

# YES, INDEED, PENN HARRIS HAS A MAITRE D' HOTEL

THE soldier boys returning from France will probably be more "reporte" with the Penn-Harris than home folks, because they should know how to pronounce "Maitre d' Hotel" by this time, and you may bet your life the Penn-Harris has one of these. Dig up some one who can parlez-vous if you want to look good in this hostelry.

And if you bellow out: "Hey, Chef, cook me a steak" we can see the Penn-Harris crumbling to powder. A chef in a big-league hotel does not cook. My word, no! He looks on, but he is almighty important. Cook? Should "shay" not!

You see, a great modern hotel is divided into two major departments, as explained by Manager Wiggins, a point not apparent to the guests. Technically they are known as the "front" and the "back." In charge of the whole organization is the general manager, with auditing, paymaster's and chandler's departments forming part of a connecting link.

The front of the house is under the authority of a chief engineer, who is not exactly the sort of technician that his title implies; or, rather, he is that and a great many things besides. In this grand division falls nearly everything with which the guest comes in contact except the restaurant—the clerks who sell the rooms and the various departments of service, the indexing of names, the care of the rooms, the record of comings and goings, the delivery of parcels and baggage, the obtaining of tickets, and so on.

If a steampipe bursts the chief engineer's department fixes it. If an elevator needs repairs he is responsible for the job and the costs. If a new status is to be set up in the exchange, he is the property man who must see to it that it is properly and tastefully installed. He must not be only an engineer, but he must be something of an artist and an architect. He selects the furniture and the carpets, and must see to it that all these things are properly taken care of. And above all he must be an executive of skill and a first-class judge of cost and result values, a thorough businessman of broad experience and training.

**Speed and Accuracy**  
Requirements of speed and accuracy, which are just part of the day's routine, would be marvels in other lines of business. The only other spot we know with such six-cylinder system is the dispatching office of the Pennsylvania Railroad office, the brains of the system. A wise, imperturbable man, emotionless as a statue sits there directing a score of others who look chained to his jaw, and all the while talking to



J. ELMER DAVIDSON  
Maitre D' Hotel

operators and towers in the division, sometimes eliminating a wreck by a fragment of time, but never becoming agitated. Same at the Penn-Harris, where a guest, for instance enters the hotel at 3 o'clock and engages a room, intending to stay for several days. He may go to the dining room and have a meal charged, put a couple of dollars on his bill, borrow a sum of money from the cashier and pile up a dozen charges in various departments of the hotel. Then a telegram may summon him out of town on the 4 o'clock train. His bill must be ready for him at the desk in a couple of minutes. And it is.

**Wiggins—General Director**  
When the reporter asked Manager Wiggins to tell something about the policy and mechanism of the Penn-Harris, he paused heavily as though some one had suggested to him solving some trifling problem like making the world safe for Bolsheviki. Taking his time, he finally explained: "The manager is general dictator, and from him come all orders for any party, for changes, for purchases. The next in command is the assistant manager, in this instance, Harry H. Price, who sees that all orders are carried out. He will also be the person in charge when I am called away temporarily."  
"When orders pertain to parties of any kind in the various dining rooms they are given to the maitre d' hotel, J. Elmer Davidson, who will in turn convey the information to the headwaiter, Morris Cowan. Mr. Tamagni has had many years' experience in the east Florida Coast hotels and in the best hotels of New York, and Mr. Cowan was employed in numbers of up-to-date eastern houses, his last position being at the Tutwiler at Birmingham, Alabama. After the chef and headwaiter have been notified of a party the chef makes out the menu and immediately informs the steward, L. H. Vanderslice, who will see that the articles for this

menu are supplied at the proper time." The maitre d'hotel, it was gathered, has supreme charge in the "back" of the house, meaning the kitchens and restaurants principally, while the chef is in sole charge of the former. Though he must have a practical knowledge of cooking, he is purely an executive, and when he passes through the dining room and hears the guest instruct the waiter "to tell the chef" just how he wants his steak served, the chef smiles. The men who cook in hotels are the cooks, not the chefs. Nevertheless, it is the chef who makes or mars the reputation of the cafe, for he plots and charts the menu, and often invents the special dishes on which the cafe becomes famous. He controls the policy of the kitchen.

The work of the kitchen is divided by "operations." There are, for instance, fry cooks and assistants, roast cooks, broilers, and so on down to the salad girls, which last, together with all those who assemble the cold dishes, are in the department of the steward rather than that of the chef. The steward, of course, does the buying and has charge of the stock of food. It is easy to be seen that there must be the closest kind of co-operation between him and the chef.

There is, in addition, a pastry chef and a baking department subsidiary to the chef. And an entirely separate department known as the entertainment division, which undertakes the contracts for banquets, weddings and the like. Throughout the entire system the method of cost-keeping closely parallels that of a factory, with its stock rooms, receiving departments, production departments and sales departments, with the exception that all down the line special emphasis must be laid on "rush jobs," which are the rule rather than the exception. Not the least important job is that of the housekeeper, who, as her title implies, has charge of the linen, the maid and valet service, the cleaning and the laundry, which takes care of the hotel washing and that of the guests. She has her corps of assistants and floor clerks who oversee all service to the rooms.

### Governor of Kansas Adopts French Waif

Topeka, Kan. — Governor Arthur Capper has adopted Raymond Durand, a French orphan, who makes his home with his stepmother in France. The boy was secured for the Governor by the Topeka committee of the fatherless children of France from among the survivors of one of the devastated districts. The stepmother has written to the Governor thanking him for the money sent the boy.

### Travels From Mexico to Obtain Narcotic

Akron, O. — Declaring he was in torment, an eighteen-year-old Mexican lad, who had travelled all the way from El Paso, Tex., appealed to Health Officer Nesbitt for permission to obtain his customary daily supply of dope. Good advice was the substitute given the boy.

### NEW STATIONERY BOOSTS THE CITY

Rates of Hotel Are to Be Very Reasonable, the Management Announces

THE official stationery used by Manager Horace Leland Wiggins, in the task of enlightening the world as to rates at the Penn-Harris, is luring and accurately informing, bearing the legend:

Million dollar hotel erected by enterprising citizens of Harrisburg faces Capitol Park and half a block from main business center. Harrisburg has a population of 100,000 and a purchasing community of 200,000 in a radius of ten miles. Harrisburg is the railroad and travel center of the state and the third largest freight transfer in the state. All state automobile roads converge at Harrisburg. It is a great convention city. One of the largest steel mills of the country is located at Harrisburg. The city is located along the beautiful Susquehanna river and in a very fertile agricultural valley.

Once snared by this uncommon news the person who contemplates visiting Pennsylvania's capital will greedily digest the authoritative rates of entertainment and the room accommodation. At the present time, then, it can be said that there is a total of 250 rooms, of which 235 have, each, a beautiful bathroom adjoining. The other 25 have hot and cold water and toilet. The rates are as follows:

With toilet and hot and cold water: \$2 for one person; \$3.50 for two persons.  
With tub or shower bath: \$2.50 for one person, \$4 for two; \$3 for one person, \$4.50 for two; \$5.00 for two twin beds; \$3.50 for one person, \$5 for two; \$4.00 for one person, \$5 for two.

There are larger rooms with bath in which several beds can be placed, and a rate of \$2 per day per person made.

All prices quoted are European plan, and do not include meals.

### Woman May Receive Ensign's Commission

Boston, Mass. — The first woman ever to be recommended for an ensign's commission in the United States Navy is Miss Marie A. George, who has been prominent in welfare aid work at the Charlestown Navy Yard.

She ends her tour of duty soon and Commandant William R. Rush, of the Navy Yard, has recommended that she be raised in rank on retirement from yeoman to ensign.

### Fined For Drunkenness Twice in "Dry" Town

Elmira, N. Y. — Intoxicated twice, fined \$10 for each offense, all within forty-eight hours, is the record of a Corning man in "dry" Elmira. And the first offense happened on Sunday. Jamaica ginger is said to be responsible for William Walcott's two-day record in a "boozeless" city.

# Frank C. Lewin General Contractors and Builders

## Penn-Harris Hotel Harrisburg, Pa.

### OFFICES

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Harrisburg, Pa.

616 Twelfth St. N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

People's Gas Building  
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