



Ranger Times



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OIL SHORTAGE ON COAST MAY GET ACUTE

WASHINGTON—Further short-ages in petroleum products for the East Coast, unless tankship deliveries can be increased substantially, a prospect that is distinctly improbable, were forecast today by the Petroleum Industry War Council's committee on economics, William R. Boyd, Jr., Council chairman, announced.

Despite the recent new restrictions on gasoline and fuel oil consumption, as announced by the OPA, there will probably be an additional shortage throughout the year of between 50,000 and 100,000 barrels daily. This would bring the East Coast petroleum stocks to dangerously low, if not absolutely workable, levels, before the end of the winter, the committee reported.

These shortages are potentially dangerous, the committee warned, but do not necessarily mean further decreases in heating oil rations, if immediate and drastic steps are taken to reach the objectives of present rationing restrictions and if every effort is made to increase overland shipments by tank car and other means.

Dr. Robert E. Wilson, president of Pan American Petroleum & Transport Co., New York, chairman of the committee, said that increased military demands for offshore movement are offsetting the decrease in consumption due to more severe rationing, and that previous estimates of tank car deliveries have had to be revised downward. He warned that the situation is so serious that the recently announced reduction in rationing must be made effective without delay to obtain the 130,000 to 140,000 barrels a day decrease which it is supposed to gain.

Serious operating problems involved in changing refinery yields were again emphasized by the committee, which reported that steadily increasing demands for war products are complicating the problem still further. Refineries making war products are in many instances forced to manufacture large quantities of gasoline at the same time, and the limited demand for gasoline under rationing will have to be allotted to these war-product plants first, with non-war-product plants getting only the small remainder.

Supply and demand data for the entire country were estimated for the first time by the committee, which included data for the Pacific Coast in this report. Discussing crude oil production, they estimated that increased demands for petroleum during 1943 would amount to more than 400,000 barrels a day greater in the last quarter of 1943 as compared with the last quarter of 1942.

The committee made seven recommendations, as follows:
(1) The necessity for prompt accomplishment of the reduction in demand projected under present rationing restrictions.
(2) An immediate study of absolute minimum level to which East Coast stocks can fall.
(3) A change in the present method of handling fuel oil inventories and ration coupons, so that distributor stocks can be reduced in the first part of the year.
(4) A study of relative transportation efficiencies in the movement of crude oil to the East Coast from the Midwest and the Southwest, because of the declining production of crude oil in the Midwest.
(5) A recognition of the paramount importance of increasing producible crude oil reserves.
(6) A request for the same estimate of military requirements from the Pacific Coast, beginning the first half of 1943, so that provision can be made to supply any necessary in demand.
(7) The formulation of a long range supply and demand program for the Pacific Coast to obtain adequate information for the comparison of steel expenditure for drilling in California against the steel requirements that would be needed to increase supplies from other parts of the country.

DAMAGE FROM GHOLSON FIRE IS NOT LARGE

The kitchen of the Gholson Coffee Shop was damaged by fire and smoke Sunday night, when fire broke out in a ventilation pipe. Damage to the hotel, proper was reported by Fire Chief G. A. Murphy to be slight.

According to Murphy the fire started in the ventilation pipe leading from the kitchen of the cafe. It was believed that grease which had accumulated, became ignited from a spark from an exhaust fan motor.

Chief Murphy reported that much valuable assistance was given by a volunteer group of young men, mostly junior college and high school students, who were divided into several groups and were stationed on each floor of the hotel, assisting in getting the guests out quietly and aiding in taking the fire hose up a fire escape to a point where it could be played on flames in the airway outside the hotel, where a blaze was throwing flames more than 20 feet in the air. They even assisted in getting a sick man out of the hotel, and back again to his bed after the fire had been put out.

"Their aid," Chief Murphy reported, "was of much help to the fire department, and is certainly appreciated. I do not know who all of them are, but the way they took hold of the situation and helped was of vital assistance to the department."

No estimate of the damage had been made today, Chief Murphy reported, but he stated that most of the damage was confined to the kitchen of the coffee shop.
J. A. Johnson, manager of the hotel, Monday expressed his appreciation for the splendid work done by the Ranger Fire Department, and also spoke highly of the volunteer workers who assisted in keeping the fire under control and preventing any panic or disorders during the time of the blaze was being fought. As did Fire Chief Murphy he gave due credit to the band of volunteers for the work they did.

ICC Ruling Is In Keeping With Texas Ruling

AUSTIN, Tex. (UP)—Faces of the members of the Interstate Commerce Commission must have been very red when they perused Leon Henderson's order that rate raisers granted to railroads by the commission must be revoked.

Coinciding with Henderson's order, Texas Commissioners were on their way to Washington in response to an Interstate Commerce Commission notice putting them on the carpet for refusal to order similar increases in intrastate rates in Texas.

Henderson's order did more than sustain the decision of the Texas commissioners. An explanatory statement listed the very reason given by the Texas commissioners for refusing to advance interstate freight rates—that carnivals had increased recently at a place that the figures on which the railroads had based their claim for an advance non-indicative.

The theory on which the Interstate Commerce Commission tried to impose its findings upon rates within the state of Texas was one that was sustained by the U. S. Supreme Court, though it still is regarded as an infringement on state rights by many Texans, open ly so, by Gov. Coke R. Stevenson.

The theory is that unless the state rates were advanced a condition could be created by which the Interstate rates were made inequitable. The theory was upheld in a case generally known as the Shreveport rate case. That decision practically gives control to the Interstate Commission over traffic wholly within the state.

Procedure to set aside a state rate is to call hearing at which both state and interstate commissions are represented. The state has an opportunity to defend its rate—but decision is with the interstate body.



BROTHER ACT—For the first time in major league hockey, three brothers play for one team. Reg. left, joined brothers, Max, center, and Doug Bentley in forward line of Chicago Black Hawks.



CHAMP IMP. Always the actor, Cheta, chimpanzee of the Tarzan films, cuts loose with a blood-curdler when told that salary limitations may mean fewer peanuts to be eaten next year.

REV. PHILLIPS IS CHAIRMAN OF ROLL CALL

At a meeting of the Ranger Branch of the Eastland County Chapter of the American Red Cross, held Monday evening, Rev. David M. Phillips, pastor of the First Baptist church of Ranger, was elected annual roll call chairman for the drive to be conducted throughout the United States in March next year. Mrs. Leslie Hagan was elected co-chairman.

The two cooperated in conducting the successful Red Cross drive last fall, when \$1,500 was raised. The quota for this year has been doubled, because no roll call was held during the fall, but the big campaign will be held in the spring, instead.

L. R. Pearson was named as a committee of one to solicit donations larger than the regular roll call memberships.
At the opening of the meeting, at which Dr. G. C. Boswell presided, Mrs. P. M. Kuykendall read the minutes of the last meeting, which were approved, and a short meeting was made of a recent meeting held at Eastland, at which a field representative from the St. Louis headquarters was present.

Plans for this year, at the suggestion of the national headquarters, will be similar to those carried out locally for the past few years, with the town being divided into blocks and committees named to solicit membership in each block. These committees will be named at some future date, in time for preparations to be made prior to the membership campaign.

Those present at the meeting, Monday morning were Dr. G. C. Boswell, Mrs. P. M. Kuykendall, Mrs. J. R. McLaughlin, Mrs. Arthur Murrell, T. J. Anderson and Floss E. Moore.

Closing Hours For Christmas Are To Be Fixed

A. J. Ratliff, president of the Ranger Retail Merchants association, announced today that a meeting of the board of directors and members would be held in the office of the secretary Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock.

All directors and members have been urged to be present for a short meeting, at which time a decision will be reached upon dates for the local stores to begin remaining open late for the Christmas season.

Firemen Attends School In Abilene

Abner Wright, member of the Ranger Fire Department, left Monday morning for Abilene, where he will attend a five-day auxiliary fire school.

While in Abilene Wright will stay at the Abilene Fire Department, where he expects to learn something of fire fighting methods, in addition to the course he will take.

AXIS IN TROUBLE IN AFRICA AND SOUTHWEST THEATERS OF THE WAR

POLICE STILL WORKING UPON SCOUT'S CASE

Chief of Police Lee Ames stated today that definite progress was being made in checking up on clues and that he was expecting to take action soon against those guilty of breaking into and destroying property in the scout room at the First Methodist Church.

"We are really just waiting to see if the ones who are guilty won't come in and confess," Chief Ames said, "because it will be much easier on them if they do. We do not want to be too severe on anyone, but it will go hard on them if they wait and let us pick them up first."

Chief Ames stated that the clues he and other members of the police department had gathered pointed definitely to certain parties, but he did not reveal any names, and stated that he was waiting to contact some of the scout leaders before taking action.

He expressed the hope that those guilty would come to him before he had to make an arrest, because that might save lots of embarrassment on the part of those who destroyed the property.

Salesmen Not Satisfied With Gas Rationing

AUSTIN—Texas travelingmen are far from satisfied with the announcement that they are to get additional gasoline up to 8,000 miles travel a year.

In fact they say the new emphasis that gasoline rationing is not applicable in Texas on the same basis as in states with congestion of population.

It developed that most of the Texas traveling salesmen need 2,700 miles travel a month. In Travis county, they organized an invited other traveling men to join them in protest and proposed to carry the matter into the court if necessary.

Probe Into Liner Sinking Started

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox said today that a Naval Board of Inquiry, was investigating circumstances surrounding the loss of the Liner President Coolidge, which was sunk by a mine in the South Pacific recently.

Negro Is Held In Money Theft

Chief of Police Lee Ames stated today that a negro was being held in the city jail for further questioning in connection with theft of over \$20 from a soldier. The theft was alleged to have occurred Saturday night.

Chief Ames stated that part of the money had been recovered.

U. S. Fliers Get Edge of Germans In North Africa

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, NORTH AFRICA—The 12th air force headquarters announced today that from the beginning of the North African campaign, through Dec. 12, American fliers had destroyed 76 enemy planes, and had damaged 43, while losing but 35, with eight pilots being missing.

Rommel Apparently Plans To Retreat To Tunisia, Where He May Take Over Defense Of That Country In Last Ditch Stand. Japs Fail To Reinforce New Guinea Area

The Axis armies appeared to be in serious trouble both in Africa and Pacific battle fronts today, according to latest communications from the two war theaters.

The German Africa Korps continued its retreat across Tripolitania and there were reports that Field Marshal Erwin Rommel might abandon the Axis line in Tripoli to the British Eighth Army and retire into Tunisia for a last ditch stand there. London heard reports that Rommel had gone to Bizerte to assume command of the defense of Tunisia.

The British Eighth Army was pushing the famed Afrika Korps back to the other end of the Allied pincers in Tunisia, where American planes were bombing the German reinforcements below along the coast.

In New Guinea Japanese troops, driven from their key town of Buna by Australian and American forces under the personal command of Gen. MacArthur's Allied troops were slowly pushing them into the sea.

The Japanese made a last attempt to land reinforcements at Buna and to shove off the Allied assault, but the ships never got closer than 12 miles of Buna. A Japanese communiqué said that four Allied ships and 41 planes were destroyed in the Battle of Buna, but said nothing of their last attempt to land troops, and their subsequent defeat.

In North Africa the Allied pincers closed tighter on Axis troops from the east and west and the Eighth Army continued its pursuit of the Germans, who are fleeing into Tripolitania, and the German rear guard was getting to rest.

American planes continued to blast at the other end of the Axis defense line in North Africa, with telling effect.

There were reports in London that Adolf Hitler was preparing to confer with Pierre Laval of France, in an attempt to bring France into full collaboration with the Axis. Measures said to be under consideration were to station a German "advisor" in each department of the Vichy government, and raising the French army's aid to the Axis.

Along the snow-bound Russian front the Germans continued to concentrate in an attempt to halt the Soviet winter offensive. But the Russians reported that all German attacks had been repulsed and that the Soviet Red Army had seized another important village southwest of Stalingrad, killing at least 3,000 Germans.

OLD BATTLEFIELDS



"NEW" ISLANDS



NEW GUINEA AND NEW BRITAIN are old names in the war news by now, with continuing clashes between allied and Jap forces keeping these islands in the headlines. Australian-American troops have driven the enemy to the beaches in the Buna-Gona area and our bombers are blasting Jap bases at Lae and Rabaul—supply points for actions in southern New Guinea and the Solomons. New Guinea and New Britain are but two of many islands named by their European discoverers for a place back home with the prefix "New" added.

THE WEATHER

WEST TEXAS—Warmer extreme southeast portion, colder west, north tonight.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of this paper will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publishers.

Entered as second class matter at the postoffice at Ranger, Texas, under Act of March 7, 1919.

NONE TOO SOON

There was nothing premature or impetuous about the appointment of Agriculture Secretary Claude Wickard as Food Administrator. The wisdom of the President's selection may arouse debate; there are both farmers and city folks who have limited faith in Mr. Wickard's profundity and administrative ability.

Even these who have been impatient about the administration's hesitancy to step firmly into troubled waters generally are less cautious about the food situation, and find excuses for the long delay.

Probably that is because foodstuffs—meats, grains, dairy products in particular—seemed to be the one type of raw material of which there never could be a shortage in this country.

For close to a quarter of a century we have been glutted by surpluses of these commodities. When all else was serene, we always could get up a good stiff perspiration trying to solve the "farm problem," so that city folks could afford the food they needed, while farmers could get enough income to buy the products of industry.

So even when the pinch began to get painful, we remained under the opiate of established convictions, and could not convince ourselves that there would be need to ration domestic farm products.

We expected our higher public servants in Washington to know more than the rest of us, to look further ahead, and to protect us against our own ignorance and shortsightedness.

Yet in this instance, realizing how unbelievably they, too, must have been, when evidence of impending shortages came in, most of us feel more forgiving than we otherwise might.

The danger which Mr. Wickard has been authorized to avert is getting acute, however, and we must act fast.

There is no danger of starvation in this country. But there is, in the near offing, the probability of a most embarrassing and annoying situation concerning several basic foodstuffs.

It is Mr. Wickard's job to gallop to the rescue, to see that a relatively small number of selfish hoarders is not permitted to hide away foodstuffs so that the greater number find nothing but bare shelves in the stores.

With haircuts where they are, it almost pays to be a poet.

The Chinese language has only about 15,000 words, but is very difficult because none of them are English.

U. S. CENSORSHIP CHAIRMAN

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for horizontal and vertical words. Includes a small portrait of a man.

Tyine It Into Knots



THE PAYOFF

BY HARRY GRAYSON
NEA Service Sports Editor

WASHINGTON, Pa.—Two or three New York sports writers lifted eyebrows when Sammy Angott suddenly vacated the lightweight championship.

It was hinted that attempted mob influence had something to do with the case.

It was inferred that gangland wanted to know who the next lightweight leader was going to be.

Suspicion was cast on one of Angott's starts in Philadelphia.

So, it is only fair that Angott be permitted to tell his story.

Angott first exhibits a rebroken right hand, which he doubts will ever be good for fighting again.

He says he would have trouble doing 135 pounds, adds that making the class limit handicapped him in his match with Alvie Stolz.

His six months was up for the defense of the title, and he felt he owed it to the National Boxing Association and New York connections, which helped make him champion, to give it back to them.

Angott's father is ill, and it is too much for his misdeed to look after him and two children while he is away fighting.

He is taking a job as a guard in a war plant.

REGARDING the Philadelphia story, Angott points out that he had only two fights in the Quaker town—with Ray Robinson and Bob Montgomery. He got off

the floor and came back to stir up plenty of trouble for Sugar Robinson after appearing ready for the cleaners for a couple of rounds.

Angott and Montgomery had the customers on the edges of their seats in Philadelphia, and Angott won a reputation at Madison Square Garden by a wide margin.

Certainly it is Sammy Angott's privilege to hang 'em up if he is convinced he has had enough. As a matter of fact, he shows sense by doing so.

ANGOTT'S case is reminiscent of that of Louis Kid Kaplan, who gave up the featherweight throne only to be knocked out in his first effort as a lightweight.

A Philadelphia clique offered him plenty to do 126 pounds just once more, so his man could have the crown.

"I wouldn't do that even if I wouldn't be crossing friends who would bet on me," replied Kid Kaplan.

Some fighters really are on the level, although it frequently is difficult to convince those who first look for skullbaggery.



Edson

BY PETER EDSON
NEA Service Washington Correspondent

RUMORS of the Ickes-McNutt-Fanny Perkins cabinet shift are at least weeks' history now but, as the professors say, you can learn much about today's affairs from the study of ancient history, you might take a lesson from the professors on this case.

It offers a perfect example of how things are done in Washington these days, which is a source of never-ending wonder to boys from the country who never do seem able to catch on to a sophisticated nodus operandi.

Most amazing thing about this incident is that the principals were kept in complete ignorance of the whole project for several days after it was out.

To have informed them of this proposed cabinet shake-up would have been too simple, too much like direct, straightforward dealing. So a more intricate procedure was followed to prepare them or the blow.

News that there was a cabinet shift impending was allowed to get out in what has become known in Washington as an "inspired leak."

The difference between a leak and an inspired leak is that in a simple leak, somebody outside the government gets hold of news that somebody inside the government wants to keep secret. Officials can keep mum, as witness the Molotov visit and Africa stories. But in an inspired leak, somebody inside the government wants some news to get to the public without resort to an official announcement, so the news is planted.

AN official calls in a co-conspirator and tells him, "Look! You can't attribute this to me or to anyone in the government, but if you let the newspaper boys put out a story saying that Harold Ickes is to be made Secretary of Labor with control over manpower, that Paul V. McNutt is to be made Secretary of the Interior, and that Madeline Perkins is to be made Federal Security Administrator, you won't be far wrong."

It might not be done that directly, but the story would be planted by subtle hints.

Now any newspaperman worth is salt will check back. He was one in this case. Reporters went to the offices of Ickes, McNutt and Perkins, and from each received a denial that any such shift was in the wind. Secretary Perkins has been reported as resigning or being forced to resign so many times that her office doesn't other to make formal denials, at it was news to both Ickes and McNutt.

Rumors of this triple play shift of cabinet officers broke on a Wednesday.

Women In War Work Will Reach 18 Million Soon

AUSTIN, Tex.—There will be approximately 18 million American women engaged in war work of some variety by July, predicted Dr. Dorothy La Salle, physical stress specialist for the U. S. Office of Education, at the Regional Fitness Institute held this week at the University of Texas.

"There are 17,000 Army and Navy nurses, and it is estimated that 7,000 additional nurses will be needed each month until July. There are 161,000 women in other branches of the service, and 13 million in industry. The number in industry is expected to increase by at least another five million.

"The strength and endurance of women today must equal that of our much-talked-of pioneer women," she declared. "If we are to do the job that war demands."

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE—Nice 6-room house in Ghoson Addition. Easy terms. Write Bbx 165, Ranger, Texas.

WANTED—to buy stoves and heaters. Any make or type. J. D. Jones

SEE US FOR Light, hauling, transfer and storage. J. D. Jones

FOR SALE—My modern six room home in Ranger, including double garage, servant's house, and four lots. Convenient terms. B. H. Peacock, 2207 North Reife Street, Arlington, Virginia.

FOR SALE 1939 Ford Coupe. Good tires and running condition. Ranger Times.

55 LAYING HENS For sale or trade. 40 this year's pullets.—Price Crawley, Pine and Oak.

FOR RENT—3 room furnished apt. T. P. Camp, Mrs. W. E. Dalton.

FOR SALE—1847 Rogers Silverware and a Ladies' Diamond Ring. Priced to sell quick. Ranger Times.

FOR RENT—Two bedrooms, 270-J 455 Pine.

DEFENSE to OFFENSE

AMERICA'S defense effort must become a war offensive against the enemy.

You can harness this offensive by investing your dollars with Uncle Sam. U. S. War Savings Bonds and Stamps bought today mean more fighting planes and ships tomorrow.

Check ahead! Use Pay-Roll Savings Bond wagon. Everybody's doing it—investing in Victory through the regular purchase of U. S. War Savings Bonds and Stamps on pay day.



UP THE HATCH. Not a Nazi in sight, so a New Zealand soldier in the west African desert 'unbotoms' the front of his American-built tank and pops up for a look-see.

'Charms' Axis Instead ALAMEDA, Cal (UP)—Merrill Jordan, 37, former professional snake charmer, who charmed snakes in the French Follies Revue by his flute playing, is now play-

ing the same flute in the uniform of a member of the band of the United States Coast Guard.

Try Our Want Ads

BY HARRY GRAYSON
NEA Service Sports Editor

NEW YORK—By this time you no doubt have heard that, on his inspection, New Yorkers are not at all positive that James Bivins is the heavyweight to keep boxing alive until Sergt. Joe Louis returns.

Matchmaker Nat Rogers made the mistake of pairing Jimmy Bivins with another counter fighter at Madison Square Garden with the result that Lee Savold is definitely through as a major attraction and the freshly-built Negro's Broadway bow was a magnificent bust.

Although by no stretch of the imagination a great one, Bivins is a more formidable warrior than he appeared to be here.

He undoubtedly was over-anxious in his first effort in the east, and Savold's disinclination to take a chance didn't help him.

MAYBE Bivins is one of those blokes who can fight only in his own backyard. He has enjoyed all of his success in Cleveland.

There have been a number of glovemen like that. Tommy O'Toole, feather, and Young Ernie, lightweight, a crack Philadelphia pair of 30 years ago, were striking evanescence. O'Toole was a

whirlwind in the Quaker City, but required excuses following trips out of town.

Ernie outscored Abe Attell, Packey McFarland and Mike Gibbons, whom he conceded 11 pounds, by the home fireside, but with a match with Battling Nelson for the prize, he was outgloped by Lew Powell in San Francisco.

BOB PASTOR, the recently retired heavyweight, was just the opposite. He was a ball of fire out of New York, his hometown, but failed to turn in notable performances in it.

As brilliant as was Jimmy Clabby, he couldn't get himself warm in Manhattan, was one chucked from the premises to gether with Frank Klaus. Je Smith was an outstanding attraction throughout the world, but couldn't get himself arrested in New York. Johnny Kilbane looks the part of the Grade A feather weight champion he was only one in several New York starts.

Buy War Bonds

OUT OUR WAY

Cartoon titled 'OUT OUR WAY' showing a group of men in a field. One man asks 'CERTAINLY DO YOU APPRECIATE YOUR FELLERS HELPING US DRIVE OUR CATTLE TO THE RAILROAD? NOW HOW MUCH DO WE OWE YOU?' Another replies 'WELL, HOW MUCH IS COWBOYS WORTH?' A third says 'GOOD GOSH! I HOPE THEY DON'T HIT HIM FOR MINERS' WAGES FOR COWBOYS!' A fourth says 'NO--HE'S SMART! HE DIDN'T ASK HOW MUCH IS MINERS' WORTH--THAT CATTLE WAS HERE WHEN WE GOT IN WITH THEM!' The cartoon is signed 'THE TRAIL HERD' and 'J. S. WILLIAMS 12-15'.

Simple things you can do to get more help for your eyes



You'll get more help for your eyes when you read, play games or sew, if your lamp shades are light-colored or have white linings. Clean or brush them regularly; or if they're too bad, replace with fresh shades.

Your eyes need all the help they can get. Don't handicap them with too little. Clean reflector bowls and bulbs frequently. You'll get from 25 to 30% more light.

Arrange your furniture and lamps so that you can, if necessary, make each lamp provide good light for more than one person. Be sure you're close enough to the lamp; a difference of 12 inches may cut your light in half.



TEXAS ELECTRIC SERVICE COMPANY

A. N. LARSON, Manager

Co-Eds Given Instructions In Aiding In War

AUSTIN, Tex.—If University of Texas co-eds are not fully ar-

oused to their roles in the nation's war effort, it won't be the fault of the women's sub-committee of the University Council of Defense. The committee is packing a heavy schedule of speakers into the period between now and the Christmas recess, which begins

Dec. 17, to give the University's 3,500 co-eds all the information possible about war jobs—military and industrial. It is currently making interview appointments for a recruiting agent of the Curtis-Wright Aircraft Corporation, to enlist University girls among the 800 the

corporation will begin training Feb. 1 as Engineering Cadets. A WAVES recruiting officer will visit the campus this week, and next week representatives of the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation and of the NYA industrial train-

ing program for war workers will be brought here. "Women are going to have to take over a large share of war production, and an even larger share of necessary civilian tasks"

Miss Dorothy Gehaur, dean of women and committee chairman, declared. "College women can no longer afford to postpone training themselves for whatever job they propose to assume. Our committee is trying to help them decide which job."

SERIAL STORY

PLAY BY PLAY

BY PAUL DAVID PRESTON

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LUNCHEON PARTY CHAPTER XVIII

WHEN Nancy Hale came in at 10 this Tuesday morning, Blythe prepared at once to leave. She couldn't trust herself to stay here and face the other girl, even with Pop.

"I'll let go of myself and say something before I'm ready!" she half-whispered, ducking into a sweater.

"Leaving, darling?" Nancy asked, sweetly.

"Yes," Blythe avoided her eyes. "I'm sorry you must. Seems like I hardly ever see you much now."

Blythe let that pass unanswered. She looked out a window. Pop spoke up heartily.

"Why'n't you two girls take off this afternoon and go to a movie, mm?"

"Doggone Pop! It was just like him. Blythe knew, trying to be generous, cordial, kind. But he didn't know the score here.

"We'll all be together at noon anyway," he went on, genially. "Mom's having us all for lunch."

"She is!" Blythe hadn't known it.

"Oh, yes!" Nancy appeared happy about it. "Mrs. Miller phoned. With Norman and Duane."

That really messed up things, to Blythe's thinking. But she'd have to go through with it. Have to sit there in her own home, entertaining Nancy Hale and feeling like a hypocrite all the while!

But, then, on second thought, it might be just as well to stay near Nancy as much as she could. She might learn something further. If Nancy had promised the gamblers agent to drug Norman and Duane on Wednesday night, the more she stayed with them now—

to scout home and help Mom," she announced, and departed.

of Nancy, her first surging desire for revenge, had long since passed; all she felt now was an abiding sense of tragedy and shame. Shame for the pretty widow, and sympathy for her baby son.

"I'll get him and take him with me!" Blythe suddenly whispered. "Bless his heart!"

She went back to the office and told Nancy, then ran upstairs to gather in baby Scooter and his coat and his beloved puppy, Link.

At home, later, Mom Miller baked a special little "private pie" for Scooter alone at luncheon.

While the family and the four guests ate their luncheon, Blythe noted that Nancy seemed utterly without regret or worry. She remarked that the other girl could be so wholly brazen about her plotting.

"I would be jumpy as heck," Blythe told herself, watching Nancy closely. Norman was watching Duane, too, she noted. Well, that much was all right. Undeniably Nancy was pretty. And usually Norman Duane made a pest of himself paying attention to Blythe.

Maybe—yes!—Blythe suddenly felt that she understood. Tomorrow night, Wednesday, Nancy would have to have both Norman and Duane as dinner guests in her own cute upstairs apartment.

This was essential to her scheme. And so, Nancy was "playing up" to Norman now! Laughing and talking with him in pretended friendliness, just to be sure he was flattered sufficiently to come. She would already feel sure of Duane. . . . Blythe was appalled more than ever at the widow's calculating, conscienceless nerve.

"It's just like some of the early troubles the Japs and Germans handed us," Pop was saying, between forkfuls. "We have to expect the unexpected, the setbacks. We have to weave with 'em, and come back scrapper than ever before, lads. It's the only way to triumph in the end. The only way."

BLYTHE understood that. Good old Pop, softening the psychological blow of losing Heavy Underwood from the lineup Thursday. Putting new confidence and assurance in the two stars' minds. Norman especially was given to quick fareups, emotional streaks and such, in addition to what people thought was conceit in him. She, Blythe Miller, knew now that Norman wasn't as conceited as he sometimes appeared.

On one memorable occasion he had proved it. She would always respect him for that.

"Anybody tell you how cute you look in a red dress, Nancy?" Norman himself said that, beaming. "Why not? How nice?"

"Sure do. People say blonds shouldn't wear red. You corrected that. Mind if I stare?"

Mom Miller put in genially, "I'm sure Nancy is sweet in any color, boys. I have never seen a prettier girl."

"Umph," Pop grunted, mouth full, nodding.

Blythe said nothing. She might have said that the red dress was once her own. Given to Nancy after the car wreck, when Nancy was penniless in the hospital. Oh, to be sure, Nancy had since remembered to pay the asked-for \$10, for all that big suitcase of clothes, but that was only a token to save pride; the dress was still a hand-me-down.

Suddenly ashamed of her thoughts again, then, Blythe forced a cordial smile. "You take all the men's eyes, Nancy. Makes me horribly jealous!"

"They all laughed at that—and only Blythe herself knew that it stung a little. Her sally hadn't been wholly untried."

"Imagine!" said big Duane. "You, being jealous! Or anything else not . . . well, not perfect!"

Blythe was astonished. Duane Hogan didn't say such things; it amounted to an epic, from him! Never, never in their two years of rather close friendship, had he said so much of her and to her.

He had called her, Blythe, perfect! True, he had gone right on eating, just as if it were casual and therefore inconsequential and soon to be forgotten. But he had said it, even so. He had!

"You know," Norman was teasing again, "this business of inviting cadets to eat is a wonderful invention. Great institution! Why don't more ladies do it? Why don't you, for instance, Nancy, take lessons in it from Mom Miller, hm?" Or maybe I should talk to her myself. Look, Missus Hale, as a hint to get some of your home cooking later, will you and Scooter go to dinner downtown with me tonight?"

Nancy jumped at the chance. "If you'll come to potluck with me tomorrow evening, Norman! You and Duane. I can feed home-sack soldier boys! We'll have a little dinner party, just we three!"

Blythe felt her pulse leap. There it was, exactly as planned. But, then—she had a new whirling sensation, too. Nancy had been openly dated by Norman—but it was Duane who had complimented her. Blythe! Big, bashful, handsome Duane.

(To Be Continued)

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



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Major General Roy S. Geiger, U. S. Marine Corps officer in charge of land-based aircraft in the Solomon Islands area, attributes the amazing skill shown by American aviators in the personnel and equipment at his disposal.

NOTICE

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SOCIETY CLUBS

Auxiliary To Meet Tonight
Members of the American Legion Auxiliary will meet this evening at 8 o'clock in the home of Mrs. Lee Dockery. The evening will be spent in making gifts for veterans in the Legion Hospital and every member of the Auxiliary is urged to attend.

1920 Club To Meet
The scheduled meeting of the 1920 Club will be held Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the Blue Room of the Gholson Hotel at which time Bible Day will be observed. Mrs. O. L. Phillips will be the leader and Mrs. R. E. Stafford will give the Bible Story. Members are reminded to bring dolls wrapped in Christmas packages.

Julia Alexander Grove to Have Christmas Party
Members of the Julia Alexander Grove, No. 1944, of the Woodmen Circle will be entertained with an all-day meeting and covered dish luncheon and Christmas social Wednesday at 12 o'clock in the home of Mrs. Ruby Groer, Country Club Road.

There will be an exchange of gifts distributed from a Christmas tree and members are reminded to bring their gifts.
All members will gather at the home of Mrs. Ruth Booth on Pine Street at 11 o'clock and from there transportation will be furnished for those attending.

Ladies Bible Class Meets

A large attendance was present for the weekly meeting of the Ladies Bible Class of the Church of Christ held at the church Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Preceding the class, members gathered at the church to quilt for the needy.

The lesson for the afternoon was taught by Wesley Mickey and following the lesson members engaged in a round table discussion on the lesson which was taken from the fifth chapter of Romans.

After the meeting members paid visits to the sick and shut-ins.

Former Resident Weds
Announcements have been received in Ranger of the recent marriage of Miss Helen Maxine Starns of Saratoga, Fla., to Mr. Carl Clay Cooper, Jr., of Kilgore, formerly of Ranger. The groom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Cooper and is now in the United States Armed Service, stationed in Florida.



Letters to Santa Claus

Dear Santa Claus:
I am a little boy 3 years old. I want to tell you what I want for Christmas. I would like to have a tricycle, a little train and some candy and fruit.

Yours truly,
Lee Baggett,
Route 3
Ranger, Texas

Dear Santa Claus:
I am a little 6-year-old girl. This is my first year in school. I have tried to learn lots and love my teacher very much. I go to Hodges Oak Park school and my teacher is Mrs. Leasley. I want her to have a real nice Christmas. Bring all the little boys and girls lots of pretty, especially those who are in the army and want get to come home for Christmas.

Relief At Last For Your Cough

Chronic bronchitis may develop if your cough, chest cold, or acute bronchitis is not treated and you cannot afford to take a chance with any medicine less potent than Circumulsion which goes right to the seat of the trouble to help loosen and expel germ laden phlegm and aid nature to soothe and heal raw, tender, inflamed bronchial mucous membranes. Circumulsion blends hawthorn wood croosote by special process with other time tested medicines for coughs. It contains no narcotics. No matter how many medicines you have tried, tell your druggist to sell you a bottle of Circumulsion with the understanding you must like the way it quickly allays the cough, permitting rest and sleep, or you are to have your money back. (Adv.)

Personals

Mrs. Helen Larry of Shreveport La., is the guest of her sister Mrs. Fred Yanker.

Miss Agnes Higginbotham of Fort Worth was the weekend guest of her mother, Mrs. Alice Higginbotham and her sister, Miss Mary Frances Higginbotham.

FLINT, Mich. (UP) — Ira (Tiny) Blackwell wanted to be a book in the Army, but recruiting officials here said he couldn't quite make the grade. At 356 pounds, Blackwell was 224 pounds overweight.

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IF IT'S GIFTS FOR MEN . . . YOU'LL FIND IT AT
E. L. MARTIN CO.

me a little doll, piano, and pair of good warm pajamas to sleep in. I want some candy and fruit too. I hope you have a good Christmas this year.

Yours truly,
Gala Baggett
Route 3
Ranger, Texas

Steel Assumes New Burden In The War Effort

The tanks and field guns go roaring into battle for the United Nations will carry more iron and steel than ever this coming year, according to the American Iron and Steel Institute.

To conserve aluminum and copper, Army ordnance engineers are specifying ever increasing numbers of steel functional parts as pinch hitters for parts formerly made of other metals. This program, when fully in effect, will save 180,000,000 pounds of primary aluminum and as yet untold

ed amount of copper and copper alloys for war production jobs where they have been found indispensable.

Heavy ordnance equipment has been made of steel. But now many smaller component parts from cartridge cases—which liberated 591,000,000 pounds of copper—to sights range finders and fuses, are being converted to steel wherever possible without any sacrifice of military effectiveness, or safety. Many are out-performing their predecessors.

Although Army authorities are relying more than ever upon steel, they do not specify steel for any new use until it has passed a rigid test and satisfied every requirement. No sacrifice of performance is permitted.

Only Two Forms Of Government Are Recognized

AUSTIN, Tex.—There are only two recognized legitimate forms of government — monarchy and democracy, declared University of Texas president Homer P. Rainey, in a Pearl Harbor anniversary radio address.

"The first World War resulted in the final overthrow of the monarchial idea," Dr. Rainey said. "The struggle today, therefore, is to determine whether or not we are remaining legitimate form of government— democracy — is to survive in the face of the opposition offered by the totalitarian forms."

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BRIGHT 24-PIECE SERVICE FOR 4 . . . PRICE CUT NOW! 4.98
This real hand-painted dinnerware looks like a far more expensive gift! She'll love the sparkling, colorful, festive note it lends to her table! Firing process makes colors extra brilliant and gives a China-like sheen! The set includes 4 plates, butter plates, cups, saucers, cereal-soup; 1 small platter, open vegetable dish, open sugar bowl and a creamer!

BENCH-TYPE CLOTHES HAMPER 3.28 Strong woven-fiber body with prelin top. Washable outside finish. Price now reduced.	OVEN-TO-TABLE BAKEWARE 1.10 Reduced! A 3-pc. mixing bowl set, 3-pc. refrigerator set, or casserole and pie plate. Colored.	PAY LESS AT WARDS! TEA POT 1.39 Your choice of several styles and colors! Heat-proof vitreous china. Won't check or craze!	SPECIAL! PLASTIC FLASHLIGHT 96c New! Sturdy plastic case in assorted colors! 2-cell size. (Batteries are not included.)
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