

# Washington Not Always Glamorous

## World's Greatest Capital Has Its Seamy Side Too!

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WASHINGTON.—A boy joined the staff of a four-page paper of which he was one day to become editor. The office was a rattle-trap building whose notable characteristics, he later said, were "sewer gas, rats, dirt, overgrown rowdy newsboys who had to be held in check by a long whip and fire-arms," and it was "positively dangerous at times to go into the alley which they infested, leading to the composing room."



The town as the boy had grown up in it was a straggling overgrown country village "with zigzag grades, no sewerage, no street cars, no water supply except from pumps and springs, unimproved reservations, second-rate dwellings and streets of mud and mire."

That doesn't sound like the nation's capital whose budget for the coming year is \$76,755,009—but that was the way it was in 1858 as described by the editor of the Washington Evening Star, Theodore Noyes, who died early this month. He joined the paper in 1877.

Expert for the Australian capital of Canberra which arose almost as Camelot at a wave of Merlin's wand, there is nothing to compare with the bizarre history of a city whose site was based on a political deal and no city which has gone through more vicissitudes than this Baghdad-on-the-Potomac.

No city was ever more magnificently planned, or more discreditably neglected in its early days, as Mr. Noyes' description indicates. Today, as the undisputed capital of the world, it still has to battle with a grudging congress for its budget.

It remains the chief city of the greatest democratic republic whose 938,000 citizens have no voice in their own government and whose citizenship itself is a bar to the basic privilege of a democracy—the ballot.

Mr. Noyes was, as is the newspaper he served, a Washington in-

stitution. He will be remembered for his long campaign to give Washington a vote in congressional and national matters.

### Rats Were Menace To City's Health

Some time ago I had occasion to mention the invasion of Washington by rats and how the city hired a modern Pied Piper who has done an effective, if silent, job. This was brought to my mind recently when I encountered a fat, black cat on my way to work early one morning. The cat had a guilty look, and I had a hunch he had spent the night in riotous living and was merely sneaking in to change his collar.

However, the cataclysm caused by the rat-invasion in which, believe it or not, a baby's hand was eaten brought hasty action and I see that it was considered worthy of comment by the magazine of the American Museum of Natural History.

The campaign began when a case of typhus which is spread by fleas and mites on rats, was discovered. Traps set in the neighborhood caught a number of rats whose blood was typhus-infected. The United States Public Health Service got busy, shocked to learn that the scourge of Europe two centuries ago was a possibility right here in our fair capital.

An expert was called in. He first sealed up all points where commercial transportation entered the city. Then 300 traps were set up in the zone where the infection had been found. Five days later the traps were taken in and the area was thoroughly dusted with DDT, the insecticide which the army perfected.

Next red-squill bait was distributed. It kills rats, but not pets or children who might pick up the bait. In places where there was no danger to human beings the deadly "1080" was distributed. The campaign was successful. Meanwhile, a clean-up of potential rat-breeding premises was started with court orders to enforce it. Today Washington has a complete scientific rat-control program which will cost us about \$75,000 annually.

However, it still leaves a few rats for energetic cats.



TRIP TO CAPITAL . . . Mrs. Evelyn Baker and Mrs. James Magee won a trip to Washington in a contest conducted by radio station KOTA in Rapid City, S. D., to honor women who did their jobs quietly and well during the war. Mrs. Baker's husband was killed on Okinawa and she has two children. Mrs. Magee lost a son in the war.

### NEWS REVIEW

## Truman Sets Jaw, Shows That Job Irritates Him

### TRUMAN: Temper Short

Maybe it's hot weather, but President Truman's temper is considerably shorter than it used to be. This was evident recently when he spoke out at a press conference stating that John O'Donnell, a reporter, had spread "another lie." (Incidentally, O'Donnell once received an iron cross from FDR.) Other displays of irritability have been noticed by those close to him. Is it his health? No, says his doctor; it's just being President.

"I don't know of any President who kept so many appointments," said Col. Wallace Graham, the President's physician. Mr. Truman wakes himself between 5:30 and 6:00 each morning, showers, shaves and dresses without the aid of a valet, and goes for a mile walk. He sometimes splashes in the White House swimming pool, but never plays golf or engages in any game more strenuous than pitching horseshoes. He may keep eight or ten appointments of 10 to 20 minutes each, see visitors, legislators, foreign diplomats, head a reception line and do some work in his office, all in an afternoon and evening. He sleeps soundly too.

But sometimes these days, he's a little irritable! Maybe he's just like the rest of us.

### INVISIBLE DEATH: Surrounds Bikini

Some of the things that happened at Bikini atoll when the atomic bomb exploded are still a mystery, correspondents aver. The A-bomb rays, for instance, clung like a se-



CANDIDATE . . . Mother of four children, Mrs. Elizabeth Chilton Murray is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for congress in the eighth district of Virginia. Her father was former U. S. Senator William Chilton.

cret weapon or invisible death around that South Pacific area for hours and days—and even longer perhaps.

The blast of x-rays and invisible alpha, beta and neutron rays that hit ships from the atom bomb were more crippling than the blast that smashed down and the heat that wrecked some. One of the navy's "drone" ships, which went pilotless into the cloud and returned, was unsafe to approach for more than three days. It is believed that had there been pilots in the planes they would have been killed. Mice that flew into the cloud changed color. White mice became brown. Hair usually turns white or gray when exposed to radioactive rays. All the drones brought back evidence of extreme radioactivity in or near the cloud. This invisible ray attack was worst at about 15,000 feet altitude. The roof of x-ray is placed at about 2,000 feet, so the other rays were different.

So far the scientists have made no report. But newsmen are asking: "Could human beings have lived on airplanes and ships after the blast?"

### COTTON: Crop Is Bigger

There were 18,316,000 acres of cotton in cultivation on July 1, or 3.2 per cent more than a year ago, the department of agriculture has estimated.

The acreage in cultivation July 1 and the percentage of the 1945 acreage, respectively, by states included: Missouri, 310,000 acres and 116 per cent; Virginia, 20,000 and 105; North Carolina, 580,000 and 102; South Carolina, 950,000 and 98; Georgia, 1,235,000 and 98; Florida, 23,000 and 100; Tennessee, 600,000 and 99; Alabama, 1,510,000 and 107; Mississippi, 2,420,000 and 106; Arkansas, 1,600,000 and 107; Louisiana, 900,000 and 104; Oklahoma, 1,120,000 and 95; Texas, 6,350,000 and 104; New Mexico, 116,000 and 99; Arizona, 145,000 and 94; California, 359,000 and 113, and all other states, 18,000 and 99.

### WHEAT QUOTA: To Europe Passed

The United States was ahead of its quota of wheat shipments to Europe in the first six months of 1946, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson reported a few days ago. He reported to President Truman that 50,000,000 bushels were shipped in June, bringing shipments for the year up to 397,000,000 bushels.

### COAL LAND: Good for Farming

At Altoona, Pa., tests have shown that stripped coal fields, properly backfilled, are better farm land than before the coal was removed. It was the opinion of the state mine inspector that practically all of the land can be restored for agricultural purposes, either for cropping, grazing or planting orchards.



### TRUMAN'S VETO

WASHINGTON.—Opinions may differ as to whether President Truman was right in vetoing the price control bill, but he personally has not changed his mind a bit. When he arrived on Capitol Hill for the Roosevelt memorial service, Truman was greeted by his old friend, Kenneth Romney, sergeant-at-arms of the house. As they shook hands the President quipped: "I didn't know whether you folks would let me come up here today after reading my latest message."

"Oh, don't worry about that," chuckled the sergeant-at-arms. "A lot of us are glad you vetoed that OPA bill. And your veto message hit the nail right on the head. You did the right thing, in my opinion."

"I couldn't do anything else," replied the President with chin-set seriousness.

### EQUIPPING U. S. SCHOOLS

When a committee representing the leading national educational organizations tried to see War Assets Chief Lt. Gen. Edmund B. Gregory about getting surplus equipment for American schools, it received two brush-offs.

Once Gregory had been "called out"; another time he was "too busy." However, the educators had no trouble seeing Gregory's boss, President Truman. Further, Truman's callers were definitely assured that steps would be taken to provide schools, colleges and universities with more war surplus.

They informed the President that approximately 2,000,000 American youths would seek education next fall in colleges alone. Of these, about 970,000 will be World War II vets. Unless schools are given a "fair and reasonable" access to war surplus goods — laboratory, classroom, cafeteria and kitchen facilities, electronics equipment, visual aids and other items — a great many of the students cannot be accommodated.

"Education cannot afford to go into the commercial market for what we need — and need drastically, Mr. President — because we do not have the money," asserted one of them.

### CONSOLIDATING GERMANY

Top secret talks between the Americans and the French have now started to weld western Germany to one economic unit. The move may end up by uniting the U. S., British and French zones into one anti-Russian sector, with the rest of Germany under the hammer and sickle.

The U. S. occupation zone includes most of the province of Wurttemberg and the northeastern quarter of Baden. The remainder of the latter province and a small western piece of Wurttemberg are under French control.

This suggestion was approved in principle by Maj. Gen. Lucius Clay and Lt. Gen. Joseph McNarney, highest-ranking U. S. commanders in Europe, and the war department has instructed General McNarney to inform the French that this country will discuss the plan if France agrees to discuss, at the same time, internationalizing the vital Ruhr basin.

If the deal is worked out, it will be an important step toward ending the economic confusion which exists under the present set-up. The United States, Britain and France are hoping to unscramble the current mess, at least in western Germany.

Russia so far has indicated no willingness to go along.

### RESEARCH FOR FARMS

Secretary of Agriculture Anderson and a delegation from the house agriculture committee recently called on President Truman to plug for the Flannagan - Hope farm research bill. However, not much plugging was necessary.

Anderson opened the White House meeting by emphasizing the importance of the legislation, which is aimed at finding new uses for farm products and improving marketing.

"The bill already has been called to my attention," the President said immediately. "I have looked into it and I am in favor of appropriating whatever money is necessary."

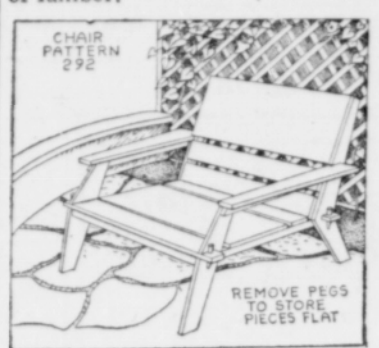
A primary aim of the bill is to do away with such marketing bottlenecks as caused large acreages of cabbage and lettuce to be plowed under recently in North Carolina.

### CAPITAL CHAFF

Official state department broadcasts to Russia in the Russian language will begin just as soon as the necessary staffs have completed their training. . . . One of John Snyder's first acts as secretary of the treasury was to agree to the release of gold to Argentina. This gold was seized by the U. S. government at the start of the war. Its release is a major victory for President Peron. . . . President Truman has decided to abandon his plans for an Alaska vacation.

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**DOAN'S PILLS**

## When People Vote, They Win

The June "Economic Outlook," published by the Congress of Industrial Organizations, contains an article entitled "When the People Vote—They Win." That might be interpreted in more ways than one. The article points out that an "off year" is so designated politically not only because the presidency is not at stake, but because the politicians know that general apathy on the part of the voter has marked those elections in the past: 1938 (off) thirty million voters went to the polls; 1940 (on) fifty million votes; 1942 (off) twenty-eight million; 1944 (on) forty-eight million.

The CIO takes the attitude that what the people as a whole want is what they (the CIO) want, and that the people get what they want when they vote for it. They say: "Mass registration and mass voting is the best guarantee of liberal progressive government."

They might also add that if you want conservative rather than liberal progressive government, you have to vote for it, too. In any case you can't get what you want unless you go after it. The "Outlook" prints a table showing how the vote shifted in certain districts in off-years. The table showed that when the vote fell off, it was the Democratic vote. Districts which swung from Democratic to Republican candidates in most cases shifted with a decrease in the total vote.

"The Republican vote remaining relatively stable, while the Democratic vote dropped sharply."

Does this prove that Democrats are sleeper than Republicans, or that the Republican is a creature of habit?

can't see anybody on the line, nobody is there.

I wouldn't be surprised to learn that telephone conversations with most of the government departments are being recorded right now. I have reason to believe that when the question of installing these recorders in the White House was brought up, it was flatly turned down. White House employees have a long and excellent record of fidelity. Of course they are carefully screened, and when the campaign to get everybody fingerprinted (an excellent idea if you have nothing to conceal about your past and no plans for an over-adventurous future) was begun, the White House employees voluntarily came forward and offered their thumbs, fingers and hands for the ink-pad.

The senate galleries were full. It was a scorcher of a day and a filibuster was going on. The senate chamber is air-cooled. What caused the crowd? The heat or the stupidity?

Pretty Goldwyn Girl Georgia Lange (who visited Washington with her five pulchritudinous pals of "Kid From Brooklyn") stepped up to a newsstand and moved a paper-weight off the face of the cover girl on the July Coronet. Why? I asked her. Because it was her face.

I never saw a purple bear, I never hope to see one—but I'd like to see that little silver-blue fellow, born recently in the Bronx zoo.

### 3.3 BILLION BUSHELS

## Record '46 Corn Crop Forecast

WASHINGTON.—The largest crop of corn ever raised in the United States, and near record production of wheat and oats has been forecast by the department of agriculture. The department stated the current outlook for total crop production has seldom been surpassed. Except for 1942, the reported condition of all crops is the best in seven years.

Continued favorable weather is necessary to bring this prospect to realization. Indicated corn crop is 3,341,646,000 bushels, compared with the preceding record of 3,203,000,000 bushels harvested in 1944 and with 3,018,410,000 bushels in 1943.

Winter wheat crop of 857,163,000 bushels would be a record and although spring wheat promise is only 232,929,000 bushels, the total wheat harvest looks like 1,090,092,000 bush-

els based on present condition. Production of oats is estimated at 1,471,026,000 bushels, compared with 1,547,063,000 bushels harvested last year, which was the largest oats crop ever raised. Barley production is placed at 230,278,000 bushels, against 263,961,000 bushels last year and 1935-44 average of 289,598,000 bushels.

### Corn Peak in Prospect.

In commenting on the report, the department said the nation's corn cribs will have more corn in them this year than ever before if the all-time high production indicated by July 1 prospects materializes. The expected yield an acre of 36 bushels on the 91,500,000 acres for harvest which is virtually the same as last year, would also be an all-time

high. Measured by the 1935-44 average, the 1946 acreage for harvest is only a trifle less but the prospective yield an acre is 8.0 bushels more and the production over a fourth larger.

Acreage and yield an acre changes from last year fall into simple patterns. A big wedge of states extending from Kansas and Oklahoma northeast to the New England states show either increased acreage or no change while almost all states outside the "wedge" show decreases. Another broad wedge of states extending from South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas southeast to Virginia and North Carolina shows good to excellent yield prospects. Outside this "wedge" prospective yields show wide variations.

