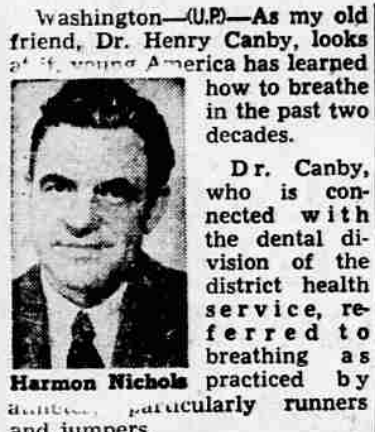




GUILTY OF SELLING TAX INFLUENCE—James P. Finnegan (right), whose activities as St. Louis tax collector touch off the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Reconstruction Finance Corp., investigations, leaves Federal Court in St. Louis after he was convicted on two counts of misconduct in office. He was acquitted on a third charge of misconduct and two counts of bribery. Judge Ruben M. Hulien set March 24 as the date of sentencing. Each count of misconduct carries a maximum sentence of two years in prison and \$10,000 fine.

A Nichols' Worth of— Comment On This and That

BY HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer



Washington—(U.P.)—As my old friend, Dr. Henry Canby, looks at it, young America has learned how to breathe in the past two decades.

Dr. Canby, who is connected with the dental division of the district health service, referred to breathing as practiced by particularly runners and jumpers.

"A runner or a jumper," Hank told me at lunch, "has to know how to breathe. When I was competing, it wasn't so important. Track records were pretty fancy then—but they are fancier now."

When I knew Henry Canby at the University of Iowa he was a dental student. He was serious about his studies, but he also was serious about his track ability.

Broke World Record
Henry was a pole vaulter. In 1930 he and a fine vaulter named McDermott from Illinois traded week-ends breaking the indoor world's record. When the records finally were inked into the books that year, Henry had it. From a dirt and cinder runway—13 feet, 7 and one-half inches.

"If I had been jumping off a board runway, with a better grip on my cleats, I could have cleared 14 feet," he said.

Today at least four jumpers have cleared 15 feet. They do it, according to Henry, because they know how to breathe on the take-off, and because they use a different kind of pole.

Pole Didn't Straighten
"We used to use a bamboo pole that didn't straighten out when you needed the final kick," he said. "Today, a metal pole is used. It comes up perpendicular when you are about to cross the bar. It has more strength, which is important."

Henry says that when a kid wants to become a pole vaulter he ought to make up his mind early. Henry did just that on his dad's farm near Olds, Ia. He started at the age of five, pitch-

forking his way over the hedges. He doesn't recommend that method because a pitchfork is dangerous. A kid can get hurt. But that is the way he learned it.

In high school he hit 11 feet, 9½ inches, which was good in those days—and could win a lot of dual meets today, too.

Have To Have It
"You have to love this pole-vaulting business to keep at it," the dentist said. "Most of the moderns who are setting the records do better after they leave school—when they get to be 25 to 27. That is their peak. They have perfected what we never did—the delayed pull-up, meaning riding up the pole, instead of letting the pole pull you up."

But getting back to this breathing business. In pole vaulting, according to Canby, you fill your lungs before you sprint to the take-off. And maybe you gulp in a little ozone before you kick yourself over the bar.

Running Different
In running it's a little different. Thirty years ago a hundred yard dash man used to puff and steam to make it in 10 seconds. Today, a man takes on a load of air and gasps a couple of times and winds up a few tenths of a second faster.

Will there ever be a four-minute mile?
"Before you have a four-minute mile, you'll see a 16-foot pole vault,"

Act by Congress Allows Adoption
Washington—(U.P.)—It required an act of Congress for Tina, a five-month-old Norwegian girl, to join her foster family here.

She is the new addition to the family of Rep. Lloyd M. Bentsen Jr. (D., Tex.), who started adoption proceedings in Norway last summer while on a vacation trip. When the congressman returned he found that the Norwegian quota had been exceeded for the year. A senator introduced a bill to waive quota restrictions.

The bill went through the House and Senate in only two days and was promptly signed by President Truman.

Tina is the Bentsens' third child, joining sons Lloyd, seven, and Lan, four, whose wish for a baby sister led to the adoption.

\$400 Million Tax Bite Predicted for Oregon
Portland—(U.P.)—It will be no blarney and all bite for Oregon tax payers come Monday, March 17.

Midnight Monday is the deadline for filing 1951 income tax returns without penalty and so far as can be ascertained—the St. Patrick's day blarney notwithstanding—Uncle Sam's annual bite will add up to an estimated \$400,000,000 in income, excess profit and withholding taxes in Oregon.

Tax Collector Hugh Earle of the Oregon district made the estimate today on the basis of last year's annual tax bite, when the three categories produced \$382,318,308 for the U. S. treasury.

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Increase Seen In Draft Calls

Washington—(U.P.)—Defense Secretary Robert R. Lovett has reported that the armed services will need a "substantial" number of men this year, indicating a sharp set-up in draft calls this summer.

Lovett's semi-annual report to President Truman covering the period through last December 31 made no direct comment on the possibility of increasing the size of draft calls.

But the secretary said that "military manpower requirements will remain substantial during 1952," and he promised to continue efforts "for procedures providing greater equality of sacrifice and limiting the recall of reservists to the absolute minimum."

Deadly, Tasteless Poison Trapped by Science Effort

London—(U.P.)—The "poisoners' best friend," a deadly, tasteless, odorless, liquid hither-to almost impossible to detect in the human body, has been trapped by science in a brilliant piece of international research extending from native Africa to Oxford.

No one will ever know how many "heart attacks" or how many fatal cases of "lockjaw" were really murder through its use. From now on poisoners no longer can administer the fluid with impunity. Science has caught up with them.

The story of fluorocetic acid—the active component of the giffblar plant of Africa—was told by Prof. R. A. Peters of the biochemistry department of Oxford, where the clue to paralysis and death was found to be an innocent chemical, citric acid.

No one had suspected previously that citric acid, which is produced by the body itself in burning sugar, could be linked to murder.

Used By Witch Doctors
Peters said Sir Henry Dale, who investigated the plant 40 years ago, told him it was widely believed witch doctors in West Africa used it as a secret poison and that it was responsible for a fatal paralytic disease among natives raging at that time.

The difficulty in detecting the poison has been due to incomplete knowledge of the process in the body by which energy is drawn from sugar. Peters and his team were doing a biochemical study of fluorocetic acid when they discovered it prevents the body from breaking down the citric acid created when sugar is burned into simpler compounds.

Retention of the waste citric acid they found finally acted as a violent poison on heart and nervous system.

Can Be Traced
The importance of this discovery to criminal investigation was noted immediately and Peters and his chemists, who came from Belgium, Italy, Britain, the United States and Australia, set about finding a method of determining when the poison had been administered.

That cannot be done before death but it may be some com-

Relatives Involved In Three-Car Crash
Robbins, Md.—(U.P.)—It was all in the family when three cars were involved in an accident in front of the home of Elihu Abbott on Maryland's eastern shore.

A northbound car driven by William P. Abbott of Andrews collided with a car driven by Russell Abbott of Lakesville. The impact drove the second Abbott's car into a parked auto owned by Thurman G. Abbott of Bishop's Head.

The owners of all three cars and Elihu Abbott are all distant relatives. No charges were filed.

Tunis, Tunisia — (U.P.)—A homemade bomb exploded early Saturday in the garden of the home of Tunisian Premier Mohammed Chenik. There were no casualties. Chenik is a strong supporter of the Tunisian Nationalist cause.

DEFENSE TAX FREE
Chicago—(U.P.)—Bomb shelter costs can be deducted from taxes as current business expenses, according to the Commerce Clearing House. The clearing house said the Bureau of Internal Revenue must be convinced, however, that the shelter would be worthless for any other purpose.

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Around Hollywood

Hollywood—(U.P.)—John Barrymore Jr. said today he wishes he could imitate his father's private life—because he thinks off-screen existence these days is dull.

The profile Jr. said today he has no yen to duplicate his father's acting style or mannerisms.

But Junior wouldn't mind repeating that life of the movie gods that kept Hollywood jumping in the gay '20s.

"Boy, I'd imitate my father's private life," he enthused. "He had two yachts and between movies he'd go out and catch sharks."

"I'd have a yacht in the Caribbean with," he took a deep

breath, "40 women aboard. I'd build a big house and live in the lap of luxury."

"I don't drink, though," he added. "But one of these days," he said, "I'm going to take a drink if I want to. I think that's right, don't you?"

Town Now Different
"Anyway, Hollywood just isn't the town it used to be. It never will be again, unless drastic steps are taken. What we need is another Jolson, another Barrymore."

He thinks the only thespians left in movieland who "are real stars, legends like my dad," are James Stewart, James Cagney, Humphrey Bogart, Lionel and Ethel Barrymore, Gloria Swanson, Katherine Hepburn, Cary Grant and Charlie Chaplin.

"By great stars," he explained, "I mean the people who still throw me when I see them. They have the atmosphere of the past. They've been built into legends."

Kicked Heels Once
Once young Barrymore did kick up his heels, in Quebec, Canada, where he was on a personal appearance tour.

"We tried the old gag," he grinned. "I walked across the street and a friend, driving a car, pretended to hit me. I had a blood capsule in my mouth and it broke and this technicolor blood trickled down my face. Corinne Calvert rushed over and hit the other guy on the face."

"Oh, the crowds that gathered! They thought it was an accident. Then they saw it was a gag and they thought we were wonderful."

"I also drove down the street steering from below like there was no driver. Then I did that dumb-waiter gag. I bought \$40 worth of dishes, put on a white coat and dropped all of them in a restaurant. Oh, everybody in Quebec loved us."

"If we'd tried that in Hollywood we'd have been thrown in jail in two minutes."

Eight presidents (Washington, John Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, J. Q. Adams, Jackson and W. H. Harrison) were born British subjects.

Prisoners To Receive Religious Teachings
Columbus, O.—(U.P.)—Protestant religious educators are planning to extend religious teaching in the country's prisons.

The program will be pushed, said Dr. Richard E. Lentz, executive director of adult work for the division of Christian education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., because of the success of a three-year experiment in the California prisons.

Dr. Lentz said the A's and B's in religion on the report cards of California prisoners improved their morale considerably. He said 2,992 students completed 79 classes in the prisons at San Quentin, San Pedro, and Chino.

Ghost Painting Big Washington Business
Washington—(U.P.)—A new ghost has been found on the Washington scene—the ghost painter.

Ghost painting is big business, at least for the few here who paint minus only their signatures.

It started as a joke, but when their friends and other customers returned with more and bigger requests, these part-time ghosts found a good way to pick up extra money and also to experiment with new ideas.

Included in "the staff" besides the Number One Ghost, a prominent Washingtonian are five other artists: two painters in New York, two here and one sculptor.

Ghost painting has developed to a point where those who buy the ghosts' products, can't stop. Friends who admire their latest "masterpiece" want to know what they are "working on now." That involves another picture.

WHAT ARE TODAY'S FACTS ABOUT NEW CAR ENGINES AND POWER STEERING?

LAST YEAR Chrysler introduced its new FirePower V-8 engine, and America's first passenger car full-time power steering. Both new ideas "took hold" in a big way.

Today, others are announcing "new engines" and "power steering" . . . but with some basic differences worth keeping in mind if you're buying a new car.

First: about "new engines." The fact is, a really new engine design happens only once in a great while. It did happen in the FirePower V-8. Its 180 h.p. was only incidental to its basic new design. Its key idea is a hemispherical combustion chamber, which makes even non-premium gasoline develop more usable power than other designs can get from premium fuel.

Only Chrysler engineering has so far mastered this design. Several cars do have some power increase, in terms of previous designs. The important fact is that FirePower is not a "warmed-over" engine, but brand new in performance, construction, and efficiency.

In power steering, too, there are basic differences. Chrysler uses hydraulic power, always in effect, to do two things. First, it does 4/5 the steering work as you turn the wheel. Second, we've cut the amount of wheel turn needed by over 1/3.

Parking or cruising, you get more and easier control than ever before. In sand, snow, or ruts, the hydraulic power is always there to keep the front wheels from "steering back" at you.

Life for Austrians Progressively Grim

Vienna—(U.P.)—Life for Austrians was progressively grimmer and more expensive during 1951.

Once the lowest in Europe, prices in Austria jumped by 39.1 per cent during the year, more than four times the average rise through the world. Stringent measures were taken to deal with increasing food shortages.

Two weekly meatless days were ordered last autumn. The sale of pork and veal, basis of wiener-schnitzel, the country's national dish, was limited to Saturdays.

This winter, rationing of butter, which has been unobtainable except at black market prices, was ordered. Each person was limited to a weekly ration of 4.5 grams, or less than one-fifth of an ounce.

Most painful of all to the coffee and pastry-loving Austrian was the ban put on the manufacture and sale of whipped cream, Vienna's famous "schlag" which once topped every steaming cup and filled most rolls.

Soaring food prices have become the gravest danger to the national economy. In a country which does not produce enough to feed itself and had an unfavorable balance of trade, the average Austrian spends more than 60 per cent of his income on food.

SHOCKS BRITISH—Sharon Koehnke, 17, of Chicago, shocked the British sports world when she appeared (above) for a practice session for the English Table Tennis Open at London. Sharon said she would dress more conservatively for the tourney and save the abbreviated outfit for exhibition in the U. S.

Taking Deer Census Said Difficult Job
Cleveland, O.—(U.P.)—Taking a census of deer is a much tougher job than counting humans and it's done more frequently, too.

While the U. S. Census bureau counts the nation's noses each 10 years, the Ohio wildlife division surveys the state's deer population each year, by air.

The state wants to know whether herds are moving, staying in one place, multiplying, dying or being killed.

Twelve northeastern Ohio counties have been selected for the 1952 census.

The survey will be made from airplanes flying at about 300 feet.

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Railroad Engineer School in Cellar

Medford, Mass.—(U.P.)—A school for railroad engineers, possibly the only one of its kind in the world, holds forth in the cellar of a Medford home.

The schoolmaster is 72-year-old Charles H. Evans, who learned his profession during 40 years with the Boston & Maine before retiring in 1945. He figures that since 1915, when he began teaching, he has helped about 500 engineers pass their state and federal examinations.

His one-room basement classroom is equipped with a library of 300 books and pamphlets, a complete line of railroad equipment supplied by manufacturers, and two blackboards.

Daily commutation tickets for dogs are sold on German railroad for less than half the third class fare to accommodate watchmen and others who need their dogs in their work.

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