

Pipe Dreams



By Joe Murphy

There are more good news stories coming out of our advertising columns than we find on page one.

Take that ad the other day in the classified section, a display ad at that. It says simply: "Wanted Used Christmas Trees. Paying top prices for used, real Christmas trees. Bring to Fred Cochran....New Perezville." That's probably Fred Cochran, who heads up GORCO, and therein lies the mystery.

I can't imagine anything more worthless than a used Christmas tree. You can't plant them. You can't burn them in your fireplace, because very few homes on the island have fireplaces. You can't eat them. I suppose you can saw off the limbs and use the trunks to beat your wife with. Somebody reported Fred's yard is covered with them. I sure hope I get an explanation of this before long before I lose what remains of my mind. Fred and his friendly used Christmas tree lot, indeed.

Then there was a cryptic note from Bill Phillips of the Dateline, referring to a question I asked in yesterday's column about the whereabouts of the Japanese Zero pulled out of the Agana swamp. The note reads: "Joe. A gentleman called saying the Japanese Zero was shipped to Japan sometime in 1965 as a goodwill gesture from the people of Guam. The Zero, he says, is in some museum over there and he got the information from your column a few years ago. You shoulda been born with a photographic memory." Yes.

Businessman Joseph Tamag of Yap should know he was quoted in a most unlikely place, the Fort Lauderdale News in Florida, by Bob Miller, UPI ace writer. Tamag said: "Those championing independence (for Micronesia) are dreamers who ignore the facts of life. The independence candidates were defeated, because the people started asking them questions they couldn't answer, like where is the money coming from? Who is to pay the bills? Where do we get the \$60 million the Americans are now spending to run Micronesia and educate our kids? Besides, how can anyone be stupid enough to think the Americans are going to pull out of Micronesia and leave the place up for grabs to anyone who comes along—like the Russians or the Japanese? Never!" That's the most practical observation on the political status of the islands in a long time, although no doubt there will be dissenters.
