

# Man Who Never Saw It Runs Thruway's Univac

Albany — (NC) — The computer for the world's greatest toll expressway, the 588-mile New York State Thruway, is operated by a man who has never seen it.

He is James Stephens, 45, of Albany, who has been totally blind since 1941.

An employee of the Thruway for nearly three years, Mr. Stephens attended St. Patrick's school and Christian Brother Academy in Albany.

He runs the electronic Univac File Computer that does the expressway's complicated job of calculating, and he is highly regarded by his superiors.

THE THRUWAY'S computer was installed at Albany headquarters in 1957, and by that time Stephens had been with the Thruway for a year, working with punched card equipment then being used. The Thruway transferred him to computer operation, where he began by feeding cards into the huge machine, which processes Thruway roll cards at the rate of 27,000 an hour.

Later, Mr. Stephens took a Remington Rand course in "programming" for the computer, and's now chief programmer for the big machine. As such, he works out the complex patterns the machine follows in solving each of the problems the Thruway staff presents to the computer.

The program boards with which Jim Stephens works are complex mazes of wires, and would be confusing eyes to a man with sight. The computer, for instance, has to be made ready to accept the road's basic "program" which involves a startling total of 13,320 different combinations of toll rates.

After this basic data is fed into the machine, there are constant variations of the program as needed information is both

fed into and withdrawn from the computer.

EACH DAY the Thruway has to know how many trips by what kinds of vehicles were made over the road, their total mileage and the total toll revenue.

Thruway management also gets a complete traffic breakdown for each of the road's exit stations, and a tabulation of "point-to-point combinations" which shows how many, and what kind, of vehicles traveled from, say, Spring Valley to Albany, or Utica to Syracuse. All this and more, the Univac File Computer provides, with almost 100 per cent accuracy, with the sightless Mr. Stephens guiding the machine through its day's work.

Guiding Mr. Stephens is Garlo, his seeing eye dog, who has been with him for four years. Garlo accompanies his master to work each day and

spends eight hours snoozing on the floor of the Thruway's tabulating department. "This job is ruining him," said Mr. Stephens. "He's getting a bit lazy, I'm afraid."

Garlo also accompanies Mr. Stephens out to the local golf courses, where the Thruway employee is one of the stars of a group of eight or nine men who play golf in the Albany area.

Playing with a companion who has his sight and who guides him to the ball and helps him line up shots, Mr. Stephens shoots nine holes in the vicinity of 80 strokes.

A year or so ago Mr. Stephens was given a civil service examination on which he scored high grade. He gives much of the credit for his success to his wife, who has spent long hours reading him the manuals on file computers, and who assists him as he types directions on his Braille typewriter.

# A-Bomb Victim Now New Orleans Teacher

New Orleans — (NC) — Souvenirs of the A-bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, on August 6, 1945, are taken to class daily now at Loyola University of the South here.

Father Hubert F. Schiffer, S.J., who teaches industrial relations, has no choice in the matter — he has to take the souvenirs with him wherever he goes.

They are pieces of glass and wood embedded in his neck and they cannot be removed. Father Schiffer is a survivor of that World War II bombing which virtually destroyed the Japanese city.

A native of Germany, Father Schiffer was a Jesuit scholastic doing missionary work in Hiroshima. He had arrived in the city just two weeks before the bombing. He was seated in his office at the Jesuits' Assumption

church when the bomb exploded just eight blocks away.

In recent years Father Schiffer has lectured on the bombing in many parts of the country.

The Jesuit said his desire now is to return to Japan "to train social leaders and help turn back the red tide of communism which is threatening to engulf all of Asia."

No Longer 'Mediocre' — American Catholic laymen are no longer content with mediocrity, nor with mediocre leadership, Auxiliary Bishop Lee C. Byrne of St. Louis said here.



# Gavel For Best Speakers At Debate

Best speaker award at St. John's inter-collegiate debate tournament at St. John Fisher College was won by Chasen Gramm (left) of Siena College and Richard Milanese, Syracuse University School of Forestry. St.

John Fisher president Father Charles J. Lavery, C.S.B., presents prize gavel. University of Pittsburg debaters won the award with a record of six wins, no losses. Ten colleges took part in the contest.

# One Woman, Hundred Men

Seattle — (NC) — Thirty vivacious Mrs. Nancy Cortez Garcia of the Philippines is the only woman to head a delegation to the 21st annual Colombo Plan Conference at

Participants include Burma, Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaya, Nepal, New Zealand, North Borneo, Sarawak, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Singapore, and the United States.

The Colombo Plan, originally by foreign ministers of the British Commonwealth in London, Ceylon, in 1950, is a regional program for raising living standards in underdeveloped Asian countries.

This is the first year the annual conference has been held in the United States. President Eisenhower came to Seattle and addressed the 100 delegates (November 10) and three days later Secretary of State John Foster Dulles spoke to them (November 13).

# New Birth Control Pill Contrary To Moral Law

Washington — (NC) — A new oral contraceptive pill, for which claims of 100 per cent effectiveness have been advanced, is "no answer to the social problems it purports to solve," but "only adds another Catholic spokesman has declared.

Asked about the nature of her bank work, Mrs. Garcia said she helps make policy recommendations concerning monetary problems in the government.

Msgr. DeBlanc declared in his statement that the new pill is "the result of extreme materialism" and "could mean, for those

"I often represent the Department of Economic Research in congressional hearings and in policy-making committees of the government," she explained.

He continued: "The pill could make of religion for those who use it just another fad of the times, another cafeteria adapted to one's tastes. The will of God, the sense of authority, may now more easily give way to man's ego and libido.

# New Mass Decree Subject Of Study

## Medieval Mass Demonstration

Indianapolis — (NC) — A demonstration of the liturgy of the Papal Mass as it was offered in the time of St. Gregory the Great will be featured at a "Liturgical Day" workshop to be held at Marian College here, November 15.

In Italy, will be the first to consider the application of the new instruction recently issued by the Congregation of Rites.

## Georgetown Counts Elected Alumni

Taking the role of Pope Gregory and the officers of the "Mass" will be students of the Cathedral Latin School.

Washington — (NC) — Georgetown University here numbered six U.S. senators, 11 representatives and three state governors among its alumni after the November 4 elections.

Celebrant of the newly prescribed Dialogue Mass in the morning and principal speaker at the afternoon discussions will be Father Alfred C. Longley, pastor of St. Richard's Church, Minneapolis. His topic will be "The Parish Active At Mass."

They are: SENATORS: Philip A. Hart, Michigan; Harrison A. Williams, New Jersey; Dennis A. Chavez, New Mexico; Joseph C. O'Mahoney, Wyoming; Lyndon B. Johnson, Texas; and Alan H. Bible, Nevada.

AT HOME in Manila, where she is a member of St. John's parish, Mrs. Garcia serves as special assistant in the Department of Economic Research, Central Bank of the Philippines. The Central Bank is the Philippines' equivalent of United States Federal Reserve banks.

REPRESENTATIVES: John R. Foley, Maryland; John D. Dingell, Michigan; Milton W. Glenn, New Jersey; Joseph Mondrino, Oklahoma; Francis E. Walter, Pennsylvania; Richard M. Simpson, Pennsylvania; Paul J. Kilday, Texas; David S. King, Utah; Burr P. Harrison, Virginia; and John W. McCormack, Massachusetts who holds an honorary doctorate of laws from the Jesuit school.

Laity's Role,  
Expert's Topic

Taranto — (NC) — Holy Mass and the effects of the most recent instructions on the participation of the laity will be the center of discussion at the Italian national week of pastoral liturgy to be held here from November 23 to 30.

GOVERNORS: Michael V. DiSalle, Ohio; Christopher DelSesto, Rhode Island; and Calob Boggs, Delaware.

# Nation's Moral Fibre Reported Weaker

Los Angeles — (NC) — The moral fibre of the nation is growing weaker, not stronger, at this most crucial period in world history, J. Edgar Hoover told the American Bar Association meeting here.

TO MEET THE THREAT which communism presents to the future of mankind, our nation "must be as representative of law and order as world communism is of lawlessness and disorder," the FBI director said.

But, at the very time that it is most imperative for us to evidence a mounting respect for law and order, we are "forced to concede an ever growing national disregard for it," he declared.

"Crime costs \$1.11 each year for every \$1 spent on education," he said. "For every dollar we contribute to churches, crime costs us \$12."

Mr. Hoover, discussing increasing national disregard for authority, quoted city police figures showing that since 1952, the population under 18 had increased 22 per cent, while arrests of persons under 18 have increased 55 per cent.

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