

THE BUSINESS MAN IN WONDERLAND

Curiosity killed the cat, but government apparently thrives on it. Government's inquisitive tendency is a familiar matter to farmers and business men, who spend a substantial part of their time answering questions. But this year the public is going to become conscious of these matters, too, for the census taker will soon be ringing doorbells again.

The 1940 census will be the most comprehensive ever undertaken by any government. It is going to seek a lot of answers that, if they are sensibly interpreted, can be very helpful. On the other hand, among the 50 questions the American housewife will answer this time there will be found some to which pretty good answers already exist.

On a small scale, then, the average citizen is about to experience a phenomenon that the man who is trying to run a business, keep up production, find new jobs and earn a small profit runs into just about every day of the "working week".

In the past five years, duplication of the questions asked by government commissions and agencies has proved a sore point to many a company that is trying to get its work done. The curiosity of government has meant that employees have had to be delegated to the non-productive work of answering questionnaires; it has meant that the orderly processes of work have had to be slowed up while check-ups on it have been made; and it has meant that business must keep voluminous records that have no earthly use once they have satisfied the curiosity of the particular government agency or commission in question.

Of course, there is a valuable and necessary function to be performed by government in finding out answers to pertinent questions about business, about agriculture and about various other sections of the American economy. But the observer, observing multiplicity and duplication and, frequently, just plain chaos, can't help asking one short question on his own hook:

"Exactly how much of all this curiosity is necessary and how much represents nothing more than a love of asking questions?"

Something of the same wonderment may have existed in the mind of President Roosevelt last year when he declared that he was "concerned over the large number of statistical reports which Federal agencies are requiring from business and industry," and ordered an investigation. Of course, the investigation meant more questions, but this time the results were worth it. Here are some of the facts that came to light:

Individuals and business concerns in the United States made about 135,700,000 reports and returns to questionnaires sent out by administrative agencies of the Federal government. About 21 million returns of all kinds were filed for farms, making an average of approximately three returns for each farm in the country. A total of 60,000,000 returns were filed by industrial, commercial and financial enterprises, a yearly average of about 20 for each enterprise. And the average industrial questionnaire contained about 65 questions.

POST SCRIPTS

A fellow we know knew a fellow named DeWolfe and any DeWolfe is recognized as a cousin by the Barrymores, so there we were at a postage stamp table in Delmonico's last Saturday night, elbow to elbow with Ethel Barrymore Colt.

Miss Colt had just finished delivering a load of vocal versatility which ran the gamut from opera to swing. The applause was still bouncing around among the garish red and gold decorations when she dropped wearily into the chair next to us.

She was tired, she said. We needed sleep, too, only we showed it. If that's the way Miss Colt smiles when she's tired, we'd hesitate to expose ourselves to her fully-rested personality. As it was, every time she turned the w. k. Barrymore charm our way we felt the blood drain away to our toes.

When people call Miss Colt "The Princess of the Royal Family" she wriggles her nose derisively, not to mention beautifully. We suppose being young in a famous family does have its disadvantages, but whatever other names she accumulates Miss Colt will probably always be more Barrymore than anything else.

Her wide, sensitive mouth and her expressive eyes mark her as her mother's child. There are frequent flashes of her Uncle Lionel about her, and occasionally, when she moves her hands in a certain way, you are reminded of that gallant rapsallion, her Uncle John. Our ignorance about the theatre is still monumental, but we know what we like, and it is our cherished opinion that the Barrymore tradition will be safe in Miss Colt's hands.

In view of her highly ornamental qualities, you could scarcely ask for brains, too, but Miss Colt has them. In her circle it is sometimes difficult to toss a make-up kit in any direction without clunking a communist, but Miss Colt has independent ideas on the subject. She made as sound a case for General Franco as we have ever heard, against the opposition of an energetic coterie of musicians—agents of Moscow, no doubt—who were doing their part toward making conversation an art more strenuous than gentle.

When we had ventured out into the moist Philadelphia night and Miss Colt had gone to sneak a nap before her next show we were thinking how swell it had been and then we realized that we had overlooked something which suddenly seemed to sum up our whole impres-

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THE DALLAS POST

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER, A COMMUNITY INSTITUTION

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CIVIC PROGRAM FOR 1940

1. More community spirit in the Dallas area.
2. A concrete highway from Dallas to Tunkhannock.
3. Centralization of police and fire protection.
4. Better fire protection and lower insurance rates.
5. More sidewalks.

Supervisors Fail To Acknowledge Bids To Meeting

Councilmen Wait Two Hours In Vain; Firemen Had Requested Session

After waiting two hours for some word from Dallas Township supervisors, councilmen of Dallas Borough adjourned their meeting last Friday night without reaching any conclusion on the request of Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Co. for financial assistance from the two communities.

Invitations to attend the conference were mailed to the three supervisors after Harry T. Ohlman, chairman of a committee from the volunteer fire company, had asked borough council to confer with the supervisors to discuss the possibility of sharing maintenance costs of the company, which has, since its founding 12 years ago, been financed by public subscription.

No acknowledgment of the invitations was received, but the councilmen met as planned. Three members were at the borough building and two more 'phoned and were ready to appear if the supervisors turned up. After waiting until 9:30 without any word, the councilmen adjourned.

The firemen, who work without pay, have never received an appropriation from either Dallas Borough or Dallas Township and have raised an amount estimated at \$20,000 in the last 12 years to assure fire protection for residents of the two communities.

Machell Has Been Banker 30 Years

Bank Directors Honor Him For Long Service

Marking another milestone in one of the longest banking careers in Northeastern Pennsylvania, directors of First National Bank of Dallas tendered a dinner at Harvey's Lake on Wednesday to Sterling Machell, who has been a director of the local bank for 30 years.

Mr. Machell was elected a director of the bank on February 2, 1910, four years after the bank was founded. At the time the establishment was housed in the building now occupied by the Commonwealth Telephone Co. on Church Street, Dallas.

Among fellow-directors of Mr. Machell were Will Bulford, George Wright, Jesse Albertson, Isaac Leek, Delbert P. Honeywell and Reese D. Isaacs, all of whom have died. Ralph Rood, a teacher now, was a cashier during Mr. Machell's early years as a director.

Mr. Machell, whose father, before him, also played an active part in civic and business affairs in Dallas, recalls that conditions were far different when he was introduced to banking than they are today, particularly with regard to interest rates and regulations imposed on banks.

Idetown Brotherhood Will Meet On Monday

The Brotherhood of Idetown Methodist Church will meet at the church house on Monday night, February 26, at 7:30. There will be entertainment and refreshments. All men of the community will be welcome.

Storm Rages About 'Wonder Child's' Head

Around the curly head of four-year-old Faith Hope Hardy, Trucksville's "wonder child", a new storm of national proportions was raging this week.

On one hand the parents of the child and Benjamin Howells, Nanticoke newspaper publisher who prints the prognostications of "The Little Prophet", defended claims that Faith can foresee future events.

Opposing such claims was a handful of investigators, like Dr. Joseph Rhine of Duke University and U. L. Ghilini of Beverly Hills, Cal., who seemed to be agreed that the child is normal.

It all began when Mrs. Harry Harding, Faith's mother, took the child to New York, where she was guest of honor at a salon conducted by a group of people who are interested in psychic phenomena, including Mrs. Arthur G. Learned, at whose Oriental Temple at Brucehaven, Stamford, Conn., Faith Hope Hardy was christened last August.

Backs Challenge With \$10,000
The story appealed to New York newspapers, which carried long articles and photographs of the youngster. After Mrs. Harding came home she was besieged with requests for information from other Eastern newspapers. Within a few days Faith's predictions were a chief source of argument among physic researchers.

Joseph Dunninger, famed magician and chairman of the Universal Council of Psychic Research, minimized the claims made for the child and offered to pay \$10,000 if Faith would disclose a three-letter word which Dunninger would write on a slip of paper and seal in an envelope.

Charging that the Trucksville child is being sponsored by The Psychic Observer of Lily Dale, N. Y., which has frequently used articles about Faith, Dunninger said he doesn't believe in any kind of prophecies. "She

IN KIWANIS MINSTREL



Mrs. Bernice Lundy



Mrs. Eva Ray

Invading a comic realm ordinarily reserved for the opposite sex, Mrs. Ray and Mrs. Lundy will put on black-face to be end ladies in the minstrel show to be given at Kingston Township high school next Thursday and Friday nights by Mt. Greenwood Kiwanis Club. Both Mrs. Ray and Mrs. Lundy have scored hits in previous Kiwanis Minstrels and their admirers are promised an entertaining evening again this year.

Popular Talent In Kiwanis Show

Comedy, Music Enliven Next Week's Production

An array of this section's most popular talent will appear next Thursday and Friday nights, February 29 and March 1, in the minstrel show to be sponsored by Mt. Greenwood Kiwanis Club at Kingston Township high school.

David Joseph is directing the production. The ends will be John Miles, Herman Kern, Mrs. Eva Ray, and Mrs. Bernice Lundy. Soloists will be E. V. Davis, Mrs. Ray Jenkins, Mrs. Isabelle Santiago, William Perkins and Joseph Jones. Among the specialties will be a saw solo by William Davis, selections on the guitar by John Lloyd, a harp solo by Harold Shiber and dances by D. A. Blight and John Miles.

Rationed Food No Hardship Yet, Britisher Says

Post's Correspondent Finds His Half-Pound Of Butter Sufficient

By B. E. H. AMPS

EXCLUSIVE Ilford, England

(By Mail [Censored])—The weather has commanded most attention recently because it has been much more severe than we have had for many years. We do not get the extreme cold Dallas has, but we had as much as 29 degrees of frost a week or so ago, and that was plenty cold enough for us, for our houses are not equipped to meet the cold as yours are and our cold is a damper cold.

We are not allowed to give any news about the weather until 15 days after it has happened. We find that troublesome, for hardly a piece of newspaper copy comes in but what the weather is mentioned somewhere, and usually so incidentally as almost to escape notice. It is a real hardship to the British, to whom the weather is Conversation Topic No. 1!

We had a story the other week about a bride who was held up by a snow-drift on her way to the wedding and had to be rescued by the bridegroom's brother. We had to eliminate all reference to the snow, and it half-killed the story. Chalk up another black mark to the war!

Rationing No Evil Yet

Rationing, of course, affects us all, but it can scarcely be said that we are feeling it very much as yet. And that is the truth, and not propaganda, though it might look like it.

So far we are rationed only on sugar, bacon and butter. Coal is rationed only during the cold spell, because of transport hold-ups. Meat may be rationed before long and paper, we are told tonight, will be. The last, because I am a newspaperman, is likely to hurt most. We have already gone down to half the normal number of pages and I cannot think that we shall be forced down much more. But where we shall feel it is in the space left for news if advertisements jump, as they do at certain periods. There is some talk of applying a space-rationing scheme on ads under which it might be laid down that no advertisement must exceed a certain space.

Personally, I do not feel the food rationing, because the three-quarters of a pound of sugar, one-half pound of butter and one-half pound of bacon I am allowed each week is quite enough. Neither myself nor my wife, who gets the same amount, consume much sugar and the bacon has soared in price so that it is nearly out of reach—and anyway we are not so wedded to the "typical British bacon-and-egg breakfast". So far as butter is concerned we are able to get a very high grade margarine which fills the gap quite satisfactorily.

Spurge On Marmalade?

At first it is a little strange to realize that you cannot step into any shop you fancy and buy butter and sugar and bacon but must go to the shop where you are registered,

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SWEET VALLEY'S ROBINS SURE SIGN OF AN EARLY SPRING, FARMERS INSIST

"If winter comes, can spring be far behind...?" Apparently not, for robins were hopping about on 12-foot snowdrifts in this section this week.

C. Rhinehimer has seen three robins in the vicinity of his property in the last week and two more have been sighted on the Bronson property in Sweet Valley.

Mr. Rhinehimer also found a three-foot garter snake one day this week and captured it in a cigar box to keep as a sure proof of an early spring.

It's Not Guayama, But It's Exciting

Puerto Rican Student Thrilled By Snowfall

It may be a far cry from the palms of Puerto Rico to the snow-wrapped mountains of Pennsylvania, but Alicia Reines, now a student at College Misericordia, has taken to the icy blasts like a natural.

"I only saw it in the movies and in the ice box at home, but I love it," she exclaimed at the first sight of the white flakes. When the howling wind brought little powdery drifts into her room that night Alicia added the condition, "as long as it stays outside."

Alicia was amazed at all the winter sports. She was more and more anxious to try out her skis. She has good sense of balance for a beginner, but the skis twisted at times and Alicia fell with a thud—but she says "it's right good fun."

Daughter of a Guayama business man, Alicia began her American education last fall in the Home Economics Department of College Misericordia. Most interested in her work, she proudly displays numerous bits of handiwork which she has added to her wardrobe. At this art Alicia is no amateur, however, for she has been sewing pretties all her life.

Although her desire is to complete her studies here, "if the Dean wants me," and teach in Puerto Rico, Miss Reines confided that she likes to keep house and hopes to some day.

By the sparkle in those snappy black eyes at the mention of dancing, it is easy to tell what has made the greatest impression on her—the beloved, the nerve-racking but thoroughly native zoological species, the American jitterbug. Our dances are quite different and Alicia frankly admitted that it was the first time she had attended one unaccompanied by her mother.

That good old Northern blizzard was quite a treat also to two of the school's young ladies from the "sunny South." Misericordia's Home Economics Department also claims Miss Barbara Van Sant of Augusta, Ga., known to her friends as "Magnolia". A member of the Junior Class, she is quite busy these days assisting with preparations for their Prom.

Miss Eleanor Lyons, contributing a touch of the warmer country to the Freshman Class, calls Columbia, So. Carolina, home. Already she has begun to carve a place for herself on the debating platform and has taken part in a symposium conducted by the college. Miss Lyons finds time also to enjoy the winter sports on the campus.

Indeed, both North and South have taken part in the fun of the season. The resident students in little groups over the whole campus lost no opportunity of enjoying skiing, sleighing, tobogganing, and Misericordia's campus and adjacent woodlands might well be compared with the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Youngster Killed While Coasting

Car Strikes Sled As It Crosses Silkworth Road

Coasting downhill across the highway from a driveway beside his home, Eugene Ginter, 9, son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Ginter, Lake Silkworth, was instantly killed, Wednesday afternoon when run over by a car driven by a neighbor, Alphonso Marchikitis, 24.

A charge of involuntary manslaughter was lodged against Marchikitis by State Motor Police, who took the driver before the court yesterday. The body of the boy was taken to the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wysner, 203 Phillips Street, Hanover, for burial.

The Ginters conduct a road stand at Lake Silkworth. Marchikitis lives a short distance away, on the Silkworth-Pike Creek Road.

Bickman's Leg Was Fractured Before He Died

Posse Makes Gruelling Trip Through Drifts To Recover Frozen Body

It was shock and exposure, following a mule kick which fractured his right leg, which caused the lonely death of John Bickman, 51, in an isolated lumber camp 11 miles beyond Noxen, after last week's blizzard, according to R. W. Greenwood of Tunkhannock, Wyoming County coroner, who completed a post mortem early yesterday morning.

A weary posse of State troopers, WPA workers and lumbermen reached Noxen with Bickman's body about 9:30 Wednesday night after a 13-hour battle with deep drifts. The body was taken immediately to Tunkhannock, where it was claimed yesterday by Bickman's family.

The tragedy was discovered on Tuesday, when Fred Dennison, 25, Forkston, snowshoed up South Mountain carrying grub to Bickman, a mule tender at Crawford C. Smith's lumbering camp on the Forkston-Noxen road.

Snowbound By Blizzard

The last man to see Bickman alive was Steve Fidler, foreman, who bade the mule tender good-bye on the evening of Tuesday, February 13, the day before the blizzard. After the storm none of the lumbermen attempted to reach the job, but on Tuesday a crew of WPA workers began to open the Bowman's Creek Road and 10 of Smith's employes started out for the camp.

Dennison, on snowshoes, pushed ahead of his comrades, taking food for Bickman. He reached the camp about 1 p. m., after a grueling six-hour trip. When he entered Bickman's sturdy little cabin he found the fire out and the water frozen. There were footprints outside, indicating that Bickman had watered the cattle since the storm.

Bickman's body was in the stable, beside the mules. One arm was thrown over his head and there were marks which indicated the frightened mules had kicked at him. Leaving the body as he found it, Dennison hurried back to Noxen on skis he found at the camp. R. W. Greenwood of Tunkhannock, county coroner, was notified immediately, as was Chief of Police Ira C. Stevenson of Harvey's Lake, who relayed the message to the State Motor Police.

A posse assembled on Tuesday night at Newell's store, but a start was not made until about 8 Wednesday morning. Progress was slow until a snowplow loaned by the A. J. Sordoni Construction Co. arrived to attack the 6-foot drifts.

Police Head Rescue Party

The rescue party included Mr. Greenwood, Deputy Sheriff James Wynd, Lieut. Charles Cook and Lieut. Albert F. Flick of Wyoming Barracks, three other motor policemen, some WPA workers and some of the lumbermen who work at the camp.

The men reached the camp about 3. The body was loaded on a toboggan, which was used until the returning posse reached a truck which had been able to come part of the way along the road.

Bickman is survived by a son and daughter in Hazleton, a sister, Mrs. Richard Davis, 317 Palmer Street, Plymouth, and a sister in Scranton. He had lived formerly in Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre, Meshoppen and Beaumont and went to work for Smith about a year ago.

Most of the lumbermen who work on the tract return to their homes each evening, but Bickman lived there all winter, in a small but comfortable cabin, not far from the road which was built by C. C. workers to connect Forkston and Noxen. Nearby is a stone cabin which is used by the fire warden in the summer.

Bickman had undergone an operation in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital last year. A possibility that he had a premonition of death was seen in the story of one of his fellow-workers, who recalled that lately Mr. Bickman had asked his friend to take care of his insurance and to see that he would be buried properly. It is believed he died on Thursday or Friday.

Legion Head To Speak

Harold B. Leidy, commander of Black Diamond Post, American Legion, of Kingston, will address the meeting of the Men's Brotherhood of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Shavertown, on Monday night at 8. There will be refreshments.