College

NEW YORK—Lois Jean Prechtl was graduated cum laude from Hunter College recently.

She put herself through school by hoofing in a chorus line, sitting with babies, working in a dime store and twirling from a circus rope as high above the ground as the six-story tenement in which she lives.

On the day she was graduated she said, "This is really a big thrill for mother, but I can't say I'm as excited about getting graduated as about getting the work over. I really didn't like studying very much. I want to do other things, exciting things."

When she said work she knew what she was talking about. She was in junior high school when she got her first job. In Walton high school, where she was graduated at the age of 15, she bought her books with money earned by baby-sitting one night and tutoring French the next.

One semester after she enrolled in Hunter college—on proceeds of the tutoring and some "thrown-in jobs" she ran out of money and took a job dancing with Ringling Bros. —Barnum & Bailey circus. They talked her into climbing a high-rope and doing upside down pirouettes in the air, minus a net.

She recalls that she thought, "If I can do that I'll never be afraid of anything again."

The $60 a week with the circus for six months earned enough to send her back to Hunter for another year, but then she was "flat broke again and had to get out." Auditioning with Olsen and Johnson, she won a chorus girl job with their 1948 revue, "Laffacade."

The next summer, broke again, she traveled with the Radio City rockettes as captain of their chorus line. She also tutored college students in French and French-speaking immigrants in English.

In her spare time, Lois took care of her three-year-old brother, Joey, one of five children in the Prechtl family.

Coin 1,000 Years Old Found In Norway Silver Treas

NEW YORK—A tr ver, estimated at 1 including 800 co cheological valu cently durin Trondheim, Some of by the A bertus and of England an are of German a The coins may t on trade routes and rents in Viking time The find includes crucifixes from Nor Christian period. Onl ilar crucifix has been fore in Norway.

Workman's Stomach Gives U Axle, Drill, Wrench, Spring

LONDON, Eng.—It start be a simple operation. B tor found in the stom year-old Irish workm

One bicycle axle, si one twisted drill, thr inches long; one bi five inches long, a spring, three inches lo

Conscious again and su a list of what had been removed, the patient frowned.

"I'm afraid there's a bit of a hacksaw in there yet," he said.

The hacksaw fragment was three and a quarter inches long.

The doctor reported the patient doing well both mentally and physically.

U.S. Safer Place in 1950 Than in '49 by 1,000 Lives

CHICAGO—The United States, except for its highways, was a safer place to live in 1950 than in 1949.

The national safety council estimated that 90,000 persons were killed in accidents in the year just past—with automobiles taking the highest toll. This was 1,000 less than the 1949 total, a reduction of 1 per cent.

The council said about 8,900,000 persons were injured in accidents in 1950 and set the cost at $7,700,000,000.

Thirty-five thousand died in auto accidents, an increase of 11 per cent over the 1949, the council said. Accidents in the home caused the second largest toll—27,500 victims.

Russia Claims More People Over 100 Than Any Country

MOSCOW — Russia which has claimed more firsts than any nation in modern history, put forth a new claim recently. Now the Russians claim more persons over 100 years old in their country than in any other.

According to the magazine Doctor's Gazette, published by the ministry of health, there are more than 10,000 persons more than 100 years old in the USSR.

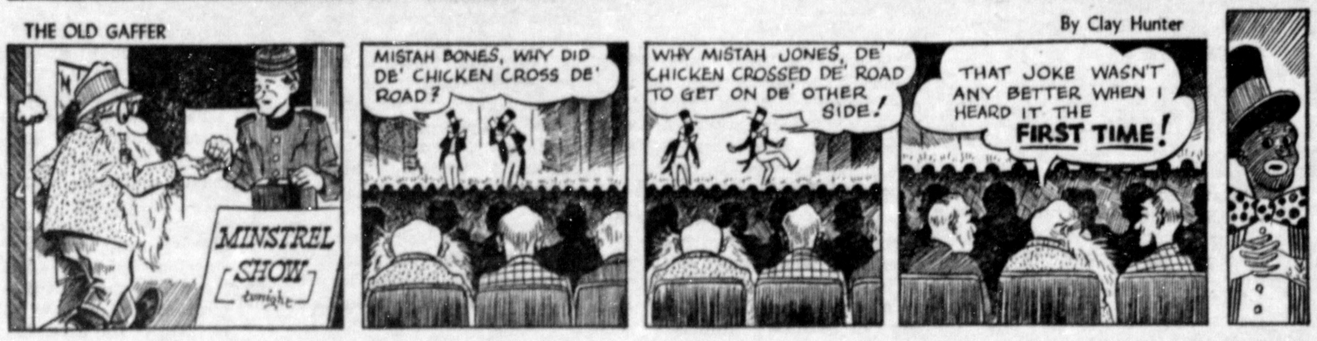
The magazine said the oldest man in the Soviet Union is Mamsyr Klut, 154, living in Georgia, and the oldest woman is Kamazan Khanum, 127, of Turkmen.

It told of one 144 year old collective farmer who worked 256 days on a farm last year. And a man, 111, actively works at fishing, hunting and carpentry, the magazine said.

VIRGIL — By Len Kleis

SUNNYSIDE — by Clark S. Haas

THE OLD GAFFER — By Clay Hunter



BESSIE — By NICK PENN

D JEFF — By Bud Fisher

By Arthur Pointer

WYLDE AND WOOLY — By Bert Thomas