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### Venice With Maze of Canals Sinking About Inch per Year

VENICE — Venice—the romantic city of lagoons and singing gondoliers—is slowly sinking under the caressing seas. Experts say no technique now known can save the most famous of the world's strange cities. It is sinking almost an inch every ten years.

St. Mark Square has been washed in recent years with a foot of water almost every spring at high tide. The marble of the great square is only 15 inches above present sea level. Yet only a couple of centuries ago, the level of the square was raised 29½ inches to avoid such flooding.

The same thing has happened to the great palaces along the main lagoon. Their original gondola landings now are a foot or more below water level. New entrances are used, or the old ones have been raised.

#### FLOODED CELLARS

Cellars of old buildings now are almost entirely inundated and unusable.

Engineer Eusebio Miozzi, who for 25 years has been chief technical adviser to the city of Venice on such problems, says:

"It must be remembered that the islands which form our city are subject to a general and steady sinking . . . which averages about 2½ centimetres, one inch every 10 years.

"Recent excavations have brought to light perfectly preserved pavings of old parts of the city now completely beneath water.

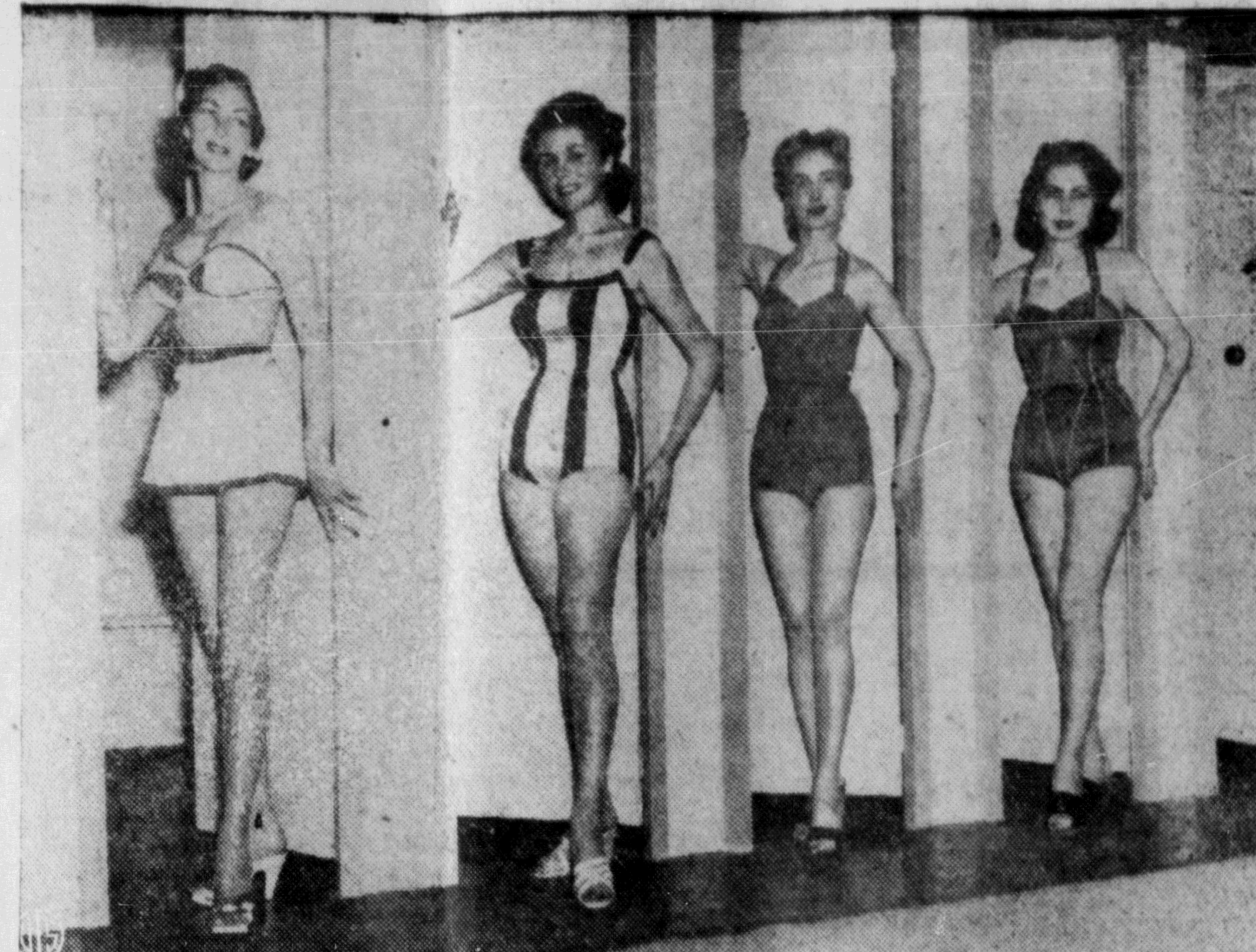
"Sadly enough, with the passing of more centuries, Venice, like other sea-built ancient towns, will have to be abandoned.

"Our task is to conserve as best possible the art and beauty of Venice with such means as we now have available, in the hope that future techniques may finally save the city."

**FUR STORAGE**

PHONE **974** TODAY

**BILL SCUBY FURS**



SUMMER has advanced far enough for these young lovelies to come out of their cabins, but it'll probably be a while before they hit the water. Modeling the latest in beachwear at Deligny on the Seine are (left to right): "La petite Americaine" worn by Claude; "Miss Monde" worn by Lilliane; "Francesca," by Muriel; and "Laetitia," by Brigitte. The designs are by Arabelle.

### BLACKWOOD on BRIDGE

By EASLEY BLACKWOOD

#### Conservative Bidder Gets "Forced" Into Game

Fine players adjust their bidding to fit the skills and abilities of their respective partners. To make this admirable plan work, remember this: Do not overdo it.

If you make several extreme and obvious underbids playing with a loose bidder for a partner, his own bidding will get wilder and wilder, to "balance" your conservatism.

Similarly, if you press your cards too much when playing with a very conservative partner, you will soon find him passing you out at the most inopportune moments—for fear your next bid will put the hand overboard.

The best you can do is to apply the plan to "close" hands—hands which are susceptible to two bids; one on the conservative side and one on the aggressive side, but neither subject to serious criticism.

**DALE'S HAND**  
Mr. Dale had such a hand in today's deal. When his partner opened the bidding with a heart, he had enough to take some forward-going action. He could bid two clubs on the first round, planning to give a single raise in hearts at his next turn. Or he could jump raise hearts immediately.

He was a little short for the latter bid, but not much. He chose the double raise because his partner was Mr. Meek. And Mr. Meek might drop the bidding at three hearts when game was a laydown.

Mrs. Keen led the four of diamonds, dummy ducked and Mr. Abel won with the jack. The queen of spades was returned and Mr. Meek was in with the ace.

**MEEK PESSIMISTIC**  
If the queen of clubs could be finessed successfully, there was nothing to it. But Mr. Meek, pessimistic as usual, "knew" the king of clubs was wrong. He found another line of play.

Surely Mrs. Keen's opening lead had not been from the ace-queen of diamonds and if not then the ace was still in Mr. Abel's hand. Entering dummy with a trump, he led the king of

### Office Workers Waging Feud With Machines

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK — There is a new kind of class warfare going on.

It is a war between the white collar class and the coin-vending machines in the office locker rooms where millions of white collar workers now consume the lunches they carry to work.

In some offices the locker rooms resemble supermarkets, crowded with automatic dispensing gadgets that peddle everything from mystery novels to stockings.

The locker room in my firm has only seven of these coin-operated mechanical salesmen, which yield two kinds of milk, several flavors of ice cream, seven brands of cigarettes, four varieties of soft drinks and about 20 kinds of candy bars.

But even these seven machines have turned our placid locker room into an exciting battleground, where men and metal monsters grapple in mortal combat.

#### FREE SHOW

I have practically given up going to the theatre or watching television. When I want to study human nature in the raw, I go to the locker room.

Who will win—man or machine? This is the crucial issue every time an employee approaches one of the machines with a coin. Nine out of 10 times there is a happy ending. The machine hesitates, grumbles, then reluctantly coughs up the desired merchandise.

The 10th time—maybe the machine doesn't like the feel of the coin or the color of the necktie the employee is wearing—nothing happens. Then anything can happen!

Usually the engagement ends after a flurry of wild blows and kicks, a series of high-pitched human yells and low stubborn mechanical growls, with the employee nursing bruised fists and sore toes—and the machine sneering with the natural superiority it feels toward any white collar worker.

Since the profits from our machines go into an office welfare fund, we have an umpire who settles most of these disputes by returning the lost coin—a truce that really appeases neither the man nor the machine involved.

### U.S. Holds First Talks With China

GENEVA — The United States today made its first official and direct contact with Communist China.

An official U.S. statement said Alexis Johnson, U.S. ambassador to Czechoslovakia, accompanied by a British official, held a meeting today with a member of the Peiping delegation to the Far East conference here.

Later, a member of the U.S. delegation said the meeting with the Chinese "does not involve recognition of any sort."

He explained that in the past the U.S. has always negotiated with its enemies on prisoners-of-war, "so why shouldn't we do it here?"

The negotiations were opened on instructions from Washington, it was learned.

A Peiping spokesman said further meetings between the two sides will take place. He described the contact as only "a preliminary one."

The U.S. does not recognize the Peiping regime.

The U.S. delegation here has hitherto avoided any contact with the Chinese delegation outside the conference chamber.

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### BOY TRAPPED ON BRANCH HELPS RESCUERS SAW LIMB

VANCOUVER — Billy Harvey, 13, impaled on a branch rescuers saw through the limb so he could be taken to hospital. The boy was playing with companions when he took the tumble. The branch, part of a low bush, entered his right leg near the foot and came out near the knee. Ambulance driver Tom Andrews said: "I got the kid to hold one of the branches out of the way . . . it kept him busy and he didn't have time to think."

**50 VESSELS**  
(Continued from page 1)

Robert B. 12,000 pounds, mediums 11,000 (17.3); large 500 (16.3); chicken 500 (14) sold to B.C. Packers.	Spencer 8,000; Balsac I. 13,000; Dove B. 20,000; Gony Borgund 7,000; Parma Clipper II. 23,000; Freda 23,000; MRB 21,000; Atti 30,000; Cape Spear 14,000; Coroma 10,000; Neptune 12,000; Vika 18,000; Attu I. 30,000; Four Prisms 15,000 (17.5); large 4,000 (16.5); chicken 1,000 (14) sold to Bacon Fisheries.
Invercan II. 20,000 pounds, mediums 15,000 (17.5); large 4,000 (16.5); chicken 1,000 (14) sold to Bacon Fisheries.	Co-Op landings included the Ingrid H with 25,000 pounds; the Marble Island 10,000; Kaeni 8,000; Shafer 14,000; Zenith 15,000; Miss Margot 6,000; Lutah 3,000; Primrose 6,000; Shirli 12,000; Advance 10,000; Sea Maid 22,000; Oslo 26,000; Selma H. 20,000; Charlotte S. 7,000; Cape

**Big Asparagus**  
NORTH BAY, Ont. — A couple of oddities in the asparagus world turned up in the W. A. Milton's garden at Galt way. One was a main stalk 22,000; the other was a main stalk 20,000; Charlotte S. 7,000; Cape

TODAY AND WEDNESDAY

**'The only word is Bravo!'**

Sir Laurence carries off his role of hard-riding, hard-drinking and hard acrobatics a la Douglas Fairbanks with his usual exuberance. And he takes Captain Macheath's endless intrigues with the ladies in gallant stride.

**LAURENCE OLIVIER**  
**"THE BEGGAR'S OPERA"**

Also—  
"So You Want to be an Heir"  
"Carnival in Rio"  
"I Gopher You"

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DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS JR.

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