

SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

By Carter Field

Washington.—Reports that the forthcoming Department of Commerce report of international trade will show the United States has changed from a creditor to a debtor nation are vigorously denied by commerce officials, including Dr. Amos E. Taylor, who has charge of compiling the report. But there is a good deal of smoke for there not to be any fire.

No official data is yet available, but the careful studies of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States show that for 1935 exports by the United States increased 7 per cent over the preceding year, but that imports increased 25 per cent.

Incidentally, while it has no connection with the main point as to rumors of an unfavorable balance of trade against this country, it is interesting to note that, according to the chamber of commerce figures, French exports showed a larger decline than those of any other nation, 13 per cent. French imports declined 9 per cent. All of which may have some bearing on the constant rumors that France is again to devalue the franc.

So far as the United States is concerned, there are several complicating factors. For example, in 1935, there were huge importations of feed for cattle and food for humans. Heavy pork imports, among others. Whereas normally the United States exports large quantities of food and feed, and imports very little comparatively. Even this little is mostly of products not produced in the United States, such as bananas.

But due to the drought, on top of the farm policy of paying people not to raise crops, an acute shortage of cattle feed and food developed, which compelled heavy importations of grain and meat.

Slump in Cotton

The farm program also caused a terrific slump in cotton exports, running the total down something like 3,000,000 bales a year from normal. This one item alone cut exports something like \$150,000,000 a year.

The natural assumption is that these changes in the flow of agricultural commodities, which have so devastated America's position in world trade, will not continue, and hence are only of temporary importance. Critics of the farm program, however, insist that as long as the price of cotton is kept up artificially, just that long will other countries, notably Brazil, continue to increase their cotton planting, and hence cut into our exports of that staple.

More important in the whole picture is the matter of defaulting foreign bonds. It makes a great deal of difference, for instance, in any appraisal of whether this country is a debtor or creditor nation, whether one counts up the so-called European war debts to the United States. No one expects any payment. Most experts agree that there will be no rush of other nations to join Finland in paying installments.

Then there is the long list of foreign bonds held by private investors in America, and by institutions also, which have defaulted on their interest. The point on international trade balances is that if a concern in the Argentine pays interest to American investors, goods have to move out of Argentina and into the United States, either directly or indirectly, to balance this. But when interest payments stop, as so many have, obviously no such shipments of goods are essential.

There are plenty of other complications, but it is by no means certain that the final figures, when the Department of Commerce releases them, will justify any vigorous attack on the tariff policy. Critics will blame the reciprocal tariff agreements. Administration spokesmen will say our trade is bigger and better than ever. Most people will not be interested.

In those places where mills are closed down, and heavy imports are blamed, there will be plenty of political interest. In other communities the subject will be academic.

Likes House Tax Bill

President Roosevelt is enthusiastic about the house tax bill, embodying a long start toward his pet objectives with respect to hitting big business, revamping the economic structure, social reform, and, as means to those ends, preventing "piled up surpluses" in the future.

He is slightly concerned over the failure of the house to include the proposed new excise taxes to take the place of the outlawed processing taxes. Not that he is so keen about the excise taxes per se, but he realized they were sure fire from a revenue standpoint, whereas there is considerable apprehension among his Treasury department experts as to whether the new measure in the form approved by the house will raise the expected and desired revenue.

What is worrying administration senators, however, is the extraordinary independence of view and the wide disparity of judgment among members of the upper house. For instance, there was a strong sentiment for restoring the excise taxes, but this has been weakening steadily as individual senators, either up for re-election themselves or with tickets back home they were interested in getting elected, began to ponder the possible political repercussions of such taxes.

Then there is the minority which believes that the most satisfactory way of obtaining the needed revenue is by straight-out boosts in the income tax rates on small incomes, reducing the present exemptions, and moving toward the British system.

Divergent Views

Next is a strong group, perhaps strong enough to be a majority, though the lines change with every passing day, if not hour, which fears that the new plan of forcing distribution of corporation earnings will prove a sieve as far as revenue is concerned. This group wants to try the Roosevelt plan of taxing undistributed corporation earnings meanwhile. Incidentally this faction has back of it the almost unanimous opinion of the real treasury experts—the career men, not the political appointees. Members of this group say that if decision is final not to include excise taxes, the government must hold on to something that is tried and sure as a revenue producer.

They point to the fact that in the known case of 1930 dividends, approximately one-half, or more than four billion dollars, escaped payment of any federal individual income tax. Lots of dividends are paid to small income people, they insist, who do not even make an income tax return. Lots more are paid to people who do not remember to include them in their returns. Huge amounts are paid to life and fire insurance companies, which, of course, do not pay individual income taxes. Yet all this four billion dollars is subject under the present law, which the Roosevelt proposal would repeal, to the 15 per cent corporation income tax.

Ickes Stays on Job

"Honest Harold" Ickes is going to stay right on the job, despite the earnest wishes of several of his fellow cabinet members, that he be eased out.

Curiously enough, two of the men who would like to see the secretary of the interior go back to Illinois, and private life, are probably the two men who are closer to Roosevelt than Ickes himself. They are Postmaster General James A. Farley and Relief Administrator Harry L. Hopkins.

However, there are to be no changes in the cabinet, unless the continued serious illness of Secretary of the Navy Claude A. Swanson makes his replacement necessary.

It is rather curious that Farley should want to throw Ickes out. It shows a considerable amount of political bravery. Underneath it all may lay the answer to something about which Washington has been wondering for some time.

This is concerned with the mystery at the moment about Louis Glavis, head of Ickes' special secret service. Glavis has had working under his expert direction quite an aggregation of sleuths for several years now. In fact, since shortly after inauguration, some of their activities have leaked out, warning all and sundry that the scope of their investigations has by no means been confined to what would normally be considered the functions of the interior department. In fact, there are those who chuckle that the Glavis outfit has rounded up information which Ickes himself wishes very heartily they had not gone after. And who snort, therefore, at any suggestion that Glavis may himself be thrown out.

Here's a Mystery

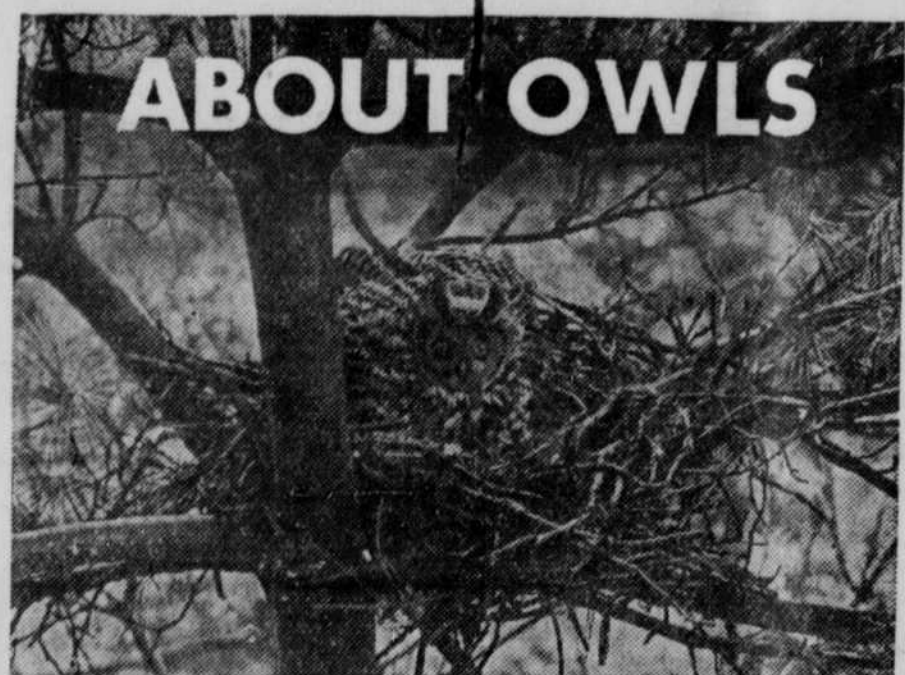
But the point is that Ickes is supposed, naturally, to have all this data available, and further that it would be most embarrassing, politically, to have some of it come out. Hence the wonderment that Farley would actually like to see the last of the secretary of the interior.

At this point enters the mystery. Glavis has been sick, lately, it is reported at the interior department. But Ickes did not know where he was, and his face, according to inquiring reporters present when this disclosure came, registered anything but contentment. And it was not the impression of the reporters that the type of discontent registered on Mr. Ickes' mobile features was concerned about the health of a friend!

Mr. Ickes had just denied, incidentally, that Glavis was resigning. So the gossip mongers have been putting two and two together and getting answers all the way from 10 to 16 ever since.

Mr. Farley's face is much less mobile. He grins, or he looks earnest. Once in a while he looks proud, as for example when a friend mentions that he did a pretty good job in Maine. But that is about the limit one can read from his face. He has old friends who have never seen what appeared to be discouragement or chagrin written on his countenance.

So there is nothing to be learned about the Glavis mystery there.



ABOUT OWLS

Waiting for Nightfall and a Meal of Mice.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

THE evening air of early spring in the Everglades of southern Florida is soft and mild. Delicate scents from blossoms come with the breeze, together with the voices of myriad frogs in incessant but attractive chorus from the marshes. Suddenly, from the moss-festooned live oaks in this peaceful background, comes an outburst of demoniacal laughter, guttural in sound and startling in its abruptness.

Playing the beam of light from an electric torch through the branches, you discover presently two glowing spots of ruby red, reflections from a pair of eyes. As your own eyes adjust themselves to the feeble illumination, you can distinguish dimly the shadowy form of a great barred owl. The hubbub stops immediately, for the bird is puzzled by the spot of light; but as you continue along the trail the owl, now behind you, utters a loud, prolonged whoo-oo-oo-aw that resounds eerily among the trees. Until daybreak you hear at intervals the wild ululation of its calls filling the darkened woodland.

The voices of owls are more familiar than their persons, as most of them are active principally at night, and without special search the birds themselves are difficult to see. Their presence, unseen but constantly evident, has caused imagination to play about them until in practically every country in the world there have grown up fables and superstitions regarding owls.

The little owl of Europe, about as large as the American screech owl without the ear tufts of that species, has long been an emblem of wisdom, and in early years was accepted as a special ward of Pallas Athene of the Greeks. Romans, to whom this goddess became Minerva, did not retain this reverence for the bird, considering it of evil omen and a messenger of bad news.

He Only Looks Wise.

The vogue of the owl as an emblem of wisdom is not due to any special intelligence of the bird, but to the conformation of the head, with two eyes so placed that they look directly ahead like those of man.

As the companion of night-flying witches, or as one of the ingredients in the brew concocted by these trouble-makers, the owl developed a black and unsavory reputation, attested by many references to its evil omen in Shakespeare and other writers.

Among American Indians, owls, though feared at times, were in better repute and were the basis of various lively legends. Zuni tales include stories of one called "gray owl" that lived in a house as a man does. The Pima Indians held that at death the human spirit passed into the body of an owl and, to assist in this transmigration, they gave owl feathers, kept for the purpose in a special box, to a dying person.

Among the Plains Indians, the Arikara included an owl group as one of their eight mystic societies, and in the sacred rites of this body they used the stuffed skin of an owl with disks of cunningly fitted buffalo horn for eyes. This emblem was displayed during their ceremonies to represent night, the eyes being symbolic of the morning star.

Owls are found throughout the world from the Arctic regions through the continents and to remote islands in the sea. More than 300 kinds are known, ranging in size from the tiny elf owls, no larger than sparrows, to the powerful horned owls and eagle owls, which are two feet or more in length.

Scientifically, all owls are included in one order, the Strigiformes, in which two families are recognized, one for the barn owls (Tytonidae) and the other (Strigidae) for all other species.

Regardless of their size, owls are instantly identified by their broad faces with prominent disks of feathers about the eyes, coupled with sharp, curved beaks and claws, and long, fluffy feathers. Their nearest relatives are the whippoorwills, nighthawks, and goatsuckers.

Other Birds Dislike Them.

Most owls are nocturnal and by day sleep in caves, hollow trees, tangles of leaves, or whatever may offer protection. When they are found by other birds there is high excitement, jays, cardinals, and

like gathering to scold and chatter at these enemies of the night. Crows are more aggressive and often drive the largest owls to seek more secure cover where they may avoid their cawing black tormentors.

The homes of owls are located in hollows of trees, caverns in rocks, or in stick nests built by hawks, crows, or other birds. Often no nesting material of any kind is used. The eggs are white, occasionally tinted with buff or pale blue, but without markings, and are peculiar in being usually elliptical or nearly round. The young are covered with white down and remain in the nest under care of the parents for a considerable time.

In defense of their young, owls are often aggressive and swoop at any and all who chance to pass, sometimes with startling effect when the attack is delivered without warning. A scientist climbing to the nest of a great horned owl once was struck so savagely in the back by one of the parents that the strong talons of the bird drew blood through the heavy clothing he wore.

Their Plumage Is Soft.

All owls have soft plumage composed of long, fluffy feathers. The wings have softened margins, so that in flight the birds move without sound, as if they were shadows. In owls, the lower leg, or tarsus, and upper surfaces of the toes, bare in most birds, are covered with feathers, these being reduced or absent only in a few species that inhabit warm countries. The plumage colors run usually to gray, brown and buff, with lighter markings of buff and gray. White and black are extensive in some, but brighter colors are rare or absent.

Some of the smaller owls have round markings on the back of the head, resembling eyes. In South America the country people tell you these birds have four eyes. They can see behind as well as ahead.

The eyes of the owl are fixed so immovably in the head, where both are directed forward, that the bird must change the position of the head to alter its line of vision. They are especially large and are adapted for vision where there is little light.

Though the majority of owls remain hidden in shaded, secluded places by day, there are a few that are abroad by day or by night indifferently. This is true of the snow owl, which lives in summer through the long Arctic day, and of the burrowing owls of open country in the new world. The latter delights in resting in the sun, and in broad daytime detects and watches hawks and other birds flying at such great heights that one can barely see them.

What They Eat.

Owls live mostly on animal food which is captured alive, except that occasionally they feed upon rabbits freshly killed by automobiles along our highways, or upon other carcasses. Mice, rats, and other small mammals are regular prey, as are birds of various species.

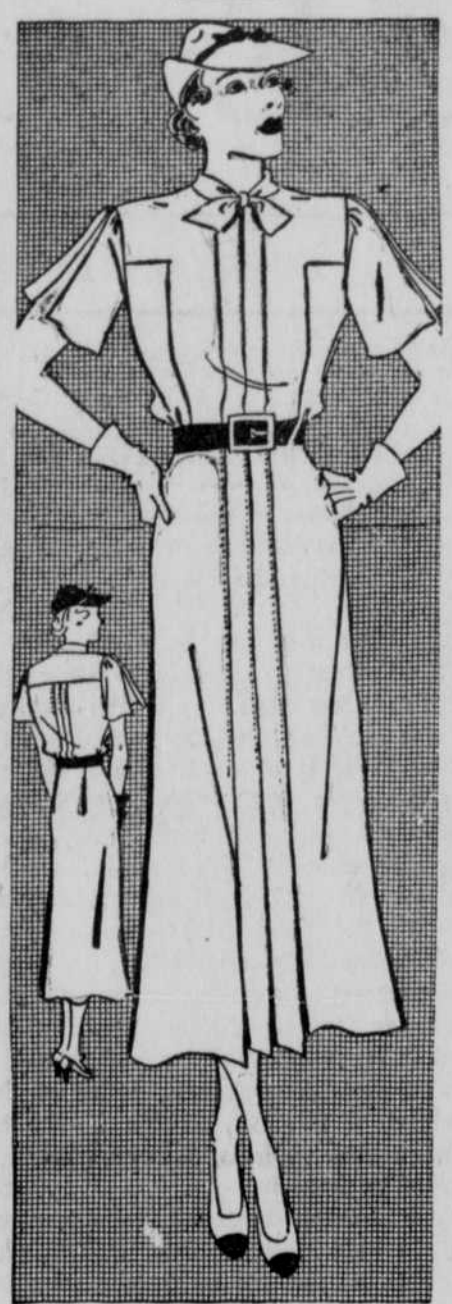
The barred owl eats many crayfish and fish, while crabs and fish are staple foods of the fish owls of Africa and India, which have featherless legs and rough, horny-surfaced toes to assist in capturing such slippery prey. Horned owls have been known to capture goldfish in ornamental pools, but this is unusual.

Owls, like hawks, tear their prey apart and swallow the pieces entire. During digestion the flesh is assimilated, while bones, fur, feathers, and other indigestible portions are formed into compact pellets, which are regurgitated to leave the stomach empty for another meal. Such pellets accumulate about roosts and, through identification of the bones contained, give a valuable index to the food of the bird concerned.

The great horned owls and snowy owls are fiercely predatory, killing rabbits, squirrels, and other creatures of good size. The former has been known to capture and eat small owls. In the Dominican Republic was seen a burrowing owl tearing at the body of a young bird of its own kind which had been killed and thrown aside by some natives.

Occasionally wild mice increase for various reasons until they form a veritable plague. Under such circumstances short-eared owls gather in abundance and aid in reducing the numbers of the pests. Burrowing owls feed extensively on beetles and other large insects, and the barn owl in California destroys many Jerusalem crickets.

New Slit Sleeves and Youthful Bodice Go With This Spectator Sports Frock



Pattern No. 1868-B

even makes you suspect that it's held underneath by an elastic band, and the side pleats of the skirt harmonize beautifully with the action pleats in the back blouse.

Barbara Bell Pattern No. 1868-B is available in sizes 14, 16, 18, 20; 40 and 42. Corresponding bust measurements 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42. Size 16 (34) requires 4 1/2 yards of 39 inch material. Send fifteen cents for the pattern.

The Barbara Bell Pattern Book featuring spring designs is ready. Send fifteen cents today for your copy.

Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 367 W. Adams St., Chicago, Ill.

© Bell Syndicate.—WNU Service.

Noble Thoughts

THE note of the day in all its higher and nobler trend of thought is to include, to share, to communicate. Emerson has remarked that "exclusiveness excludes itself." All that we keep out we go without. If we admit no one we deprive ourselves of every one, and if we admit a few in order to lay to our souls the flattering unction of exclusiveness, we exclude the many. If you have greater knowledge, finer culture, do not exclude but share, and find in it its divinest sweetness.—Lillian Whiting.

Counsel and wisdom achieve more than sense.

Some are chosen and some are not, as you remember. And this is one of the "summer" chosen! A pretty bad pun, but this perfectly stunning spectator sports frock makes up for it. And you can wear it yourself when summer sets in if you'll send for the pattern now.

It is surprisingly easy to make, and with the aid of the step-by-step chart, illustrating the cut and fit of the new slit sleeves and the way to pleat and stitch-up the youthful bodice, you will immediately realize how automatically it goes together. The bodice has a lot of blouse to it.

Twins, 91, Claim Age Title; Brother, 97, Backs 'Em Up

Mrs. Jane Giles and Miss Rachel Rader of Pulaski, Iowa, challenged all claimants to the "nation's oldest living twins" title, and particularly Joe and Dave Maddux of Philo, Ill. "We celebrated our ninety-first birthdays January 15," Mrs. Giles and Miss Rader declared. "That makes up 19 days older than the Maddux boys, who said they were ninety-one February 3. We have a big brother to prove it." The big brother is ninety-seven-year-old Anthony Rader still quite alert mentally.

FOR THOSE WHO TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR BAKING

Here's a baking powder, tried, tested and used exclusively by experts.



DEMPSTER HAY TOOLS

You can handle your hay crop faster, easier and with less help with Dempster Hay Tools.

Dempster No. 1 Hay Stacker—Pitches hay like a crowd of experienced farm hands. Takes a load, swings it into place quickly and without strain. Extended Arm Principle assures cleaner stacking job.

Dempster No. 7 Rake—Floating head type of sweep rake. Teeth never lock to the ground. Combined power and lever lift.

Dempster Mill—Beets, Gr. (W1)

THE 'MISSOURI BLOCK' OR, HOW AMERICA'S ACE "G-MAN" CAPTURED AL BENDER, THE AIR-MAIL ROBBER

AN INSIDE STORY OF MELVIN PURVIS, AMERICA'S NO. 1 "G-MAN"

MELVIN PURVIS, who became America's ace G-Man... who directed the capture of Dillinger, "Pretty Boy" Floyd, "Baby Face" Nelson, and others. Mr. Purvis reveals here methods used in capturing criminals. Names have, of course, been changed.

"MY 'G-MEN' AND I HAD SENT OUT TRACERS THROUGH THREE STATES LOOKING FOR AL BENDER, WHO HAD JUST RIFLED THE MAILS AT A MIDWEST AIRPORT... SUDDENLY WE HEARD THAT HE HUNG OUT A LOT AT 'JOE'S COFFEE-POT' IN A SMALL MISSOURI TOWN, AND SO..."

"WELL STEAK, PALE LISTEN, WE'RE FRIENDS OF AL BENDER'S... SEEN HIM LATELY?"

"HEY, BUDDY, MIND IF I PHONE?"

"NEVER HEARDA D'YOU?"

"JUST AS I THOUGHT! THERE'S A LOT OF PHONE NUMBERS HERE—ONE MAY GIVE US A CLUE TO BENDER!"

"WE KNEW BENDER USED TO BE A BRICK LAYER. AS I CALLED EACH NUMBER, I POSED AS FOREMAN OF A CONSTRUCTION COMPANY... EXPLAINED THAT I WANTED TO HIRE BENDER. FINALLY WE LOCATED HIM!"

AL BENDER, IN HIS 'HIDE-OUT' GETS A CALL AT 12:30 THE SAME DAY.

"LISTEN, AL, DIS IS JOE DOWN TO 'COFFEE POT'... I GOT WORD DAT 'G-MEN' ARE ONTO YUH, AN' ARE BLOCKIN' EVERY ROAD OUTA TOWN... BUT LISTEN! DAT OLD ROUTE 35 OPENED TO TRAFFIC TODAY AN' DEY AN'T WISE TO IT!"

"THANKS, JOE! I'LL LAM OUT ON ROUTE 35 RIGHT NOW!"

A RUSE OF G-MEN TO SLOW DOWN A FLEEING BANDIT'S CAR SO HE CAN BE IDENTIFIED AND CAPTURED. CARS ARE PARKED AS SHOWN IN DIAGRAM, SO THAT BANDIT WILL BE FORCED TO WEAVE SLOWLY BETWEEN THEM, WHILE STILL UNSUSPICIOUS OF THE TRAP...

30 MINUTES LATER

"STICK 'EM UP, AL BENDER!"

"SO YOU THOUGHT YOU'D GIVEN US THE SLIP, EH BENDER? WELL, I WAS THE MAN WHO PHONED YOU AT NOON TODAY — NOT COFFEE-POT JOE!"

"WHAT'S THE USE... YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THE G-MEN!"

"NOTE THIS MAN WAS TRIED, CONVICTED, AND SENTENCED TO SERVE A TERM OF YEARS IN THE FEDERAL PENITENTIARY."

"...NOW, PAUL AND JOAN, I WANT EVERY MEMBER OF MY JUNIOR G-MAN CORPS TO HAVE A BIG BOWL OF POST TOASTIES FOR BREAKFAST! THEY'RE JUST THE THING TO START OFF THE DAY!"

"YOU BET I'LL NEVER GO WITHOUT MY POST TOASTIES!"

Post Toasties The Better Corn Flakes

MICKEY MOUSE TOYS ON BACK AND SIDES

JOIN MY JUNIOR G-MEN!

BOYS AND GIRLS!... I'LL SEND YOU FREE THIS REGULATION SIZE JUNIOR G-MAN BADGE... ENROLL YOU ON THE SECRET ROLL OF MY JUNIOR G-MEN... AND SEND YOU A BIG EXCITING BOOK THAT TELLS YOU ALL ABOUT CLUES, SECRET CODES, INVISIBLE WRITING, SELF-DEFENSE... OTHER "INSIDE" INFORMATION THAT ONLY G-MEN KNOW... READ BELOW HOW TO JOIN AND GET THESE AND MY OTHER FREE PRIZES!

The finest corn flakes ever... crisp, crunchy POST TOASTIES!

"HAVE a big bowl of Post Toasties for breakfast every morning!" That's mighty good advice from Melvin Purvis! It's a rule YOU ought to follow! Take it from Melvin Purvis, Post Toasties are the grandest-tasting breakfast treat ever! They're delicious, too, with luscious fresh fruit or berries!

Post Toasties are made from the sweet little hearts of the corn, where most of the flavor is. And each golden flake is toasted double crisp so it keeps its crunchy goodness longer in milk or cream.

Get your Post Toasties now—"The Better Corn Flakes!" And join the Junior G-Man Corps without delay!

A POST CEREAL—MADE BY GENERAL FOODS

Boys' Badge (left). Girls' Division Badge (above, right). Both are of polished gold-bronze design enameled in blue.

OFFICIAL JUNIOR G-MAN RING: 24-carat gold finish. Fits any finger. Free for 4 Post Toasties box-tops.

TO JOIN: Send two tops from Post Toasties packages with coupon below, to Melvin Purvis. He'll send you his official Junior G-Man badge... his big, thrilling book that tells how to become a Junior G-Man, and a catalog of OTHER SWELL FREE PRIZES!

MELVIN PURVIS WNU 5-4-38
1/2 Post Toasties, Battle Creek, Michigan

I enclose... Post Toasties package tops. Please send me the items checked below. Check whether boy () or girl ()
() Membership Badge (send 2 package tops)
() Junior G-Man Ring (send 4 package tops)

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____
City _____ State _____
(Offer expires Dec. 31, 1936, good only in U. S. A.)