

Business Started In Chicken Coop Nets Two Million

By H. D. QUIGG
United Press International
New York—(UPI)—Some men start their own business on a shoestring. Some start with an oak-paneled office and pretty secretary.

Some don't start at all if the going looks tough. But two decades ago George A. Starbird had such an ache to be his own boss that broke but brave he started in an abandoned chicken coop. He proceeded to run the coop into a two-million-dollar business.

"I figure my big break came back there in 1938 when I decided to be my own boss," he said. "I was working in Los Angeles for \$35 a week, my wife was expecting a child, and we were living in a little house in the backyard of another house."

"One day I found myself thinking, 'You're going to start your own business. You're broke now—things can't get any worse.'"

"There was a little chicken coop in the yard, an 8-by-10-foot shack, and I cleaned it out and moved in a drill press that I had and a lathe that I borrowed \$600 to buy. I started making radio parts."

The firm that grew out of the coop is the Metatron Corp. of Hollywood. Starbird, 54, is its president. It is the only company in the United States that makes a specialty of pressure actuated switches, gadgets that act as a safety device on such diverse things as atomic submarines, escalators, airplanes, missiles, oil pipelines, and surgical irrigation machines.

Starbird thought up the name Metatron himself when he found people didn't seem to remember the firm name.

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Four Babies Still Critical; Formula Made of Poison

San Antonio, Tex.—(UPI)—Two infants are dead and four remained in critical condition today from poison sodium nitrite mistakenly put in the babies' formulas at the nursery of Robert B. Green hospital.

Hospital Administrator William Foster blamed a shortage of professional workers for the tragic error, in which the poison tablets apparently were substituted for vitamin C tablets which they closely resemble.

The poison was mixed into infant formulas on Friday. Two baby boys, sons of Mrs. Alzada Havard and Mrs. Concha Ramos, died Saturday. Funeral services were held for them Tuesday.

The four other babies were saved when nurses noticed they were turning blue and quickly summoned doctors to pump their stomachs.

Progressing Satisfactorily
The surviving infants were said to be still in critical condition "but progressing satisfactorily."

They are twin girls born to Mrs. Jose Riojas, a son born to Mrs. Fred Campbell and a daughter of Mrs. Raul Martinez.

Foster said he had been unable to determine who had made the fatal substitution of poison for the called-for vitamin. He said he had questioned workers in both the hospital pharmacy and the nursing department and that "someone is lying."

"I don't know who, but discovery of the person responsible won't solve the problem," Foster said.

"We just have too many departments and two few professional workers."

Foster said the hospital has at present only one registered pharmacist to dispense \$180,000 worth of drugs a year. He said that two years ago the hospital had two pharmacists to handle only \$10,000 worth of medication annually.

Qualified men are needed in the Naval Air Corps, according to the local recruiting station.

Candidates for the Naval Air school, Pensacola, Fla., must be between the ages of 18 and 25, unmarried and must have successfully completed 60 semester or 90 quarter hours of work at an accredited college or university. They must also meet certain physical, mental and moral standards.

College and university students must make application three months prior to completion of educational requirements. For more information contact the Navy recruiting office in the post office building.

The U. S. postal system handles more pieces of mail a year than the rest of the world combined.



UC BARS BLIND GIRL'S DOG—Sharon England, 19, of Los Angeles, completely blind for the last 10 years, kneels beside her guide dog, Sirius, as she tells newsmen in San Francisco she has been refused a room in a University of California residence. University officials insist the dog is a pet and that if Sharon were permitted to keep the dog with her in a dormitory, the university would have to permit others to keep their pets with them.



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

The 'Mysterious' Night-Hawks Are Beneficial Birds
It was early evening. Trees and bushes were rapidly losing their shape as the light faded. The summer night was soft and warm. The sky became freckled with stars. They winked on, one by one.

The air was peopled with countless black dots that hurtled back and forth; night-flying insects, busy at whatever it is insects seem to be so busy doing. The noise of their combined movements swelled in volume.

There were other creatures a-wing too. Across the sky bird-forms passed on silent wings, each bird in pursuit of a night-flying insect. The birds were night-hawks, appearing for a second before disappearing in the outer darkness. With a swoop and a swerve they came and went, from every direction and at various levels, each searching for flying insects.

Apparitions
"Will-of-the-wisps" these birds have been called, rapid moving forms in the semi-darkness seeming to have no substance or solidarity—more like an apparition or a mirage, more like a "spirit" than a real creature of flesh and blood. Suddenly they come, out of the darkness, then as suddenly disappear. A watch-

er wonders if he really is seeing a bird or a shadow. This rapid, silent flight probably suggested the name "will-of-the-wisp."

It might be easy to understand why superstitions were built up around this bird. Other folks, less superstitious but no better informed, called the night-hawk a "bull-bat" because they fly mainly at night and folks thought only bats would be abroad in the darkness.

The bird does spend the daylight hours sitting on a forest tree in some secluded spot. The night-hawk builds no nest but lays her eggs on the open ground or even on a bare rock or neglected sidewalk. Some of the birds that live near large cities often lay the eggs and hatch the young on the flat, gravel roofs of tall buildings.

Sharp Squawks
Often, while in full flight, the night-hawk utters sharp squawks, as if in fright. At some seasons of the year the bird emits a loud booming sound, not unlike the roll of a distant drum, at the same time swooping toward the ground in a wide spiral from a great height.

The booming noise sounds hysterical and unreal in the darkness and lends an atmosphere of mystery to this

Unions, Maritime Association Reach New Agreement

San Francisco—(UPI)—The International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's union reached agreement with the Pacific Maritime Association, Tuesday on a new three-year contract.

The agreement, still subject to ratification by both organizations, will provide wage increases for about 17,000 workers. Men working on a six-hour straight time basis will receive an 11 cents per hour wage boost, while those on an eight-hour day will receive 12½ cents.

The new contract, which will run until June 15, 1962, also provides for the first time a \$1,500,000 mechanization fund to distribute the profits of increased mechanization to the dock workers.

Provide Compensation
The fund will provide compensation to men who fail to earn a specified annual income. How it will be distributed has not been decided.

A joint release said: "The fund will be contributed by the employers during the first year of the contract as payment of the men's cash share of increased productivity up to June 5, 1960. The fund applies to fully registered men."

Under the contract, clerks will receive an additional one and one-half cents an hour during each of the three years to reach parity with longshoremen. Chief supervisors and supercargo clerks will receive an additional four cents an hour to reach parity with walking bosses.

Increases Retroactive
All wage increases will be retroactive to June 15, 1959, expiration date of the old agreement. Retroactivity will end Aug. 10, by which time the union has agreed to complete a referendum ballot on ratification of the contract.

The fund agreement declared further that its purpose is "to guarantee the fully registered work force a share in the profits gained by labor saving machinery, changed methods of operation, or changes in working rules and contract restrictions resulting in reduced manpower with the same or greater productivity for and operation."

In recent years, a principal goal of the ILWU has been to prevent the displacement of workers by machines and labor-saving devices.

strange bird. The underside of each wing has a white spot or band. Visible from the ground, it looks, to an observer, as though there were a hole in the wing.

As the night-hawk feeds almost exclusively on insects it is one of our beneficial birds, even though it is also one of the least understood, due probably to its habit of always flying at night when superstitious folks think that mystery lurks in the warm darkness. (Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1959)

Electronic Automation Is Available to Companies Of All Sizes, Speaker Says

Small businesses as well as large corporations now can take advantage of advances in electronic automation, James Powell of Multnomah Data Processing Center said here Monday.

Lack of information about these advances is generally responsible, Powell said, for failures to take such advantage.

Powell told a Jackson County Chamber of Commerce roundtable audience that many smaller cities and counties are falling "way behind" in use of electronic devices to speed processing of paperwork.

He explained that automation, or the use of electronic computing machines and other mechanisms to compile and analyze records, is proving popular and economical.

Powell warned, however, that companies and agencies should enter the field cautiously and gradually. He stated that automation should not be introduced into one office just to keep up with the Jones company up the street.

Other Positions Available
Thanks to the rapid expansion of the nation's economy, he said, those whose jobs are taken over by electronic devices are generally finding other positions in the same growing company.

He reported that at least one spokesman in the electronics field believes that within the next decade huge computers will be available to individual communities for the use of local businesses in data processing. These computers, Powell said, would be considered as a public utility service—comparable to the telephone and power companies of today.

Powell explained that recently invented office appliances can be attached to typewriters and bookkeeping machines to permit simultaneous production of the standard paper tapes or punch cards. These tapes or cards, he said, can be dispatched to data processing centers where the records can be compiled and analyzed.

Attached to Register
Such tape-producing appliances can also be attached to cash registers, Powell said. He reported that department stores in other parts of the country are finding this a valuable aid in quick tabulation of sales.

Some companies, he noted, are loathe to invest in devices now on the market since they fear these will become obsolete. Actually, he said, use of what is currently available provides an important intermediate step in preparation for using devices perfected later.

Businessmen interested in applying automation devices in their offices should first go to school and learn as much as possible about these modern processes, Powell recommended.

Next, he said, they should visit users elsewhere to see how they are getting along. They should also check with business consultants and with representatives of companies that manufacture the devices, and then secure two or three written proposals from manufacturers, he added.

Automation in Government
Automation for government, Powell said, is useful in such areas as road design, police department records, voter registration, payroll, tax rolls and various analyses and surveys. He said he thought it could also be used in preparing assessment rolls.

Powell described one mechanism that can tell road engineers where to build roadways.

Automation can "definitely effect economies" for governmental agencies, Powell said. He stated that while he thought the federal govern-

ment and state agencies are generally taking advantage of automation, many small counties and small cities are "definitely not."

"Very few are going into this type of thing," he said of these smaller units of government. "In my estimation they are way behind."

Not Economical
A Medford city official later stated that extensive automation was not yet considered for individual cities the size of Medford. Among machines currently in use at city hall are an automatic bookkeeping machine, and several small calculators used by city engineers.

This official stated that several cities—such as Medford, Ashland, Grants Pass and Klamath Falls—might embark on acquiring automation equipment as a joint venture. But, he added, such intergovernmental cooperation is rare.

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