

CHICKEN TRACKS—The cock shoe, left, and the hen shoe, right, make a pair in Rome where Albanese has designed the fowl items. The shoes feature gold leather beaks and red leather combs.

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State Commission Has Difficult Task

By HORTENSE MYERS
United Press International
INDIANAPOLIS (UPI)—Householders who have faced the moving day and spring house cleaning problem of what to keep and what to throw away can sympathize with the Indiana Public Records Commission.

This little-known commission, headed by Governor Handley, has the difficult job of deciding what records and papers may be destroyed and what must be preserved for all state departments, agencies and commissions.

Just now it is in the process of making decisions preparatory for the big move into the new State Office Building, scheduled to begin Dec. 1.

Harold F. Brigham, director of the state library, as secretary of the commission, gets all the requests from state officials for proposed destruction of records and all the other tons of paper stuff accumulated in government.

3 Paper Classes

Brigham explained that all such paper is divided into three classes: (1) current records used daily or frequently in the operation of the department or agency; (2) intermediate records used only occasionally and (3) historical, permanent records.

"Only about 10 per cent of the mass of public records become permanent records," Brigham explained. "The other 90 per cent is destroyed within five to 10 years. The chief problems are with the intermediate records. Nobody knows when they can be disposed of. They are usually put in storage somewhere—a basement, a closet—until they finally reach the ceiling. Then like a good housewife, the state must do a sorting job."

The commission which has the legal responsibility for this housewife task for Indiana is composed entirely of ex officio members. In addition to the state librarian and the governor, they are the secretary of state, John R. Walsh; the chief examiner for the state board of accounts, Thomas M. Hindman, and the state historical bureau director, Hubert H. Hawkins.

Each is expected to determine from the standpoint of his own specialized field whether or not a "state document" may be destroyed. Of 66 requests made thus far by departments which will move into the new state office building, the commission has acted on 46 of them and has 20 more to go.

The state archivist, Miss Margaret Pierson, is the only "assistant."

State Needs Plan

"What we need is some records management plan," Brigham said. "As it is now the commission has the responsibility but the work is on the periphery of other people's jobs with the exception of Miss Pierson."

Brigham said he had hoped that the new state office building would contain a "records retention area" in the basement.

"If we had that, then he could plan which to preserve and which to eliminate. But now the State Office Building Commission has eliminated this from the plans."

"Instead it has designated the basement of the Statehouse as the records retention area. Now the question is—who will be in charge



IN NEW YORK—Robert Kennedy, brother and campaign manager of Democratic presidential nominee John F. Kennedy, announces appointment of Anthony P. Akers to head an independent group for Kennedy in New York City.

of the catacombs?"

Brigham spoke in the tone of a housewife who came home and found that her basement laundry room had been appropriated for a toolroom.

"We're trying to organize space for storage of financial records that must be kept 20 years. You can make a bad mistake when it comes to destroying records," he said.

Miss Pierson explained that microfilming is being increasingly used, but only for records which will be kept for more than seven years, and this still leaves a mounting stack of paper, including many duplications.

Unlike the housewife, the commission cannot move out and leave its disposal problem to the next occupant. Once records are approved for discard, they must be destroyed. Of 66 requests made thus far by departments which will move into the new state office building, the commission has acted on 46 of them and has 20 more to go.

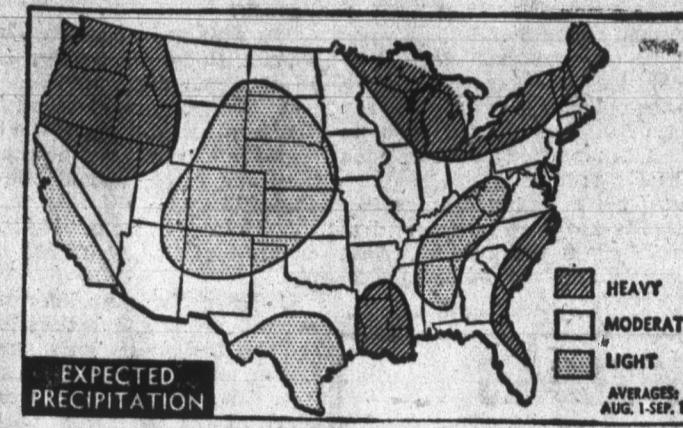
Circus Hits Road

NEW YORK (UPI)—The Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus set out on what was described as its most extensive tour after closing its 46-day engagement at Madison Square Garden here May 15.

Beginning with Boston, nine engagements will cover the period through June 30, when the show takes a vacation until Aug. 5 when performances are resumed in Omaha. Thereafter it will trek westward to the West Coast, then double back through the Midwest and South for the windup Dec. 4.

Quite A Batsman

PITTSBURGH (UPI)—Lloyd (Little Poison) Waner, Pittsburgh outfielder, collected 198 singles during the 1927 season.



Above average rainfall coincides generally with areas of below normal temperatures, according to Weather Bureau outlook.

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