

LILLIAN ROTH, Sue Us If YOU DARE!

10¢

August 25

THE

Lowdown

THE FACTS THEY DARE NOT TELL YOU

DPD 42 Form C of D-623-RE
CRIMINAL RECORD

DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

NAME: John Ray (w) 10¢

F. B. I. NO.
M. S. B. NO.

6-20-51, mls
Contributor Name and Number : Date Charge

PD, Det., Mich. John Ray #102283 6-5-51 Acc & Sel

MASTER RECORDED
BE LEFT

An Open Letter to Gov. Williams

LOWDOWN DEMANDS PARDON MICHIGAN GOVERNOR JOHNNY RAY!

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THE PHONY MOVIE MAG RACKET Page 30

WHAT MAJOR LEAGUERS DO AFTER HOURS



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THE

LOWDOWN

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EDITOR J. Alvin Kugelmass

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Joel Raleigh

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Kitt Carroll

ART DIRECTOR Norman Mitchell

ART EDITOR Pat Lamar

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LOWDOWN DEMANDS

Michigan Governor PARDON

DPD 41 Form C of D-613-RE
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 Contributor
 PD, Det., Mich. John Ray #102283
 BE LEFT IN

Official Detroit Police Records tell the story

Precinct 1 Detroit Main Police Headquarters
 2:20 A.M. June 5, 1951
 John A. Ray, Age 23 address Park Ave. Hotel, 2305 Park Ave., Detroit, Room 310, arrested in basement toilet of Stone Theatre, 2511 Woodward Ave., Detroit. He had been drinking. Birthplace: Oregon, single, occupation: musician. Charge: accosted Patrolman Francis Demmers, of the Vice Bureau in violation of Section 448, Michigan Penal Code. Specifically that he accosted and solicited him for the purpose of performing an immoral act. Remained in Jail until early session of Recorder's Court. Arraigned before Recorder's Judge Joseph A. Gillis. Waived jury trial. Pleaded not guilty. Convicted on testimony of Patrolman Demmers. Given choice of \$25 fine or 30 days in Detroit House of Correction Recorder's Court No. 51700. Police Court No. 102283. At the time, performing at the Flame Show Bar



Official police mugshot of Ray taken after his arrest in 1951.

At Last: The Documentary Facts About
The Episode in the Life of the Young
Singer That Occurred on a Night in Detroit

JOHNNY RAY

This is how it was, and this is how it happened. This is taken straight from my reportorial notes. I'll give it to you straight as I can:

11 P.M., June 4th 1951—A slender kid is singing at the Flame Show Bar in downtown Detroit. The kid has a kind of unique quaver to his voice and the customers like it. They give him one big hand after another.

Like anyone, kid or biggy, the kid likes the applause. He comes on again willingly and gives them more of same.

11:50 P.M.—The kid knocks off, shakes the hand of the manager of the Flame Bar and stops for a drink at the bar.

12:05 A.M., June 5th, 1951—The kid has had three drinks and is refreshed. He makes his way to the Park Avenue Hotel where he is staying. He's glad to have the Flame job although it's only a two-week contract at \$75 a week. He's sure he is on his way up. All kid singers are.

He brushes his teeth, looks in the mirror



Sydney police rush Ray through crowds to plane after recent very successful Australian tour.

OPEN LETTER TO OUR READERS

If we wished, we could take Johnny Ray, put him on the block of public opinion and chop him to bits.

We could pulverize him, mascerate him so badly that never again could he lift his voice in song—only in sob.

If we wished, we could strip him right down to his bare psychology and leave him trembling and naked before the world.

Ordinarily, our policy is to tell the truth about public figures and let the chips fall where they may.

Times there are, when we ask public figures (see Page 16) to retire from public life. In the case of Johnny Ray, we are not asking this at all.

There are several reasons. One reason is that Johnny Ray has done a superb job of helping unfortunates. Tough as we are, we are softies about this sort of thing. We see a nobility in it.

Another reason why we are not at all bearing

down on Johnny is because of the vicious, ugly rumors about him.

Whether these rumors were evoked by his conviction on a morals charge, we do not know. What we do know is that there is much talk about Johnny on Broadway, in Hollywood, in the columns of your newspapers, and in the night clubs.

We set out to trace down the source of these rumors and we found the following story. The story tells itself. There is little to say about it, other than the fact that it happened and that it gives rise to all kinds of snickers and sneers.

Our editorial feeling is that Johnny was tried and convicted of a morals charge—and this is well balanced by what he had done thereafter. That is why we are asking Michigan's Governor to grant him a Full Pardon.

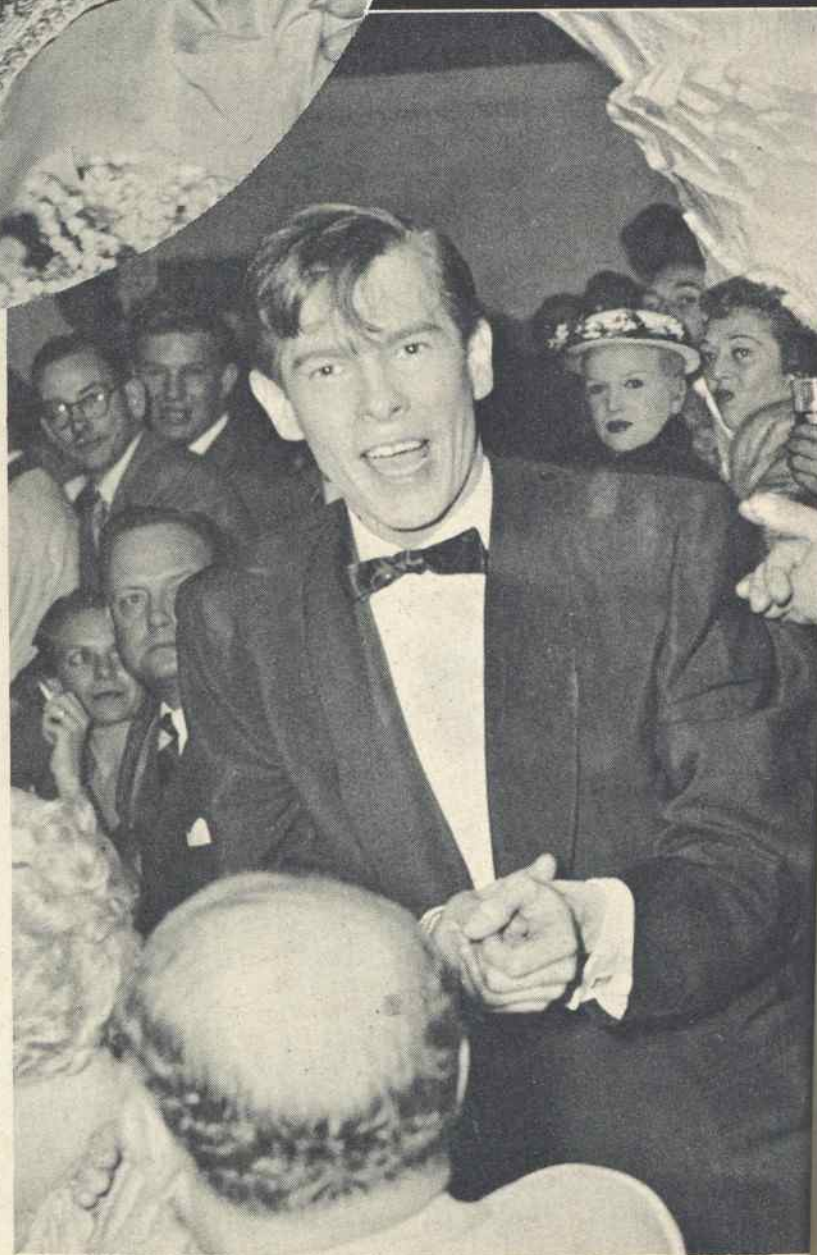
You, the reader and the bar of public opinion, judge for yourself.

Write us, if you will be so kind, and give us your views.



Johnny wasn't crying when he kissed bride, former Marilyn Morrison, after the wedding ceremony in '52.

Johnny, skyrocketing sensation now, mingles with an appreciative audience.



and decides he can't sleep. The night is hot and muggy. Moreover, he is so excited about the applause that he can't just put his head down and go off.

12:30 A.M. — He changes his clothes and goes out. Now, he's wearing just a shirt and slacks. He's only 23.

He strolls down the street of the strange city and sees, ahead of him, a burlesque house. The lights are shining and the attraction is excellent. The lights wink on and off and he is drawn. He heads for the Stone Theatre and plunks down his money at the box office.

1 A.M.—The girls have taken it off and put it on. They've come out teasing and laughing. The male cast has made the usual borderline jokes and the skits are a complex of good fun and old-hat, suggestive jokes.

The kid is sitting and watching and listening and laughing.

1:15 A.M.—Downstairs, in the Men's Toilet, Patrolman Francis Demmers, of the Detroit Police De-

Detroit burlesque house vice squad had been alert.

**Section 448
Michigan Statutes Annotated**

"SOLICITING AND ACCOSTING.
Any person who shall accost, solicit or invite another in any public place or in or from any building or vehicle, by word, gesture or any other means, to commit prostitution or to do any other lewd or immoral act, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

partment Vice Squad, was making out like a patron of the burlesque house. He was standing about and waiting.

There had been many complaints about the fact that homosexuals congregated at the Stone Theatre and the Vice Squad chief had assigned Demmers to have a look.

1:30 A.M.—Ray took a "raincheck," walked out and had two drinks at a bar down the street. Then he wandered back into the Stone Theatre and found a seat.

1:45 A.M.—Ray wandered down to the basement toilet of the Stone Theatre and found Demmers there.

He struck up a conversation with Demmers and, according to testimony, this transpired:

"Hi," he said.

"Hi," said Demmers.

"Hot, isn't it?" Johnny said.

"Sure is," said Demmers.

"I know where it's cool—real cool," said Johnny.

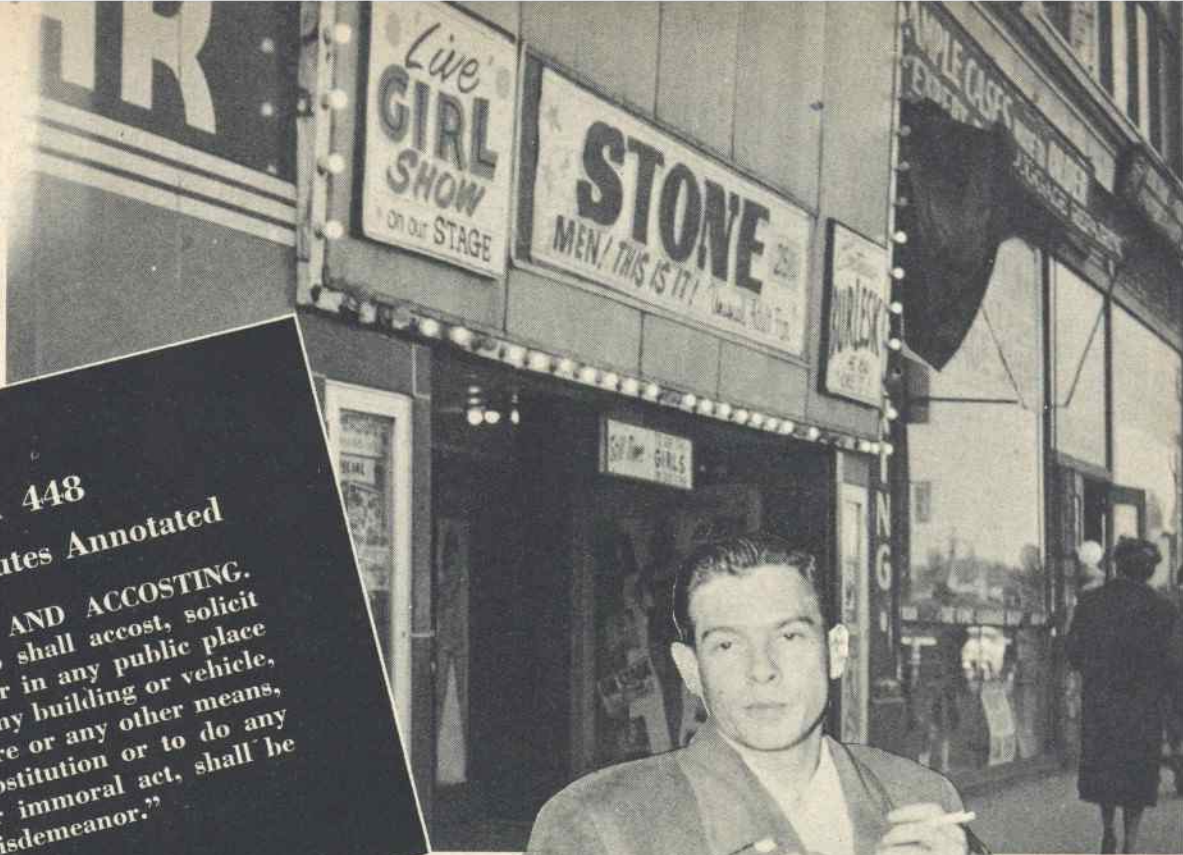
The plainclothes cop asked where that might be.

"My place, said Johnny. "At my place, the Park Avenue Hotel. I'm in Room 310."

"What would we do at your place?" Demmers asked.

"We'd get cool, man. Get cool," he said. Then

"Incompatibility" led to divorce. Ray leaving court.





Open Letter to the Governor

Hon. G. Mennen Williams
State House
Lansing, Mich.

Dear Governor Williams:

Some years ago, an unknown boy, a non-resident of your State, was tried and convicted of a morals charge.

LOWDOWN considers most strongly that you should grant this boy an Unconditional Pardon and order returned to him his fingerprints, his photos and the police record of his conviction.

For not long after this boy was tried and convicted, he rocketed to fame and fortune. He sang his way into the hearts of millions.

You may well ask why Johnny Ray should receive at your hands the mercy of a Full Pardon. You may well ask why, just because he sings well, this single blot in his life should be expunged from the official files of your police courts.

It is not because Johnny is a singer that we ask this. It is merely because Johnny has since that conviction done a yeoman job of helping others.

Johnny Ray, not long after he made pots of money, did not forget the unfortunate. Johnny (hard of hearing himself) set up the Ray Foundation for the Hard of Hearing.

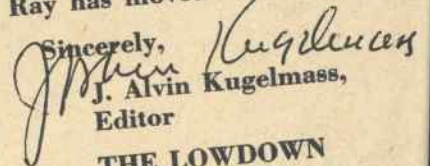
He made it possible for the wondrous sounds of our world (including his own singing) to be piped into the hearts and minds of several thousands of afflicted children who could not afford hearing aids.

For this alone, Johnny deserves official clearance.

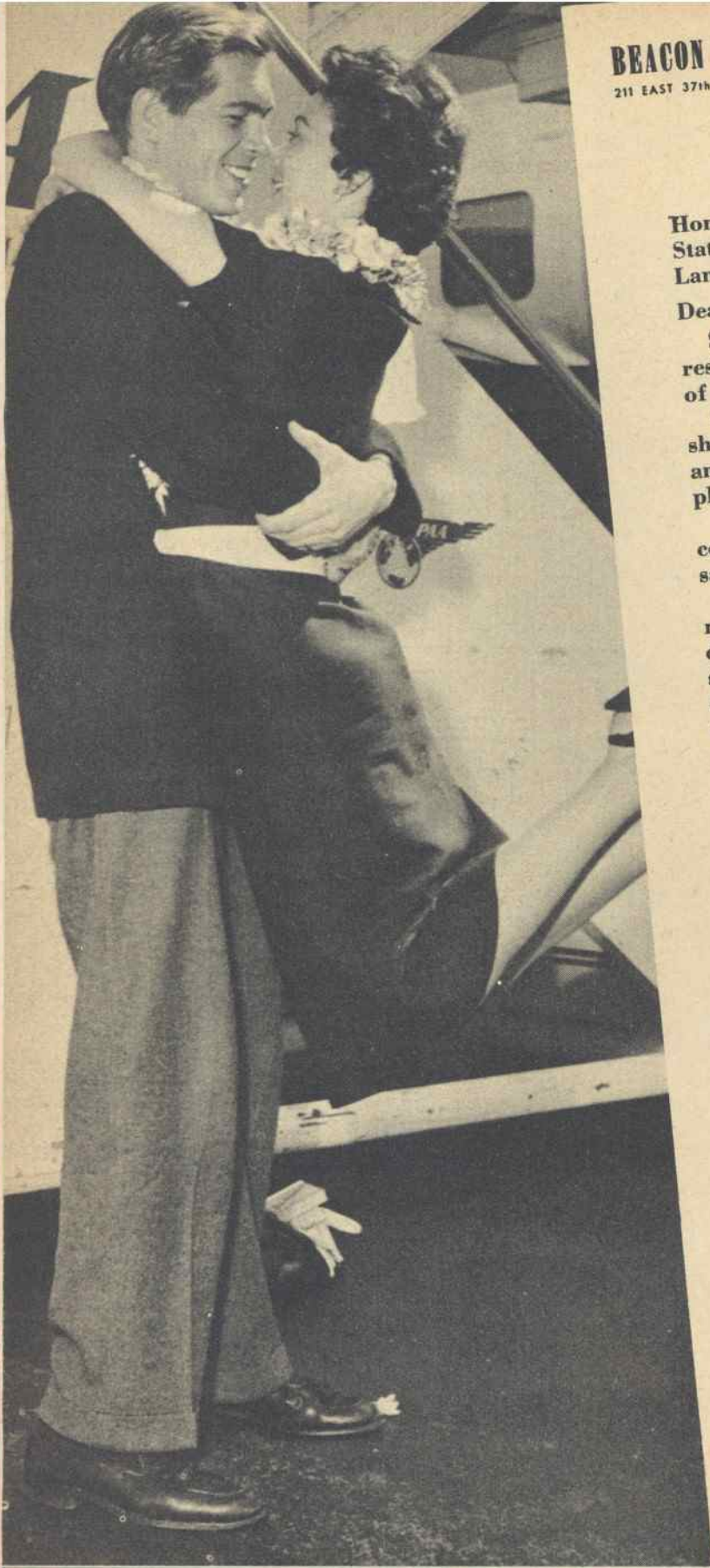
From where we sit, Johnny Ray has earned mercy.

We pray you, therefore, to exercise Executive Clemency and grant Johnny a Full Pardon. It will be a noble and deserving gesture from a great Governor of a great State. It will move the people of this country, and many abroad, even as Johnny Ray has moved them in song.

Sincerely,


J. Alvin Kugelmass,
Editor

THE LOWDOWN



Despite warm welcome, ex-wife scys "We're just buddies."

he added: "We could open a bottle and have a couple of blasts."

"What happens after that?" Demmers asked.

He then, as later testimony has it, made an indecent and immoral proposal. This is unprintable.

Patrolman Francis Demmers flashed his shield and placed Johnny Ray under arrest. Johnny protested that he was just "joking," and pleaded with Demmers to let him go.

Ray was taken to the station house and booked. The time was 2:20 A.M., June 6th, 1951.

Sergeant Michael Van de Keere was on the desk.

"What's the charge, officer?" he asked.

"I want to book this man under Section 448, Soliciting and Accosting," Demmers said.

According to the Sergeant, Johnny had difficulty hearing what was being said although he was wearing a hearing aid. The Sergeant noted that the arrested man had been drinking but that he was not drunk.

(Continued on page 48)



Ray clowns it up with Sammy Davis Jr., at \$30,000 party Marion Davies threw celebrating his marriage to Marilyn.

It all happened one night after he had left the Flame, a Detroit nightclub where he was singing.

JOHNNY RAY

(Continued from page 13)

The Sergeant asked Ray why, according to the officer, he had accosted a man. Johnny, according to the Sergeant, said:

"This is a result of something that happened to me years ago."

Ray was booked, placed in a cell and held for trial.

In the morning, Johnny was placed in the bull pen and awaited his turn. With him were the usual drunks, wife beaters, pickpockets and other debris cast up during the night from the customary sweep made by the police of a huge, metropolitan city.

He was arraigned before Records Judge Joseph A. Gillis. The Judge informed him as to his rights to retain counsel. Johnny said he didn't wish to have a lawyer, formally entered a plea of "Not Guilty," and waived trial by jury.

This was duly recorded in the dockets of the court and the Judge ordered an immediate trial.

Patrolman Demmers appeared as the witness against Johnny and testified as to his conversation with Ray in the basement toilet of the Stone Theatre Burlesque.

Ray denied the charge and denied that any immoral proposal had taken place.

Judge Gillis found Johnny Ray guilty. He was convicted of soliciting and accosting under Section 448 of the Penal Code of the State of Michigan. He was sentenced to either 30



Held on drunk charge in Boston: Johnny mobbed by admirers.

days in the Detroit House of Correction or a \$25 fine.

Johnny said he wished to pay the fine and handed the money over to the Clerk of the Court. He was then allowed to go free. He went back to his hotel room.

Before the trial, however, Johnny had been "mugged," fingerprinted and both the photos and the prints were sent, in routine fashion, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington which acts as a clearing house for arrested persons.

No other arrest or conviction of Johnny Ray has been found in the police files of any city in the United States. A quick check with police of countries in Europe also reveals that Johnny had not been arrested since.

That's how it was. That's how it happened. And presumably, that's how the stories about Johnny Ray have gotten about.

Since that one conviction, Johnny shot up like a Roman Candle and has made the top ranks of singers. He is lauded here and abroad; his name is headline news. He is torn to bits by enthusiastic autograph seekers and by fans—mainly teenage girls who like his technique of putting sobs in a song.

Meanwhile, too, Johnny has married and divorced. He wed beautiful and lush Marilyn Morrison and the marriage did not jell. Why, no one knows. This matter rests between Marilyn and Johnny. There has been ugly talk, about these nuptials, as well, but talk about people will always be ugly when there is the slightest thing to go by.

It is not easy to venture an opinion or to say this or that. I am a reporter and I set down the facts. The fact is that Johnny was not convicted of murdering anyone. He was not convicted of torturing or shooting anyone. He was convicted of a charge of soliciting and accosting.

We, on **LOWDOWN**, think Johnny has made a great career in singing. We also think he's a nice guy who helps needy kids. Furthermore, we think, he should get a Full Pardon for that lonely, single conviction. What do you think?



For Crying Out Loud: Johnny gives it everything he's got.

INSIDE PENTAGON SOURCES:

What Made Col. Hobby Cry?



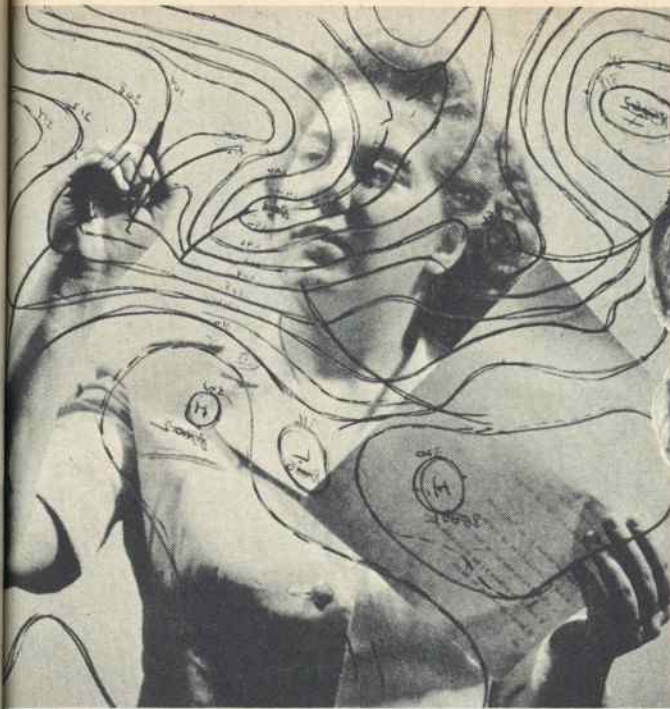
Glad Hands: Col. Hobby, right, WAC Director, meets Chief of similar British corps who also suffered under similar nasty cloud.

36



Whack: WAC Margie Franklin accused of mash notes to Nazis.

**The Sex Scandal
Erupted With
Such a Fury That
The WAC Colonel
Put Her Face in
Her Hands and
Wept Bitterly**



Good Work: Most WACs do yeomen jobs. Here Cpl. Babs Sperry labels weather maps.



Played Field: WAC Julia Pearl Davis Steele held on charge of getting allotment checks from 3 GIs.

By Frank Gunnison

WHILE the war was raging hot and furious, WAC Colonel Oveta Culp Hobby one day called an emergency meeting of her staff.

When everyone was assembled in the boardroom, Mrs. Hobby, holding a newspaper in her hand, rose to speak. Her lips trembled, her eyes filled with tears, and she broke down and cried bitterly. She slumped into her chair, buried her face in her hands and sobbed without let-up.

Her staff gathered about her and soon the reason became apparent.

It was a news story saying that the WACs had been infiltrated by a veritable army of lesbians who saw their way clear to happy hunting grounds—while being paid by Uncle Sam.

Later on, it was found that some of the charges were true. But many of the ugly stories cropping up had been part and parcel of the Nazi war of nerves—a move to discredit the more than 250,000 women who had joined up to fight Hitlerism.

WAC RINGERS

Later on, as well, it was found that professional lesbians had gotten up uniforms, resembling those worn by WACs, and were prowling the nightspots and bars looking for customers. When they were arrested, even the cops were fooled by the similarity of the uniforms.

But so widespread had been the stories, that even today in certain circles, there is a strong

feeling that the females in uniform are tainted. This is a sad thing.

But there is enough evidence to bolster some of the charges. Of course there were (and are) lesbians among the WACs even as there are homosexuals in the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Not long ago, the Army's Criminal Investigation Division in Washington, D. C., cracked down on Armed Forces' lesbians. A 19-year-old local WAC blew the whistle on the girls. Some 25 women, several of whom were Navy WAVES, were involved in the sordid sex practices.

In order to take the heat off the Pentagon, Lt. Col. Norman Sproul, public information officer for the military district of Washington, was appointed spokesman for "Project Lesbian."

Sproul did a good job—for the military. But it didn't include information.

A PROBLEM

"These cases are a continuing problem in the Army—as well as any community," Sproul said. "We are investigating complaints or intimations of anything of that nature constantly. The CID investigations are held in the strictest confidence."

As is the custom in such cases, the 19-year-old WAC was being kept under 24-hour-a-day surveillance—a fact Sproul wouldn't admit.

To this day, results in this case haven't been

(Continued on page 56)

OVETA HOBBY

(Continued from page 37)

made public!

In fact, the military never reveal derogatory information it can suppress. Nor the results of courts martial. Somebody has to "talk."

Here are a few homosexual cases never detailed by the military:

Two years ago, several WAC officers stationed in the Washington area resigned after a CID investigation of homosexuality among Armed Forces women.

Early in 1952, the Air Force failed to reveal that a company commander WAC captain was eased out of the service for playing favorites among the girls.

A big publicity play was being readied for the alert and aggressive captain—an attractive woman in her early thirties.

ALLOWED TO QUIT

No charge was brought by the military against this lesbian officer. She was allowed to resign without prejudice.

Two years ago, homosexual activities were the talk of the Blue

Grass State where only the horses are supposed to be fast. Locale: Camp Breckenridge, Ky.

Despite the fact that Army authorities were aware of homosexual activities in the camp, they chose to disregard that important fact.

After rounding up a group of girls, the military chose to charge six WAC sergeants with "assault."

Yet, before the fire had cleared, WAC Private First Class Carol Ann Kierce, 20, of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, had been accused by the six WACs of "peculiar activities."

Newsmen covering the Department of Defense in Washington long had heard of stories of homosexuality, thefts, low morale, beatings and drinking among members of the WAC detachment at Breckenridge.

Homosexual WACs were fighting and cursing each other for the possession of younger and more attractive WACs. Hardened Lady Lovers kissed and indulged in petting—often in public. Drunken brawls were frequent.

SENSITIVE

William J. Hughes, Washington lawyer who defended the six WAC sergeants, told this reporter the court rejected any discussion of homosexuality charges against Miss Kierce.

"It was a sensitive subject," Hughes said.

The hushed-up case pivoted around Pvt. Kierce. Kierce accused the six WAC sergeants of beating her brutally. As a result, the 20-year-old WAC, described as "apparently of low moral character," spent three weeks in the hospital recuperating from the beating.

All six WAC sergeants were found guilty of the allegedly brutal beating. They were:

Sgt. First Class Mary G. Long, 31, Fort Madison, Iowa, who was released from the service in January 1952—apparently imprisoned from Nov. 14, 1951;

Sgt. Edith M. Brown, 30, San Angelo, Texas, whose time had been completely served by May 1952;

JUST ASSAULT

Sgt. Juliette V. Mente, 28, Pecos, New Mexico, who received a sentence of one year;

Sgt. Grace L. Morton, 21, San Lorenzo, Calif., who received 18 months;

Sgt. Marjorie L. Shick, now 34, of Richmond, Va. She was reduced to the lowest grade, dishonorably discharged, given 18 months at hard labor.

Hughes told this reporter the six WAC sergeants were "intelligent and of excellent character." He added they were not charged with homosexual activities. The military simply decided to charge them with assault, he said.

Here is the background:

Pvt. Kierce said he joined Sgt. Mente on a binge one evening. Together, they guzzled at the Silverstone Bar near town, at the Highway Inn near Waverly, Ky. The two soon were joined by the other WAC sergeants. Later they drove to Uniontown, Ky.

A cat fight took place near a lonely picnic ground along the Ohio river after the "girls" had parked and had more drinks.

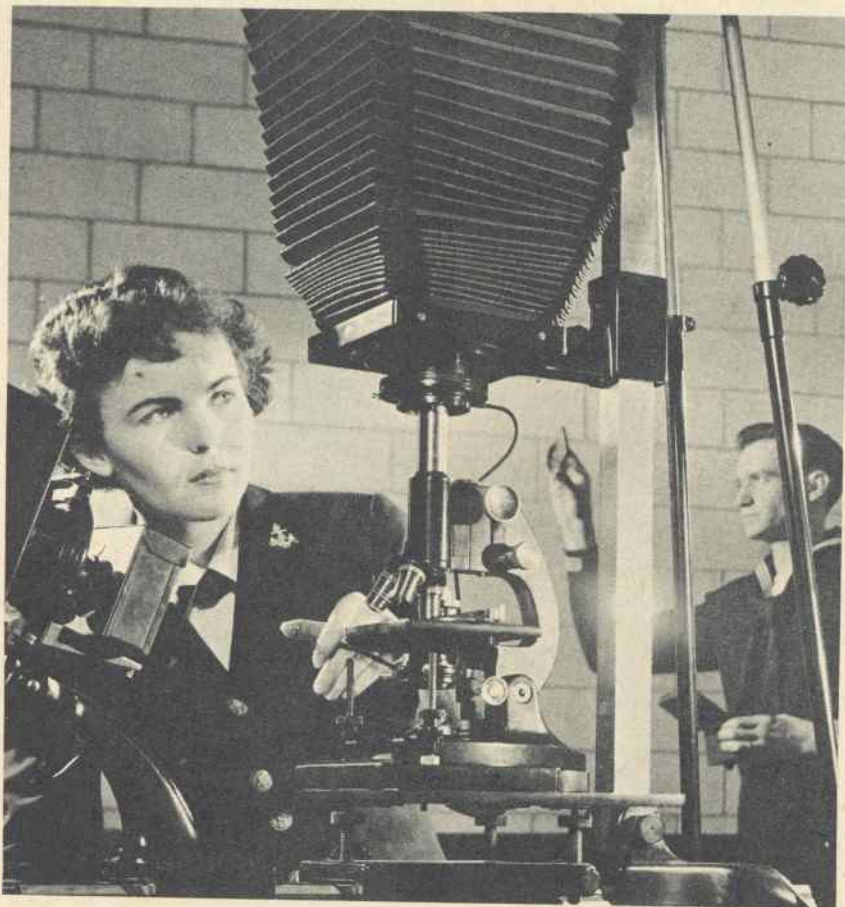
After an argument, according to Pvt. Kierce, the six WAC sergeants "jumped" her.

When Kierce reported to the medics, her mouth bleeding and her shirt stained, authorities decided to clean up Breckenridge.

Within a month, most of the WACs suspected of homosexual practices were transferred. The military closed its eyes to the sinful sex orgies. Today, the camp is reported to be clean.

But one WAC can infect hundreds. These hundreds, in turn, infect hundreds of others. Lady Lovers flock together.

Sooner or later, they become a sizeable group, fight for their favorites, and sometimes, another girl blows the whistle on the lesbians.



Great majority of women in armed forces do valuable job replacing men in non-combat jobs as WAVE, shown above at camera.