

# Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle

Editor's Note: This is the 10th in a series of reprints of past Ernie Pyle columns about American troops. Ernie is on leave.

ORAN, Algeria, January, 1943.—Men who bring our convoys from America, some of whom have just arrived, tell me the people at home don't have a correct impression of things over here.

Merchant marine officers who have been here a couple of days are astonished by the difference between what they thought the situation was and what it actually is. They say people at home think the North African campaign is a walk-away and will be over quickly; that our losses have been practically nil; that the French here love us to death, and that all German influence has been cleaned out.

If you think that, it is because we newspapermen here have failed at getting the finer points over to you. Because this campaign at first was as much diplomatic as military, the powers that be didn't permit our itchy typewriter fingers to delve into things internationally, which were tickling enough without that. I believe misconceptions at home must have grown out of some missing part of the picture.

It would be very bad for another wave of extreme optimism to sweep over the United States. So maybe I can explain a little bit about why things over here, though all right for the long run, are not all strawberries and cream right now.

In Tunisia, for instance, we seem to be stalemated for the moment. The reasons are two. Our army is a green army, and most of our Tunisian troops are in actual battle for the first time against seasoned troops and commanders. It will take us months of fighting to gain the experience our enemies start with.

In the second place, nobody knew exactly how much resistance the French would put up here, so we had to be set for full resistance. That meant, when the French capitulated in three days, we had to move eastward at once, or leave the Germans unhampered to build a big force in Tunisia.



Not Enough Stuff.

SO WE MOVED several hundred miles and, with the British, began fighting. But we simply didn't have enough stuff on hand to knock the Germans out instantly. Nobody is to blame for this. I think our army is doing wonderfully—both in fighting with what we have and in getting more here—but we are fighting an army as tough in spirit as ours, vastly more experienced, and more easily supplied.

So you must expect to wait a while before Tunisia is cleared and Rommel jumps into the sea.

Our losses in men so far are not appalling, by any means, but we are losing men. The other day an

American ship brought the first newspaper from home I had seen since the occupation, and it said only 12 men were lost in taking Oran.

The losses, in fact, were not great, but they were a good many times 12.

Most of our convalescent wounded have been sent to England. Some newly arrived Americans feel that, if more of the wounded were sent home, it would put new grim vigor into the American people. We aren't the sort of people from whom wounded men have to be concealed.

## Policy Still Appeasement

THE BIGGEST puzzle to us who are on the scene is our policy of dealing with axis agents and sympathizers in North Africa. We have taken into custody only the most out-and-out axis agents, such as the German armistice missions and a few others. That done, we have turned the authority of arrest back to the French.

The procedure is that we investigate, and they arrest. As it winds up, we investigate period.

Our policy is still appeasement. It stems from what might be called the national hopefulness of French emotions. Frenchmen today think and feel in lots of different directions. We moved softly at first, in order to capture as many French hearts as French square miles. Now that phase is over. We are here in the long run. We occupy countries and pretend not to. We are tender in order to avoid offending our friends, the French, in line with the policy of interfering as little as possible with French municipal life.

We have left in office most of the small-fry officials put there by the Germans before we came. We are permitting Fascist societies to continue to exist. Actual sniping has been stopped, but there is still sabotage.

The loyal French see this and wonder what manner of people we are. They are used to force, expect us to use it against the common enemy, which includes the French Nazis. Our enemies see it, laugh, and call us soft.

Both sides are puzzled by a country at war which still lets enemies run loose to work against it.

There are an astonishing number of axis sympathizers among the French in North Africa. Not a majority, of course, but more than you would imagine. This in itself is a great puzzle to me. I can't fathom the thought processes of a Frenchman who prefers German victory and perpetual domination rather than a temporary occupation resulting in eventual French freedom.

But there are such people, and they are hindering us, and we over here think you folks at home should know three things:

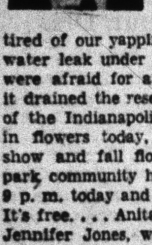
That the going will be tough and probably long before we have cleaned up Africa and are ready to move to bigger fronts. That the French are fundamentally behind us, but that a strange, illogical strain is against us. And that our fundamental policy still is one of soft-gloving snakes in our midst.

# Inside Indianapolis By Lowell Nussbaum

DURING THE CED meeting here last week, the audience was growing a little weary of sitting still. And so, between speeches, George S. Jones Jr., vice president of Servel, who was presiding, asked everyone to stand and stretch their legs. "And while you're standing," he said, "shake hands with and introduce yourself to the man on your right."

Following his instructions, everyone turned to the right—and found what he had asked for. Because the man on the right was turned to his own right, too. (Try it!) Everybody got a big laugh—and a lot of relaxation—out of the incident.

Well, sir; it looks like the Oaklander reservoir is safe, now. The water company finally got tired of our yapping, and sent a crew over to fix the water leak under the sidewalk near The Times. We were afraid for a time that it would keep on until it drained the reservoir. . . . Eddie Demlow, president of the Indianapolis Dahlia society, is up to his neck in flowers today, with the society's annual dahlia show and fall flower festival opening at Brookside park community house. The show is open from 3 to 9 p.m. today and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. tomorrow. It's free. . . . Anis Colby, the glamorous manager for Jennifer Jones, was wearing a most attractive pair of earrings at a luncheon here the other day. They were in the shape of small gold baskets. The baskets were filled with loose aquamarine stones. The only trouble with them, she said, is that the stones rub around and give off a white dust which people sometimes think is dandruff. "But it's pretty expensive dandruff," quipped Miss Colby.



Just Ask for Joe

CURTIS HODGES of the OPA information staff picked up the phone the other evening to make a call and discovered that in some way he had been cut into another conversation. He heard a man explaining to someone in Chicago—probably in a hotel or

# America Flies

By Robert M. Farr

BETTER QUALITY aviation fuels are now being developed that will reduce the operating costs for planes and at the same time will give improved performance. Intensive research is also being done to develop special fuels that will play a big part in winning the battle of the Pacific.

While facts and figures about these new fuels cannot be released at present, the general objectives are clearly defined.

The airlines spend several million dollars a year for fuel for their planes, and after the war, with the promise of increased flying, the cost of fuel will play an even bigger part in keeping the airline fares up. If a new aviation fuel that will give the same power on less fuel is produced commercially, your seat on a plane after the war may be less expensive.

## All-Purpose Fuel Sought

THE FUEL that helped win the battle of Britain was one that obtained greater power from the same mixture of air and gas as was used prior to the war, resulting in better performance.

The big factor in the Pacific theater is range of operation. Petroleum technologists are now at work on a fuel that permits longer flights on the same amount of fuel. This may help win the battle of the Pacific.

Going one step farther, science is endeavoring to create a fuel that combines the best qualities

of the two fuels just mentioned, resulting not only in greater range but also in better performance, on a smaller volume of fuel.

The chief limiting factor in aviation fuel performance at present is the tendency of most fuels to knock under conditions of increased power. This is the same kind of knocking that annoys you when you "gun" your automobile motor going up a hill. Knocking in an aircraft engine is dangerous, even to the extent of destroying the engine itself.

The power output of an airplane engine when operating on the lowest weight of fuel may be limited by knocking.

Therefore, while modern aircraft fuels permit engines of greater power to be built, they use up large amounts of fuel. The B-29 has four 2300-horsepower engines. This and other great teams of engine and fuel power our attack on Japan today. At the same time these engines still employ uneconomical amounts of fuel for take-off, climb, and high speed.

## Consumption Is High

STARTLINGLY HIGH AMOUNTS of fuel have been needed in Europe. A single bombing mission over Berlin from bases in Britain requires up to 3,000,000 gallons of 100-octane gasoline for 1000 heavy bombers and their escort fighter planes. This is about one-third of the reported total U. S. daily production of the high-powered aviation fuel.

A violent thunderstorm last evening made it impossible to hear anything over the radio. This is always disappointing when speeches are being made during a campaign. I read both Governor Dewey's and Vice President Wallace's speeches today, and there is one thought in the latter's speech which I think we should emphasize.

"There shall never be a return to the normalcy of yesterday—to normalcy for the few and subnormalcy for the many," the vice president said. "We welcome—yes, we shall fight for something we have never had—the normalcy of the good life for everybody."

If we learned nothing else after the last war, we must have learned one thing—there is never any return to conditions of the past. We must be prepared to meet new conditions in new ways.

# My Day

By Eleanor Roosevelt

HYDE PARK, Friday.—Beginning Sept. 24, all the religious communities of America, regardless of faith or denomination, will co-operate with other local service organizations in a drive for the emergency collection of clothing for Europe.

As each new country is liberated, the military occupation must be supplemented by the governments of the liberated lands and by the united nations rehabilitation and relief administration set up by the 44 united nations.

With winter coming on, there will be a great need for warm clothing in all these countries; and so this collection has been instituted in the hope of sending 15,000,000 pounds of clothing to be distributed wherever the need is greatest. Dr. Leslie B. Moss, executive secretary of the church committee on overseas relief and reconstruction, Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, reported 120,593 churches, representing

21 Protestant denominations, are co-operating with this collection.

Archbishop Mooney, chairman of the board of trustees, war relief services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, reported that 16,000 Catholic charities have responded to the appeal.

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## VARIETY CLUB WILL HONOR INDIANAPOLIS' OLDEST THEATER MANAGER—

# Zarings to Celebrate Golden Wedding

By MILDRED KOSCHMANN

BACK IN THE DAYS when "Ladies, please remove your hats" and "Don't spit on the floor—Remember the Johnstown flood," signs flashed on motion picture screens, A. C. Zaring, 2749 Central ave., switched from the laundry business to fulfill his "hankering" for a theater of his own.

And now he's Indianapolis' oldest theater manager and his wife is one of his best patrons.



Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Zaring, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Tuesday, recall the pictures of the old days as they look at a plaque given by Paramount studio for running the first real feature picture.

Among the prized possessions of the couple is a medal from Paramount studio showing that their theater ran the picture, "Queen Elizabeth," starring Sarah Bernhardt, the first real feature released by any motion picture company. A crowd of 1870 saw the show for 10 cents each in one day and the film operator had to turn the crank faster so the show would be over sooner and another crowd could come in.

WHILE HE'S not at the Zaring or meeting with the Variety club board of directors or with the directors of the Associated Theater Owners of Indiana, Mr. Zaring might be found at the wrestling matches at the armory. The Zarings are ardent wrestling fans . . . even the Mrs.

"We wouldn't miss a match on Tuesday night," Mr. Zaring said. "My wife's even a noisier fan than I. We sit in the front row and she tells them what to do."

BUT NEXT Tuesday the Zarings will not be among the armory patrons.

They're going to have dinner with their daughter, Mrs. William Chapman, 45 W. 28th st., and some other friends at the Claypool hotel and then spend a quiet anniversary celebration away from the ringside and the show.

THE ZARINGS are to be special guests at a testimonial party at the Variety club Monday night, the eve of their 50th wedding anniversary.

A reception will be held from 8 to 10 p. m. and a membership party will follow.

Mr. Zaring, who is 69 but hardly looks more than 50, went into show business in 1912 when he disposed of his laundry interests and became proprietor of the North Star theater at 25th st. and Central ave.

BORN ON a farm in Johnson county, he came to Indianapolis to work in a livery stable after graduating from Center Grove high school.

In 1903 he got a job driving a laundry wagon for the Acme laundry for \$2 a week.

Then he met Mrs. Zaring. "I had known who she was for a year," he said, "but I never had met her. Just when I had it arranged, she got typhoid fever and I lost track of her."

BUT the problem was solved when a friend of Mr. Zaring was going to see Mrs. Zaring's cousin. The two met and Mr. Zaring proposed on his first day. They were married Sept. 26, 1894, and "they've never had a quarrel since then," Mr. Zaring said.

After operating their own laundry for a while, the Zarings went into show business.

Mrs. Zaring took tickets and minded the habes of theater patrons.

"WE HAD benches in front of the show," Mrs. Zaring recalled. "The mothers would bring their babies in buggies and leave them in front of the show for me to watch. If they cried, I would go in and get their mothers since I knew them all and where they usually sat."

The North Star's billing in those days was a 90-minute show, including a drama, a western and a comedy . . . and all for 5 cents.

FRANCIS X. BUSHMAN, Flora Finch and Alice Joyce were among the stars then, but Mr. Zaring, speaking in business terms, picks his favorite actors and actresses by the crowds they draw and the money they make at the box office.

The North Star closed Nov. 1, 1925, but the Zarings were not out of show business. They opened

## WHAT PRICE FOOD?

# Dewey Too Busy Greeting Stars To Eat a Meal

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN

United Press Hollywood Correspondent

HOLLYWOOD, Sept. 23.—Governor Thomas E. Dewey headed East today for more political speeches and a square meal, after one of the hungriest interludes ever spent by a presidential candidate.

He got one spoonful of soup at luncheon yesterday and two bites of chicken before the handshakers overwhelmed him; then Ginger Rogers invited him to tea at the Ambassador hotel. She had sandwiches and cookies and cream puffs and you think Dewey got a single bite?

NOT ON your life. Miss R. took the poor guy by the arm and kept him shaking hands with other movie beauties like Ruth Hussey, Frances Dee, Binnie Barnes, Barbara Stanwyck, Virginia Bruce, Iona Massey, Constance Moore, Ann Sothern and Claire Trevor.

The ladies had Napoleon slices on their laps, and cups of tea with cream and sugar, but all they gave Dewey was smiles. So all right.

HE RUSHED out of the tea party to change his shirt for the big speech last night before 90,000 Southern Californians in the Los Angeles coliseum.

In this vast stadium there was not one hot dog for him to eat. Nothing to drink, either, except a pitcher of ice water, sparkling under a million watts of spotlights supplied by Cecil B. DeMille.

The sight before him was enough to make him forget his appetite; seldom in the recent history of the country have so many people assembled in one spot to hear a political address.

THE VAST BOWL was jammed with citizens who presumably were Republicans and who received, in addition to Dewey's speech, such a show as even DeMille never produced before.

LEO CARRILLO galloped in on a white horse. He pressed a switch on the horse's collar and it lit up in electric lights.

By now the movie stars were making speeches into DeMille's microphone. Adolph Menjou, Edward Arnold, George Brent, Eddie Bracken, Victor Moore and most of the ladies at the tea party had their brief say in Dewey's favor.

Miss Hussey was in the midst of a word when the sirens screamed outside.

DEMILLE BARKED into his telephone and 50 spotlights picked up the pale gray touring car in which the unfed candidate and his wife arrived.

The Deweys drove twice around the stadium, then they alighted. Dewey made his speech, went to the Biltmore hotel for a 10 p. m. dinner, and they got no chance to eat it, account of more handshakers.

They went to bed hungry. This morning: More well-wishers, but no chance for food.

## Up Front With Mauldin



"Try to say sumpin' funny, Joe."

# FARMS FOR G. I.'s— FDR Asks Plan To Place Million Yanks on Land

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23 (U. P.).—The White House announced today that President Roosevelt has requested Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard and Veterans Administrator Frank T. Hines to go to work immediately on a program to give about 1,000,000 members of the armed forces extensive government aid in re-establishing themselves in civilian life as farmers and ranchers.

MR. ROOSEVELT sent a letter yesterday to Wickard and Hines pointing out that there are reliable estimates that more than 1,000,000 members of the armed forces want to go into post-war agriculture.

In the absence of vast, new and unsettled territory in this country, the government should develop a plan whereby "the maximum number of veterans who desire to do so may find successful careers in agriculture," Mr. Roosevelt said.

The President requested Wickard and Hines to make a survey and report with recommendations at an early date.

## Branch Offices For Registration Of Voters Listed

Branch offices for the registration of voters will be open from 10 a. m. to 8 p. m. at the following places:

TODAY AND TOMORROW

Edgewood school, Epler ave. City Hall, Beech Grove. Southport rd. No. 4 school, Hanna ave. and Shelby. No. 86 school, 200 W. 49th (Saturday only). Graymtn hotel, 1043 N. Pennsylvania.

Main office, room 34, Court House, open every day from 8 a. m. to 10 p. m.

ENGLAND ROBOTED AGAIN LONDON, Sept. 23 (U. P.).—German flying bombs landed in southern England and the London area shortly after dark last night, causing some casualties, it was announced today.

## HUMAN INTEREST—

# Captive Assures Yank That Japs Hold California

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 (U. P.).—Mrs. Irene Lyman reported today that she received a letter from her son, Alfred, a marine, who landed on Guam with the first wave of American troops. He wrote: "I captured my first Jap today and when I questioned him he said 'You may take Guam, but you'll never recapture California.'"

BOMBS AFFECT MILK

POKESTONE, Sept. 23 (U. P.).—Phillip Driver, a dairyman, was brought into court yesterday on charges of watering milk so that it was 9.6 per cent deficient in butterfat content.

It wasn't water, Driver pleaded, that made the milk weak, but bombs, robot bombs.

The county analyst testified in support of Driver's contention and told the court that not only did the robots cause cows to give "watered" milk, but some of the beasts died outright after a raid.

Driver was exonerated.

TOWN'S 'BANK' RECOVERED

MARTIN CITY, Mo., Sept. 23 (U. P.).—This village had its "bank" back today, but the depositors still were shy \$8500 which was inside when thieves hauled it away earlier this week.

The sheriff's office reported discovery of the "bank" from a vacant lot, its door pried open and contents missing. The "bank" actually was a safe, the property of Charles E. Stultz, operator of a garage in the village and had served as a community "bank" since the national bank holiday when Martin City's only banking institution failed to reopen.

ABANDON AUTO ON TRACK

BROOKHAVEN, N. Y., Sept. 23 (U. P.).—The engineer of a Long Island railroad train was surprised to see an automobile across the right-of-way a mile and a half from the nearest grade crossing. He managed to stop in time.

But he got another surprise when he found the car, a 1931 Ford with Massachusetts license plates, was driverless. Police, who surmised it had gone out of control on a parallel road and run down an embankment onto the tracks, began a search for its owner.

SIGN BLOWN 1000 MILES

EAST MORICHES, N. Y., Sept. 23 (U. P.).—Josef Lemmen, walking on a beach strewn with wreckage from last week's hurricane, picked up a sign which read: "No hunting or trespassing. M. A. Redford, lessee, Palm Beach, Fla."

F. D. R. PROCLAIMS HOLIDAY

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23 (U. P.).—President Roosevelt, proclaiming Oct. 11 as Pulaski day and Oct. 12 as Columbus day, today paid tribute to the Poles "who were the first to take up arms against . . . our common foe" and to "the superb faith and resolution" of Christopher Columbus.

## We, the Women

# War Has Changed the Wives, Too

By RUTH MILLETT

NO WAR WIFE should be taken completely by surprise if her husband comes home to her a changed person. She is being educated to expect that he will be a different person from the man who left her.

But are the men being prepared for the fact that their wives won't be exactly the same persons they once were?

They should be. For the women are changing, too. Not from any deliberate desire to change—but because they must, in order to stand on their own feet and to meet the challenge of loneliness and constant, though hidden, worry.

MANY A WIFE has found a new independence in an outside job. Many a wife, secluded for years socially because her husband always wanted to stay at home in the evening, has turned into an extremely social person.

Many a wife who used to lean on her husband for all decisions can now make up her mind as quickly and as emphatically as the man whose nod or frown once ruled her life.

Many a woman who would have sworn she couldn't get along without her husband has found that she can. And many a woman who once meekly put up with a hard-to-please husband's whims and spent her life trying to make his life smooth has learned what peace is like.

## Tomorrow's Job

# Reconversion Hampered By Red Tape

By E. A. EVANS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23.—James E. Wilson, retiring as priority specialist and deputy director of the war production board's Detroit office, made a statement that deserves wide attention because it bears directly on the prospect for jobs after the war.

Mr. Wilson said that there will be need—less long delays and enormous complications in industrial reconversion unless there is a change in the system—or lack of it—which compels manufacturers to look to Washington for decisions by a multitude of government agencies.

"Every step a manufacturer intends to take in getting materials and starting production of a civilian product he must first clear with the WPB, the WMC, the OPA and, if a change in hours or wages is involved, as will be the case in thousands of instances, the WLB."

"ALLOWING 15 days to three weeks for clearance in each agency means a possible three months' delay. This, plus the time required to clear the RFC, the DPC, Treasury, Procurement, and army, navy, AAP or other property disposal agencies means a possible four to six months' delay."

"In each case the manufacturer must explain his problem to each agency, many of which operate under their own policies and interpretations without local points of co-ordination and understanding."

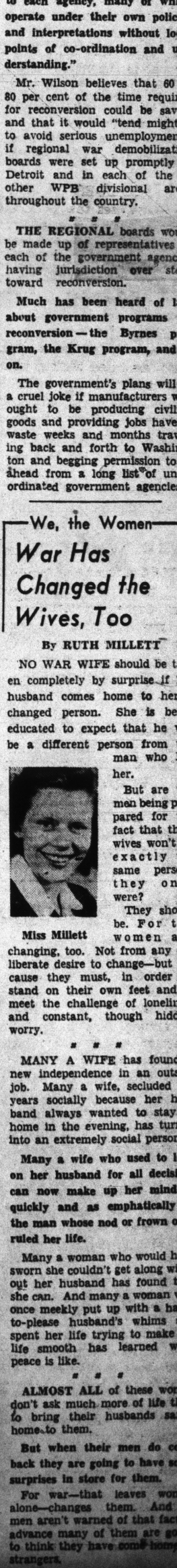
Mr. Wilson believes that 60 to 80 per cent of the time required for reconversion could be saved, and that it would "tend mightily to avoid serious unemployment, if regional war demobilization boards were set up promptly in Detroit and in each of the 10 other WPB divisional areas throughout the country."

THE REGIONAL boards would be made up of representatives of each of the government agencies having jurisdiction over steps toward reconversion.

Much has been heard of late about government programs for reconversion—the Byrnes program, the Krug program, and so on.

The government's plans will be a cruel joke if manufacturers who ought to be producing civilian goods and providing jobs have to waste weeks and months traveling back and forth to Washington and begging permission to go ahead from a long list of uncoordinated government agencies.

## By Crockett Johnson



There's a WASP in the boat!