

Mr. Irvin Starts Vacation

The courthouse won't seem the same without "Mr. Irvin" there.

For 28 years Irvin W. Davis has been register of deeds, an office to which he has been resoundingly elected in nine general elections and renominated again in this year's primary. When he first went in office in 1930, county officials were elected every two years. In the late 1930's the procedure was changed to an election every four years.

Mr. Irvin has always been returned to office with a walloping majority. Frequently he was top man on the Democratic ticket. The "champ" is now retiring, undefeated.

Although he still looks robust and hearty, Mr. Irvin believes that at the age of 72, he's due some respite from the responsibilities of an exacting job. Not only is he register of deeds, but clerk to the board of county commis-

sioners. Anybody who has sat through county board meetings once a month for 28 years deserves a vacation!

Illness struck last winter and Mr. Irvin has been unable to be in the office as much as he would like. He feels, therefore, that he should resign rather than subject himself and the Democratic party to criticism for "not being on the job".

For 21 years he served as chairman of the county Democratic Executive Committee, a job he relinquished this past spring at the county convention.

Mr. Irvin has served the people of the county and the Democratic party well. We hope his days of retirement will be healthy, happy ones, wherein he can sit on his porch at Davis, give highly valuable advice to the county officials still in harness, and go visit his grandchildren when the spirit moves him.

Other States and Oysters

All states that value their oyster resources have state-sponsored programs of oyster culture.

Maryland this summer tried a full-scale experiment of using slag on oyster beds as an attachment for baby oysters. Slag is a waste product from the process of refining of steel. Between 20,000 and 30,000 tons of the porous cinder material has been put in Chesapeake Bay, in addition to the regular shell plantings.

In Florida a tremendous oyster shell planting program is under way at East-point, six miles east of Apalachicola. When the job is finished, about 20 acres of state-owned bottom will be covered with oyster shell for a depth of 1 to 3 feet.

In addition to that planting, Florida's Department of Conservation plans spreading of 3,000 cubic yards of shell in Choctawhatchee Bay. It is expected that in 18 months, the planted beds will produce marketable oysters.

In Virginia, in another phase of oyster culture, biologists are determining how long saltwater oysters can live in fresh water.

These state-financed programs in states to the north and south of us indicate that experts beyond the borders of North Carolina are aware of the fact that their oyster industry now, and perhaps for many years to come, cannot be self-perpetuating.

A fine supply of oysters in North Carolina waters, able to reproduce in abundance naturally, under reasonable limits on catches, would be ideal. It is a goal worth striving for. It is not a new goal — any state now working to increase its oyster resources hopes some day to be able to see nature do all the work without help from man.

With the constant increase in population and likewise the increase in demand for food, the hope for self-perpetuating oyster resources seems dim at present.

The North Carolina Fisheries Association recently took to task those connected with the state oyster program, basing its criticism on the tenet that it wants the oyster program to be self-perpetuating.

Some day the man may be born who can do this. If North Carolina hasn't found him yet, neither has Virginia, Maryland or Florida. It would be well nigh disastrous to North Carolina oystermen if the NCFA in its well-intended, perhaps, but bungling "oyster study" has jeopardized the availability of North Carolina funds for oyster culture.

States north and south of us are going full steam ahead in oyster programs. For the welfare of oystermen in those states, it is hoped that divisive elements have not threatened development of their programs.

He Can't Win

(Baltimore Sun)

Henry is a stubborn man. Else he would realize the utter futility of beginning each monthly check-writing session with blasts against his wife's extravagance. He can't win! Take the time he accused his wife of buying new furs just to show off in church. What did she reply?

"Henry, dear," she sweetly retorted, "you are dead wrong — as usual. I bought them just to show everybody what a sweet, generous husband I have!"

Again, he said, "Laura, we simply must economize. If I died, where would you be?" To which she cracked, "I'd be right here. The question is, where would you be?"

Still stubbornly persisting, he dourly observed on another occasion, "If I had known you were so extravagant I would never have married you." To which she coolly retorted, "If I hadn't been, father would never have let you!"

You would think that all this would

have taught Henry to keep his big, fat mouth shut. But no! The very next month he cracked, "Your extravagance is unbearable. When I die you'll probably have to beg."

Without dropping a stitch in her knitting, Laura demolished him with, "Well, I should be better off than some poor women who have never had any practice."

Cities of Millions

At least sixty-two cities of the world count more than 1,000,000 persons in the city proper, the United Nations Demographic Yearbook of 1957 reports. In this category the largest is New York. Then follow Tokyo, London, and Greater Paris. If adjacent areas are counted, the yearbook notes, the number of "million" cities rises to eighty. By this count, the five largest are New York, Tokyo, Shanghai, Moscow, and Buenos Aires.

LEARNING THE ROPES



MORRIS

Security for You...

By RAY HENRY

All federal government workers who retired before Oct. 1, 1956, will find a 10 per cent increase in their Sept. 1 annuity checks.

The raises will average about \$13 a month and will be paid automatically.

They result from a cost-of-living raise Congress made in the annuity rates. It also:

1. Raises by 10 per cent the annuities of survivors — widows, widowers and children — who are drawing annuities based on a government employee's work before Oct. 1, 1956.

2. Limits the increase which retired workers may receive to \$500 a year and which survivors may receive to \$250 a year.

3. Provides annuities for the first time to certain widows of men who worked for the government and who died before Feb. 29, 1948.

The raises will not go to any retired workers or survivors who've gone on the Civil Service annuity rolls since Oct. 1, 1956. Their payments are based on a different and more liberal annuity plan and Congress felt they didn't deserve increased annuities at this time.

The increases will go to nearly a quarter million retired workers and 87,000 widows, widowers and children.

And, the government figures that up to 40,000 widows will be entitled to annuities for the first time. To qualify for one, these conditions must be met:

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Comment... J. Kellum

BRITISH FORTITUDE

Courage has been defined as going ahead in spite of fear, and fortitude as patient courage in spite of danger and discomfort. England was fortunate during World War II in her share of people possessed of this virtue. Hitler hoped, by destroying London, to seriously weaken England. But the English endured.

In "The Londoner" (Collins, London, 1946) which is a brief—and interesting—history of the city, author Dorothy Nicholson reminds us of the life led by those who stayed with the city:

"Shelter life began, rather confusedly at first; later with miracles of organization, sanitary and alimentary, by authority, and the joys of communal life, so much appreciated that many were loth to relinquish them when the need of shelter passed.

"Two-thirds of the Londoners of the central areas made use of no shelter of any kind, public or private, but slept at home, under tables, under stairs, or just in bed.

"Those who had responsibilities, to the wine of bombs and spatter of spent shell, carried on a diversity of tasks, men and women alike 'taking not a blind bit of notice of what was falling all round them,' driving ambulances, driving and mending fire appliances, repairing gasometers sixty feet in the air with millions of cubic feet of gas beneath them, wading breast-high in flooded basements to damp fires under bombed boilers, performing surgical operations by hand-torch in buildings shaken by blast, rescuing people from shattered houses, or from a collapsed shop, sliding down a slippery clay crater to a gas main alight at the bottom.

"Once when a volunteer 'slender build' was asked for, a London Home Guard, a tiny man, taking a saw with him crawled through a tunnel burrowed through debris and extricated a number of imprisoned people by sawing through a beam upon which the superstructure appeared to, but miraculously did not, rest.

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Stamps in the News

By SYD KRONISH

The Territory of Papua, New Guinea, has issued a new set of stamps illustrating local industries, reports the Australian News Bureau. This will be the second issue of stamps for the territory. The first occurred in 1952 and consisted of 15 denominations.

The 4 pence red will depict cacao, 7 pence gray green—Klinkil Plymill, 1 shilling 7 pence red

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Guatemala issued a set of four values honoring the Red Cross. The 1 centavo picture a Quetzal bird perched on a map of Guatemala. The 2 c shows a woman holding a child. The 3 c depicts a padre aiding an ill man. The 4c illustrates a portrait of Raphael Ayau and the Red Cross symbol.

A new stamp honoring the city of Rostock and "Baltic Week 1958" has been issued by Eastern Germany. The 20-pennig red stamp depicts the seven towers of Rostock, a landmark of the harbor city, and ocean vessels.

The 4-cent Journalism and Freedom of the Press commemorative will feature a hand holding an old fashioned quill pen, a stylization of a hand printing press plus horizontal and vertical bars suggesting type bearers.

It will be placed on first day sale at Columbia, Mo., the home of the world's first School of Journalism founded in 1908 as part of the University of Missouri.

The dedication of the new stamp will be one of the events of a year-

long program marking the golden anniversary of the University's School of Journalism.

Collectors desiring first day cancellations may send their addressed envelopes to the Postmaster at Columbia, Mo., with money order to cover the cost of the stamps to be affixed.

The outside envelopes to the Postmaster should be endorsed "First Day Covers Freedom of the Press Stamp." Also remember that this is a vertical stamp and all envelopes should be addressed in the lower left corner.

Charlottesville, Va. — Is the editorial page necessary? More than 200 dailies in the United States don't think so and have stopped carrying editorials completely, the editor of the Richmond News Leader told delegates to the Virginia Press Association's annual seminar on writing here.

James Jackson Kilpatrick said two of the original reasons for the existence of the editorial page—serving as a political party organ and furthering political ambitions

Smile a While

A poll taker asked an old Texan if he thought the recession would have major political influence in the Lone Star State.

"Son, we don't have a recession down here," replied the oldster, "though our boom is worse'n it's been in a good while."

An efficiency expert is a man who is smart enough to tell you how to run your business, and too smart to start one of his own.

Are Editorials Necessary?

of the publisher — had largely disappeared.

But, Mr. Kilpatrick declared, the editorial page "can be the soul and personality of the newspaper. Here the editor meets his reader. He becomes an eagerly awaited friend, or a bitterly hated antagonist."

The newspaper "has a holy and essential obligation" to present intelligent and stimulating editorials, Mr. Kilpatrick said.

— Publisher's Auxiliary August, 1958

Louise Sprey

Words of Inspiration

Today I am sure that all of you would like to join me in sending our best wishes to Mr. Grayden Paul, Carteret County's goodwill ambassador, who is now recovering from an operation at the McPherson Hospital in Durham, N. C.

By the time this column is printed, we pray that Mr. Paul will be fully recovered and back home again.

Some time ago there was an article in one of our popular magazines on Insomnia, and the staggering amounts of drugs used by the American people.

A few months ago, Mr. Paul sent me the following poem which I would like to share with you.

A Substitute for Sleeping Pills

As the whippoorwill coos in the evening breeze,
And the wind murmurs softly through the dunes and trees,
Come a soothing respite from the heat of the day,
And a nearness to God, as we kneel to pray.

Let your heart forget the turmoil and strife
Which is man's common lot in this earth-bound life,
And give thanks unto Him, for his Infinite Love,
His blessing on earth . . . and Heaven above.

Throw away that bottle of sleeping pills —
And your dreadful fear of imaginary ills.
O'er you will come the comforting mantle of sleep
When your soul is at rest, and you kneel at His feet.

— Grayden Paul

THE IMMORTALITY OF SERVICE

It matters little whether men tomorrow will remember or forget the mere combinations of consonants and vowels which make our names. It matters little whether men tomorrow will treasure in painting or sculpture or utterly forget the form of our bodies and the mould of our features.

But what does matter mightily is that in the hearts and hopes and spirits of men there shall live on and gleam on some flame that we have kindled. To live on in some consolidated school which insures a larger opportunity for childhood; in the lightened labors of some housewife to whom home demonstration work has brought more leisure and recreation; in the happy smile of some boy or girl to whom health facilities have meant joy and strength; in some public library which immeasurably widens the intellectual horizon of the community; in some new and larger appreciation of the beauty in art or nature, or in some passion for justice which sweetens law and life — this is our high privilege.

It is better to win such a simple but genuine immortality than to have the empty glory of any career, however dazzling, which burnt itself out in serving the ends of self. May every one of us get this vision of his possibilities for service and strive for their fulfillment, finding while he lives the happiness of constructive activity, and dying —

... Join the choir invisible
Of those immortal dead who live again
In minds made better by their presence . . .
Whose music is the gladness of the world."

— Clarence Poe

Prayer pulls the rope below and the bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell, for they pray so languidly; others give an occasional pluck at the rope; but he who wins with Heaven is the man who grabs the rope boldly and pulls continuously with all his might.

— Spurgeon

From the Bookshelf

The Secret of Luca. By Ignazio Harper & Brothers. \$3.50.

Silone is a master of the simple, straightforward narrative, shorn of all frills, that illuminates the meaning of life. "The Secret of Luca" is another triumph for the great Italian storyteller.

The plot of this novelette is stark and original. Luca Sabatini, a simple Italian peasant, has been released from prison after serving 40 years for a murder that, it is now established, he did not commit. He returns to the poor village where once he lived. The old people are terrified. They knew he was innocent, yet never came forward to save him when he went on trial. It would seem obvious that he would seek revenge.

But Luca has no such idea in mind. Instead he wants to see the familiar hills and a few friends. A noted politician, Andrea Cipriani, comes home at the same time. When Andrea was a boy he wrote from dictation the letters that Luca's illiterate mother sent to the prisoner. To Andrea, Luca is a Symbol of profound importance and he sets out to unravel the mystery of why he did not defend himself at his trial.

Andrea gets no help from Luca until the very end when only a few key pieces remain to be placed in the puzzle.

In a strange way this is a detective story, but because of Silone's genius it is a great deal more than that. There is mounting suspense, dogged investigative work, keen intuition — but instead of a slick explanation in the end, there is insight into the basic human qualities of loyalty and integrity.

Silone's style is as shorn of adornment as the narrative. The village in all its squalor and poverty comes alive through the briefest flashes of description, and the characters are keenly defined and realized.

"The Secret of Luca" belongs on the list of important modern fiction and it is not the least of its virtues to say that it is as readable and engrossing as it is significant.

— Ted Smits

King Mob. By Christopher Hibbert. The World Publishing Co. \$4.95.

The English are a proper and well-behaved people, who scarcely raise their voices, let alone their fists, in anger. But it was not ever thus. Author Hibbert with great skill and a keen dramatic sense has illuminated a tiny, almost forgotten, moment in history when for a little less than a week in 1780 London was controlled by a drunken, brutal mob.

It all began in 1778 when with the tide of war running poorly for Great Britain in the struggle with the American Colonies, Parliament decided more army recruits might be gained by tempering, albeit rather slightly, the harsh measures enacted against Roman Catholics during the reign of William III. Ultra-Protestant groups reacted strongly. The Protestant Assn-

spearhead of the objectors, enlisted as its president a strange nobleman, Lord George Gordon, member of a Scottish ducal house blessed with more than the usual share of eccentricities.