The Social Wanderer

Mary Jeanne Strong

DEAR ROAMER

Some of those rumored engagements I mentioned around Christmas time are gradually coming to light and today we break forth with one of much interest.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Price Strong announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary Jeanne to Midshipman Paul Ringgold Comegys, U.S.N.R., son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Comegys of Millington, Md.

Miss Strong is a graduate of St. Mary's Seminary and also attended Washington College.

Mr. Comegys is a graduate of Charlotte Hall Military Academy, St. John's College, Annapolis, and is a member of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity. He is now at North Western University, Chicago, where in a few weeks he will receive his commission as Ensign in the Naval Reserve.

The wedding will take place early in March.

Trumpington Manor, the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Ernest Willson, was the setting Saturday evening, January 17 for the wedding of their daughter Miss Mildred Neale Willson to Ensign Robert Strong, U. S. N., son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Strong of Fairlee. The ceremony took place in the spacious south parlor, which was aglow with candlelight. The Reverend Father C. J. Conway assisted by the Rev. Fathers Hensel and Lienhauser officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. She wore a gown of white lace, styled with sweetheart neckline and long sleeves. A full length veil fell from a coronet of lace, She carried a shower bouquet of white roses and lilies of the valley. Mrs. Eugene Parker of Baltimore was her sister's Matron of Honor and only attendant. She wore a gown of blue lace with a headdress of blue veil. She carried pink camellias. Mr. Joseph Strong was his brother's best man.

The bride is a graduate of St. Gertrude's Academy while the groom recently received his wings from the Navy Flying School, Miami, Fla.

Following the ceremony a buffet supper was served to about a hundred guests.

Receiving with the wedding party the bride's mother was gowned in black faille, trimmed with blue sequins. She wore a corsage of red camellias. The mother of the groom wore a gown of black crepe with gold sequins, wearing a corsage of white gardenias.

After the reception Ensign Strong and his bride left on a wedding trip.

Out-of-town guests at the wedding included Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Parker, Mrs. Marie Stello, Mrs. Irene Brittingham and daughters, Miss Horace Wilson, Miss Jean Reynolds, Mr. Fred Edelen of Baltimore; Mrs. George Edwards, Mrs. Paul Massey and Mr. Edgar Massey of Washington, D. C.

Few are the guests that arrive these days. Mr. James L. Bacchus, who is with Glenn L. Martin, has been home for a days visit with his father, Mr. J. D. Bacchus, and sister, Mrs. Karl Melamet.

Lieut. John Wyllie, who has been with the American Field Service for the past year in Africa, is a guest of his parents, Rev. and Mrs. William Wyllie, at the rectory in Fairlee.

Other guests here have included Miss Betty Thibodeau, of Baltimore who visited Mrs. William Janney at her home here last week end; Miss Carolyn Jewell of Baltimore, who visited her father, Mr. Theodore Jewell over the week end; Miss Elizabeth Richardson, of Baltimore, a week end guest of her sister, Mrs. Emerson Russell and Mrs. Hope B. Hudson of Baltimore, who has been a guest of friends here during the week.

Mrs. L. Rhoderick Blackhurst left on Monday of this week, for Cleveland, Ohio, where she will spend ten days visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Childs.

Mrs. Dorsey Hines is spending part of this week in Philadelphia as a guest of Mrs. Hugh Sease. Commander Sease has left for foreign service.

On Saturday, Miss Frances B. Denton will accompany her sister-in-law, Mrs. J. M. Denton to her home in Austin, Texas, where she will remain for a visit of two months. Mrs. J. M. Denton has been a guest here since the Fall.

Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Watson, who spent the winter months at their home in Winnetka, Ill., opened their home Comegys Bight this week, spending a few days there. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Watson, who have been living in Chicago, have now taken up their permanent residence at Comegys Bight, where Mr. Watson will assume the active management of the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest H. Strong will entertain Saturday evening at a buffet supper and bridge at their home on North Queen Street.

So for a pleasure-banned riding time, we end our wee epistle abruptly, merely saying "30".

Yours concisely,

The Wanderer

Duplicate Bridge

The fifth in the present series of duplicate bridge was played Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Perry Metcalfe, instead of at the Country Club.

Results of the evening were as follows:

North and South

Couple 1—Mrs. Perry Metcalfe and Mr. Phil Kratzer.

Couple 2—Mrs. Bonwill Dukes and Mrs. Norman Cooper.

Couple 3—Mrs. Richard Carvell and Mr. Brown Metcalfe.

East and West

Couple 1_Mrs. J. W. Stenger and Mrs. Ernest Strong.

Tie With—Mrs. Geraldine Williams and Mrs. Richard H. Collins, Jr.

Couple 2—Miss Helen Strong and Mrs. Philip Hickman.

Couple 3—Miss Helen Simpers and Mr. H. Gilpin Brown.

Next week, the bridge will again be held at Mrs. Metcalfe's.

The members of the Board of the Kent County Branch of the Maryland Children's Aid Society held their annual meeting for election of officers on Thursday, January 14th. The following officers were elected for 1943:

President, Mrs. Mabon Kingsley
Vice- Pres., Mrs. C. R. Humphreys
Secretary, Mrs. Harry H. Deringer
Treasurer, Mrs. Chas. P. Kingsley

Miss Frances B. Denton of Chestertown has consented to serve on the board.

Annual reports of the committee in charge of different branches of the work were submitted.

These will be summarized in next Issue of this Paper.

—V—

Metal Doors, Frames, Shutters

WPB's order halting production of metal doors, door frames and shutters is saving the U. S. about 120,000 tons of steel for war, on the basis of 1941 output. That's enough metal to provide all the steel needed for the steel parts of 6,315 big U. S. bombers.

Washington Digest

Bureau of Budget Assumes New Legislative Importance

Director Harold D. Smith Responsible Only to President; Real Value Lies in Counsel Given to Nation's Lawmakers.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 1343 H Street, N-W Washington, D. C.

A budget that bites.

That is what the United States government will have if Harold Dewey Smith, director of the bureau of the budget since April, 1939, when America started its astronomical spending, has his way.

He is not concerned with the size of Uncle Sam's bill alone—his job is to see that the dollars appropriated by the congress go to work, that no dollars are appropriated which aren't needed to do the job the congress wants done, that no two dollars are doing the same job.

I thought it would be interesting to take a look at the man who had just given his okeh to the biggest budget in American history while the ink on the report was still damp. So I wended my way up the curling staircase of the solemn old State Department building to his office (second-floor front) and was ushered into the presence of Mr. Smith, a bland-faced gentleman from Kansas with a middlewestern accent like the one which echoes through my natal corn fields. The last conversations between Mr. Smith and the President were taking place just before the 1943 budget message was completed. Mr. Smith, who budgets his own time as well as the government's money, gave me some fiscal philosophy between pipe-puffs.

"A budget should be an administrative tool," he told me quietly, speaking with a happy combination of the poker-faced accountant and the old-shoe corner-store crony.

Budgeting for governments—municipal, state, nation—were the result of the efforts of the reformers, he explained. But, as usual, when the reformers had the laws passed they ran off and left them to administer themselves. The result was that budgeting dried up into bookkeeping routine.

"I have a new concept of budgeting," he said with a forthright modesty that characterizes his remarks about his work, "any clerk can add up figures." The real job of the budget bureau is to examine the programs of the administrative agencies for which the cash is to be spent, to weigh their significance in terms of economic service—not just publish a report every year as big as a dictionary that serves to confuse the public.

The year before Smith came into office the bureau of the budget had an appropriation of 187 thousand dollars—30 thousand of that went into the publication of the bound report. In other words, the agency which bottlenecks the spending of billions had 150 thousand to spend on itself.

Separate Entity

The bureau by law is a separate entity which is under no department. The director is responsible to the President. The bureau reports to congress.

"It is a Staff agency," Smith pointed out, "detached, objective, critical."

Today in Washington there is no doubt that this detached and objective criticism has become a powerful element in the writing of laws of the land. Before a bill is passed it goes under the microscope of the budgeteers. Smith, it is generally admitted, has as much influence on the President, when it comes to the formation of policy which is frozen into law, as any man in Washington. He reviews every bill which is passed and advises whether the President should sign it or veto it.

But the real, constructive value of the bureau of the budget which has been given a dynamic force under Smith's direction, is the advice and counsel it can render in advance of the passage of legislation.

Proponents of a bill ask the budget bureau's advice before they present their testimony to the committees which pass life or death sentences on a measure. And it is Smith's idea to make this an increasingly positive function; to compile frequent important technical reports on proposed programs for the guidance of the committees.

The budget bureau has always consulted with the departments and agencies and the common practice of a department head is to ask for more than he expects in the hope he won't get much less than he wants. Smith's idea is to provide active cooperation by obtaining data on how current programs are functioning before renewing or increasing appropriations. Thus the budget becomes a tool of administration.

Confusion

He gave me an example of one problem he is working on now.

"Today there is confusion and conflict between many government departments and agencies. Examination of their methods is clearing this up. There is even conflict and confusion between agencies and their own field forces. This the budget bureau with a field force of its own can eliminate," Smith believes.

"When an agency doesn't like the way we examine the administration of its program and says, 'you are getting into operation,' I tell them, 'No, we are not. We don't want to operate but we do intend to be constructively critical.'"

Another constructive job that Smith feels is important is reconciliation between the government agency asking congress for money and congress trying to keep down costs on the one hand, or trying to bring new benefits to its constituencies, on the other.

"Congress has a tendency to shy away from bureaucracy, the bureau heads have a distrust of congress. Congress frequently gets facts mixed with policy. But facts are facts. Our job is to get the facts and to present them objectively."

Politics doesn't worry Smith. He served under three governors of Michigan, of highly different temperament, party and policies and he says that politics entered very little into the decisions made by any of them on the recommendations he made.

He said that the same thing applies to his experience with President Roosevelt.

"We may not have made all the recommendations we should," he said, but 90 per cent of those we have made the President has accepted."

Since his college days, when he specialized in engineering, and later in civil administration, Smith has been engaged in some phase of the work he is doing now: regulating the "ways and means" of government.

* * *

Plans are started which may result in many prospective women veterans, the WAACS, the WAVES, the WAFS, and the SPARS, who will have been living under regular military discipline for the duration—a form of existence about as different from anything that home offers as could possibly be.

From A Commentator's Mail:

Draft boards seem ruthless.....

We have four small children under 12 years of age. One a tiny baby and I wonder if I am selfish in needing his (the father's) advice and help to raise the children_Colorado.

The Fish and Game commission rides on rubber. Why cannot their trucks, tires, etc., be turned over to the government?—New York.

My husband is classed as 3A and is just 36. He has had both shop and metal experience and follows both as a hobby. He would give anything just now to get into defense work, but he has 15 years seniority in one of the biggest insurance companies. His job is guaranteed if he is drafted.....but they will not release him to go voluntarily into a vital industry.—California.

As farmers, we work from 70 to 100 hours a week and a good deal of this effort is for interest on borrowed money. Honestly, during wartimes we do not feel that we are a "favored" class but are doing onr best to do our share.—Colorado.

It is my humble opinion it is time we plant our feet on the ground and eliminate some of this Sunday School letter news and give the people facts.—Louisiana.

During the recent scrap drive I have seen copper toys with rubber tires displayed in store windows. The irony of it!—Louisiana.

BRIEFS

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

The Forest Service has reported to the secretary of agriculture that about 80 per cent of all cutting on private timberlands is "still without conscious regard to perpetuating timber growth."

* * *

The census director has estimated that 54,000,000 persons in the United States are without legal proof of birth.

The War Production board has set up an office to handle complaints about its questionaires.

* * *

A new floating match box has been developed for United States soliders expecting mountain or jungle duty. The new container has an emergency compass built in to the top, and it is so strong it will not break if a man falls on it.

The London Bridge Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution were delightfully entertained, Friday, January 15 at the home of Mrs. Stewart Price who served a chicken and waffle dinner at 6:30. After dinner the business meeting was held. The Regent Miss Elizabeth Bottomley and historian, Miss Esta V. Harrison were elected delegates to state meeting in March. Mrs. Walter Gould and Miss Ella Hicks were elected alternates. Other important business was attended to before adjournment.

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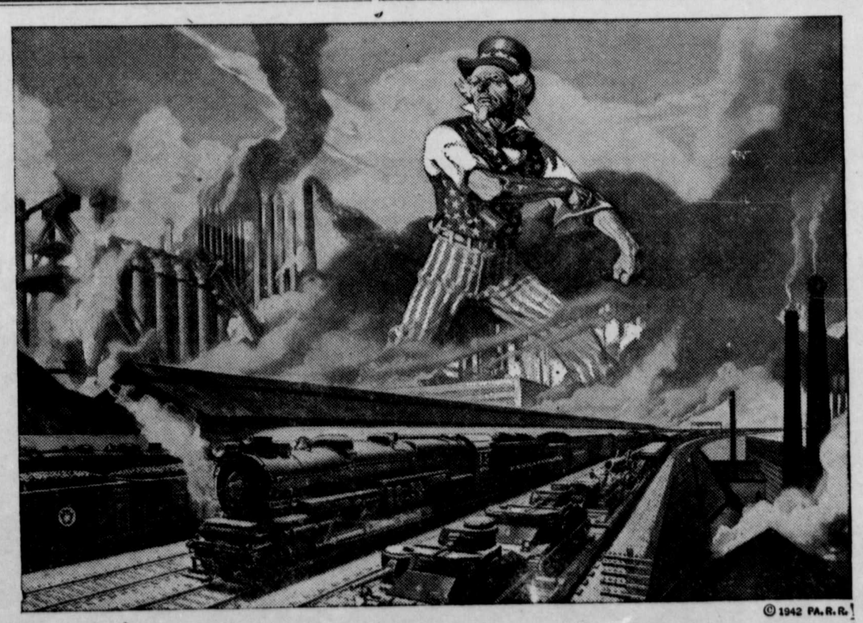

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Spirit of 1943!
Modern methods, modern efficiency—but the same old flaming spirit of 1776. What else could give men the *vitality* to produce tanks, guns, planes, armaments in such enormous quantities? What else could enable the railroads of America to handle millions of troops with such precision and smoothness . . . to haul *twice* the tonnage of war materials pre-war experts estimated them capable of . . . to take over the great oil and miscellaneous cargoes of coastwise shipping, and yet keep war transportation rolling? That spirit, as much as mechanical excellence and natural resources, is America's strength. Its "secret weapon". Pennsylvania Railroad is proud to pay tribute to it, and to be a part of it.
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