



Burns Agency Observes 50th Anniversary Of World-Wide Search for Law Violators

New York — (UPI) — If there is any movement within a restricted area of a certain Eastern manufacturing plant, a radar signal will touch off a buzzer in the William J. Burns International Detective Agency in New York.

This is the "private eye" of 1959. It is a far cry from the Burns detective of 50 years ago.

The Burns agency is celebrating its 50th anniversary, and the same occasion marks a half-century of detective work for Raymond J. Burns, 72, who began trailing safe-crackers, forgers and other quarry in 1909.

"Our plant protection service is the biggest share of our work now," Burns said. "But at first, it was mostly safe-crackers. They were called yeggs in those days, and we used to run them down all over the country for the American Bankers Association."

World's Greatest

Burns is the son of William J. Burns, a former Secret Service man who became known as the "world's greatest detective" and founded the agency with Raymond as a young aide.

"Our first case was a bank robbery at Chatsworth, Ill. A yegg named Zanesville Johnny and his gang blew a safe and got away with \$25,000, which was a lot of money in those days. We had them in two weeks," Raymond recalled.

Today, he is chairman of the board of the agency. His

younger brother, W. Sherman Burns, is president. Together they command a world-wide investigative network that includes 30 offices in the United States and 12,000 employees.

Most Burns men would recognize from their uniforms. They are guards at factories, in office buildings, at sports events. Burns clients range from an aspirin manufacturer to the Empire State Building, and include three airlines, two breweries, and many other industrial concerns.

But some Burns detectives aren't so easy to spot. They are undercover men, and one of them might be working next to you in your job.

Involved in Precautions

A Burns man may be put to work in a plant or office to keep an eye out for pilfering, efficiency bottlenecks or leaks of company secrets to competitors. Burns agents are involved in security precautions at plants working on classified defense contracts.

They handle payrolls, too, but not in armored cars. They amble freely down the street carrying huge amounts of cash in a satchel. If the agent should let go of the handle, a series of 45 caliber blanks and a smoke bomb would all go off at once.

Radar is a new wrinkle in the protective service. By this means a snooper or thief doesn't have to touch anything to set off an alarm. His mere entry into the radar field is all it takes.

Old-fashioned detective

work still goes on at the Burns agency, however. Not long ago a New York family asked Burns to check up on the fine young chap their daughter had met in Europe and planned to marry. He turned out to be a con man with a police record including narcotics and white slavery.

The agency won't get involved in divorce cases or labor disputes, but the American Bankers Association is still an important client and forgers and embezzlers are constantly being trailed by Burns investigators.

Doesn't Carry Gun

A Burns detective doesn't carry a gun, usually, and his life bears little resemblance to that of the TV private eye. "Television needs audience appeal," said Sherman Burns. "We don't."

An applicant for a Burns job has his background thoroughly checked. Even stenographers are fingerprinted. A detective seldom winds up a case by pointing a gun at his quarry with one hand and dialing the police with the

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Indoor Barbecue For 'Outdoor Man'

New York, N.Y.—The "outdoor man," with the indoor job he has in our modern economy, just won't give up these days as cold weather forces him to shelter.

The latest rage is the indoor barbecue-play area... usually a converted porch. The trick is to enclose the porch with glass walls and re-surface it with a stainproof, easy to clean and fireproof material such as ceramic tile. Then light up the old barbecue.

Some of the less hardy ones even install radiant heating under the floor tile.

SOUND LOGIC

Worcester, England — (UPI) — Joseph Baddeley, 39, paid a 20 pound (\$56) fine for careless driving Tuesday although he said:

"I have no recollection of the incident, but I have faith in humanity. If it hadn't happened, I wouldn't be here."

Choice of America's National Flower Being Tabulated

New York — (UPI) — Voters are plowing through a mountain of mail here to find out America's choice for its national flower.

Sacks full of ballots have arrived at election headquarters established by the Florists' Telegraph Delivery association in its efforts to help settle a controversy that even echoed in the halls of Congress earlier this year.

Eleven thousand flower shops served as polling places in the balloting, which ended Oct. 31. Results probably will be known in December and the FTD will recommend the winner to Congress for adoption next year.

Voters Could Choose

Tallies are mounting for such delicate blooms as the rose and orchid, and for such hearty species as the golden-rod and just plain "grass." Voters could choose from 20 candidate-flowers or add a different choice in a space for write-ins.

In Colorado, folks are confident of victory for that stalwart of the buttonhole, the carnation. "I think the carnation will win, though the rose will finish a strong second,"

says Mrs. Thelma Thomas, who has sold flowers in Denver for 35 years.

Colorado promotes its carnations fervently. Two thousand of the red variety were flown to the Russian Embassy in Washington when Nikita Khrushchev was there. Twice a week, the Colorado Flower Growers association ships 250 carnations to the White House, and they are said to be the favorite flower of Mrs. Eisenhower.

Campaigns Conducted

Campaigns also were conducted for such regional specialties as the magnolia and the mountain laurel, and a late entry was the apple blossom. The apple industry urged voters to support its blossom as a write-in favorite.

An apple industry spokesman pointed out that apples are familiar to Americans from the time they find them in their Christmas stockings, that apple trees grow in almost every state, and that everyone knows the expression, "As American as apple pie."

The trucking industry in the U.S. each year buys 900,000 trucks and 70,000 trailers,

Pupil's Business Curbed by School

Jennings, La. — Ronnie Clark's gum machine brought a special ruling from school officials.

Ronnie, 13, bought the toy gum ball machine, stocked it with gum and brought it to school. Ronnie's schoolmates began patronizing his "new business venture," and teachers found a sudden increase in gum chewing among students.

Ronnie was told to quit selling his gum while the principal studied the case.

Finally, it was decided that Ronnie's gum selling business at school would be limited to Fridays only — after school.

Young Sister Gives Advice To Parents

Newburyport, Mass. — Some children are way ahead of their parents.

The parents of a college girl home from school for the week end complained that they saw so little of her. As she drove off, with her boyfriend, to spend Sunday away from her family, her younger sister commented:

"Look at it this way: It isn't that you have lost a daughter but that you have gained a car."

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