

RIGHT ARMS LONGER THAN LEFTS

Ben Makes a Business Of Catering to Odd Fits

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS

Washington, Aug. 24 (AP)—Some congressmen have longer right arms than left arms. That also goes for some vice presidents and members of the supreme court.

Also there are fat necks and thin necks. Stuff bellies and skinny ones. Fellows who need long tails on their shirts and guys who need short ones.

All of which is none of my business.

But it is the business of a slender chap who manages a place on 15th street called the custom shop. His name is Ben Long, and he can tell you more about the length of the shirt-tails of the biggies than they can themselves. He keeps a record.

Ben adjusted his horn-rimmed glasses and shocked everybody within hearing with the remark that there are more than 2,000 patterns for a collar.

That's not including the kind which Rep. W. Kingsland Macy, R., N. Y., wears. His collar sticks up in the proper Herbert Hoover manner and he buys them by the dozen from a New York concern.

When a big shot, like a representative of a senator, first goes into the shop he goes through a screening as if he were being fitted for bi-focals.

He is cased and measured carefully.

Long, or one of his assistants, pulls a tape measure across shoulders and around the middle. They ask the subject to extend both arms for measurement. The back also is measured for the probable length of the shirt-tail.

"Also," said Long, "we try to fit the personality of the man to the shirt."

A wrong kind of collar can make a fat man look fatter or a tall man look taller.

"For instance, in the case of a fat man, we try to give him a longer point on his collar," Long said. "It keeps him from looking too chubby. Also, in a custom made shirt we are able to give quarter sizes in the neck and one-half sizes in the sleeves. To a big shot that makes a lot of difference. Whether he sticks out too far at the neck or in the sleeves."

Long has had many a trying time during his experience in shirting the great and near-great of the capital.

Big shots, he finds, are more fussy than the little man who comes in humbly and asks for a simple \$4.50 job.

Some of the wealthiest men on Capitol Hill will bounce back after paying more than \$200 for a dozen shirts to yelp that the sleeves are a sixteenth of an inch too short.

"Others will gripe if the collar buckles a little," Long said. What Long is proudest of, is the fact that he also makes blouses for women.

One of the most famous designers of women's gowns in Hollywood dropped in not long ago and ordered a couple of blouses for his wife.

"We were just a little excited," he said.

He put all hands to work. They came up with a half a dozen things of rare, silky beauty.

The fashion expert fingered the finished product and, without asking his wife even to try them on, placed an order for a half dozen.



French Flee Forest Fires—French villagers, carrying their belongings, flee their homes near Bordeaux, France, as forest fires, burning over 22,240 acres and claiming 63 lives, threaten their village. (Acme Telephoto)

PITY THE POOR POSTMEN

What Is Put in Mail Boxes Enuf to Drive 'Em Crazy

By JAMES W. HART

Pittsburgh (AP)—A mailman's life is never dull, according to Charles F. Musiol, general foreman of the post office claims-inquiry department here.

Musiol bases his claim on the variety of items plucked from the green street boxes each day by his staff.

He is of the opinion that every mail box is a potential "Pandora's Box."

Pittsburgh has some 3,000 mail boxes within the city limits, and each gives up at least one mailed-by-accident article every day.

The items range from lighted cigarettes tossed in by pranksters to snooty cats or house-hunting turtles.

Recently, a postman was challenged by an irate garter snake which evidently had decided that the dark roomy confines of the mailbox made an ideal maternity ward.

Tipplers often mistake the letter drops for trash baskets and deposit their empty bottles for the mailman. Other folk toss half-eaten sandwiches, gum wrappers and garbage into the "convenient" boxes.

Often a cat lover will be

blessed with a litter of kittens and simultaneously cursed with the job of giving them away. An easy method, some feel, is to drop the whole family into the mail box with a note instructing the postal authorities to "find them a good home."

Other cats, just curious, manage to find their way into the box and then can't get out. As often as not, their liberator is clawed when he sticks his arm in to scoop up a batch of letters.

Another occupational hazard faced by the mailman is the possibility of being stuck by pins of costume jewelry which slips from the clothing of letter-mailing women.

Secretaries, Musiol believes, are the greatest contributors to his "collection." In their last minute haste to get rid of the mail and catch a trolley home, they dump lipsticks, false teeth, money, compacts, corn-plasters, keys, spectacles and sundry other items into the drops.

No matter what the intruding article might be or how it got there, the postman delivers it to Musiol's department in the federal building. There it remains for 30 days, while the owner may claim it.

If unclaimed, it's shipped to the parcel post dead end department in New York. When the New York "warehouse" becomes overcrowded, an auction is held and the items are sold to the general public.

Pandanus leaves are used to make the famous hula skirts of the South Seas.

Truman Plans Busy Labor Day

Washington, Aug. 24 (AP)—President Truman is planning to make three airplane flights on Labor day Sept. 5, concluding them with his first visit home to Missouri since Christmas.

His schedule for that day as now planned calls for flights: From Washington to Pittsburgh for an address around

noon to the Allegheny county free fair.

From Pittsburgh to Des Moines, Iowa, to address the annual convention of the Amvets, an organization of veterans of World War II. This address will be made in the afternoon.

From Des Moines to Missouri, after the Amvets talk, to spend a couple of nights at his home, in Independence, where Mrs. Truman and daughter Margaret are spending their vacation.

Mr. Truman is going to Philadelphia next Monday to address the annual convention of the

American Legion.

Original plans call for him to make this trip by plane, but there were indications today that it may be shifted to train travel.

A minnow's teeth are in its throat.

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Warden Probes Con's Death

Warden George Alexander today readied for the proposed state board of control investigation into the suicide of 24-year-old Oran A. Brownlee at the Oregon penitentiary March 17.

The board will probe into complaints that Brownlee did not receive timely medical attention after he was found dying in his cell with his wrist slashed.

Alexander questioned guards and members of his staff but wished not to make a complete statement until he knew all the facts.

But he had this much to say: "Brownlee tried to commit suicide several times before and usually just scratched his wrist a little. Each time they ran him up to the hospital."

The warden said that on the night of the suicide the guards found him lying on his cot and "thought he was all right. At first they thought he was fooling — had just scratched himself again. Later they took him on up to the hospital—where he died."

Brownlee, a veteran who had been discharged from the service because of nervous instability, was reported to have caused prison officers considerable trouble. He was committed March 17, 1948, for car theft.

Gov. Douglas McKay promised "a full and impartial" investigation.

Bus Company Offer 'Final'

Olympia, Aug. 24 (AP)—Representatives of the Motor Coach Employees union (AFL) agreed early today to submit a "best and final" company offer for settlement of the North Coast Greyhound bus strike to its members.

Governor Langlie announced the agreement after nearly 13 hours of almost continuous negotiations between the union and company representatives in his office.

"The company has made what it calls its best and final offer," Langlie said. "The union committee has asked its international representative to submit this offer to the membership of the union for ratification or rejection."

"The offer will be submitted without recommendation, but with a full statement concerning the issues and the negotiations," the governor continued.

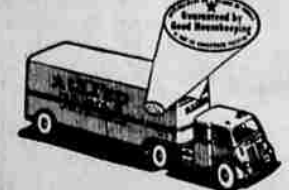
C. W. Van Arvey, international representative, said the vote will be taken within a few days — "as soon as we can work it out."

The strike, now in its 10th week, will continue during the union referendum, he said.

The barracuda is able to change its color to conform to its background.

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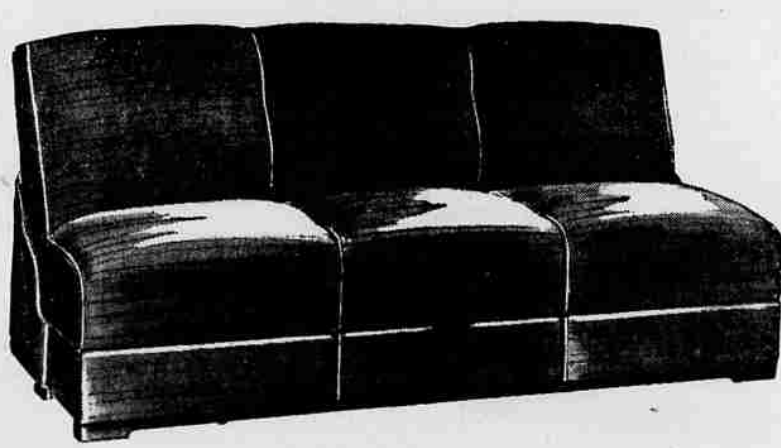
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