

## Reporter's Yearning for Thrill Pays Off at Last

By CHRIS KOWITZ, JR.

The story of the man who traveled around the world looking for a four-leaf clover, then found one in his own back yard, may be more than a fable after all. It can happen to a reporter.

At least it has happened to me, with several years of adventurous reporting as my world, a fugitive from law as my clover, and the Capital Journal office as my back yard.

I've always had hopeful visions of someday going out after a "big" story and bringing back more than a few scribbled notes. That is, I've dreamed of actually finding a lost plane, capturing an escaped criminal, or tracing down a clue which would lead to the solution of a crime. You know, the way reporters do it in the movies.

Serving as a Capital Journal reporter this summer has presented all sorts of opportunities for this sort of thing. During the last few months I have traveled hundreds of miles, stayed up night after night and raced to the scene of many news breaks on thrilling reporting exploits. But I had to come to my own back yard—the Capital Journal office—to find my four-leaf clover.

I took off from a fog-shrouded airport at the first crack of dawn so as to be in the first airplane to reach the site of a reported plane wreckage in the Detroit dam area last May and spent the next several days flying over that vicinity. But I never spotted the object in question, which later was discovered to be a patch of snow.

When John Pinson and William Benson made their escape over the Oregon state prison wall during the wee hours of Memorial day morning, I again was first on the spot. A detective and I arrived there together, and made a search of the area barely minutes after the

escape. Then for the following two days and nights I went with air and ground search parties, beating brush, crawling through ditches, armed with a gun as well as my pencil. But I saw no hide or hair of the convicts, who are still free.

The LaVista auto court was robbed by armed bandits at dawn a month or so later, and in less than 15 minutes after the robbery I was there. But I could find no clue regarding the holdup men, who are also still free.

I have memorized descriptions of men and cars involved in many crimes, but I still had to be content to just look for them and write about their freedom.

Then Friday afternoon, just as I was preparing to leave the office and muttering of the lack of news for that day, my four-leaf clover bloomed not 20 feet from my desk.

A man who had walked into the office a moment before motioned me to a corner of the newsroom and said: "I am Rae Moore. I am wanted in Ohio on a parole violation charge. I have three years of a prison term left to serve. I am turning myself in to you."

The tears in his eyes told me he was not joking.

That was all there was to it. I took Moore to police headquarters and fulfilled my long desire to find "the real McCoy."

He was my man Friday. Hold everything. Two men just escaped from the prison annex. G'bye.

## White Dwarf Stars Arouse Interesting Observations

By J. HUGH PRUETT

(Astronomer, Extension Division, Oregon Higher Education System)

"In an old World Almanac I came across an article about a dwarf star named after van Maanen of Mt. Wilson. It was smaller than the earth and one cubic inch would weigh seven tons. Will you give me some information on this?" (G. G. J., Seattle).

This is just one of a class of stars now called white dwarfs, and until fairly recently entirely unknown. Most of the long-known white stars are giants, extremely hot and luminous, and for this reason visible from great distances. Dwarf stars have long been listed, but most of them have been toward the red end of the color scale.

The white dwarfs are very hot stars, but because of their small volume are not very luminous. The first one of this type was discovered long before it was ever seen. This may seem strange, but it came about in this way:

Over 100 years ago when the German astronomer Bessel was working on stellar distances he made many observations on Sirius, the brilliant star which glitters in the southern sky during the winter and spring. He found that it had a sort of wavy motion and predicted that this was due to an unseen companion star which revolved around it. In 1862 Titin Clark, the noted telescope maker, while testing a new 18-inch refractor, spied the tiny object, now known as Sirius B, nestling in the rays of the brilliant star.

By methods too technical for a popular article it was found that this small star was so massive that a pint of it if brought to the earth would weigh fully 40,000 lbs. So unusual was this that mathematical astronomers thought surely they had made a grievous error, but the most careful calculations always brought the same solution.

Only 15 years ago, astronomy books still spoke of white dwarfs as great rarities. Only 12 were listed in a text of 1939; by 1941, 38. But the work of Dr. Luyten of the University of Minnesota rapidly increased the number, so that by August 1948 the 100th white dwarf was discovered. Since then others have "come to light." The Harvard Announcement Card of June 21, 1949, listed the 110th.

The attempted explanation of these massive white stars is

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Right Up Allen's Alley—Fred Allen, radio comedian, vacationing at Sea Girt, N. J., picked up a newspaper and laughed and laughed. One of Allen's pet hates, radio giveaway programs, had just been banned by the Federal Communications Commission. Said Allen to newsmen, "They have taken radio away from the scavengers and given it back to the entertainers." (AP Wirephoto)

## Farmer Gambles All On Movie-Writing Chance

By PATRICIA CLARY

Hollywood, Aug. 22 (AP)—A 50-year-old farmer who has spent his life hammering on the gates to Hollywood gambled everything he owns on a last attack. Today he waited by the telephone to find out whether he won.

Vincent B. Capra started to write stories for the movies 30 years ago, when he was a young fellow of 20 and Mary Pickford and D. W. Griffith reigned in Hollywood. He wrote constantly, 20 stories a year, year after year.

He took other jobs only to keep himself and his family fed while he wrote. After he saved up a little, he quit and came to Hollywood to push his stories himself. He made 20 trips to the plaster city, but he never sold a story.

After 30 years and 600 wasted stories, Capra said, he got tired of waiting for the door to swing open.

He sold "everything I own" to print his last story in 14 pages of a movie trade paper where studio executives will see it.

His chances against selling it, a screen writers' guild official said, were "eight million to one."

"I want to find out whether I have anything," he said. "I'm forcing the issue."

Most of his other stories—like those of other unknown authors—never could get past the

studio front desks, he said. But the latest Hollywood reporter delivered his plot to the mahogany desks of Samuel Goldwyn, Louis B. Mayer and Frank Capra (no relation).

"I want them at least to read it," he said. "Then if they don't like it, I'll give up."

His story, called "The Green Thumb," is about two boys who came home from the war and bought a farm.

"It glamorizes farming," said Capra, who had a San Jose, Cal., farm. "I lived the part."

The center section of the reporter cost Capra \$200 a page. The total was about as much as he'd get if he sold the story.

"I sold my farm, sold everything, to pay for it," he said. "If he doesn't sell the story, he'll go away quietly."

"I won't write any more movie stories," he said. "I'll try writing books."

## Fisherman Burned In Boat Explosion

Astoria, Ore., Aug. 22 (AP)—An explosion shattered a gillnet boat here yesterday and pinned a fisherman to the burning craft.

Firemen said workers on the Union Fishermen's Co-op cannery dock lifted the deck house from Willie Lappalainen, Aberdeen, and tossed him into the river to extinguish the flames on his clothes.

He was being treated in the Columbia hospital for burns. Firemen said they would question Lappalainen on what may have caused the explosion.

Marsden Leave Monmouth Monmouth—Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Marsden have sold his home to Elmer Enz of the social science staff of the Oregon College of Education, and have moved to Eugene where Mr. Marsden will operate a large apartment house which he recently purchased. Mr. and Mrs. Hildenbrand will continue to operate the hardware and grocery business.

## Sally Klein and Martha Harper Win Championships

Thursday was a "peachy day" at the Portland Gas & Coke company kitchen as 12 Marion county 4-H canning members competed in the annual Spreckles canning contest under the direction of Anne Bergholz, Marion county extension agent, 4-H.

Sally Klein, 14, Aumsville, and Martha Harper, 16, Brooks, were junior and senior champions respectively.

Mrs. Maryolive Maddox Corvallis, former city extension agent, 4-H, in Portland, scored the girls closely on their various steps in canning and their finished product which was a pint of peaches.

Following Sally very closely was Joyce Graham, 14, Woodburn, who will receive a blue ribbon award.

In the red award group, Darlene Zumstein, 10, Roberts, and Nellie Harrington, 11, of Silverton, were all very close.

Miriam Brown 12, Stayton, Esther Crites, 14, Darlene Crites, 11, Francine O'Conner, 11, all of Silverton, and Phyllis Shields, 11, of Aumsville, completed the group of contestants. Martha Harper was the only

represented at the meeting here Saturday were the state CIO, Young Democrats and Young Republicans of the state, the State Grange and the Farmers Union. The Grange and Farmers Union have not yet formally endorsed the idea.

A committee to study procedures was named.

## Busses in North Still Stalled

Olympia, Aug. 22 (AP)—North coast Greyhound buses still were stalled today by an employers' strike that is now nearing the end of its 10th week.

Hopes for resumption of service pending arbitration of the controversy were abandoned Saturday when Governor Langlie said he was unable to get company officials to agree to arbitration.

Langlie said the union was "ready at all times to submit to arbitration all issues which they considered were a managerial function and not subject to arbitration, the governor said."

Langlie said the public service commission and other state agencies will take such steps as may be possible to start operations.

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senior contestant competing in canning peaches and a pint of green beans.

Inez Zumstein, 15 and JoAnne Evans, 13, from the "Canny Canners" canning club at Roberts won the canning demonstration contest on their "Preservation by Cold Pack". Evelyn Henries, 13, and Irene Thomas, 13, representing the "Cherry Canners" of Cloverdale, placed second with their demonstration on "Packing Peaches."

The champions in this contest will represent Marion county at the State Fair, September 5-11.

Miss Klein will be competing for a scholarship to the 1950 4-H summer school while Miss Harper will be competing for a \$100 scholarship which goes to the state champion in the senior Spreckles canning contest. Sally Klein was runner-up in the 1948 contest won by her cousin, Donna Lee Klein of Aumsville.

All these girls will have canning exhibits at the annual Marion county 4-H fall show which will be held at the State Fair grounds August 24-26. The public is invited to attend with no admission charged.



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