

Girl Against the Channel

Experts Doubt Shirley's Strength for Crossing, But She's Confident

Tougher Than Boys in School, Teen-Ager Says; Plans Bursts of Speed to Lick Tricky Waters

Second of Four Articles

By SHIRLEY MAY FRANCE
Written for The Times

DOVER, England, Aug. 2 — Some veteran Channel swimming experts have been looking me over and I understand that they don't think too much of my chances. But they are wrong and I think I'll be able to prove it sometime this month by swimming from Cape Gris Nez to Dover.

The reason for their pessimism is that I don't look like most Channel swimmers.

Usually they carry a lot more

beef than I do. I weigh 158 but I'm nearly 5 feet 10 inches tall so I don't look as chunky as the swimmers they're used to seeing.

I noticed one famous coach eyeing me yesterday and later he told a friend of mine that I didn't look strong enough for the Channel. Well, what he didn't know is that my coach, Harry Boudakian, has had me toughening up on a callisthenics routine for years.

Tougher Than Boys
I can do more leg raises and situps than any boy in Somerset High. So I'm not worried about lack of strength.

Another Channel expert who apparently had the same idea asked a member of our party how

Robert C. Ruark reminises on Gertrude Ederle's Channel swim. His column is on Page 11.

he thought I'd stand up to the tides and cross-currents which most swimmers have to contend with.

I believe I've got the answer to that, too. As far as I've been able to find out, every Channel swimmer up to now has a slow, plodding stroke which means fighting tides and currents every few hours. I've got speed and I plan to use it in spurts if necessary to help get me into a favorable position so I'll benefit from some water movements and avoid others.

Secret Weapon

You might call speed my secret weapon.

Of course, this means knowing every eddy, current and tide. My father and coach are consulting the finest authorities on the water here to map a route from the French side to Dover. This will take several days.

Meanwhile I'm getting used to the Channel. I had a lovely two and one-half mile workout Monday morning and afternoon and my co-ordination is coming back swiftly after the shipboard layoff.

The Channel is as cold as a

mountain lake, but I found that it was a nice kind of cold and after a few strokes I felt warm and comfortable.

I've been making long distance swims ever since I was 6. I am in fine physical condition and I feel as much at home in the water as I do on the land.

They tell me that no 16-year-old has ever beaten the Channel and only 10 women have made it, but I've swum through conditions which people tell me were just as tough or worse. Once I swam for 24 hours without stopping; I figure the Channel should take at the most, 14 or 15 hours.

There are three reasons why I want to swim the Channel.

First, I want to make enough money to help my folks. I want to see them in a nice house, the kind they deserve. And I'd like to earn enough to put my two younger sisters and little brother through school. Myself, I'd like to go to college when I finish at Somerset High and study to become a physical education teacher.

Shirley Indignantly Denies Reports She'll Swim Nude

Wants Ridiculous Story Killed; Trainer of Mrs. Van Rijsel Declares She Wore Suit

DOVER, England, Aug. 2 (UP) — Shirley May France, pretty 16-year-old Massachusetts school girl, became indignant today over reports that she plans to swim the English Channel in the nude.

She said she wanted "this ridiculous story killed at once and for all."

Walter France, Shirley's father, said rumor mongers already had got Mrs. Will Van Rijsel in trouble back home in Amsterdam.

\$225,000 Fire Hits
Plant, 10 Injured

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 2 (UP) — Firemen today sought the cause of a \$225,000 fire that injured 10 persons as it destroyed the Kunst Brothers paint factory yesterday.

Denies She Doffed Suit

Ted Femme, famed trainer of Channel swimming champion and the Dutch woman's coach, said Mrs. Van Rijsel kept her bathing suit on during her channel attempt.

She wore a two-piece suit covered with white grease," he said.

He added that it is neither healthy nor proper for anyone to swim the Channel in the nude.

"A woolen suit is necessary to conserve body warmth," he said. "I know nothing of Miss France's plans. I am not connected with or advising her party so naturally I did not know what she planned to wear or not to wear."

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UMWA Fund Pays \$35,000 To Senator

Welfare Group Salary To Bridges as 'Neutral' Revealed

By FRED W. PERKINS

Merion-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2 — That \$35,000-a-year Sen. Styles Bridges (R. N. H.) gets paid as a "neutral" trustee of the United Mine Workers welfare and retirement fund has other Senators struggling along on their \$12,500-a-year pay, goggle-eyed with astonishment.

The Senator's sparetime salary came to light yesterday when Miss Josephine Roche, director of the fund, was telling the Senate Banking and Currency Committee how the fund disbursed \$100 million last year for a "low" overall administrative cost of 1.4 percent, or \$1,400,000.

Includes Allowances

Her prepared statement said this included "allowances" to the trustees. When Sen. John J. Sparkman (D. Ala.) asked her to disclose the amount of the allowances, she said \$35,000 a year was available to each of the three fund trustees — Sen. Bridges, Ezra Van Horn and UMW President John L. Lewis.

But she immediately added, "only two take it — whom Mr. Lewis is not one."

Miss Roche also said, in response to questioning that the allowances were "salaries."

The story of Sen. Bridges' getting this money goes back to a Saturday morning in 1948 — April 10. There was a big coal strike on. Mr. Lewis was due in federal court here the following Monday morning to face Judge T. Alan Goldsborough on a charge of contempt for failing to obey an order to stop the strike.

Sunday morning Sen. Bridges flew in from New York and met for two hours with the two original trustees. A press conference followed at which it was announced that the deadlock was practically at an end, but that a final meeting would be held the next morning at the unusual hour of 8:30 — Mr. Lewis being due in court at 10.

Monday morning Sen. Bridges submitted a detailed settlement which Mr. Lewis accepted "somewhat reluctantly." Mr. Van Horn dissented, but was outvoted by Lewis and Bridges.

Fined Anyway

Although Mr. Lewis promptly called off the strike, Judge Goldsborough was not to be mollified so easily and a week later he slapped a fine of \$1,400,000 on the union and \$40,000 on President Lewis.

Such records of the miners welfare fund as have been made public indicate that Sen. Bridges has continued to side with Mr. Lewis.

Sen. Bridges' government pay consists of a taxable \$12,500, plus a tax-free "expense allowance" of \$2500. These figure out as equal to a fully taxed salary of \$16,500. The Senator was unavailable for comment on his \$35,000 union fund pay, which comes from a 20-cent-a-ton tax on coal paid by consumers.

Since the welfare fund contribution blew up, Mr. Lewis' union voted to raise his salary as president from \$25,000 to \$50,000. He also gets an expense allowance.

I think everybody should know how to swim and how to take care of himself in the water. Every chance I get I try to teach kids swimming. I teach at the YMCA during the winter and I'm always showing kids on the beach how to swim and how to breathe properly.

R. B. Hougham Heads Teachers' Fund

Gov. Schriener said today Robert B. Hougham, Franklin has been appointed to a full term as executive secretary of the state teachers' retirement fund, effective Aug. 15.

Mr. Hougham, who served more than 12 years in the post during Democratic administrations in the 1930's and early 1940's, is the fund secretary now. He was appointed last January to succeed Forrest Carmichael, Columbus, who resigned.

PUBLICITY CHIEF FLIES

HONOLULU, Aug. 2 (UP) — Maj. Gen. Floyd L. Parks was en route to Washington today to become the Army's new public information chief. Gen. Parks took off from Hickam Field last night.

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Senate Gets Clark, McGrath Nominations

GOP and Democratic Chiefs Predict Quick Confirmations

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2 (UP)

Republican and Democratic leaders in the Senate today viewed Panhandle's getting 18.5 cents per million cubic feet as a 100 percent load factor; Texas Eastern (Big Inch-Little Inch) 25.9 cents and Texas Gas Transmission 28.5. Each figure was scaled upwards proportionately for load factors of 80 and 60 percent.

Rates were based on current figures of FPC, he said.

Mr. Smith, who has been supporting a plan to have Texas Eastern supply Texas Eastern with sufficient gas for the Indianapolis market, challenged the figures. He introduced in evidence the Panhandle contract form which he said now is offered present customers of the company.

Outlook Not Clear

There was still no clear indication as to whether the Clark appointment would be contested. Sen. Homer Ferguson (R. Mich.) and James P. Kem (R. Mo.), who led a fight against Mr. Clark two years ago because of his handling of Kansas City vote frauds, remained silent and apparently had not decided whether to oppose the nomination.

If both appointees are confirmed, Mr. McGrath's switch to a Cabinet post will create two job vacancies. He intends to resign the chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee when he quits the Senate.

Panhandle has offered to bring gas to Indianapolis, under a 15-year contract beginning July 1, 1950, and build its own pipeline from the company's compressor station at Zionsville.

U. S. CHIEFS IN LONDON

LONDON, Aug. 2 (UP) — The three U. S. chiefs of staff arrived here from Germany by plane at 11:26 a. m. (Indianapolis time) today.

(Continued From Page One)
dianapolis, appearing for the city and utility, asked the witness if he knew that rates Panhandle was offering Indianapolis, in a sample contract form were higher than those upon which his calculations were based and the result was a lawyer's wrangle.

The Panhandle expert is Edward Falck, a consultant with offices here.

Offers Figures

Mr. Falck offered in evidence a tabulation, based on present rates in the area, which showed that Panhandle gets 18.5 cents per million cubic feet at a 100 percent load factor; Texas Eastern (Big Inch-Little Inch) 25.9 cents and Texas Gas Transmission 28.5. Each figure was scaled upwards proportionately for load factors of 80 and 60 percent.

Gen. Hoyt, chief of staff, Bradley, Army newsman here, said no cutback in forces with war back up its own base under the

TUESDAY

U. S. All-Jet In Germany
Ground For Any Military

Aug. 2 (UP) — soon will base its present strength emergency.

Gen. Hoyt, chief of staff, Bradley, Army newsman here, said no cutback in forces with war back up its own base under the

The only one in the airlift, that is, normally no blockade of war routes to Europe.

Gen. Vandenberg, who has been hearing the case since it first started last March, pointed out that it will be up to the commission to set the rates.

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