

Hal Boyle Writes



One year a space ship from Mars arrived here secretly.

It was manned by a single Martian, operative Z-Y-125-X, whose assignment was to find whether the earth was advanced enough for Mars to consider opening interplanetary relations.

Here is his first report, sent via mental radio, to his command post on Mars.

"Trip uneventful and according to plan. After hiding space ship, I ventured into city. Found inhabitants unbelievably friendly and hospitable. Many were interested in my strange garb.

"ONE MAN, noting my helmet, remarked, what are you advertising, Bud? When I told him 'nothing,' he replied, 'I am a department store manager, and our Santa Claus is sick. How would you like to take his place?'

"I consented. It seems Santa Claus is a kind of god, and the earth people worship him most at Christmas. I have enjoyed playing this role of god. Little children come sit on my lap and tell me what they want, and I laugh out loud and answer, 'Okay. Ho! Ho! Ho!'

"I met a pretty salesgirl here named Josephine. When I confided to her I was from Mars, she said: 'I kinda thought you had a midwest look—judging from your haircut. My mother and I have an extra room in our apartment. Why don't you move in with us?' I did. More later."

OPERATIVE Z-Y-125-X sent his second message to Mars on Christmas evening. It read:

"A wonderful day. I gave Josephine and her mother a couple of watches I had picked up in the store, and they gave me some neckties which look like rainbows.

"In the afternoon I wandered into one of the local temples—they are called bars. A friendly earth man said, 'Pal, have a couple on me.' I had two drinks of their ambrosia. It made me feel strange and big. I went home. Josephine said, 'Well, country boy, I do believe you're loaded.' She sat me on a sofa and pressed her lips to mine. 'That makes me feel all tingly,' I told her. She said, 'It could be love, country boy.'"

IMMEDIATELY this message was sent to operative Z-Y-125-X by his Mars command post:

"Satisfied your mission accomplished. Return at once." And back flashed this message from operative Z-Y-125-X: "Not me. I like it here."

On January 2nd operative X-Y-125-X sent his fourth and last message to Mars:

"Earth has suddenly gone crazy. No one smiles. Everyone scowls. They hurry, hurry, hurr as if demented. They bump into each other rudely. The department store manager took away my Santa Claus suit, and told me, 'Beat it, Kid.'"

"JOSEPHINE asked me for some rent money. I said, 'You mean that green paper and those jingly pieces of metal? I gave them to one of the priests in a temple for some of that nice ambrosia.' And Josephine said, 'Mama and I aren't supporting no bums in this house, country boy. Out you go!' and she threw me out into the street."

"I had nothing to wear but my space suit and helmet. A policeman stopped me and said, 'What are you—some kind of a nut or something? I've got a good mind to toss you into the cooler.' Some children jeered at me."

"This is a frightening place. As soon as it is dark, I will board my space ship and return to Mars."

When chastened Operative Z-Y-125-X reported in person his full tale of horror to his superiors on Mars, they held a council and gravely decided it might be better to let the earth people grow up for another thousand years or so before considering interplanetary relations.

And that's why you haven't seen any men from Mars lately.

The Nursing Shortage

Scarcity of Hospital RNs Is a Blessing in Disguise

By DOROTHY PHILLIPS
(Last of Four Articles)
The professional nurse's shortage may have become her biggest asset.

After World War II, greatly expanded health care pulled RNs from the wards into schools and industry, where they received better pay for a 40-hour work week with evenings and weekends free.

The vacancy rate in hospital nursing posts grew steadily and hospital officials had to find new ways to provide adequate care.

Their decisions have brought the RN new status.

AMONG THE innovations in hospitals was the hiring of non-professional workers.

Today the smiling lady in white with the familiar cap perched gaily on her head is in charge of a crew of helpers doing work she formerly performed.

Under an ideal team program, a registered nurse designated as a leader evaluates the needs of her unit and assigns duties to another RN, a practical nurse and two aides. A team may efficiently care for from 12 to 20 patients.

In most cases, however, the shortage of RNs is so acute that a team of this size is not feasible and non-professionals perform most of the tasks not requiring the judgment of a graduate nurse.

AT CITY Hospital, Elmhurst, for instance, there are 129 staff nurses and 135 practical nurses and aides.

In the Queens Hospital Center, Jamaica, comprising Queens General and Triborough Hospitals, there are 149 RNs and 275 practical nurses and aides.

Both Memorial, Flushing, has 82 RNs, 30 practical nurses and 84 aides on its payroll.

AT ST. JOHN'S Hospital,



SUPERVISING THE AIDES — Head Nurse Patricia Rafferty (right) of Woodside reads out the work assignments to nurse's aides Anna Story (left) of Maspeth and Pearl Cooper of East Elmhurst at City Hospital, Elmhurst. Aides replace professional nurses in many of the jobs not requiring an RN's skill and background.

Elmhurst, where Sister St. Magdalene, the nursing director, considers her ideal RN quota to be 100, there are only 64, including administrators and supervisors. Ten practical nurses and 80 aides and orderlies supplement the professional staff.

"Included in the 64 are the nursing sisters, but most of them have to divide their attention between nursing the sick and teaching student nurses, so the shortage is more serious than the figures indicate."

William Moore, administrator at Flushing Hospital, lists practical nurses, baby and regular aides, orderlies, ward secre-

aries and operating room technicians—155 non-professionals in all—as supplement to his 64 fulltime and 25 parttime RN staff.

MOORE said there usually is a turnover in RNs during May and June each year. The hospital attempts to retain the girls graduating from its diploma school each spring by offering them a \$100 rebate on their tuition if they stay a year. In addition, girls working the less desirable night and evening shifts receive a \$40 and \$30 monthly differential, respectively, over their starting pay of \$4,160 a year.

"Better pay is one answer to the problem of attracting girls to this field," Moore said. "The trouble is, salaries make up 70 per cent of the total budget, so an increase in wages poses a big problem. It must be done on a gradual basis."

City hospitals pay more — \$4,550 for beginning staff nurse — but find the heavy work load scares girls off. They are deluged with clerical work; they are asked to assume an increasing number of tasks formerly performed by doctors, and they must supervise and be responsible for the non-professional workers.



TINY PATIENT CARE — Aide Francena Brown (right) of Hollis assists Kathleen Beyer, R.N., of Ridgewood in the care of a tiny patient hospitalized at Queens General.

WE MUST find ways to make better use of nursing time," said Dorothy Weddige, City Department of Hospitals' director of nursing education and services.

"We constantly evaluate a nurse's function. Through the years, we have gradually delegated some of her duties, such as bathing, feeding and dressing patients and taking temperatures, to non-professional workers."

Miss Weddige added that ward clerks shoulder some of the clerical burdens, and ward messengers run errands. Technical workers have taken over in the operating room, preparing materials and assisting doctors with instruments.

"WE STILL have a long way to go," she said. She explained that personnel shortages in other departments, such as those involving social work and diets, force nurses to handle tasks in these areas.

Mrs. Louise Jennings, head of the nursing science department at Queens College and a nurse for several years before she

turned to teaching, said improvement in education, wage and working conditions may be some of the answers to cutting down the shortage.

She also made a suggestion to help keep an RN at the bedside.

"The staff nurse is the lowest member in professional medical ranks," she said. "There is no differentiation between a girl who starts nursing and one who has been a nurse 10 years, unless she becomes a head nurse or supervisor through additional training."

THERE must be an incentive created, such as a graduated scale, to satisfy the natural desire for seniority. Lack of such incentive is a serious cause of women dropping out of nursing after a few years.

The registered nurse is gaining in prestige. Her comforting presence for the sick is slowly being enhanced by her increased skill and authority. Her education is being modernized and shortened. Her economic needs are commanding increased attention from hospital officials.

LONG ISLAND STAR-JOURNAL

LONG ISLAND, N. Y., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1961

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Board Expected to OK Demolition

Highway Work to Bump 20 Buildings

More than 20 Queens buildings, including 17 residences, are slated for demolition by the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority as part of the road widening project for the 1964-65 World Fair, The Star-Journal learned today.

The Board of Estimate will be asked at today's meeting to authorize this phase of the fair improvement program.

The acquisition of the properties will provide for the widening of Northern boulevard, the Whitestone parkway and the Grand Central parkway plus the extension of the Van Wyck expressway, according to Arthur S. Hodgkiss, TBTA assistant general manager.

Hodgkiss indicated the owners of the buildings have been notified of the forthcoming demolition, but arrangements for knocking down homes and other buildings have been little publicized by the TBTA when the road improvement plans were originally announced.

THE BUILDINGS involved are:

22-40 73rd street; 22-43 73rd street; 22-50 74th street; 22-55 74th street, and 71-11 Astoria boulevard, all Jackson Heights; 179-26, 179-36, 179-40, 180-30, 180-34, 181-24 and 181-34, all on Grand Central parkway, Jamaica; 83-14 and 83-04 Midland parkway, Jamaica.

Four small storage buildings owned by Consolidated Edison at Northern boulevard and the Flushing River, Flushing; a building without a street address adjacent to the Long Island Railroad near the Flushing River in Corona and another building without an address on the east side of the river between Roosevelt avenue and the railroad in Flushing.

Two residential homes on the westerly service road of the Whitestone parkway at 14th avenue, College Point; and a number of amusement devices in the Adventurer's Inn amusement park adjacent to the parkway, Whitestone.

Good Samaritan

Vet Gives Up His Time

(Fourth of a Series)

When Frank Greene of Douglaston gets an evening off—a rare thing in his household—he's off to go bowling.

But between his work as a volunteer driver for the Little Neck Douglaston Ambulance Corps, working as a committeeman with a local cub pack, and building a go-cart for his six children, bowling is few and far between.

The 34-year-old Navy veteran of World War II operates his own appliance repair shop in Great Neck and when the day of fixing machines is done, he runs home to more work.

Each Wednesday night, the brown-haired, blue-eyed father reports at 7 P. M. to the Corps' headquarters and prepares for 12 hours of stand-by work in which anything can happen—and usually does.

SOMETIMES his services are only required for minor first aid treatment—such as a recent broken ankle he helped take care of—others may mean rushing a heart-attack patient



FRANK GREEN

slowly breathing precious oxygen to a near-by hospital.

Why does Frank devote these precious hours to helping others?

"I felt I was needed," he said. "It is the least someone can do for his neighbors."

He also is a committeeman

for Cub Pack 306 which meets monthly in the Zion Episcopal Church in Douglaston. Although his actual duties are taking care of rank advancement for the ambitious youngsters, he takes several hikes, trips and other such activities, during the year.

Of course, there are always his children to take care of while mom, Rosemary, is working on one community project or another. The youngsters are Thomas, 9; Francis, 8; Charles, 7; Richard, 5; Rosemary, 2, and 11-month-old William.

RIGHT NOW, any spare time Frank gets is devoted to building a go-cart for the older boys. He hasn't decided where they'll use it yet, though.

Rosemary, 31, is active in local cancer work, the Women's Auxiliary of St. Anastasia's Roman Catholic Church in Douglaston and treasurer of the Little Neck-Douglaston Women's Club.

Frank, who stands a sturdy 5-foot-7, and his family live at 46-31 Douglaston parkway.

5G for Aides

Mayor Plans Another Hike

Salary boosts of \$5,000 for his commissioners are planned by Mayor Wagner, City Hall revealed yesterday.

Scheduled to receive increases from \$25,000 to \$30,000 under the proposal are Edward F. Cavanagh Jr., named to be Deputy Mayor; Police Commissioner Michael J. Murphy of Middle Village, Park Commissioner Newbold Morris and Corporation Counsel Leo A. Larkin.

City Administrator Charles H. Tenney, who now gets \$30,000 is expected to remain at that figure. Debs Meyers, a public relations man and the mayor's incoming executive secretary, is likely to receive a \$25,000 salary, while his predecessor, Frank Doyle of Laurelton, will get the same sum as a deputy commissioner in an un-designated agency.

A BILL calling for \$10,000 raises for all eight members of the Board of Estimate, passed Tuesday by the City Council, is slated for Board of Estimate approval today.

The proposed increases were attacked today by representatives of the Women's City Club and the Citizens' Budget Commission. The telegram from Mabel Leslie, first vice-president, said the Women's City Club felt that "their (the borough presidents') present salary of \$25,000 is altogether adequate, especially in view of their reduced responsibilities under the new charter."

Milton Bergerman, Citizens' Union chairman, attacked the Wagner administration's timing on the pay raise. He contended that salary hikes for elected officials should be proposed at least six months before an election to permit the voters to weigh the merits of the issue before voting.

Other rumored appointments are that of Julius Edelstein, one-time assistant to former governor Herbert H. Lehman, as a \$25,000-a-year executive assistant to Wagner, replacing Warren Moscow, who will be reportedly relegated to part-time service.

DECISION EXPECTED ON Q-28 EXTENSION

A decision is expected today by the Board of Estimate on whether to extend the Q-28 bus route through the Bay Terrace co-operative apartment development in Bayside.

The extension proposal has split tenant-shareholders there in a year long controversy.

Some complained of long walks to present bus stops. However others, opposing the extension, claim buses traveling narrow, winding streets in the Terrace would result in hazards to children and the likelihood of the imposition of one-way traffic and one-side parking regulations along the route.

POMONOK TENANTS TO INSTALL OFFICERS

Installation of officers of the Pomonok Tenants Council will take place at a buffet and dance at 8 P. M. Saturday in the Pomonok Community Center at 62-09 Kissena boulevard, Flushing.

A plaque will also be awarded to Lee Daddiario, director of the community center, and his staff "for their tireless devotion to the community," according to Milton Berkowitz, president of the tenants association.

Officers to be installed include Berkowitz as president, Sam Zientz, vice president; Yetta Rosenberg, treasurer; Margaret Wilson, secretary; Nat Goodman, editor; Florence Ravens, grievance chairman and Anna Sternback, entertainment chairman.

COMMUTER PROBLEMS TO BE DISCUSSED

The Transit Authority is arranging to discuss commuter problems of Greater Flushing with the Utopia Improvement Association, according to Bernard Hertzog, head of the civic group.

Subjects coming up at the meeting later this month include proposals for a bus depot at the Willets Point station at Flushing Meadow Park and use of Long Island Railroad tracks between Flushing and Little Neck for an extension of the present subway system terminating in Flushing.

Hertzog said members also wants the TA to shift its Q-31 Bayside West-Jamaica Connection bus route off Fresh Meadow lane to the more populated Utopia parkway.

WALTER KANER is on vacation. His column will resume on his return.

Nason on Education



Dr. Leslie J. Nason

It's a good bet that television isn't going to replace the teacher!

But it's going to be a useful tool in education. It is now. It has been tried for everything from teaching the 3 R's to illiterate adults to giving medical students a bird's eye view of surgical techniques. A lot of people are convinced that it's the best way yet found to reach a large group of students with expert teaching—quickly. That expert reaches more people with one lecture than he could in years of classroom demonstrations.

EVERYONE seems interested in the possibilities. The U. S. Office of Education has been experimenting with it for several years. Dr. Franklin Dunham, chief of Radio and Television for the Office of Education, recently presented television diplomas to 816 former illiterates in Tennessee. Men and women with proud tears in their eyes accepted these documents certifying that they can now read and write.

Commercially sponsored programs in the education field have received warm welcomes. "Continental Classroom" has 500,000 viewers, 5,000 of whom are enrolled for credit in co-operating schools and colleges.

In 1952 the Federal Communications Commission, recognizing television as part of the public domain, set aside certain channels for educational use. About 60 of these channels are now in operation.

CITIES, STATES, educational foundations, schools and colleges have supported programs in order to determine the usefulness of television. Some of their results have been most encouraging.

Taxpayers, eyeing the educational budget, watch with intense interest the experiment of the "flying classroom," a plane that flies four miles above northeast Indiana, broadcasting tape-recorded courses over two channels. The broadcasts carry 200 miles in every direction, covering parts of six states, an area with five million students in 13,000 schools and colleges.

Programs from the "flying classroom" reach big city classes and small rural schools at the same cost, considerably less per pupil than comparable coverage from ground stations.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS have found closed circuit television invaluable. The camera centering squarely on an operation, frequently carries to students details that operating surgeons cannot see, but only feel.

In many science classes television permits a whole class to view experiments that formerly could only be seen by the instructor and one or two students.

Educational television is still a long way from creating an educational miracle. In most cases it is limited to presenting a good teacher giving a good lesson. It may be a better teacher—and a better lesson—but this is somewhat offset by the limits of screen size, details and natural color. As these technical difficulties are overcome it should grow in usefulness.

IMPORTANT AS it is, television is not even close to supplanting the little red school house and its big-city counterpart. Pupils need flesh-and-blood, real live teachers to answer their questions and direct their thinking individually, something television hasn't solved.

Television isn't going to replace the teacher either, but it may improve them. Teachers are quick to compare their own skills and techniques with those of the expert on television. They pick up many new ideas and put them to work in their own teaching.

The automobile replaced the horse, but not the driver. It made him become a better driver. Television hasn't replaced the school, but it's already helping to make better teachers.

