

From Indiana—Ernie Pyle

Relief Rolls as Large as Ever! Why? It's Believed Due to Drop in Demand for 'Muscle Labor.'

**NORTH PLATTE**, Neb., Nov. 2.—The outstanding public question in the minds of people, I believe, is:

"Why is it, with business good and millions of people back at work, there are still almost as many as ever on relief? Who filled all those jobs?"

A fellow gave me the answers. He didn't tell me directly, but he made a startling statement, and it provided a clue. He was Raymond Wicker, head of the U. S. Employment Service here. He said:

"There are as many unemployed people in North Plate today who are not on relief, as there are on relief!"

In other words, unemployment is twice as large as the relief rolls indicate.

All right, unemployment has been greater than we knew. But if you empty a gallon bucket, it still holds a gallon when you fill it. Times are good again. No matter how many people were out of work, why aren't they all back at work?

Here in North Plate I've found an answer. The answer is "machines." That's an easy answer. But out there, they have gone farther into it than any saying "machines."

One man started on the right track, but didn't finish, when he said, "Sure, machines have thrown a lot out of work. But they have also created work. I think they've created as many jobs as they've killed. Look at all the new things—air conditioning, for instance. That takes men, to make it and install it."

Yes, but he didn't think far enough. What he didn't think of seems to me the answer to the whole business. Could a hod carrier make an air-conditioning apparatus? Could a farm hand install it? They could not. And the bulk of our unemployed are, figuratively, hod carriers and farm hands.

## Shortage of Skilled Workers

Machines are driving us away from doing things by muscle. Too many of our people are still un-equipped to work with anything else.

Here is your story:

1. The U. S. Employment Office here has one stack of papers an inch higher. Each paper lists an opening for a job in private employment. But they are all skilled jobs. There isn't a man on the relief rolls who can fill them.

2. The Employment Office also has an index file, with a history card on every person on relief. The cards, pushed tightly together, make a row about 2 feet long. The cards under the heading "labor"—men who can only shovel and dig—cover nearly a foot. The cards headed "farm hands" cover another 6 inches. The last 6 inches is made up of cards under a score of headings—men with some special training in a trade, but few of them experts. Three-fourths of the hand from Washington.

And so—we know that hundreds have gone back to work in the last two years. And yet we know that only 10 per cent of those on relief in North Plate have gone off the rolls in the last year. And the 10 per cent that did go have been replaced by a new 10 per cent just recently forced on.

The employment pickup in America has passed by the reliefers.

## My Diary

By Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

President's Sequoia Trees Don't Fool Professor Who Was Warned.

**H**YDE PARK, Monday—We had a most amusing picnic supper at my cottage last night, even though certain members of the party were rather hurried. James had come up for a vestry meeting and I foolishly supposed he would be staying several days. When I told him we were having supper at the cottage, he announced he had to make an 8 o'clock train and be in Washington this morning. We started scrambling eggs as we saw the lights of the car coming around the house. By the time all the guests were seated, the eggs were ready.

There is endless occupation here for anyone who is interested in forestry. The President went over the whole place a few days ago with Prof. Brown from Syracuse University. They looked at all the little plantations of sundry varieties of trees and finally took the professor to the sheltered spot where he is planting a few little sequoias.

I think my husband hoped the species would not be recognized by the forestry expert and he planned to play a little joke on him by asking him what the trees were. But some one in the car spoiled his little joke by saying, "Oh, is this the place where you are trying to plant out the little sequoias?"

This is most beautiful day and three or four of us are going to take a long automobile ride partly to acquire some Christmas presents and partly to look at the work being done in one of the transient camps under the National Park Service.

## Men Work at Various Tasks

It is most interesting to see how these men learn to do all kinds of work. Sometimes it is a type of work they have never done before. In this particular camp, men who have never done masonry work are building outdoor fireplaces and picnic tables and making it a very attractive camping spot.

The foremen in charge of many of these camps are quite young and it interests me very much to see how well they adjust to their multitudinous duties. Some of them know less about the outdoor work, and some of them know less about the clerical work of the office, both of which a good foreman should be able to supervise.

As usual, before leaving any place, the President and I discover we have a number of things we want to do which are not done. I may stay over for a day or two because he will not have the opportunity to come back soon. I hope I can be here at least for a few days in early December.

## New Books Today

Public Library Presents—

**D**ISAPPOINTED, she says, upon coming to America and seeing shattered her illusions of a land basking in prosperity and comfort, **Odette Keun**, Frenchwoman and journalist, found in the TVA the first flowering of America's possibilities.

A FOREIGNER LOOKS AT TVA (Longmans) performs a double office. In a few short and lively chapters its author explains the objectives and accomplishments of the Tennessee Valley Authority in the fields of flood control, irrigation, power production, soil conservation, and navigation. More important, however, she expresses—with triumphant and contagious enthusiasm—the significance which this project has for at least one "liberal"—a lover of democracy who thinks that democratic government, to save itself, must begin to fight purposefully against the forces that breed dictatorship.

EVERYONE is interested in motion pictures. As a social influence they merit the attention of all intelligent people. That they will be instrumental in moulding the thought of the future is the opinion of Martin Quigley in **DECENCY IN MOTION PICTURES** (Macmillan).

This constructive little book on censorship presents many viewpoints, which range from those advocating no censorship to those which stand for rigid reform. Persons responsible in social leadership, says the author, ignored the film as a cheap innovation; consequently it followed the trend of public taste of the post-war era until shocked sensibilities brought action—which seemed to vent itself for the most part in caustic letters and speeches.

"DOS" and "don'ts" evolved into "the Production Code" in 1930. Its application and administration should be an eye-opener to those given to glib criticism of the motion picture. Mr. Quigley's plea is for sustained public support of this organized industry and unlegislated censorship at the source of production.

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## 'Central City' Reflects Nation's Life

### No Poetry Desired' Is Descriptive of Town's Materialistic Philosophy

This is the last article on a "typical" Midwestern small town, here fictitiously called "Central City."

By Thomas L. Stokes  
Times Special Writer

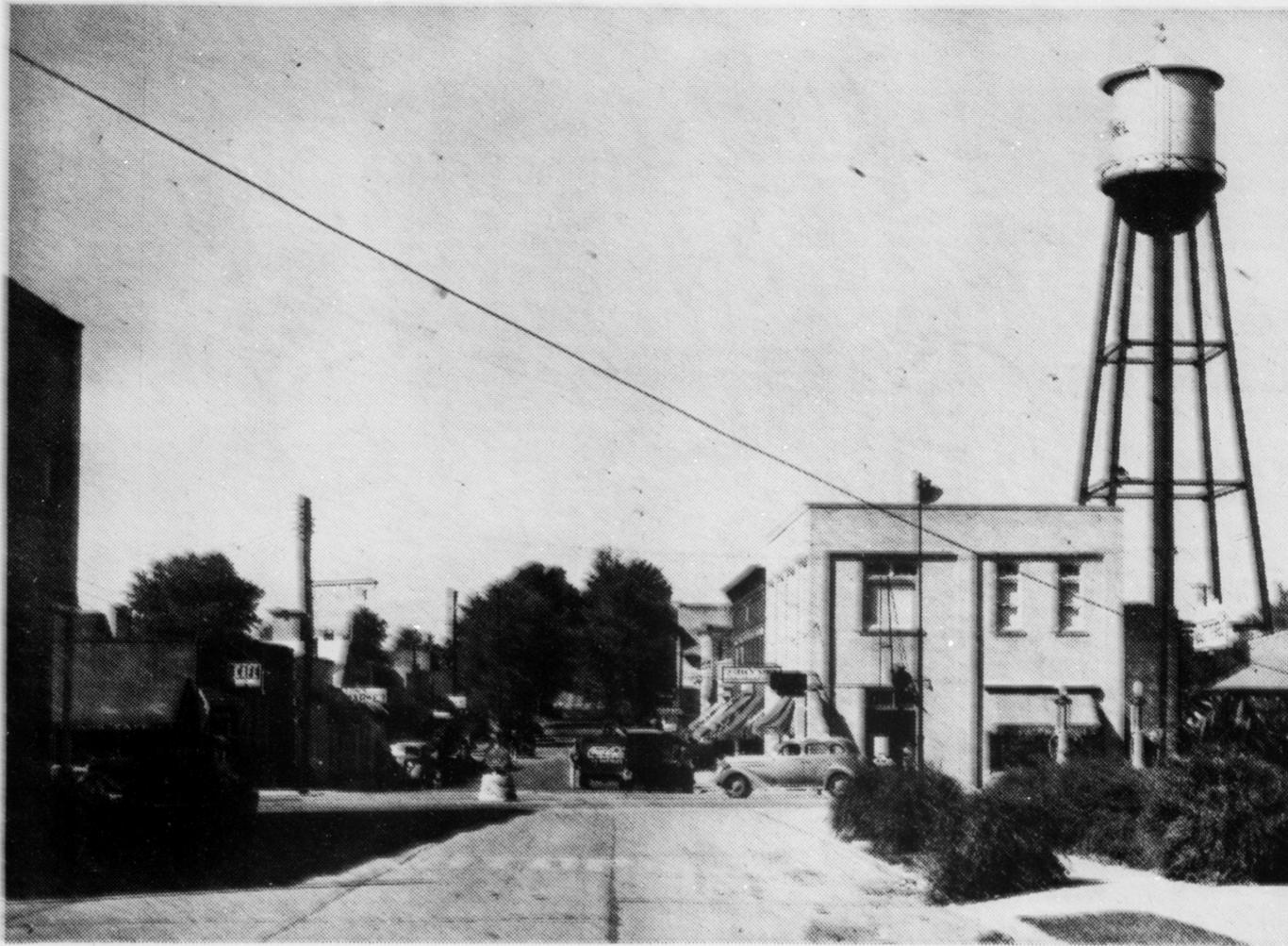
**C**ENTRAL CITY, U. S. A., Nov. 2.—The masthead of "Central City's" daily newspaper says:

"No poetry is desired at any time."

This, as well as anything else tangible, symbolizes a sort of materialistic philosophy which goes hand in hand with conservatism. The small town is too busy earning its daily bread to have much time for flights of fancy.

Sober-minded folks these are, by and large.

They have their share of literary groups who explore the worlds of art, literature and music, but the dominant overtone is prosaic.



This shopping center is typical of "Central City," although this photo was taken elsewhere. Stores and factories once home-owned have been superseded by chain organizations.

quality. The character is common to all small towns.

In some ways it is becoming merely a distributing center. Along "Main Street" in this town are four chain grocery stores, two chain "dime" stores, a chain department store, a chain shoe store, a chain drug store, and two moving picture theaters which are part of a small state chain. Only one locally owned grocery still does business on "Main Street."

Though several others are scattered through the residential area.

Three of the six large factories are branches of outside corporations, which shuttle their profits back elsewhere.

The town's reading habits are interesting.

**T**HE biggest seller is a weekly magazine devoted to radio, which gives a complete log of programs on every radio station. Next best is a confession-story monthly.

The sale of the serious type of

magazine is small. National journals of liberal thought are not represented at all on the magazine stands.

Two national weeklies in which fiction and articles are intermixed sell about 35 copies a week. Only a handful of copies of a magazine devoted to current events are sold here.

About 250 copies of a morning paper published in a nearby big city—a paper bitterly anti-New Deal—are sold daily, with about 60

copies of an afternoon paper of the same city, also anti-New Deal on most counts, and about a dozen copies of a tabloid friendly to the Roosevelt Administration.

The local daily has a circulation of 2700. Its news dispatches are brief and it seldom carries editorials of its own writing, though frequently reprinting editorials and articles from the big city paper hostile to the Administration. And the local paper warns its readers:

"No poetry is desired at any time."

## Figures Show Building Construction Still Is Declining; Administration Action to Assist Industry Expected

By Ruth Finney  
Times Special Writer

**T**HE philosophy of the conservative element which dominates the town was well put by one of its spokesmen:

"The people in this town like the abundant life all right when they can make it abundant themselves—but Mr. A doesn't like the abundant life for Mr. B if it is at Mr. A's expense." He was referring to relief expenditures and other subsidies.

Basic conservatism is the outstanding impression of this typical small town, deriving, as has been pointed out, from the stamp of paternalism and feudalism which it still bears. The exodus of its more ambitious younger element leaves a residue of conformists who fit into the pattern without protest.

Its function in the politico-economic social setup of the town would seem to be as a restraining influence, a resistance to movements which are churning on the big centers of population. Some might call it a balance wheel, others a "dise" on progress.

The small-town influence exerted itself notably in the fight last session over the Wage-Hour Bill, and this will become apparent again in the fight over the same bill at the next session of Congress. By virtue of control in a small group, a control exercised by various economic strings, the small town is better able to resist outside influences.

**N**o longer is the small town isolated. It is on the high road in the stream of the nation's life. But some days it seems to live in a quiet harbor of its own.

The small town still has a character of its own, but no individuality.

WORKED hard to bring it back, but with little success.

During the depression years residential building amounted to only 10 or 15 per cent of the predepression level. Construction as a whole was 25 per cent of normal. Before the depression one person in 10 of the gainfully employed had been dependent on the construction industry for a livelihood. Last year building had climbed only to about 50 per cent of predepression levels, and most of the men still idle had once been in that industry.

In September the value of building permits issued was 8.5 per cent less than in August and 16 per cent less than in July. It was still one-tenth per cent higher than in September, 1936, but the upward trend in building in the early part of this year, considered one of the most encouraging indications of returning prosperity, had been reversed.

The new figures, compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, show a particularly black picture so far as residential construction is concerned. The value of new residential construction was 14 per cent less than in September, 1936. (Four per cent of this was accounted for by a drop in private home building, the rest by a halt in PWA housing projects.)

Suggestions already have been made to President Roosevelt that the Administration consent to modification of the capital-gains tax for the benefit of persons building residential housing for quick turnover.

**B**USINESSMEN contend that industrial building would increase if concessions were made in the undistributed-profits tax.

The depressed condition of the building industry, and particularly of the home-building industry, has been one of the sorriest spots of the depression. The Administration has

been one of the sorriest spots of the depression. They seem to be losing their

shyness, and are found more often near the roads than formerly. The increase of the elephant, which is of course an animal free from enemies except man, is more rapid than is generally believed. The gestation period is 22 months, and in a strictly unfettered state where there is plenty of space to roam and an abundance of natural food, it is believed that the cows calve every two years or so, and that a female in her lifetime will produce some dozen or so calves. There is, however, some natural check to overpopulation, such as infant mortality. . . .

**E**LEPHANTS Lose Shyness In South African Park

By Science Service

**P**RETORIA, South Africa, Nov. 2.—Elephants are losing their shyness in Kruger National Park, South Africa, according to the annual report of the National Park Board of Trustees, and are becoming the problem children that black bears are in the national parks of the United States. Quoting the park warden, Lieut. Col. J. Stevenson-Hamilton, the report states:

"These animals (elephants) were seen in greater numbers by tourists in 1936 than in any previous season. They seem to be losing their

suggested but the techniques are developing slowly.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics figures showed wide sectional variations in the state of residential building in September. In about half the country slight gains were recorded in the estimated cost of new homes in September, as compared with August. Gains occurred in the Middle Atlantic, East and West North Central states, West South Central and Mountain districts. Biggest drops were in the New England and Pacific Coast states.

In the first nine months of 1937, as compared with the same period in 1936, building showed an 11.2 per cent gain in number of permits, a 13.8 per cent gain in estimated cost. For new residential buildings the gains were 21.8 and 12.3 per cent.

**T**HE following figures for representative cities compare the estimated cost of total building construction in the first nine months of 1937 with the same nine months in 1936:

	1937	1936
Arlen	\$ 2,956,237	\$ 1,756,571
Brownsburg	1,200,000	1,000,000
Birmingham	2,220,365	2,125,724
Bloomington	1,245,758	1,125,842
Cincinnati	6,005,446	6,813,842
Cleveland	1,245,758	1,125,842
Denver	6,627,462	6,023,960
El Paso	6,000,000	3,750,000
Fl. Worth	1,787,011	1,625,362
Hartford	1,245,758	1,125,842
Indianapolis	8,525,596	8,025,670
Los Angeles	12,252,914	4,700,000
Memphis	1,245,758	1,125,842
Montgomery	6,533,819	6,589,489
Oakland	1,245,758	1,125,842
Pittsburgh	3,141,942	3,942,179
San Diego	3,878,346	3,665,452
St. Paul	1,245,758	1,125,842
Toledo	3,057,218	3,602,573
Washington	38,042,652	33,616,835

**A**NSWER—If your parents were wise they would let you go even if they had to help you financially until you got on your feet. Few girls who have been married and had homes of their own are content to return to their parents' home and take up life where they left off. No matter how happy their childhood has been, such girls will tell you that things just aren't the same at home. No ambitious girl who has been the head of her own establishment, however modest, wants to live under the management of her mother, again, or surrender the rearing of her children.

The job you have does not give you adequate outlet for your energies, it is imperative for you to get another in order to avoid the bitterness of frustration and failure