

## WHAT CAUGHT MY EYE

- By Ray Shank

Bad news for champagne drinkers: Word from France is that it has been a large harvest, but the quality is down and the price is up. Moreover, the champagne country is in the grip of what is described as a peasant revolt of small growers of the bubbly grapes against the big bottlers. Also, it was a summer of extremely heavy rains in France. So, if you buy champagne in the next few years, may as well buy the Canadian stuff ... it's cheaper and probably just as tasty ....

In Warsaw, Poland, lately, Poles have been getting married to the music of the big song of last summer, Love Story. It's the latest fashion at Warsaw's official Palace of Weddings, where a road sign forbids parking but a small notice beneath says: "Except for Newlyweds". Normally, couples would walk the aisle to the strains of Mendelssohn's March, but lately young Poles have been bringing in their own cassettes and Love Story has been the most popular. Up to 70 marriages a day are performed in the building's two halls. The 15-minute ceremony costs the equivalent of \$5.50 with champagne an extra cost ....

Dorothy Wilson of Gabbs, Nev. gambled for her job as justice of the peace recently and won. She and Bill Wyer each received 146 votes in the U.S. general election for the judicial post. Rather than go to the trouble of a recount, they told County Clerk Rena Bailey to toss a coin and they would accept the outcome. An 1884 silver dollar was tossed Dorothy had the right call and became Justice of the Peace ....

In Tampa, Fla. recently, James William Sweet, 25, was jailed for 101 years for rape. Police said he was an elusive "Sweet Charlie" who was wanted for more than 20 rapes in 18 months across the U.S. Victims said he used a 'sweet-smelling' cologne ....

An all-British expedition trying to climb Mount Everest by the unconquered southwest face failed recently. Two members of the 11-man team were forced to quit 2,028 feet from the top of the world's highest mountain because of bad weather and strong winds ....

Back on the subject of wines (after all you have to start getting in the spirit, Christmas isn't too far away), a Liquor Control Board consultant from Europe reports that quality and selection of wines available in Ontario is now as good as in Britain. The consultant says that Europe's winemakers recognize Ontario

as a top market and are clamoring to provide us with the best wine available in any price bracket ...

Firemen in Miami, Fla. found more than \$1,000,000 in cash and jewelry recently in an empty house once occupied by a vegetable vendor and burned by neighbourhood children. A fireman said there was money lying around everywhere. "We counted \$35,000 that was either undamaged or still negotiable," he said. "We found money in bundles, in white envelopes, in brown envelopes and in cloth bankbags full of coins. One bag weighed over 70 pounds," he said ....

This week's Where Are They Now artist: GEORGE LIBERACE -- If you remember THE Liberace, you probably remember "My brother George" Liberace. Success came to George in the early 1950s when brother Lee's first television series began to catch on. George conducted the orchestra backing Lee and Liberace (the more famous one) incorporated into his act constant references to his mother and "my brother George", which he delivered in his now famous tone of voice. In 1957, a mutual jealousy between the two came to a head and George left the act. Mother Liberace threatened not to speak to either one until they reunited, but the threat was all in vain. The brothers have yet to associate professionally. From show business, George went into the frozen pizza business and that went belly up. Now, he's franchising Mr. Turkey (turkey take-out dinners at \$1.20) and Mr. Ed restaurants in California. George is still a part-time performer. His violin orchestra was heard recently in such exclusive spots as Detroit's Hotel Pontchartrain, Rene's Ponderosa and San Diego's New Town and Country. Mother Liberace has apparently never forgiven her two boys for parting ....

We'll pass up the Where Are They Now column for the next few weeks until after the New Year, anyway ....

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Although the following is not, at present, law, we would ask your co-operation in the following areas.

Please DO NOT operate your snow vehicles on Simcoe Plaza or on Selkirk Avenue from Highway 17 to Hudson Drive.

Please DO NOT operate your snow vehicles in the vicinity of the hospital grounds, the school grounds during school hours, or on the lawns around the Recreation Centre.