Merry-Go-Round

The G-Men And The Touhy Gang

By DREW PEARSON

(The Brass Ring—plastic for the duration—and a free ride on the Washington Merry-Go-Round, is awarded today to the G-Men of the Federal Bureau of Investigation).

WASHINGTON. — When handcuffed Basil "The Owl" Banghart, chief hatchet-man for the "Terrible Touhy" gang, was riding to the Chicago police station with J. Edgar Hoover, the super G-man asked him:

"Who was warden of Atlanta when you escaped, Basil?"

The gangster mentioned a name, then corrected himself with another name. "No," he added, "it wasn't either one of them. You know, Boss," he smiled at Hoover, "I've been in so many jags I just can't remember who the wardens were any more."

Then Banghart volunteered this information:

"You know, Boss, there are two kinds of wardens. There are the guys who want to watch every detail in the place and do everything themselves, and can't, because a jail's a big institution. Then there's the warden who sticks his chest out, walks around and leaves everything to others. Neither one is any good."

And he added that there wasn't any jail any place that a man couldn't get out of.

Banghart might also have said that in a good many jails it wasn't necessary to break out; a convict could let a lenient parole system do the trick. For with Banghart when he surrendered was Edward Darlak, who had been paroled 36 times for serious crimes, and after the 36th parole had murdered a policeman.

The present political parole system in many state penitentiaries is Hoover's enemy. And sometimes he wonders how soon it will be before the Touhy gang is out again, one way or the other; in which case, if the war is over, Hoover will have no legal grounds for arresting them. His only legal excuse this time was that they had failed to register change of address under the Selective Service Act. In other words, they had not informed the warden at Stateville, Ill., when they skipped, what their new address would be.

Hoover's Grey Cat

One of the first things the Touhy gang did after arriving in Chicago was to stage a series of hold-ups to get Draft Registration cards and Social Security cards. This was in case they should be caught in a traffic accident and the police demanded identification.

Their life in Chicago was organized along strict military lines. Banghart was the discipline, Touhy the brains. Banghart required two of the gang to remain on watch in the apartment every minute and when William Stewart let Matthew Nelson go out and get drunk, Banghart beat both up with his pistol butt and left them for dead. They were captured by the FBI before Christmas.

Afterwards the five remaining Touhy gangsters got two apartments, plus a farm in southern Illinois on which they planned to hide after pulling big jobs. They were all set for one of the worst crime waves ever experienced in crime-ridden Chicago.

To avoid detection they pulled some of the cleverest dodges the G-men have known. Every day they changed suits, hats and overcoats. Thus in shadowing them a block away, the G-men found it difficult to ascertain how many were in the gang. Moreover when one gangster went out, Banghart followed a block behind, a sawed-off shotgun under his overcoat, ready to put any police or shadowing G-men.

After days of watching, Hoover finally decided the time was ripe to close in and the G-men to the Leland Avenue apartment. It was 6 P. M. and they knew the apartment to be empty. Walking up the back stairs in the inky blackness, Hoover stepped on a cat. It let out a terrific yowl.

"Good Lord," whispered Hoover, "it's bad luck!"

"No," breathed Assistant Director E. J. Connelley, flashing on a light. "It wasn't a black cat. It was a grey one."

They took up the vigil in an apartment they had rented across the hall. Into the gangsters' room with a pass key, slipped two other G-men. Down the hall in a public toilet stood two more. No one in the neighborhood realized it, but the house was completely surrounded.

Hoover, Connelley and W. G. Bannister took turns peeping through a gimlet hole. It was tiring work. The apartment teemed with bedbugs. The three G-men writhed in agony.

Finally, about 11 P. M., word came that two of the gangsters had left the other apartment and were on the way. They arrived. James O'Connor put his key in the door, then paused. Something about the door had changed. He was suspicious, threw the door wide open. Inside were the silhouettes of the two waiting G-men.

The gangsters opened fire. The G-men returned the fire from three directions. McInerney took a swan dive over the railing and down the stairs, trying to escape. He was dead when he hit the landing. O'Connor died soon after.

Heads of tenants peeked out like rabbits all along the hall. "If this is the kind of place this is," exclaimed one irate woman, "I'm moving."

"By all means, Madame," replied Hoover, "but not until tomorrow."

The Zero Hour

No one was allowed to leave the apartment house until morning. The G-men wanted no word to get to the other gangsters. Meanwhile a midnight broadcast reported that two of the Touhy gangsters had been killed. The G-men held their breath for fear Touhy had his radio on, but he was asleep.

Meanwhile, a blackboard talk had been given at headquarters on the detailed strategy for taking the next apartment. Squad leaders were in charge of cars, lights, loudspeaker, handcuffs, ambulance, and different streets.

The plan was to wait for the zero hour of 5 A. M. Meanwhile, Hoover and three others planted machine-guns behind a barricade of mattresses, immediately opposite Touhy's door.

All watches were set by observatory time. At exactly one minute of five, G-men, with searchlights attached to storage batteries, placed them on the street and focused them on the gangsters' apartment. Then the loud-speaker called out for the gangsters to surrender, "Banghart first," because he was considered the most dangerous.

After ten minutes a thin scared voice said: "I'm coming out. Wait till I get my overcoat on."

"Come without your overcoat, and make sure there are no guns in your pockets," was the reply.

Banghart came. Hoover grabbed him. As the gangster turned, he recognized the G-man chief and said: "I make you out from your picture."

Hoover Organization

Then came Touhy and Darlak. As they lay handcuffed and shackled on the mattresses, Hoover remarked to the 44-year-old Touhy, in red pajamas and provided hair:

"What do you think of yourself now?"

No answer.

"He and 'saving Boss' spoke up Banghart. "But I can tell you what he thinks. He's thinking as Fibber Magee said to Molly the other night: 'It ain't funny any more.'"

As Banghart shuffled into the freight elevator at the police station, he looked down at his shackles and remarked to Hoover:

"Ten years ago you couldn't have done this to me. But, Boss"—and the thin-veined gangster who had escaped from more jails than you can remember looked up almost admiringly at Hoover—"you got an organization now."

He has.

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Rail Cars Connected To 3-Tier Sleepers

WASHINGTON —(AP)— The railroads and the Pullman Company have underway a program for the conversion of about 800 railroad lounge, club, observation and parlor or chair cars into coaches or three-tier sleeping cars.

The Office of Defense Transportation, disclosing this today, described the program as one designed to stretch existing equipment to meet unprecedented military and civilian demands for passenger service.

The railroads have estimated the program will add 35,000 seats and to take number of sleeping accommodations.

CHARLOTTE HERO FLIES WHERE KING TUT TROD—Sergeant George Bickett Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. George Bickett Sr. of the Derita Section, has sent home pictures of Egypt and the North African desert, where, recently, he was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross. Top, left: Sergeant Bickett in flying uniform as gunner and engineer; top, right, the sergeant inspects the ancient ruins. Dimly in the background are the Pyramids and the Sphinx. Lower left, he is seen sitting on Axis bombs in the desert which, he writes: "Rommel didn't get to take with him." Lower right, the Charlotte flyer inspects an abandoned German dugout in the wake of Rommel's retreat.

Give Year's Egg Program

Will Operate In North Carolina

Early operation of the Southern Egg Marketing Program for the 1943 production season in North Carolina was assured today by Hillman Moody, State representative of the Food Distribution Administration. Contract forms have been sent out to egg dealers and other interested agencies. The signed contracts must be returned by Jan. 15, which date falls several weeks ahead of the heavy production period.

The program in North Carolina is being handled through a committee composed of representatives of the Farmers Co-operatives throughout the state, North Carolina Department of Agriculture, North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, North Carolina USDA War Board and the Food Distribution Administration. Under the program the minimum prices that contractors will pay for eggs will be announced from time to time. Eggs bought by the contractors may be sold to Army camps, defense plants, or to the local trade at prevailing retail or wholesale prices. The eggs also may be sold to the FDA in lots of ten cases or more at the locally announced price plus 4 cents a dozen to cover operating costs. The FDA will buy all eggs that cannot be handled through other channels.

PRICE OF EGGS

In early December, Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard, in announcing production goals for 1943, stated that the average price of eggs would not be allowed to fall below certain support levels. These levels will be based on a U. S. average farm price of 30 cents a dozen during the Spring and Summer months and a 34-cent average price for the year. Mr. Moody said that in the South the announced prices will be related to these levels. Since the average farm price is made up of prices for all grades of eggs sold by farmers in all parts of the country, there will necessarily be some variation above and below the average price in different localities.

Announcement will be made at an early date interpreting for each marketing area its average price relationship with the U. S. average farm price, Mr. Moody said. He explained that a 30 cents a dozen average farm price support level in the Spring does not mean that every farmer in every state will receive exactly 30 cents a dozen. Individual prices may fluctuate somewhat above or below the average.

The Southern Egg Marketing Program has been made available for operation in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Draft Board Seeks 55 Men

All Given Until Jan 15 to Answer

Draft Board No. 4, of which Mrs. C. E. Knight is chief clerk, is looking for 55 men who have failed to keep their records straight with the board. They will have until the 15th to get right, when their names will be turned over to the higher authorities for action. The list follows:

White: Thomas William Crouch, Clarence John Glover, William Bill Turner, Carl T. McClover, Claude Edward Jackson, Robert Wesley Emory, David Franklin Russell, Carl Adam Brown, Curtis Andrew Capps, Robert Lee Davis Jr., James Daniel Cannupp, William Edward Ellis, Jimmie Lee Overcash, Otis Summerville Carter, for failure to return questionnaires; William Dewey Whitener, who failed to comply with induction order.

Colored: Charlie Lee Watson, Royden Sherrill, Guffie Melchor, Thomas Davis, Sam Stroud, Robert Lee Reid, Frank Pate, Cleveland Hudson, Bob Booker, Leonard Barnett, Head Dawkins, Will Stensed, Dorell Hall, James Miller, Wilma Deese, John Prater, General Chisolm, Brutus Newsome, Shanter McRae, Robert Paul Reeder, William Morris Jr., John Stanley, Torrence Tribble Jr., Willie Reid, for failure to return questionnaires; Justice Thomoth Steel, Ruben V. Henderson, Robert Erwin, James Hall, Roosevelt Belk Harrison, John Wesley Hollis, Frank Brooks, Marvin Glenn, Horace Richard Nelson, James Edward Ventson, James Abernethy, David Gaither, Joseph Wright, Thomas Mason, Clerit Bratton, Will Alexander, for disregarding or to report for examination.

Crigler Installs St. Marks Deacons

Installed last night as deacons of St. Mark's Lutheran Church were E. R. Cannon, Dr. W. Z. Kibler, H. B. Wolf, R. R. Rhyne, P. M. Simpson and J. F. Eckard. The Rev. J. F. Crigler officiated.

OPA Repeats Warning Of Greater Rationing

Forecast Made That "Point" Rationing of Many Foods Probably Will Start Feb. 15

Reiterated warning that Mr. and Mrs. Average Citizen and their non-combatant children must continue tightening their belts came down through Office of Price Administration channels into Charlotte today with an informal forecast that "point" rationing will be started probably Feb. 15.

Initially, point rationing will relate to canned, dried and frozen foods. Around March 15, however, a long list of meat cuts and processed meat products will be included under this method of distribution to consumers.

Prior to the start of this system, the consumers will be required to obtain ration book No. 2. The date for that distribution has not been announced. Each person applying for book No. 2 must surrender book No. 1, and persons who have deferred obtaining book No. 1 will be permitted to apply for it not later than Jan. 15 at the proper local war price and ration board.

FOOD WAR WEAPON

The OPA district agency here pointed out today that, since "food is a war weapon, too," the point rationing plan is "destined to reach even deeper into the American pantry," than the food sales restrictions already in force. With the consumers accustoming themselves to the recently curtailed butter supply, the Federal agencies acted to bolster butter production by imposing an additional 10 per cent reduction in allowable quantities of commercial ice cream and frozen deserts containing cream.

Men and women here engaged in administering the food rationing readily admit that the approaching advent of the point system will impose an additional heavy burden of paperwork and purchasing upon wholesalers and retailers. While a "boon" to the consumer by assuring "everyone an equal share of scarce items," as the OPA expressed it, the retail will have the new problem of securing his fair quota from the distributors, wholesalers and producers.

The OPA's local boards hereabouts also continued today to struggle with fuel oil rationing problems, with a further 25 per cent reduction in allowances for non-residential structures soon to be made effective. The present prospect is painful not only for occupants of the affected buildings in the Charlotte area but also throughout the entire Eastern Seaboard.

RELIEF PROMISED

However, for the future, perhaps late in March, some relief was promised in reports reaching the OPA offices from Washington. This report said a great pipeline extending from Texas into Illinois, and thence to be extended eastward through connections with existing lines, is expected to be delivering by March about 300,000 barrels daily. This will make possible, according to the report received here, a net daily increase of 120,000 barrels of fuel oil and other petroleum products for the East Coast.

That line indirectly will benefit the Southeast by easing somewhat the burden now imposed upon the Plantation Pipe Line Co. system serving the Carolinas and Virginia. In the Carolinas, however, the Winter will have passed with the advent of March, and fuel oil needs will be decreasing rapidly. Nevertheless, with gasoline strictly rationed and the vacation season then approaching, March and April will be accompanied by an increased demand in the Carolinas for motor fuel.

Every state in the region where grasshopper outbreaks are a serious farming hazard has at least 100 species of grasshoppers.

NOTICE OF SALE OF ADDISON PHARMACY
AND
NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP

North Carolina
Mecklenburg County

NOTICE is hereby given that the partnership heretofore existing between W. S. Lowery and C. M. Westbrook, trading and doing business under the firm name and style of ADDISON PHARMACY, located at No. 835 East Morehead Street, Charlotte, North Carolina, has this day been dissolved by mutual consent of the partners.

The said business has been sold to Mr. H. Ray Armstrong, of Charlotte, N. C., and will in the future be conducted under the firm name and style of ADDISON PHARMACY, and the said W. S. Lowery and C. M. Westbrook will have no further interest in said Addison Pharmacy.

This the 1st day of January, 1943.

Commercial Trucks Must Cut Mileage

Some Industries May Be Wiped Out, Former ODT Official Tells Senators

WASHINGTON — (AP) — John Turney, former official of the Office of Defense Transportation, told a special Senate committee today that commercial motor vehicle mileage must be cut 40 per cent or "some industries using trucks are going to be wiped off the map."

The 40 per cent reduction, he said, was necessary to keep motor transportation operating within the rubber allotment. Rubber allocated for tires on commercial vehicles for 1943 is 45 per cent of the consumption in 1941, he said.

FARM TRUCKS CUT

Under the ODT order requiring certificates of convenience and necessity for truck owners to obtain gasoline and tires, the mileage of farm trucks had been reduced about 10 per cent, Turney said, with a higher reduction indicated in the mileage of other commercial transportation.

Turney put into effect the mileage limitation system before leaving ODT to resume the practice of law in Washington.

He recommended to the Senators that gasoline rationing for farm trucks be transferred to the Department of Agriculture's county war boards. He added that this was his "own judgment, not that of ODT". He said he thought the agricultural boards were better equipped to handle rationing for farmers than the Office of Price Administration and the ODT, which fixes mileages for the OPA.

Turney said that if he "had to do it over again", he would "segregate" farm gasoline rationing from that for other commercial vehicles for two reasons:

1. Farm trucks are used not only for transporting goods but also as a passenger vehicle.

2. "If you are going to restrict the operation of farm vehicles, you ought to have people with farm knowledge and we did not have it."

Would King Cole Be Merry With Stomach Ulcer Pains?

The legendary Old King Cole might not have been a merry old soul if he had stomach ulcer pains. Sufferers who have to pay the penalty of stomach or ulcer pains, indigestion, gas pains, heartburn, burning sensation, bloat and other conditions caused by excess acid, should try Udga and they, too, may be merry. Get a 25c box of Udga Tablets from your druggist. First dose must convince or return box to us and get DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK.

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Girls Care for Boys In This Army World

LIBERTY Mo. — (AP) — Even boy-meets-girl isn't like it used to be.

"For sixteen years, I have had to warn the boys to get the girls back to the campus on time, after their dates," explains Mrs. H. I. Hester, wife of the president of William Jewell College.

"Now, with naval aviation cadets here, I have to warn the girls that the boys must be back in their quarters by 9:30 o'clock."

"You know, Martha, we have been talking back and forth on the telephone for years. It is one of the most enjoyable breaks in the day for me. Right now, though, I called to ask you to help me help our best friend—Uncle Sam!

"They tell me that he makes *millions* of vital war calls every day and all his calls come on *top* of the calls folks like you and me make every day!

"It never dawned on me until yesterday at our Red Cross meeting, when we were chatting about cutting down on coffee and sugar, that curtailing our non-essential telephone chats would make any difference to the war effort. Here's how it was explained to me: Every call we make must go through the same busy switchboards that handle war calls.

"So you see if we, and everyone else, talk less we will help to keep busy telephone equipment free for prompt handling of the vital business of war. I don't mean for us to stop calling altogether, but just that we not call so often and try not to talk so long when we do call."

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