Spring comes again

"When Spring unlocks the flowers to paint the laughing soil," wrote Reginald Heber, a wonderful thing happens: the Earth bursts forth in a vibrant splash of color, and the air is sweet with the scent of growing things. This year March 20 marks the official beginning of Spring. The crippling snowstorms and floods which accentuated a harsh winter are fast disappearing. In their place will come light, gentle days filled with flourishing crops and home gardens, children's laughter echoing from playgrounds and trips to the serenity of the countryside, mountains or beach "to get away from it all."

Spring is the eternal symbol of renewed life and happiness, with a lesson to teach if man will but listen. In essence, the message is that man's world will be only as good as he makes it. He can follow nature's lead and channel his energies into constructive directions—or he can destroy this planet. As this new season dawns, let us hope that it brings greater freedom, peace and understanding to a troubled world, and inspiration to the human race to rededicate itself to creating a better way of life.

MERCURY VAPOURS

by Warren R. Fisher

The little transistor symbol reproduced here appears this month on all South Central Bell telephone bill envelopes—its message—25 years of transistors, a Bell System invention, sorta hit home with me mainly because pieces of equipment which we use weekly to produce The Mercury are a result of solid state electronics.

Being a tube man, that is, we learned our theory in vacuum tubes, the thought occurs, were it not for the invention of the transistor, we would be unable to lease the necessary tubes for a device that would do what the two Compugraphic machines do for us each week.

Additionally if the Compuwriter alone had to be constructed with vacuum tubes, there would probably be more tubes than there is space now in which to walk at this office.

When the first computer was developed with tubes, if memory serves us correctly, several rooms of the building in which it was constructed were taken up by the component parts.

Now, little chips of silicon hard to see under a ten power magnifying glass replace whole racks of components and tubes.

And to think, we've only scratched the surface!

—MV—

Mrs. Charles Mann Sr. called last week to tell us the difference in the weather on Thursday, March 8, 1973 and that of 42 years ago.

Her recollection of the date March 8, 1931, was the birth of a daughter, Dorothy Mrs. Lee Gray) at their home on the Locust Grove Road. Snow blanketed Nicholas county, and Dr. B. F. Reynolds, who had been summoned, did not make it till the next day due to the deep snow.

FARM & HOME

County extension Agents
Estil J. Noffsinger,
Sara Swango, Mrs. Margie Wilson

THE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK FOR 1973

Farm Income—In 1972 U.S. farmers had the highest net farm income in history—$19.2 billion. It is expected that 1973 farm earnings will be near $19 billion. Two key factors influenced the 1972 farm income situation—exceptionally strong domestic demand for livestock, especially meat, and huge exports which were fueled by massive purchases of grain by the USSR and the short world supplies of protein feeds relative to demand.

In 1973 farm gross income is expected to be strong in the first half of the year and fade somewhat in the later part of the year.

Cash receipts from marketing may be up around eight percent or more from last year's record $58½ billion.

Direct government payments to farmers are going to be down more than $1 billion from last year's $4 billion. The largest will be in payments under the feed grain program, but wheat and cotton are also slated for small reductions.

Farm production expenses are expected to surge upward with perhaps even more than the increase in realized gross.

As the economy continues to expand the employment continues to increase, wage rates of hired farm workers may rise faster than in 1972.

Trade for Fiscal Year 1973—U.S. agricultural exports set an all-time monthly record in October of $968 million in shipments and this record has been broken in the succeeding two months.

U.S. agricultural exports for the fiscal year 1973 are forecast at $11.1 billion. Over one-half of the increase will be due to increased volume and the rest from higher prices.

U.S. imports of agricultural products may rise 12% above last year's $6.04 billion to a record $6.8 billion. However, despite increased imports, the agricultural trade balance will continue to improve. Farm exports for the fiscal year are expected to be $4.3 billion larger than agricultural imports.

FOOD PRICES—

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

Secretary of Agriculture, Earl L. Butz,

The Carlisle Mercury

Established 1867

Published every Thursday at 232 N. Locust Street, Carlisle, Nicholas County, Kentucky 40311.

Warren R. Fisher, Publisher; (Mrs.) Katherine T. Fisher, Managing Editor; Mrs. Joseph H. Conley, Editor.

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MEMBER:
The Kentucky Press Association, Inc.

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION — Press Press & Key — NNA SUSTAINING MEMBER — 1973

DOWN MEMORY LANE
20 and 40 years ago

Thursday, March 19, 1953

Those registered for the adult tailoring class to meet March 24 at the Nicholas County High School are: Mrs. Ada Knox, Mrs. Charles Cox, Mrs. Milton Grimes, Mrs. Kenneth Stephenson, Mrs. Gladys Duncan, Mrs. Roland Boyd, Mrs. Pearl Cord, Mrs. John Barrett, Mrs. George Gaffin, Mrs. William Straw, Mrs. Paul Donovan, Mrs. William B. Parker and Miss Emma Barnes.

Ralph Shearer, local mortician, was elected president of the Carlisle Rotary Club at a recent meeting.

David Millard Curry, 88, a former Nicholas County sheriff, died Monday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Robert Hendrix in St. Matthews.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. William H. Frey, a son, Kurt, Tuesday in Lexington.—To Mr. and Mrs. Marion Rose, Redding, Calif., a son, Keith Alton, March 13.—To Mr. and Mrs. Ward Bowman, Morehead, a son, Carlos Ward, March 14.—To Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Bealert, a daughter, Diana Ruth, March 16.

MARRIED—Miss Roberta Sosby to Manuel Crawford, March 14.

DIED—Mrs. Mattie Purcell Jett, 75, Friday at her home in Harrison county.—James Kennedy, 88, Thursday in Mt. Sterling.

Tuesday, March 16, 1933

Julian Atkinson, a Nicholas county boy, has been selected as one of four club members to represent Kentucky at the National 4-H Club Camp in Washington in June.

The three Carlisle banks and the Moorefield bank reopened Wednesday for the resumption of natural business.

The Combs Dry Cleaners has leased the building of Charles Mathias on Walnut Street, formerly occupied by Linbeurn's Barber Shop, and will open a dry cleaning and pressing establishment.

Mrs. Ethel Mitchell qualified in county court Monday as administrator of the estate of the late T.H. Mitchell. Jack Humphries, Lacy Mitchell and E.G. Flora were appointed appraisers of the estate.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Hiedl F. Asbury, a daughter, Saturday evening at their home on the Maysville Road.

MARRIED—Thomas Dobbins Maybrier and Alva Lula Shields, both of Carlisle, here Thursday.

DIED—Mrs. May Hawkins, widow of D.M. Hawkins, at her home in Cushing, Okla., Sunday.

AGREE or NOT

I Say What I Think

by S. C. VanCuron

FRANKFORT—Kentucky newspaper publishers and newsmen are concerned, like others across the country, about being stripped of their rights to hold news sources confidential.

The Supreme Court has ruled that newsmen must reveal their sources and other information if the newsman witnessed a crime and can be required to testify in court.

Kentucky newsmen also are concerned, probably more so, about governmental bodies meeting in secret and public officials refusing them access to public records. While this is not widespread in Kentucky, there is enough of it to get the Kentucky Press Association to ask its Freedom of Information (FOI) Committee to make recommendations for proposing remedial legislation in the 1974 session of the General Assembly.

The FOI Committee has sent a questionnaire to all newspapers asking if newsmen have been excluded from meetings of local governmental bodies—school board meetings, city government, and others. They also want to know if reporters have been denied access to public records. This has been done in some instances.

The committee also wants to know how the publishers stand on a shield law that would give absolute protection in keeping news sources confidential.

Congress is now considering several versions of such a law. Kentucky already has a shield law, but the Supreme Court opinion voided it pertaining to crime. Therefore, it would seem of little value to try to strengthen this law at the state level. It must be done at the federal level, and the Court must change its opinion.

Principal offenders refusing newsmen the right to sit in on meetings are school boards across the state, a few city governing bodies and some fiscal courts. However, the worst complaint coming from newspapers is that these governing bodies call meetings and transact business without notifying the public or newspapers.

One of the requirements in the bill offered in the 1972 session was that the public would have to be notified 48 hours in advance and that the news media would be notified. This bill never got out of the House committee to the floor for a vote.

Gov. Wendell Ford told newsmen at the Midwinter KPA Convention that he would support a reasonable open meetings bill in the 1974 session of the legislature.

Chief opposition to the bill last session came from House Majority Floor Leader John Swinford of Cynthiana.

Members of governing bodies are

Continued on page three

Church Chickles by CARTWRIGHT

"Don't you remember — I put in a dollar two Sundays ago!"

Thank you,
Bro. Rice

NEXT WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

By Clay R. Pollan

Note planetary ruler of your birth symbol

FOR WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1973

★ If your birthday occurs this week . . .

. . . your love life should be livened up considerably. Your habit of having several strings to your bow will produce amusing, and on some occasions, embarrassing experiences. Be content with modest gains and profits and forget dreams of hitting the jackpot. Be realistic and practical in everything you do.

♈ Aries — Mar. 21 - Apr. 19 — Pluto ♇

If you are wondering about something or someone, don't be openly inquisitive. Try a subtle approach. This is one of those weeks when it is fairly safe to extend credit, place a good time and hang the expense. Lucky you! You have what others want. Your mind is alert but carefully avoid mistakes.

♉ Taurus — Apr. 20 - May 20 — Venus ♀

A quick-witted friend seems lucky for you. Capitalize upon his her intuition and knowhow. You should be able to make housekeeping money stretch further than usual. Your associates will be egging you on rather than holding you back. Exchange those useless things for the new.

♊ Gemini — May 21 - June 20 — Mercury ☿

The stars favor romance, adventure and interesting emotional experiences. Be ready for pleasant surprises. Help from a colleague puts you on top of things this week. A change may be forced upon you and could affect your mental processes. Sound money moves favored. Act deliberately.

♋ Cancer — June 21 - July 22 — Moon ☾

Be kind and just to your associates. Any tendency to harshness should be halted. A new romance could come about quite unexpectedly. Avoid those who complain and gripe constantly. Seek the company of those who're convivial and agree with your way of thinking. Look after your own interests first.

♌ Leo — July 23 - Aug. 22 — Sun ☉

There are mixed blessings this week, with a bit of loss here, a bit of gain there. Older persons may make you miserable with their attitudes. If challenged, keep your feelings under control. Money matters promise to work out well. Budgetary matters will right themselves. Organize an outing.

♍ Virgo — Aug. 23 - Sept. 22 — Mercury ☿

Domestic life is not what you would wish for. Try to change the situation to your way of thinking. A partnership arrangement doesn't seem right; make a sincere effort to adjust it. It's a fine week to make a brief trip, when you'd enjoy yourself. Something could end on a good note this weekend.

♎ Libra — Sept. 23 - Oct. 22 — Venus ♀

Romantic thoughts take you to emotionally high realms. A new love could be exciting and stimulating. Let nothing deter you from making environmental changes that seem wise. Charm, sincerity and hard work get results. It's a week of achievement in almost anything you attempt to do.

♏ Scorpio — Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 — Mars ♂

This is an exceptional week for planning extraordinary matters. Good luck comes, if you are bold and steadfast. The skies will clear a little about new duties thrust upon you. Some tiresome people indicated. Just sidestep them diplomatically. All in all, a beautiful week for heart's desires.

♐ Sagittarius — Nov. 22 - Dec. 21 — Jupiter ♃

A very pleasant relationship can start this week. An old love may greet you in an unusual way. Dress up and accept invitations. Good money news may brighten your outlook and may cause some revisions. Go ahead if you're thinking about improving your home environs. Avoid tradesmen and decorators.

♑ Capricorn — Dec. 22 - Jan. 19 — Saturn ♄

A message from a distant place can cheer you, and you will be grateful for the love of someone who is absolutely loyal. You're on the right track, money-wise; so proceed confidently with your plans. If visitors come, do not keep them too long, as it could spoil what was a marvelous time.

♒ Aquarius — Jan. 20 - Feb. 18 — Uranus ♅

It's the bright lights and gay companions for you this week. Just the proper period for dining out and visiting lush night spots. Financial affairs take your attention. You should rely on commercial "facts" for a cautious line where finances are concerned. Don't share a venture with a woman.

♓ Pisces — Feb. 19 - Mar. 20 — Neptune ♆

Someone who appears to want to help you may try to make friends with you. Find a quiet way to get out of it. News of a wedding or happy event is spread on you. A celebration is in the offing. You can gain much from social activities. You may consider joining a new club or social group.

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LETTERS from our readers

Editor, The Carlisle Mercury:

Violence today even extends to the animal world! Yesterday somebody shot my dog! Why, I do not know. I do know that it was senseless and unjustified. My dog is a big brown Husky-variety that loves kids and runs rabbits in the cemetery in the day time. At night, he is put in the basement of the house and never let out until after breakfast. Of course he runs with other dogs in the community while he is out in the day time, but he has never run without a county tag, rabies treatment, and all else that we could do to make him safe. I wonder if the person who was responsible for the dastardly deed has any respect for any kind of life? We have lived in the community for nearly six years, and have tried our best to be the kind of citizens that the community could be proud of. In my own work in the Church I have never played favorites with any person, black or white, and have tried to serve all who needed help when and where I could, regardless of race or denomination. Now may I ask the dog-shooter this question: "Why couldn't you call me or seek to inform me in some way about my dog, if he was a nuisance to you?" A little communication before folk can sure prevent a lot of heart-ache and grief. Well, my dog will live, I think, but he will be some heavier for the shotgun pellets he will carry to his grave, and I am somewhat poorer in my pocket-book for his treatments for his wounds, but the community is also a loser in the matter, for all of us are poorer when we realize such people live among us who utterly disregard anyone's rights to have and enjoy pets without fear of their destruction. My sympathies go out to all pet owners who have been subjected to such actions in the recent weeks. I have one more word on the subject: I will do my best not to harbor a grudge and if I know the person by name I could pray for him to do better and I would!

Thank you,
Bro. Rice

Homemakers meet East Union

West

The West Homemakers Club met Friday afternoon, Mar. 9, at the Carlisle Christian Church with Miss Mary Frances Fisher as hostess.

Miss Mary Lois Campbell, vice president, presided at the meeting.

The Family Life Report was given by Mrs. J.R. Hamilton. Mrs. Grimes Caywood presented the Landscape Notes.

The lesson, "Little Things Mean a Lot," was presented by Mrs. C.B. Ingels and Mrs. Edna DeMyer.

Mrs. Laura Pumphrey assisted Miss Fisher in the social hour.

members answering roll call with "what I owe my country." Mrs. Jack Becker gave the devotional.

The secretary, Mrs. Pauline Clark, read the minutes and gave the treasurer's report. Mrs. Glenn Hardin gave an interesting lesson on "Little Things Mean a Lot." Mrs. Joe Smart distributed some pamphlets on "Looking Toward Spring." Mrs. Jack Becker was in charge of the recreation.

The next meeting will be with Mrs. Jack Becker on April 3, with Mrs. J. Angus Jacobs, co-hostess.

After the meeting adjourned refreshments were served by Mrs. Hamm and Mrs. Hardin.

* * * * * *

In early 1972, only 6,000 of the nation's 400,000 municipal police officers were women. Only a third of the 1,330 law enforcement agencies surveyed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police in 1968 had any full-time sworn women officers.

Moorefield

The Moorefield Homemakers met March 1 at the home of Mrs. James Hamm, Cliffway Drive, with Mrs. Glenn Hardin as co-hostess.

The meeting was called to order with 17

By Mrs. Eugene Robinson

Delayed

Mrs. Magalene Yacher, Mrs. Ethel Hobbs, Mrs. Marilyn Becraft and Mrs. Pansy Robinson visited Mrs. Lizzie Welch and Mr. and Mrs. William Lawrence last Monday at Mt. Sterling.

Mrs. Sammy House, Mrs. Lullie Willoughby visited Mrs. Eugene Robinson on Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Robinson and children visited his mother Saturday afternoon.

Little Greg Robinson received a pony from his brother, Bobby Robinson, for making good grades in school on Saturday.

Mrs. Owen Ockerman and Mrs. Calvin Munday visited Mrs. Pansy Robinson Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Pansy Robinson was invited to Mrs. Ethel Hobbs' Friday for lunch. Mr. and Mrs. Terry Trussell were also there.

MAGICWORD

by JULIE QUART

HOW TO PLAY: Read the list of words. Look at the puzzle. You'll find these words in all directions — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards. Draw a circle around each letter of a word found in the puzzle then strike it off list. Circling it will show a letter has been used but will leave it visible should it also form part of another word. Find the big words first. When letters of all listed words are circled, you'll have the given number of letters left over. They'll spell out your MAGICWORD.

HURRAH FOR THE IRISH — Sol.: 11 letters

CLUES

B—Ballads, Blarney, Brogue, C—Cane, Celtic, Charm, Coffee, E—Eire, Elfin, Erin, F—Fists, Fun; G—Gaelic, Galway, Green; H—Harp, Hibernian; I—Ireland, J—Jigs, Jokes; K—Kerry; L—Lass, Legends, Linen, Literature, Luck; M—March, Muse, P—Parades, Patrick, Pluck, Potatos; R—Rovers; S—Setters, Shamrocks, Shannon, Stew; T—Terriers, True; W—Warm, Whisky, Wit, Wolfhound

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: OVERCOME 44

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M	U	S	E	W	I	T	E	Y	K	S	I	H	W	L
R	E	P	K	E	E	R	U	T	A	R	E	T	I	L
A	U	L	C	C	I	P	E	P	E	E	N	E	Y	Y
W	G	U	U	N	O	E	A	I	M	T	O	R	E	R
D	O	C	L	T	F	R	R	P	A	T	N	R	N	R
N	R	K	A	F	A	E	M	H	R	E	N	I	R	E
U	B	T	O	D	L	R	I	A	C	S	A	E	A	K
O	O	C	E	A	S	B	C	H	H	E	H	R	L	C
H	S	S	N	E	E	I	A	C	H	S	S	S	B	I
F	G	D	K	R	T	R	A	L	S	R	E	V	O	R
L	I	O	N	L	M	G	A	E	L	I	C	C	E	T
O	J	I	E	E	N	R	S	H	S	A	A	U	U	A
W	A	C	N	U	G	W	S	A	T	N	D	S	R	P
N	E	L	F	J	N	E	A	R	E	F	I	S	T	S
Y	A	W	L	A	G	N	L	P	W	N	E	N	I	I

AGREE OR NOT

Continued from page two

representatives of the people and are transacting the people's business and spending the taxpayers' money. The people have a right to know how their business is being handled and how their money is spent.

The newsman is representing the people when he attends these meetings and reports to the public. He is the public messenger. It is on this basis that newspapers are concerned that meetings of all governing bodies are open to their representatives.

All legal publication laws of Kentucky were revised in 1963 and placed under one section of Kentucky Revised Statutes. They were amended in 1962 to correct errors and some have been adjusted since then to meet modern conditions. The idea back in 1960 was to reduce the cost of legal publications, but to keep the public properly informed about their monetary affairs and all other legal actions that could affect them.

When all property in Franklin County was reassessed at 100 per cent fair cash value by the Department of Revenue, state officials asked The State Journal to publish the assessment of every piece of property in the county.

State officials viewed this as one of the best means to notify the public and to achieve fair and equitable assessments. This may be the answer for keeping equitably assessed all across the state.

When someone you love is far away, reach out and touch them with your voice.

Dial them long distance. And when you do, dial an economy call the One Plus way. There's no cheaper way to call them long distance.

South Central Bell
Keeping you in touch

Don't give us a break!

BEFORE YOU DIG
Call Columbia Gas Collect
304-346-0951
DON'T GIVE US A BREAK

The message Janie West is holding is the one Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc., and Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation are delivering to contractors, coal stripping operators and others who move earth. It's part of the companies' new "Call Before You Dig" campaign which asks the earthmovers to call the gas companies to learn whether there are any pipelines in their excavation area. The object is to prevent accidental pipeline ruptures that could endanger a bulldozer operator and cause an outage. About 95 per cent of the companies' outages are caused by bulldozer and other heavy equipment operators.

Spring Has Arrived at Abraham's Ladies Shop

Fresh styles and brilliant colors in coats, ensembles, dresses, pant suits, sportswear, loungewear, bags, jewelry, and casual footwear (including clogs).

Attention Juniors!!

We have the largest selection ever of JEANS.

THE GOOD GUYS IN THE WHITE HATS RIDE AGAIN!

© 1972 Lone Ranger Television Inc.

'73 CORONET. NOW A QUIETER FAMILY CAR.

A lot of people went for the Dodge Coronet idea. A car designed as a four-door sedan from the ground up. Roomy—yet easy to park. Now Torsion-Quiet Ride makes Coronet an even better deal as a family car.

'73 DART SWINGER. MOST FAITHFUL COMPANION.

A roomy compact. So strong and economical. With a big trunk in back. It's no wonder over one and a half million Darts have been sold. Check out our very popular compact.

THE DODGE BOYS

BUNTIN'S GARAGE
Elm & Market Sts. Carlisle, Ky.

Dodge

NATIONAL AND STATE AWARD-WINNING HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER COLUMN

Russell Metz

The Pied Typer

Once upon a time . . . or, who spiked the punchline at Uncle Richard's party?

It was a time of great elation in the wonderful land of Us. His royal highness, President Richard, had consented to a rare press conference, a time when all his faithful subjects would learn what was right with the state of the country, despite what any Democrat might tell them.

There was rejoicing in the newsroom of a small city newspaper, where a cub reporter and his two ugly co-workers readied the late edition. The unpretty managing editor and city editor were dancing around the cuspidor.

"We are the chosen ones," they gloated, flicking their cigar ashes on the rub's lap. "Because we are real reporters, we have press passes to the President's Press Conference. "This important gathering of great minds naturally excludes you."

"And while we are gone to the Royal White House, you will sharpen our pencils, empty our ash trays, clean the spittoons, close out the sports, obit, farm, society and business pages. After that, cover city hall, the schools, magistrate's court, the road dedication and have the copy on our desk when we return."

They left, waving their White House press credentials and reciting in unison: "The time has come, the President said, to talk of many things, of welfare and medicare, of cabbages and kings!"

The poor little cub reporter gave them a weak yes-sir, adjusted his green eyeshade and dug in, pounding his typewriter with one hand and editing copy with the other.

To calm his rumbling stomach, he reached under his desk to retrieve the cud of gum he'd stuck there two days before. His hand touched a strange object. He stopped working, crawled under his desk and pulled loose a little round metal thing marked, "If lost, return postage guaranteed by CIA."

The cub studied the trinket. He rubbed it with his fingers and wished it was a magic vase, or at least a ham on rye sandwich. All of a sudden a great column of smoke spewed out of the bug. He was sure then it was a bomb put in his office by an irate subscriber.

But when the smoke cleared, there stood a fat feathermerchant, wearing a clawhammer coat with an "Ike and Dick" button on the lapel.

"Who are you?" the astonished cub gasped.

"Hi there, guy," the magic bureaucrat purred. "I am your friendly Watergate godfather. I can give you any wish you want — if it doesn't exceed guidelines of the President's Wage and Price Recommendations. Want a federal contract? Your opposition paper bugged?"

"No, no," cried the reporter. "I am just a lowly cub with a paltry 20 years on the desk, but I do wish just once I could go to the President's Conference like my two nice buddies."

"Zap," roared the big bugger.

He waved a diamond-studded index finger and the cub was astonished to find himself decked out in a new Hart, Shafner and Groucho Marx suit and a necktie with no ketchup stains on it.

"Come," said the GOP (Genie of President) and led the cub to the door. Where the reporter had parked his battered 1951 VW stood a genuine surplus congressional limousine, with party chauffeur and an elephant hood ornament.

"Remember," the genie said, "at precisely two hours before midnight, seven prime time, the President's Press Conference will end and your limousine will turn back into that horrible foreign import and your finery into newspaperman's rags again. You must be back at your desk when the clock strikes 10."

At the Great White House, a secret service man opened the door and frisked the cub. He was ushered into a big room full of lights and pompous newshounds. The ugly managing editor and city editor were shocked to see their flunky squired up front by the GOP godfather.

There was a ruffle of drums, trumpets blared, cameras whined and an announcer shouted, "Gentlemen, the President of Us!" A hush fell over the room.

Out strolled a smiling, slicked up fellow with a nose like a ski launch and both arms up in the air flashing his familiar "V" for victorious sign.

"Gentlemen, ask me any question you like — as long as it is in the script," he said.

For nearly an hour the news reporters rose and asked questions. These were answered immediately and precisely with such revelations as "Let me make myself perfectly clear" and "As I told you before at our last press conference two years ago . . ."

The cub wrote furiously on his official White House Conference note pad. In fact, he wrote so fast and was so absorbed in every word, he forgot to look at his Spiro Agnew wrist watch. When he did, it was two minutes until 10.

He ran from the room just as Howard K. Myth rose to say "Thank you, Mr. President" ending the conference. He barely made it to Pennsylvania Avenue when his limousine turned back into the wheezy bug and his swell threads went to rags again.

Back at the office, the cub was in hog heaven. His cut plug ugly superiors were as superior as ever, shouting orders at him and taking his long pencils, leaving him their stubs to write with, but he was happy.

Then a capitol snoop rushed in with great news. The President had read the reviews on his Press Conference and had loved them all — all except those of the ugly left-wing liberal, pinko big city press. And the President had noticed a new face at his cozy conference. It was love at first sight: a reporter taking down every word he said.

No one knew the strange reporter. He did not have the usual security clearance and the genie had been reassigned to the Postal Service where some immediate magic was needed. There was one clue. The reporter in his rush had left his note pad behind. Now the President's men were going from paper to paper, trying the notes on each reporter. The one who could decipher the scribblings would be the chosen one.

Day after day in every town, reporters tried to read the notes. None could. At last the men came into our little hero's newsroom. First the two wicked editors tried every code in existence to break down the notes. Nothing.

Then the pages were handed to the cub. He glanced at them and immediately began to read aloud. "Make no mistake about it . . ."

"Eureka! We have found him," the White House flunkies yelled. And the cub was whisked away to the capitol to turn over his notes to the government and live happily ever after, which would happen to be only four more years.

"It's unconstitutional," screamed one ugly editor. "We've got to get a reporter's shield law passed to protect newspapermen against themselves."

"I think it's time we took up honorable work," said the other. "There's too damned many fairies in this business anymore.

Up, up and far out.