

### PHONE TOLL CUT AGREEMENT MADE

#### Reduction In Intrastate Rates Scheduled To Go Into Effect June 1

RALEIGH, April 24—(AP)—The utilities commission announced today that, after a series of conferences with representatives of the Southern Bell Telephone company, an agreement has been reached for a reduction in intrastate toll rates, effective June 1.

This reduction in rates, the commission said, has been made possible through the efforts of the commission and order of the federal communications commission, whereby a greater division in toll revenue was allotted the intrastate companies from the American Telephone and Telegraph company.

### Thornton Exonerated Of Blame In Death Of Hewitt Near Burgaw

A Pender county coroner's jury exonerated James Thornton, of Goldsboro, driver of a truck which fatally injured Howard Hewitt, 36 year old Maple Hill man on the Burgaw highway Thursday night.

Acting Coroner A. C. Blake said Saturday afternoon following an inquest into Hewitt's death.

The only eyewitness of the accident, except Thornton, was Phillip Bragsden, a passenger in the truck who testified Hewitt was walking in the middle of the road. When Thornton applied the brakes, the truck overturned, striking Hewitt.

### ROBERSON RESTRAINED

RALEIGH, April 24—(AP)—The state office of Price Administration said today that D. M. Roberson has been temporarily restrained from selling beef and veal at prices in excess of the legal maximum.

The restraining order was signed by Judge I. M. Meekins, the OPA said, and Roberson has been ordered to appear before the federal judge at the Wilson term of U. S. court May 3 for a hearing.

## Lieut. Harmon Credits 'Football Legs' For 'Luckiest Touchdown' Of His Life

### Former Grid Star Tells Of Escape From Jungle Following Plane Crash

**(EDITOR'S NOTE: Tom Harmon, former All-America halfback at the University of Michigan, was piloting a two-engine American bomber over the jungles of South America when his plane developed engine trouble and he and the members of his crew were forced to take to their parachutes. Two crew members were killed and three still are missing. Harmon fought his way through the jungle for seven days and nights until, with the assistance of friendly natives, he reached an American air base.)**

BY JOSEPH DYNAN

**SOMEWHERE IN BRITISH GUIANA, April 23—(Delayed)—**Lieut. Thomas D. Harmon—safe here after seven days and nights in a swampy South American jungle—gives credit to his "football legs" for the "luckiest touchdown in my life."

Only the good physical condition of the former All-America football star at the University of Michigan, plus courage, determination and prayer enabled him to emerge alive within a week from the maze of undergrowth that swallowed other fliers, he told me.

Harmon is en route to his home for "nothing but a rest and a visit with mom and pop."

Clean-shaven, well-groomed and sitting beside me in the Officers' mess club, Harmon seemed tired, but little the worse for his experiences until he began to talk about them.

His face became intense and completely absorbed as he relived his fight with the jungle.

"I'll tell you one thing," he declared. "I certainly was thankful for my years of football. They gave me a pair of good legs. I had to have good legs to get out of there."

"It is just a tangle of vines, stumps and grass, all intertwined. They wrap around your legs and pull you back."

"They are pulling you down into mire and you have to push your way step by step."

"When one of these tree stumps grazes you it is like someone pulling a razor down your leg."

For four days and nights Harmon battled this jungle, cut his way up hillsides, and waded and leaped through swamps soaked with sweat and rain.

Sore, wet and always thirsty, he finally found a native path which led him to Francois, "the most welcome guy I have ever seen in my life."

Francois was black and spoke only French. But Francois gave Harmon his first cup of coffee and first piece of bread in four days.

A native gendarme loaned him a uniform and led him to the nearest American base.

But before he met Francois, he lost his emergency ration, coming

through the jungle swamp. His drinking water had all leaked out of the battered cans and he had had three scrapes with crocodiles. Once he almost drowned crossing a swamp that went down 15 feet or more.

"I wanted to get out of this place," Harmon said. "I fought like a tiger to get out. It took dog-headed, Irish courage."

"Every now and then a voice kept telling me 'Tom, it is not any use. You're only busting your head against a brick wall.'"

"I just replied, 'By God, I am going to get out, if it takes a dozen years.'"

"I kept driving myself. If you've got initiative, something to come back for, it takes an awful lot to keep you down."

"I have got mom, pop, my gal—that's enough incentive for me."

Tom said he must have been at about 400 feet when he jumped.

No sooner had the chute opened than he was hanging from a tree-top. He swung himself over to another branch and climbed down.

He found wreckage, but none of his mates, so he salvaged a jungle knife, four cans of water and a pair of flares from the wreck and then started to hack his way through the vines and undergrowth.

"I had my pocket compass, so I determined to go straight east," Harmon said. "I knew that the coast was there and that if I kept going long enough I would come out."

"I knew that if I started to wander I would be lost. I told myself I would keep going east for months if necessary."

The country was a succession of hills and valleys.

In every valley was a swamp, sometimes as much as 10 miles across. Every hill was a tangle of weeds and vines but nowhere was there a clearing or any place where he could get his bearings.

On the second day he was wading and leaping through the swamp when he saw an alligator about five feet long.

"I reached out and pushed a log against him to chase him away. He gave just one flop of his tail and sent that log right back at me," Tom said.

"You know, you can't swim across these swamps. There is too much in them. There are tree stumps with sharp points, sprawling roots that snag your feet, vines and weeds and much of everything all mixed up."

"Once in a while when it's too deep you have to feel for a foundation, then spring forward."

The second night, when he reached for his ration, it was mush. The swamp undergrowth had ground a hunk of chocolate to an inedible paste. He reached for his cans of drinking water, but the crash had battered them so all the water had leaked out.

"But three times I found swift moving streams, followed them to

near their sources and drank and drank," he said.

"The lack of food didn't worry me so much. I only wanted to get out of there and I could feel my strength going down."

On the fourth day, he stepped into a deep portion of a swamp.

"I went down twice," Harmon related. "I thought I was gone. I still had my leather jacket on and the second time down I struggled to get it off. I came up quickly, got a breath of air, and went down and found firm footing but lost the jacket."

On he went. Vines clung to his legs, bit his flesh at every step. They snapped his face, sprang back when he cut at them with a knife.

"I wanted to fight back at those vines," he said. "When I thought I had them cut they came back at me and I got mad. But I had to hold my temper. I knew if I ever lost my head I was a goner."

"It was the greatest lesson in patience I ever had."

About noon of the fifth day Harmon came to a swamp about 10 miles across.

"I lost heart," he said. "I felt I just couldn't make it so I decided this once I'd move northeast to see if I couldn't go around. After a while I found some pieces of glass from broken green bottles, then there was a path marked by slashes on trees."

"I followed this for four and a half miles and came to a hut. Inside were Francois, his wife and two kids. They were very scared of me. Here I was, bearded, sore, tired, coming through the woods with that knife looking like I was coming for bear."

Harmon said he hoped his experiences would enable the government to give training, equipment and aid to others caught similarly, to take better care of themselves and to get out as well.

### Strike Hits Johnstown Transportation Company

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., April 24—(AP)—The 250,000 residents of this southwestern Pennsylvania area, including 25,000 steel workers, were without trolley and bus transportation today as several hundred employees of the Johnstown Traction company went on strike.

The men, members of the Amalgamated Association of Street Railway and Motor Coach Employees (AFL), voted the walkout last midnight in protest against what the union termed delay by both the company and an arbitration board in settling grievances.

Federal conciliators were on the scene hoping to effect an agreement.

Now that cold storage eggs will be placed under federal control, Junior fervently hopes the Easter rabbit has no trouble getting a priority.

# WAHL'S

## ANNUAL After-Easter Sale

An annual money-saving event that gives you the selection of our entire stock at prices from 15% to 20% lower than usual. Every DRESS, COAT, ACCESSORY and FUR is reduced for this special clearance event. Attend this sale and select a lovely spring wardrobe at a cost exceedingly lower than you could ordinarily find.

### EXQUISITE Furs

EXQUISITELY BEAUTIFUL FURS AND FUR COATS have been carefully purchased and assembled for this great AFTER-EASTER FUR SALE and are now ready for you to lay-away for next winter at prices that will guarantee to you savings of between 15% and 20% on the normal cost. You will need them next fall and you will be pleased to know you have a luxurious and durable fur coat for that cool season when it comes. (Any purchaser of a fur coat during this sale who lays-away her purchase, may exchange it for any other merchandise if she changes her mind by September 1st for any reason whatever.)

**LOVELY STRIPED CONEY FUR COATS** in mink stripe and sable stripe and in box back and fitted styles at \$69.98.

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### SUPERB Coat Values

EVERY SPRING COAT in our vast stock has been reduced for fast clearance at prices you will find make buying your coat now a thrilling event. Be here early and select yours while they last.

**ELEGANT CHESTERFIELD COATS** in 100% all wool fabrics and beautifully lined and tailored to a queen's taste. These fine coats can be had in blue, navy, pink, yellow and beige in sizes 9-20. \$22.50 and up.

Newly arrived **GABARDINE ALL-WEATHER COATS** in tan and white besides those cunning lightweight rain coats that are so necessary at this time of the year. A special at \$3.98.

Unequaled for dress occasions, the dressy **NAVY and BLACK COAT** is still the most feminine type of coat to be had. Fine tailoring and crepe linings make them superior to the average coat. Many have lingerie type collars and cuffs, twill, gabardine, shetland, etc. \$16.98 and up.

A money-saving special is represented in these lovely **FUR TRIMMED COATS**. Luxuriously trimmed with red fox, snow fox and other fine fur collars, they are so rich and stunning that you will find them irresistible. Pastels and plaids. \$39.98 and up.

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