

Capital Capers—

Atlantic Pact Signing Is Excuse for Round Of Washington Parties

Pyramid Club Fans Eye Western Europe For Members as Local Supply Runs Low

By ELISE MORROW

WASHINGTON, Apr. 2—This weekend the diplomatic set is having its greatest outburst of social activity since the Pyramid Club craze swept through the embassies a fortnight ago.

The reason for this new rash of cocktail parties, luncheons, dinners and the like is the ceremony to be held here Monday in connection with the signing of the North Atlantic Pact. Every newly-arrived trans-Atlantic plane has been spouting forth foreign ministers and other assorted dignitaries, every one of them a good excuse for throwing a party somewhere.

President and Mrs. Truman themselves will cap the social climax Monday with a dinner at Blair House in honor of the top diplomats of Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada, France, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States, Denmark, Iceland, Italy and Portugal. The various foreign embassies in the meantime scheduled big receptions or dinner parties for today and tomorrow.

The big question, however, seemed to be whether the local diplomatic Pyramid Clubs would spread to Europe as a result of all the comings and goings between Washington and the North Atlantic countries. The Pyramid craze, an American and as propitious as flagpoles sitting, seemed to have a particular fascination for the foreign relations set stationed in Washington. There was a huge club at the Dutch embassy, another at the Belgian, and a very large one driving the State Department to madness. There was even talk that some Supreme Court Justices had dabbled in this daffy business. Many other embassies joined in, and Washington at large went so giddy over the whole business that for a couple of days Pyramiders had tied up half the telephone in the city. Then the district attorney and the police started to make big muscles about the whole affair, and a woebegone little bricklayer was actually indicted.

Pyramid Club Members Are Hopeful of New Addicts

IN SPITE OF ALL THIS, and in spite of widespread evidence of the principal fallacy of pyramiding—that pretty soon you simply start to run out of people—the pyramiding was still going ahead this weekend, and in the diplomatic set, there was much speculation: After all, couldn't this be an opportunity to tap much of the population of western Europe for new members? Hmmm?

A dinner guest the other evening of Sir William Lawther, the British John L. Lewis, was slightly appalled when Sir William informed her that he was wearing long underwear. Fanning herself with an old Princeton houseparty invitation, she inquired why, in view of the spring weather now warning Washingtonians that the usual summertime Black Hole of Calcutta days are not far away.

"I haven't any short ones," he explained. Next day, even warmer, she called Sir William and ventured the hope that he wasn't still wearing his longies. "No, my dear," Sir William said, "I'm in as God made me."

Sir William, who with other heads of the British industrial nationalization program came over from England on the same boat with Winston Churchill, reported that Churchill, in mid-Atlantic, had a query requesting that he pose for a series of photographs upon arrival in New York. "Tell them," the bulky former prime minister replied, "that they may photograph me from the bottom up."

Ohio Representative Relates Her Experience in a Harem

REPRESENTATIVE REVA BECK BOSONE (D. Utah) had the members of the Congressional Club in hysterics the other night when she told how the 27 male members of the House Committee on Public Lands had objected to including her on the committee. For a long time, she couldn't find out why. Finally, a member told her.

"We're going to discuss the breeding of animals at various times during the year in connection with legislation before the committee, and it would be embarrassing to have a woman on the committee," she was told. "Hi!" she snorted. "I was a police court judge in Salt Lake City for 12 years, and after some of the cases I have listened to, it would be a relief to hear about animals." P. S.: She was named to the committee.

At the same party, to which the congressional wives who run the club invited their husbands for a change, Representative Frances P. Bolton (R. Ohio) told how she spent a night in Ibn Saud's harem. Seems she was the only female member of a congressional party visiting Saudi Arabia, and while it was easy to bunk the men—they slept on cots on the roof of the harem—Mrs. Bolton posed a problem. Finally, they rigged up a four-poster bed for her in the harem—and then strung wires about it and draped rugs over the wires.

All this exotic business fascinated Mrs. Bolton, but she was a bit startled when she sat down to dinner. She had expected to squat on a rug in a tent. Instead, she was seated at a table, and it looked familiar. Mrs. Bolton checked. Sure enough, the table was made in Grand Rapids.

Paris Writer To Speak Here

Auguste Angles of Paris will speak on "History of a Generation" at the meeting of the Indianapolis Alliance Francaise at 8 p. m. Thursday in the Marotti Hotel parlors.

A writer and journalist, Mr. Angles is present in a visiting professor in Wellesley College, Mass., and is official lecturer for the New York Federation of Alliance Francaise. He was graduated from Ecole Normale Supérieure of Paris and was formerly a professor in the University of Lyon, France.

There will be a 6 p. m. dinner in the hotel dining room after a reception in his honor.

Music Sorority Meets Tomorrow

The Alumnae Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon, national music sorority, will meet tomorrow in the home of Mrs. Russell J. Spivey, 79th and Zionsville Road. Mrs. Henry G. Hoss will preside at the business session following a 6 p. m. dinner.

The seventh in a series of "Twentieth Century and Modern Music" programs will be presented. Miss Charlotte Moore will give a travel talk on South America and Miss Irma Judd, a discussion of modern music of the South American countries.

A group of South American and Spanish songs will be sung by Mrs. C. Basil Fausset, soprano, accompanied by Mrs. W. N. Fleming Jr.

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