

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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## HERBERT HOOVER HESITATED

WASHINGTON. — Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson had a hard time at first persuading Herbert Hoover to come to Washington for the food conference. Anderson caught the ex-President at Key West, Fla., where he was fishing.

"I've promised my family for seven years to take them fishing," Hoover told the secretary of agriculture, "and now at last here I am."

Anderson, however, emphasized the urgency of the food crisis.

"We need your experience and advice, Mr. President," he said. "You can go back to your fishing immediately afterward. But this is a time when your country needs you."

Hoover finally consented to come.

## BRICKBATS WIN ELECTIONS

Two of the bitterest opponents on the house floor and in the interstate commerce committee are Representatives Clarence Brown, conservative Republican of Blanchester, Ohio, and Vito Marcantonio, American Laborite of New York City. Off the floor, however, the two respect each other's ability and get along well.

Sitting in the house lobby the other day they smilingly concluded an agreement which will probably never be carried out.

They were talking about campaign expenses, when Brown proposed: "Vito, I've got a suggestion. Why don't we both cut our campaign expenses to the bone? Here's how to do it:

"You go into my district and make three speeches against me. Call me a reactionary Hooverite, an isolationist, an economic royalist — and anything else you can think of. That'll elect me.

"Then I'll go into your district and make three speeches. I'll call you a Red, a Dago, a new dealer and an anti-Rankinite.

"With the proper literature about you in my district and the proper literature about me in your district, both of us are a cinch for re-election when we do that."

Marcantonio agreed that the idea had merit, and they shook hands on it.

## NAZIS REMAIN IN GERMANY

A secret report on failure to de-Nazify Germany has been made to the war department, but is considered so shocking that it probably will be destroyed. It is now in the office of Brig. Gen. Frank A. Meade.

The report shows complete failure to clean out high-ranking Nazis. It also shows a surprising number of so-called German "laborers" who have secretaries and stenographers assigned to them.

This is one of the latest dodges to get around the employment of Nazis by the American army. According to army rules, no former Nazi can be employed in any job more important than that of a "laborer." Result is that many Nazis are used in important jobs, but listed on the books as "laborers." That is why they are assigned secretaries and stenographers.

These "common laborers" are then put in charge of important manufacturing plants. The report now in the hands of the war department was made by the public safety and inspection division of military government. It may never see the light of day.

## HOW WYATT DID IT

If there were more men like Housing Expediter Wilson Wyatt around, President Truman would have easier sailing. The other day in Chicago, Wyatt was guest speaker at a banquet of the National Association of home builders, 3,200 strong, all hostile, all prepared to boo at the man who proposed revolutionary building reforms in order to complete 3,000,000 homes in two years.

As Wyatt arose, the atmosphere was charged with hostility. However, he told stories, explained his program, made no antagonistic statements.

"If you gentlemen are against this program, then you don't understand it," Wyatt said. "It's my fault for not making it clear."

After 45 minutes, having won over a considerable part of the audience, he stopped. Then for 45 minutes more he answered questions. Every inch of the way he fought for his program of low-cost housing for veterans.

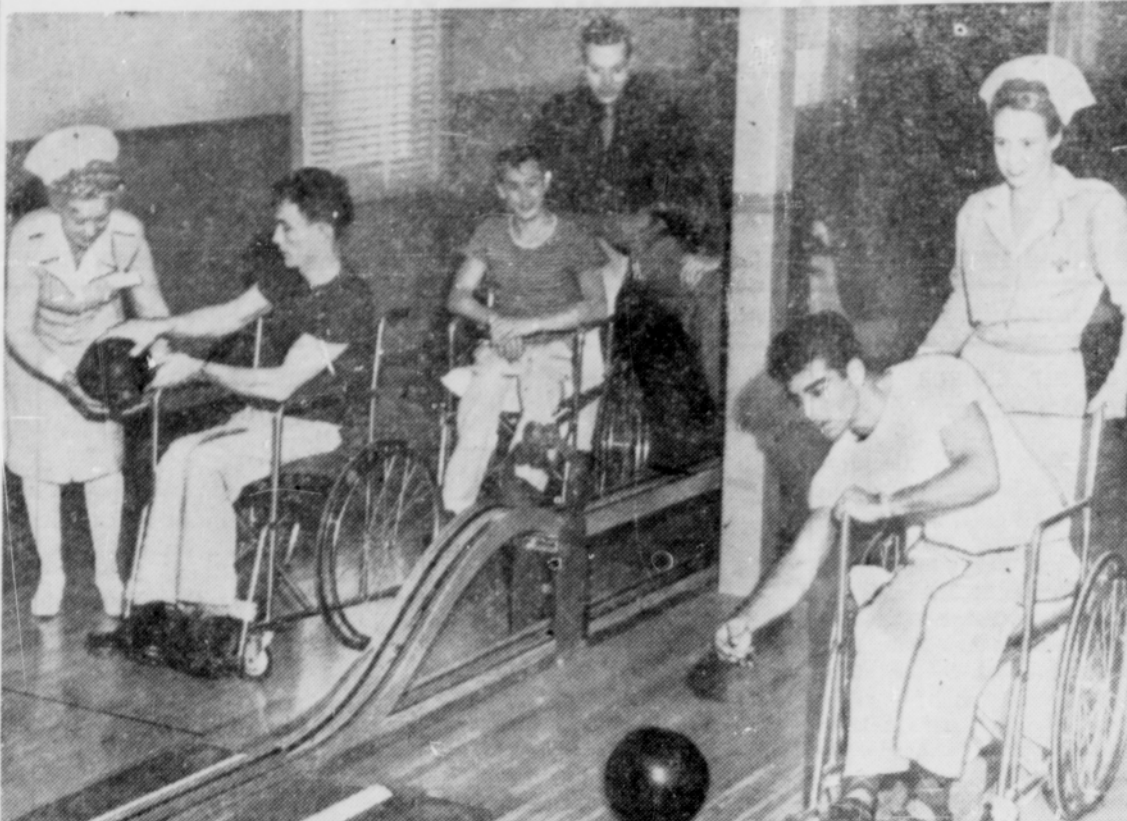
Finally, when he finished, every builder in the huge dining room rose to his feet and cheered.

## NOW WHITE SPAGHETTI

Some of the strongest opposition to the President's "dark bread" order is coming from an unexpected quarter — spaghetti manufacturers.

Spaghetti, macaroni and noodles are made from semolina, a gritty flour made, in turn, from durum wheat.

Semolina millers, as well as spaghetti makers, are up in arms about the "dark bread" order, declaring it will drive them out of business. A number of semolina mills have filed an exception.



**BOWLING CONQUERED BY WOUNDED VETS . . .** For thousands of war wounded, the Red Cross insignia is a badge of mercy. They give their services and provide facilities to aid while away tedious hours of hospitalization. Here, aided by Mrs. Lucille Carey, Mrs. Marian Lee and Capt. L. J. Sheaffer, are left to right, Sgt. Paul Jackson, Sgt. Robert Abajian and Pvt. George Rodriguez, who are given a chance to continue their bowling in Los Angeles alley. Reports indicate that many of the wounded have become expert bowlers, which also aided in their rapid recovery.



**FAMOUS FIGHTING FAMILY REUNITED . . .** The famous fighting family of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Ostler, Chelsea, Mass., are together for the first time since Pearl Harbor, with the exception of the oldest son, Pfc. Charles, 32, who was killed in action in Italy. The group around their father and mother includes twins, Roland and Robert, twins Richard and Lawrence, George, Donald, Arthur, Howard, Leon and sister Marylin at piano.



**EGYPTIAN STUDENTS RIOT IN CAIRO . . .** With demands that the British leave Egypt, students and sympathizers take possession of part of the city of Cairo without opposition from police. The rioters tormented the capital, many fires were started and considerable damage resulted. Similar riots later broke out in Alexandria, site of a great British naval base. While the riots did not have government backing, little effort was made to prevent or control the demonstrations against the British government.



**THIRTY MILLIONS IN GOLD THEIR GOAL . . .** Irwin A. Williamson, famed explorer, is shown, left, with Capt. Edward Eriksen, as they planned expedition to recover a reputed \$30,000,000 in gold from the cursed Spanish galleon "Santa Rosa," which has been on the sea's bottom since 1768. Williamson discovered location in 1941 and brought up the ship's bell. Location is somewhere off the coast of Cuba.



**PARIS OBJECTS . . .** Against Franco executions of 10 anti-Fascists. This mass demonstration was held in Paris demanding an immediate break with Franco.



**HIGH-PRICED SPARKPLUGS . . .** Harold Newhouser, left, pitcher, and Hank Greenberg, star slugger of the Detroit Tigers, shown together during training at Lakeland, Fla. Their combined salaries are said to exceed \$100,000.

# Veterans' SERVICE BUREAU

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This newspaper, through special arrangement with the Washington Bureau of Western Newspaper Union at 1616 Eye Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., is able to bring readers this weekly column on problems of the veteran and serviceman and his family. Questions may be addressed to the above Bureau and they will be answered in a subsequent column. No replies can be made direct by mail, but only in the column which will appear in this newspaper regularly.

## Factors That Determine Veteran's Pension Rate

Closest to the heart of every veteran who wears a wound stripe is adequate medical care. Gen. Omar Bradley, administrator of veterans' affairs, shortly after his appointment, picked as his assistant to have charge of the medical and surgical division of VA, a man who is no stranger to wounded vets.

He is Maj. Gen. Paul R. Hawley, who was chief surgeon of the European theater of war, and as such had under his direction 254,000 medical department men, including 16,000 doctors, 4,500 dentists and 18,000 nurses. Under his administration more than 1,500,000 patients were admitted to army hospitals in the European theater and of this number 340,000 were battle casualties. So General Hawley has had broad experience in caring for our fighting men in time of war and has been chosen to head up the medical branch of VA because of this experience and great success.

Under the expanding hospital program of VA General Hawley is calling upon the best medical and surgical brains of the nation to take a hand in the great rehabilitation program of disabled veterans. The idea to take veterans' hospitals close to the medical centers of the nation reflects one of General Hawley's plans to decentralize and bring treatment as close to the home towns of the country as possible.

## Questions and Answers

**Q.** Our boy was taken into the army. We are farming 52 acres of land, milking 12 to 20 cows by hand the year round, raising over 350 head of hogs a year. I am physically unfit to do any farm work. This work is all up to two boys 19 and 20, one a 4-F. We must hire a man to replace the boy that is gone. He has set aside \$30 of his wages to help pay for this help. Will the government match this, and if so how do we go about getting it? This boy was really needed.—L. U., Gladbrook, Iowa.

**A.** Your local selective service board had the responsibility of deciding whether or not your boy was needed more on the farm than in the army. If they had decided he was needed there, he would have been given an agricultural deferment under the selective service law. No, there is no provision for the government to match the \$30 per month case, which is unlikely, the boy could ask for a discharge on that ground. He would have to initiate the case through his commanding officer.

**Q.** Is the widow of a World War I veteran entitled to a pension if the husband's death is not connected with the war? Do World War I veterans receive pensions? If a disability allowance was discontinued and the case reviewed and refused again what can one do? Is the wife of a World War I veteran entitled to medical care?—Mrs. J. H., Tower, Minn.

**A.** Yes, the widow of a World War I veteran is entitled to a pension although death is not service connected. Only disabled veterans receive pensions. In case a disability allowance is discontinued and reviewed and refused again, the veteran has the right to appeal to a board of the VA. Wives of World War I veterans are not entitled to medical care.

**Q.** I have a lot on a main highway. I'd like to put up a business but in order to do this I need around \$2,000. Could you send me full instructions on how to go about this matter and just what I must do?—Mr. H. F. S., Selma, Ala.

**A.** Go to your bank and ask if they will make you a G.I. loan on the proposition. If they consider it a good risk, they will take care of all the details.

**Q.** When and how is transportation for servicemen's kin available and what are the chances for the wife of a PFC whose husband is stationed in Regensburg, Germany?—Mrs. C. O. B., Chamberlain, S. D.

**A.** The serviceman must initiate the request with his commanding officer. If the request is granted you will be notified of all details. Only wives are eligible.

**Q.** I was discharged from the army in January, 1944, because of wounds received when I stepped on a land mine. I had temporary amnesia and head injuries. Have only a 45-degree extension of my left arm. Otherwise am in perfect shape. How do I go about getting back into the army?—M. N., Eugene, Ore.

**A.** The army has lowered its regulations somewhat upon physical requirements and would suggest you discuss the question with your local recruiting office, or you may contact your draft board.

# NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union

## COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS OPERATION COSTLY

WASHINGTON. — The degeneration of the superior American efficiency in business into something like Europe before the dictators—where trains did not run on time, telephone service was whimsical and telegraph messages and airmail might be expected to arrive two or three days late—was observed painfully by me in my trip down through the southeastern states.

The railroads are not yet a monopoly in this country, perhaps the people are getting from them as good service as the deficiency of materials and men will permit—or a reasonable approximation in general thereof. However, telephone service is a monopoly. If the citizen cannot get service on one line, he cannot walk across the street and try another. The company has a monopoly of the business; the workers have a monopoly of the work with their unions. This imposes upon them a public responsibility beyond other businesses and other workers, to perform their public service efficiently.

I am not now considering the strike threat issue. I have not investigated merits or demerits of opposing contentions. Yet your house may burn to the ground causing you great and needless loss, if fire calls are not handled promptly because of strike, negligence, inefficiency or any other reason. Deaths may be caused by delays of a few moments in ambulances, operations or blood transfusions. Robbers may make good escapes. All the property as well as the very life of the citizen rest heavily upon the efficiency of this single means of swift communication between people. No company and no group of workers have the right to cause damage and death among the people as a whole for any reason, whether just or unjust. To do so is a violation of every natural law of man and common decency. With the right of monopoly in business and/or work (closed shop) goes a public responsibility which cannot be ignored or avoided for any human purpose.

## STENOGRAPHER DOES NOT IMPROVE VISUAL SERVICE

I was forced to muse upon these serious considerations of vital (alienable?) rights, by my minor experiences of trying to handle my comparatively unimportant business through telephone, telegraph and airmail while away from my office for a few weeks. I found the telephone and airmail wholly un dependable. The airmail, of course, is a government monopoly and efficiency is to be expected from past experience. But I found that airmail special delivery letters, mailed at the same time each day at the same point of origin, would arrive at their destination on schedule only one time out of three. The other two times, the mail would be found two to two days late. I understood then why so many newspapers were complaining about late arrival of mail copy. The post office has plainly failed to recover yet from the war.

Telephone has become an incredibly interesting amusement. Each occasion furnished something novel. Out of 10 calls to Washington, I eventually got three through. One was prompt. The other resulted from an hour of effort to get a supervisor, who put it through for me, after my original call and the operator's promise to "call you back in 20 minutes." Both had become lost so deeply that no one around the exchange had heard of it. The third call in the afternoon was completed the following morning. The others never got through for reasons which are not reportable authoritatively by me, but I was told a variety of things: "There will be a delay of 30 to 40 minutes," or "your line is busy," and then a few seconds later: "it does not answer." I could never find out why it could be busy and then in a few seconds did not answer. I soon found out complaining accomplished nothing. Electrical noises would erupt in the phone and deafen my ear if I even suggested such a thing to myself. The only way you could get a supervisor was to work through a friendly operator on a private switchboard who could make just as loud noises as the telephone monopoly.

The sending of a telegram I found to be less of an adventure, and could be done in less than a day. In fact, I have only one complaint against the telegraph monopoly (they apparently gave my telegram to the wrong party on the phone). I will say telegraph service is at least better than when the Postal vacated the field.

But what of the people who deal in important figures of money, men or perishable materials? This is a big nation dealing daily in big matters. What of the national labor leaders trying to call off strikes?