

league baseball starting today? Well, the backers say that this is really the best time of the year, rain-wise, there isn't much else going on, and they don't want to conflict with Little League and Babe Ruth baseball. Good thinking, I guess.

Incidentally, that Major League Baseball idea should be an interesting one. It will give adults, and young adults a chance to play baseball for the first time, and could even lead to some sort of international league with Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and the Philippines. We'll be curious to see how they do.

The Public Works people at the Navy says that it takes one gallon of oil to produce 11.5 kilowatt hours of electricity, and almost five KWH to wash one load of clothes at a hot setting, plus another five KWH to dry one load in a dryer. So, figure about a gallon of oil everytime you do a load of clothing.

Incidentally, the Crossroads reported no miracles are being achieved yet in trying to ease the energy crisis in military housing. They have experienced a drop of 5.4 percent in energy usage, but were shooting towards a goal of 30 percent.

Most island people, I would imagine, would remember our excellent former head doctor at Guam Public Health, Dr. Frank, and Heather Haendel. Well, we're happy to report that they had a baby recently, Erika Susan, and are now living in the states after a year in Europe.

We have mixed emotions of one type of punishment to criminals - that being punishment by public branding. No, we don't mean stamping a big "P" on the persons back, and making them walk around the streets, like the military people used to do. Or the head shave gig of the Marines in the olden days. But, rather, public notoriety through carrying news stories about the offense in the daily papers. Of course, if it is a major crime, then it is common enough. But on a small crime, the method is questionable. Still, merchants tell me that once we started carrying names of shoplifters arrested for carting off merchandise, it did slow down the number of people doing that sort of thing. This doesn't always work with juveniles, though, who carefully cut out news clippings and pass them around to impress their friends.

I'm fascinated by the progress our sister islands to the North have made thus far in their political status talks, because it begins to look like that within a couple of years--possibly three--we'll have a new Commonwealth in the world. But, I wonder if they are thinking about a name--"Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas?" Perhaps. Or just Marianas? But, without Guam that doesn't make sense, because we're a part of the Marianas. And what do you call a resident of that new Commonwealth? He isn't exactly a Micronesian, because they're going to have their own government eventually. Of course, many of them are Chamorro, but then there are a lot of Carolinians there too, and again, there is a conflict here with Guam. Is there such a thing as a Marianer? Mariana? Marianese?

WASHINGTON - True to a 350-year tradition of persecuting Indians, the Justice Department used fraudulent testimony in its recent attempt to convict three impoverished Indians.

The harassed trio--an Ojibway and Tuscaroras, two of whom can't even read--accused of receiving stolen government documents.

The Justice Department staged a seven-day trial, which cost the taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars. A crack criminal attorney, Boucher, was sent from Washington, N.C., to help U.S. Attorney Th. McNamara with the prosecution.

Their star witness was a turncoat Sioux named Larry Blacksmith, who gave testimony that the Justice Department must have known was false.

DOCUMENT HEIST

The case grew out of the great document heist of November 1972. A group of militant Indians arrived in Washington to protest innumerable timeless grievances. They first occupied, vandalized, then looted the building housing the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

In the rows of file cabinets, they discovered documentary evidence of the bungling, neglect, and betrayal that have characterized the white government's conduct toward the Indian. They buried thousands of documents out of the building dead of night and hauled them out of Washington in a 40-car motor caravan, which was escorted by police with motorcycles roaring.

Not until the Indians had scattered did the authorities discover that thousands of documents were missing. The FBI organized a nationwide dragnet to retrieve the stolen papers. Dozens of newsmen also set off in search of them.

My associate Les Whitten, after crisscrossing the country and holding secret meetings with the militants, was the only outsider who gained access to the documents.

DOCUMENTS RETURNED

Meanwhile, soft-spoken Indian negotiator Hank Adams tried to persuade the militants to return the documents. He argued that the stolen documents contained vital information that was important to the protection of Indian rights and claims.

Les Whitten was on the scene again with the first large batch of documents were returned to Hank Adams, who made arrangements to turn them over to the government. But on the same day, Adams and Whitten are arrested by the FBI.