

Rabbitt Loaned by Navy To Care for President's White House Putting Green

Washington—(CQ)—The Navy has loaned President Eisenhower a five foot 11 inch Rabbitt to advise him on his White House golf green. And this Rabbitt's nickname is also Ike.

The full name of this Dr. Paul Dudley White of the golf green is Alton E. Rabbitt of Bethesda, Md., a grass expert. He was hired by the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics in 1942 to combat erosion on its airfields. But his background led to an added duty—one which the President's need for recreation has emphasized: making sure the White House golf green stays healthy.

About once a month Mr. Rabbitt leaves his desk in the Navy Munitions Building on the Constitution ave. to check up on his patient: 2,800 square feet of grass in back of the White House. He probes it for bugs, fungus and examines its texture for "puttability."

Special Brushes

But Rabbitt just prescribes the medicine. The actual treatment is performed by the White House groundskeepers. They even have special brushes and lawn mowers for manuring their world-famous green.

"It's a fine green," Rabbitt said. "Outside of a few brown patches, the only headache has been the squirrels." The squirrels have found the frequently watered green easy diggings and have tried to turn it into acorn store-room. But passing of winter has cut down on their trips.

The green was finished in June, 1954. The United States Golf Association paid for the installation and Pennsylvania State University, headed by the President's brother, Dr. Milton Eisenhower, cultured the grass seed.

According to Rabbitt, the University selected a creeping bent grass from greens at the Lu Lu Temple County Club near Philadelphia. The selection was then painstakingly crossed, nurtured and tested at the University from 1935 to 1953. One of the first places the final product—called Penn-lu—was planted was on the greens at the Aronimink Country Club, also near Philadelphia. The USGA took enough of it from Aronimink to make the President's green, rolled the sod up like a rug and transported it to the White House. The green has to be watered and changed periodically to distribute the wear.

Asked About Zoyzia

In all his trips to the White House, Rabbitt has never seen President Eisenhower putting on the green. "I met him once at the Congressional Country Club, though," Rabbitt said. He asked me about zoyzia, a hardy grass—

sometimes called a wonder grass—native of Manchuria which is being tried out on lawns and golf courses in the United States."

Actually, President Eisenhower and his green doctor have more in common to talk about than grass. Both love golf—Mr. Rabbitt so much so he quit school for a while to try to break into the pro ranks. Also, both were nicknamed Ike in their early years and both were outstanding in sports at college.

President Eisenhower was tagged Ike by his schoolmates—the same monicker given to his brothers but it stuck with the President—and Rabbitt got his nickname from his four-year-old sister, Eva, who found Ike easier on the tongue than Alton.

All-American Lacrosse Player
At West Point, Mr. Eisenhower played football and baseball

while Rabbitt was an All-American lacrosse player in 1936 at the University of Maryland.

And how did their paths finally cross? The Navy asked Rabbitt to spend a few moments a month advising on the golf green after it found in his personnel file: bachelor of science degree from Maryland in agriculture; grass research program of the United States Golf Association, 1936-38; National Capital Parks Service where he specialized in grass growing and care, 1938-42. So he was a natural for the golf green mission.

His name, of course, complements his background. The deliberate, congenial Rabbitt says the name makes the most of the punsters, but he adds laughingly, "They've got to admit a rabbit should know something about grass."

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CURRENT ISSUES—President Eisenhower gestures emphatically during his news conference as he tells reporters that it is problematical whether the farm bill in its present shape would be of any help to the farmer. He also said he would order any American troops into action in the Middle East or anywhere else without congressional approval.

Ashland, G. Pass Youths Appraised For Scholarships

Evanston, Ill. — (U.P.) — More than 4300 high school seniors will receive certificates of merit and about 520 others are being appraised as scholarship winners, the National Merit Scholarship corporation announced today.

An exhaustive search was made to find the nation's top high school students, the NMSC said. Last year 60,000 seniors were nominated by high school principals as outstanding students.

Screening and testing whittled the number down. A preliminary test reduced the number of students to 5,000 who took the final test. The NMSC said.

A committee selected the top students from each state, pro-rated on the basis of population, by using final scores and information supplied by the high schools. The NMSC estimated that the students selected are in the top one-half of one per cent of the seniors in 10,338 high schools across the nation.

All of the 4,300 certificate winners are deserving of scholarships, the NMSC said, and all would get them if the money was available. A list of the talented students is being sent to colleges, universities and other scholarship granting agencies.

More than one million dollars in scholarships was announced as available by the NMSC last October when the first test was given. Another million dollars was added to the amount by 16 corporations that joined the merit scholarship program, the NMSC said.

Four Year Grant
Scholarship winners will get four years of college. The amounts of individual awards will be determined by the needs of the student, the NMSC said.

The scholarships will have an average value of \$6,000 to student and college. Schools attended by merit scholars will receive grants equal to the students' tuition, provided the two are not more than \$1500 a year.

The NMSC said the grants to colleges are to make sure the schools do not lose money in educating scholarship winners.

Names of the winners will be announced about May 1. Oregon students included: Jerry Miller and Peter Windt, Ashland; William Burroughs, Thomas H. Denny, Jr., and Edgar Stout, Grants Pass.

The land known as Iraq was once called Mesopotamia.

Income Taxes Likened To Camel Which Got Nose Under Arab Tent

By LYLE C. WILSON
United Press Correspondent

Washington—(U.P.)—There's an old story about a camel which got its nose under his Arab master's tent.



There wasn't enough room for both of them. Maybe that's the way it will be with the income tax, which is not a work of the devil, as many suppose about this time of year.

The income tax was the work of two presidents and two congresses, equally divided between Republicans and Democrats. President Taft and a Republican Congress started the 11th Amendment to the Constitution on its way in 1909.

President Wilson and a Democratic Congress imposed the first individual income tax in 1913. There could not have been one among the state and national legislators who voted for the 16th Amendment who had the faintest idea what the graduated individual income tax would become. President Eisen-

hower plans to tap individual income taxpayers for about \$35,000,000 in the next fiscal year.

There was an understanding all around when the 16th Amendment was adopted that it never would be much of a tax. And that was the way it started, a tap on the wrist. Under the first income tax act, a married person with two dependents and a net income of \$3,000 paid no tax at all. Exempt. On a net income of \$5,000 he paid two-tenths of one per cent. That came to \$10.

A \$10,000-a-year husband with two dependents paid six-tenths of one per cent under the 1913 act—\$60. If this person had a net income of \$5,000,000 a year, the government told him to come across with 6.8 per cent of it, less than \$350,000. The \$5,000,000 man now would pay more than \$4,000,000.

The World War I 1917 Revenue Act tapped a married man with two dependents and \$2,500 net income for \$2. His tax went to \$6 under the 1918 wartime Revenue Act but dropped to \$4

before he was exempted altogether by the Revenue Act of 1921. It was not until 1941 that the \$2,500 net family man had to pay income taxes again. His bill then was \$12.

Paid 6.3 Per Cent
The \$3,000-a-year family man under the 1945 World War II tax bill paid at the rate of 6.3 per cent. That is just about the rate at which the \$5,000,000 man paid in 1913. The \$5,000 man with two dependents who paid \$10 in 1913 had to pay \$156 in 1918. It was down to \$104 in the 1928 Revenue Act this man's payment dropped to \$8 and then to \$3.

The record will show that the Democratic Party usually has raised income taxes and that the Republicans have sought to lower them. The big bulge began in 1932, during the last of the Hoover administration, but taxes dropped back briefly under FDR. In 1941 they started to zoom and they still are up there after considerable climbing.

Price of Live Hogs Jumps 40 Per Cent

Chicago—(U.P.)—The American Meat Institute said today the price of live hogs jumped an average of 40 per cent during the last three months.

The price per hundredweight last week was \$15.25, while the price during a comparable week last month was \$12.01, the AMI said. The average price was \$10.87, or about 40 per cent lower, during the week ending Jan. 7.

Hog prices last week were the highest in any week since the average of \$15.35 of last Oct. 15, the AMI said.

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Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Washington — President Eisenhower and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles in a statement on U.S. policy in the Middle East:

"The United States, in accordance with its responsibilities under the charter of the United Nations, will observe its commitments within constitutional means to oppose any aggression in the area."

New York — Italian dressmaker Micol Fontana on what she will do if Margaret Truman does not like her wedding dress: "I will kill myself."

Chicago — Adlai E. Stevenson on the Illinois primary: "The primary in Illinois means a great deal to me. It is the most important referendum in which I shall participate."

New York — Sen. Estes Kefauver on the acid hurling attack against labor columnist Victor Riesel: "Let nobody be mistaken. This is one of the most diabolical plots hatched by the best gangster elements in our society."

Aboard the S.S. Constitution, at Sea — John Kelly on his daughter actress Grace Kelley being upset about his telling of a father and daughter conversation: "I only told her what any father would say."

THE RIGHT JOB
Storrs, Conn. — (U.P.) — William J. Scully, who's working his way through the University of Connecticut as a bridge toll collector says: "My marks are better than ever. I have all night to study, and after 1 a.m. the traffic is so light that I can really concentrate on the books."

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