

# Life Of A "House Dick" Proves An Interesting One

By HAL BOYLE

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., May 21 (AP)—Hotel guests are getting more honest.

"Since the war they don't take so many towels and sheets," said W. H. Howard, a veteran house detective. "About all we lose is soap now. The souvenir collectors aren't much of a problem."

Like so many "house dicks," Howard, a fatherly man of 65, is a former law enforcement officer. Hotels prefer for this work elderly men with a background of police experience because they have learned how to handle embarrassing situations with tact and diplomacy.

Howard carries a police revolver but has never had to use it. He walks from five to ten miles a night during the ten hours he is on duty. But his patrol is better than an outdoor beat. It never rains in a hotel corridor and rugs are a degree gentler than concrete pavements.

Being a hotel detective is an interesting life although the pay is generally small.

"There's hardly a night that something new doesn't turn up," said Howard, such as the evening he met a soldier who cut one end off his pillow and dreamily shook it out the window just to watch the feathers float down. In Howard's opinion the soldier belonged to the poetic rather than the criminal type.

He said that most guests are easy to deal with and only about one a day in a 500-room hotel try to beat the bill.

His chief duties are threefold: to protect guests from their own carelessness, catch and evict occasional sneak thief prowlers and "see that the help doesn't run off with the hotel."

"About twenty-five guests each night forget to lock their doors," he said. "But it's usually easy to spot prowlers. Most often they're young punks who think they can get away with murder and nobody will notice it. But they're not hard to handle."

Unless caught in an actual theft the prowler is quietly evicted without fuss or hullabaloo.

Constant Worry

"Our big problem is to protect our guests from themselves," said How-

ard. A constant worry in all hotels is the guest who drinks too much and falls asleep in bed while smoking.

"I saw one man go into his room pretty much under the weather," recalled the detective. "I peeked through the transom and saw him lying in bed snoring with a lit cigarette in his mouth. I went in, took the cigarette and put it out. He never even knew I had come into his room."

Because of the series of recent disastrous hotel fires, hotels have posted placards warning against smoking in bed. Howard and two fire wardens regularly patrol the corridors to watch against this danger.

Howard has four simple rules which he thinks all guests should observe in hotels for their own welfare:

1. Be sure to lock your door before retiring or leaving your room.
2. Don't smoke in bed.
3. Check the location of the nearest fire escape before retiring.
4. Don't form new acquaintances among other hotel guests.

"If you observe these rules," said Howard, "you can be sure of waking up in the morning safe with your money still in your pocket."

## WHY WE SAY

By STAN J. COLLINS & L. J. SLAWSON



Scot is taken from the French word escot meaning to pay one's share of a common expense. So if one is not required to pay a share he goes "Scot Free" and that's how it began.

## Hughes Named Marine Recruiter

A directive recently received from headquarters, U. S. marine corps, authorizes the appointment of volunteer reserve recruiting officers on a localized basis by the various reserve district directors.

In line with this procedure, orders have been received by Capt. Stanley S. Hughes, USMCR, box 147, Klamath Falls, from the director, 13th marine corps reserve district, Seattle, Wash., appointing

him volunteer reserve recruiting officer in the Klamath county area, with authority to effect reenlistments of former marines in the marine corps reserve.

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## Heat Kills Strawberries

SALEM, May 21 (AP)—The strawberry harvest in the Salem area might be reduced by as much as 30 per cent by the current heat wave, growers predicted today.

"They predicted that the harvest might last only three or four weeks, compared with five weeks last year. The harvest probably will be finished by the time school is out, thus depriving growers of school children to help pick the berries."

This has been the driest May in Salem's history, with only .03 of an inch of rain so far this month.

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## Pioneer Makes Modern Trip

CHICAGO, May 21 (AP)—A Portland, Ore., woman who rode the first Northern Pacific railway passenger train west from here to Portland in 1883, traveling 12 days, arrived here yesterday after making the east-bound journey in 58 hours.

Mrs. Leanie Humphreys, 77, was en route to Cincinnati, O., for her first visit since going West.

"I was on the Northern Pacific's first passenger train going from Chicago to Portland," she said.

"There were two passenger cars and 22 freight cars. We had a stove for cooking our own meals, and seats without cushions. We brought along our own pillows and blankets," the white-haired Portlander added.

MARITIME MEMORIAL

PORTLAND, May 21 (AP)—A memorial service for men of the merchant marine will be held at Battleship Oregon park tomorrow in observance of National Maritime Day.

A color guard of military servicemen will fire a salute as an airplane

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## Flashes Of Life

POSTAL FIND

HANFORD, Calif., May 21 (AP)—J. H. Murphy found three \$100 bills in his mail box yesterday—part of \$300 stolen from his home Saturday night.

Murphy's wallet also was re-

turned, but a watch taken at the same time is still missing.

Police said they believed the burglar returned the three bills because the denomination would attract attention if he tried to use them.

SEARCH CANCELLED

NEW YORK, May 21 (AP)—A stamp exhibited as the world's most precious at the international stamp exhibition, a British Guiana 1856 issue valued at \$50,000, was missing when officials made their daily check of exhibits yesterday.

They hastily took its mounting apart and found that the stamp, its fastening loosened by a spotlight's

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