

The Ruptured Duck

Tucson Chapter American Veterans Committee

VOL. 1, NO. 5

MARCH 28, 1947

BOX 4331, Univ. Station, Tucson, Ariz.

TO ACHIEVE A MORE DEMOCRATIC AND PROSPEROUS AMERICA

William Johnson of the Citizen

A PORTRAIT

(Editors Note: This is the second of a series of candid camera shots of persons who shape and are shaped by events in Tucson and Arizona.

As publisher of one of Tucson's two daily newspapers, William H. Johnson commands a considerable force for influencing the thinking of several thousand Tucsonans. As the arbitrary and sometimes ruthless censor of the printed matter permitted to reach readers of his Tucson Daily Citizen, Bill Johnson uses this force as an expression of his personality, his whims and prejudices and his politics and hysterics. While the Johnson-dominated Citizen staff usually feeds its readers the leading U.P. and A.P. reports of the day, it sometimes removes a juicy tid-bit from this item or that, discards entirely some reports, and dishes out local news with marked Johnsonian flavoring.

Hearst Man

An understanding of the Citizen's methods follows closely an understanding of Bill Johnson. His proudest heritage is his background of many happy years with the Hearst news empire, in which he was apparently a thriving prince at one time and from which, he gladly boasts, he inherited his royal sense of journalistic values. He is still loyal to the "Old Man," as he calls William Randolph Hearst, and stands ready to silence Hearst critics with voluble praise for the many good works that dot Hearst history. Johnson can idolize other public figures and he will go out of his way to refer to Senators and Railroad Magnates by their first names to impress his visitors; and he can also be off-handedly disrespectful, to suit the same purpose. But never does he utter the Old Man's name without the prefixed title of "MISTER Hearst."

Rigid Control

Johnson's rigid (possibly Hearst-like) control of the Citizen's contents has one main axis in his relationship with the Managing Editor (the same person as the city editor in this tight-fisted organization). The managing editor is well acquainted with Johnsonian concepts, having moved to his position after some time spent

with the paper and with Johnson, in other capacities. Using this acquired judgment, he determines which of the pieces that cross his desk—comprising about one hundred percent of Citizen contents—are "doubtful" or "controversial." These, both national and local, are placed on Johnson's personal desk for examination—thence possible cutting, re-wording, or added comment—or elimination.

Drew Pearson

Syndicated columns usually go directly to the boss's desk. Westbrook Pegler features are enjoyed hugely by Johnson and are never in need of editing. But the Drew Pearson column goes in to the wastebasket about as often as it gets into the paper. The Citizen subscribes to Pearson because of his popularity. But when Pearson's ubiquitous darts hit a Johnson friend or political ally, the readers of the Citizen never know about it. In fact, they might think of Drew Pearson as primarily a critic of liberal Democrats, should they judge from his material Johnson allows to see print.

A Citizen reporter is seldom ignorant of the opinions of his employer for he listens to lengthy, frequent speeches in the Johnson office.

THE AMERICAN VETERANS COMMITTEE MEETS THE SECOND AND THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE Y. M. C. A., 125 WEST CONGRESS AT 8:00 P. M. THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MARCH 25. ALL VETERANS INVITED.

Especially is this true when the reporter is covering a story in which Johnson is interested personally, and this will always be true in matters of local political significance. Then the assignment may be given by Johnson himself along with an explanation of the inside background of the case and the important facts to be discovered. Sometimes Johnson will prepare a list of questions for a reporter's interview, questions designed to draw out a story Johnson has in mind. After such sessions, the reporter goes out thoroughly indoctrinated. His

Gung'l versus Houston in Tucson Election

Government by Default in View Of Small Primary Vote in City

In sharp contrast to the interest shown in the primary campaign when E. T. "Happy" Houston bested Fred Dragonette for the Democratic mayoralty nomination, most Tucsonans seemed scarcely aware of the approaching April 1st city election as the pre-balloting contest went into its final hours. Opposing Houston, John Gung'l and the Republicans seemed little likely to oust the Democrats from control of Tucson's government. Despite the significant gains made by the GOP in Tucson and in Pima County in recent election years, the Democratic ticket could still be sure of the victory

if comparative registration figures were to be any indication of the result.

Given a crucial municipal issue and an aroused segment of independent, despite nominally-Democratic, voters, the Republicans conceivably could carry the day in Tucson. But there was no likelihood that 1947 was to be such a year as this campaign ended.

City Council

Only three seats on Tucson's six-man city council are open to contest. Republican aspirants to these positions are Harold W. Mather, building contractor, William J. Miller, accountant, and Edward W. Scruggs, local lawyer. The three incumbents, all Democrats, are running for re-election; these men are Charles A. Brady, J. O. Niemann, and William J. Pistor. Of the three, Niemann has been on council since 1932, while Brady and Pistor have served only one term apiece.

Zoning

City zoning problems have been the principal concern of the Tucson council during the past several years. With a period of continued growth in sight this will probably remain the key issue as far as the council's policy forming capacity is concerned. Incidents like the recent Blue Moon fire, of course, can be expected to provide impetus for prospective annexation to the city of some of the outlying districts.

Americans traditionally evince more interest in positions of executive leadership than they do in any of the other offices they are called upon to fill in the electoral process. Presidential, Gubernatorial, and Mayoralty candidates attract more votes, as a rule, than do prospective Con-

story will certainly go to Johnson's desk, via the managing editor, for actual doctoring. And the finished product in a story watched carefully by Johnson generally constitutes a thorough slant in the desired direction: with material favorable to this direction played up; with material too unfavorable to it omitted or qualified; and possibly with editorial comment interspersed throughout the supposed news item (a not uncommon occurrence in the Citizen).

Success Story

Johnson prides himself on being an individualist, subservient to no one. He tells visitors of his hardships as a child, of years of deprivation in an orphan asylum of his determination in those years to fight injustice. As an individualist, he cites his own rise from rags to comparative riches against the toughest obstacles: A relative gave him a job with a newspaper; he began as a cub reporter at virtually no salary; yet he climbed to the success of a publisher. In these terms he criticizes the efforts of labor unions, of social legislation, of "New Dealism" as unnecessary and will-weakening indulgences in a country where anybody can get ahead if he pushes himself up there.

"Self-made and self-educated," he is distrustful of and antagonistic toward "intellectualism." He welcomes stories which present University activities, artistic movements, or literary figures in a ridiculous light.

Such biased treatment of the news has gained the Citizen a reputation for deliberate unfairness among many civic and community leaders, a reputation for

(Continued on page 4, col. 2)

(Continued on page 3, col. 3)

The RUPTURED DUCK

Published twice each month by the American Veterans Committee, 125 West Congress, Tucson, Arizona. The organization is made up of men and women veterans of the Second World War, irrespective of race, color, or creed, who are pledged to work as citizens first and veterans second to help achieve a more democratic and prosperous American and a more stable world.

OFFICERS OF AVC IN TUCSON:

Chairman George E. Abend
 Vice-Chairman George Miller
 Secretary Frank Stanlis
 Recording Secretary Walter Peterson
 Treasurer Stuart Udall

THE RUPTURED DUCK

Managing Editor: George E. Abend
 Advertising Manager: Frank Stanlis
 Editorial Board:
 William J. Fisher, Edwin C. Kepler, Malcolm B. Parsons, Morris Udall, Stuart Udall.

We Restate Our Position on the Aims of the A.V.C.

As we go to press, the AVC in Tucson approaches the end of its first year of existence, and the Ruptured Duck—Tucson AVC's most ambitious undertaking—makes its fifth appearance.

The question most frequently asked us, as members of AVC, is "what do you think you are accomplishing?" There can be, of course, no definitive answer to that question. But we do know what we believe, and we are working to implement those beliefs.

What we believe is well expressed in our constitution: "We, as veterans of the Second World War, associate ourselves regardless of national origin, creed or color, for the following purposes:

- To preserve the Constitution of the United States;
 - To insure the rights of free speech, free press, free worship, free assembly and free elections;
 - To provide thorough social and economic security to all;
 - To maintain full production and full employment in our country under a system of private enterprise in which business, labor, agriculture and government cooperate;
 - To promote peace and good will among all nations and all peoples;
 - To support active participation of this nation in the United Nations and other world organizations whose purposes are to improve the cultural, commercial and social relations of all peoples;
 - To provide such aid to disabled veterans as will enable them to maintain the position in society to which they are entitled;
 - To provide such financial, medical, vocational and educational assistance to all veterans as is necessary for complete readjustment to civilian life;
 - To resist and defeat all attempts to create strife between veterans and non-veterans; and to foster democracy.
- We dedicate ourselves to these aims, and for their attainment we establish this Constitution."

LIBERAL PLATFORM

This represents a constructive liberal platform, and it is at the foundation of what we believe.

In its own small way, the Ruptured Duck represents an effort to implement on the local level the things that AVC stands for. Whether or not it is morally or practicably justifiable for this nation to undertake to run the world we are not prepared to say. But we are convinced that issues on the Arizona and Tucson level are within our scope. These we can see, and feel, and touch. They are demanding of attention.

It may be easier to talk about saving the world than to do anything about decent housing, for example. We'll leave

Prices Rise Since End of O.P.A.

With commodity prices up 50 percent over what they were nine months ago when OPA was crucified, it is well to check up on some of the statements which were made at that time to see who told the truth and who misled the public.

On October 14, 1946, just after the elimination of meat controls, the National Livestock Producers Association stated, "It's a consumer-producer victory over bureaucratic control. It must be expected that there will be erratic and fluctuating markets and high prices, but this will pass—PROB-

ABLY BY MIDWINTER—as supplies increase." (Caps ours.)

How does that statement check against your grocery bills? Fact or fiction?

At a public rally sponsored last June by the Tucson Chapter of AVC, an AVC member said, "There is need today for more planning, not less planning. And that planning must include price control measures, for there is every reason to believe that if price controls are lifted now prices will spiral to the sky, taking with them the meager war-time savings of the middle and low income groups."

Which of these two statements squares with the truth?

You'll find the answer written in your bank book.

the former field to the daily press and the radio commentators. After all, they have to make a living, too.

What do we think we are accomplishing? If we had any doubts at all they were dissipated when we received a letter from one of the leaders of this state: "Convincing liberalism can go a long way," he wrote; "and it can remain convincing, if it deals more with issues than with recrimination of personalities."

This is a big order to fill, but it represents the keystone of our policy. The Ruptured Duck intends to deal with state and local issues in a factual and accurate manner; fairly and constructively, not asking for support where it can not prove.

Insist on These Seven Exclusive Features.

COOLERS

All Sizes
 Fan or
 Blower

Priced From

\$46²⁵

1. Sta. Fresh, redwood impregnated filters.
2. Adjustment, screw. Easy visual adj. of water distributing troughs.
3. Long life, steel cabinet and blower.
4. Powerful accurate rated blowers.
5. New design, rigid construction, die formed tops, bottoms, cabinets, blowers.

6. Visible—Free Flow—Equalizing water troughs. Adjustable in cartridge, Not in top of cooler.

7. "Grip Lock"—positively eliminates sagging filters.

FREE ESTIMATES ON INSTALLATION COSTS

Phone 6040

75 W. Congress

MITCHELL'S

Cash

Terms

DUCK SOUP

PICTURE OF THE YEAR

You can Chalk it up to a perverted sense of humor or a dulled sense of propriety, but we want to take note if nothing more, of the Arizona Star's amazing Picture of the Year: About a year and a half ago, a local rancher got tight and shot and killed a ranch hand. He was convicted in the county court a little over a year ago, and sent to the Florence prison. The case received local publicity and was talked about all over town for months. Then at the turn of the year—1946-47, the sentence was commuted with time off for good behavior, and the rancher returned to Tucson and freedom. Now, less than three months after his release, the Star presented a picture of the rancher, with a dead deer and an Indian guide. The picture was headed, "Long Tom Rifle used on Tuburon," and under it was the following material, quoted in its entirety; "James P. Converse, Tucson rancher and sportsman, and his Seri Indian guide inspect a Tuburon Island deer Converse killed last week. A collector of ancient arms, Converse used the old, long-barreled Kentucky rifle seen in the picture to register his kill."

The reactions of Tucsonans to this picture again caused a stir of comment; as in the case of the discussion of the murder trial, opinions were varied, reactions diverse. But we wondered what the Star had in mind, and what journalistic justification exists for such an inclusion.

Press Clippings

Discussions of judicial aberrations in Arizona bring to mind an old and very fantastic true story. We'll quote it exactly from a United Press report:

"San Diego, Cal., Oct. —(UP)—Issac Polhamus, greying 54-year-old Yuma police chief, convicted recently on a charge of contributing to delinquency of a minor, today was sentenced to four months in the county jail beginning Oct 7 and placed on probation for two years by Superior Court Judge L. N. Turrentine.

Polhamus, accused of improper relations with 14-year-old Mary Monica Doyle Allen while bringing here here from Yuma under police custody, will be given his

freedom from the 25th of the month during his jail sentence, to permit him to return to Yuma and hold his position there as police chief.

Judge Turrentine said he understood that Polhamus would lose his job if he was out of the state for 30 days."

Recruiting Line

Henry Morgan, our favorite radio comic, came through with a beauty the other night. Morgan was doing a take-off on the new, softening system of recruiting. The recruiting sergeant, explaining to a potential customer all the wonders of the Army—nice salary, room and board included etc.—told him that what was more, he could have his choice of theater—"Sure, Greece or Turkey. . . ."

TOOL OWNERS UNION

Tool Owners Union, the "grass-roots" organization which serves as big business' answer to the Political Action Committee of the CIO, had its ears pinned back in New York recently when the New York State Department of Labor rejected an application for a charter.

Said the Department bluntly, "No more fascistic organization, with all the potentialities for undemocratic action and danger to our way of life, has yet come before the official attention of this board."

A chapter of TOU was formed in Tucson late last fall.

GEN. HAP. ARNOLD JOINS A. V. C.

RADIO REPAIR . . . 8793-R

Blair's Bookshop

Rentals ▲ Stationery ▲ Cards

Open Thur. Eve. 'till 9:00

Phone 5434 1028 N. Park Ave.

Tucson, Arizona

249 S. Park Phone 2488

Cascade Laundry

4-DAY SERVICE

Tucson's Newest Modern Laundry

"Specializing in Family Bundles"

Veteran owned and operated

Tucson Election Reflects Apathy

(Continued from page 1, col. 4) gressmen, State Legislators, or City Councilmen. Another easy generalization, which long term statistics tend to bear out, is that fewer Americans register as voters than are eligible, and that fewer Americans actually vote than have registered.

Indifferent Tucson

Tucson is no exception to the rule. In the recent primary all candidates for Mayor attracted a total of fewer than 6,000 votes. This was significantly less than half of the eligible vote. One factor, of course, which helps account for this small return was Mr. Gung'l's unopposed Republican candidacy which drew a token support of only 466 votes. If Tucson runs true to form in this next election the preponderance of Democratic registrations will name Mr. Houston to the position of Mayor over the Republican nominee, Mr. Gung'l. But the total vote cast for both candidates will be less than the total registration figure by quite a margin, and the registration never represents the number who could vote if they would register.

In the 1946 general election there were only 32,870 registered voters in all Pima County. In that

election more votes were cast for candidates for Governor than for other offices, yet only 21,159 votes were tallied for all gubernatorial candidates. This amounted to only 64% of the registration. In the Pima County Sheriff race, despite the interest stirred up by the "purple gang" issue, the total vote was only 20,795—just 63% of those voters who had registered.

Government by Default?

The slight interest which Americans in general—and Tucsonans in particular—evidence with regard to the electoral process is probably just one of many aspects of what Donald Tovey has called the "Age of Inattention." Despite the increasing importance of government on all levels of life in the United States, to the indifferent American politics is something unpleasant on the periphery of his consciousness. That many Tucsonans who could vote don't bother to register, and that many of them who do register won't bother to vote, lends unhappy support to the criticism that America, increasingly, is governed by default.

RADIO REPAIR . . . 8793-R

THE DESERT SHACK
 "NOURISHMENT NOOK"
 "EAT & DRINK YOUR WAY TO HEALTH"
 DELICIOUS DRINKS
 SATISFYING SALADS
 1024 N. PARK AVENUE

FOR THE BEST IN BARBER WORK

visit

Frank Worsk's Barber Shop
 926 E. Speedway

Don't Be Fooled April First!

VOTE THE STRAIGHT DEMOCRATIC TICKET
 IN THE TUCSON CITY ELECTION . . .

FOR MAYOR

E. T. "Happy" HOUSTON

FOR COUNCILMEN

Charles Brady

Joe Niemann

William Pistor

THESE MEN HAVE BEEN PROVEN HONEST AND ABLE!

THEY ARE WORKING FOR THE INTERESTS OF TUCSON.

Signed: The City Democratic Central Committee.

Drive-In Cleaners

9th St. & Park Ave.

We Specialize In Cleaning Ladies' Clothes

Phone 5557

TUCSON, ARIZ.

Tommy L. Scott, Prop.

THE 18th LEGISLATURE GOES HOME

What the 18th Accomplished
And More Important
What They Didn't Do

Like the assemblages of the 20's, the 18th was a prosperity-period legislature. Therefore, it is not surprising that its temper was characterized by a certain well-meaning complacency, and that a feeling of urgency seldom attended its deliberations. False starts and compromising half-steps were the only possible gestures to progress that lawmaker's could be expected to make. With one eye on economy they backed away from most of the challenging bills introduced.

Measures (like the \$20 for 20 weeks Unemployment Compensation Bill, and the Teacher's Retirement Fund Bill) which might have been ramparts against business-depression, gave so much blood to a patient called "amendment" that they emerged anemic and played out. And Bills (like the County Zoning Bill, the Underground Water Code, and the Fair Employment Practices Bill) which called for the "long view" of statesmen summoned forth but a few hoarse champions who asked in vain for that leadership which alone produces great legislation. It is ironical that the Republican legislature of New York passed a model FEPC Bill two years ago, and Arizona's Democratic body would not in 1947 give a similar Bill so much as a committee hearing.

It was a symptom that labor Bills designed to disarm the working people of the state were ramrodded through without meeting any opposition except a hasty rear-guard parry. And, significantly, the AVC was the only veteran's organization to raise a voice of caution and protest.

Even the closest thing to an outright "victory" for the little man—the defeat of the sales tax increase—wore a negative aspect. And the "Tax Research" Association again justified its existence by carrying the day for the corporations by saddling the counties with part of the school fund—an obligation that is state-wide in its very nature!

It has often been said that many of the cattlemen and businessmen in the legislature really represent themselves first, and devote whatever time is left to the causes of their constituents. Irrespective of the truth, or falsity, of this charge, certainly more forward-looking legislation will not be passed until men who regard the general welfare as the main chance are placed in the legislative halls.

William Johnson Of The Citizen

(Continued from page 1, Col. 3)

using power irresponsibly. And Citizen reporters often find their association with the paper embarrassing. In part for this reason, but principally for better wages, a stream of reporters has gone over from the Citizen to the Star under present managements. Turnover on the Citizen staff is high although opportunities for reporters are limited in Tucson. Johnson pays his reporters partly in praise, personal loyalty, and easy by-lines, and partly in cash.

Rivalry

Many Tucsonians believe that the animosity expressed between Star and Citizen is framed purely for reader interest by business partners who in fact are the best of friends and political allies. The personal enmity, at the very least, is real. The Star owners and the Citizen owner have a business agreement whereby the physical plant and commercial set-up are used under a common system; but the editorial and news staff

RADIO REPAIR . . . 8793-R

are separate entities. In fact, Johnson's own very real and often expressed contempt for Editor Mathews is fostered on the Citizen's newsmen, and those who stay very many weeks adopt his attitude that "The Star can do no good." The competitiveness thus aroused goes beyond the bounds of healthy disagreement on policy or approach and amounts to automatic contempt for a Star idea or a Star report.

Race-Baiting

The Citizen has been accused of Hearstly race-baiting, and a specific issue once came to a head. A group of leaders in the Negro community—educators, ministers, businessmen—came to see Johnson to lodge their objection. They came laden with clippings which bore "scare headlines," all including the word "Negro," and all involving crimes of one sort or another. Their point was to be that Negroes, as whites, do have offenders among their ranks, but that such labeling and exaggerating the Negroes constituted discrimination. This they began to explain to Johnson, after they had been received in his office. He interrupted, pointed out that he had always been good and gen-

erous to Negroes—had even had several Negro servants whom he had treated munificently and salvaged from trouble. After a half hour of this, one of delegation tried to intervene; Johnson became abusive and ultimately ordered the men out of his office, shouting his indignation at their presumption in talking back to him—for trying to tell him how to run his newspaper.

"Controversial"

On another occasion, the Negro poet Langston Hughes lectured and read some of his poems at the Temple of Music and Art before several hundred Tucsonians. The reporter assigned to the event wrote his report and turned it in. The managing editor spotted it as "controversial," slipped it on to Johnson's desk. The article appeared, but diminished by about one-half its length and shorn of all material Hughes had used in referring to the problems of the Negroes.

In any event, what Bill Johnson calls "our little paper" has long represented little more, as a journal of opinion, to discerning Tucsonians than the cranky whisper of a tired man.

RADIO REPAIR . . . 8793-R

Vote the Republican Ticket Next Tuesday!

FOR MAYOR

JOHN C. GUNG'L, Lawyer

FOR COUNCILMEN

WILLIAM J. MILLER, an accountant

HAROLD W. MATHER, a building contractor

EDWARD W. SCRUGGS, a lawyer

THESE MEN STAND ON THIS PLATFORM:

- (1) FOR A PROGRESSIVE ADMINISTRATION THAT WILL KEEP ABREAST OF THE GROWTH OF THE CITY.
- (2) FOR A GOVERNMENT THAT WILL PROVIDE MORE PARKING PLACES FOR AUTOMOBILES, AND REROUTE THE TRUCKS AND OIL TANKERS SO THEY CANNOT USE OUR MAIN STREETS ENDANGERING THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE.
- (3) FOR THE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A SUPPLY OF WATER TO TAKE CARE OF THE NEEDS OF A GROWING CITY. THE WATER SITUATION IS SERIOUS. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN CARE OF YEARS AGO.
- (4) FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF A PROGRAM OF RECREATION AND SPORT THAT WILL REDUCE THE APPALLING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.
- (5) THE PLACING OF LEGIBLE MARKERS ON THE STREET CORNERS.
- (6) KEEP THE STREETS, ALLEYS AND VACANT LOTS CLEAN.
- (7) THEY PROMISE TO MAKE A SINCERE EFFORT TO CURB THE CITY'S DUST MENACE.
- (8) TO ENLARGE THE POLICE FORCE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND TO PROVIDE THEM WITH NEW EQUIPMENT.
- (9) TO INCREASE THE PRESENT INADEQUATE PAY OF POLICEMEN, FIREMEN, AND ALL CITY EMPLOYEES.

Candidate Gung'l, a veteran of World War II, makes this statement: "At the present time two members of the city council are employees of the Southern Pacific Railroad. My opponent is also an employee of the Southern Pacific, and should he be elected, this corporation would have three representatives on the council. This corporation is a large taxpayer and should be represented on the council, but I do not believe one corporation should be placed in the position of dominating the destiny of Tucson."

2-day Guaranteed Watch Repair

GUPTON - JEWELER

10 28 E. 6th St.

Watches - Clocks - Diamonds

Costume Jewelry

at a 25% Discount