WE IS THE OFF-SPRUNG of that big-city felluh, Al Capp. Frum followin' us in the funny-papers, we s'pose yuh knows us quite friendly like, but in case thar's a few foreigners 'mongst yuh, we's, from left to right, Pappy and Mammy Yokum, Li'l Abner and sweet Daisy Mae. Out in the land of movin' pitchuh's, we's better known as Joe E. Marks, Billie Hayes, Peter Palmer and Leslie Parrish. Be seein' yuh on the big theatuh screen.

DON'T TALK ABOUT WEATHER

Careful what you ask machines

By DON CAMERON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

TORONTO (CP)—You have to be careful what you say to machines.

Even talking about the weather can get you into trouble. For instance:

Q. "Will it snow in October?"

A. "My anger is aroused. I hate talking about snowy weather but very sunny days are nice for a change, aren't they?"

Or: Q. "Today is clear weather. Will it last?"

A. "Let me have no lying. It becomes none but tradesmen. Now how can overcast weather and the azure day you mentioned co-exist?"

So far, these "talking" machines are scarce, so fell free to go on speaking your mind about the elements.

But the day is coming closer when a person in another room won't be able to tell whether he is talking to a machine or a human.

Already a machine at the University of Toronto has learned to carry on simple conversations such as the foregoing, and to detect obvious lies.

Three men are responsible for the experiments here. They are: Dr. C. C. Gotlieb, chief computer, computation centre, University of Toronto; L. E. S. Green, programmer-analyst; and E. C. Berkel of Newtonville, Mass., scientist.

They decided to make the machine, a standard IBM computer, "talk" about the weather because it is a simple and common subject, and, said Mr. Green, "conversation about the weather is stereotyped."

300-WORD VOCABULARY

The machine was given a vocabulary of about 300 words—all translated into pairs of numbers. They detailed various emotions about the weather, the average weather conditions for Toronto at any given time, and a summary of the current weather.

"The machine doesn't know anything about new cars, politics or anything like that," said Mr. Green.

When a question is given to the machine it is typed on a typewriter-style keyboard, but instead of legible characters appearing, holes are made in cards containing rows of numbers. Certain numbers are punched out. These cards are fed into the machine which analyses them and matches the holes—really missing numbers—with words in its vocabulary of numbers.

The machine would know words describing wet weather as: dew 1,1, drizzle 3,1, rain 6,1, cats and dogs 7,1 and downpour 9,1.

The remark: "I do not enjoy rain in July," would be heard by the machine as: 0,0 0,0 3,14 3,11 6,1 0,0 8,9. Words not in the computer's vocabulary are represented by 0,0.

MATCHING PROCESS

The machine matches the weather mentioned in the statement—rain—with the weather associated with July: heat, blue skies.

It finds disagreement between the comment and the average conditions. Now it must select a reply from the 300 to 400 answers it was supplied with before the experiment began. These consist of sentences, also in number form containing blank spaces. They are recorded in the machine's "memory," a device resembling a tape recorder.

The machine notes that the original remark is characterized by weather (rain), emotion (dislike) and calendar time (July).

It "remembers" it has a reply corresponding to this particular combination of qualities and inter-actions. It selects the reply:

"Well, we don't usually have (blank) weather in (blank), so you will probably not be disappointed."

The machine then fills in the blanks with words originating from the remark, environment, or the machine's preferences. The reply becomes:

"Well, we don't usually have rainy weather in July, so you probably won't be disappointed."

Mr. Green, whose job as a programmer - analyst involves changing problems into mathematical equations which can be fed to computers and changing the answer back again, said the machine could be asked about something other than the weather.

"If you asked it a question about new cars which contained some words it recognized, you might get an answer about the weather," he said. "If it didn't recognize any words, it would probably accuse you of not talking about the weather."

He added that the machine could be made to talk about anything in which the answers are fairly stereotyped, such as the state of one's health.

"But the machine does only what it is told to do. It is no more than a glorified desk calculator. With a battery of ordinary calculators, you could do much the same thing if you gave them a set of rules."

Mr. Green said it is possible the process could be developed to the stage where a machine could be given an unlimited vocabulary and would answer questions on any subject.

GOLDEN JUBILEE
(Continued from Page 4)

children . . . a box of Christmas cards had been sent to missions in isolated parts of Africa . . . used clothing was collected for needy children and that the Second Guide Company had taken treats to residents of the Pioneer Home and entertained them with Christmas carols.

It was announced that there are more than 175,000 Brownies, Girl Guides and Rangers and 25,000 leaders in Canadian Guiding.

Last fall, Guides and Brownies across Canada planted nearly 1,000,000 golden tulips to bloom this spring as a "river of gold" marking the golden anniversary year of Canadian Guiding.

In the Prince Rupert district, 2,000 golden tulips have been planted, 400 of which are planted on the Museum grounds and 100 at Miller Bay Indian Hospital.

Following a showing of films, the birthday cake and coffee were served to conclude the session.

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MOVIE COLUMN

Hollywood's golden lure can't capture Frankie

By BOB THOMAS

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Britons can rest assured they won't lose their Frankie to Hollywood's golden lure.

The English singing star, Frankie Vaughan, is here to co-star with Marilyn Monroe in Let's Make Love. He's as starry-eyed as any newcomer by the proximity of the beauteous blonde and the other lures of the film capital. But he doesn't intend to follow the precedent of many other British performers and settle down here.

"I just couldn't do it," he said earnestly. "In England, there's a great deal of resentment about our performers who come over here and stay. I must say I can understand it.

HOME TIES STRONG

"I like it here, but I have a great many people in England who have helped my career and have remained loyal to me. I couldn't turn my back on them.

"All my family is in England, and my wife's family, too. I couldn't cut myself off from them. I just couldn't."

Still, the lure may be great. Vaughan has made a splendid impression here and is getting the A treatment. Some folks were expecting him to be a teddy-boy or at least a Cockney Elvis Presley, since he has been billed as a rock 'n' roll idol.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. He is a handsome, dark-haired young man with excellent diction and tailored in a manner that might make Cary Grant envious. He is modest, too, but not with the phony modesty of some new performers.

BALLAD SINGER

"I have sung some songs that might be considered rock 'n' roll," he explained, "and the teen-agers did take me up because of my records. But I was an entertainer before that, so I wasn't dependent on the teen-age appeal. Primarily I'm a ballad singer."

He's also a dancer, and has numbers to do with Marilyn in the film. The idea is that they appear in an off-Broadway show together and millionaire Yves Montand tries to get his job and Marilyn away from him. Who wins?

"Montand gets Marilyn," Frankie said. "Perhaps it is just as well. At least I can tell my wife: "Well, I don't get her in the picture."

NO PAPER

VANCOUVER (CP)—Metal tokens or cash fares will replace paper bus tickets here. The tokens sell at four for 25 cents, and children will need one token, adults two.

FLOWERS FOR REMEMBRANCE are handed Mario Lanza by Zsa Zsa Gabor during the filming of "For the First Time," presently showing at the Totem Theatre. Taken on location at Capri, the above photo is one of the last of Lanza who succumbed to a heart attack shortly after the picture was completed.

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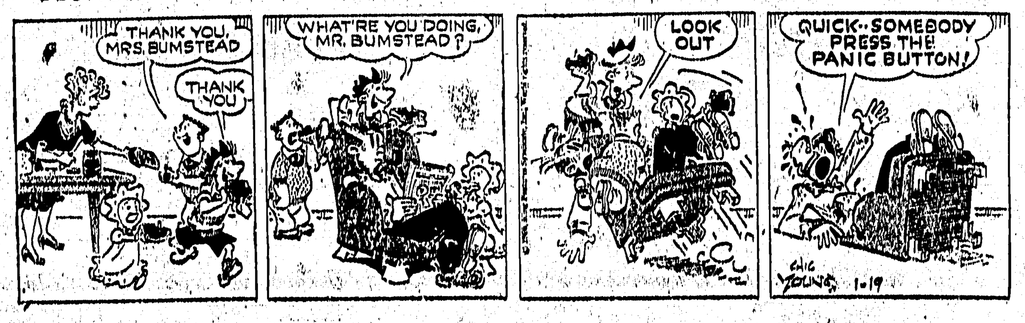
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