

# Coffee Break

By Adeline Daley

Since it's traditional for betrothed couples to leave their china and crystal selections at department stores for friends to buy them wedding presents, I see nothing wrong with brides leaving their names at gasoline stations. Those, of course, which feature free glasses, steak knives and lovely four-piece table settings for \$1.29, along with a purchase of gasoline.

I can remember when all they gave away was a free car wash with eight gallons of gas, but that would be a rather gauche gift to give to a new bride, wouldn't you say?

With the new type of merchandising tie-in it was bound to change much of the conversation around the gas pumps. Instead of purchasing a new fanbelt, for example, customers are now more apt to add a matching meat platter and soup tureen to their china selection. Instead of saying, "Fill 'er up, Mac," it's more customary to place your china order first.

However, this isn't always the case. Because just the other day an attendant looked under our hood and recommended that we ought to buy an "absolute divine set of matching sparkplugs."

Of course, you ought to be able to guess why I'm so interested in all of this. We happen to have six daughters to marry off; thus I'm afraid by the time eight-year-old Jan walks down the aisle years hence, friends and relatives are apt to send back their wedding invitations, "Addressee Unknown."

I'm thinking, too, of the poor bride who wants to start a china collection, but since she didn't marry in her own home surroundings, doesn't get much of a response in the way of wedding presents, even though she has left her name in every store and discount house in the area.

In fact, this happened to me. And believe me, it was rather embarrassing to have our wedding "account" phased out, because nary a spoon was purchased in five years. Moreover, I refused to call up stores and tell them I had changed my bathroom colors since the time I had first turned in my selections, because we had repainted it that year.

However, I learned not to be so fussy and added towels to my linen closet from purchases of detergents. And before the gas stations became so generous, I was able to complete a service for eight in china by buying cereal.



IN THE KNOW . . . Mrs. Gerald Cardoza studies plans for South Bay Hospital's new wing now under construction. She is one of a group of volunteers at the hospital who will rotate as "Sidewalk Superintendents" during construction to keep employees, visitors and patients informed about the new building. The huge badge on her shoulder identifies her as the "one who knows" how things are progressing.

## Beer Drinkers Discover Bumper Crop of Barley

Press-Herald Staff Writer  
SACRAMENTO — Beer drinkers and beef eaters take note! The state had a bumper crop of California barley this year with an estimated total production of 72 million bushels. The Department of Agriculture's crop and livestock reporting service said that California, the nation's number two producer of barley, had 23,000 acres of barley, mostly in Modoc and Siskiyou Counties, which goes into the production of barley malt in western breweries in Oregon, Washington and California. Another 1.5 million acres, mostly in the San Joaquin and Imperial Valleys, is sold to cattle feed lots for the production of hefty beef animals. The department reported that due to the bumper crop, barley prices are running about 15 to 25 cents per hundredweight below a year ago.



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