

COMING EVENTS

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CRUISE WINNER

Georgetown based real estate salesperson, Bill Holbein, was the winner of the luxury liner cruise in a company-wide contest recently held by Johnson Carney Real Estate. Mr. Holbein won a trip for two on the "Mexican Riviera" on the Sun Princess, sister ship of television's Love Boat. The contest was held as part of a Johnson Carney sales boosting promotion and the prize was developed by Ross Travel of Georgetown. The prize was awarded at the Cellar restaurant in Georgetown. Mr. Holbein (above, left) is congratulated by Arthur Johnson of Johnson Carney.

This week's book review

By R.C. Stuart
Greed and the drive for power arouse eternal interest. So does the Nazi holocaust. Combined, these themes are compelling, as Joseph Borkin demonstrates in *The Crime and Punishment of I.G. Farben* (Collier Macmillan Can-

ada Ltd.; 250 pages; \$12.50). I.G. Farben was formed from several pre-1914 German chemical companies. During the First World War these had developed poison gas and worked on synthetic nitrates to Germany sustain its military.

In 1923 the I.G. cartel assumed corporate form. American trusts, specifically Standard Oil of New Jersey, provided the model. And I.G. cultivated close links with Standard even as it founded foreign subsidiaries, which it sought to camouflage to prevent seizure in any future German war with the West. Although the Nazis abused I.G. as a Jewish monopoly, Borkin shows how highly dictator Adolf Hitler valued its synthetic oil and rubber projects. And I.G. in turn preferred Nazi rule to either German Communist elements or the loitering Weimar Republic. Vast profits would result if Hitler's promises materialized.

CAMP-FOLLOWER
By 1937, Borkin reveals, I.G. had Nazified itself. Some directors even joined the Gestapo. As Hitler's war unfolded I.G. sank to its neck in the Nazi mire. A Wehrmacht camp-follower, it looted the chemical industries of occupied Europe, exploited its links with Hermann Goering, and switched allegiances to Heinrich Himmler when Goering's star declined.

The march of its depravity came with I.G. Auschwitz. The company planned giant synthetic oil and rubber plants at the Polish village and used slave labor for construction and operation. It even built its own concentration camp and produced the gas used in mass extermination. In the 1947 Nuremberg trials, 24 I.G. Farben officials were charged. The cartel's corporate guilt was widely known, although individual culpability was difficult to assign in a court governed by American legal procedures. Eventually, 13 defendants received light sentences. By 1952 all were free and active in Germany's resurrected chemical industry.

FROM THE ASHES
Despite pressure to dissolve I.G., from U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower among others, the partially fragmented empire began to reassemble by 1955, with the Bonn government's open support. Borkin rightly observes that I.G. lost the war but won the peace. The original nine successor companies merged into three—Bayer, BASF, and Hoechst. Fritz ter Meer, convicted of plunder and slavery in 1948

became chairman of the Bayer board in 1956.

By 1977 each company was larger than the original cartel at its zenith.

And I.G.'s agents rescued an unmasked American subsidiary, General Aniline and Film, from wartime confiscation. Borkin traces in this tortuous case how I.G.'s influence penetrated the highest levels of U.S. President John F. Kennedy's administration by exploiting personal links. The author was chief of the patent and cartel section of the Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice in the United States. Moreover, he was responsible there for investigating and prosecuting I.G.

OPEN QUESTIONS
Borkin leaves some doubts. Most of I.G.'s directors remain faceless, their motivation obscure. And if the drive for wealth and power are constants, as Borkin implies, was I.G.'s use of slave labor a wartime aberration or another form of corporate opportunism? Was I.G. guilty of war-mongering? Other writers have thought so, but Borkin does not deal squarely with this question.

Can the author indict Standard Oil for its August, 1939, deal with I.G. without putting this into the context of American isolationism in the 1930s? Did I.G. really retard the U.S. synthetic-rubber industry, or did this stem from lags in technology?

Despite such open questions, Borkin has produced a gripping and convincing case against an international cartel with an especially sordid past. He reminds us that these behemoths are above politics, and view people, nations, ideology and history itself as forces to overcome or instruments to be manipulated when they prove troublesome.

Even as sweeping an event as the Second World War only deflected I.G.'s corporate ambitions momentarily. And this is the real lesson to be learned from the crime and punishment of I.G. Farben.

Reginald C. Stuart is professor of history at the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown.

—Thomson News Service.

Cereal Sense

For economy, use cereals you can cook yourself rather than instant or ready-to-eat cereals. When buying the latter, select unsweetened ones. If practical, buy cereals in family-sized boxes.

Herald Want Ads Pay Well

Food Shopper's List

Save money on the "big value" food buys in this week's grocery ads. Check the items you need and take this list with you on your shopping trips.

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Canned Goods Applesauce Beans Carrots Corn Fruit Cocktail Fruit Juices Mushrooms Macaroni Peaches Pears Peas Pork & Beans Salmon Sardines Soups Spaghetti Tomato Sauces Tomatoes Tuna Fish		
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