

A Thousand Memories Of A Thousand Hotel Rooms

By HAL BOYLE
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 2 (AP) — Tonight — I figure — is the thousandth night I have slept in a hotel room.

It is a memorable occasion to me. But hotel owners of America have ignored its significance completely. No beaming management waits outside in the corridor to surprise me with a cheery basket of fresh plucked rosebuds or a gleaming cake with a thousand candles.

No, I am celebrating this historic milestone all alone. The maid even forgot to dust off the Gideon Bible. I am putting myself to sleep not counting sheep — I detect mutton even with its clothes on — but by thinking back on all the hotel rooms I have known. The first thousand beds are the hardest, I hope.

I have slept in hotels in 51 countries and 17 American states. In about 27 cases a room was obtained merely by going up to the desk and registering. I forgot just when this strategy last worked.

I feel now though that with the possible exception of the Martha Washington Hotel in Manhattan — which caters exclusively to the girdle trade — I could somehow get into any hotel in the world. And

without paying a bribe or putting on a white beard and pretending to be former Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes.

Full of Rooms
Hotels are full of rooms. The desk clerks don't really want to keep you out. They just want to be sure you appreciate how lucky and grateful you are if you get to spend a night in their gentle custody.

The best run hotels are in Switzerland. But they give you an uneasy sense of feeling welcome. The worst hotels are in the Balkans whose beds hold more kinds of small game than the neighboring countryside. With a flashlight and fill gun you can spend a wonderful night hunting — and scratching.

In Chinese hotels the peddlers wake you up before dawn to try to sell you an ivory trinket, a pair of seely silk pajamas or a jade-encrusted blackjack. In India you can have two servants — one to put on your right shoe, one the left. A third servant draws your tub, a fourth cleans it.

In Bali they do your laundry in half a day. In France, they have a man on each floor who does nothing but think up reasons why "m'sieu" can't get his things back in less than a week.

No Pictures
The nicest thing about hotel rooms in some countries is they don't have pictures on the walls. Hotel pictures in all western lands are haunting artistic horrors. One solution is to turn them to the wall and draw your own pictures on the back. This is hard to do nowadays because most of the pictures are already inscribed on the back: "Kilroy was here."

Chambermaids in all countries have one vice in common. No matter where you hide your slippers they always find them and pile them with a broomhandle as far under the bed as they will go. It is their way of getting even with the world.

Only once do I remember ever failing to find my slippers out of reach beneath the bed. But the chambermaid hadn't played traitor to her sisters. I simply had forgotten to bring any slippers along.

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Camp White Move Started

SALEM, May 2 (AP) — Preliminary initiative petition to order the state board of control to acquire the Camp White hospital in Jackson county for use as a state mental hospital was filed with the state department Wednesday by nine state legislators.

If 18,000 signatures to the petition are obtained by July 1, 1948, then the measure would go on the November, 1948, general election ballot.

The measure is the same as the legislative act vetoed by Governor Earl Snell, and the sponsors are the legislators who led the fight for passage of the bill in the legislature. They are Sens. Lew Wallace, Walter J. Pearson, Frank H. Hilton, Thomas R. Mahoney, Irving Rand and Lee Patterson, all of Portland; Earl T. Newberry, Ashland, and Reps. O. H. Bengtson, Medford, and Anna M. Ellis, Garibaldi.

LUMBER SHIPMENT

SEATTLE, May 2 (AP) — One-half of all lumber shipped from Pacific northwest ports during March went out of British Columbia, the Pacific lumber inspection bureau said today.

Shipments totaled 209,767,150 board feet.

IN BOTTLES AND AT FOUNTAINS



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STUDENTS, 50c

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Navy Reserve Week Named

Naval Reserve Week has been designated by President Harry S. Truman for nationwide observance from May 18 through May 28.

Plans are under way for programs and celebrations in 550 cities throughout the country to call the attention of the public to the necessity of a strong naval reserve to the security of the United States. Naval Reserve Week will also be a period of intensive recruiting during which the advantages and privileges of membership in the naval reserve will be made known to eligible young men.

Enlistments of non-veterans in the inactive naval reserve may now be completely affected at the local navy recruiting office, according to John S. Martin, local naval reserve recruiter.

HELPFUL DESCRIPTION

CHICAGO, May 2 (AP)—Sgt. Edward O'Malley of central police asked fellow officers yesterday to help him find his car.

With embarrassment, he said they probably would be sure to notice it if it appears on the streets because it still bears 1946 license plates and a 1946 city vehicle sticker.

He said he had not obtained 1947 licenses because he expected to buy a new car soon.

Classified Ads Bring Results

HERALD & NEWS, Klamath Falls, Ore.

FRIDAY, May 2, 1947, Page Thirteen

Baby Survivor Of Tornado Found

OKLAHOMA CITY, May 2 (AP)—A baby injured in the Woodward, Okla., tornado April 9 was identified today as Patsy Ann Pollard, five months old.

The child's mother, Mrs. Earl Pollard, was crushed to death in the wreckage of the home and the father died of his injuries the next day.

Another daughter of Mrs. Pollard, by a previous marriage — Treanna Dell Holster, 21 months old — never has been found.

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COED: Honestly, Professor, everytime we hit a hill this chariot slows down to a crawl. It's time I taught you a lesson about gasoline. There's nothing to it—just stop at this Chevron Supreme Gasoline sign for a high-octane tonic that will quiet those pings and make your car as peppy as a 1947 dream-boat just off the showroom floor.



PROF: Truly phenomenal! Observe how rapidly the car accelerates on Chevron Supreme. And the gasoline man assured me it is "climate-tailored" to enliven the engine with precisely the type of power required in this temperature zone. As you would say, my child—let's hit the open road with Chevron Supreme.



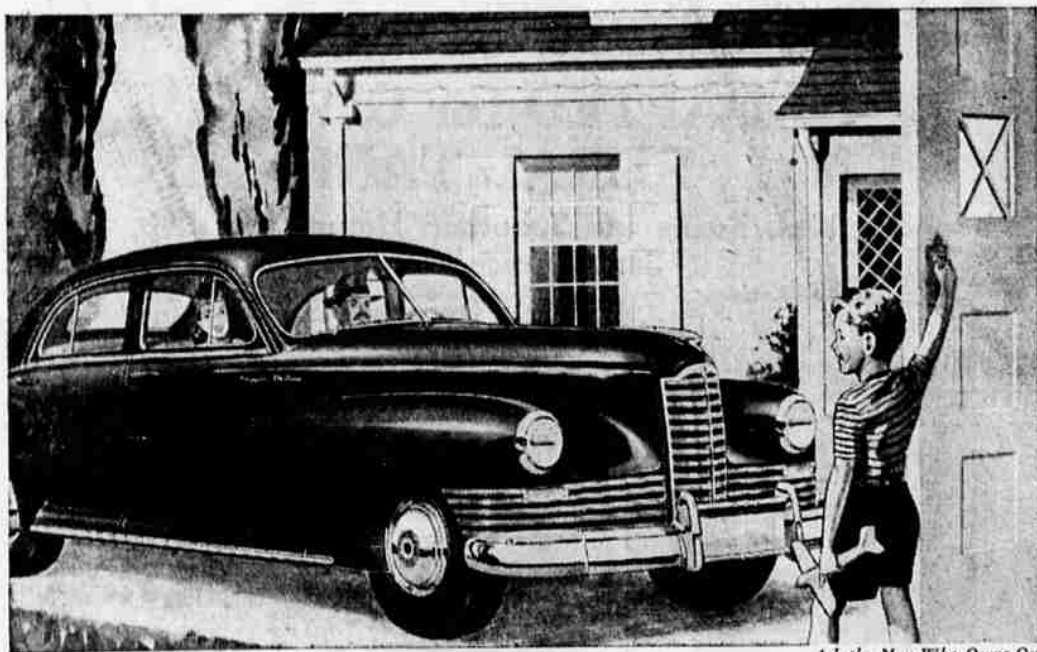
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