

**Penas. Problems
Legislature
Faces Row on
Gasoline Tax**

By Joseph H. Miller

THE 138th regular session of the Pennsylvania Legislature, which opens in Harrisburg at noon Tuesday, may be one of the most important in the history of the State in view of the complex problems arising in this critical period.

THEROUGHT the State opinion is divided on the merits of the Governor's proposal. The City and County of Philadelphia, probably will favor the additional levy since it will provide the required revenue for the various roads which will connect with the eastern and western extensions of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

IN OTHER words, they are opposed to increasing the gasoline tax to provide better highways, yet on the other hand they want the right to put heavier vehicles on the roads, which means greater wear and tear on the roads.

ANOTHER important issue which will arise is the Administration's proposal to increase workers' benefits under the workmen's compensation, unemployment compensation and occupational disease laws.

ANYTHING that will tend to increase the State's debt is likely to be a tendency to liberate present because of the boost in living costs.

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Headline Hopping

**Ice Cap Freeze Makes
Fliers Feel Like Fryers**

By Ollie Crawford

AIR FORCE deserves credit for getting 12 airmen off the Greenland ice cap, but not too much. After all, the Air Force got them on.

FOR guys who were sitting on top of the world, the stranded doers were down to the sea in chips.

THE aviators didn't care who saved them. They just didn't want to go down to the sea in chips.

THE airmen were dreaming of a White Christmas, but 7800 feet of ice and snow is ridiculous.

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**Washington Background
Truman Aide Recalls
John the Baptist's Fate**

By The Inquirer Washington Bureau Staff

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**Walter Lippmann
Prospects
Are Dark for
German State**

By The Inquirer Washington Bureau Staff

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**-: Gossip of the Nation :-
Walter Winchell**

PRELUDE TO A NEW YEAR—A fragment of a star whirls in space and spins another year in the seamless web of time... We are a year away from the 20th century's halfway mark. But time cannot be measured solely by a calendar or clock...

THEY have forgotten—or never learned—the simple truth of international life: The most deadly enemy of one nation is not another nation—but war. The friendship one country shares with all nations can make any country invincible...

FRIENDSHIP among nations, as among individuals, demands patience and understanding. It means mutual obligations and responsibilities...

DOWN through the centuries valiant humans fought and died so all could live with dignity. Their blood has seeped into the earth—where are the fruits of their sacrifices? Before the grass turns green on their graves we bury the objectives of their fortune...

HOMEcoming—Delayed by heavy Atlantic storms, the Army transport Barney Kirschbaum, carrying 4384 war dead, will not arrive at Pier 3, Brooklyn Army Base, until tomorrow morning.

ED SULLIVAN. We came down from the northern flank Dec. 17, 1944. To support the left or the 8th Corps. At St. Vith, we joined up with remnants of the 28th Division and the 106th Division. At St. Vith, I died.

IF FOUR years later, we are coming home again to find that we bartered our lives for a phony bill of goods... Then it's just as well that the slightest dead can't look through the portholes and see the Statue of Liberty.

Samuel Grafton

Soviet Friendship Hope Has Tonic Effect

MR. TRUMAN's remark that there are certain Russian leaders who are "exceedingly anxious" to have an understanding with us has made a sensation. It sounded like a Christmas speech, but the President made it after Christmas.

I DON'T, of course, know how much Mr. Truman knows, or on what special information he based his startling remark at Kansas City. But, considering what a sensation his disclosure made in America, I wonder whether it wouldn't be wise for him to act in such a way as to make it possible for some Russian leader to make a staggering disclosure in Moscow about some American leaders being exceedingly anxious for an understanding.

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY JIMMY HATLO

WHY IS IT? ALL NIGHT LONG THE FLATWHEEL LIMITED DOES NOTHING BUT CRAWL ALONG, STOP AND BACK UP...



**Louella Parsons
Jessel Plans
Musical for
Dan Thomas**

GEORGE JESSEL figures if Cyranos de Bergerac could be a hero with a big nose, he can do something with Danny Thomas, whose nose heretofore has interfered with his movie career.



DANNY THOMAS

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 29. GEORGE JESSEL figures if Cyranos de Bergerac could be a hero with a big nose, he can do something with Danny Thomas, whose nose heretofore has interfered with his movie career.

THE picture is scheduled to start in mid-January, with Robert Buckner as the producer, so Jessel will have to make up his mind in a hurry. But I hear he is practically set to do it.

Let me say right here that I think the idea of teaming Robert Young with his 15-year-old daughter, Carol Ann, in a television series is simply dreamy. She not only has a flair for acting, but she is an amazing pianist.

Hedy Lamarr and C. B. De Mille may or may not have had their squabble early in "Samson and Delilah" (I heard they did) but everything is hearts and flowers now.

FOR Christmas, C. B. sent Hedy a picture of himself in an elaborate silver frame, inscribed "To Hedy—for her artistry and magic as Delilah and for the good work of a good girl."

Snapshots of Hollywood Collected at Random: Sheila Ryan is headed for Mexico to divorce Edward G. Robinson. The divorce was once wed to Ann Sheridan.

Yolanda Lucca, ballerina and actress, is marrying Abner Rosenthal, the stock exchange king, in February. Mrs. Lucca was heretofore introduced them, is the madam of honor.

Olivia de Havilland is spending her New Year's Eve at the Long Beach Hospital, taking part in a show for the war effort under the auspices of the Red Cross.

Spencer Tracy, Gregory Peck and Melvyn Douglas had luncheon together and discussed their birthdays are on April 5, so the boys plan to celebrate next year, to celebrate together.

The Gregory Pecks have gone, or are leaving soon, for New York for a vacation.

You may expect to hear of some more Texas millions being invested in the movies. Glenn McCarthy's first picture, "Green Frontier," is so much better than anyone expected it to be that all his friends are very interested.

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