

# The Plattsmouth Journal

ESTABLISHED 1881

Published semi-weekly, Mondays and Thursdays, at 409-112 Main Street, Plattsmouth, Cass County, Nebraska.

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Entered at the Postoffice at Plattsmouth, Nebraska as second class mail matter in accordance with the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$3 per year, cash in advance, by mail outside the city of Plattsmouth. By carrier in Plattsmouth, 15 cents for two weeks.

## EDITORIALS

### WHEN UNIONS MISREPRESENT FACTS

Some unions, apparently, do not hesitate to utterly misrepresent facts in an effort to gain public favor for their side.

An example of that recently occurred in a short-lived railroad strike affecting one of the nation's largest railroads. One union demand was that the minimum wage for engineers be raised from \$10.02 to \$12.95. This point was heavily stressed, and the union did everything possible to make the public believe that engineers are woefully underpaid. The truth of the matter is that the demand was completely without practical significance. No engineer on this railroad earns as little as \$12.95 a day—and the bulk of them earn \$20 to \$30, with overtime in addition. Whether their wage is figured on a daily or annual basis, railroad engineers are among the highest paid workers in the country, and working conditions are excellent in all particulars.

It seems to be a fact that certain union officials think it a wise policy to stir up trouble at regular intervals, regardless of its effect on the country. It was this kind of thinking which resulted in the enactment of the Taft-Hartley Bill by the last Congress. It is this kind of thinking which, if continued, will inevitably bring further restrictive legislation down upon the heads of labor. In this country, the public interest is paramount. It cannot be flaunted indefinitely. Business learned that many years ago, when excesses of capital were followed by a flood of regulatory legislation. It is time that labor, in all fields, learned it as well.

Every legitimate demand of labor in major industries can be gained without striking, under the present mediation machinery. Whatever inequalities remain can be settled by honest collective bargaining between the unions and management. The cost of perennial strikes—in money, in work lost, in the depressing effect on industry and agriculture—is too great for any country to bear.

### WHAT THE CONSUMER WANTS

At various times polls have been made of consumer needs, desires and eccentricities. And the answers show why there is plenty of room for all kinds of stores, from independents to chains, and from gigantic department stores to little specialty shops.

One segment of the consuming public is primarily interested in price. It compares the prices of competing retailers and always goes where the most is offered for the money.

Another segment is interested in certain trade-marked brands, and buys only in stores which carry those it favors.

Still another segment places service high on the list of its requirements. It wants delivery of goods to the home, the charge account privilege, a very liberal policy in exchange, etc., and it is willing to pay the added costs that these and other services entail.

Under the free competitive system—which is the American system—there is a store to meet every demand. Every kind and character of consumer commodity is stocked, and a long list of brands is offered. If one store can't meet some buyer's standards, another store down the street will. And every merchant who keeps up with the times will get his share of the business. American retailing is geared to serve the varying wishes of the 140,000,000 Americans who patronize it.

The announcement that England will materially reduce her military forces from Germany tirely from Greece and partly from Germany and further intensify her "austerity" program at home, has long been anticipated.

The whole story behind it can be told in a sentence: England simply hasn't got the money or the resources. What the effect will be on our foreign program, remains to be seen. But, at least, it hasn't come as a surprise.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

Ten years ago in Plattsmouth—Miss Gerda Peterson departed for a months vacation to visit her sister at Sheridan, Wyoming. . . Harley Wiles returned from hospital. . . Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Steffens and daughter Maxine of Nehawka departed for trip to Black Hills country. . . James Boyer, 14, former resident electrocuted while playing in cellar of vacant house in Omaha. . . Hugh E. Chalfant former Union resident died at Lusk, Wyoming. . . Mr. and Mrs. George C. Sheldon entertained at their home in Nehawka for members of the Todd family. . . Rosen Motor Company bought O. K. Garage Building. . . Mrs. Eugenia Deles Dernier of Murray departed for Colorado Springs vacation. . . Mrs. L. G. Todd, Union, fractured wrist in fall at home. . . Bernese Ault of Cedar Creek accepted teaching post in the schools of Evanston, Illinois. . . Thirty-one years ago—Nehawka Flour Mills

## Furse's Fresh Flashes

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, says its a problem to dance with some of these Plattsmouth boys. She reports that most of them are all feet when dancing and all hands when not dancing.

In one foreign country, it is reported, they are forced to pay taxes on "baby talk" the form of language some softie lovers use. Over here they pay plenty for it too, but we don't call it taxes.

Many a man wears the pants in his own home, but a great deal of the time he's got an apron over them.

A friend of ours is in very bad condition physically, the result of a powder explosion. His wife found it on his coat collar.

A local sweet little girl, age about 19, says she got her pretty little round mouth from saying "No" so often.

A Plattsmouth man rushed up to a church here last week when the bell started ringing and asked what the church bell was ringing for. "Probably because I'm pulling the rope," was the reply.

An expert in family relations tells the girls a bachelor over 35 is a total loss as a husband. Just the same, we're telling the expert if the gal can land a man over 35, she'll take a chance.

Our only suit is as out of date as the rustle of a skirt.

We have often wondered if it was possible to tell a hair-raising story to a bald headed man.

placed under management of C. D. St. John. . . W. A. Nord raises prize ear of corn with seven ears on one stalk. . . Gladys McMakon entertained a house party for classmates from Peru College. . . Hillman Stock company billed for appearance at airrome. . . Funeral for Alfred Rouse held at home of his sister, Mrs. Warren Tulene. . . Red Sox won game from "Murphy-Did-Its" of Omaha. . . Post office at South Bend burglarized. . . T. H. Pollock named local agent for Ford automobile company. . . Mrs. Ben Elson visited here from Los Angeles enroute to Detroit.

## The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

ROBERT S. ALLEN SAYS: WAR DEPARTMENT MAY BE EMBARRASSED BY CONGRESSIONAL PROBE OF HIGH LIVING AND HIGH-HANDEDNESS OF LT. GEN. LEE AND STAFF IN MEDITERRANEAN THEATER. T. V. SOONG CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT BETWEEN U. S.-CHINA. WASHINGTON.—One of the Congressional committees going to Europe has an unpublished special mission that may prove embarrassing to the high brass in the War Department. The committee will look into the activities of Lt. Gen. John C. Lee, commander of the Mediterranean theater and his high-living staff.

Reason for the committee's check-up are numerous complaints received by members of Congress from GI's serving in the theater, and their parents. The latter have been particularly indignant.

Burden of these complaints is that while Lee and his staff are living in lavish luxury, the enlisted men are ill-housed and ill-fed and subjected to un-American personal indignities and a Prussian form of discipline. The following are some of the charges contained in the letters.

That Lee has three private residences—in Rome, Florence, and Viareggio, the last place, a resort town, out of bounds for GI's; that he also has for his exclusive personal use a small fleet of automobiles, a specially equipped C-47 transport plane and a special train. The latter—in charge of an officer who does nothing else—among other luxuries, has a special car for showing movies.

That more than 500 GI's are jam-packed in quarters equipped with fewer than 15 showers, some of which don't work; that there is no "Day Room" (lounge) or other recreational facilities for the men; that their food is poorly prepared and unappetizingly served; that GI's are required to act as drivers for officers' wives and take care of officers' children including a nursery; that Lee and his staff are "salute crazy," imposing heavy fines for the slightest infraction of this rule; and that a disciplinary camp is running full-blown at Pisa.

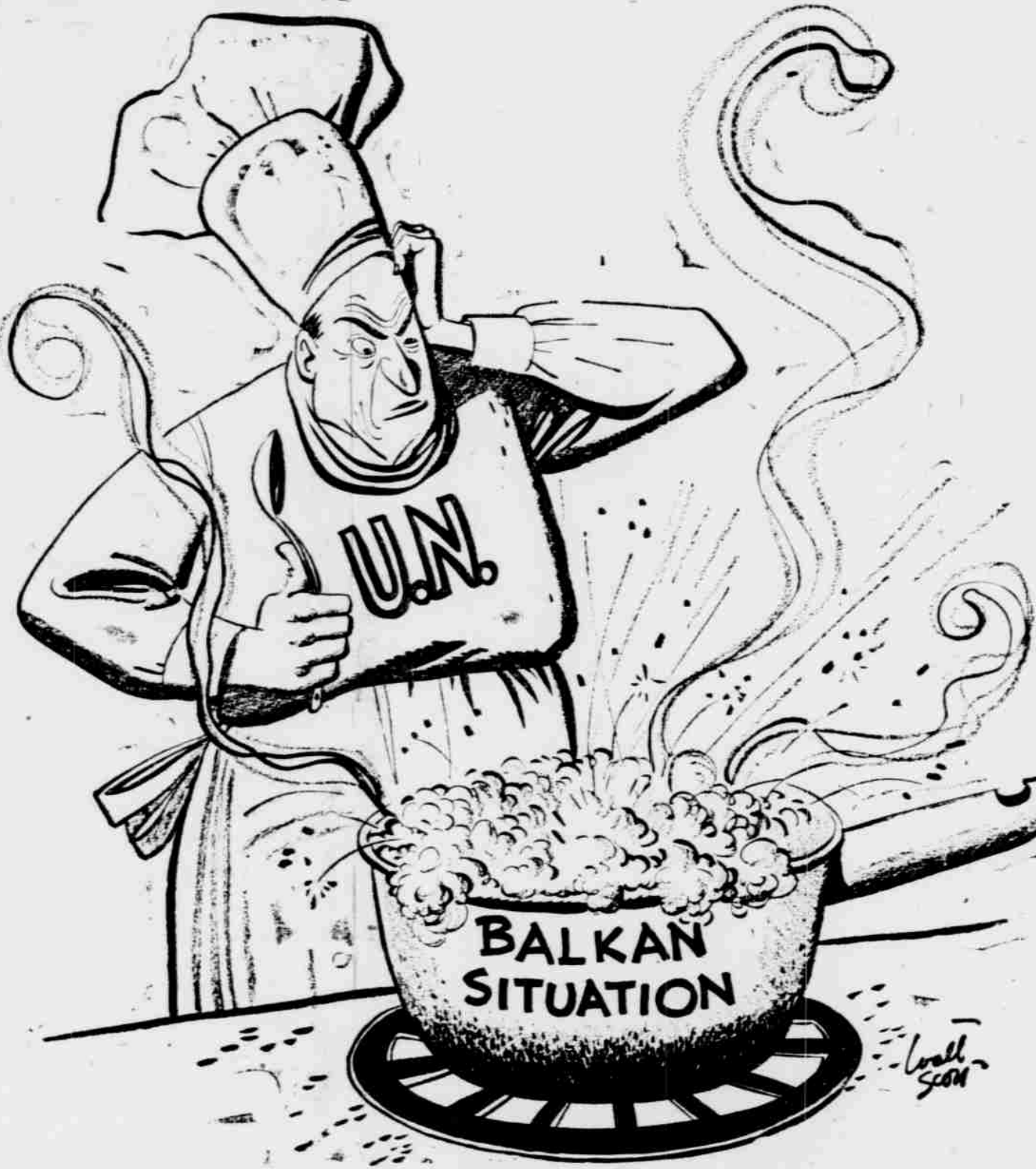
This last charge is particularly serious. The Army denies it is operating any more of these notorious camps. But the committee is in possession of considerable evidence not only proving the existence of the Pisa camp, but certain very unsavory things that have taken place there.

"GOD-ALMIGHTY" LEE Aside from the question of Lee's alleged antics, the matter is very serious because of its possible adverse repercussions on the Universal Military Training issue here.

The fate of this urgently needed defensive measure is very much in doubt. To further its enactment, the Army last year announced far-reaching changes in its traditional caste system, and set up a model training camp at Ft. Knox. This camp has won high praise from numerous outstanding civilian leaders.

If the reports of what is transpiring in Lee's theater are confirmed by the Congressional committee, it will provide devastating ammunition to UMT foes.

Lee was Chief of Supply in the European theater during the war. He was not a popular figure. He was widely known as "God-Almighty" Lee because of his high handedness and luxurious living. In



### FIGHTING MEN

Charles Potter, seventh Army veteran who lost both legs in heroic fighting near Colmar, France, has won the Republican nomination for the Michigan seat held by the late Representative Fred Bradley. . . Loss of a leg in the assault on Guam is not keeping ex-Marine Tommy Breen from realizing his ambition to be movie actor. He has just won a stellar role in MGM's new super-musical, "Luxury Liner." . . Col. Oscar Koch, who fought his way back from a death's-edge illness due to vigorous combat service, has been made head of the Army's crack Intelligence school at Ft. Riley. The greatest G-2 in the Army, Koch was Patton's Intelligence chief from Africa to V-E Day.

### SOONG MILLIONS

Stormy petrel in the stormy and complex Chinese problem is T. V. Soong, U. S.-educated brother of Madame Chiang Kai-Shek. A key figure in the Nationalist regime, Soong has long been the subject of bitter controversy both in U. S. and Chinese quarters.

Currently, Soong is very active behind the scenes in the Nationalist pressure-drive to wrangle a \$2,000,000,000 loan from the U. S.

A significant commentary on Soong, and on conditions in China, comes from Gardner Cowles, able plain-talking publisher of the Des Moines Register-Tribune newspaper, who recently returned from China. This is Cowles' story:

"China is filled with gossip. A favorite subject is speculation about the alleged growing wealth of the Soong family. At a dinner party in Shanghai, an irate critic of the present government said to me, 'China will never find herself until she gets rid of the Soong family. Why, they have more than a billion dollars in their personal accounts in Washington, London, and Amsterdam banks.'"

"When he walked away a moment later, a high official of the Central Bank of China said to me: 'Don't believe such foolishness. The Soongs don't have

more than \$100,000,000 on deposit.'"

Howard Hughes had a good example on how to treat Washington officials when he clashed head-on with Senate War Investigating committee. The example was his friend and former business associate, Henry J. Kaiser. The story has never been told before but the redoubtable builder on one occasion administered a physical roughing to none other than Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, former War Department chief of supply.

The encounter occurred over Kaiser's proposal that the government finance the construction of cargo planes to lick the U-boat menace. This issue is one of the subjects now being probed by the Senate committee. Word reached Kaiser that Somervell not only was opposing the project, but had stated he would "run Kaiser out of town."

Kaiser invited General "Hap" Arnold, then chief of the AAF, to lunch to discuss the matter. Arnold accepted. Later, he called back to ask if he could bring a friend and if the luncheon could be held in the Army-Navy club. Kaiser agreed.

To Kaiser's surprise, Arnold appeared with Somervell, the late Gen. Leslie J. McNair, then head of Army Ground Forces, and Ferdinand Eberstadt, of the War Production Board. The luncheon started off pleasantly, but soon Kaiser and Somervell were engaged in a heated exchange.

This was ended abruptly by Kaiser. Jumping from his chair, he dashed around the table, seized Somervell by the shoulders and shook him violently.

"You've been saying you're going to run me out of town," blazed Kaiser. "I'd like to see you or any other blankety-blank try it."

Somervell also rose and in trying to free himself from Kaiser sent dishes flying in all directions. The others finally restored peace and the luncheon was resumed. Kaiser, thereafter, had no more trouble with Somervell. (Copyright, 1947, The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

## Baseball Game!

ATTENTION EAGLE FANS LET'S BEAT SPRINGFIELD

Be in the Bleachers When the Plattsmouth Eagles Swing Into Second Place in the DSC League

Eagles at Home! IN ATHLETIC PARK

Game Starts 2:30 Sunday afterdaay

## EDSON'S WASHINGTON COLUMN

BY PETER EDSON  
NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NEA)—If ever there was a congressional inquiry in which everything turned out the way it wasn't supposed to, the current Howard Hughes airplane contract probe which is now the headline attraction before the Senate War Investigating Committee is that comedy of errors. That's what makes it such a good show.

Elliott Roosevelt, who has made more bad loans, written more bad books and articles, been in more scrapes and married more wives than any of the other children of the late President, has come out of this deal with the first good publicity he has had in his life.

Howard Hughes, who started out as the defendant in this case, ends up as the prosecutor. Elliott Roosevelt and Howard Hughes get the applause from the crowd, not Brewster and Sen. Homer Ferguson of Michigan who is acting as committee chairman for this investigation.

Good-time Johnny Meyer, the press agent, gets more sympathy from the crowd than Committee Investigator Francis Flanagan, who dug up all the dirt on him. When the story broke charging Meyer with having sired an illegitimate child, he got a wire of congratulations because "the baby's picture looks like a senator."

The crowd that comes to these hearings is no ragtag riffraff. Women far outnumber the men, and these women are fashionably dressed. They stand in the aisles by the hour. They stand in long lines in the Senate Office Building halls, waiting for a chance to get in.

It started out to be an investigation of why the government had spent \$30 million or \$40 million for which it has as yet received little or nothing.

Then it digressed into the Johnny Meyer episodes—a mere side-show, though it is a perfect demonstration of how a business should not conduct its public relations. Hughes turned the emphasis off that phase of his operations by his charges against Senator Brewster. Hughes handled himself like a lawyer.

Senator Brewster made a good rebuttal when he took the stand in his own defense, however. He had transcripts of telephone calls and other conversations and a pretty well documented case against the Hughes charges.

But what the once great Senate War Investigating Committee is going to get out of this is doubtful. The whole thing has backfired. Brewster will probably get a clean bill of health from the committee. That's the way these things usually end up. Brewster doesn't have to run for office until 1952. A lot can be forgotten by then. Ferguson is up for re-election next year. Unless he can score a pretty complete indictment of Hughes, his political fortunes will have been done no particular good.

GETTING a refund for the government of some \$50,000 or \$75,000, while it will pay the expenses of the committee for a year, still won't be any great triumph.

Ten senators are on this committee. Their combined salary is \$2500 a week. The cost of their staff is extra. The time and the talent of these great statesmen has so far been taken up by what is largely a matter that could be handled by one good district attorney and a morals court for juvenile-minded delinquents.

The investigation hasn't added a thing to the stature of these senators. There are so many other things on which their time and talents could be spent so much more profitably.

Furnishing the people with a circus to keep them amused when the cost of bread and meat is high was considered good politics by the Emperor Nero in ancient Rome. It was also one of the reasons why Rome fell.

His wife cues him in his lines when he memorizes them. Then he lets the director tell him how to play them.

When Fonda reports for work mornings, he looks like an auto mechanic. He wears a slack outfit like a gas station attendant's and carries and old-fashioned lunch pail.

"I raise lots of vegetables," he explained. "My wife says I've got to eat them."

Since he got out of the navy Fonda has been busy making "My Darling Clementine" in Arizona, "The Long Night" in Hollywood, "The Fugitive" in Mexico and "A Miracle Can Happen" in Hollywood.

Such byplay, he said, is interference with his real work: raising rabbits and chickens, tending two orchards, running a truck garden, building and painting fences, repairing the chicken coop and getting that compost mixed.

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### Hollywood Film Shop

By PATRICIA CLARY  
United Press Staff Correspondent

HOLLYWOOD (UP)—Henry Fonda, farmer has been neglecting his compost heap. Too many movies keep coming up for Henry Fonda, actor.

The chickens are running out of their coop, he complained, and the vegetables need hoeing. But the farmer's busy kissing Joan Crawford for 20th Century-Fox "Daisy Kenyon."

On week-ends, he's even busier. "Sundays are my hardest days," he said. "I'm making compost now. That's better than manure, you know. Last Sunday I worked from sunup to sundown. I'm using the New Zealand method."

Fonda, who looks much more like farmer than an actor, can find half an hour out of his work day any time to discuss the New Zealand method. After that, he'll talk a little about acting, maybe.

"I'm not much of an actor," he says. "I don't even try to be an actor. I just get up before the cameras and do the scene the way that seems easy and natural."

Little Advance Work

"I guess I do less work in advance of a picture than anyone. I know right off when I read a script whether I can play the part. After I get a role, I read the script two or three times. I don't try to figure out how I'll do the scene or work up any fancy mannerisms or classy diction."

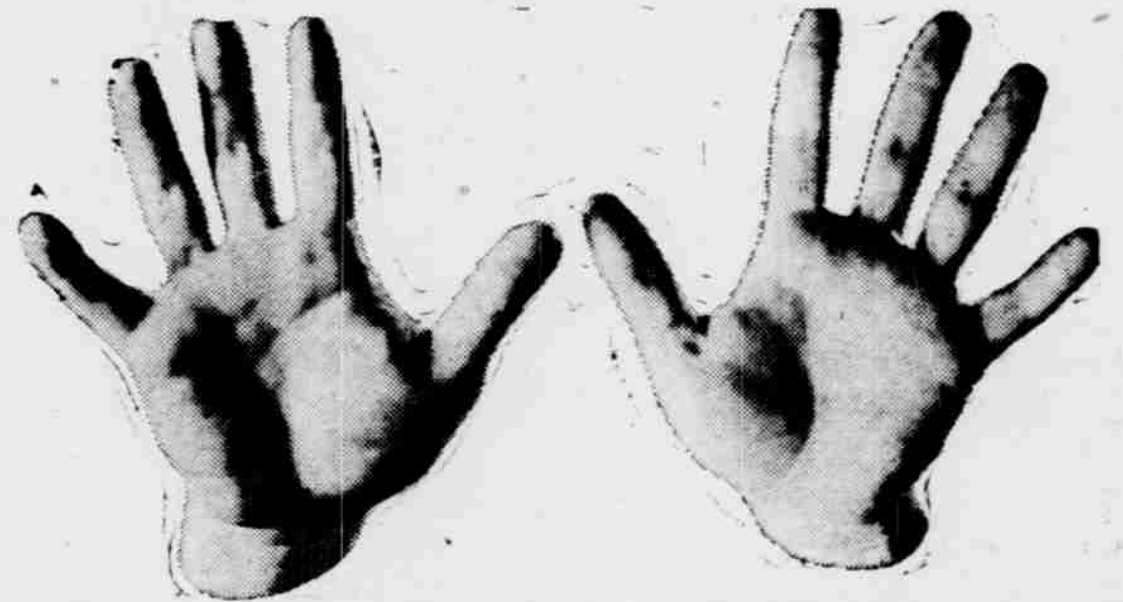
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## Behind These Hands . . .



IS

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