

## The Indianapolis Times

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FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1936.

## FUTURE HOMES

INDIANAPOLIS next week will have an opportunity to study at close range some of the problems in one phase of national recovery—housing. Sponsored by the Indianapolis Real Estate Board, Real Estate Week will open Saturday with a breakfast meeting and will be climaxed next Thursday and Friday by the second annual convention of the Great Lakes region of the National Association of Real Estate Boards.

Eighty-five boards in Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan, affiliated with the national association will take part. National leaders describe the meeting as a "work convention," explaining, "Speakers are confined strictly to those who can from their own knowledge and experience give some practical suggestions for real estate action in the period immediately ahead." Fifteen Indiana boards will be represented.

Apparently foreseeing vast changes in their problems, realtors are planning a broad educational program in real estate management, brokerage and appraisal. How well they plan is important, in view of the nation-wide housing shortage. The shortage is estimated at 2,000,000 houses. Taking up the slack will involve a huge construction program.

Realtors know rising construction is inevitable, but, as John T. Flynn wrote in his financial column in The Times the other day, private building speculators have scarcely touched the field. Many Federal Home Loan Banks and affiliated building and loan associations report they are almost begging borrowers to use their funds. Public housing projects here and elsewhere figure in the general picture.

The attack on slums by the Federal government is making headway, but the big problem ahead is getting action on private construction.

## LOPHOLE LEGISLATION

A NEW Guffey coal control bill is before Congress, the third attempt by a great American industry to save itself from economic ruin through government regulation.

The new bill is, indeed, a shorn lamb, which its framers pray will be spared the harsh winds that struck down its predecessor. It is a simple price-fixing device rescinding the anti-trust law's application to coal, enabling the industry through a coal commission to put a bottom to sagging coal prices. On Monday four Supreme Court justices held the old Guffey act's price-fixing features constitutional and the rest did not pass upon that feature.

What of labor and what of the consumers?

The new bill has no such labor provisions as the high court's majority said were unconstitutional, no guarantee of collective bargaining, no coal mine labor board, no method of code agreement by majority rule on wage scales. Therefore the miners would have to rely on their own bargaining power to keep wages above the starvation level. Price stabilization will help them by permitting mine-owners to pay union wages. As President Lewis of United Mine Workers says, without stabilization no wage agreements have a chance.

The day after the news of Monday's decision was flashed across the continent coal prices dropped \$1 a ton at the Colorado mines. With stabilization and a high degree of management and union co-operation, such as exists in the men's garment industry, wages might be kept steady. Without either of these the coal mines would once again become battlegrounds of labor strife.

The dangers of price-fixing, of course, are in its menace to consumers. In this industry such dangers would be minimized by coal's competitors, oil, gas and electricity. But no industrial regulation will work without strong government participation.

Thanks to Monday's divided Supreme Court opinion the proposed bill lacks the statesmanship behind either the NRA coal code or the old Guffey act. It might help the stricken coal industry. But it will never be what it was hoped the Guffey-Snyder law would become—a model for governmental stabilization and planning for all interstate industries.

## FLANNER HOUSE

OPEN house today at Flanner House, the city's oldest social service institution for Negroes, will give many persons an opportunity to get acquainted with the splendid work of this specialized training center, employment bureau and nursery.

Flanner House, one of the charitable organizations aided by the Community Fund, performs a valuable service in the community. Visitors will see how the children of working mothers are cared for in the nursery and free kindergarten.

They will see how women are trained in cooking, sewing and laundry work, and are helped in getting jobs. The health clinics and the boys' shop are other important activities.

Much of the credit for the present high standards at Flanner House properly goes to the new superintendent, Cleo W. Blackburn, and his capable assistants. Young Mr. Blackburn is a graduate of Butler and Fisk universities and a man of wide training in his chosen field.

## THE HOUSING BILL

THE surprisingly little opposition developed at hearings on the Wagner-Ellenbogen slum abatement bill is due, we believe, to a general approval of its social aims and economic needs.

What opposition did appear, however, was sincere and should be answered. What were the arguments against undertaking this program now?

First, that there is no need for this measure because there is no housing shortage. This point is disputed by a preponderance of authority. To cite one of standing—the Public Administration Clearing House of Chicago estimates on a basis of census figures a need for 7,700,000 additional dwelling units during the next 10 years. This does not include replacement of unfit, dilapidated buildings now occupied.

Next, that a scarcity of purchasing power and not a housing shortage, causes these conditions. One of

the chief causes for scarcity of purchasing power in this country is the lag which has characterized the so-called heavy industries during the whole depression. Other industries have picked up. But the "heavies," generally speaking, are still in the doldrums. And to more than any other single cause this lag is due to lack of building. Nothing would more sharply stimulate employment and its consequent purchasing power in the heavy industries than just such a program as that contemplated in the slum abatement bill. We can learn from the experience of others. England's vast public housing program resulted in a private home building boom as well as in greatly increased factory production.

Next, it has been contended that publicly financed housing kills thrift and discourages initiative. Again we may look at the record of England. There the result was the opposite. Between 1919 and 1933 total assets of British building societies (institutions like our private building and loan associations) increased from 77 million to 501 million pounds, a 600 per cent improvement.

SOMETIMES during the first year of "Modern Art" (1893), Joe Bowles sent a letter with a money order for \$1.75 to William Morris in Hammersmith, England. In return he got a volume printed on the Kelmscott Press. He sent a lot of money orders after that with the result that he had the earliest and best shelf of Morris books in this part of the country. None of them cost more than \$1.75.

These books were passed around Indianapolis at the time among artists and "The Gentlemen's Literary Club" (now the Indianapolis Literary Club), a group made up mostly of lawyers, doctors and preachers who went in for the feel of fine books.

Bruce Rogers bit his finger nails when he saw the first Morris book, and knew exactly what he was going to do next, granted that he ever got the chance.

THE chance came by way of Baltimore. Sometime during 1894, Bowles got an order to print a book in the style of "Modern Art" descriptive of the paintings in the famous collection of William T. Walters of Baltimore and based on some articles written by our own Richard B. Gruelle which had appeared in the quarterly.

Gruelle had been East and while there had taken in the Walters collection. He wrote an enthusiastic letter to a friend back home and Bowles, somehow, got wind of it. The result was a piece by Gruelle in the first number of "Modern Art." Gruelle was smart enough to send Mr. Walters a copy and it tickled him pink.

Not long after, Gruelle received an invitation to visit Mr. Walters in his home in Mount Vernon Place in Baltimore.

"Mr. Gruelle," said Mr. Walters, "I have been looking for you for 25 years; you are the first man I have found who could create word-painting for these pictures; that is what I desire."

Mr. Gruelle came home with a handsome contract in his pocket.

BOWLES and Rogers decided to print the book in the style of the Kelmscott Press and got Mr. Walters' permission to do so. Rogers did the title page and all the decorations and initials. Hollenbeck did the printing.

The edition consisted of 975 copies in red and black on Michallet paper and six copies on Whatman rubricated by hand. Heaven only knows where these copies are now. Brandt Steele and the State Library, to our knowledge, have copies, but they are extremely rare.

Before the book was ready for distribution, Bowles sent some trial printings to William Morris for criticism. They were returned with notations on the margins in Morris' hand. "The ink is too pink" was one of them. Bowles followed the suggestions and then threw away the autographed book!

Thirty men selected from the South Bend police force in adaptability tests are being given 10 days' intensive training in accident investigation, the Police Chiefs' News Letter explains. These men will man the bureau. A record system is being set up. The city's traffic system and equipment are to be modernized completely. A Civic Safety Council has been formed.

Intelligent efforts of this kind may be expected to point the way to a reduction in traffic hazards.

## A WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

WHY do women think with their emotions?

The inference our gentleman puts upon this question is that we have nothing else to think with. And yet we will remind him, emotional thinking is the only force that has moved the race forward. Pure reason and plain logic are excellent so far as they go; only they never go far enough.

The greatest scientific and mechanical geniuses are actuated by emotion, for most of their splendid work is done under the urge to better conditions or prolong the life of their fellows. All their dreams are colored with visions of the future age when men will be benefited because of their efforts.

Also the humanitarians, men and women who have lifted themselves and their kind a notch or two above the dead level of existence, have been individuals whose thinking was tintured by the emotions of understanding and pity and love. A list of their names is long and impressive; Norman Thomas, Will Rogers, Jane Addams, H. G. Wells, Emerson, Lincoln, Washington, Shakespeare, Helene, Erasmus, Luther, Confucius, Buddha and Jesus of Nazareth. We could go on all day and still the list would be incomplete.

For that reason I take it as a fine compliment to our sex that women are accused of thinking too much with their emotions. It would be well for the world if more men would do the same. For emotion proves also the possession of an imagination, without which no real progress is possible.

Until the people who are capable of constructive thought, that is to say the real leadership of nations, are ready to use both imagination and emotion as they view harassed and betrayed humanity, there is no logic can save us. The impulse which causes us to suffer when others are in anguish is the divine glow within us.

In the last analysis feminine thought—or lack of thought, if the gentleman so wills, is our saving grace. "Love thy neighbor as thyself." So said the greatest of emotional thinkers. Now two thousand years later, though many still regard the idea as impossibly fantastic, we are beginning to see that there is more reason and logic than sentimentality behind the words.

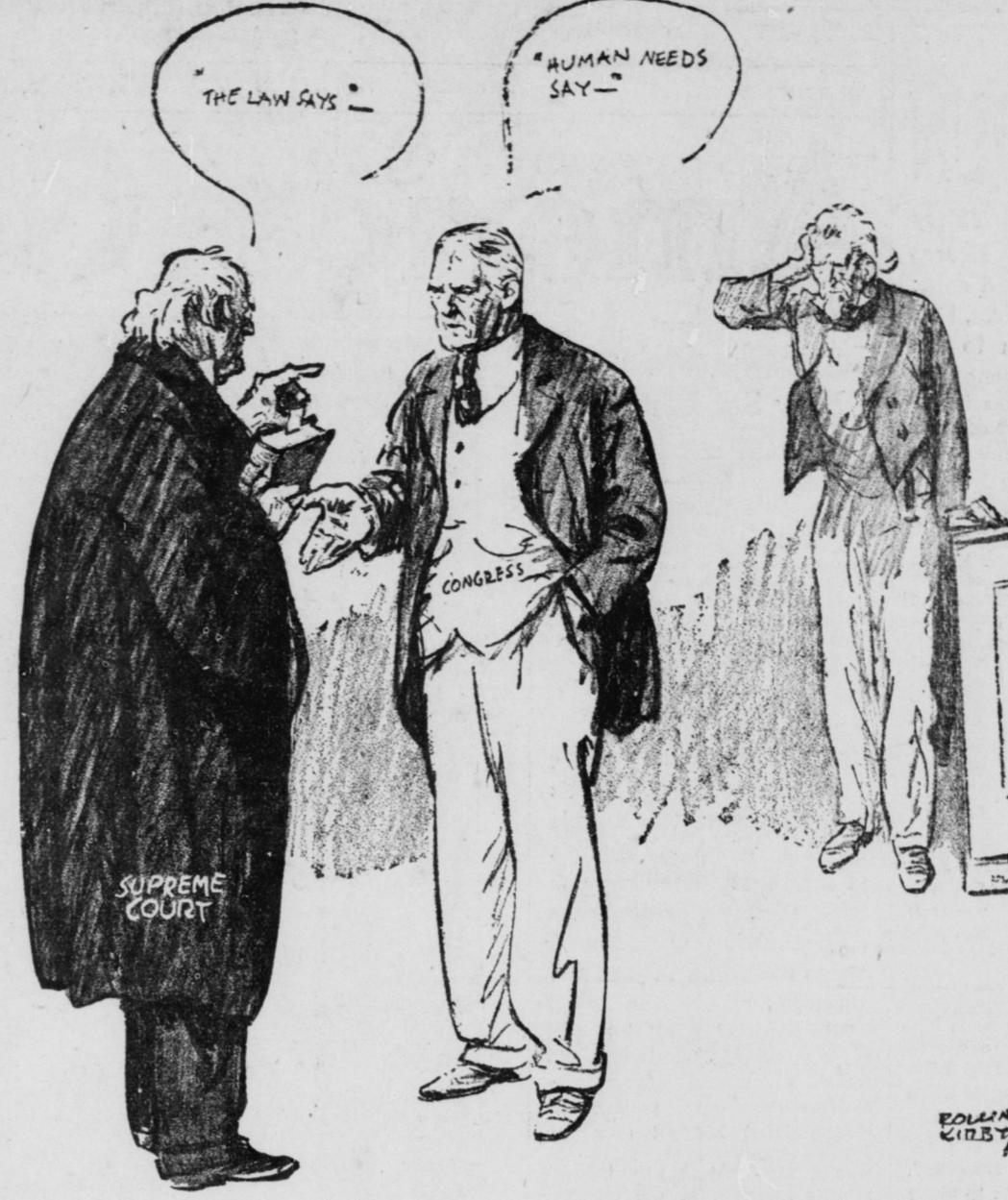
## THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

## Our Town

By ANTON SCHERRER

(This is the second of two articles on Bruce Rogers and Joe Bowles.)

## WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT?



## The Hoosier Forum

I disapprove of what you say—and will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire.

Times readers are invited to express their views in these columns, religious controversies excluded. Make your letters short, so all can have a chance. Limit them to 250 words or less. Your letter must be signed, but names will be withheld on request.

## CITES OVERHEAD CHARGES IN INSURANCE

By H. L. Seeger

Yours editorial on May 12 headed "Personal Security" gave a vivid picture of the striving of individuals to avoid personal insecurity through the insurance medium.

The figures were illuminating as to the amount spent in the state and nation to provide protection from hazards.

We boast of our great insurance organizations and their service in handling the savings of patrons. While we brag about it, we lose sight of a very important matter which deals with the overhead in the operation of the insurance business. The "protection" from which the buyer receives the benefits is only slightly more than 50 per cent of the gross income.

The overlapping due to competition in this business, as well as in most others, provides an enormous overhead, which is responsible for the excessive overhead charges to the customer.

But after all, this type of security is very insignificant, because it deals with credits, and not with items and factors that really deter-

mine and create personal and social security.

With all the insurance now in force amounting to over 100 billions, we have no assurance of an abundant production program for industry that will insure a higher standard of living, such as might easily be obtained if we would permit our industries to produce at full capacity.

However, these facts are not recognized, so these youngsters grasp any opportunity for gaining the necessary experience.

There are certain unethical schools operated by individuals who advertise for clerical help to exchange light office work or other employment for business training. This training, in most cases, is quite inadequate for a beginning student and repetition for one who has already been trained. It would be just as simple to rent a typewriter and practice at home, since that is the way the course is conducted.

Nevertheless, the person operating the school receives \$2 to \$5 per week from the student's employer. The student receives no salary—excepting in some instances when carfare and lunch money are paid.

Evidently these employers have a fairly profitable business, else they would not need assistance. But what sort of citizens are they when they will exploit youth in such a way and at the same time enrich individuals who have perfected a racket?

What sort of attitudes are these youngsters going to develop after spending at least 12 years in school preparing for "life" only to learn that not only are the gates of opportunity closed against them, but that certain members of the adult population who have "made good" are feeding them applesauce instead of the well-balanced meal promised? And, remember, this youth is part of our future generation.

ADOLESCENCE

BY POLLY LOIS NORTON

She stands within her airy room in scant attire, Possessions flung around heap every chair, Her bed, unmade, drips lengths of pastel shades And morning snuggles tangle her light hair.

She stands before her mirror in deep concern, Around her feet discarded life-masks, leer, While she tries on the one shell wear today—

Which shall it be, indifference, laugh, or sneer? She rather likes sophistication's face,

Discards the beauty wisdom and time beneath; How quaint, and oh, how very young she is

To hide with masks the innocence beneath!

SIDE GLANCES

How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights!—Soprano's Song 7:6

LOVE lessens woman's delicacy, and increases man's.—Richter.

## Vagabond

from Indiana

ERNE PYLE

EDITOR'S NOTE—This roving reporter for The Times goes where he pleases, when he pleases, in search of odd stories about this and that.

BY ERNE PYLE  
EL PASO, Tex., May 22.—You couldn't prove it by it whether a Mexican divorce is legal or not, but I know a man in El Paso who has turned out more than 4000 of them in three years. And he says he's never had one kick back on him yet.

He is a Mexican, around 40, I'd say. His complexion is so light and his clothes so Wall Streetish you'd hardly know he wasn't an American.

He lives and keeps an office in El Paso, and practices before the courts in Juarez, across the river. He speaks good English and drives big cars and makes a great deal of money.

He told me he handles 65 per cent of all the divorces obtained in Mexico. He charges \$200 a throw, rich or poor, take it or leave it.

Some days he has no new customers at all, and some days he has as many as 20. He averages four or five a day.

HE has handled the divorces for 97 prominent movie stars, he says, and about 60 who aren't so prominent. The ones he liked best were Norma Talmadge, Claudette Colbert and Sally Eilers.

He was chagrined about Claudette. She blew in, and gave her right name, whatever it is, and he didn't recognize her. Didn't know who she was until a couple of hours later.

He is crazy about Norma Talmadge. After her divorce, he ran on to her one night in a Chicago night club. Norma invited his whole party to her table and they popped corks and had a big time. He says Norma is sweet and kind to everybody.

About 65 per cent of his divorces are by mutual consent. In that case, he can get a divorce in a couple of hours. If there isn't mutual consent, it takes from 25 days to a month.

He hasn't a very high regard for the motives of people who get divorces. He says they don't really want freedom; lots of them are divorced and married again within a few minutes.

YOU can get married in Mexico without even being there. Get married by proxy. My friend serves as the proxy.

He has stood up and been married to 101 women (in his role of proxy, of course), and once he was a bride.

One morning two middle-aged couples flew in from New York in a special plane. They wanted to get unhooked. Since it was mutual consent, he got them unhooked about two hours.

And then they said they wanted to get married again—but not to the same wives. They just switched around. That night they had a big party, to celebrate. They invited my friend along.

The newlyweds got to drinking a little, and the first thing knew one wife had got jealous of her ex-husband, and started screaming and pulling hair, and there was quite a rumpus. But they all flew away together next day.

My friend is a graduate of the University of Mexico. He lived a short time in New York.

HE rides political horses, and he rode the wrong horse once and became a political exile. Couldn't even go back across the river. But he's on the right side now.

The thing he hates worst of all is when people know come for a divorce. He has divorced four of his best friends. He was very much upset about it. He is married himself, but doesn't intend to avail himself of his own legal services.