

Gleason Heads for Repairs

Contour Will Not Suffer From Surgery on Midriff

By EARL WILSON
Special to The Pontiac Press

NEW YORK—Jackie Gleason enters a hospital soon after New Year's for surgery on the most famous stomach on television.

The operation—for the removal of a cyst—will be the fourth he's undergone in his midsection in a decade. Doctors have advised him to forego strenuous New Year's eve celebrations in preparation for the surgery.

His imminent hospitalization—coming at the height of his Saturday night rating battle with Perry Como—hasn't shaken his celebrated good humor.

"I don't know how long these usually take, but this one'll have to be done between a Tuesday and a Friday," he said last night. He referred to his schedule under which he films shows Tuesdays and Fridays.

"It shouldn't interfere at all with that routine," he said.

Friends believe his stomach problem stems from an emergency appendectomy he had in his hotel room about 10 years ago.

His well rounded contour—so much a part of the "Honeymooners" comedy—won't be affected.

"That's part of his act now," one friend pointed out. When Jackie played Santa here recently, he remarked he was "the only Santa in America who didn't have to use a pillow."

Gleason's planning an extremely heavy schedule for the next few weeks. He will be 40 on Feb. 26, when he's to be given a \$100-a-plate testimonial.

Army Seeks OK of Plans to Erect Reserve Armory

The possibility of an army reserve training center being built on a 5-acre plot bordering on Orchard Lake avenue, was discussed at last night's City Commission meeting.

A request from headquarters of the Fifth Army was presented to the commission, asking the city to reserve the plot for future government use.

The Michigan National Guard has also put in a bid for a 10-acre plot adjacent to the reservists' proposed area, according to City Manager Walter K. Willman.

Widow Rescued as Home Burns

Unidentified Man Saves Mrs. Maude Jenner in House Fire

An 86-year-old widow, nearly helpless without a cane, was rescued from her burning home yesterday by an unidentified man, who rushed in before firemen arrived.

Mrs. Maude L. Jenner was taken from the living room of her home at 365 Oakland Ave., where fire broke out after burning papers fell out of a fireplace.

After emergency treatment for minor burns in Pontiac General Hospital, she was released at her own request.

Firemen, who fought the blaze for 40 minutes, said about \$1,500 worth of damage was done, mostly in the living room.

Alone in the house at the time, Mrs. Jenner said she was trying to fight the fire with a blanket. "I tried as fast as I could to put it out, but the fire was too swift for me," she related. "I might not have been able to escape. I was getting very warm and smoke was filling my eyes."

GM's Curtice Chosen as Time's 'Man of the Year'

NEW YORK (AP)—President Harry S. Truman has named General Motors' Walter P. Reuther as the "Man of the Year" for 1955.

Time, in its Jan. 2 issue out today, credited Curtice with a "billion dollar bet" in 1954 which it said supported the confidence of American business.

Time referred to GM's billion dollar expansion program announced early in 1954 at a time when it said there was gloomy talk of an end to the postwar boom.

The magazine said Curtice "in a job that required it, assumed the responsibility of leadership for American business."

Time said that as a result of the GM expansion move "many another businessman also raised his own sights, putting more dollars into pockets to spend and sending the economy booming into 1955's record year."

Last year Secretary of State Dulles was Time's "Man of the Year." The first to be so named, in 1927, was Elihu Root.

Newspapers: Pontiac Press and Pontiac Press, 1155 N. Saginaw St. George's-News, 74 N. Saginaw St.

Fire Razes Oxford Elevator

Ike Takes Off to Enjoy Warm Florida Climate

Stay at Key West May Affect Decision to Seek Presidency Again

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower flew out of Washington's cold today headed for Key West, Fla., and about two weeks of the sun, rest and outdoor exercise his doctors have prescribed.

The presidential plane Columbine III took off at 9:15 a.m. It was due at Boca Chica Airport, Key West, in something under four hours.

Physicians recommended warmer weather and more chance to get outdoors to help with Eisenhower's convalescence from his Sept. 24 heart attack. The time for the trip and the choice of Key West were announced only yesterday.

Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, North Atlantic Treaty Organization commander, was announced this morning as a late addition to the party but he was not aboard at takeoff. He may go to Key West later.

Eisenhower's stay could be a factor in the decision whether to seek another term. His doctors hope the trip will condition him for resumption of the full work load in about two weeks.

TRUMAN LOCALE
How his heart stands that lead could tip the scales one way or the other so far as a re-election bid is concerned.

Eisenhower will stay at the same naval base which was a favorite vacation spot of former President Truman.

Mrs. Eisenhower is not going. The White House noted that her mother Mrs. John S. Doud of Denver is in Washington for the holiday season.

Another reason Mrs. Eisenhower is staying behind is the birth last week of a new granddaughter.

The President's annual State of the Union message, outlining the administration's 1956 legislative program, will be sent to Congress Jan. 5 — two days after the lawmakers convene.

Cloudy and Warmer Prediction for Area

Mostly cloudy and warmer tonight and tomorrow is the weather forecast for the Pontiac area.

The low tonight will range from 26-30 degrees and the high tomorrow will be from 36-40 with occasional rain predicted possible late in the day.

Friday will be cloudy and colder with occasional snow flurries. The lowest temperature in downtown Pontiac preceding 8 a.m. was 17 degrees. The mercury rose to 32 at 1 p.m.

Soviets Approve Budget

MOSCOW (INS)—The Council of Nationalities of the Soviet Parliament approved today the Soviet budget for 1956. It provides for 593,000,000,000 rubles in revenues and 597,000,000,000 rubles in expenditures. The official Soviet exchange rate is four rubles to a dollar, but the purchasing power of the ruble is considerably less.

Children were born to them, Loyce-Nadya and Bruce Ely. She divorced him in Reno in 1938, charging mental cruelty. Although divorced, they continued their business partnership (Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

California Flood Victims in Dire Straits; Relief Agencies Assist 50,000 Homeless

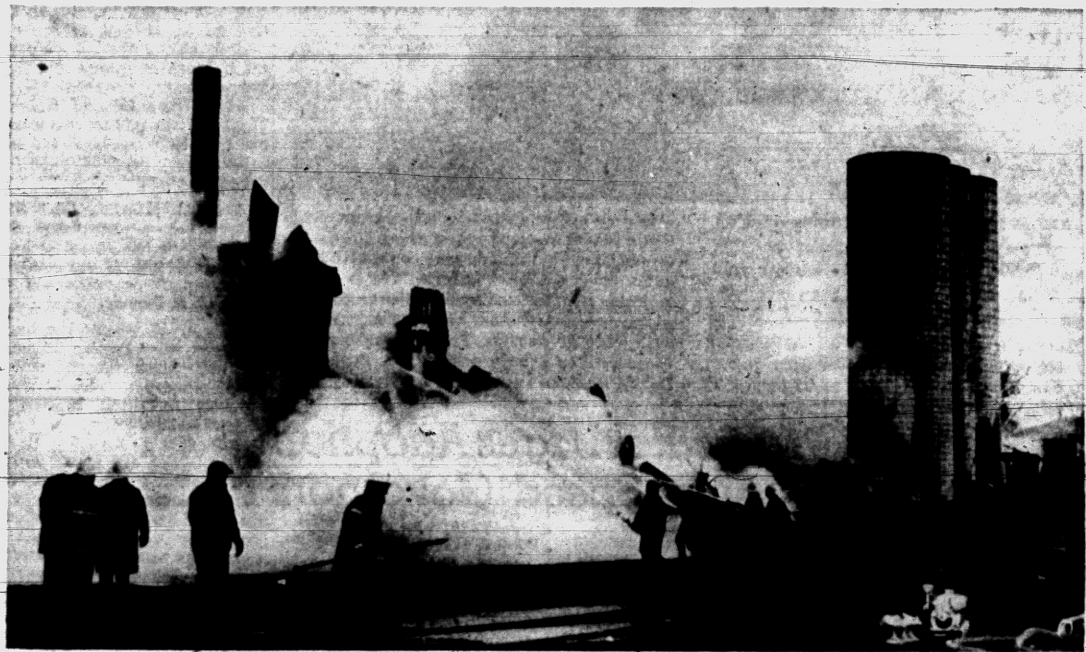
SAN FRANCISCO (INS)—A mammoth cleanup job gathered momentum in storm-ravaged northern California today as draining flood waters continued to expose an increasingly vast picture of destruction.

Floods receded from hard hit areas of northern California and southern Oregon after taking a toll of 67 dead or missing and causing property damage estimated at more than \$150,000,000.

Some officials believe property losses may reach a higher figure when complete reports are in from areas still without normal communications but in no danger of further inundation.

The gigantic rehabilitation program, spurred by on-the-spot di-

Area Grain Elevator Hit by Morning Fire



Pontiac Press Photo

FIGHTING OXFORD BLAZE — Firemen from three communities fought a stubborn blaze this morning which almost completely destroyed the Oxford Cooperative grain elevator. Damage was placed at \$150,000 by manager Ward Wightman. Cause of the blaze is undetermined.

Ely Culbertson Succumbs at 64

Noted Bridge Authority, Staunch Pacifist Dies of Heart Failure

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. (AP)—Ely Culbertson, 64, who helped make the game of bridge a national rage, died while taking a before-dinner nap last night.

Death was attributed to heart failure due to insufficient oxygen. He had been suffering from shortness of breath for several years. He became seriously ill last May, but recovered. Two weeks ago he was stricken again.

Members of his family said he had become so difficult for him to breathe that he had spent the last four nights sitting up. The internationally famous bridge authority devoted much of his time in his middle years to a world federation peace plan that began to take form when he was a youthful revolutionist.

POPULARIZED BRIDGE
Culbertson was credited with developing an effective contract bridge system. He promoted it with exhibitions, contests, lectures and books.

In 1923 he married Josephine Murphy Dillon, an attractive widow and bridge teacher. Two chil-



ELY CULBERTSON
Children were born to them, Loyce-Nadya and Bruce Ely. She divorced him in Reno in 1938, charging mental cruelty. Although divorced, they continued their business partnership (Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

Artist Ham Fisher Believed Suicide

Creator of Joe Palooka Found Dead in New York

NEW YORK (AP)—Ham Fisher, creator of the popular comic strip hero Joe Palooka, was found dead last night in a friend's studio. Nearby were two notes indicating suicide, police reported.

Fisher, 54, whose full name was Hammond Edward Fisher, wrote in the notes of falling eyesight and a diabetic condition. He said that he had swallowed some pills.

The body was discovered about 9 p.m. in the studio of Moe Jeff, where Fisher had been working lately during his friend's absence from town. The discovery was made by another friend, Morris Weiss of Englewood, N. J., whom Fisher's wife Marilyn had called after becoming alarmed over not hearing from her husband.

Police said Fisher's mother had received a call from him, her only child, early in the afternoon. He spoke at length with sentiment and feeling. The time of death was set at about four hours later around 5 p.m.

Fisher, whose strip was syndicated at the time of his death in some 800 newspapers, was a self-taught cartoonist. He practiced his art in spare time while working as a reporter and advertising salesman on his home town newspaper, the Wilkes-Barre (Pa.) Record.

The Joe Palooka strip was started in 1930 after Fisher came to New York. Joe began as a not-too-bright and guileless young fighter but later developed into a gentle, well-spoken chap devoted to sportsmanship and fair play. Many episodes in the strip highlighted his fight against bigotry and intolerance.

The strip brought Fisher wealth and fame.

Shingin' in Dish Town

LA SALLE, Ill. (INS)—Sgt. George McElroy of Herrin, Ill., stepped into the shower in his apartment yesterday and merged radiant.

When he turned on the tap he got white wine. Same thing was happening in the kitchen where his wife was preparing dinner.

In this region of southern France the residents buy water when the wells are low. The same tank trucks sometimes are used to transport the wine of the region. The driver of the truck yesterday didn't know what kind of a load he was carrying.

Ike Gets Better

LOS ANGELES (INS)—Two leaders in the field of speech today picked Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Adlai Stevenson as the outstanding political orators of recent years but said President Eisenhower is "the most improved" speaker.

Shades of Rockefeller

LA SALLE, Ill. (INS)—The bank here is giving money away. In observing its 75th anniversary, the La Salle National Bank is offering sample souvenirs. But there's a limit, "a dime to each person."

Slate City Vote on Pay Increase

Boost for Commission, Mayor Was Studied by Former Officials

Pontiac voters will vote on a recommended pay hike for the city commissioners and the mayor in a special election to be held in conjunction with the March 5, 1956 primary.

The recommendation was made by a Citizens Compensation Study Committee composed of three former mayors and two past commissioners.

The recommendation calls for commissioners, except the mayor, to receive for each official meeting \$25, not to exceed \$1,200 in any one year.

They presently receive \$5 a meeting and not more than \$300 a year, as provided by the original city charter of 1920. The March ballot would be on a charter amendment.

Under the proposed plan, the mayor would be paid \$2,000 a year based on 12 equally installments for each calendar month. He presently receives the same pay as the rest of the commissioners.

If passed by the voters, the pay hike would take effect for the commissioners elected in the April city election.

A reminder that Jan. 3 is the generally accepted deadline for exchanging Christmas merchandise in Pontiac stores was issued today by the Retail Merchants Association of the Chamber of Commerce.

According to John Hirlinger, assistant manager of the chamber, the date has been recommended annually by the association and has been the policy of most city stores for several years.

Gift Swap Deadline Saturday at Stores

Million Acres Ruined
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Army engineers estimated that one million acres of northern California were under water at the height of last week's flood, 600,000 along the coast and 400,000 in valleys.

Father, Daughter Reunite Christmas—After 31 Years

"It was the most wonderful Christmas present in the world," said Mrs. Margaret Larie.

Mrs. Lane's present was a phone call from her father, Sidney R. Somes, whom she hasn't seen for 31 years.

And Mr. Somes, who had hired Pinkerton detectives to find his long-lost daughter, dropped in for a visit Dec. 26. He had come from New Jersey to see her.

"It was quite a thrilling experience," said Mrs. Lane, 32, of 225 W. Yale Ave.

"I've been an orphan for such a long time." Her parents were divorced when she was a baby, she said, and her mother died when she was six years old.

"He's tried to locate me several times," she said, "but it was pretty hard. I've lived in four different states, and he's been all over North and South Amer-

Building, Grain Is Total Loss in \$150,000 Blaze

Smoke Hampers Efforts of Volunteer Firemen; Nobody Injured

Fire almost completely destroyed the Oxford Cooperative Elevator in Oxford early this morning.

Ward Wightman, manager of the Pleasant street elevator, estimates damage at \$150,000. No one was injured.

Ralph Van Wagoner, Oxford Fire Chief, stated that cause of the fire was unknown.

"It could have been any number of things. They had trouble with a broken belt yesterday or it could have been the electric heater in the molasses room," he said.

Van Wagoner added that an explosion, fairly common in elevators, was another possibility.

Officer James Nicholson discovered the blaze at 5:06 a.m. while he was patrolling.

Machinery, grain and seed which filled the building were totally destroyed with the exception of supplies of gasoline and oil stored in an adjoining building.

Office records in another adjoining building were saved.

The loss was partially covered by insurance. Van Wagoner said. Three fire departments, Oxford, Lake Orion and Addison Township, answered the call and fought the blaze for most of the morning.

Clouds of smoke from the stored grain hindered the volunteer firemen from fighting the blaze.

As soon as the wreckage has cooled enough, investigation as to the cause will begin. Several firemen remained on duty to watch smoldering ruins.

Relief in Sight! Revenue Boys to Fill Your Form

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Internal Revenue Service stands ready to fill out your income tax returns for you next year, as in years past, Russell C. Harrington, the new internal revenue commissioner, yesterday countermanded orders which would have barred such help to all but the literate, the physically handicapped and persons unable to read English.

The original orders were issued to all regional and district tax offices last Oct. 17 at the direction of Harrington's predecessor T. Coleman Andrews. They had evoked some protests in Congress.

Those instructions said the taxpayer assistance program should be limited to showing citizens how to prepare their returns, but should not furnish "unlimited service to all taxpayers."

Bossie to Be Saved

Army tug steamed up the Sacramento River last night towing a big barge. Its mission: to rescue between 1,500 and 2,000 cows stranded on levees in the flooded Nicolaus area, 17 miles north of here.