NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by
CARTER FIELD

Coming Election Has Political Insiders Guessing Again . . . Effect of Bus Speed Restrictions Debated . . .

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WASHINGTON. — Though there are always upsets in nation-wide elections, the best opinions, obtainable here at the political hub, are that there will not be as many missing faces as an actual result of the election, when the next congress convenes, as there will be due to primaries and conventions.

In the senate, for instance, there are very few close contests in prospect. The Democrats are hoping to retire Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, and C. Wayland Brooks of Illinois, to private life. Privately they admit little hope of any other gain. The GOP is hoping to knock off Prentiss M. Brown of Michigan, Theodore F. Green of Rhode Island and Clyde L. Herring of Iowa.

But it is very difficult to find a Democrat who is willing to bet even money against either Lodge or Brooks. Similarly it is difficult to find Republicans willing to lay even money against Brown, Green or Herring.

Yet these are really the doubtful seats. True, there is the case of Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska, running independent again, but with the endorsement of President Roosevelt and no serious Democratic opposition. **There might be a miracle which would put a Republican in that seat.** It would seem about due, on the old doctrine of the pitcher which went to the well once too often.

Politics Always Perplexing

Massachusetts politics is always perplexing—and dubious. The administration is most anxious to beat young Lodge. He is too often embarrassing. He not only knows too much about the war, now since his service in North Africa, and also about domestic issues, but he has some of the smartest political advisers extant.

That is the reason the administration leaders persuaded Joe Casey, who had a sure Democratic district for his house seat, to make the try against Lodge.

Again the habits of voters over a lifetime will help Lodge. The Bay state ballot markers are used to having a Lodge and a Walsh in the senate. It is the normal thing.

In Illinois the administration has been anxious to beat "Curly" Brooks, and the Chicago Tribune, FDR's pet hate among newspapers, is just as anxious to re-elect him.

Brook's pre-Pearl Harbor record did not hurt him, apparently, in the primary, and his chances for the six year term seem better than fair.

Of all the senators who have survived the primaries and conventions the one in most danger from the election seems to be Prentiss Brown of Michigan, but the independent candidacy of Gerald Smith, old Huey Long and Father Coughlin lieutenant, gives even him a sporting chance.

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Problem: How Will Bus Schedules Fare?

Time was when any governmental move to cramp the style of intercity busses would have been hailed with loud cries of joy by the railroad executives.

But the railroad men are worried about the effects of the recent order which will hold the speed of all rubber-tired vehicles to 35 miles an hour. No one in either railroad or bus circles has figured out how to maintain present bus schedules at this reduced speed.

Busses making long runs between important cities have been accustomed to running more than 60 miles an hour whenever possible.

Despite this high rate of speed on the road, the schedule of most bus lines has not been too attractive when compared to the time of the better trains between the same points.

The inter-city bus runs as fast as a train on the good stretches of road, but it loses a lot of time going through city streets to its downtown terminals.

The competing train, running on its own right of way, with tunnels in two of those cities, and few grade crossings, gains an enormous time advantage.

As every passenger on a long cross country bus ride knows, the big loss of time is made at the stops. Where a train would stay in a station only a few minutes, the bus generally stops 15 minutes or longer. It has to make stops on long trips for the passengers to get food.

Few trains make any stops today for the convenience of its passengers.

All this adds up to a situation which, beginning on October 15, will put a heavy time penalty on the bus passenger.

Halloween Was First Celebrated By Inhabitants of Rural Sections

Thanksgiving for Good Crops Offered by Early Man.

By CLIFF LANGE
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Halloween is essentially and basically a rural celebration.

It belongs to the country-side, the small town where the people are close to the earth, and all that comes from and lives upon the earth.

Far back in history, man, realizing that summer was done and the work of nature, busy all the previous months, was at an end, held religious ceremonies to thank the gods for sending him food upon which to live.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME

November 1 is All Saints' day, also called All-Hallomas, or All Hallows. The evening preceding this day is All-halloween.

To early man, Nature, with all its blessings and woes, was something of a mystery to him. As he became more familiar with it and more civilized through the centuries, he had certain gods as guardians of his crops. When the crops were collected, and the cattle gathered in, he then held his celebration with his family and with friends.

This was the beginning of our present day celebration of Halloween. Many of the wild spirits in which early man believed are reflected in the witches riding brooms, the goblins with their fearful faces that decorate Halloween parties wherever they are held.

Primitive man's basic spirit of thankfulness for favors done by the ruler of all nature through religious celebrations and ceremonies was continued by the Druids of England, the early Romans, and even the Indians of the United States.

In the pre-Christian days of early England, the Druids, priests of ancient Britain, celebrated the feast of Samhain on November 1. At that time the flocks were driven in and the workers of the community rested from their arduous summertime labors.

But before midnight on October 31 the Druids put out the old fire on the altar of their god, Baal, and made a new one. This signified the beginning of another year of work with Nature by those early ruralites who worshiped before the heathen god Baal.

In the early Roman festival of Pomona, held at harvest time, fruits and nuts played a very important part. How the customs of the early Roman religious festival have come down to the present day is noticed in the giving of fruits and nuts to youngsters who go "visiting" on Halloween.

There also is a definite reason for pumpkins—always a necessary ornament, either real or artificial—having a definite place in any Halloween decoration.

The reason is not difficult to understand. The early Indians combined deep solemnity and hearty relaxation at their harvest time celebration, held around the present time of Halloween. The Indians of the Southeast and Northeast United States placed the pumpkin in a conspicuous spot during their celebrations because it was a staple article of their diet.

Many people have further seen a definite relation between the hollowed, decorated and lighted pumpkin in homes on Halloween with the ceremonial dances and masques of the Hopi Indians held in the Southwest at harvest time.

In fact, almost all the early American — rather, native American — foodstuffs grown by the early Indians and given proper appreciation during their harvest celebrations are today noticed in Halloween decorations. Corn is one of the outstanding foodstuffs so displayed.

The priests of early Christianity found it difficult to stamp out the mystery and symbolism of the last night of October. They effected a compromise between the old religious ceremonies of the Romans and Druids and those essentially Christian. To offset the black magic of Druid superstitions, the next day was declared All Saint's day (as it still is today) and the evening preceding it was renamed hallowed or holy evening.

The corruption of the name, by constant usage by the untutored natives, came to be Halloween.

But the new name could not change the character of the festival. To those back hundreds of years ago, and continuing on down through the centuries, Halloween has always remained, both seriously and humorously, as a time when supernatural influences prevailed.

Through the years the religious significance of the eve has all but disappeared. But the picture of witches riding their brooms across the harvest fields with the full, bright moon in the background has stayed with us.

And speaking of witches it should be remembered that it hasn't been so very long ago that here in the United States they were considered by many to be harmful old women under the diabolic control of the master Evil One, the Devil.

In New England during 1691-92, when an outburst of fanaticism took place there, hundreds of persons were thrown in jail for either being witches, or consorting with them. In the summer of 1692, 19 persons were tried in court, convicted and hanged for witchcraft.

Today the emotion, the spirit of thankfulness which the early peoples expressed in their harvest ceremonies on Halloween has been all but forgotten.

Today the same power which brought good crops and healthy stock to the early dwellers, brings not only plenty for this nation, but also for those nations battling with us, the Evil One of Europe who is riding the witch's broom of cruelty and hate, but who will, when the magical words of freedom are spoken, crash to earth destroying himself and the evil spirits that have been consorting with him.

There will be a poignant touch to those who will celebrate Halloween this year in the United States, remember that France, Belgium—even Germany—when free, also celebrated Halloween.

In those oppressed countries the harvest has brought nothing but continual privation, want and death.

In the United States it has been different. A moral is here.

A Halloween Wish

"Let's see now, where was I? Oh, yes. Phone Janey after this man takes my picture and ask her if she has some extra bobby pins. I wish he would hurry up. I'm getting tired of sitting here holding this

pumpkin. It isn't heavy, but the heat from the light in it IS hot. I wish those people who see this picture have a happy Halloween. I know I will." (That's Ellen Drew, in case you haven't recognized her.)

Editor Shows How

In southwestern Missouri the merchants of a progressive small town dreaded the approach of Halloween as much as the kids happily anticipated it.

The police officials, school teachers, and principals were perplexed, too, as to how they could stop the damage, even though light, inflicted by the masked kids as they trooped about the streets on the night of October 31.

The editor of the local weekly was giving thought to the matter, too. The editor was still a comparatively young man. He remembered some of his youthful Halloween pranks all too well. It was a different situation now, he realized.

Suddenly he got a brilliant idea. He talked to the members of the town's business club about it.

In the next edition of the editor's newspaper was a large ad offering an attractive money prize by the towns' merchants to the young person who drew the most attractive, artistic picture on any of the merchants' store windows with soap on Halloween.

Result? Damage dropped off to a minimum; many fine pictures drawn; one youth the proud possessor of the money prize; much publicity for the town, the business men —and the editor.

John Gay, the early English poet (1688-1732), wrote the following lines of poetry which reflected a superstition of his day concerning the Halloween festival:

At even o' Hallowmas no sleep I sought,
But to the field a bag of hempseed brought.
I scattered round the seed on every side,
And three times three in trembling accents cried,
"This hempseed with my virgin hand I sow,
Who shall my true love be, the crop shall mow."

This poem, as does the accompanying story, further brings out the fact that Halloween is essentially a rural festival.

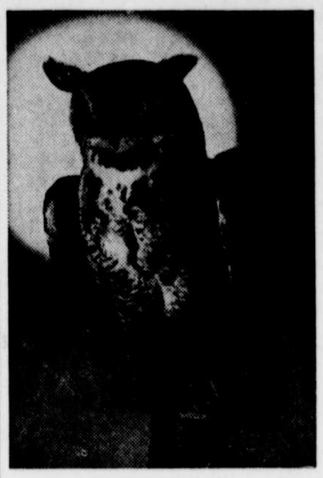
Hobble My Goblins!

Keep your eye on the pumpkins. Then you will remember it's Halloween again. No, the second girl on the right doesn't remind you of anyone but movie actress Eva Gabor. Those you see (left to right) acting as though they're scared are Barbara Britton, Katharine Booth, Eva, and Ella Neal.

It's always warm at Halloween time where they work. That's why they haven't put on fur coats.

Who, Me?

Hoot Owl is a patient animal he is, he is. All year long he doesn't do anything but sleep all day, work all night catching mice and other delicacies that tickle his palate. Then, come Halloween, he gets himself all prettied up to have his pic-



ture taken. From the looks of him you wouldn't believe that he has been sitting like that for ten days. Before that he was resting in a storeroom with other stuffed animals. Oh, well: What would Halloween be without an owl?

Just waiting for a train, boys. That's all. She's been invited over to the next town's Halloween celebration given for the benefit of the USO. Isn't it a far cry from the days when witches were in style instead of be-witching beauties such as she? Who said, "The good old days"?

GRASSROOTS

by WRIGHT A. PATTERSON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

WAR STRIKES INJURE U. S. CAUSE

WE HAVE some four million men in the armed services of the nation. Those four million men work at a wage fixed by the government. They go where the government tells them to go. They work as many hours a day, a week, a month or a year as the government tells them to work. They are not paid for any overtime, they do whatever the government tells them to do, even to the point of dying. They have no grievance committees. They do not strike. They are working to make possible a continuance of our freedom.

We credit the man in the factories producing our war essentials with importance and with patriotism equal to that of the men serving in the armed forces. But the men in the factories dominated by union racketeers tell the government what their wages will be, where they will work, what they will do and how many hours of each day or week they will work. When their demands are not complied with, they strike.

In the first six months of this year there was a loss of one and one-half million man hours of production by strikes in war industries.

A strike in a war industry plant is a strike against the government.

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PRODUCTION LOSSES SINCE PEARL HARBOR

LAST DECEMBER 23, two weeks after Pearl Harbor, the AFL and CIO assured the President that there would be no more strikes called by organized labor for the duration of the war. From January 1 to July 1 of this year a total of 1,130,678 man days were lost to war production only because of strikes called by local union racketeers. These may not have been authorized strikes, but in no single instance was any local union or local racketeer official disciplined because the strikes were called. The men who were called out had to respond or lose their opportunity to work in any union-controlled plant. Practically all union workers are patriotic. That cannot be said of the labor racketeers who seek self interests only.

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WEST COAST SHIPYARD AND PROFITS

A WEST COAST SHIPYARD had a cost-plus order for the building of Liberty ships. That order was changed early in the summer to a contract price per ship. After the change, the yard laid off 16,000 employees and built ships faster than it had before. There may be either one of two answers to such a situation, or both may apply.

If the shipyard were employing more men than were needed in order to increase costs and so increase profits, the government would take back practically all of the increased profits through the heavy excess profits tax. If the men were but soldiering on the job, it was a case of sabotage or worse.

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SPEEDERS WARRANT NO RESPECT

HAVING BEEN ABLE to drive 40, 50 and more miles an hour and get away with it will not have made heroes in the eyes of good Americans who limited their driving to 35 miles and under per hour, but who must now suffer the penalty of gas rationing because of the "speedsters." The speeders, when known, who forced the necessity of gas rationing as a means of saving rubber, should be ostracized by all patriotic Americans. They are not entitled to the respect of good citizens.

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WHEN I MARRIED AND SET UP A HOME, one of the luxuries we could not afford was a telephone. We were not exceptions. Less than one in ten of the homes of Chicago had telephones. Today the home telephone is considered a necessity. Today less than one in ten of the homes of Chicago, or any other city, do not have telephones. That typifies the advance in the American standard of living under the American system. No other nation can show an equal advance.

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NEGOTIATED PEACE IS NOT THE ANSWER

A NEGOTIATED PEACE might be effected at most any place and at any time. An unconditional surrender peace can be had only at Berlin after Germany has been invaded. A negotiated peace would guarantee a third World war. An unconditional surrender peace can be an insurance against a third world conflict. That insurance policy is worth fighting for.

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HITLER CAN'T BEAT THIS U. S. SPIRIT

"WE HAVE no bacon or no ham," said the market man to a woman customer. "It is all going to the armed forces." She looked disappointed for a moment, and then replied: "That's fine. The family likes bacon and ham, but we can cheerfully do without so the boys may have what they want. They earn everything we can give." That reply represented the America Hitler cannot defeat.

—Buy War Bonds—

Star Dust

STAGE SCREEN RADIO

By VIRGINIA VALE
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

BUD ABBOTT figures that the three-year-old son, Bud Abbott Jr., whom he and his wife have just adopted, is a direct present from Uncle Sam. It was through an official who accompanied Abbott and Costello on their recent bond-selling tour that the comic entertainer first heard of the availability of the youngster and subsequently arranged for the adoption. Universal recently announced the purchase of the farce, "See My Lawyer," as a vehicle for the two comedians; Milton Berle and Paddy Hart starred in it on Broadway.

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Pat O'Brien, who recently filmed "The Navy Comes Through" at RKO, believes that he and Spencer Tracy can boast the longest enduring friendship in Hollywood. It's lasted more than 35 years; they were childhood playmates, went to school together, served together in the navy during World War I, and launched their professional careers together.

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David Holt, appearing with Mickey Rooney in "The Human Comedy," was tabbed as a sure-fire future star until stricken with infan-

DAVID HOLT

tile paralysis. Now he's climbing back toward stardom, after a long fight. He gives a swell performance as a crippled boy in "Pride of the Yankees."

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Bob Hope is taking no chances on having readers of his autobiography, "They Got Me Covered," think that the Samuel Goldwyn picture of the same name is his life story. A foreword to the film, which stars Bob and Dorothy Lamour, declares that "Any resemblance between the characters in this photoplay and me is entirely fictional," and it's signed, "Bob Hope."

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Metro's hoping that it has another Greer Garson in Valerie Hobson, another young English actress, who's playing the lead opposite Robert Donat in "Sabotage Agent," being filmed in London. America has seen her in "U-Boat" and "Blackout."

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When Joan Crawford stepped into the role intended for Carole Lombard in the picture, "They All Kissed the Bride," she donated her entire salary for the job to war charities. Recently Paulette Goddard was engaged to do the radio version of the picture on the CBS Playhouse, and announced that her salary for the performance would buy war bonds to be put in trust for five children of war heroes who do not come home at the war's end —which probably means quite a lot of bonds!

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Rumors that Cary Grant would enlist in the army air forces were confirmed for moviedom when it was announced by RKO that "Bundles for Freedom," starring Grant, had been moved up on the production schedule so that he'd finish before his enlistment.

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The shortage of leading men may precipitate a cycle of man-less films; looks as if Metro is getting ready by buying "Cry Havoc," a little theater play dealing with volunteer nurses during the siege of Bataan.

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Jack Durant and Shirley Temple made their screen debut in the same picture, "Stand Up and Cheer"; he was part of a slapstick act in that musical extravaganza. In "Journey Into Fear" he appears as the male half of an adagio dancing team, opposite Dolores Del Rio.

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ODDS AND ENDS—Seems as if the fall and winter season of radio is officially started now that Fred Allen's under way again . . . One of the luckiest husbands in the armed services is Captain Frank Chapman, U. S. marines—for 45 minutes every Sunday afternoon he can tune in on "The Family Hour" and hear his wife sing; he's stationed at Quantico, Va. . . . Wallace Beery, who recently celebrated his 29th year on the screen, made one of his first films in Japan, after forming his own company; in "Salute to the Marines," his latest one, he's a marine sergeant-major who fights the Japs on Bataan.