

New VA Administrator Has Banking, Military, Veterans Background

White City - Information concerning John S. Gleason Jr., recently appointed head of the Veterans Administration by President John F. Kennedy, has been received here.

Gleason, who has a background of banking, military service and veterans affairs, will be the chief of the 172,000-person agency, including all activities in this area.

At 45, Gleason is the sixth Veterans Administration chief since the agency was established by law in 1930, and the youngest man to hold the title.

The agency has annual expenditures of about \$5 billion and must administer laws applying to eligible beneficiaries and their dependents.

Gleason's responsibilities will include administration of the GI insurance program for more than 6 million veterans, operation of the largest medical program in the United States, conduct of the GI

loan program which has given home loans to more than 5 million veterans, a GI bill educational program which has trained some 10 million veterans, and administration of a compensation and pension program providing payments for more than 4 million veterans.

Notre Dame Graduate

The new VA administrator is a Notre Dame graduate with post-graduate study at Harvard university school of business administration and the University of Wisconsin school of banking.

He rose from Army private to lieutenant colonel during World War II and is a veteran of campaigns in New Guinea, the Marshall Islands and the Philippines.

Decorations include the silver star, soldier's medal, legion of merit, bronze star with two oak leaf clusters and the Philippines Legion of Honor. He is a major general and commanding officer of the 85th infantry division, U. S. Army Reserve.

Gleason was elected national commander of the American Legion in 1957. He is a member of the Illinois Veterans commission, member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Veterans of World War II.

He is vice president of the First National Bank of Chicago and president of the Chicago Helicopter Airways.

Air Traffic Up During December

Air traffic was up and passenger traffic was down at Medford's municipal airport during December, compared to the same month a year ago, according to Airport Manager Gil Gutjahr's monthly report.

A total of 3,008 planes, including 526 commercial airliners, landed at or took off from the airport last month. During December, 1959, a total of 2,520 flights were recorded at the airport.

The airport recorded 2,949 passengers last month, compared to 4,136 in November, 1960, and 3,256 in December, 1959.

Mail handled at the airport was up, but both air freight and air express was down compared to a year ago. Mail totaled 30,622 pounds last month, compared to 26,334 pounds a year ago; freight totaled 11,132 pounds last month, compared to 12,047 a year ago; and express totaled 3,046 last month, compared to 3,213 a year ago.

The airport took in revenue of \$3,349 last month, including \$328 in landing fees.

Magnuson's Wife Seeks Divorce

Seattle - AP - The wife of Rep. Don Magnuson (D-Wash.) has filed suit for divorce on grounds of cruelty.

Mrs. June Magnuson asked for custody of the couple's three children, ages 7 through 14, and \$125 a month for the support of each. She also asked for \$350 monthly for her own support and that she be awarded the family's home here. She suggested that Magnuson be awarded their other home in Washington, D.C.

Magnuson and his wife were married in 1944. He serves Washington's Seventh Congressional district.



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins
(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1961)

Recalls the 'Back Forty' With Fondness

It may very well not have been, but the so-called "back forty" always seemed to be more plentifully supplied with wild creatures of various kinds than any other area on the farm.

Just the name, "back forty" conjured up in young minds as well as older ones the vision of a very isolated place where it was easily possible to find more game during the hunting season, as well as more interesting things during the long days of summer.

There was, of course, a reasonable explanation for the abundance of wildlife in the "back forty": its actual isolation instilled a feeling of security and safety in all the little creatures that inhabited it.

This particular "back forty" was bordered on three sides by woods. In the tall trees, near the meadow edge, sentry crows watched the entire area, ever alert to give an

alarm if an intruder entered the woodland or the meadow.

Squirrels Scamper

A rail fence zigzagged along the south and east sides. Along its crooked length red squirrels scampered; in the zigs and zags, nestled a wide variety of birds. Chipmunks lived beneath the gnarled lower rails. Field mice scampered through the weeds, and sometimes ventured up on some of the higher rails. They, like the red and fox squirrels, worked the fence row hard during the fall for several nut trees spread their branches half over the fence.

After a frost hickory nuts fell, hit the top rail and bounded into the "back forty." To the wild creatures that lived there, the rail fence was not a barrier; it was a well-traveled highway.

The farm boy visited the "back forty" often. In the late afternoon he whistled his way down the lane and entered the area. The crows that spent the long summer days in the "back forty" always were reluctant to leave without some urging by the farm boy; so usually he had to herd them toward the barn.

Cows Interfered

There were times when going after the cows interfered with boyish activities; at such times he hurried, paying no attention to the whistle of the quail in the hedgerow, not noticing the cottontail rabbit scampering for the bramble thicket.

As he looks back on it from adulthood he regrets that he ever hurried, that he ever wished he didn't have to drive the cows up from the "back forty."

At the time he failed to notice that there must have been a deep and tolerant understanding between the cattle that spent their days there and the wild things that lived their lives in that isolated "back forty."

He remembers now that when a foreign presence entered the area, the wild things flew, ran, scampered or crawled away to their own particular hiding place; that the cows regained their standing positions, not ready but half-willing to file slowly home, leaving the "back forty" to all the many and varied creatures of the wild.

THE COURT HELD

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"Third Degree Methods"
Invalidates Admission of Evidence

Police officers suspected Oswald of illegal possession of narcotics. When the officers approached Oswald, he hurriedly swallowed two capsules of morphine in an attempt to destroy evidence of his crime.

However, the police took him to a local hospital where, against Oswald's will, forced a stomach pump tube into his mouth, causing him to eject the two morphine capsules. The capsules were used as the chief evidence in obtaining a conviction of Oswald, who appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

THE COURT HELD: Conviction reversed. Under the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution no man may be deprived of his liberty without due process of law, nor may he be compelled to testify against himself. Pumping out a man's stomach, it was argued, is just like making him testify against himself. Such third degree methods shock the conscience and are unconstitutional.

This column of general legal principles is presented by the Willamette University College of Law. It is not to be taken as legal advice. Slight changes in facts may change the outcome of a case.

Cross-Stitch Charm

by Alice Brooks

Pansy wreaths - pretty in two or a bouquet of colors - add a springtime touch to a bedroom.

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Estimated 5,000 Attend Opening Of Oregon Bank

A "conservative estimate" of some 5,000 persons responded to a recent invitation to the Rogue Valley State bank's Open House party held Friday at both branches.

Clarence Young, bank president, also announced that 41 persons received the "lucky keys" mailed out to local residents earlier, and over \$750 in cash was scooped out of the "treasurer chest" containing some \$2,000.

The party celebrated the bank's merger with The Oregon Bank, Portland. Bank officials say that there is to be no change of personnel locally, and all checks and savings passbooks in circulation will continue to be valid. Chief advantage of the merger, according to officials is to provide a "complete trust service" for the bank's customers. Founded in 1887.

The Oregon Bank was founded in 1887 as the Portland Trust, and is now the oldest trust service west of the Rocky mountains. Young noted. Honored guests at the Friday party, and designated as official hosts and hostesses, were persons born in 1887, the same year that the Portland firm was established.

Attending the event from Portland were The Oregon Bank's officers including Charles F. Adams, president; S. E. Gjerde, vice president; Lorne L. Miller, vice president and trust officer; Henry Ide and Fred Thorsen, assist-

ant cashiers and Henry Pitcock, trust officer; John Youell, a director; Loran Richey, cashier; and Verl Wells, auditor.

Refreshments were catered by the Medford Jayceettes. Mrs. Mary Jones, Chairman, was asked to provide some 2,300 cups of coffee, 300 dozen

Veteran Newsman Dies After Illness

Portland - AP - Tom E. Shea, 61, veteran Oregon newspaperman and one-time editor of the old Portland Telegram, died Sunday after

an extended illness. Shea was born in Astoria and graduated from Mt. Angel college. He began his newspaper career with the Morning Astorian in 1919. Later he became associated with the old Portland News which merged with the Portland Telegram.

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Publishing Firm Damaged by Fire

Portland - AP - A pre-dawn four alarm fire Sunday heavily damaged the Clarke Publishing company plant near downtown Portland.

Two firemen suffered minor injuries. Fire investigators said the blaze apparently started near the center of the building. Its cause was not known.

The firm publishes 13 weekly "shopper" newspapers in addition to special advertising sections for various firms.

Leslie F. Clarke, owner, said other printing firms had been lined up to help meet his production schedule for the time being.

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