

The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

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THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1936.

MERIT PLAN BACKED

PUBLIC-SPRITED citizens will applaud the action of the Republican state convention yesterday in adopting the merit system platform plank proposed by the Indiana League of Women Voters. The platform pledge reads:

"We recommend the installation of a system of public personnel management in the state government comparable to sound methods of personnel administration in business.

"The purpose of such a system would be to insure the employment of qualified persons on the basis of proved merit; to classify the civil service so that equal pay for equal work will be assured and unnecessary positions eliminated; and to provide for control of personnel so that promotions and discharges will be made on the basis of performance on the job and not on the basis of partisan political activity or personal bias.

"We recognize the necessity of adequate training for government employees and pledge ourselves to co-operate with the educational institutions of the state in their programs of preparing persons for the many types of governmental positions which require a good educational background, skill and technical knowledge."

THE first part of this pledge was placed in the Republican state platform two years ago at the League's request. Officials of the League say the new plank, in addition to urging a merit system based upon competitive examinations, would provide other tests of fitness going beyond civil service examinations into the field of public personnel management.

The platform threw down a challenge to the Democrats, criticizing the growth of the spoils system in state and federal governments.

The League of Women Voters will offer the merit system plank to the Democratic state convention. The League also is campaigning to force strong merit plank into the two national platforms. Growing sentiment against the pernicious system of political patronage cannot be ignored.

The Indianapolis Times congratulates the Republican state convention on its stand in favor of trained experts chosen for public careers regardless of politics. The Democratic Party should join in this movement to eliminate the extravagance and waste of the spoils system from public office.

But of course there is one thing even more important than a good pledge—and that is living up to it.

DR. ARNOLD BENNETT HALL

THE death in Washington of Dr. Arnold Bennett Hall removes from the national scene a Hoosier who contributed much in the field of governmental research. Born at Franklin, Ind., 54 years ago, and graduated from Franklin College in 1904, Dr. Hall was the author of several books on political science. As an educator for many years, and as director of government research activities of the Brookings Institution in Washington, Dr. Hall played an important part in public affairs.

ALIENS, GOOD AND BAD

NOT even the sternest patrioteer of the House Immigration Committee was able to resist Lena and Janet Hendel, foreign born though they are, when they appeared in Washington with their six handsome little American boys and girls—and pleaded that they be saved from deportation.

The committee members asked the youngsters about their schools, heard their intelligent American answers, saw 2-year-old David cry bitterly when separated for only a few moments from his mother, and heard her wish that she might die rather than live on in a foreign land without him. Then and there most of the congressmen went on record for leniency.

Yet the Hendels are not among the 2862 aliens recommended by the Labor Department, in connection with the Kerr-Coolidge bill, for permanent residence in this country.

The department has nothing against the Hendels but they came in on fraudulent passports, purchased in Berlin apparently in good faith from an unscrupulous attaché of the American consulate. Technically, the department ruled, they were guilty of moral turpitude.

The point is that the 2862 cases for which the Kerr-Coolidge bill would provide are even more deserving. Yet some of the very congressmen who were moved by this one flesh-and-blood problem before them have been denouncing the department for "letting down the flood gates to aliens," and have been blocking passage of the Kerr-Coolidge bill.

These congressmen no longer can claim the support of the American Federation of Labor in their stand. President William Green has written the chairman of the Senate Immigration Committee expressing a hope that the bill, with a few amendments he suggests, will pass "within the very near future." He points out that the portions of the bill dealing with alien criminals strengthen deportation law considerably.

The Seventy-Fourth Congress is almost over. But enough time remains to deal with this urgent human problem as it should be dealt with, intelligently and without prejudice or demagoguery.

The bill lets down no flood gates. The number for whom deportation may be stayed is definitely limited and is hedged about with many sound restrictions. For every person allowed to remain here permanently, the quota of his native land is reduced that much. And for every alien of good character permitted to stay, two criminal aliens are made deportable by the bill.

THEY'LL BUY TOBACCO, ETC.

"I wonder often what the Vintners buy One half so precious as the stuff they sell." Thus soliloquized wise old Omar, from beneath his fig tree. And in this inquiring spirit, we might well ponder the new French-American reciprocal trade agreement. For because that treaty reduces our tariffs on still wines and champagnes and brandies, French vintners are going to sell more of the "precious stuff" in the U. S. A. And for the same reason, so too will French lacemakers and cigar paper manufacturers and mushroom canners and corset makers and breadstick weavers sell us more of their products.

What will they buy with the American dollars

we pay for their wines and champagnes and mushrooms and corsets?

First, it may be assumed that they will purchase larger quantities of all the things they already buy from us, the products of our farms and mines and factories, including notably oil and cotton and food-stuffs.

Second, they will purchase proportionately even larger quantities of things for which the new treaty reduces existing French tariffs and expands or eliminates existing French quotas of American goods. These include fresh fruit, dried fruit, canned fruit, canned asparagus, rice, tobacco, canned and frozen fish, lumber, motion picture films, automobiles and parts, refrigerators, radios, typewriters, tractors and agricultural machinery.

SOME alarmists contend that our lowering of tariffs will result in flooding the American market with French products. The concessions are much too slight and the remaining tariffs much too high to permit that. These objectors seem to think that every dollar's worth of imports robs American farmers and manufacturers and other enterprises of a dollar's worth of business—that it is a net loss in American profits and wages.

But what about the credit we export when we pay for imports. That credit has to be used either in the purchase of American products or in the payment of debt. The money itself never leaves the country. And when the credit is used, it means business for American enterprises—the revenue to be divided into American wages and profit.

THE volume of our world trade can be rebuilt only by restoring conditions which will permit more goods to flow in. We learned that when we tried to check the inflow by passage of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act.

The new treaty does not go as far as it should in accelerating the inflow of French goods, with which credits can be built up for the purchase of more American goods. (Last year, we sold France twice as much as we bought from France, a condition unhealthful for both countries.) But the new treaty does remove some of the hindrances, and it will promote a greater flow of trade in both directions, and contribute thereby to the prosperity of both countries.

BACK TO NATURE

A SENSIBLE plea for elimination of artificialities in state parks and for preservation of unspoiled bits of nature which have historic pasts, was made to the National Conference on State Parks in Hartford, Conn., this week by Col. Richard Lieber of Indianapolis.

Said Col. Lieber, president of the National Conference and a former state director of conservation who played a major role in building the Indiana state park system:

"A thousand years from now, there will be little if anything left of man-made monuments of our times. The face of the country will be so changed that no one could possibly reconstruct the America of our day were it not for these great natural monuments (national and state parks).

"Let us be firmly determined to keep out of our parks all artificialities. Do not attempt to gild the lily. Compact your material needs in a service area, and remember you are not the heir but the steward of a great inheritance."

Col. Lieber mentioned Nancy Hanks Lincoln Burial Ground, the Corydon Statehouse, the Lanier Home and the Tippecanoe Battlefield as living Hoosiers a realization that history is a living thing.

ENGLAND DID IT

THE Wagner-Elbogen slum-abatement bill, now backed as an Administration measure, does not appear before Congress as just another New Deal experiment. It aims to profit by our own American mistakes and it takes for its guide the British rehousing plans that appear to have worked exceedingly well.

From Director Coleman Woodbury of the National Association of Housing Officials, a student of the English project, we learn that subsidized low-rent housing not only has provided decent homes for millions of British working people, but has proved a powerful stimulant to private enterprise.

Right after the war England began subsidizing working men's homes. Between the Armistice and April 1, 1935, there were 2,655,902 housing units constructed, of which 1,230,172 received subsidy. The interesting thing is that, while at the beginning the bulk of the work was subsidized, private building was so stimulated that in 1934 it accounted for 85 per cent of the units built. Herbert Morrison, chairman of the London County Council, which now has an annual rental roll of three and one-half million pounds, says that this program, more than anything else, kept England's heavy industries stabilized until private building took up the task about two years ago.

Mr. Woodbury found that under the British program the assets of British thrift societies increased 800 per cent; that losses from uncollected rents from London's 70,000 new subsidized units were less than one-eighth of one per cent; that the public and private building financing gave needed outlets for safe capital investments; that new low-rental homes did not depress wages or reduce buying power but, on the contrary, raised living standards and stabilized families in decent quarters.

As it worked in England it should work here.

A WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson
CONGRESSMAN and Mrs. Zioncheck have spent their honeymoon on the front page.

He's been too cute for words and, girls, don't you just love the way she proved herself the true American wife (for a time anyway)—a real help to her husband in whatever he does? It's plain to be seen that with his pep and her co-operation, the two of them will go places—to the Senate, maybe.

Both are modern, stream-lined, 12-cylinder Go-Getters, on their toes every minute, keeping the newspaper boys in gales of laughter. Their repartee as reported by the press is 100 per cent American.

Says the Hon. Zioncheck, apropos perhaps of cogitations on the pending tax bill, "I'm a pretty fast goer, eh, Sugar?"

"I'll say you are, Baby," Mrs. Zioncheck comes back at him, quick as all get-out.

And when they awaken in the morning to find seven or eight reporters perched on the foot of their bed, begging for interviews, do they pull any of that Lindbergh stuff? I'll say they don't. Being good sports and better campaigners, they spill all their secrets.

The taxpayer, taking another hitch in his belt, bursts into a laugh every time he reads about Zioncheck breaking speed laws, thumbing his nose at the cops; Zioncheck going to jail and his faithful little wife sticking right by him to the last syllable of recording publicity.

Well, here's luck to her and no hard feelings. After all what's \$10,000 a year to a taxpayer, when you get a three-ringed circus for the money? Maybe if more Representatives stay in jail instead of in Congress the country would profit.

Our Town

By

ANTON SCHERRER

LOYD LEWIS' latest book, "Oscar Wilde Discovers America," includes, of course, a chapter on Indianapolis, and it's mighty good reading even if it does omit a few essential details. After all, a book of 462 pages can hold just so much.

The chapter is labeled "Ice Cream With the Governor of Indiana" and deals in part with Oscar's visit to Gov. Porter's party after his lecture here Feb. 22, 1882.

Mr. Wilde, it appears, picked a mighty poor day for his lecture in Indianapolis. It was a holiday and the town was full of people attending conventions of their own. The editors of the state had picked the day for their convention; likewise the Grand Army of the Republic; likewise the veterans of the Mexican War; likewise the loud and lusty Greenbackers of the time. And the Governor and Mrs. Porter, not to be caught napping, had capitalized the event by throwing a big party at the mansion, 501 N. Tennessee-st.

It kept a lot of people from going to Oscar's lecture.

THINGS started getting dull at the Governor's soiree around 10:30 when somebody suggested getting Oscar Wilde over to live up the party. It was about time for the lecture to be over, anyway.

Billy Roberts, the Governor's clerk, was the man picked for the job. He hired a hack and drove 10 blocks to the New Denison Hotel where Oscar had registered. To the everlasting credit of Oscar let it be said that Mr. Roberts found Oscar in bed.

Oscar was ready to start out again, however. For the second time that day he dressed up in his lecture suit, which consisted of a swallow-tail coat, black velvet breeches, a white shirt a little the worse for wear (it was the second time, remember), a high standing collar, black silk stockings and enormous shoes, low-cut, of course, and ornamented with magnificent silver buckles.

THUS equipped and ready to go on the adventure by offering Mr. Roberts a drink of Spanish wine which he kept hidden in a goat's skin under his bed. Long after the event took place, Mr. Roberts was heard to say that it was mighty good wine.

Arriving at the Governor's Mansion, Mr. Wilde immediately expressed dissatisfaction with the architecture of Mr. Porter's house. He wanted to know whether the people had given Mr. Porter the house or whether, by any chance, it was his by choice.

Assured that the people had nothing to do with it, he remarked that it was not any more artistic than the Atlantic Ocean. If as good, he added.

After the reception, Mr. Wilde was invited to remain and take refreshments with the Porter family. The next issue of the Saturday Review had a rip-snorting account of it written by Porter Dennis.

"Mr. Wilde," reported Mr. Dennis, "is not an animated feeder. He placed a small bit of his back in the seat of the chair and spooned in the ice cream with the languor of a debilitated duck."

"Perhaps," concluded Mr. Dennis, "ice cream disagrees with him."

MR. LEWIS got all these facts beautifully straight in his book, but he failed to say that it was at this party that Oscar thanked the Governor for "this opportunity of observing the peasantry of Indiana." It was his parting remark, as a matter of fact.

It was also at this party that the Governor's daughter (Mrs. Augustus L. Mason) asked Oscar what he thought of the fish question, an issue which was then burning. Another item Mr. Lewis muffed was the fact that Elizabeth Nicholson and William A. Bell were the two at the Governor's party who suggested bringing Oscar over.

Indeed, Mrs. Nicholson's niece, Mrs. Brandt Steele, goes even further and says there is a legend in the family (on the McKay side) that her aunt and Mr. Bell actually brought Oscar to the party straight from the lecture.

Maybe so, but in that case we would have missed knowing about the Spanish wine in the goat's skin.

Ask The Times

Include a 3-cent stamp for reply when addressing any question of fact or information to The Indianapolis Times, Washington Service Bureau, 1013 15th-st. N. W., Washington, D. C. Legal and medical advice can not be given, nor can extended research be undertaken.

Q—What is the lifetime major league batting average of Al Simmons?

A—Including the 1935 season, it is .347.

Q—What is the area of Rhode Island?

A—1248 square miles.

Q—Where is Creighton University?

A—It is a Roman Catholic college for men, Omaha, Neb.

Q—Is it true that goats in stables help preserve the health of horses?

A—The United States Department of Agriculture says there is no scientific basis for this belief.

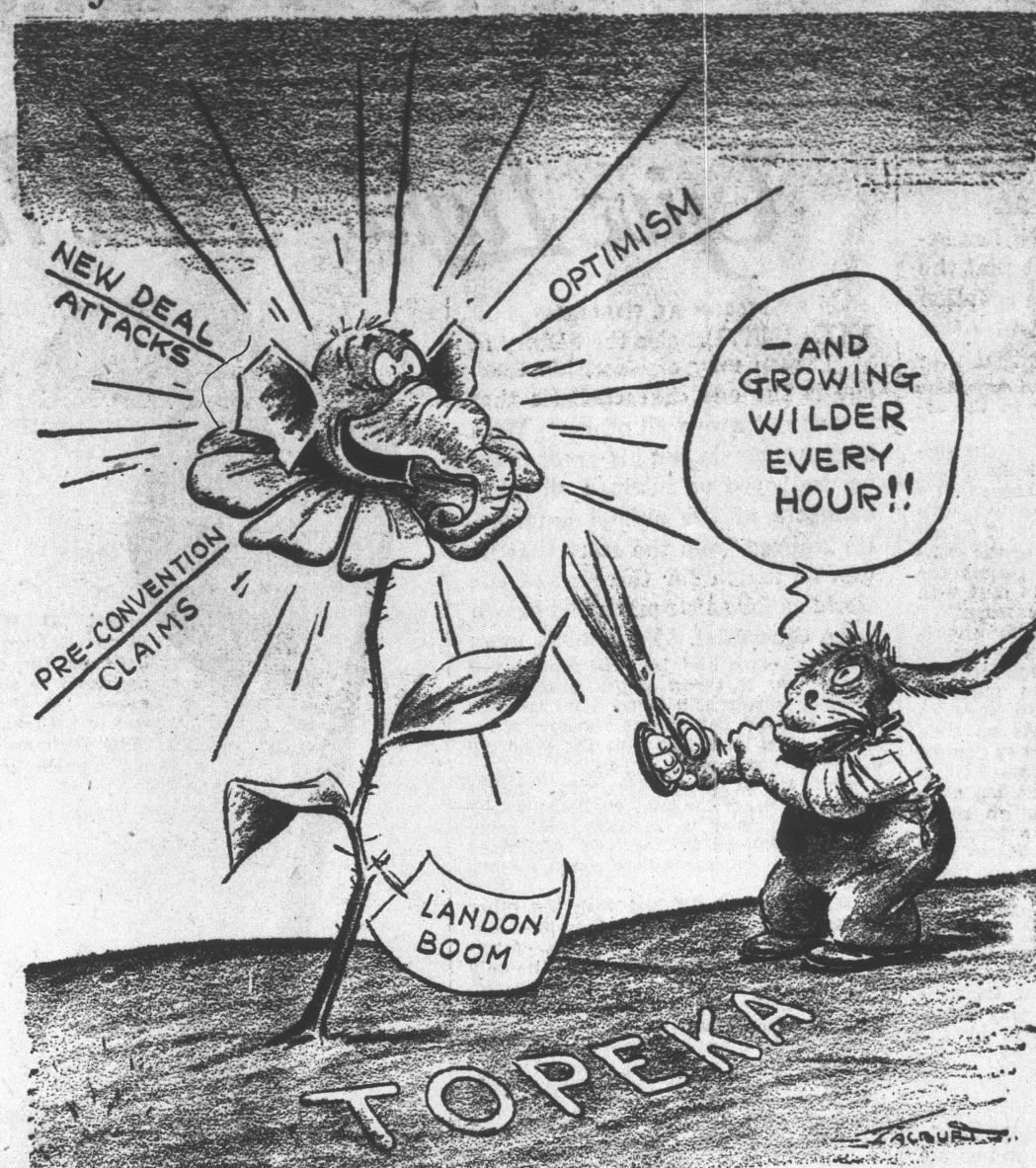
Q—What does the name Ludovic mean?

A—It is a Walloon and Scottish form of the Teutonic name Ludwig, meaning "famous holiness."

Q—Name the cause of death of Christy Mathewson, famous baseball player.

A—Tuberculous pneumonia.

JUST A LITTLE PRAIRIE FLOWER



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 50 words or less. Your letter must be signed, but names will be withheld on request.)

DEPLORES LEGION'S STAND ON CHAILLAUX

By Emily S. Barber

AS was quite to be expected, the reactionary American Legion, which with the super-reactionary D. A. R. and their ilk, have set themselves up as censors of American thought, has indorsed its chief witch-hunter, Homer Chailiaux. We do not look for anything better from the Daughters of the American Revolution, but for a group as young as the Legion to be so blind is really too bad.

It makes one wonder if democracy can continue safe if so few voters can do their own thinking.

For that matter, I doubt if Mr. C. himself is as stupid as he appears, lumping all the "isms" the way he does; why does he not mention fundamentalism, humanitarism,

Republicanism, Unitarianism, Methodism, etc.?

He must know that Socialism and Fascism are at opposite ends of the poles; that the former and Communism have very little in common dog-eat-dog industrial system, which is fast vanquishing even the ideals of Christianity. He may even be secretly trying to foster the hated "isms," for he must know that steam confined is more likely to explode.

As for the rank and file of the Legion, if they knew how they are making the Legion hated for trying to suppress free speech, the first step toward Fascism, they would perhaps read a bit and think a little.

Can it be that the army destroys all initiative, all independence, in the poor buck privates? Are they so flattered to have their former harsh taskmasters noticing them? With the effects of army regimentation follow them all their lives? If so, I fear our democracy is doomed. Fascism is already on its way, helped most efficiently by Homer Chailiaux.

Your Health

BY DR. MORRIS FISHEIN

AMONG the most important considerations in feeding a baby is its requirement for water.

The child being fed by the breast usually gets enough water in the milk. The infant being fed artificially should receive water between feedings.

This is of special significance in the summer because of the increased evaporation from the surface of the body. In winter, with our overheated and dry apartments, it also is well to be certain that the baby is getting the water that it needs.

The water requirement of a baby is about three times that of a grown-up. The reason is there is much activity in the baby's tissues because of its rapid rate of growth. Its output of heat is greater, in proportion to its weight, than that of a grown-up.

Large amounts of water taken into the body require a constant circulation of water from the blood to the intestines and back again, to take care of digestion and absorption of the food constituents. Since the amount of food taken is large, the amount of waste material also is large. This waste material is not all excreted in solid form, but is largely dissolved in water.

Of water taken into the body about 50 to 60 per cent goes out through the kidneys; 30 to 35 per cent in evaporation by the skin and the lungs; and 5 to 10 per cent by way of the bowels.

Two per cent is retained by the body to carry on the necessary chemical processes.

If a baby cries a great deal and exercises its limbs, the amount of water lost from the skin and the lungs will be increased. If the baby has diarrhea, the amount of water lost from the bowels may equal or even exceed the amount of water taken into the body.

If the baby vomits, water taken by the mouth may be returned directly and so be of no benefit to the body. Hence, one must be certain that the baby not only gets sufficient water, but that the water is retained and, in that way, is useful to the child's system.

It is also possible for large amounts of water to be lost by way of the lungs, when there is an increased rate of breathing, such as occurs in pneumonia, or in severe conditions of acidosis.

The average normal baby receiving breast milk should obtain, daily, for the first year of its life, about two and one-half ounces of water for each pound of its body weight. This helps to take care of its needs when there is hot weather, or when some of the water is lost by diarrhea or vomiting.

A small excess of water will not produce any serious disturbance, but too much water given with the food will interfere with absorption of the food.

Incidentally, if the amount of milk given is too great, or if the dilution is too great, the baby is likely to vomit. When babies are fed artificially, the proteins and salts in the diet usually are higher, and there is increased elimination, so more water is required to take care of the output from the kidney.

REPUBLICANISM, UNITARIANISM, METHODISM, ETC.

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Some plan of co-operation certainly can be worked out between the city government and the Speedway officials for conducting this service. Proper newspaper publicity on this type of speeding sentence once it is put into effect, will cut the field of "applicants" to the minimum before many weeks have passed.

In other words, it will dawn upon some of the brighter ones that speed is for the Speedway only. Those who do not have such a keen sense of figuring will learn after trying to hold a regular passenger auto at top speed for approximately 200 miles on a fast course.

One more thought on safe driving—the roadways inside the track as the Speedway are ideal for compulsory driving instructions to careless drivers—and just the thing for a paid course in voluntary driving instruction.

DOUBLE-HACKNEYED

BY DANIEL FRANCIS CLANCY

Memories are all that I have left. Of a gone yesterday. Of a gone I am bereft.

And, now, being old, I am seeing, That of all on earth These have greatest worth— They are enough for any being.

Therefore, to correct this slight but serious misunderstanding, I suggest that any party found guilty of speeding on Indianapolis streets at any time, be sentenced to appear in his car at the Speedway at a specified hour.

There, under police supervision, the guilty speeder should be required to fill the tank full of gas, and under police-supervised time-checking, drive his car at top speed around the course until the tank supply is exhausted.

This is a much shorter sentence than 30, 60 or 90 days, and there will still be the "costs"—a percentage of which will be applied toward the maintenance of this special police service at the Speedway.

The speeder would be satisfied—he wanted to go fast anyhow. Also.

DAILY THOUGHT

And render your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.—Joel II, 13.

MERE sorrow, which weeps and sits still, is not repentance. Repentance is sorrow converted into action; into a movement toward a new and better life.—M. R. Vincent.

SIDE GLANCES

By George Clark



"I say, gentlemen, wouldn't one of you rather have a lawyer settle this for you?"

Vagabond from Indiana

ERNIE FYLE

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

MARFA, Tex., June 4.—One Sunday night a year and a half ago, I was walking down the street in this southwest Texas cattle town, and I saw the words, "Big Bend Sentinel," on a window.

So I went in and introduced myself to a young fellow, and it turned out he had just bought the paper, and he and his wife were trying to put it on its feet.

They were in their middle twenties. I'd say, and very enthusiastic, although perhaps a little frightened. Their names were Charles and Ruth Moore, and we sat and talked all that evening. As Moore said:

"The depression hit me pretty hard before I got out of the University of Missouri, only I didn't know it."

"I had a sheepskin from a journalism school, and a little newspaper experience, including a short stay as copy boy on the old New York World."

"Finally I got a job with an oil company in the Texas Panhandle. So I sent for the girl, and got married. It's a good thing I did, for my teaching job kept us in groceries after I got fired."

THEN we had a windfall. Some friends gave me railroad tickets to New York. We latched there with \$50. I worked for the City of New York for a year, then came a chance for a good job in the east Texas oil fields. We were there two years. Then I heard this weekly could be bought. We bought it.

"This is a town of 4000. It's pretty here. On a tableland a mile high, mountains all around. Mexico just two hours to the south. This is Hereford cattle country. But years of drought have put Marfa flat on its back."

"Any one of three things would fix us—rain, the reopening of Fort Russell by the Army, or a hit by some of these oil wild-catters."

"That was a year and a half ago. Since then, we have often wondered how Charles and Ruth Moore were getting along."

So when I landed in Marfa this time I made a bee line for the Big Bend Sentinel office. Things are doing all right. Charles Moore says: "The paper was bankrupt when we came. My experience in job printing, which is essential to any country weekly, was zero. I had always looked at advertising work as a necessary evil for somebody else to perform. I was a news man."

"BUT advertising. I learned about expenses. It cost me \$600 for the privilege of issuing The Big Bend Sentinel our first year."

"And then it rained. It pushed the grammar grass knee-high over the high-lands. Cattle tanks filled up. The Herefords filled out again."

"Then we managed to scrape up enough cash to buy our competing newspaper and to advertise our job printing in job printing. That gave us an exclusive newspaper and job shop in Presidio County. We'll make a profit this year."

"WE have both worked day and night. Ruth handles society and a lot of straight news, as well as features and advertising. And job printing leaves me no time for the news, she steps in and covers. She also makes pin money by corresponding for city papers and wire services."