



Mail From Home

WNU Washington Bureau
621 Union Trust Building.

CONGRESSIONAL mail from Home Towns of the country this week was swamped with postcards and letters favoring the pay increase for postal employees, testifying to the efficacy of the postal employees' organization. Next came "gripes" against the beleaguered OPA and then there was a sprinkling of inquiries concerning unemployment. And that's important and leads to the question, "What is being done in your community to combat any prospective unemployment?"

That there will be unemployment of both men and women during these next few months of cutbacks and reconversion is certain. Workers will be laid off in certain war industries. In other industries work time will be shifted back to the 40-hour week with a resultant decrease in overall pay of about 20 per cent.

It is estimated here, however, that approximately a million and a half jobs are readily available to these unemployed from war plants, in the small towns and rural communities of the nation. Farmers could readily use another million workers on the farms.

Your filling stations are short a man or two. The cream station, the groceries, hardware stores, service shops, the department and general stores, the five and ten and the variety stores, the banks, restaurants, the co-operatives, the lumber yards and feed mills, the garages, the drug stores and even the ice cream parlors, and the taverns . . . all these can use one or more employees.

Some of these letters to the congressmen point out that business men and others are loath to take on additional help now for the reason they expect war veterans home this year who will apply for their old jobs. It is true that some million and a half veterans are to be released by the army this year. The records show, however, that of those veterans, totaling more than a million, who have been released up to this time, less than 30 per cent have applied for their old jobs. The experience further shows, that in many thousands of cases, these returning veterans do not expect to go back to work in their home towns. They want to visit the folks, of course, but they do not expect to settle down in the same old job and circumstances they left before the war. They plan different work in different fields and in what they consider greener pastures. They have grown, their horizons broadened, and many thousands will return to finish their education under the provisions of the G. I. Bill of Rights.

Some progressive towns have already taken steps to publicize their need for workers. The chamber of commerce, or even service clubs, such as Rotary, Kiwanis or Lions, or in some instances committees named by the mayor or town council have made careful surveys listing the needs of every business in the town in the way of labor. Farm organizations, or the county agent have canvassed the farm territory to determine the needs of the farmers for farm labor.

In some cases these lists have been filed with the nearest United States Employment office with excellent results. In other instances the local paper has undertaken a campaign to publicize the needs of the town. If there is a local factory which has been manufacturing a war product and has been shut down or likely will be shut down even temporarily, this survey could readily place the workers in your own community.

It is pointed out here that if every small town and community in the nation thus made known the labor it could immediately absorb, it would not only be helpful to the merchants and business men in the town, increase the purchasing power of the community, but it would help take up the slack in unemployment to the tune of some 2 1/2 million workers without any lost motion.

Discharge Plan.

If your boy, husband or father is eligible for discharge under the 85-point rating, don't expect him home too soon. It may take months to move him from Europe or the Pacific.

And another thing, don't expect to rush out and buy a new automobile, washing machine, radio, vacuum cleaner or other household equipment within the next few weeks.

It will be the latter part of the year before these things are on the market and probably after the first of the year before they are available in any quantity. And in spite of the announcement that 1942 prices will prevail, don't expect to buy the same quality you bought in 1942 at the 1942 price. It appears to this reporter that the trend here is to relax price controls to some extent, which means upward, on all manufactured articles. Materials for civilian needs are still scarce and high and labor wages are almost bound to increase.



A SURPRISING number of letters have come to this desk asking about the deal wherein Mort Cooper of the Cardinals was traded to the Boston Braves.

Our only answer to these queries is that baseball is strictly a business. For example the Cooper brothers,



Mort Cooper

Mort and Walker, as a battery, would have been cheap at \$40,000 a year to the Yankees or the Giants, for two examples. But they happened to belong to the Cardinals, who could afford no such outlay with the fan support St. Louis gives its ball clubs. In the way of attendance, St. Louis is only a fair baseball city. It was none too hot last season with two pennant winners. The attendance figures prove all this. It isn't a matter of argument.

So when a pitcher such as Mort Cooper comes along and happens to be St. Louis property, he is out of luck. Affiliated with another club he might get almost double the price St. Louis can pay him.

Mort Cooper, however, used bad judgment in the way he handled his side of the argument. He should never have left Billy Southworth stranded, without any warning. For Southworth is a square shooter, who is for his men.

Not Very Smart

One of the main tangles in baseball is that few club owners are smart, and most ball players are in the same fix. There is more than a little smartness on the field in baseball, but not much smartness off the field. This includes the players and the owners.

Ball players like to win. And yet many good ones have to go to sure second division or tail end teams, where they get less money and are usually overlooked. They get all the worst of it. But if all the good ball players went to New York, Detroit, Brooklyn and the better paying cities, there would be no big leagues as the setup exists today.

There should be a new distribution of baseball cities. There are certain towns that can't handle two big league teams. St. Louis is one. Maybe Boston is another. Certainly such cities as Los Angeles and Baltimore could do a far better job in the way of supporting crowds. Detroit could handle two big league clubs, but the American League wants no National League competition. It is all badly muddled.

Those Early Days

A few days ago we ran into an old pal, who at the age of 86, is still as spry as two Mexican jumping beans. He is the sole survivor of the old St. Louis Browns who won four pennants in a row in 1885 to '88.

Arlie Latham, as an umpire, was something on the order of Tim Hurst and Silk O'Loughlin.

I asked Arlie a few days ago who was the best ball player he worked with in those earlier days.

"He was a kid named Ty Cobb, playing with Augusta," Arlie said. "He was always crowding the plate, so I couldn't see it. He was always ready to fight with everybody for his rights, including the umpires and the other ball players. He was only 17 or 18 years old. But he could do everything — hit, run, field and win ball games. He'd lay down a bunt and beat it out. He'd steal two bases. Then he'd hit a triple — and try to steal home. To most of us umpires, he was a pest. We didn't have enough eyes to follow him. That was the best minor league team I ever saw — Ty Cobb, Eddie Cicotte, Nap Rucker, Ducky Holmes — and a few more. And none of them brought over \$750. Cobb was one of the cheaper sales — to Detroit."

This reminded me of the older days in the South when I was called on, as a young sportswriter in Nashville, to recommend a few southern leaguers. My four selections at that time were Joe Jackson, with New Orleans, Jake Daubert with Nashville, Tris Speaker with Little Rock and Nap Rucker with Augusta.

The Brooklyn club refused to pay \$5,000 for Joe Jackson, the greatest natural hitter that ever lived.

The Cleveland club sent for Jake Daubert — and turned him back because he couldn't hit. He only led the National League in hitting in 1913 and 1914, with Brooklyn — one of the best hitters the National League has ever known. And Cleveland needed a first baseman badly. But Daubert couldn't hit.

'Crude,' but Great

Ab Powell said Nap Rucker was too crude. That's what they said about Rube Waddell, Shufflin' Phil Douglass, Dizzy Dean, Bugs Raymond and Grover Cleveland Alexander. A trifle crude — I'll admit. But I'd like to own a ball club with those five pitchers. So would you, if you knew anything about baseball.

Most of these were not heroic characters. But when they stepped into the box, a majority of the big hitters of their day wanted to throw their bats away.

Buttons Give Dramatic Accent To Dresses, Bags, Belts, Gloves

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



BUTTON drama takes the spotlight in the summer showings of America's leading designers. Buttons of every size and description are giving dramatic accent to the smartest hats, bags, belts and gloves in addition to providing glamour trimmings for every type of dress from sports to formal evening gowns. More highly important news about buttons is that they have become the latest inspiration to costume jewelry designers.

This vogue for button decor on simple wartime fashions offers a particularly happy inspiration to home dressmakers with a thrifty eye on makeovers. With a wonderful array of plastic buttons in jeweled, floral and lace effects available at the notion counters of local sewing centers, along with a variety of decorative ceramic button styles and lovely simulated metal buttons with jeweled centers, it's easy for any amateur to glamorize simple clothes and accessories with button magic.

You can get buttons from thumb to oversized and bulky types and you can get expert advice at sewing centers as to size, style and color of buttons with relation to the garment they will adorn, or the accessory they are to dramatize. For instance, a simple black bareback dress with a modish white cape as shown in the illustration (right) can be given unusual distinction by adding a scalloped border of black fabric to the cape fronts accenting each scallop with a huge flower-shaped aqua plastic button. The costume touch is achieved by using buckles for the dress belt that match the cape buttons.

The two-piece suit-dress of violet featherweight flannel to the left shows what an amateur teen-ager

can do in glamorizing her simple clothes with button decor by taking her cue from high-fashion. For instance new chic is given to her classic felt beanie cap by scalloping the edges and sewing plastic buttons on in pleasing array. The accessorizing trick is repeated in her matching drum-shaped handbag with buttons ranged around the top and bottom cuffs. Billiard green braid trimming outlines the collarless bellhop jacket with weskit-like fronts. The heart-shaped pocket with button-made ornament perched high on either side of the front opening and the bracelet length sleeves are chic details.

Possibilities for giving button flipp to accessories are endless. Note centered above in the group illustrated above how easily the popular wide headband can be glorified with diagonal rows of white buttons, widely spaced across the surface of the band.

If you want to dress up a pair of plain gloves, look for those irresistible ceramic buttons that are perfect reproductions of fresh flowers. They can be anchored on the top of the glove as shown at upper right corner, in a twinkling with just a few stitches. For a charming ensemble repeat the buttons on a velvet band worn about the throat.

One of the really smart ideas for your velvet-banded snooze is to stud the mesh (shown circled below) with tiny pink lace buttons. You'll find this idea plenty glamorous for daytime or evening wear.

Buttons used in a jewelry way present a most fascinating new theme. They are fashioned into hats, pins, earrings, cuff links, fobs, brooches, hair ornaments, necklaces and bracelets. Tiny flower buttons can easily be transformed into earrings by pasting the fastener gadget from an old pair to the backs of the buttons.

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Styled for Summer



Meet one of fashion's prettiest pin-up summer girls. Here she is perfectly styled in a summery all-white ensemble save for a dash of color in the contrast piping that finishes off the short sleeves and breast pockets. The idea of color accent on white is one designers are interpreting in many ways. Contrast piping is one way of doing it as here shown; also colorful embroidery on white is very much in evidence. The wide-brim hat and the modish fishnet-trimmed bag also make all-white their theme.

Lovely White Frocks Of Organdy, Pique

Those pretty-pretty black sheers and those gay and lovely print frocks that every woman loves have a rival this summer. It's the simple white frock made of dainty sheers, pique or eyeleted sheers. These "simple whites" bring with them all the romance and feminine charm of the yester years. There's nothing prettier for a young girl than a youthfully styled white-upon-white shadow print organdy with a subtle touch of exquisite lace here and there. This is exactly what they are showing this year for summer dress-up wear. This seasons eyeleted white fabrics are too lovely for words and they are made up in most intriguing ways, minus fuss or furbelows, for the beautiful material speaks for itself. Eyeleted pique vies with the eyeleted sheers. Handpainted on white organdy or crepe is a feature being much exploited.

Flower Wreaths and Jabots

The many new ways of wearing flowers introduced this season bespeak infinite glamour for the forthcoming "summer girl." This year it is the flower wreath she will wear on her pretty head, matched with flowers at her throat arranged in the new jabot silhouette which is perfectly charming.

Pan-American Colors

Vivid Pan-American colors enliven smart sportswear fashions. A midriff play dress of black window pane checks on blue cotton is trimmed with a magenta cord at neckline and sleeves. The magenta is repeated on an embroidered hemline about the skirt.

Pretty Mother and Daughter Bonnets



A PRETTY sight on a hot summer's day—a young mother and her pretty little daughter in crisp ginghams and stiffly starched matching white hats. Crochet these gay bonnets in all-white or pale pastel colored cotton yarn.

To obtain complete crocheting instructions for the Mother and Daughter Dutch Bonnets (Pattern No. 5875) send 16 cents in coin, your name, address and the pattern number.

Due to an unusually large demand and current war conditions, slightly more time is required in filling orders for a few of the most popular pattern numbers.

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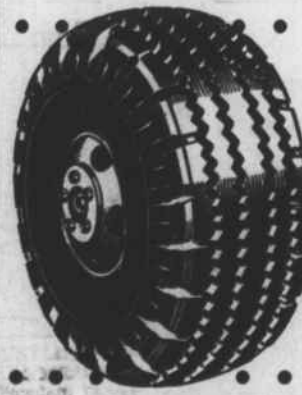


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