

PRESENT DAY ECONOMY UNDERMINES . . . Clink of Dime Is Death Knell of Parting Era . . . THE PROVERBIAL NICKEL PHONE CALL

By H. I. PHILLIPS

THE NICKEL'S LAST STAND

AMERICAN TELEPHONE companies are experimenting with 10-cent pay stations, which abolish the proverbial 5-cent call. Even talk is to be more expensive than ever.

In some cities field tests are being made with new phone booth

dime-a-call machines. We presume the tests have two purposes: (1) to see how the apparatus works; (2) to note how loudly the user squawks.

The telephone business "ain't" what it used to be and the companies are up against terrific costs. For all we know the nickel phone call is as eco-

nomically unsound as the nickel bus fare, the nickel hot-dog and the nickel movie. But a bigger fight is likely, as the public has been brought up on the 5-cent phone call. It may even regard the telephone booth as the nickel's last stand.

It has seen the 5-cent piece replaced in most every field, but there is something about disassociating it from a phone booth that fills many a heart with anguish. One of the few things left in America at the old price is the nickel phone booth. It stands almost by itself as a place a man may enter without asking, "I wonder how prices have gone up in here since I was around last time."

There has always been something about the clink of a nickel in a phone booth that made sweet music, and of late it has conveyed unmistakably the soothing proof that there was still something in America not out of reach of a man in the lower brackets.

Even if you made the call and found your girl has just left for dinner with somebody else, it didn't seem exorbitant. But when it takes a dime to get the same news it will be something else again.

We can see the phone companies' point. There is not the money in conversation that there used to be. It costs twice as much to produce "number please" as it did 10 years ago. The companies say they are losing money on the transaction at nickel pay-station rates.

Nevertheless we look for a hot time at hearings before the public service commissions. Elmer Twitchell is among those who will be present with some novel pleas. "I may not fight the abolition of the nickel call if the figures show it is necessary," he said, "but I will demand that a 10-cent phone booth be made twice as roomy as a nickel one."

"I want it better ventilated too," he continued. "In a nickel phone booth you are practically in solitary confinement. If I pay a dime I may even demand a soft chair and maybe television."

("A \$15,000 dream house raffled off on Sixth avenue, New York, had to be sold by the owner for \$1,000 because of the costs of moving and reassembling," news item)

Want a lovely dream house? Take a chance—you must—Win it and, my dearies, How the dream will bust! Fifty cents a ticket . . . Give your luck a try! Who will get the building? Some fast dollar guy!

It seems to us the dream house might have been advertised as having hot and cold indifference, a fine view of snafu, crossed-up ventilation and an acre of head aches.

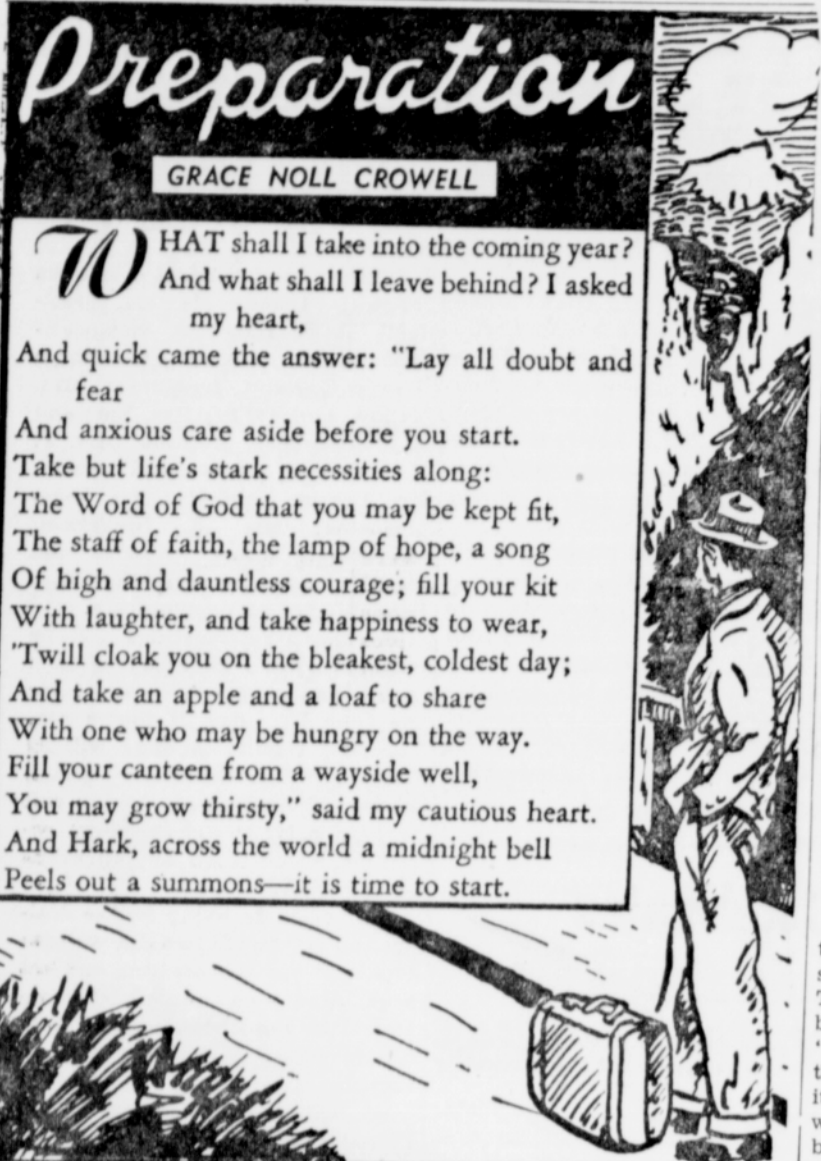
YE GOTHAM BUGLE & BANNER

A British parliament member says John Bull will not be kicked around by unlettered pot bellied money magicians from the U.S. . . . This is the first indication anybody could look at Uncle Sam and sing, "He's too fat, he's too fat, he's too fat for me." . . . Ye ed hears Jolson's next pictures will be called "Jolson Hits The Jackpot," "Jolson Follows Through" or "Jolson Takes Fort Knox." . . . The driver who killed Margaret Mitchell and who is alleged to have been drunk, speeding, and on the wrong side of the road, as well as a repeated offender against traffic laws, is charged merely with involuntary manslaughter, the penalty for which is one to three years!!!

Why movie review readers go mad:

"The second Jolson film is not as sentimental nor as heart warming as its predecessor." — Kate Cameron.

"Of course the plot of the new Jolson movie is soggy with sentiment. The songs drip with nostalgia." — Jim O'Connor.



Star Dust STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO BY INEZ GERHARD

NOW that it's over, Robert Q. Lewis can draw a long breath and look back with pride on the terrific job that he did from August 1 to October 1. He took over for Arthur Godfrey five morning shows a week on CBS and one television show, lasting an hour, on Wednesday



ROBERT Q. LEWIS

day evenings. Godfrey's popularity made him a difficult man to fill in for, and Lewis was bound to be a target for a lot of criticism, just because he wasn't Arthur. Now they're saying that there couldn't have been a better man for the job. Lewis did his best, of course, but he wasn't worried; he's done too many outstanding shows of his own for that.

Sonny Tufts carried a container like a knitting bag to the "Easy Living" set at RKO every day; it held a two-quart thermos of half-milk, half-cream and another filled with soup and sweetbread mixture. It was his daily lunch.

The father-son team of Walter and John Huston, which won three Academy awards last year, will be reunited in Horizon Pictures' next for Columbia. "Reminiscences of a Cowboy" will co-star Walter Huston and Montgomery Clift. John Huston will direct, and, following tradition, will be seen in a small part. It should be good; everything John Huston does succeeds.

The cigarette company now sponsoring "Ladies Be Seated" and "One Man's Opinion," with Walter Kieran, has shifted them from Mutual to ABC; they replace "Against the Storm," daytime serial, and "Queen for a Day."

Cathy Lewis, "Jane" of "My Friend Irma," is back again after a long illness. Marie Wilson ("Irma") told me "sometimes I get sort of annoyed at Cathy, but I could forgive her anything, she's such a wonderful actress!"

The Fiction Corner FLASH OF BRILLIANCE

By Richard H. Wilkinson

CONSIDERING the fact that the necklace was valued at \$50,000 and it was not insured, Mrs. Holbrook should have been upset. The fact that she wasn't astonished even her husband, for her husband knew her for an emotional, excitable person.

"But, good lord, Bess! You might at least act concerned. I paid 50 grand for that rope. Maybe you think I'm made of money."

"That," said Mrs. Holbrook, "is the point."

"Point? What point?" Mr. Holbrook was becoming irritated.

"I mean," said Bess, "that I'm not the empty-headed, irresponsible person you think me. The diamond necklace wasn't stolen. I left it back in New York—in a safety deposit box."

"You what?"

"The jewels that were stolen were imitations. I wouldn't dream of wearing the originals without having them insured."

Mr. Holbrook's mouth fell open.

"So you see," said Bess. It isn't as bad as it seems."

Rita Fenway, one of the guests, suddenly said: "But it doesn't alter the fact that there's a thief aboard. And that means we're all in danger of being robbed. And the cruise won't be over for another week."

"Of course," Mrs. Holbrook said. "And nothing could be more satisfactory. My dears, consider that we are to be on the high seas for a week. The criminal, whoever he is, will have to remain with us during that length of time. A week, my dears, will give our clever and efficient captain ample opportunity to apprehend the thief."

An hour after Mrs. Holbrook had demonstrated her hidden genius she excused herself from a group in the main lounge and unobtrusively descended to her cabin. After a moment she rang for the captain.

"Captain Talbert, my husband has undoubtedly told you about the theft and instructed you to apprehend the thief."

"Yes, ma'am. I have two of the crew making a search now."

"Instruct them to desist. It will not be necessary."

"But, Mrs. Holbrook, your husband said—"

"Never mind what my husband said. The necklace has been returned." She nodded toward a box on her dressing table.

"Returned? The imitations, you mean?"

"No. The real ones. Captain Talbert, I'm going to take you into my confidence. The story I told about the necklace being imitation was false. I've never worn false jewelry and I never shall. I merely told that story so that the thief would think his loot valueless."

CAPTAIN TALBERT'S face lighted. "And then you spoke about apprehending the criminal by searching for the imitations so that the thief would return—"

"Exactly. The imitations weren't worth keeping, and in order to dispel the possibility of having them found in his possession he decided to return them. In doing so he unintentionally returned the originals—and spared me the unpleasantness of facing my husband—alone."

Captain Talbert nodded understandingly. He knew what the word "alone" meant. He regarded Mrs. Holbrook with frank admiration. "Mrs. Holbrook, allow me to congratulate you, and please understand that you will have my fullest co-operation. After a reasonable length of time I'll announce that we have been unsuccessful in our search."

A moment later Captain Talbert went out. Left alone, Mrs. Holbrook sat down before her mirror. It had been a strain. A great strain. She sighed wearily. It was such a relief to feel that once more she could return to the role of the irresponsible spouse that her husband understood and expected.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| ACROSS | DOWN | 13. Female |
| 1. Kind of ax (archeol.) | 1. Box | 21. Made to fit |
| 5. Subside | 2. One of the Great Lakes | 22. Game of chance |
| 9. Scope | 3. Sheltered side | 24. Bounder |
| 10. Additional amount | 4. Little boy | 25. Straight-forward |
| 11. Removed moisture | 5. Live coal | 26. Jolt |
| 12. A support | 6. Material made of poor diamonds | 27. Mark used to denote a spurious passage |
| 15. Devoiced | 7. Plaiting | 28. Wooden pegs |
| 16. Sign of the infinitive | 8. Private | 29. King of Judah |
| 17. Scorch | 11. Facts | 30. Greek letter |
| 19. Lair | 13. Even (poet.) | 33. Variety |
| 20. A song of praise | 15. Male sheep | |
| 22. Suitable | 17. Fragment | |
| 23. Hebrew letter | | |
| 24. Is able | | |
| 25. A mere taste | | |
| 26. Cant | | |
| 29. Trouble | | |
| 30. Wall border | | |
| 31. Board of Ordnance (abbr.) | | |
| 32. A social gathering of men | | |
| 34. A limb | | |
| 35. Spring month | | |
| 36. Buckets | | |
| 38. A spring fast period (Eccl.) | | |
| 39. Ostrich-like bird | | |
| 40. One of Old Norse works | | |
| 41. Soft bunches, as of cotton | | |

PUZZLE NO. 18

Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND BY DREW PEARSON

Another Sarajevo?

SHORTLY AFTER the end of World War I this writer stood beside a cracked piece of pavement on the main street of Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. The crack marked the place where a bomb, thrown at the Archduke Franz Ferdinand on June 28, 1914, had touched off the bloodiest war so far seen by man. The bomb had been thrown seven years before I, then a young reconstruction worker in the Balkans, visited Sarajevo; yet in those seven years the cracked pavement had not been repaired. Reconstruction moves slow in the Balkans, thought I—at that time being a very young idealist—but it moves sure. Never again would war come to sick and weary Europe.

Well, another war did come; and today events are shaping up in these same tired but turbulent Balkans which could bring still another Sarajevo almost over night.

Should Tito be assassinated, should the Red army divisions on the Hungarian-Yugoslav border start south, should revolt flare in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia, then war might come all over again. And war in Europe has a habit of being contagious.

Danger vs. Hope

Yet with all its dynamite-laden danger, the Balkan situation also presents one of the most optimistic developments in the cold war against Russia. For, to date, Russia has suffered serious defeats.

There are three phases to the Balkan battle, one laid in Washington, one in Yugoslavia, one in the other satellite countries. Here is how they stack up:

SITUATION 1—Washington: Without benefit of fanfare, the state department has been doing an efficient job of boycotting trade to the little iron curtain countries. Several million dollars worth of goods ordered by Poland and Czechoslovakia are on New York docks ready to move. But they can't get clearance.

The Polish ambassador has been beating a path to state department doors, then to the commerce department, then back again. All he gets is the polite run-around. The state department says export licenses are issued by the commerce department and the commerce department says policy is fixed by the state department.

The run-around is no accident. It's deliberate and carefully planned. And it's having real repercussions behind the little iron curtain.

SITUATION 2—Behind the little iron curtain: Near economic chaos now reigns in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania. This is partly a result of the U. S. trade boycott. People have money but they can't buy.

In addition, farmers are revolting at collectivization, national pride is coming to the front, and people generally don't like their Russian masters.

Tito's Spies

Also, Tito, formerly an NKVD operator trained by the Soviet, is now using NKVD methods against the Soviet, not merely in Yugoslavia, but in all the satellite countries. He has about as many underground agents in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania as Moscow has working against him.

Should this network of undercover revolt start popping, it may start a chain reaction throughout all eastern Europe.

SITUATION 3—Yugoslavia: Tito has had 30 million dollars in gold salted away in Portugal. He now has withdrawn five million dollars to finance revolts in other satellite countries. Once disliked by the Serbs, Tito is now their hero, thanks to opposing Moscow's farm collectivization. In fact, Tito, still a staunch Communist, is stronger at home than ever, could not be kicked out of office, can only be removed by assassination.

So far, Moscow has tried the latter course—and much more frequently than has leaked to the press. Apparently Stalin, worried over what goes on in the other satellite countries, doesn't want to risk open war with their friend Yugoslavia.

Through U. S. eyes—if the Red army should cross the Yugoslav border, U. S. military experts believe Tito's troops can hold out about three months.

To bolster Yugoslavia's defense, the United States has enough arms to supply four divisions stored on the British island of Malta. They could be rushed to the Dalmatian coast in a hurry.

U. S. worry—Should Yugoslavia fall completely to Moscow, then Greece, according to U. S. experts, would soon go Communist. They point out that it was not until Tito cut off supplies to the Greek guerrillas that the Greek army made any real progress in cleaning up the Communists.

JUST FOR THE MERRY-GO-ROUND

Appropriate "Oh, yes, there's one more thing," said the sick man to his lawyer who was writing out the will. "I want these men to be my pallbearers." The lawyer looked at the list of names and recognizing them as not very good friends of the sick man asked why he wanted them to be pallbearers. "They're my creditors," the sick man explained. "They've been carrying me most of my life so they might as well finish the job."

Psychology

No one knew exactly how Rosenkrantz's business was going and as he never paid back any of the money he had borrowed from O'Flaherty the latter became rather anxious. He went to Rosenkrantz's store one afternoon and demanded a showdown. Rosenkrantz, to pacify O'Flaherty, told him that he was a preferred creditor. O'Flaherty went home partially satisfied but after thinking the matter over hurried back to the store and demanded to know what a preferred creditor was. "Well, mine friend," said Rosenkrantz, "you are a preloved creditah because you know now dot you aind't goin' to get anything but de oddsers von't know for toity days."

Household Hints

Plugging Leaks

Tiny leaks in fuel oil tanks and water boilers can be plugged by the amateur, temporarily, at least. Get a tiny "self-threading" metal screw; put it halfway through the leak with a screwdriver; then seal it by rubbing paraffin or candle wax under the head of the screw.

Spots on Concrete

Oil spots on concrete often can be removed with cleaning fluid. If the spots are old, mix up a paste of cleaning fluid and Fuller's earth. Spread the paste on the spots and wait until it's completely dry before sweeping it off with a broom.

Relieve Stuffy Nose FAST!

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"Ah-h-h! I can breathe again!"

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