
DOINGS *of a* DEMOCRACY

By HAROLD HELFER

- ✓ The City Council of South St. Paul, Minn., voted to hire an assistant for dogcatcher Ben Bendickson after he complained that children were freeing stray dogs from his truck as fast as he could catch them.
- ✓ The Colorado Controller's office received an expense account from a state legislator for a trip to the state capital in which nothing was filled in for meals. Instead there was this note on the voucher: "Carried my lunch."
- ✓ After a Tucson man had filled out the voter's registration forms, a court-house clerk told him, "Sir, you should list your occupation, not your wife's." To which the man retorted: "Don't change it. My wife works. She makes me do the housework. What else would you call my job? I'm a housewife."
- ✓ A bandit who held up a Texarkana, Tex., service station soothingly told the two attendants as he pocketed the money from the cash register, "You know, it's deductible from your income tax."
- ✓ After Sen. George D. Aiken, of Vermont, advised everybody to drink more milk to help cut coffee prices, he got a letter from a lady accusing him of "trying to starve babies by encouraging adults to drink up the milk."
- ✓ The Internal Revenue office in Knoxville received a request from a citizen that he be allowed to deduct the cost of his wife's false teeth because "she sure eats enough."
- ✓ In Memphis, William M. Johnson, being questioned as a prospective juror in a \$150,000 damage suit, was asked what he did for a living. When he replied, "I'm a magician and a mind reader," he was excused without further questioning.
- ✓ Becoming disgusted while trying to figure out his income tax, a citizen mailed to the Chicago Internal Revenue Bureau a bulky envelope containing scores of bills, business receipts and street car transfers to let the Government figure out what he owed.
- ✓ The wife and son of a St. Louis businessman picketed his firm for higher pay and better hours.
- ✓ A Santa Monica, California, judge settled a divorce suit by allotting the husband one half of the family swimming pool and his wife the other.

YOUR LIFE IS NOT WORTH SAVING AT SEA!

By BERNARD ROSENBERG



AS THE admiralty law of America stands today, there is more material gain in saving cattle in danger at sea than in saving people in similar jeopardy," says Lieutenant Commander Lawrence Jarett, associate professor of law at the United States Merchant Marine Academy. For United States admiralty courts generously reward those who save property in peril at sea, but they leave unrewarded those who save human life. Take these two salvage cases as examples of this extraordinary truth:

The master and crew of a fishing schooner out of Gloucester found a dead man's body floating in mid-Atlantic. The man's pockets contained, among other things, gold coins and American currency of more than one thousand dollars, and papers showing that he had been a passenger on a ship that had sunk in a collision some weeks before.

The master and crew buried the man's body in accordance with sea custom, by sinking it. When they

got back to their home port, they turned over to the admiralty court the gold coins, money, and papers for salvage. Said the admiralty judge: "I award to the salvors half the value of the property salvaged — one-third of the salvage to be paid to the owners of the vessel — one-third to the master — and one-third to the crew."

A New Bedford schooner — sailing with a crew of six hands and five passengers from Florida's Apalachicola to Havana, Cuba — was struck by a sudden squall and upset. High-running waves breaking continually over the defenseless vessel forced passengers and crew to lash themselves to the wreck in order to keep themselves from being swept overboard.

For four days and nights they hung on desperately, battered time and again by the wild seas. On the fifth day, a passing ship spotted them — approached warily — sent a rescue boat to the wreck and took