

"Who Pushes the Button?"

By J. P. McEvoy

NEW YORK, N. Y. -- Some years ago when sound first came to Hollywood--sound and fury, for the silent movie stars and directors couldn't cope with this new technological terror--there was a mad scramble. New stars were needed who could do more than make mouths at each other like gold fish in a bowl, and new directors who could handle dialogue and who didn't have to "cut to the chase" when the story began to cave down in the middle like an old horse.

Frantic, the Hollywood moguls turned to Broadway producers. Would they come out to Hollywood and make pictures? Money was no object. Many of them went, but there was one producer Hollywood wanted more than any of the others--John Golden, famous producer of "Lightnin'," "Turn to the Right," "First Year," etc. One studio after another tried to seduce him, but Golden wouldn't go for it. The biggest, proudest most affluent of them all sent his super-mogul East. Golden was stubborn. The Big Mogul was persistent. He had sworn he would bring Golden back. Finally he broke down and said, "We've got to have you, you can have anything you want, write your own ticket." Power Riches! Fame! The possibilities were fantastic.

Golden thought it all over and said, "Let me ask you just one question: Who pushes the button? Do I push it and you come in, or do you push it and I come in?"

The Big Mogul hesitated. "Well--" he said, "we have an enormous studio and there are a lot of problems and making movies is new to you, and there'll be times when..."

"That's all I want to know," said Golden, who can fly blind through any man's fog of words. "Here I push the button--and here I stay!"

Because I've been around "quite a while now, and have gray hair and a kind face, the young fellows slow down the revolving doors for me, call me "Sir," and ask me for advice--which I always give without hesitation, knowing good or bad, they won't take it anyway. Sometimes you get the feeling that you are in a long bucket brigade going back to the dawn of time, each generation passing the bucket full of advice down the line to the next generation. A little of it spills over but the same old advice, full of wisdom and slathered with experience, goes from father to son, from elder to junior, practically untouched.

So, when a young fellow wants to know should he take a job or go into business for himself and push his own button, I ask him why does he want a job anyway? And if he says, "I got to eat, don't I?" I tell him in that case it doesn't matter much what kind

of a job he takes--he'll either work himself out of it because he's no good or he'll work himself out of it because he's too good, or he'll stay where he is and gripe.

"Can't I tell anything about it before I take the job?"

"You should ask two questions: What is the floor? What is the ceiling?"

"The what?"

"The floor. What does the job require? What experience? Skill? Gusto? Is it doing something you like to do? If so, you are half-way home, and the chances are you'll be pretty good at it. Skills can be learned; experience acquired--but you can only get paid for doing what you like, if you like what you're doing."

"And the ceiling?"

"The pay-off, the future. Some jobs have a natural low ceiling. If you're ambitious and you find yourself in one of those low ceiling jobs, you are in the position of a champion pole-vaulter put into a room with an eight-foot ceiling and told to go ahead now and break some records. But there are plenty of jobs with 'ceiling unlimited' or limited only by your imagination."

"But suppose I want to push the button--be my own boss?"

"In that case," I say, "the decision is easy to make, since it is entirely yours. But there is a price tag on that kind of freedom. Part of the price is the security of that weekly or monthly check. Part is trading off a boss who can fire you for one you can't fire. You, yourself. That's one boss who will chase you to bed at night and rouse you out in the morning all the days of your life. You can never quit early on him or get away from him for week-ends or vacations in the woods or by the sea. He'll be hiding behind every tree or coming in on every wave."

"But a job ties you down. I want to be free."

"Writers call it free-lancing. But no one is less free than a free-lance. The desk-bound writer is free of his editor when he walks out the door, but the free-lance carries his editor around everywhere on his back like the old man of the sea. F. Scott Fitzgerald in "Crackup" wrote enviously of 'the mobility of the rich.' But mobility, like practically everything else, goes on in your head. It's mostly idea. The very rich have no more mobility than the very poor. In fact, weighed down with possessions, they are not nearly so mobile as gypsies and are rooted in the ground when compared to hoboes. Anybody can be mobile if he is willing to take his own boss along make his own assignments, set his own delivery dates and deadlines, and crack the whip on himself.

"In short young fellow," I conclude pontifically, "you too can push the button, but you've always got to be ready and willing to run like the devil to answer it."

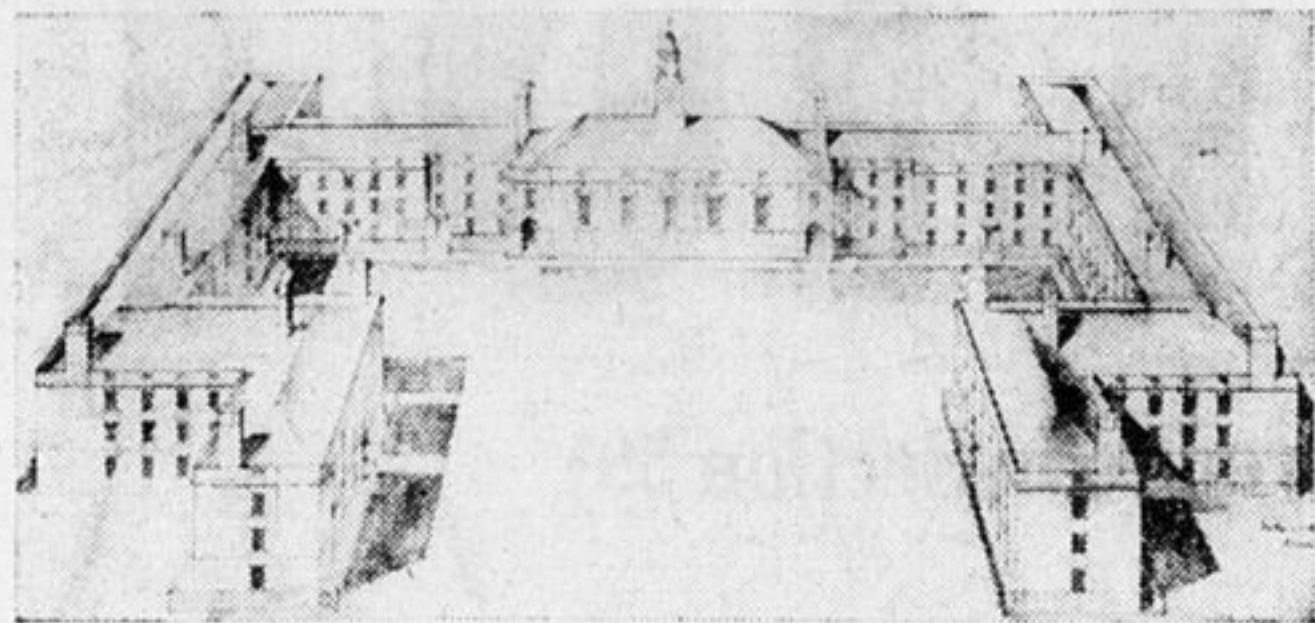
New U of T Residence For Out of Town Men

A new men's residence for University College has high priority on the list of buildings which will be erected as part of the University of Toronto's improvement program. May 1st the University began its drive for \$6,000,000 which will be added to the \$7,000,000 already pledged by the Ontario Government. The campaign is under the chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, the chancellor with Norman C. Urquhart, a member of the Board of Governors, as vice-chairman.

Purpose of the new residence is to provide living accommodation for out-of-town students and the University feels it will result in a fresh infusion of scholarship blood from all parts of Ontario and Canada. As the largest Arts College in the British Commonwealth, University College long has felt the need of more residence accommodation. The new building will house 237 men students plus the proper ratio of dons and tutors living in. There will be common rooms, dining rooms, offices, and accommodation for visitors to the faculty.

Many of the old houses on St. George St. where Arts subjects are taught will be torn down to make way for the residence and a new Arts Building is also on the list of requirements.

The University Library, designed to



From drawing of proposed residence by Mathers & Haldenby

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News 'n Notes

Summer fire prevention begins as soon as the snow leaves the ground according to fire chief William Stanley of Timmins Fire Department. Spring fires in grass and weeds take a heavy toll annually and unless homes in the vicinity of such a fire are roofed with asphalt shingles or some other fire-resistant material, they are vulnerable to destruction by flying embers. One of the first jobs for the far-seeing householder, chief Stanley says, is to clear rubbish and debris from his property. By doing this he removes one of the great fire hazards of the Spring season.

So great is the danger from these early Spring fires that some municipalities demand that any new or renewed construction must employ fire-resistant materials.

Fences, sheds and barns are particularly vulnerable and care should be taken not to leave oily rags about such premises. Dead stalks and brush from the garden should be removed and burned only under supervision. Here again many municipalities take the precaution of not allowing anyone to burn rubbish unless a permit has been secured from authorities.

Another fire hazard, particularly in country districts, according to chief Stanley, is faulty construction or improper materials in chimneys. Brick or tile should be used and the chimney should be built of two-brick thickness from the foundation through the first storey. Rural homes should also be equipped with a good 50 or 100 foot length of sound garden hose or a reliable fire extinguisher approved by underwriters.

Spring is not only the time for house-cleaning, garden-planting and general clean up and beautification work around city and country property. It is also a good time for a check-up on the condition of building construction, whether city dwelling, country residence or farm and farm buildings.

Among the first checks which should be made are on the two extremities, roof and foundations. If any leaks in

roofs developed as the winter's snow melted away, the time to locate the trouble is now, before summer thunderstorms can do further damage to ceilings and rafters. With asphalt shingles and roll-roofing in plentiful supply, now is the time also to get re-roofing jobs done on dwellings, summer cottages, barns and all other buildings.

Wooden construction should be checked for mildew and wood-rot, particularly in the foundations. These are fungus growths, caused by invisible organisms carried in the atmosphere in great numbers. They can be dealt with by use of copper naphthenate, a war-developed chemical, which not only kills off the fungus but also acts as preservative of the wood.

All wiring and electrical connections should be examined periodically, and while checking over the house construction generally is as good a time as any to get this done. Nearly ten per cent of all fires in Canada during 1946 were caused by faulty wiring and electrical appliances.

Chimneys and flues should also be looked at at this time of year. If any tendency towards overheating was noticed during the winter get the repairs done before fall. If put off, they may be forgotten until the winter, when it may be too late.

FREE USE OF U.S. DOLLARS, WHEN? -- Any hopes of early lifting of the governmental restrictions affecting the use of U.S. dollars would seem to be dispelled by the annual report for 1947 of the Foreign Exchange Control Board, says The Financial Post.

Canada's official reserves of gold and U.S. dollars totalled \$501.7 millions at the end of 1947 -- \$743.2 millions lower than a year before.

ONTARIO GOVT OFFERS 2ND MORTGAGE LOANS -- Starting Monday, May 3, Ontarians of limited means but acceptable credit rating can buy a small new house with a down payment as low as \$950 or \$1,000.

On that day, Ontario Planning Minister Dana Porter, in Toronto, will open books of a new provincial crown company to lend direct to such home buyers several millions of dollars on 20-year second mortgage at 3 1/2% interest rate. The effect will be to cut present down payments in half on newly built low-cost houses where a first mortgage has been arranged under, or on terms comparable with the National Housing Act.

MUST STOP ASKING FAVORS -- "If we are going to make a successful stand against totalitarianism then we must make very sure that we are free from the curse ourselves."

This was the warning of William A. Irwin, economist for the American Bankers Association in an address before the Canadian Club of Toronto this week.

The Financial Post adds this: A big path has been worn to Ottawa and Washington by so-called free citizens seeking special favors that in the end mean higher costs, less competition, higher taxes and more government control.

Unless we change our way that sort of thing can only lead to the same state domination which threatens so large a part of the world today, The Post warns.

CLEANING YARN

Dirty yarn can be washed and used again if wound into a skein, then tied in several places so it is held loosely. After washing, hang in the sun until dry and it will look like new yarn.

FIRST MAGAZINE RIFLE

The first successful magazine rifle was the invention of C. Spencer, an American, in 1860, and was used to

Fire Loss Rising Says Chief Stanley

A 25 percent increase in the nation's fire loss last year is proof of the urgent need for removal of fire hazards, said Fire Chief William Stanley as he outlined details of the Spring Clean-up program which started Monday May 3rd.

About \$700,000,000 was the distressing monetary cost and 11,000 persons were killed in fires, Chief Stanley explained. He added that Spring Clean-Up is the most effective means of fire protection, defining Spring Clean-Up as "a thorough job of spring cleaning with constant attention to fire safety."

The annual clean-up drive is held in the spring because the danger of conflagrations is greatest, he said. High winds can easily carry sparks from a rubbish fire to a dry flammable roof and the result often is a burning building, the Chief pointed out.

"The fire department is always ready to respond to a fire and we do our absolute best to keep damage low. We can put a fire out, but think how much better it would be to prevent it altogether. Firemen can make suggestions, but it's up to every resident of Timmins to do the work," Chief Stanley said.

He recommended that Spring Clean-Up not be confined to homes but extended to all property. Although seasonal cleaning is traditionally a home function, fire can strike anywhere, he said.

Chief Stanley gave his support to this program of the National Fire Protection Association, sponsor of the clean-up program:

1. Remove rubbish -- old magazines, newspapers, discarded furniture and other useless accumulations of combustible material. Rubbish is a doublehazard because it can ignite spontaneously or be set afire by a spark.
 2. Heating plants and chimneys, almost certain to be dirty after winter-long use, should be cleaned and repaired if necessary.
 3. Make Spring Clean-Up a time for house repair. Pay particular attention to roofs, covering worn roofing with a fire-resistant material such as asphalt shingles.
 4. Clean and repair dirty and defective electrical equipment. Replace (fried) frayed extension cords.
 5. Keep oily rags in covered metal containers.
 6. Don't use flammable cleaning fluids. Use non-explosive Cleaners.
 7. Clean yards and grounds as well as interiors of buildings.
- Cleanliness is the essence of safety. That makes it easy to take a few extra precautions and convert spring cleaning into Spring Clean-Up, sponsored locally by the fire department and nationally by the National Fire Protection Association. For your own sake, we urge you to cooperate.

Mrs. H. Darling has left for Toronto where she and Mr. Darling will take up permanent residence.

Polar Air Co. Guarantee Quick Service Next Fall

District residents have been quick to take advantage of the modern facilities of the new Polar Air Fur Storage plant at 1 First Avenue, Schumacher. Manager E. C. Brewer reports that garments by the score have been picked up and placed into storage during the past week.

"Besides having one of the best plants of its type anywhere, we are able to give district residents speedy service," Mr. Brewer said. "This will become apparent next Fall when we will be able to deliver a woman's coat back to her on the day following her request for it."

He said that in the past women had had to wait for as long as two weeks for the return of their coats, due to the fact that the garments had to be taken out of storage at Toronto, packed and shipped North.

The Polar Air Fur Storage company is a subsidiary of Northern Prosted Foods and Cold Storage Limited. The fur storage vault, which will contain 4,000 coats, has been built at considerable expense. The new enterprise entails the remodeling of the entire front of the company's large premises.

Large front offices fill the upper portion of the building while the vault is buried in concrete beneath them.

Temperatures and humidity are controlled by the most modern equipment

installed by T. A. Marriott and Son, refrigeration and air-conditioning engineers.

A new chemical, both tasteless and odorless, called freon, is used in the refrigeration system, replacing the brine solutions or carbon dioxide used in former days. Three large units which both maintain low temperatures and hold the air of the vault at the required humidity are installed along the north side of the vault.

The floor of the vault is made with six inches of reinforced concrete, four inches of cork, then two and one-half more inches of concrete. There are 18 inches of reinforced concrete in the three outside walls of the vault, and 12 inches on the inner side. Two heavy burglar-proof and fire-proof doors guard the vault's contents.

"We believe this new plant fills a definite need in the North," Mr. Brewer said. "We have had an excellent response from the public to date."

BRASS AND COPPER

For cleaning brass and copper, there is nothing better than salt mixed with an equal part of flour and vinegar. Let this remain on for an hour or so, then rub off with a soft cloth. Afterwards wash and use a soft brush for places that cannot be reached with a cloth. Then polish.



ONTARIO HOUSING PLAN

FIFTY PER CENT REDUCTION OF DOWN PAYMENTS ON NEWLY CONSTRUCTED LOWER COST HOUSES UNDER THE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ACT (ONTARIO)

The Province of Ontario will arrange for the loan of fifty per cent of the difference between the amount of the first mortgage and the sale price of a newly constructed house, the Provincial advances not to exceed \$1,250.00 on any one house. The loan will be repayable on a twenty year amortization plan with interest at 3 1/2 per cent per annum. Satisfactory evidence will be required that the amount of the first mortgage advance is a reasonable proportion of the value.

Application forms and all necessary information may be obtained from:
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