

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 1956.



TRAINING SCHOOL FASHION—Boys at the Iowa Training School in Eldora are shown modeling the Bermuda shorts introduced at the school this summer for wear during hot weather. The shorts are made of khaki twill in the school's mending shop where all the boys' clothing is repaired and some is manufactured.

Houseboat Is Haven for 'Pajama Game' Author

Hollywood Next Stop For Bissell

By John Reynolds. Gazette Staff Writer.
FENTRESS LAKE, Ill.—The Midwest's most currently successful author has returned temporarily from giddy Broadway and Publisher's Row to tie up on a 70-foot houseboat in the friendly waters of the Mississippi river.



TIPPED BACK IN HIS CAPTAIN'S CHAIR, on the foredeck of his 70-foot houseboat, Richard Pike Bissell, highly successful Iowa author, checks a publisher's proof with the assistance of his 7-year-old daughter, Anastasia. The Bissell family, now of Connecticut, is spending the summer on the houseboat which is tied up to a small island on the Illinois side of the Mississippi river below Dubuque.

For Author Richard Pike Bissell ("Stretch on the River," "7½ Cents," "High Water," etc.) this lullaby is no idle gesture despite the current summer cruise atmosphere.

It's Security. Broadway and the publishing business has been exceptionally good to Dick Bissell, the "deck-hand from Harvard" whose "7½ Cents" became the Broadway smash hit "Pajama Game".

His love of his hometown of Dubuque and more property of the stretches of the Mississippi he knows so well prompted him to buy a giant houseboat—70 feet long and 20 feet wide.

Locker Room to Lounge. Aboard, the locker room has become Bissell's office and lounge. The boat has a bathroom, complete with two stools, two lavatories, one shower, there's sleeping room for seven and the ship's log notes this can be expanded to 14.

and electric lights, which could be used if it were tied up near a source of electric current.

Paris (INS)—Forty million Frenchmen may quench their summer thirst with wine and be happy, but that definitely is not so for 72 visiting University of Iowa girl students and graduates.

Goes Parisian. "What's wrong with water?" she asked. "We like it."

Wine Flows Freely in Paris, But Highlanders Want Water

Nan and Kitty are members of the university's famed Scottish Highlanders bagpipe, chorus and dancing aggregation, now visiting Europe for the second time.

Seven Sentenced In Iowa Vending Machine Fraud

WATERLOO (UP)—Two officers of the National Advance Vending Machine Company, Dubuque, Saturday were sentenced to five years in prison on charges of using the mails to defraud.

Iowa Political Parties Split Over Tax Issue

By Dwight McCormack.
DES MOINES (AP)—The Iowa Republican and Democratic campaign platforms contain a surprising number of almost identical planks.

Iowa Mountaineers To Leave for Canada Friday

IOWA CITY—Fifty-five Iowa Mountaineers will rendezvous with adventure during August in the Canadian Rockies.

THE DEVIL'S DOORWAY at Devil's Lake, Wis., provided climbing practice for a group of Iowa Mountaineers on one of their weekend outings.

Picture, left to right, are Mrs. John Ebert and Marilyn Sidwell, both of Iowa City; Ruth Norma (top), former Iowa Citian, and Mrs. Bob Grow and Bob Grow of Waterloo. Mrs. Ebert will be among the Mountaineers leaving Friday for a trip to Canada.

Glenn Brostrom Named Anamosa School Head

ANAMOSA—Glenn Brostrom, 38, of Ollie has been named Anamosa superintendent of schools.

Dairy Days at Clermont Set

CLERMONT—Final plans have been completed for the Clermont Dairy Days Saturday and Sunday.

Sales Tax Boost Tops Estimates

By Bruce Fishwild. Gazette Staff Writer.
Indications were Saturday that Iowa's extra half-percent sales tax will bring in more revenue than was expected.

Business Increase

Subtracting the amount charged to the additional half of a percent, you have left \$2,167,210 which can be credited to increased business.

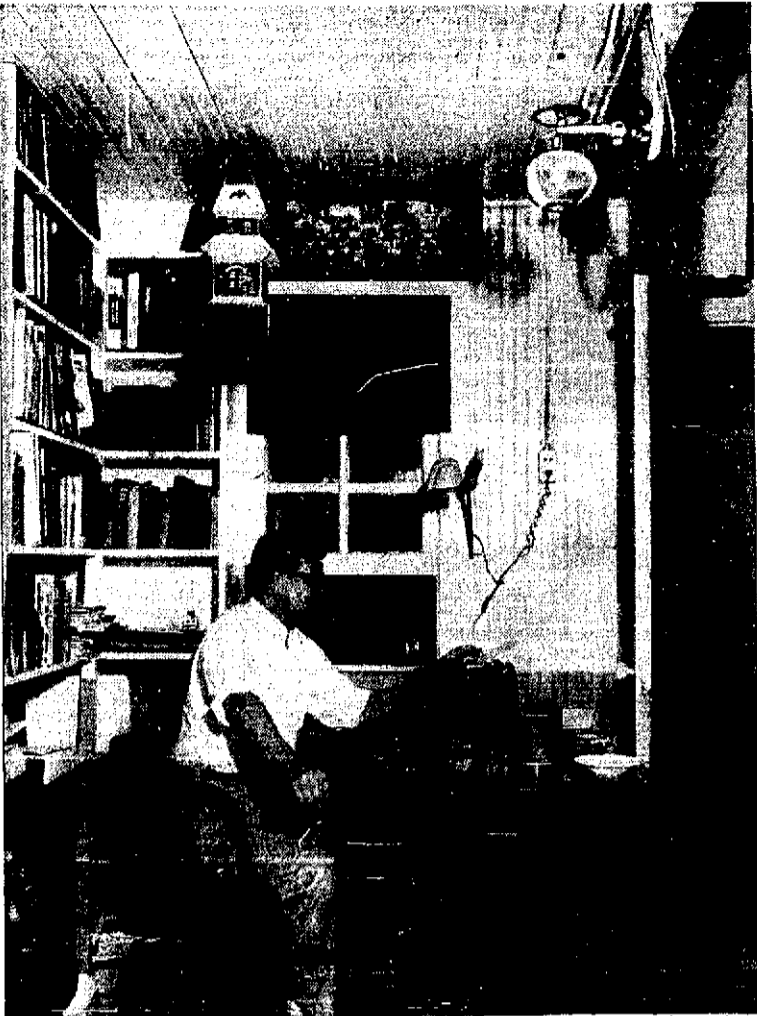
Additional Million

Over the last half of 1955 and the first three months of 1956 an additional \$1,041,476 in sales tax was collected from firms in this category.

"NO BOTTOM" is the name of the Bissell houseboat on which Author Dick Bissell and his family are spending their summer on the Mississippi river below Dubuque. Name of the boat comes

from the fact that some of her steel plates are a bit thin and will require replacement. Ship's log notes the "No Bottom" will sleep seven.

Stretch on the River



AN OLD FRIEND—Well known to the Bissell family is the old flatboat which they have had for years on the Mississippi river at Dubuque. Water-worthy as ever, the boat

now boasts a new V-8 in-board, kicks up quite a wake. In the bow: Sam, 4; Anastasia, 7; Nathaniel, 12. Mrs. Bissell sits midship with her husband.



THE BISSELL HOUSEBOAT, occupied by the family less than three weeks ago after its purchase and movement from Moline, once was a government boat used by workers for the corps of engineers. Dubuque's Author Dick Bissell now has established his working headquarters in what once was the lock-erroom of the boat. Boat is illuminated by gaslight (upper right).

Bissell

(Continued from Page 1.)

his writing career and a mighty important prelude, too. His experiences on riverboats of America's inland waterways led him to pen his first novel "Stretch on the River", and also a later story "High Water".

Between them came the book "7 1/2 Cents" which really skyrocketed him to fame as a writer. In "7 1/2 Cents" Bissell was writing about something he knew personally—although it was far removed from the river.

The story concerned the garment business and Dick knew about that because of the family's garment factory (Glover Company of Dubuque, now closed).

Now a New One. Just a couple of weeks ago, writing in longhand while seated in the quiet of the Dubuque public library, Bissell finished the final chapters of his newest story, "Sny Darling".

Again Bissell has chosen to write about a subject on which he has plenty of first-hand knowledge. "Sny Darling", is the story of a young fellow from Iowa who goes east and "gets mixed up" with New York and Broadway.

Of the book, Bissell says: "Of this one I can't deny that it's about me." "Sny Darling" will be published in the spring by Little, Brown and Company.

Longer than most of Bissell's previous works, the newest will run about 70,000 words.

A Brief Respite. Bissell, his wife and three of their four children are enjoying this brief respite back on the river. People back in New York and their friends at Rowayton, Conn., can't understand why the Bissells want to come back to Iowa at all, and especially in the summer when Rowayton is at the height of the vacation and boating season.

"Folks back there think Iowa is all corn, prairie and hot winds," Bissell says. "They obviously don't know about the Mississippi and about houseboating."

With the last chapters of the newest book out of the way, Bissell is having his first relaxation in months. On the No Bottom there are few distractions.

The houseboat has no telephone, no TV, not even a radio, unless you want to count the little crystal set Dick isn't sure will work at all.

Few Neighbors. Nearest neighbor to the Bissells' No Bottom is Hernando's Hideaway, a smaller houseboat built and owned by Dick's brother, Fred Bissell of Dubuque, and his wife.

The Hideaway is, as a matter of life in any direction from the No Bottom. Between them and Fenestress Lake boat harbor, a distance of a mile and a half, there is only one other houseboat.

In this secluded quiet the Bissells can swim, fish, relax, go boating, sailing their own pace for all activities.

The three children with them are Sam, 4, Anastasia, 7 and Nathaniel, 12. Tommy, 13, long known as the author of the family bulletin, "The Fenlon Place Journal", is at Exceter academy this summer and will enroll there in the fall.

"I Like This" Bissell is enthusiastic about the houseboat, about coming back to the Midwest. "You know I like this," he tells

a friend, "I may be like James Joyce who wrote about Dublin and lived in Switzerland. I write about the Mississippi and live in Connecticut."

"But I love it here. I like coming back to home and friends. I like going out to these little towns around here, going to country celebrations, just talking to folks on the river."

Admittedly the rest of the family is enjoying it too. Even for the youngsters, the pace around the family home in the East gets a little furious sometimes. "There's always the phone," says Marion Bissell with a wifely sigh.

Next: Hollywood. Bissell is looking forward to his well-earned rest because the next stop will be Hollywood, by early November.

There he'll be working on the filming of "Pajama Game". "I honestly don't know what I'll be expected to do out there," he tells you, "probably sit around and look wise. But I've got to be there anyway."

"It will be new, interesting, exciting—but I'll probably be very glad when I'm through."

Anything Cooking? Ask Bissell what's next on his writing agenda and he'll likely tell you that he and some of those who have collaborated with him in some of the work have plans. "We've been talking about a thing on a convention—maybe a convention of lumbermen," Dick says.

"I've also been thinking about going on with a book about a town which might be Dubuque. A few reports, 'I started it once and then laid it aside. I might get back to that sometime soon."

Just Now: A Stretch. But for the time being, Dick Bissell and Company is interested in one thing primarily: Soaking up a lot of Mississippi river sun, in a nice, long, comfortably quiet stretch on the river.

Mountaineers

(Continued from Page 1.)

ains, in full view of towering Mount Assiniboine. Forty pounds of duffel is allowed each Mountaineer for the trip. This includes tents, sleeping bags and mess kits, sweaters, parkas and boots, and the professional climbing gear.

This gear includes pitons, the metal spikes to drive into the ice or rock for holding ropes. A small metal circle called a carabiner fits through a hole at one end of the piton, and rope is threaded through this circle for safety when scaling vertical rock.

One end of the rope is tied around the lead climber's waist. The rope passes through the carabiner and down to climbers beneath.

The official climbing rope is seven-sixteenths of an inch thick and 120 feet long, while the small rappel rope, used for rapid descents, is one-fourth inch thick and 200 feet long.

No Liquor. Completing the list of climbing equipment are crampons (shoe spikes) for safe walking on icy steep, snow goggles, maps, compasses and flashlights. There will be no worries about hunting guns, since all firearms are prohibited by rules of the club, as are drugs and liquor. Musical instruments are welcome into camp unweighed.

Mount Assiniboine, first climbing objective of the Mountaineers, is called the American Matterhorn because it resembles

the European mountain in its dominance over neighboring ridges. Its 11,720 feet will be scaled in a day, or if the weather is bad, in a day and a half. Then the mountain climbers will try lesser heights, with some ten peaks and six glaciers in the area to choose from.

Meanwhile, back at the base camp, fishing, riding and hiking will be directed by experienced members for those who don't climb. Food will be prepared by a Canadian packer whom the Mountaineers have hired to take care of buying, transporting and cooking during the two weeks at the Lake Magog base camp.

All meals will be hearty, but breakfast will be especially substantial, including cereal and fruit as well as ham and eggs. Some Mountaineers have found it difficult to avoid adding weight on the summer trips, but they agree that the stepped-up physical activity calls for an adequate diet.

At the end of a strenuous day, the company relaxes at a nightly campfire with story telling and songs.

More Climbing. After 11 days in the Mount Assiniboine park, the Mountaineers will hike back to Spray dam, where they will repack their vehicles. Those who have only two weeks for vacation will return home. The others will drive northwest to Banff to load up supplies for hiking and climbing near Lake Louise.

Continuing 75 miles north from Lake Louise on the Banff-Jasper highway, they will just touch peaks as Mount Athabasca in the Columbia ice fields. Then they will go farther north in Jasper national park, where they will scale Mount Edith Cavell or Mount Robson and see Lake Macdonald. They expect to arrive in Iowa City around Sept. 4. The first group will precede them by about a week.

Contrary to common belief, all of the Mountaineers are not Iowa Mountaineers. Some are from other states as far

away as Georgia, Virginia, Oregon, Washington and California. Many members have joined essentially because they "enjoyed the outdoors," only to find themselves excellent mountain climbers after some practice under skilled leadership.

Such a novice was Celia Eckey, an Iowa City high school music teacher. Beginning in 1952, she has accompanied the group on four summer outings. She made one winter trip to Mexico and went on the club's weekend outings frequently.

Now Miss Eckey even prefers the harder, more technical rock climbing to snow climbing. Recently she accomplished a very difficult "friction" climb (an ascent made by pressing the back and feet against opposite walls of a narrow crevice) of a "chimney" at Devil's Lake, Wis.

Earl Carter, another experienced climber, joined the Iowa Mountaineers in 1947 and has climbed 14,408-foot Mt. Ranier in Washington, Mt. Adams' 12,307-foot height and the Mexican Mountain Popocatepetl's 17,894 feet. Carter is a janitor in the SUI dental building.

He tells of an Alaskan gale of 60 mile-an-hour winds which broke his tent pole and collapsed his shelter one freezing night, and how he was forced to spend the rest of the night holding down his only protection from the ice and blowing snow. Such mishaps don't discourage him a bit, however.

Organization Setup. At present the group is governed by a council and operated by several committees. There are four categories of Mountaineer membership. The active member goes on every expedition and outing and votes for officers and vacation goals and on other matters. He pays \$4 a year and receives the Mountaineer publication "The Iowa Climber".

The associate member pays less than \$3 per year and may take part in the same events, but he may not vote. The expedition member accompanies the club primarily on the summer outings, or the Bebbie Burns section of the travelogue memberships. In 1958 one cover admission to the Mountaineer film-lectures given approximately twice a month during the school year. Any interest-

person is admitted to a suitable category. Last year's lecture series attracted some 8,000 listeners. A total of 200,000 persons have attended the lectures since the series started.

Weekend outings include trips during spring and winter months to hiking, climbing and camping spots such as the Backbone state park near Strawberry Point and the Mississippi Fallsides state park near Clinton. Some 25 members from nearby states converge upon the appointed spot on Friday night and return home on Sunday. Each pays his own transportation and food costs, with no profit being made by the club.

A 25-mile hike from Iowa City to the Amnans colonies is a traditional trip. The group arrives after a ten-hour trek suitably famished for an Amnans meal, Ebert says.

Bothered by Destruction. The Mountaineers are worried about the destruction of rugged beauty taking place in many park areas. "Of course we are grateful to early legislators for their foresight in setting aside parks," Ebert says, "but very little has been done in the last 30 years to preserve these privileges for the rapidly growing population."

"There are still enough picnic areas," he continues, "but the true nature lover who wants to fish, hunt or climb in solitude away from a tourist-crowded area is finding that more and more people and businesses have crowded into the remaining primitive wilds."

The Mountaineers feel that growing exploitation of these areas by lumber interests, water-power concerns, tourist organizations and other commercial groups will destroy the real beauty of such parks as the Redwood national forest, the Olympic national park in Washington and Colorado's Dinosaur recreational area.

But the Mountaineers' plans promise to take them off the beaten track for a few more years at least. In 1957 one group will go to the Rocky Mountain national park in Colorado and a second to the Northern Selkirk's, or the Bebbie Burns section of British Columbia. In 1958 one group will again visit the Bavarian Alps, the Italian Dolomites and the Matterhorn region of Switzerland.



MARION BISSELL, wife of the author, pauses while reading the New York Times to listen to her sister-in-law, Susie (Mrs. Fred Bissell of Dubuque), in the "lounge" of the "No Bottom". On the wall in the background is a pen-and-ink sketch Brother Fred Bissell did in an afternoon's visit aboard the big houseboat.



HIGHLANDER WINS—Marian Smith, 19, of Cleveland, a nursing student at the University of Iowa and a member of the Scottish Highlanders now in Europe, won several prizes at the International Dancing festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, last week. Her parents came from Scotland. Story on page 1.

University of Iowa Only 89 World War II Vets Left When GI Bill Expired

IOWA CITY—Eighty-nine students at the University of Iowa were going there under the GI bill when it expired recently. Those students are no longer subsidized. The 89 students are a far cry from the numbers that descended on the campus when public law 346—the GI bill—was signed in 1944.

Veterans Peak. The first semester of the 1946-47 school year saw the peak of veterans enrollment under the GI bill. There were 5,579 enrolled at that time. The figure decreased each year since then, and in 1951-52 there were 1,321 veterans in SUI under the GI bill.

An estimated 8,400 veterans attended SUI under the GI bill. In Iowa, 118,076 veterans took advantage of the bill at a cost of \$231,600,000 to the federal government. This included both college and vocational training.

Generally, the bill provided that veterans had four years from the time of their discharge or the end of the war, whichever came first, in which to start school. They had nine years in which to complete it.

Housing Demand. The demand for classroom space and housing became terrific. Next to the Iowa river, just south of Iowa avenue, a small town appeared when some 180 trailers housed veterans families. Another small town was nearby city park. There were 90 trailers there.

The Hawkeye and Riverdale villages have disappeared. Most of the trailers were removed in 1953.

However, there are still GI students at SUI. These are the students attending school under the Korean GI bill. As a result, 698 of the married student barometer and quarters housing units.

World war II veterans are still in use. A great many temporary buildings also are still in use for classroom space.

Honor Graduates. Several students from The Gazette area will be graduated with special honors from the University of Iowa Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the fieldhouse.

They are: Bernard Weinberg, 12 years, has accepted a call to distinction; Joan Leehy, 12 years, the Lutheran church at Brookfield, Wis., a suburb of Milwaukee; Thomas waukee.

Study by Mail. A total of 175 university classes in 23 departments are offered in the 1956-57 "Home Study Through Correspondence" bulletin published recently by the SUI extension division.

NEWHALL. The Rev. O. T. Schreiber, pastor of St. John's Lutheran church here the last Wednesday, has accepted a call to distinction; Joan Leehy, 12 years, the Lutheran church at Brookfield, Wis., a suburb of Milwaukee; Thomas waukee.

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