

Herald and News

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CAUGHT IN THE ROUNDS

By DEB ADDISON
I'M GLAD that Labor Day is over. It's not a matter of being in holiday nor that school is starting, nor that Fall, our finest season, is not around the corner. It's not because speed-nutty individuals make it a hazard to travel the highways on Labor Day weekend.

The feeling against Labor Day is a rebellion against the implication that it's the one day when Labor is unfettered and has a momentary respite from the un-American stirring of class consciousness.

There may have been a time when there was an Idle Rich class, a Leisure class, a Laboring class, a Dodo class, as dead as the Dodo.

There is any "class" that has leisure time today it is made up of those who work a 40-hour week and then are free of mind and time the other 128 hours. They come from the ranks of the "white collar" and "dirty overalls."

Those who die early of heart attack or ulcers could never be tabbed in the "laboring class." They come from the ranks of bosses, straw bosses and professional people—those who take the job home with them every night. They're the

ones who need the holiday. We're inclined to like the farmers for a long winter vacation once the crops are in; for having to wash their own Cadillac in the years when the markets are poor. But that's a slander of the "hay seeds."

There's always need to "strip the heifer" or feed the chickens or tend the feed lot—or do everything while the hired man is on his holiday.

Labor Day, of course, is a time honored holiday, and Oregon was the first state to legalize it as such.

The first Monday in September was inaugurated as Labor Day by the Knights of Labor in 1882. The Oregon Legislature set it aside in 1887. Today it is a legal holiday throughout the United States and all of Canada.

Labor Day is one of the three holidays from publication in the year for this newspaper.

For Pete's sake let's keep it a holiday—and add two or three more non-laboring holidays through the year—but let's not think of it in terms of a long-since departed social order.

Hurray, for Labor Day.

HAL BOYLE

HOMETOWN, U.S.A. — Early on the morning after Labor Day, the phone rang in the home of Joe Steady, America's average working man.

"Am I speaking to the master of the house?" asked a voice.

"No," mumbled Joe sleepily.

"Just a minute an' I'll call her."

"Oh, Mr. Steady?" said the voice.

"You're the one I wanted to speak to. This is Jim Beagle, reporter on the Hometown Daily Eagle. My city editor wants a feature story on how a typical working man and his family enjoyed Labor Day. You know—king for a day, and that sort of thing."

"I don't know about that king business," said Joe. "But if \$60 bucks a week makes a typical working man, I'm your joker, Buster."

"Heh, heh, well, well. Would you mind telling me all the homey little details about your big day off?"

"There wasn't nothing homey about it—that's the trouble," said Joe. "We didn't stay home. I was trying to catch in some shuteye, and the missus says to get up, we're going on a picnic. I said no, and she said whose day off did I think it was, so we went on the picnic."

"Who was in the group?" pursued the voice.

"Oh, just me, her, and the kids—junior, sis and the baby," said Joe.

"It took me three hours to tune up the carburetor on the car, and I hadda drive a hundred miles to the lake for the picnic. Hadda go to that one on account of my wife's relatives live closer to that one."

"A cop stopped me on the way and gave me a \$25 ticket for speeding. He said I was hitting 45 miles instead of 35, when as a matter of fact my old bus wouldn't do 45 on a downgrade unless I got out and pushed it. Hey, can you help me fix the ticket?"

"Sorry," said the voice. "What else happened?"

"Well," said Joe, "one of my brothers-in-law borrowed ten bucks from me. Later they got me to umpire a softball game, and the only close one I called at the plate got in a pop bottle in the eye, and off the record I think it was my other brother-in-law that threw it, on account of I wouldn't lend him a dime."

"Anything else, sir?"

"Well, I came back and brushed

the ants off the food, and I guess kinda over-it, so I stretched out to grab me some shuteye, and all of a sudden Sis started crying because she lost one of her jacks. Then my Missus hollers the baby must've swallowed it on account of she was playing in the grass with Sis, and we gotta do something quick."

"So?"

"So, I step on the gas-on the way to the hospital and who should I meet but the same cop, but he let me go this time. So we get to the hospital and they floor-scope the baby."

"Had the baby swallowed the missing jack?"

"No, Sis found it in her pocket later. The Doc said all the floor-scope showed in the baby was what looked like the remains of a couple of grasshoppers and something else that looked like a small garter snake, but of course he couldn't be real sure."

"Was the baby upset, sir?"

"No, but my wife was. Still is. Kept yelping about it all the way home. We got home about midnight, and all three of the kids was crying, and I finally told the Missus to Oh, shut up, and she said who's telling whom to shut up, and so we finally got to sleep about 3 a.m. I was just getting ready to shave when you called, Mr. Seegle."

"Beagle, sir, not Seegle. Well, you had quite an adventure. One final question. Every working man naturally likes to count his blessings on Labor Day. What, sir, would you say is the greatest blessing?"

"Ain't no doubt about it, Mr. Seegle," said Joe. "It's the fact you can go back to work the next day and get some rest."

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON (AP)—Every member of Congress receives questions about the government from the people back home. Out of this quizzing has grown a 68-page booklet, just published by the government, answering 291 questions.

The booklet had its origin many years ago when a Texas Democrat, Rep. Wright Patman, began writing a weekly newsletter to the newspapers in his district and each week included the answers to three questions that had been asked him.

For instance: What is the salary of the President, the vice president, a senator? How did the Democratic and Republican parties get their names? What is gerrymandering? Can a congressman be impeached? What is a veto and how does it work?

After Patman had collected a pile of such questions, and had provided answers, he began to get requests for them in batches, particularly from schoolteachers. And as a member of Congress he was in a good position to get answers to the people's questions.

If he didn't know the answers himself—looking them up would take a lot of his time just as it would for the people asking questions at home—he could call on the staff of the Library of Congress, a block from the Capitol, to do the research for him.

In the early 1940s Patman's fellow congressmen in the House, who had been receiving the same kind of queries, voted to have a government booklet printed, wrapping up a bunch of questions and answers, for sale and distribution.

Bolivia Government Holds 300 'Plotters'

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—President Victor Paz Estenssoro's government disclosed today that it is holding some 300 political prisoners accused of plotting against the regime.

But Interior Minister Federico Fortun told a news conference the government isn't worried. He said the alleged plotters were "only a small group who offered no threat to the government and are dangerous only to themselves." Paz Estenssoro, he added, has no fear of being overthrown.

BRUCE BIOSSAT

There is so much disheartening news from abroad that it is pleasant to be able to find a bright ray on the horizon, this shaft of light comes from Great Britain, where a substantial economic upturn is in progress.

According to reports, Britain's improvement is founded largely on an elemental fact of trade: the prices of the raw materials and some of the other things it buys have gone down, while prices on the products it exports have held steady. This has fattened the British bank account, building up gold and dollar reserves.

This new flush of health redounds to the benefit of the ruling Conservative Party, which has been in the saddle since the fall of 1951. No one pretends that the Conservatives have any push-button command of world raw material prices; that much is just their good fortune. But even Labor Party men privately concede Conservative leaders have done a good job.

The Conservatives have done considerable toward stimulating a fresh surge of free activity. They have denationalized the steel and trucking industries, and wiped out many another burdensome control.

They have nipped at the British citizen's crushing tax load. They have taken a big stride toward their promised goal of 300,000 new houses. And they have established somewhat better labor-management relations—as measured by time lost in strikes—than their Labor predecessors.

These things alone could not have produced a boom. But they do contribute to a new feeling of well being in Britain, and they encourage the British voter to credit the Conservatives for all their country's gains.

This recovery, plus the greatly enhanced position of the Conservative Party, stands in sharp contrast to the situation that prevailed in the first months after Sir Winston Churchill's return to power. Then the Conservatives were plunked before problems that seemed well nigh hopeless; and the voters appeared disenchanted with their new leaders.

In this slow, steady, upward haul there is encouragement for the Eisenhower administration, another middle-of-the-road government which is trying to demonstrate that economy and good man-

agement are possible even in these chaotic days.

In Britain, the demonstration could not be made in the first six months or even the first year. But eventually a mark was made. Looking across at this example, most fair-minded Americans may be more than ever disposed to give time to show that there is more than one way to run a government.

TODAY

ask JERRY THOMAS

this question:

Someone tried to open the safe in our store recently, but he failed in the attempt. Even so, the safe was ruined. What kind of insurance can I carry to protect me against such damage, as well as against loss of the safe's contents?

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