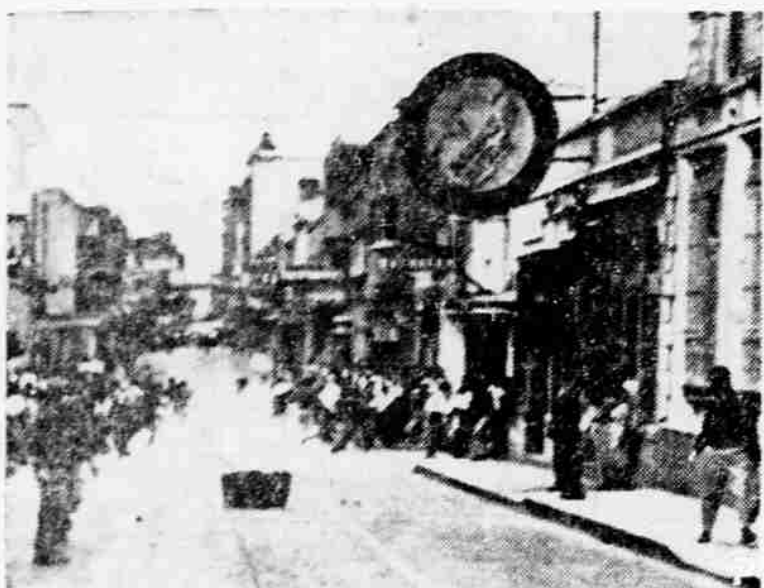




EXPLODING TEAR GAS SHELLS disperse a throng of demonstrators against a military junta which seized government in Guatemala City. The army coup set aside presidential election. (International Soundphoto)

The Medical Roundup

by *Walter Alvarez*

Emeritus Consultant in Medicine,
Mayo Clinic
Emeritus Professor of Medicine,
Mayo Foundation

The Man Who Must Retire At 65

Today, many companies are retiring all employees at the age of 65. No matter how able a man may still be, and no matter how much his company may need him, out he must go. Perhaps one in four of these men cannot find work again, and for the rest of his days must sit alone on a shuffle-board or alone on a canasta or even fishing. Many young men are delighted to see their elders retired because this opens up jobs. It does not occur to the young men that they will have to start paying out of their salary some share of the money needed for the support of the aged oldsters. The old people will have to be fed and clothed and housed, and someone will have to pay for it. Men assume that the government will pay for it, but, of course, it won't—the government will only use the money that it has obtained by taxation from those of us who are still working.

As Dr. Howard A. Rusk, that great pioneer in rehabilitation, said a while ago, "If we do not learn to use in industry the retired and the disabled and some of the chronically ill, in another 20 years every able-bodied man who works will be metaphorically carrying on his back three persons—one, physically handicapped, one chronically ill or psychotic, and one who is over 65. How long can the workers keep doing this, and how long will they consent to do it? How long will it be before they ask these men to get off and find themselves a job?"

Mistake In Using Term

A mistake we are making is to use the term "physically handicapped" as if it meant something very bad. The other day I saw a picture of a man born without arms who is earning a living himself, his wife and three children by painting pictures with his toes. I know some blind persons, some deaf persons, and some persons who cannot get out of a wheel-chair unaided, who are earning a good living, and are happy about it. I'll never forget once going through a factory, where they manufacture lenses. There I saw a number of old men—I think they must have been over 70—who, through the years, had become so skillful that they could set a tiny lens, about as big as the head of a pin, at the lower end of a microscope objective. This lens has to be set with such extreme accuracy that if I had not seen it done I would have said it couldn't be done.

As I watched those old men at work, I thought how foolish it would be for the company to let them out. If I had been their boss, I would have kept those men working for me as long as they could set those lenses, and as long as they cared to do it.

I would not have cared if both of a man's legs had been amputated; or if he was stone deaf, or if he had had a bad heart attack.

Use Favored
A while ago Charles H. Percy, president of the Bell and Howell Co., spoke strongly in favor of using handicapped men in factories. He said their tendency to accidents was so small that they hardly needed extra insurance.

One reason given for the absolute refusal of many companies to hire able men over the age of 40 or 45, men whom perhaps they need, is that the

cost of their retirement plan would be too great. It certainly is under the present plan, but some months ago, while attending in New York a conference on problems of the aged, I heard a paper by Henry E. Blagden, of the Prudential Insurance Company, who showed that there is no difficulty in devising a pension scheme in which all the workers pay into the fund the same amount each month, not matter what their age. Naturally, then, the man who starts with company at the age of 20, when he reaches 65 will get a big retirement check, while the man who starts at the age of 50, will get a small one. Each of them will get each month a certain percentage of the money that has been stored away for him in the fund. When a man reaches 65, and is given his retirement allowance, if he is still young and full of energy, and needed by his company, he can be hired on a month-to-month basis.

The Hollywood Scene

By VERNON SCOTT
United Press Writer

Editor's note: Vernon Scott is on vacation. Today's guest columnist is "Lonesome George" Gobel who has some thoughts on Sputnik and the common man.

By GEORGE GOBEL
Written for the United Press

Hollywood — Ever since the Russian scientists launched their cosmic coconut into outer space, the common man has been aroused. I for one have been shaken out of my lethargy, but in my case this isn't too surprising 'cause my lethargy never fit too good in the first place . . . kept creeping up in the seat . . .

But what I'm trying to say is, the satellite has presented many new problems to the world. Naturally, the first question which comes to mind is, "What is the satellite?"

Rubber Band

Well, I'll tell you. It's a twenty-three inch aluminum sphere, weighing a hundred and eighty-four pounds and it's held together by a very strong rubber band. Now what this thing does is, it sends messages which we've been picking up. Now these messages are a series of beeps which grow in volume and at times turn into long, piercing squeals.

If you'd like to hear this same beeping, piercing squeal, just try saying to your wife, "Honey—you're getting fat." When she starts circling and beeping off you might as well sit tight till her speaker tube blows out.

But in the case of the satellite, these beeps are significant. It means that sooner or later it's got to come down, 'cause any-

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Martha S. — They promoted the other girls ahead of me.
Mrs. J. S. — Why should she worry about a job?

Martha S. — I am a young woman of 24 and I am very upset about my job and the way I get treated by my supervisors. I have been working at this same place since I got out of high school. I do everything I am told and I am never late and rarely absent. Just the same, other girls who came after I did have been promoted and some of them now supervise my work. It certainly can't be because I'm any stupider than they are. I was always a good student at school.

When I spoke to one of the supervisors about this, she told me I ought to go to business school and take up some more skills, but I don't see why they should make me do this when those other girls got promoted without doing anything about it.

My mother says I should just leave this place if they can't appreciate me, but I've gotten used to it here and besides, it's very near my home and has nice hours.

Mrs. J. S. — I've never known a young girl to be so worried about jobs as Martha. I keep telling her she shouldn't be so interested in all of that. She's not to be a career woman. She should be thinking about getting a husband.
My sister says I spoil Martha because I take care of her clothes and her room. She has no responsibilities at all. I think that's the way it should be. She's got plenty of time for work and worry. Now she should be free to just enjoy life. It's what I wanted to do when I was a young girl, but I couldn't. I had to work and help out at home. Martha doesn't have any such responsibility.

SHAMBLES

Syracuse, N. Y. — Dolores Potter told police that a neighbor's dog, accidentally locked in her house, wiped out her entire stock of parakeets, seven guinea pigs and two canaries.

She can afford to be independent, so why should she worry about her job?

I would like to see Martha leave that job because there are too many girls there anyway. It's time she went where she could meet some men.

The Council: Mrs. J. S. appears to have taken away all of Martha's initiative and given the girl the feeling all that is required from her in life at this stage is to await the appearance of a husband. She does not seem to realize that work and an active interest in what she is doing won't use Martha up. On the contrary, it will give her something — enthusiasm, a sense of accomplishment, friends.

Martha should realize that she has too much played the role of mother's good darling, whose only responsibilities are getting to school on time and performing the tasks set before her. A child who does this, and causes no trouble, gets promoted to the next grade, but little more is required of an adult in the business world.

Instead of nursing her sense of abuse, Martha ought to open her eyes and see what the other girls really did to get promoted ahead of her. She ought to see what she can do to improve her own work. The acquisition of new skills at business school will undoubtedly help.

Martha would also do well to take things into her own hands at home. She should not let her foolishly doting mother deprive her of the privilege of being independent in such personal matters as caring for her own clothes and room.

An active interest in these things, as well as in her work, will help to wake her out of her sullen lethargy. "Sleeping Beauty" got the prince in the fairy tale, but it takes a wideawake girl to find him in real life.

(Copyright 1957,
General Features Corp.)

Half-Hour Coffee Breaks, Six-Hour Days Seen as Common Office Routine in 1975

Chicago — Half-hour coffee breaks and six-hour days will be commonplace in the office routine of 1975, according to Michael Notario.

Notario, president of Statistical Tabulating Corp., predicts a rosy future for the office worker in the age of automation. Electronic "brains" will relieve office help of many burdens, he said.

Notario's own firm, the largest independent service bureau in the country, is the first to offer an electronic computer as part of its office service.

Present machines of this type now occupy entire offices by themselves, but Notario foresees the development of electronic computers the size of a typewriter and desk calculators and tabulators operated by remote control.

End of Drudgery
"These developments and others will end office drudgery and give more leisure time to office workers," he said.

"The typical office of 1975 will look like a modern, uncluttered library with a quiet, well-ordered atmosphere," Notario said. "Square desks, tall filing cabinets, piles of paper and clutter will be a thing of the past."

It was a glowing future Notario painted. He envisioned anti-fatigue chairs to replace upright posture seats for secretaries. And special body-massaging vibrator chairs for busy executives.

TV intercom systems will cut down the number of staff conferences and meetings, he said.

Cooler Goes
Even the water cooler, traditional goofing off spot for millions of office employees, will be replaced by piped ice water within easy reach, Notario predicted.

In the automated office, electronic "scanners" will take over laborious filing tasks, he said. And automatic typewriters will do the typing, robot-style, producing finished letters and addressed envelopes from dictation.

This, Notario said, will free secretaries for more productive work. They will become, in effect, executive assistants," he said. And at higher pay.

FOR THE BIRDS
Ithaca, N. Y. — The Board of Public Works, asked by Cornell University Prof. P. K. Kellogg to open Stewart Park in the morning hours for birdwatchers, said he would consider the matter. The board shut the park to the public during the night and early morning hours because of recent vandalism. The professor said, "Naturalists are not vandals."

LEAVING federal court where he was convicted as Soviet spy is Rudolph Ivanovich Abel. Sentence, possibly death, was set for Nov. 15 in Brooklyn. (International)

Results Above Average
Lt. (jg) Jack Tuck, Auburn, Mass., military leader at the

As the Air Force Globemaster made passes of the IGY station, it rained engine preheaters, fuel and other equipment into the drop zone marked out on the snow. Paratroopers rushed to the parachute lines before the chilling winds would carry the load from the station.

While men scrambled over the hard stragglers like frozen ocean waves, the Globemaster circled to make other drops.

Two engine preheaters which were to be used to repair the Navy Neptune plane were heavily damaged when their parachutes failed to open but two others landed safely.

Efforts will be made to repair the damaged pair and speed up repairs on Commander Coley's plane. One load of fuel oil was deeply buried when its parachute only partially opened.

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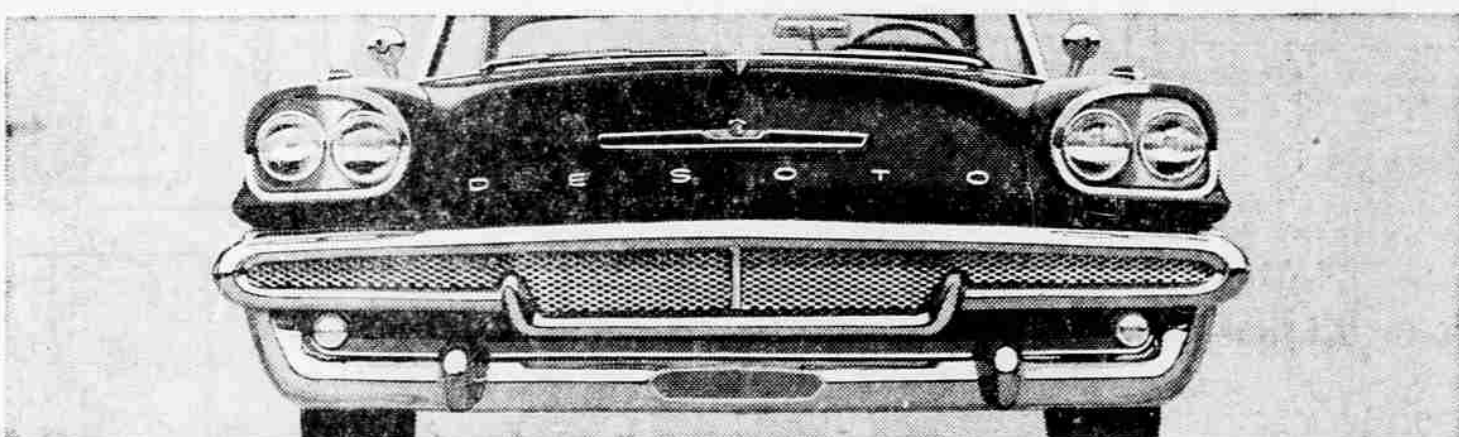
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