

# OWL LAFFS



## A WISE OWL

Well, folks, I'm off to a bad start in 1946. I'm late writing this column and I'm not up to par. Course I could fill three columns with New Year's eve laffs but why should I tell tales and get a lot of my friends in Dutch?

Somebody pulled the palings off one of our gates and threw them all over the place. I wonder if the young chap who did it doesn't like me? The funny part of it was I was watching him from the inside at 3:30 a. m. and he didn't even know it. Good that his buddies came along and took him in charge as he just insisted on taking some of the bulbs off a Christmas tree. If the fellow wants to replace the palings on our gate we will give him a hammer and nails.

Did you ever buy a stuffed banana? Neither did I, but the Sloan crowd tells me Jeannette got one with the shell put back in place and held there with Scotch tape. I don't believe they'd make very good banana splits.

A little shaver went to the dentist to have a tooth filled and when the dentist asked: "What kind of filling do you want?" The boy answered "Chocolate."

Did you read the account of an accident which read: "The operator of the car, charged with drunken driving, crashed into Mrs. Jones' rear end which was sticking out into the road?"

Now I've heard everything. One of our luscious gals came flying up the pike in a car on Sunday and when a motor patrolman stopped her and asked: "What ya mean goin' sixty-two miles an hour?" And the pretty thing replied: "My brakes don't work and I was hurrying to get home before I had an accident."

They say the new 1946 cars will have just about everything but in my estimation, when better autos are built, the rear seat driver will be enclosed in a sound proof case.

Now just one more on cars. A local lady served jury duty recently and she told me that when the case of one young lady was being heard she explained: "I was not going 50 miles an hour—not twenty nor even ten—in fact when the officer came up I was almost at a standstill. The Judge swallowed a grin and exclaimed: "I must stop this or you will be backing into something. Twenty-five dollars fine."

I know it's pretty tough to get service in restaurants today but I really laughed at a fellow who went into a combination drug store and restaurant and ordered cheese and crackers because he didn't have much time. After forty-five minutes his patience was rewarded and he told the waitress he'd like to add a chocolate milk to his order. Just as she went to leave he said: "And while you're away, would you mind dropping me a postal card every now and then so I'll know if it's worthwhile writing."

"I can't give you a furlough, Kraus," said the German oberleutnant during the last days of the Reich, "but maybe we can retreat thru your home town."

A West Main St. hubby says whenever his spouse needs some money she calls him "handsome"—"Hand some over!"

Our office devil has had quite a cold lately and feeling quite poetic he came forth with this—

I sneezed a sneeze into the air; It fell to ground I know not where,

But hard and cold were the looks of those, In whose vicinity I sneeze.

So not to be outdone his partner

## The Low Down From Hickory Grove

Once in a full moon or maybe a little oftener, I will get a Special Delivery letter—or send one myself. And every time I do, it agitates me when I see the rate has been hiked to 16 cents—3 cents for the regular stamp and 13 cents for the special. She used to be 2 cents altogether. So the new rate is up 33 percent—and we are supposed to be against higher prices and inflation. But right in our own P. O. and the govt., where most of the preachin' is coming from about inflation, they go to work and ups the postage.

But last week, I was readin' where an oil company wanted to sell some aviation gasoline for use in cars, and being a super-gas they asked 18 per cent more. The OPA said to 'em, brother, "no sale". And the OPA still being in the driver's seat, the gas is off the market.

And to add insult the last special delivery 16-cent letter we got came via the regular route—just plain regular Hickory 3 cent style speed. Anybody understanding inflation—or the OPA—they are an Einstein, or almost.

Yours With the Low Down,  
JO SHELBARK

### Embattled Islands

Originally known as the Lucayas from the aborigines occupying the islands, the Bahamas were held by Spain at the beginning of their history. Having shipped most of the native population for work in other colonies, the Spaniards moved out and the English moved in in 1629. Spain later decided to claim the islands by right of discovery and ousted the English. A period of disorder followed—the English trying to regain their foothold, French forces making an occasional raid, and pirates making themselves at home regardless of the international tug-of-war. In 1718 another English settlement took root with the aid of troops, and in 1787 the Bahamas became a possession of the British crown through purchase of the rights granted the old lords proprietors. As every schoolboy knows, it was through the Bahamas by his landing on San Salvador (Watling island) that Columbus first entered the New World.

### Wrong Title

Just as Panama hats come from Ecuador and not from Panama, balsam of Peru is an exclusive product of El Salvador. That Salvadoreans should be annoyed at this appellation is natural. "Why," they ask, "should the resin of a tree that grows solely on our shores be known to the world as coming from Peru?" Some believe that the term was given through a misinterpretation of the Indian word "piru" meaning pottery vessel and not the fabled kingdom of Peru. It is, however, more generally thought that the false name originated from the fact that the product was confused with Peruvian roots when galleons bore it from El Salvador to Peru to be transhipped to Spain.

### Appreciate Carrots

Although women don't use carrot tops now as ornaments for hats, as they did in the middle of the 16th century when carrots were first brought to England by the Flemish, we have learned to appreciate carrots more and more as a food, and have found them a rich storehouse for vitamins and minerals. In group one—the green and yellow vegetables group of the basic seven—carrots furnish vitamin A, so important in growth and essential to normal vision. When butter and cream are scarce, it is more important than ever that plenty of yellow vitamin A vegetables are eaten daily.

### Rats Outnumber Humans

The rat population in most cities outnumber the civilian population. Continuous campaigns to keep rats from multiplying too rapidly are necessary in the majority of cities. Over 20,000 rats were killed in the city dumps of a large western city during the first month of a campaign inaugurated by the U. S. biological survey.

Rats are natural enemies of man. They do \$200,000,000 damage in the United States annually through their consumption of foodstuffs alone, and it has been estimated that it costs \$2 a year to maintain each rat.

I used to love my garden, But now my love is dead, For I found a bachelor button In black-eyed Susan's bed.

I know it's a lousy way to start the New Year but you guys are no help at all, so you just can't kick.

Boy, would we ever like to catch the guy who shot off a pump gun six times on New Year's. I've been a nervous wreck ever since. There I was all snug and snoring and that noisy civilian celebrates. We have a hunch who it was, so come forth and confess.

A WISE OLD OWL

## Pillaged Wealth Of Nazis Piled Up

### No Accurate Estimate Can Be Made of Total Value.

FRANKFURT, GERMANY.—The pillaged wealth of Nazi-occupied Europe, taken from the teeth of murdered Jews and the coffers of seized governments alike, was piled high today in the Reichsmark Bank of Frankfurt.

In addition to gold and silver there were hogsheds of pearls, rubies and sapphires. Wooden cases held gold and silver fillings from the teeth of concentration camp victims.

Currency experts from the United States treasury and the bank of England were identifying and making an inventory of the Nazi loot.

"An accurate estimate of the total value can never be made," said Col. Bernard Bernstein, director of the Finance Division of the U. S. Group Control Council.

He said the collection included 63 separate deposits hidden by the Nazis and unearthed by U. S. troops during the final days of the war. These included the gold bullion discovered by the U. S. Third army in the Merkers salt mines and special hidden hoards of Heinrich Himmler's SS organization which were buried under chicken coops on a German farm.

In one cache thousands of wedding rings stripped from the fingers of women victims of the Nazis in Germany, Greece, Poland and other occupied countries were strung on ropes like country sausages.

"We have found barrels of silver and gold wrist watches, cigarette cases, wedding rings, bracelets and jewelry of every description," Colonel Bernstein added. "This was taken from Nazi concentration camp victims."

The bullion was stacked like cordwood and one large room held nothing but securities from almost every country in the world. The loot includes millions of Russian rubles and \$34,000,000 in U. S. gold coins.

### Government Gives Some Ways to Help Win War

WASHINGTON.—A message from the Office of War Information: "The government needs and asks its citizens in this one hundred eighty-seventh week of the war against Japan to:

1. Equip your home now with storm sash, weather stripping and insulation, that will keep you warm with less fuel next winter. If you delay until fall, you may have to wait for labor or materials for weeks.

2. Can all surplus vegetables from your victory garden. Remember vegetables are essential for a balanced diet and you will need them next winter.

3. Use your training to help former servicemen who are recovering in veterans' administration hospitals if you are a registered graduate nurse. New professional service classifications mean higher salaries. Write to medical director, veterans' administration, Washington.

4. Plan to spend your vacation helping short-handed farmers get maximum food production. Farm population is now at a 35 year low, and every county of food is needed. See your county agent or farm employment office.

5. Return to work on the railroads if you are an experienced railroad worker. Your help is needed to move troops and supplies to the West coast. Apply at your local United States Employment service office.

### New Paternity Champion Of Navy Has 15 Children

LOS ANGELES.—This is to inform Sergeant Roman L. Springer of Winona, Minn., father of 14 children, that he is not the paternity champion among United States servicemen.

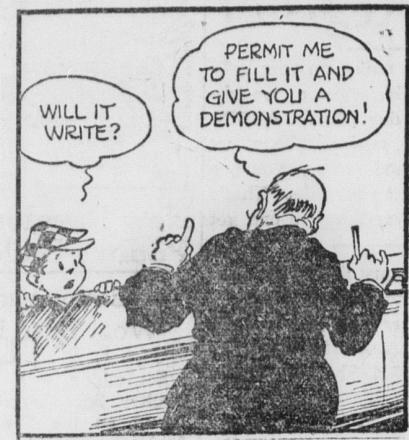
But the title stays in the navy. Chief Steward Gregorio Zagala, 47, of Lomita, Calif., stationed at the naval operating base at Terminal Island, is the father of 15 and Mrs. Zagala is expecting another in November.

### Frozen to Death in Plant Refrigerator

STAMFORD, CONN.—Saul H. Perry, 50, froze to death when he became trapped in a compartment of a refrigerator at his ice cream plant.

The medical examiner said there was evidence of desperate efforts on Perry's part to escape from the compartment where the temperature was 40 below.

## REG'LAR FELLERS—Forgery to Order



### "THE ANSWER MAN"

- Q. Is there any difference between boric acid and boric acid? A. No.
- Q. How long would it take to travel from the earth to the planet Jupiter? A. When Jupiter is at its closest, and traveling at 100 miles an hour, something over 400 years.
- Q. Is the diamond the hardest and most expensive of jewels? A. The diamond is the hardest, but the ruby is the most costly.
- Q. Are there still pigmies living in the world? A. Yes, two groups. The African and the Asiatic.
- Q. Does the U. S. Government still pay Civil War pensions? A. Yes, as of last September there were 383 Civil War veterans on the government pension list.
- Q. Is the human heart shaped like an apple or a pear? A. More like a pear, and quite like the hearts one sees on Valentine cards.
- Q. What is the weight of a stone? A. The weight known as a stone equals 14 pounds.
- Q. Where did the electric volt get its name? A. From the Italian physicist, Alessandro Volta.

### Werewolves Characterized By Vicious Nature

Werewolves symbolize a traditional manifestation of depraved, carnivorous appetites. Belief in werewolves still exists in some parts of Europe today, and a werewolf is generally thought to be a man or woman transformed into a wolf or some other vicious animal. Presently the individual actually believes himself to have been transformed into an animal.

In Scandinavia and England werewolves seem to have been identified with outlawry and with social outcasts who were subject to bestial fury. To the Slavs and Bulgars, a man's soul actually enters the wolf for a time. When his soul returns to its human body the victim is exhausted and aches as though he had experienced violent exercise. This form is connected with a popular belief in vampires.

Werewolves seem to have been particularly active in France during the 16th century. Significantly, however, Encyclopaedia Britannica tells of French court cases in 1629 and 1633 in which convicted werewolves were treated as insane and not as metaphysical degenerates.

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"TORRID ZONE"

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8  
JACK OAKIE — PEGGY RYAN -in-  
"ON STAGE EVERYBODY"

WEDNESDAY—THURSDAY, JANUARY 9-10  
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By GENE BYRNES

## January 31 THE LAST DAY

FOR MEN NOW IN THE ARMY TO RETAIN THEIR PRESENT GRADES BY REENLISTING...

Men now in the Army who reenlist before February 1 will be reenlisted in their present grade. Men honorably discharged can reenlist within 20 days after discharge in the grade they held at the time of discharge, provided they reenlist before February 1, 1946.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW ENLISTMENT PROGRAM

- Enlistments for 1½, 2 or 3 years. (1-year enlistments permitted for men now in Army with 6 months' service.)
- Enlistment age from 17 to 34 years inclusive, except for men now in Army, who may reenlist at any age.
- Menreenlisting retain present grades, if they reenlist within 20 days after discharge and before February 1, 1946.
- The best pay scale, medical care, food, quarters and clothing in Army history.
- An increase in the reenlistment bonus to \$50 for each year of active service since such bonus was last paid, or since last entry into service.
- Up to 90 days' furlough, when pending on length of service, with furlough travel paid to home and return, for men now in Army who enlist.
- A 30-day furlough every year at full pay.
- Mustering-out pay (based upon length of service) to all men who are discharged to reenlist.
- Option to retire at half pay for life after 20 years' service—increasing to three-quarters pay after 30 years' service. All previous active federal military service counts toward retirement.
- Benefits under the GI Bill of Rights.
- Family allowances for the term of enlistment for dependents of men who enlist before July 1, 1946.
- Opportunity to learn one or more of 200 skills and trades.
- Choice of branch of service and overseas theater in the Air, Ground or Service Forces on 3-year enlistments.

ENLISTED MEN	MONTHLY RETIREMENT INCOME AFTER:		
	Starting Base Pay	20 Years' Service	30 Years' Service
In Addition to Food, Lodging, Clothes and Medical Care			
Master Sergeant	\$138.00	\$89.70	\$155.25
Technical Sergeant	114.00	74.10	128.25
Staff Sergeant	95.00	62.40	108.00
Sergeant	78.00	50.70	87.75
Corporal	66.00	42.90	74.25
Private First Class	54.00	35.10	60.75
Private	50.00	32.50	56.25

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