



STILL ACTING AT 68

Charlie Chaplin holds long knife to throat at 68th birthday celebration in Vevey, Switzerland, today. With the comedian is his wife, Oona, who is awaiting the arrival of their sixth baby. Their other five children did not take part in the celebration, since all are in the south of France. A birthday cake is in front of Chaplin who told newsmen: "When you get to be 68, you don't want to cut your throat."

AP Wirephoto

Navy Show Star Is Now A Businessman, Suburban Mayor

By JANE BECKER
Canadian Press Staff Writer
MONTREAL (CP)—Canada's 12 years ago was toasting John Pratt as the raffish, shifty-footed pedlar of a song called "You'll Get Used to It," in the highly successful navy show.

Today a tweedy, slow-voiced Montreal businessman, Mr. Pratt talks earnestly of water rates in suburban Dorval—of which he is mayor—or real estate operations and the future of the Progressive Conservative party.

"Theatre? A crazy life, peopled by dreamers," he says. "You can make twice as much money in real estate. An actor rides the crest for a time, then he's nothing. And the dressing rooms! Beaverboard boxes full of grease stains and cracked mirrors. Apalling!"

THIS WAS DIFFERENT
"Ah, a wonderful freak. They took 120 men and girls from the ranks, planted them on stage with a few piecemeal lines and some drummed-up songs. They played to packed houses halfway around the world for three years. I think we could have played London's west end for years," he said. "But some of the cast got homesick for a Canadian hot dog so we folded."

Pratt's two comedy sidemen of the navy show stayed with the theatre. Bob Gordon, later a member of the Stratford Festival Company in Stratford, Ont. Lionel Murton has become a television, radio and stage actor in England.

Pratt did a few Canadian tours after the war, first with Brian Doherty in "The Drunkard," later with the Davis brothers (founders of Toronto's Crest Theatre) in "There Goes Yesterday." He took a course in television in New York, but little came of it.

WORKED IN KOREA
But when Montreal entertainer Jacques Normand led a five-man variety troupe to Korea in 1953, Pratt was there. He calls it one of the most satisfying things he ever did.

"You'll Get Used to It was pulled from the theatrical duffbeag and sung again. Pratt says he'll do it only for fighting men. "The ones it's meant for."

Today, at 50 he lives a suburban life with his sons Robin, 17, and John, 20, devoting himself to politics—unpaid—and residential real estate, which pays very well.

Last fall, as Dorval's mayor, he asked the province for a loan to buy parkland. "Speculators had bought up so much there was none left for the residents," he complained.

The province replied that Ottawa's tight money policy had tied its hands. Pratt decided to enter federal politics—as a Progressive Conservative.

"My political ambition didn't stretch back very far," he smiled. "But I suddenly became fervent."

MIGHT GO BACK
What about his summer theatre venture on Toronto's Centre Island last year?

"We did some good things. . . If I weren't so busy I might try it again."

Someone had heard he was angling for a permanent theatre in Montreal.

"We need one," he said. "The present situation is disgraceful. As a matter of fact, I have plans."

And had he actually been approached with the idea of entertaining the troops in Egypt?

"If we had enough troops there I'd go tomorrow," he grinned. "Come to think of it, I might even electioneer with a few soft-shoe routines."

OTTAWA (CP)—The army Thursday said 73 officer cadets and second-lieutenants will go to Europe this summer to complete the third and final phase of their qualifications for commissions. All are students at either the Royal Military College or at civilian universities and are qualifying through either the Regular Officers' Training Program or the Canadian Officers' Training Corps.

KINGSTON, Jamaica (CP)—Members of the federation known as the West Indies will ask Canada to ease its "unduly harsh" immigration laws affecting West Indians, it was learned Thursday. West Indians, the members say, should enjoy Canadian immigration privileges allowed other Commonwealth countries to "fit with the elevation" of British West Indian colonies to a federation.

A Strong Canadian Dollar Means A Weak Gold Industry

By FORBES RHUDE
Canadian Press Business Editor
The Canadian dollar is riding high, and the higher it rides the harder it tramples on the gold industry.

The reason for this is that the price of gold is fixed at \$35 an ounce in United States funds; and, with the Canadian dollar at present worth more than the American \$35 an ounce American yields considerably less than \$35 Canadian.

How much less it yields to the gold industry is set out in a release from the Gold Information Bureau in Toronto.

In March, Canadian producers selling to the Canadian mint received an average of \$33.48 Canadian and, during the month, the price was down to \$33.44, the lowest in 23 years.

Other Canadian industries are also embarrassed by the high price of the Canadian dollar, but the gold industry feels it most because it can't do anything about the price at which it sells its product.

The price of \$35 U.S. is fixed both by the U.S. and international understanding; and, in this, the U.S. seems to be in the drivers' seat, for the time being at least. In fact, if the U.S. was not prepared to buy at \$35 an ounce things might be much worse.

In any event, the price hasn't risen since the mid-1930s and the gold industry has been squeezed between the fixed price and rising costs of production on the other.

The federal government has recognized this situation since 1948 by assisting the industry under a formula related to production costs. It is estimated the industry will receive \$8,500,000 in

assistance this year. Accordingly, if the exchange rate should continue as it has been in the early year, more than half the assistance would be nullified by the lower price.

SHARP DECLINE
The Gold Information Bureau says the industry feels conditions "are substantially different" from a year ago when the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act was renewed until the end of 1958.

Contributing to the change, the bureau says, are the following factors:
Sharp and steady decline in the mint price (throughout the higher premium on the Canadian dollar); increased operating costs from increases in basic wage rates combined with a shorter work week; loss and security of manpower, especially trained miners and including technical and professional personnel; increased costs of operating supplies, equipment and services; increased provincial taxes in Ontario and Quebec.

The bureau cites the following price increases in percentages: Rough lumber up 25 per cent; mill grinding rods 16; rock drill machines and parts 10; pipes and pipe fittings 10 to 15; freight 10; steel products 10; Ontario hydro rates 18.

In the three biggest Canadian gold camps—the Porcupine and Kirkland-Larder Lake of Northern Ontario and Malartic-Val d'Or of northern Quebec—daily loss from the exchange situation is estimated at \$10,350 a day and for other Canadian gold producers at more than \$8,000.

On March 11 Porcupine Mines sold to the Canadian mint about 93,000 ounces of gold worth \$3,255,000 U.S. or \$3,113,640 Canadian for an exchange-rate loss of \$4,560 a day or \$141,360 for the month.

Eight mines in the Kirkland-Larder Lake area sold 72,000 ounces at a loss of \$3,530 a day. Seven mines in the Malartic-Val d'Or area sold 46,100 ounces at a loss of \$2,260 a day.

C. N. R. Offers All-Expense Package Tours

CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I. — New all-expense tours especially designed to suit the convenience and budgets of Maritime vacationers were announced today by D. Bligh Smith, district passenger agent of the Canadian National Railways here.

The tours, covering visits to important points of interest in eastern and central Canada and the United States, are organized commencing from principal cities.

Designated as "Maple Leaf Package Tours" they are offered at prices which include transportation, sleeping space, first-class hotel accommodation and conducted tours of points of interest. They range in length from six to 21 days.

CIRCLE TOURS
Package tours from Halifax, Truro or Moncton may be arranged to such cities as Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls, New York, Boston, Detroit and Chicago. There are "circle" package tours such as a 15-day one that takes in Montreal, Toronto, Niagara Falls, New York and Boston, offering transportation and accommodation, sight-seeing at Niagara, a city tour of New York and a boat trip around Manhattan Island, a visit to the Empire State Observatory and the NBC television studios, coverage of historic and modern Boston, and visits to Lexington and Concord and Harvard University.

The cost of these Maple Leaf Package Tours has been kept to a minimum," said Mr. Smith, "to suit the average person's pocket book. Great savings are effected because all arrangements are made in advance." A six-day, all-expense trip to Quebec City, for example, he said, could be made from Moncton for \$87. If there were two persons the cost would be reduced to \$78 each and if there were three, \$74 each.

Soldiers Mix With Pilgrims On Good Friday At Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AP) — Easter pilgrims bearing heavy wooden crosses Friday sorrowfully traced the steps of Jesus Christ on the road to Calvary.

Christians from the West and East some wearing oriental shawls, hoods and turbans and speaking many different tongues, trod the flagstoned streets of Old Jerusalem to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. In the line, too, were blue-bereted United Nations soldiers, who joined in the singing of hymns.

Only about 400 pilgrims crossed from the Israeli side of Jerusalem into the Jordan-ruled sector of the city Good Friday. Few Westerners were among them.

MIDDLE EAST TENSION
The sharp drop from the several thousand who made the pilgrimage across the city's dividing line last year was attributed to Middle East tension and U.S. ban on travel of American citizens to the troubled area. The ban was lifted early this month, too late, travel agents said, for organized tours or any sizable individual travel before Easter.

But in Arab Jerusalem, where most of the holy places are located, hotels were jammed with an estimated 4,000 visiting pilgrims. Most of these were Arab Christians who had come by other routes from Egypt, Cyprus and Syria.

Visitors assembled in the courtyard of a Moslem secondary school inside the walls of the old city where tradition says Christ was tried before Pilate. The pilgrims separated into groups according to language, with one person assigned to carry a huge wooden cross. At each station of the cross the group paused and heard a sermon in its own language.

NARROW ROUTE
Known as the Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross winds through streets so narrow in many places wheeled vehicles cannot pass.

In the midst of the bazaar and shop district of the old city, often running beneath the vaulted roof which keeps the city in perpetual twilight, the Way of the Cross pauses at 14 stations marking the sites where Christ was flogged and where He fell beneath the weight of His burden.

Last of the stations is the Holy Sepulchre, inside the crumbling old church which still bears on its walls and columns the crusader crosses carved by Franks who once reconquered this land for Christendom.

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CANADIAN SOLDIERS
The UN soldiers included Canadians, Brazilians, Swedes and Indians. They were given leave from their police duties in the Gaza Strip, where they are assigned to keep the peace between Egypt and Israel.

In Israel, Jews were completing their Passover holidays. In Jerusalem's Israeli sector, a procession of 10,000 Jews formed and climbed Mount Zion in an annual pilgrimage to the tomb of King David.

Moslem visitors also crowded into Old Jerusalem as part of their observance of Ramadan, a fasting month. From a rock there, the prophet Mohammed is said to have risen into heaven on his horse.

FOUR-INCH BERRY
PLANT CITY, Fla. — It's hard to believe but John F. Lee, a farmer, of nearby Turkey Creek, raised a strawberry measuring four inches in diameter. Skeptics said it couldn't be, so a re-measurement was made of the red fan type of berry. The big berry lacked just 1-16 of an inch of being a full four inches.

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Emergency Landing Made At Sydney

SYDNEY (CP) — A United States Navy Neptune aircraft made an emergency landing here Sunday after developing a gas line leak and losing its way on a routine flight over the Atlantic.

To add to the troubles, the plane could not land at its Argentinian home base because weather closed in. And the Neptune could not establish direct radio contact with the control tower here. Messages had to be relayed to the local transport department air control station.