

TUESDAY, JAN. 8, 1946

**S. Sgt. Watkins  
Back From Italy**

S. SGT. WILLIAM S. WATKINS, son of Mrs. Grace Watkins, 821 W. Hampton dr., has returned to Indianapolis after serving more than two years with the "Red Bull" infantry division in Italy.

Sgt. Watkins was a traffic technician for the Illinois Central railroad prior to his entry into the service. He is a graduate of Butler university.

Sgt. Watkins

**RETIRED FOREMAN  
DIES AT AGE OF 89**

Otto G. Heun, retired factory foreman for the American Foundry Co., died today at Rest Haven sanatorium.

Mr. Heun, who was 89, had been with the company for 30 years and retired in 1917.

Services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday in the Shirley Brothers' funeral home. Burial will be in Crown Hill cemetery.

Survivors include his daughter, Mrs. F. L. Hayward and a son, Otto R. Heun, both of Indianapolis, and 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

**Pearl and Oyster Intrigue  
Involves Some U. S. Bigwigs**

By ROBERT C. RUARK  
Script-News Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—There has been enough fancy intrigue kicking around this town lately to make a "whodunit" author hesitate to tackle it as a plot.

It is this business of the pearls and the priorities. The story, in all its ramifications, stretches from Japan to Billings, Mont., from Washington to Shanghai, and from Seattle to Philadelphia.

The dramatis personae includes a senator and his son, a lawyer, a couple of bureaucrats, an officer in army's criminal investigation branch, a "man of mystery" and assorted off-stage noises, some bronzed oysters.

Materially involved are the cultured pearl business, the oyster, politics, post-war industry, the army, transport command, diplomacy, and possibly Fu Manchu if not Mr. Moto.

Up to now, no slinky temptress with a jade cigarette holder and skin-tight dress has shown up, but we are expecting her momentarily.

Two men, Howard McGowan and Joseph Goldstone, went to the Far East on high air priorities, ostensibly to look around for the senate small business committee. Their credentials were acquired through the office of Senator Murray (D. Mont.). His son and secretary, Charles Murray, admits asking the state department to facilitate their passage.

In China, the men suddenly had their homebound priorities cancelled. Mr. Goldstone was taken off an army plane with a poke full of pearls by army's CID. At first that much was established and nothing more.

**No One Would Talk**

The army wouldn't talk. The state department clammed up. Mr. Goldstone and Mr. McGowan were silent. Senator Murray at first said he'd never heard of the men, and that they weren't representatives of his committee.

Then, under pressure, everybody's memory reved up. Senator Murray suddenly remembered that the men had been accredited to his committee—and the state department, calling the local press, knew precisely when Mr. Murray was going to start remeeting.

**Some Confusion**

Maury Maverick, head of Smaller War Plants Corp., produced a letter, signed with Senator Murray's name, requesting the loan of Mr. McGowan, an employee of smaller war plants.

Charles Murray remembered writing the state department on behalf of Mr. Goldstone and Mr. McGowan.

A secretary in Senator Murray's office remembered that Mr. McGowan had been asked to make a survey in Japan on the small-oyster industries, at the request of West Coast Oyster Co-operatives—but the

Pacific Coast Oyster Growers' association remembered that it was Mr. McGowan's idea.

Mr. Maverick said he had been sent to Mr. McGowan's trip, and had later forbade it. But when he (Mr. Maverick) got to China, he said, McGowan showed up anyhow.

McGowan emerged as a regional director for SWPC in Seattle, and as an old politico who once had publicity for a campaign of Senator Magnuson (D. Wash.).

Mr. Goldstone baffled identifiers for several days and then proved to be the president of the Imperial Pearl Syndicate. Mr. Maverick says he was told by army officers that the men were trying to line up a \$10 million monopoly in cultured pearls, which come from hand-raised oysters.

The two men allegedly had letters to Gen. MacArthur asking him not to interfere with the cultured pearl industry in Japan.

Mr. Maverick said that he asked that the men's credentials be cancelled if they were found to be doing private business under government guise. Their priorities were cancelled, despite activities in Washington to reinstate them.

Scripte - Howard Bill Newton finally achieved an interview with Mr. McGowan in China. Mr. McGowan said: "I used to be a newspaperman myself. Why don't you write about Communists, like everyone else does?"

Latest development is that Mr. Maverick has suspended Mr. McGowan from the SWPC payroll.

Mr. Maverick said to his staff:

"I am accusing McGowan of nothing criminal. But he has displayed a lack of discretion in becoming involved in this affair, which makes him undesirable as an executive of Smaller War Plants Corp."

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