

## Inside Indianapolis

By Ed Sovola

**FIRE CHIEF** Roscoe A. McKinney (he'll always be "Chief") painted a word picture that was so realistic the other day, I want to apply for pension money, too.

Sadness was in my heart when I climbed the stairs of headquarters to wish the Chief all the luck in the world as a private citizen.

Chief McKinney wasn't too happy. As a frustrated firefighter looked at a "go-in man" of 38 years service, nostalgia coming out of a 3-inch nozzle hit him.

"How do you feel about leaving the service, Chief?"

"It breaks my heart." "Remember the Crystal Flash Petroleum Co., fire we were on last summer—summer before last? Darn, the years sure fly."

The Chief remembered and shuddered and said we were lucky on that one. "Burned my hand that day," he said.

"Got my shoes wet." I said.

IT WASN'T long before we were sitting with our feet propped up hating the minutes as they slipped by.

"I sure hate to see the first of the year come," sighed the Chief. "My only consolation is that Joe (Joseph F. Hancock) will be the chief. He's a fireman's fireman."

My eyes roamed the wall where all the Chief's badges he ever wore were hanging in a frame behind glass. From substitute fireman to the top job. He's been called Chief since 1922.

From my memory book I recalled the night I spent at Station 13 and went out on the only fire. It was a Chic Sale blaze on the Southwest Side. The razzing the "rookie" took is still clear in his ears.

It was the Chief's turn to remember. He talked about being blown out of buildings, almost checking in his rubber boots twice, always making sure never to send in men where he wouldn't go in himself.

**WHEN HE** told about the time he was blown out of a passageway in a factory fire, the smoke and flame were in my nostrils. I could see my Chief lying on the floor. Voices could be heard above the noise of the conflagration.

Then one brave man appeared and pieked the limp body up and started walking to safety. All of a sudden there was no floor. The fireman had walked into the pit of an elevator shaft.

"That was something," laughed the Chief. "There I was, unconscious and choking from smoke one minute and drowning the next. But we got out and whipped the fire."

Another time the Chief (this is as clear as if I heard it yesterday instead of day before) Chief McKinney was knocked heels over belt buckle and then brought to the station and put to bed. His mind was in a fog. Neither the Chief nor the men at the station know how he got out of bed. They found him back at the fire as if he'd never left.

"A man who loves this job can't miss being a good fireman," mused the Chief. How true.

### Chief McKinney Sad At Leaving Service



THROUGH SMOKE AND YEARS—Chief Roscoe A. McKinney spun some yarns while "Chief Inside" directed the fire-fighting on a 4-alarm.

Ever since I was knee-high to a fire extinguisher are the same as last year.

But, it's even more important this year to show your correct exemptions because the Bureau is going to examine them more carefully than ever before.

In a recent test audit the Bureau discovered that the most common error made by taxpayers with income less than \$5000 was on exemptions. So, if you want to stay out of trouble, read this article of the primer carefully.

Exemptions can be divided into three classes: for yourself and wife, for your children, and for other relatives.

Turn to page 4 of the official instructions and read first the section on "Exemptions for You and Wife." You will have no trouble if you remember two things:

FIRST—you were 65 or over in 1951 if your 65th birthday was on or before Jan. 1, 1952.

SECOND—unlike other dependents, you cannot claim your wife as an exemption if she files a separate return to get back the tax withheld on her earnings of less than \$600. If your wife has income of less than \$600 you should file a joint return. Her income has to be included with yours, but you get a \$600 exemption for her (more if she's 65 or blind) so it's cheaper than filing separate returns.

Each child and each dependent relative who meets all the tests set out on page 4 of the official instructions can be claimed as an exemption.

The exemption tests are short but not entirely clear. To help you with this important step, the Primer lists the tests and then adds explanations.

ONE—Did you have \$600 or more gross income in 1950?

EXPLANATION: Remember that gifts or non-taxable income such as dividends on GI insurance, disability payments and insurance proceeds are not included in gross income. Non-business deductions for contributions, interest, taxes, etc. cannot be used to reduce income below \$600. For example, suppose your son earned \$600 in 1951 and gave \$5 to the community chest. His gross income

is still \$600 and you cannot claim him as an exemption.

TWO—Received more than one-half of his or her support from you or your wife, if filing a joint return.

EXPLANATION: Fill in the form printed with this article. It will show you how to figure whether you contributed over one-half of the support.

THREE—Is not claimed as an exemption on the return of her husband or his wife.

EXPLANATION: For example, suppose your daughter was married on Dec. 31, 1951. Even though you were her sole support during 1951, you can't claim her if she files a joint return with her husband or is claimed as an exemption on her husband's separate return.

FOUR—Was either a citizen of the United States or a resident of the United States, Canada or Mexico.

## It Happened Last Night

By Earl Wilson

**NEW YORK**, Jan. 2—Gregory Ratoff, the famous Russian director, who says, "My awnee claim to fame ees I wrote four times for Roosevelt," is now an Eisenhower man.

"As an ex-Rawshun, I say, for peace for 8 years, we should elect Mr. Eisenhower," he told me the other night at Gogi's Larus. "The Rawshun respect power. I say, eef we elect Mr. Eisenhower, day weel be a very seek people."

Ratoff probably won't bet on Ike, though. "I'm the awnlawkiest gambler in the world," he said. "When I vote for Roosevelt, I bet on Dewey. So now when I vote for Eisenhower, I bet on Taft!"

**OUR ITEM** about Billy Rose being seen with 6-foot-5 actress Dorothy Ford while "holidaying in Hollywood" was evidently misinterpreted to Billy by whoever wired or phoned him about it, for he has telegraphed us: "Dear Earl: I came out here to visit with my sister and her husband and take care of some business. I am not holidaying with Dorothy Ford, Henry Ford or any other Ford and would appreciate your saying so. Regards."

Dear Billy: Inasmuch as I never did say you were holidaying with Dorothy Ford, I am perfectly willing not to say it again. Season's greetings. (Everybody happy?)

**HENRY YOUNGMAN** told of the customer in Lindy's who put six spoons of sugar in his coffee. Finally Lindy demanded: "Why don't you stop that?"

"Because," said the customer, "I don't like it sweet."

**JOE FRISCO**, the comedian, said to us in Toots Shor's: "Did you read in the paper about me passing away?"

"No."

"You m-must have," shouted stuttering Joe. "Y-y-you ain't been writing about me."

**IN GOSSIP-COLUMN** which Irving Hoffman called "carpet-sweeping in the Hall of Fame," the first guy there often gets the dirt or the wisecrack. Indeed, when I chanced to overhear a wisecrack because I'd got up at 10 a.m. one day Seldon Bennett said to me, "You're living proof that it's the early schmo who gets the mot."

**BIG-TIME ATTY.** Arnold Grant, counsel to many famous people, was still in his bathtub Christmas morning when a man at the door of his home in Rye said, "Your car is here, sir."

"I didn't call for any car," replied Grant.

"Your name is Arnold Grant?"

The man handed him a Christmas card from his law partner, Greg Bautzer of Hollywood, and showed him his Christmas present from Bautzer—a new Jaguar automobile.

**NICKY HILTON**'s new romantic interest is shapely Piper Laurie (whom a dialect guy recently called "Peter Lorre"). . . . Geo. Jessel and Joan Lyle Do Something to Each Other . . . Wouldn't be surprised if they got married . . . Jessel says he has made more pictures than Wald & Krasna

### Vote For Ike Ratoff Advises



have announced . . . The Jimmy Durante-Margie Little weddin' rumors are on again . . . "Our World" gives Josephine Baker the cover on its February issue . . . Rita Hayworth's art. Bartley Crum says the rumors of Rita going back to Aly are silly. The real reason Rita spurned that movie was that she was supposed to portray a gal who would seduce her husband's brother while her husband lay dead in the next room.

**THE MIDNIGHT EARL** . . . Geene Courtney's taken possession of the semester . . . Jerry Pickman, named veep and member of the board of Paramount Film Distributing Co., is the youngest to hold such a job . . . Louis Nizer, atty. for Eleanor Holm, is Florida-vacationing. Maybe after some of his recent big cases, he can buy Florida.

Jennifer Jones is considering trying the B-way stage . . . Welfare Com. McCarthy will try to eradicate the phony charity street collector evil after the first of the year . . . Enoch Light, new director of Prom Records, was all but given up for dead after an auto crash a few years ago . . . The Duke & Duchess of Windsor were guests of Samuel H. Vallance at an after-theater party which all but took possession of El Morocco's Champagne Room . . . B-way's Johnny Stewart's new wonder child after his first movie, "Boots Malone" . . . Rosemarie Ridgewell is a Latin Quarter cutie.

**EARL'S PEARLS** . . . Many a man would get married if his family didn't object—specifically (says Paulette Goddard) his wife and children.

COMMIE dialog allegedly overheard by Lester Lanin: "How do you feel, comrade?" . . . "Good, must be something you hate?" . . . That's Earl, brother.

### Dishing the Dirt

By Marguerite Smith

**—I** received a poinsettia for Christmas and would like to know how to care for it and how to keep it when it stops blooming. Mrs. G. L. Chapman, Bloomingdale.

—Keep your plant growing on as long as possible with plenty of sun (artificial light at night will help), water enough to keep moist but not soggy wet, and warmth but no drafts. Your poinsettia will likely drop its leaves anywhere

from early January up to late March depending on how it likes your treatment. Then store it away for a rest in a cool not too light spot. From here on various treatments are successful. Try this one: Water the plant scantily once a week. In early April water it thoroughly and bring it by gradual stages to a warm sunny window. After it begins to grow cut it back to within 3 or 4 inches of the pot. Try your hand at slipping the trimmings. These make good young plants. After mid-May put it outdoors. Give it fertilizer solution regularly during summer. Bring it indoors in fall before Sept. 1st. Poinsettias hate chills.

Read Marguerite Smith's Garden Column in The Sunday Times

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## ANNUAL GUIDE—

### Your Income Tax Primer—No. 3

#### Here Are Two Important Changes That Affect Your Dependents

By RICHARD A. MULLENS

Times Special Writer

TWO important changes in the new income tax law will affect your exemptions this year.

First, your dependents can now have up to \$600 income and still be claimed as an exemption. Last year the amount was \$500.

Second, those of you claiming dependents other than wife or child have to fill out a new schedule, added to this year's returns, which gives the Bureau more information about the relatives you show as exemptions.

In other respects, exemptions are the same as last year.

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#### This Worksheet Will Help You Determine Whether You Contributed Over Half Of Dependent's Support

Enter the entire cost during 1951 of dependent's support for:

Board (Estimate as closely as possible) \$

Clothing ( " " )

Lodging ( " " )

Medical Care

Education

Entertainment

Other costs of supporting dependent

Total Costs \$

One-half of Total Costs

(Include in above figures all amounts spent for such items whether contributed or provided by you or someone else. If your son was inducted into the armed forces in 1951, include in the above figures the value of his board, lodging and clothing while in the service.)

Enter the amounts provided to support dependent:

By you and your wife if filing a joint return

By dependent

By others