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I See by THE PAPERS

PARIS — Why is Paris a mecca for artists from all over the world?

When television producer Jean-Marie Drot decided to find the answer in a recent 45-minute program, he invited painter Marcelle Ferron to speak for Canada.

Her answers must have been flattering to the listening audience.

"I was by no means a novice when I left Montreal," she said. "There is lots going on over there, but in Paris I am gorging myself on painting."

"I love living here. I visit Canada regularly but it is Paris that makes reputations."

That was the kind of response Drot was looking for. He wanted to inform Parisians that their city enjoys world-wide prestige in the realm of the arts, in case there are any Parisians unaware of that fact.

He and his cameramen went around to the studios of 15 painters and sculptors, each from a different country, and asked them why they are living in Paris.

Perhaps the liveliest interview was with a Polish expatriot who said, with charming inconsistency, that he frankly could not stand Paris but where else in the Western world could he expect to find such civilized people.

POTTSVILLE — The Gilberton fire company, summoned to a fire at an American Legion post, encountered these problems today:

1. There was no fire hydrant, just a fire pipe.
2. The pipe lifted from the ground when water was pumped through the hose.
3. Seven lengths of hose about 300 feet burst.
4. A water jacket on the fire truck burst.
5. The fire truck battery went dead and a vehicle from a nearby coal mine had to rush over and push the fire engine to get it started.
6. By the time water pumped from a creek 800 feet away was played on the building, it burned to the ground.

PARIS — There is no such thing as being improperly dressed at Le Pied de Cochon (The Pig's Foot), one of the most popular res-

taurants in Paris.

This little place, tucked away in a corner of Les Halles, the historic central market of Paris, specializes in onion soup.

It is at its busiest in the hours before dawn, when the pace of market activity begins to slacken and people toy with the idea of getting a quick meal and going home to bed.

The zinc-topped tables and counter of Le Pied de Cochon know no barriers of class or rank.

At one table may be seen a group of truck drivers in checkered shirts and baggy pants, who have just brought their produce to market from the country. At the next may be a theatre party decked out in formal evening dress.

Many customers, of course will have just come from several hours' shopping at the market—a wholesale outlet for fresh fruit and vegetables to countless stores and restaurants in the metropolis.

NEWCASTLE — A young African dancer who collapsed as he arrived in Britain is convinced he is under a voodoo spell and will be sent home as soon as he is able to travel. Doctors say his trouble is air sickness complicated by the change of climate. But Faye Diene, 26-year-old member of the Senegal dance company, believes his parents put a spell on him because he disobeyed their order not to enter a plane. The company arrived by air Monday from the new West African nation for a 13-week season in Britain.

STAMFORD, Conn. — Mrs. Margaret Varnik, a refugee from Estonia, was a happy woman when Andrus, oldest of her three children, won a four-year college scholarship several years ago.

Her joy was doubled when daughter Reet competed for and won the same scholarship when her turn came.

Recently when Marit, the youngest daughter, made it a clean sweep by becoming the family's third winner, Mrs. Varnik was full of gratitude for the country that took in her and her children 12 years ago.

"We are very lucky and very happy," she said. "People have been so good to us. The children seem to belong here — this is their home now."

The children were just about all she brought with her in 1949 from a refugee camp, the last in a series of camps in which she and the youngsters had been living since they were bombed out of their home in Estonia in 1944.

That was the last time Mrs. Varnik saw her husband.

After arriving in the United States in 1949, Mrs. Varnik worked at a variety of jobs until 1951, when she went to work here for Pitney-Bowes manufacturers of postage meters. She is an accounts-receivable clerk.

Pitney-Bowes is the donor of the scholarships for employees' children that have been picked off by the Varniks as they came of college age.

SARNIA — James Hunt of Brights Grove, an employee of B and H Fishery, Sarnia, was trying to land a 26-pound sturgeon with a dip net from one of the company's trap nets when the netting of the smaller net let go.

As the prized fish dropped towards the water, Hunt dived over the side of the pitching boat into Lake Huron. His mates dragged him back aboard feet first. Hunt had the sturgeon by the tail.

Asked what he was thinking about to dive in 35-degree water, Hunt replied: "Sixty cents a pound."

MIAMI BEACH — Guests at an oceanfront hotel thought the orange juice served at breakfast Easter morning was extra good. One guest drank three glasses.

Not until three days later did hotelman Sammy Manna discover why it was so popular.

Orange juice drinkers actually got Screwdrivers — a mixture of

orange juice and vodka.

Manna said a bus boy hurried into the walk-in refrigerator and grabbed two gallon jugs of ready-mixed Screwdrivers Manna had made up for a cocktail party, instead of the orange juice.

Three or four guests casually mentioned that the orange juice "tasted funny."

Manna didn't describe the reaction of the cocktail party guests—who presumably got straight orange juice.

PITTSBURGH — Ronald Komer of Akron, Ohio, woke up without his appendix but determined to get married. He did, at Ohio Valley Hospital—flat on his back.

Komer, 25, and his bride-to-be, Miss Joan Morosky, 24, were making final plans when he was stricken.

A doctor ordered Komer to the hospital for an emergency appendectomy.

Miss Morosky kept the date. Just 14 hours after the operation they were married. He was dressed in a drab hospital robe. She wore the traditional white gown and veil.

The honeymoon was delayed—temporarily.

LEOPOLDVILLE — A story going the rounds in the capital of The Congo has a scorpion waiting on one bank of the Congo River for a lift to the other side.

When a water buffalo came along, the scorpion asked if he could ride across the river on the

buffalo's back.

"Not on your life," said the buffalo. "As soon as we get to the middle, you'll sting me and I'll drown."

"Nonsense," replied the scorpion. "If I did that, I'd drown too."

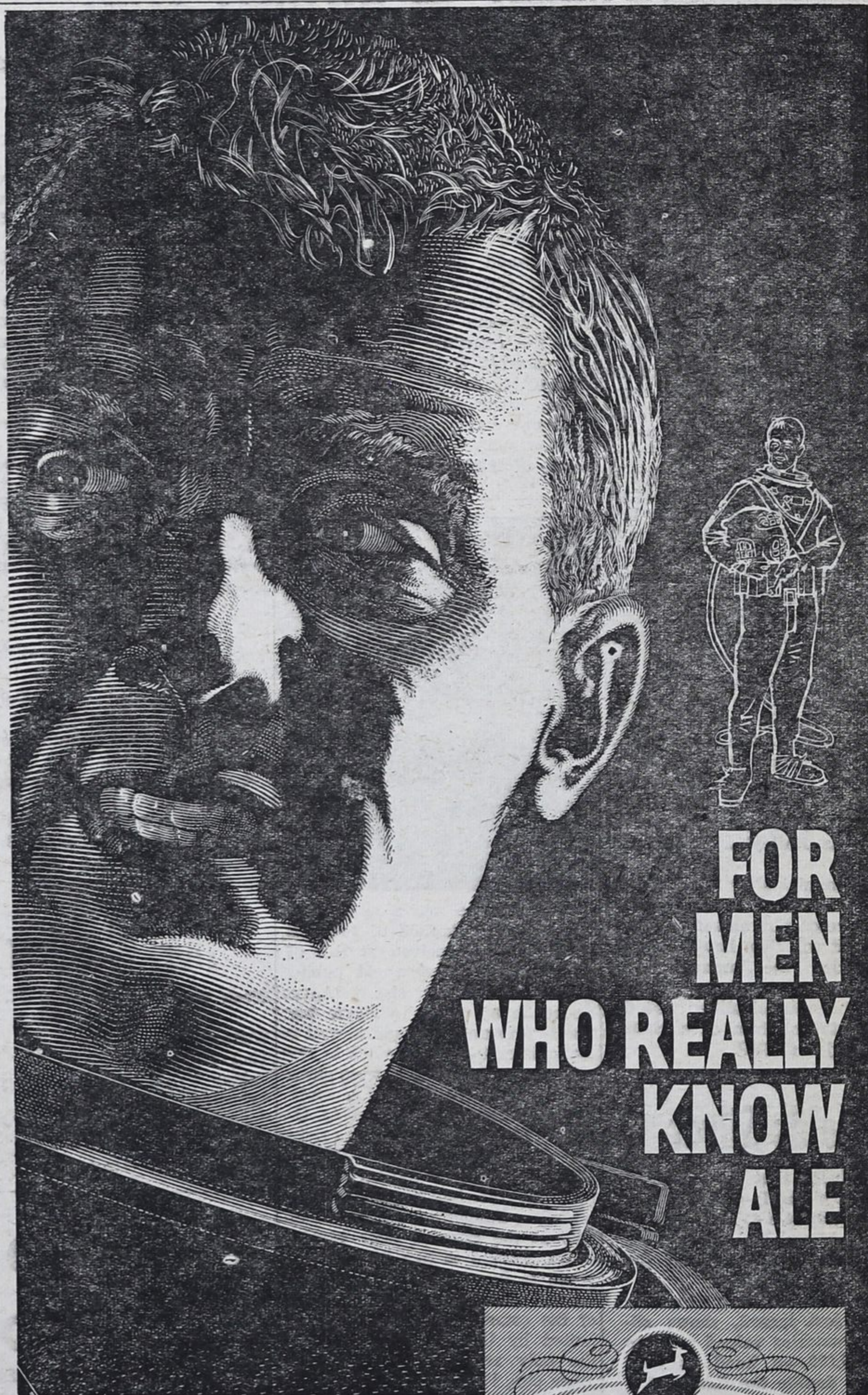
The water buffalo finally agreed. The scorpion climbed aboard and the buffalo waded into the river. The scorpion reared up and gave the beast a mortal sting.

As the buffalo was going down for the third time, he gasped to the drowning scorpion: "What did you do that for?"

"Who knows?" the scorpion said. "This is Africa."

DETROIT — A judge ordered a working wife to contribute to the support of her jobless husband and their two children. The husband said she deserted the family two years ago. Mrs. Vernesther White, 30, an \$80-a-week clerk typist, was ordered to contribute \$30 every two weeks to her husband, William, 34, and two sons, Stanley, 10, and Ronald, 6. Judge John Scallen ruled that a working woman has a legal obligation to support her family.

With April and income tax time rushing in on us we are reminded our children have a double reason to study hard — so they can be smart enough to stay ahead of Moscow, and earn enough to stay ahead of Ottawa.

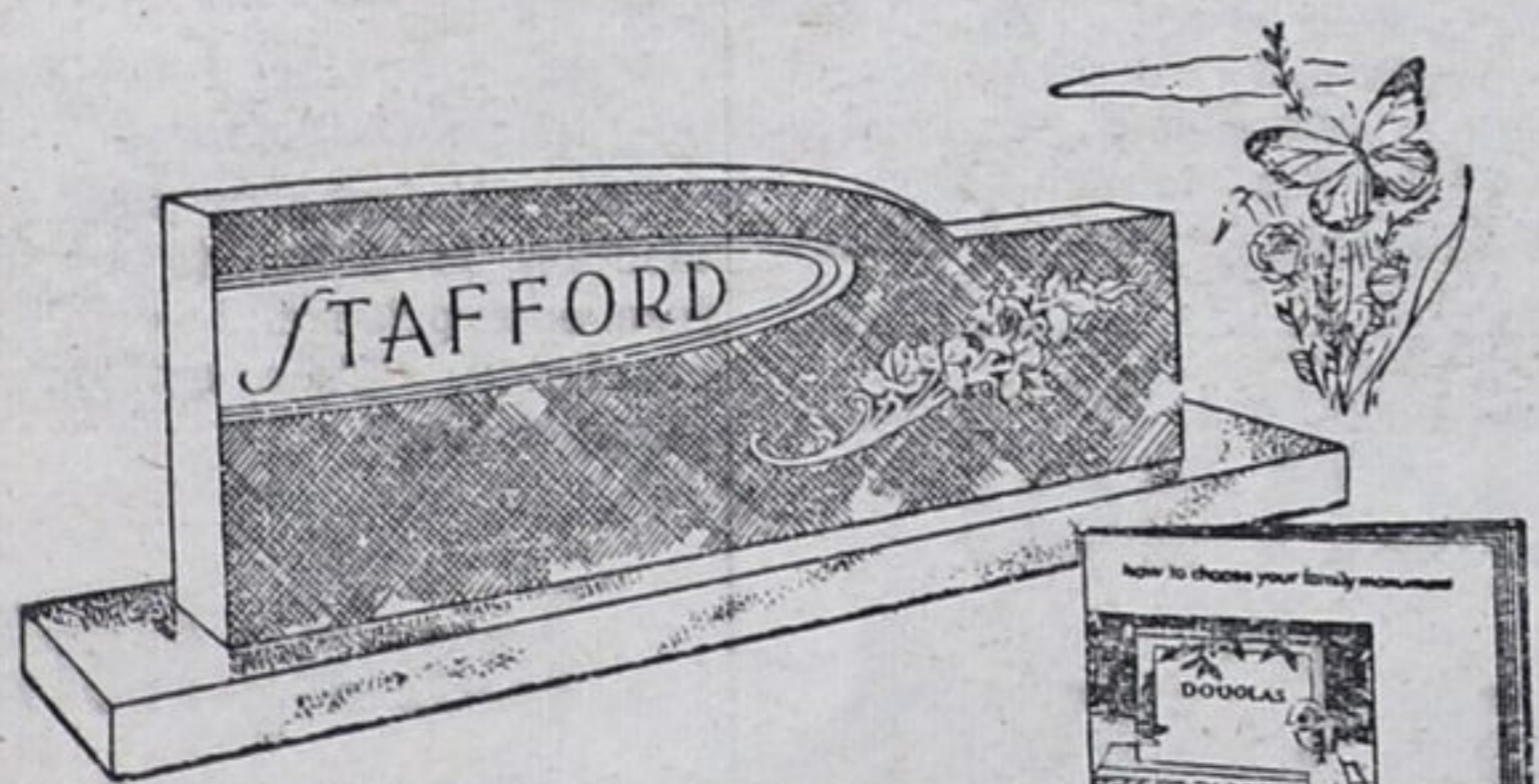


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