

WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON (Consolidated Features—WNU Service.)

NEW YORK.—We are quite certain that there is a chipping sparrow out our way which didn't stand still long enough to be counted, but at any rate Roger Peterson's Count Tory Peterson's national bird count of 5,750,000,000 receives respectful, even admiring attention, and no challenges or quibbles about it.

At the age of 26, Mr. Peterson proved that bird lore can be made to yield a lot more than mere bird seed. That was in 1934, when he published his book, "Field Guide to the Birds." As bird books go it was a best-seller, warmly praised not only by the somewhat esoteric cult of bird-fanciers, but by a much wider public, which appreciated its clarity and simplicity.

He not only writes but illustrates his books, having emerged from the New York Art Students' league as a highly qualified decorative artist.

Mr. Peterson had an adventure at the convention of the society at Cape May last year, which, so far as we can learn, was not picked up by the news hawks at the time.

The party set out for the spot. Finally far across the pond, inaccessible to any dry land approach, the bird was sighted.

Mr. Peterson said it would be necessary to approach as near as possible, disturb the bird, and then observe its flight carefully. He and William Fish volunteered to brave the mud and cold. They waded in, and at times were up to their armpits in slimy mud.

UP IN Maine, on last summer's holiday, this writer talked with an old road-side philosopher who was concerned with problems arising from lengthening life-span in the "Age Movement" New England.

Prof. Perry Boldy lengthening life-span in the "Age Movement" New England. "They don't do much dyn' up here," he said. "Down at West Newton, they had to shoot an old feller, just to start a graveyard."

Professor Ralph Barton Perry, of the faculty of philosophy of Harvard university, is similarly concerned about old age, but for a different reason. In a brilliant essay in a recent issue of the Princeton Alumni Weekly, he rallies the oldesters against being "hunted around by their juniors in politics; he notes the capitulation of wise old age to bumptious youth, and challenges Rabbi Ben Ezra by insisting that there's no use growing old with him, or anybody else, if old-age is to be merely a tolerated short-end in the life sweepstakes.

Death Rate in U. S. Army Is Lowest in History. WASHINGTON.—The war department reported that the army's death rate in 1940 was the lowest in history. A preliminary analysis, the department said, showed that the 1940 death rate was only 2.8 per 1,000 men, compared with a 3.1 rate for 1939. It attributed the showing to "the entrance of a large number of young men and the absence of serious epidemics."

Greek Children Are Starving

Threatened Famine Is Held To Result From Looting By German Soldiers.

NEW YORK.—Only food supplies from the outside world can save 2,000,000 children in Greece from death by starvation this winter, Laird Archer, foreign director of the Near East Foundation, warns in a report on a survey conducted recently with the help of Charles L. House, who remains in Greece as head of the American Farm School in Salonika.

Mr. Archer and his wife returned to this country from Athens two weeks ago. His report coincides with another on the situation in Greece, contained in a cable received here by Nicholas G. Lely, Greek consul general. The threatened famine is the result of the voracious looting said to have been carried out by the German army.

More than half of Greece's ordinary milk production has been taken away by the killing of cattle and all of her imports are stopped, Mr. Archer said. What little milk was available had been taken by the Nazi invading forces and all the Red Cross ships which were sent from this country before the war with milk for Greek children have been sunk, his survey showed.

Italians More Lient. However, Mr. Archer said the Italian occupation authorities, who have replaced the Germans in most parts of Greece, have on the whole refrained from the practice, systematically carried out by the Nazis, of interfering with relief projects and confiscating supplies for military uses. In this situation, he said, he saw a hope that food sent from abroad now would actually be permitted to reach the war sufferers for whom it was intended.

Mr. Lely reported that conditions are improving since the Italian army, which is less cruel and brings along its own supplies, has moved in. The consul general was informed that friction was developing increasingly between the Italians and the Germans and that Athens is full of British soldiers who were not able to get away when the city was evacuated by the allies. They are being effectively hidden by Greek civilians and even the wounded are being cared for in Greek hospitals without the knowledge of the occupying authorities.

Nazi Savagery. As an example of Nazi savagery Mr. Archer told how German soldiers raided public ovens where civilians had sent their food to be cooked, having no fuel of their own. In Psychico, a suburb of Athens, the Germans let the water run from all hydrants to cut down the pressure during their entire occupation. When they departed, no water was left for the vegetable crops upon which the civilians were dependent for most of their food.

In Athens, Mr. Archer declared, the Germans had even gone so far as to take the full output of the vegetable canning factories, leaving nothing for the Greeks for the winter. The Nazi army not only lived off the country, but seized everything exportable.

Sabotage continues, although it meets with severe punishment. About 600 persons are dying every day from starvation, the cable received by Mr. Lely said. Meat prices have risen twentyfold, sugar sixfold and potatoes twentyfold, when any is available.

Night Sentry Does Duty, But Not an Iota More

CAMP LEE, VA.—Lieut. Eugene Hondel, Fifth regiment officer of the guard, says a night sentry stationed in the railroad warehouse district of Camp Lee stopped a freight train and ordered the engineer and freeman to step down and identify themselves. When the sentry reported the incident, the officer asked him, "Why didn't you check on the conductor, too?" "He was in the caboose, back in the Sixth regiment area," the sentry replied.

Memphis Retains Safe Driving Lead in Nation

MEMPHIS, TENN.—Although Memphis had only eight deaths in traffic accidents this year and is leading the nation in safety among cities of the 300,000 population class, Commissioner of Safety Joseph P. Boyle is not satisfied. "All of these deaths could have been avoided by proper precaution on the part of the drivers," Boyle said. "Speed, disregard for traffic laws, or just plain careless driving was to blame for all the traffic deaths," Boyle said.

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Blast of Bomb Is Seldom Found Fatal

Resistance of Human Body Proven to Be High.

LONDON.—A young English anatomist, Prof. S. Zuckerman, famous for his researches into the anthropoid ape, believes the human body can resist bombs and their blast far more effectively than bricks, mortar and concrete.

Since the bombing of Britain's towns and cities by the Luftwaffe began it has been generally held that blast would destroy the lungs or other vital parts, but the main damage is due to bruising caused by the impact of the blast wave on the body's wall.

Some people have been killed by the blast itself, but hundreds have escaped even the slightest injury, while brick and concrete buildings have collapsed.

Others have been in rooms in which bombs have exploded. The buildings have collapsed around them, but they have escaped unhurt. One man was only 25 feet away from a 2,000-pound bomb.

If a person throws himself down when he hears a bomb coming there is only a slight chance of his being hurt by the blast itself. Most of air-raid casualties are caused by falling debris.

Research and experiment on this question of bomb blasts have resulted in the design of shelters being altered.

A government laboratory recently designed a new-type steel helmet for fire watchers and civil defense workers. It was criticized on the ground that it was not as strong as the type used by the services.

It was tested. This is what happened. Live ammunition was fired at one of them at a velocity of between 350 and 400 feet a second. The helmet was only slightly dented.

40,000 Trees Planted in U. S. Tung-Oil Project

WASHINGTON.—More than 40,000 tung trees, the beginning of what department of agriculture scientists hope will be a successful tung-oil industry in the United States, were planted last spring in test orchards throughout the Gulf coast region.

Sharp reductions in imports of tung oil because of the war in China and the generally unsettled conditions in the Far East have stimulated interest in growing tung trees in this country. Tung oil is an indispensable ingredient of quick-drying paints and varnishes.

For three years the department's bureau of plant industry specialists have been scouting tung orchards in the South for superior trees. Combining these orchards, they selected some 500 trees which were hardy, high yielding and early maturing. Nuts from these trees yield a high percentage of good quality oil. About 80 of the best trees from this selected lot of 500 were chosen for propagation. Thousands of young trees were produced from them.

Besides breeding tung trees better adapted to the climate of this country which will yield larger quantities of oil, department of agriculture scientists are studying various problems of growing trees.

Research men warn prospective tung growers, however, that the industry is still an expensive and speculative enterprise if attempted on a large scale.

Woodsmen in New York Keep Weasels as Pets

ALBANY, N. Y.—Bane of chicken farmers, the weasel is the valued house guest of many Adirondack woodsmen, the state conservation department reports.

The bloodthirsty little animal puts a house cat to shame as a mouser. His service is invaluable inasmuch as large amounts of stored foodstuffs may be spoiled by rats and mice, and replacements often involve a long trek to civilization.

The weasel usually lives in the log walls of the camp cabins and one forest ranger said his pet, Wandering Willie, prowled around the place undisturbed by the presence of a human being.

Australia Finances War With Compulsory Loans

MELBOURNE.—Prime Minister Arthur Fadden of Australia, announced a war budget of \$966,000,000, featuring a compulsory loan plan. The budget includes \$651,000,000 for war expenditures.

Fadden said this "national contribution" will apply to every income, no matter how derived. A person with an income of \$450 a year, without dependents, will make a \$33 loan contribution; an income of \$1,500 will provide \$285; \$3,000 will provide \$564; \$15,000 will provide \$2,820; and \$120,000 will provide \$104,388.

Foes' Stamps Banned In German Exhibits

BERLIN.—German philatelists have learned that dealing in postage stamps of countries at war with Germany is forbidden. The "Berlin Lokal-Anzeiger" said: "Trading in these stamps would aid the enemy financially, and exhibition of such stamps runs counter to feelings of the German people."

Iowa Couples Cross Line for Wedding

BETHANY, MO.—The marriage license trade is booming in this northern Missouri town since Iowa passed a law requiring prospective newlyweds to take a blood test before they can get an Iowa license.

A record for one day was established when 19 marriage licenses were issued.

Treasure Hunters Range the Hudson

They Hunt for 'Gentleman Johnny's' Lost Gold.

ALBANY, N. Y.—An abnormally low water level in the Hudson has revived tales of British bullion lying in the river bed.

Legend says that "Gentleman Johnny" Burgoyne dropped a golden treasure into the river to avoid confiscation when he surrendered to American Revolutionary forces.

The story, wholly unsupported by any evidence, places the British general's cache somewhere near Stillwater north of Albany.

Numerous searching parties have sought the legendary wealth without success. Recently a group was reported pooling funds to conduct a scientific hunt.

The gold is said to have been placed in gun barrels, which were then sealed and dropped into the water.

More credence can be given reports of other findings recalling the British invasion of the Colonies from Canada. The lowered waters reveal shadowy hulks below the surface, which rivermen assert are the ruins of bridges and barges constructed for passage of the troops.

On the shores near Stillwater, residents have unearthed parts of cannon balls through the years. Whether they were British or American equipment is a question. Some writers insist they were American stores rolled into the river under a "scorched earth" campaign conducted by Gen. Philip J. Schuyler.

Swain, 11, Runs Away to Reunion With Girl, 8

ST. LOUIS.—Pretty Peggy Randall spent her summer vacation in St. Louis and she won a constant and devoted admirer in George McLean Jr.

When Peggy left for her home in Memphis, George promised, "I'll come to see you as soon as possible."

That was a big promise. You see, George is only 11 years old and Peggy is eight.

But George kept his word, even though he had to run away from home, outwit several detectives and take a 320-mile train ride by himself to do it.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. George McLean, finding him missing, notified police.

Detectives at Union station spotted a boy in his Sunday best, carefully going over an array of dolls at the toy counter. He bought one for \$3.

"Hello," a detective greeted him. "Where are you going?"

"To Memphis," the boy replied. "They're expecting me. I've got a ticket. See?"

The blond, blue-eyed boy fitted the runaway's description, but he was so confident and self-assured that the detectives hesitated to detain him. While they hesitated, the train pulled out, with George aboard.

In Memphis, George reached his destination safely, clutching the doll for Peggy.

They spent an inseparable day. Meanwhile, Peggy's stepfather, Bruns McCarroll, a Memphis detective, notified the McLeans and George's mother came by plane to bring him home.

Doctor Late, Policeman 'Officiates' at Birth

LOUISVILLE, KY.—"All in the day's work" was the midwifery job of Patrolmen R. E. Loid and Kenneth Smith when a son was born to Mrs. L. Cox.

Answering an emergency call, the officers found the Cox home dark because of a power failure, and the father wringing his hands because the doctor had not arrived.

Patrolman Loid, who previously had aided in the delivery of seven babies, took charge with the aid of a flashlight.

Later, at a hospital where the mother and baby were taken, hospital attaches said both were in fine condition and praised the officer's work.

This Automobile Driver Knows Horn; and Thief

TAMPA, FLA.—Charles Epps sat reading a newspaper in his home when an automobile horn blast shattered his thoughts.

"Very familiar," he reflected. He went to his parked automobile and began following the auto with the loud horn, pausing only to pick up a policeman.

The car with the loud horn stopped at the home of J. B. Bass. So did Epps and the policeman. A few minutes of questioning and Bass admitted he had taken the horn and a pair of fog lights from Epps' car, five tires and two more horns from other motorists.



WRIGHT A. PATTERSON (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

SEES 'PLANNED ECONOMY' AS FORM OF FASCISM

WASHINGTON is figuring on the war in Europe continuing at least into, and possibly all through 1943, and that we will be a part of it. No one has attempted to say when or how up to this time, but it is expected the opening may be with Japan and Hitler's support of the Japs against us.

Washington hopes to stay out of active participation in the war until our war production can be greatly increased, in fact trebled. That would mean an annual expenditure of 50 billion dollars a year. It would also mean cutting production for civilian use by at least 50 per cent.

The opinion in Washington is that all small manufacturing concerns that cannot be adapted to war production will have to close and get out of business. It will mean the closing of thousands of small factories, a large proportion of them located in small towns.

Big business is to be regimented, as the farms are regimented. The government will not operate them, but will dictate what they will produce, whom they will employ and how they will operate. It is to be "planned economy" for American business.

When the war is over the "planned economy" is to be applied to business throughout the world, as well as to America, if America has the "say so" and in Washington they believe America will be in a position to dictate. It is through such "planned economy" that an after-the-war depression is to be prevented.

That, briefly, is the program at Washington for the future. To me it is not a bright or promising future, either during the war or after it is over. To me it is the end of the American way of life, the American system of free competition under which we have grown great. To me it is the state capitalism of Fascist Italy.

INFLATION WOULD MEAN EQUALIZATION OF POVERTY

WE ARE TOLD in Washington that America is to spend 50 billions a year on preparations for war and aid to the democracies. That is about three times as much as we have spent during 1941.

Where are we to get this 50 billion dollars a year? What are we to use for money. Does it mean the printing presses? If it does, it means inflation that is disaster. It means destruction of all our values, as individuals and as a nation. It does not mean the equalization of wealth, but it does mean the equalization of poverty, and it means poverty for every one, with nothing to divide.

Our domestic and foreign policies are so tied together that it is impossible to determine where one stops and the other begins.

America's future is in the balance, with the scales tipping definitely against our American way of life, our American civilization.

THEY, TOO, SERVE WHO MAKE CHEESE

THE DAIRY SECTION of Wisconsin, one of the greatest dairy producing districts in the world, is a two to five-hour haul to the Chicago market. Wisconsin cheese is now going to England, purchased and paid for on lease-lend account by the United States for the English government. Wisconsin cheese is selling in English stores at less than people in Chicago can buy it.

To help England, it is necessary to provide more than war supplies. Food is a major item. Of the first seven billions appropriated by congress for British assistance, practically one billion will be used for food products from American farms, and American farmers have reason to be proud of the job they are doing.

OUR ARMY FOR A REPUBLIC

FOR A REPUBLIC to create an effective fighting force there must be a purpose, enthusiasm, equipment, discipline. Today we have an army of one and a half million men, but to the rank and file of that army, all four ingredients are lacking. To assemble and maintain that army has cost close to two billion dollars. If we are to equip and feed the democracies of the world, it would have been better if we had kept that million and a half men on the farms and in the factories, where they might have been doing their part in providing the food and equipment so badly needed. They would have been more effective and better satisfied.

THAT SHRINKING DOLLAR

THROUGHOUT the last 200 years in all nations the cost for the necessities of life—for food, clothing, shelter, fuel—has taken 65 per cent of the income of each individual. In this country as late as 1905, the government took an additional five cents out of each dollar for taxes.

But taxes are now taking about 30 cents, leaving us only five cents that we can do with as we please. That may account for the decrease in collections at Sunday church services.



(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

No. 1 U. S. Naval Hero

FOR more than 30 years the body of John Paul Jones has rested in a marble tomb in the crypt of the United States Naval Academy chapel at Annapolis. Recently a precious relic was placed in front of his sarcophagus. It is a plaster bust of America's No. 1 naval hero, made more than 150 years ago by Jean Antoine Houdon, the famous French sculptor.

This bust, one of only five of its kind known to be in existence, was presented to the Naval Academy museum by an organization known as the Friends of the United States Navy. Back of this gift is an interesting story.

In 1779 Capt. John Paul Jones was placed in command of the American frigate Bon Homme Richard. Upon his arrival in Paris, Jones, who had been a Mason since 1770, applied for affiliation with La Loge des Neuf-Sœurs or the Lodge of the Nine Sisters (meaning the nine Muses). This lodge, besides being a fraternal organization, was also a club for artists, writers and other intellectuals. Benjamin Franklin was its worshipful master and among its members was Houdon, the sculptor.

Before the lodge could act upon Jones' application, he had sailed away to challenge the power of the "Mistress of the Seas." On September 23, 1779, occurred his historic victory over the stronger British man-of-war, the Serapis, during



Bust of John Paul Jones by Houdon. (Photo, courtesy United States Naval Museum.)

which he uttered his immortal words of defiance—"I have not yet begun to fight!"

When Jones reached Paris the next spring, all France was eager to honor him. Not only did the Lodge of the Nine Sisters welcome him and initiate him into its membership, but it commissioned one of its members, Houdon, to make a bust of the victor for the lodge. King Louis XVI was so delighted over the defeat of the British frigate by the Bon Homme Richard that he gave Jones the Cross of Military Merit, the first time it had ever been presented to a foreigner.

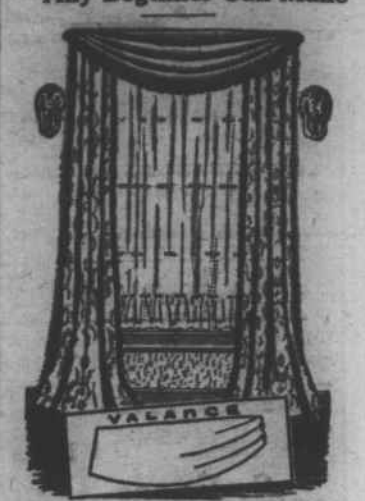
Jones was proud of this honor and asked Houdon to depict it on the lapel of his coat when the sculptor made the original terra cotta bust of him in 1780, even though congress had not authorized him to accept a decoration from a foreign monarch.

Between 1786 and 1791 Houdon made 16 plaster copies of the bust on orders from Jones, who presented them to Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Franklin, Lafayette, Robert Morris, John Jay and others. The one presented to Jefferson was owned by the Boston Athenaeum for many years. But some time before 1900 it mysteriously disappeared from that museum and has never been found. Today the whereabouts of only five of the plaster copies of the original terra cotta, including the one recently presented to the Naval museum, are known, but several scholars are trying to find out what became of the other eleven.

In 1791 Jones ordered Houdon to make a plaster replica of the bust and on it, besides the Cross of Military Merit, show the Order of St. Ann, which Catherine the Great, empress of Russia, had given him in recognition of his services during the Russian war with Turkey. Soon afterwards Jones wrote to Jefferson, then secretary of state, asking Jefferson to obtain for him authority from congress to keep the decoration. At this time he stated that a congressman from North Carolina, his adopted state, had asked for a bust of him and that he had directed Houdon to prepare one, showing the Cross of St. Ann, and forward it to North Carolina. The state has no record of having received it and some of its historians are trying to determine what became of it because of the celebration in honor of Jones which is planned for 1942.

Houdon's bust of Jones was declared by some of his contemporaries to be a remarkably accurate likeness. President James Madison wrote to one of Jones' first biographers: "His bust by Houdon is an exact likeness, portraying well the characteristic features stamped on the countenance of the original." In criticizing a portrait which this same biographer had chosen for his book, President Thomas Jefferson wrote: "Houdon's bust of him is an excellent likeness. Why have they not taken a side face of him from that? Such a one would be perfect."

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Duty to Neighbor

There is an idea abroad among moral people that they should make their neighbors good. One person I have to make good: myself. But my duty to my neighbor is much more nearly expressed by saying that I have to make him happy if I may.—Robert Louis Stevenson.

Free, a Grand Cook-Book

Standard Brands, Inc., Dept. W, 601 Washington Street, New York City, have prepared a cook-book containing dozens of delicious recipes for those who bake at home. It may be had absolutely free by dropping a post card to Standard Brands at the above address, requesting that it be mailed to you.—Adv.

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Imagination's Poetry

Sentiment is the poetry of the imagination.—Lamartine.

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