

INTERESTING PEOPLE:
Famous and Infamous.

Back in the thirties, I talked with Sam Snead, golf champion, at Greenbrier Country Club in South Carolina.

I had lunch with Bill Lynn, who played the lead in "Three Men On a Horse", a successful Broadway play.

Beulah and I and two other couples spent an evening with Norman Brokenshire, radio newscaster, who was the Walter Cronkite of the early twenties. He later became an alcoholic. On one occasion he attempted to broadcast while under the influence of liquor and was replaced about as soon as he started. He lost his family and his job with NBC. He actually ended up in the gutter on the Bowery in New York City. After a few years, he staged a come-back, was reunited with his family, wrote an autobiography, "This Is Norman Brokenshire", which I read, and only recently he had a radio program broadcast from a retirement village in Florida. He always opened his program with "This is Norman Brokenshire, how DO YOU DO".

In Charleston, South Carolina, in the mid-nineteen-thirties, I took a close-up movie of Franklin D. Roosevelt--was close enough so I could have touched him.

Four days before President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, Beulah and I heard him speak in Tampa, Florida. He shook hands with people in the front row of the grandstand, directly in front of our second row seats. Beulah and I were on the beach in Florida when word of his assassination came over a portable radio.

I had lunch with George Phann, who won the hundred yard dash in the 1920 Olympics. He was a Cornell classmate of Tom Fennell, who was my assistant at Textile Bank. I also knew Joe Higgins, another Olympic runner, who was a classmate of mine at Fordham.

Arthur Cunningham was Counsel and Vice President of Textile Banking Company. I was elected to succeed him when he became Comptroller of the City of New York in 1933. He died of a heart attack at thirty-nine while horseback riding. A park in Brooklyn is named after him and there is a statue of him at the entrance to the Park. He was my boss at Textile Bank from 1921 to 1933, and a tough boss, too.

Father Francis P. Duffy was Chaplain of New York's Rainbow Division in World War I. Arthur Cunningham and I sat on the stage with him when he gave a talk at New York City's Town Hall and we spent the rest of the evening with him. Broadway and 46th Street in New York City is named "Duffy Square" and there is a statue of him at that location.

Jack Maguire, President of Textile Bank, Joseph P. Davies, former United States Ambassador to Russia, and Arthur Whiteside, President of Dunn and Bradstreet, were the members of the Stockholders' Committee in the reorganization of Botany Worsted Mills. I was Secretary of the Committee, attended Committee meetings, and took care of all correspondence, including numerous inquiries by stockholders concerning their investment.

Col. William J. ("Wild Bill") Donovan was the Commanding Officer of the Rainbow Division in World War I and later United States Attorney General. In 1933 he was rewriting the Federal Bankruptcy Act. He called at Textile Bank and I told him about the bankruptcy situation in the textile industry.

I knew Barbara Hutton, one of the country's richest girls, when she was six or seven years old. I knew her father, Franklin Hutton, and talked with him on several occasions in his suite at the Plaza Hotel in New York City. I also knew her uncle, Edward Hutton, the founder of E. F. Hutton and Co., which is now the fourth largest brokerage house in the United States.

Buddy Baldwin was a good friend of Beulah's and mine. He had his own orchestra and played at several New York hotels. I also knew Jack Ohlson, who played the drums for Paul Whiteman.

I often had luncheon with Ed Bartlett, who wrote stories and articles for magazines, including the "Saturday Evening Post" and "The New Yorker".

Millard F. Tompkins, a New York City lawyer, was guardian of Barbara Hutton and attorney for the executor of her mother's estate. E. F. Hutton & Co. and Warner Bros. were among his clients. While going to Law School (4 p.m. to 7 p.m.), I worked for him and lived with him and his family in Brooklyn for two years. I lived alone in their house two summers, except for a black maid who prepared my meals. They wanted the house to be occupied while they were away and wanted to keep the maid. Millard F. Tompkins, Jr., went to Reno with Barbara Hutton and arranged one of her divorces. He saw her lose \$15,000 in a few minutes at a gambling table and said she was "no more concerned about it than if she had lost a dime". Barbara Hutton's mother died of a gun shot wound at the breakfast table with her family, a mysterious death never adequately explained.

I had dates with Brenda Howard of Maplewood, New Jersey, and talked with her father, who was bowling champion of New Jersey.

I met and talked with Waite Hoyt, Yankee pitcher in the early twenties and now a member of baseball's Hall of Fame. My roommate was his sister's boy friend.

I knew and talked with several baseball players who stayed at La Playa in Florida, where Beulah and I stayed--Tom Seaver (three time Cy Young Award winner), Ed Kranepool, Bud Harellson and Rusty Staub of the Mets; Bob Murphy (their broadcaster) and Gus Mauch (their trainer); also Joe Torre and Ted Sizemore of the St. Louis Cardinals. Actually, I was better acquainted with their wives who were always in the pool or poolside when I took my morning swim.

I spent a few weekends at Norman Rockwell's home at 158 Central Avenue, New Rochelle, New York. I lived with his brother-in-law in Brooklyn. We watched Norman paint in a little garage-like building in back of his house. He was painting covers for the "Saturday Evening Post".

At the Hotel New Yorker, we obtained the autograph of Glenn Miller, orchestra leader. He introduced Bill to a little gal across the room. At the Hotel Pennsylvania, Benny Goodman gave us his autograph.

John T. Laughran taught one of my classes at Fordham Law; he later became Chief Justice of the New York State Court of Appeals, the State's highest court. My mother and I had an interesting talk with him at a New York City theatre where we saw Fay Bainter in "East Is West".

Kenneth Andler is an accomplished artist and writer. His oil paintings have been on exhibit for the public to enjoy. He has written several books and also articles for "New Hampshire Profiles" and other publications. His letters have appeared in "The New York Times". Ken has been one of my closest friends for nearly forty years.

White & Case is one of the outstanding law firms in New York City. The firm was General Counsel for Textile Bank when I was Office Counsel, and I was well acquainted with several partners of the firm.

1) Senior Partner, Col. Joseph M. Hartfield, attorney for England in this country, attorney for J. P. Morgan and United States Steel. He was said by some people to be the smartest and most influential lawyer in New York City. He proposed me for membership in the Lawyers' Club.

2) Henry Mannix, a classmate of mine at Fordham Law and a close friend, represented a number of large corporations and arranged for Barbara Hutton to regain her United States citizenship, which she had given up when marrying one of her foreign husbands. Henry spent three years in France in charge of the firm's Paris office.

3) Lowell Wadmond, another close friend, was President of the Metropolitan Opera Association and took care of all their legal matters. He used to have dates with J. P. Morgan's daughter. Shortly before Tom Dewey was appointed Special Prosecutor for New York County, Lowell was offered the appointment and turned it down, recommending Dewey. They both came from the same town in Wisconsin and both sang in the choir at St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Fifth Avenue in New York City.

4) Irving Olds, who became President and later Chairman of the Board of the United States Steel Corporation. As far back as I can remember, every President and Chairman of the Board of that corporation came out of White & Case.

5) Joseph P. Bennett, attorney for Bankers Trust and other important clients.

White & Case partners had an understanding that when any one of them had accumulated a million dollars in securities and bank accounts, he would accept no further salary or payments from the firm.

One day Henry Mannix and I turned down Paul Pennoyer's invitation for lunch. He was J. P. Morgan's son-in-law. When Henry Mannix was twenty-one years old, he was teaching Latin at St. John's College in Brooklyn, New York.

At the Rainbow Room in New York City, Beulah and I sat next to a table where Mary Pickford and Buddy Rogers were having dinner.

One night at Club 21 I stood at the downstairs bar next to Adele Astaire, Fred's sister, who married into English nobility. I think her title is "Lady Cavendish".

Tom Dewey was Special Prosecutor for New York County, four term Governor of New York State, and Republican nominee for President of the United States in 1944 and 1948. I had lunch at the Lawyers' Club with him and Lowell Wadmond, his friend and mine, of White & Case. I did not warm up to Dewey--he was too conceited. His tremendous record of success in prosecutions was due to the thorough preparation of each case and his refusal to prosecute unless he had conclusive and uncontradictable evidence.

At an after-hours and rather intimate night club, I sat next to and talked with Libby Holman, so-called torch singer of the thirties. She was tried and acquitted of murdering her husband, R. J. Reynolds, Jr., of the Reynolds tobacco family.

Virginia Dawn, a Follies girl, and her boy friend, sat at a table next to ours and left before we did. Word came back shortly that she had jumped from a window in the St. Regis Hotel and killed herself.

Beulah and I spent an evening with Jeanette McDonald and her boy friend, Jack Oelrichs, at a Rockville Centre party of five couples at the home of one of his friends and ours. She was in a Broadway show at that time. Beulah and members of her bridge club talked with Jeanette on one occasion back stage in her dressing room.

At the Flushing Country Club, I had a locker right next to one being used by Babe Ruth. If I ever felt like a midget, that was the time--he was enormous!

At a Red Cross banquet at the Waldorf, I shook hands and passed the time of day with Al Smith, Governor of New York and Democratic nominee for President of the United States in 1928. On another occasion at the Waldorf I met and talked with "Oscar of the Waldorf"--his last name was "Tschuerke". As a matter of fact, a lawyer friend of mine and I had lunch with him.

In 1931, two years before Fiorella La Guardia was elected Mayor of New York City, he was appointed czar of the printing and dyeing industry. He called at Textile Bank and I explained to him how factors maintained liens on merchandise temporarily at finishing plants--he was a colorful guy, personable and very friendly.

At Paul Smith's fashionable hotel in the Adirondacks, I talked with William Rockefeller, brother of John D. Rockefeller, on several occasions. He and I were often the only ones in the hotel lobby at six o'clock in the morning.

Also, at Paul Smith's Hotel I spent several mornings at the piano in the Grill Room with Irving Berlin, while he composed songs. It was my job to keep everyone else out of the Grill Room. Berlin married Ellen Mackey, daughter of Western Union's Clarence Mackey. Her father was a devout Catholic and disowned her for marrying a Jew. A Fordham classmate of mine, Kenneth O'Brien, a Catholic who later became a New York Supreme Court Judge, married Ellen's sister, Kathryn. The Berlin marriage is still going strong. The O'Brien marriage ended in divorce.

Katherine Murphy was another law school classmate of mine. Her father, Charles Murphy, was boss of Tammany Hall.

At a Harlem night club I talked with Evelyn Nesbit, who sat at our table for a while--she was one of the entertainers. Evelyn Nesbit was the central figure in the much publicized trial of her husband, Harry K. Thaw, for the murder of Stanford White, noted architect and prominent New Yorker. She talked only about her son, Harry K. Thaw, Jr., who was in the air service.

In Rockville Centre, Beulah and I rented David Dryer's house when he moved to Hollywood. He wrote the words for "Me and My Shadow", "Cecilia", and others--he went to Hollywood to write for the movies. Beulah bought the wicker furniture in our living room from his wife.

Our living room here in Sunapee used to be the billiard room and a wing on the twenty-four room house built by Richard Colgate of the tooth paste family and torn down twenty-eight years ago when Fernwood was developed.

The grandfather clock in our living room is over a hundred years old. It was formerly owned by my father and located in his jewelry store in Potsdam, New York. It was called a Regulator. All New York Central trains in Northern New York State ran according to this clock. The trainmen on such trains were required to call weekly at my father's store so he could set their watches by this clock and sign their cards certifying that they had complied with this requirement. My father was given a pass to travel free anytime and anywhere on all New York Central trains.

Before an exhibition match in Tampa, Florida, I had a five minute talk with Luther Lassiter, four time pocket billiard champion of the world. I also knew Eddie Taylor, 1973 bank pool world champion. His record run was fifty-six.

When Beulah and I lived in an apartment house in Rockville Centre, we were invited to one of the other apartments to meet Bernt Balchen. He flew the Atlantic with Admiral Byrd in 1927, shortly after Lindberg's historic flight. Balchen was co-pilot on Byrd's first Antarctic Expedition and was the first to fly over the South Pole.

Frank Stutz was a textile counsellor and a good friend of mine. He once received a fee of \$50,000 for telling a textile mill to make no velvet for the coming season. The mill had sought his advice as to how much and what color to make.

I never met John Pingling, owner of Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus, but on several occasions we sat in his private box at Madison Square Garden. Access to the box was private and only through the Madison Square Garden Club. Some of my associates at Textile Bank visited John Pingling at his home in Sarasota, Florida. At the push of a button, one wall in his living room opened up and wild animals, with their trainer, paraded through the room.

In 1921 Mary Burns had a two-week singing engagement at the opening of the Paramount, then New York City's largest and best movie and vaudeville theatre. My mother and I went to hear her--we knew her well from her school days in Potsdam, New York.

At Paul Smith's Hotel, on the bartender's day off, I mixed cocktails and served them to Norma and Constance Talmadge in their room. Both were stars of the silent film.

I knew Max Gardner, Governor of North Carolina, from pre-fight parties at the Manhattan Club and his many calls at Textile Bank.

I talked with Harvey Gibson, President of Manufacturer's Trust and Chairman of the Board of Textile Bank and controlling stockholder of each, when Woody (his nephew) and I were playing golf at the Creek Club in Locust Valley, Long Island's most exclusive Country Club. J. P. Morgan was President of the Club and the Treasurer was Harvey Gibson. It was in the summer and the course was deserted. Uncle Harvey said, "All the members are in Europe".

Woody was married in a hurry when he was a senior in college and his wife had a baby. Harvey paid \$12,000 for a divorce arranged by his and her attorneys and the matter was never discussed or mentioned between Harvey and Woody, not even a "Thank you" from Woody. \$12,000 was a lot of money in the nineteen-twenties when you could buy a Ford for \$600 and a Pontiac for \$800. In those days a graduate right out of law school earned only \$1,500 his first year with New York's top law firms compared with \$20,000 today.

Uncle Harvey's first wife was a Whitney. His second wife's maiden name was Bourne. Her family owned Singer Sewing Machine. I had dinner with her at the Waldorf at a table of six, a Red Cross banquet, where Harvey was the principal--in fact, the only--speaker.

At Woody's bachelor party, twelve of us got together at a New York hotel. I sat next to Howard Bunn, who later became President and Chairman of the Board of Union Carbide.

When Wesley Powell was Governor of New Hampshire, I spent an evening with him at John Condon's home in Newport, New Hampshire.

Clifford Holland was chief engineer in the construction of the tunnel under the Hudson River, connecting Manhattan and New Jersey. It is named after him--the Holland Tunnel. It was the first ventilated, underwater, vehicular tunnel to be built anywhere. I met him at his home in Newark, New Jersey. He died three days before the tunnel was opened to traffic. His son, Joe, was a classmate at Fordham and Bill's godfather. Joe was the envy of our crowd--he had a Stutz Bearcat, the ultimate in sport cars in the nineteen-twenties.

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Bertram Snell was Speaker of the United States House of Representatives in the early thirties. He gave a gymnasium to Amherst College--it is named after him. I was well acquainted with him and his family. His daughter was a close friend of my sister Marion. Speaking of my sister, she was the closest to a saint of anyone I have ever known.

My father was a devout Catholic. When he was on his death bed, a Methodist minister called on him. The minister suggested, "John, let's say a prayer together". My father replied, "You say your prayers; I'll say mine".

Hazel Wightman was a women's world champion tennis player. Beulah and I were introduced to her when she took part in an exhibition match at parents' weekend at Camp Wallula in New London, New Hampshire, where John, Bill, and Tom went to summer camp. The Wightman Cup is now awarded annually in the United States-Great Britain competition.

Bob Fogg was a friend of Charles Lindberg and the first pilot to fly the United States Mail. He lived in Croyden, New Hampshire, and was a friend of mine. His son, Robert Fogg, Jr., is a jet test pilot.

Preston Sturgis married Eleanor Hutton, Barbara's cousin. He wrote "Strictly Dishonorable", a successful Broadway show. He also wrote the script for and directed several movies. Beulah and I saw "Up Morgan's Creek" and "Sullivan's Travels", which he wrote, directed, produced, and took the leading part in. "Life" magazine gave him two pages of pictures; one showed him at a circular desk with six secretaries (all beauties) in front of him. He and I were discharged from the Air Force on the same day. We travelled together on the train from Arcadia, Florida, to New York City, stopping off and staying overnight in several cities--the trip took ten days. After arrival in New York, I spent three weeks with him and his mother at their New York apartment at 3 West 50th Street. We visited the Guggenheim family, one of New York's oldest, at their mansion on Fifth Avenue.

Preston's mother's closest friend was Isadora Duncan, internationally known dancer. His mother, Mary, was with Isadora Duncan when the latter was killed in a car in Switzerland. The end of a long scarf she was wearing caught in the wheel of an open roadster and she was instantly strangled. They were test driving a car they had seen and admired in an automobile showroom window as they were passing on the street. Later Preston's mother married an Arab by the name of Desti and wrote a biography, which I read, "The Untold Story". Isadora's troupe of dancing girls was called "The Isadorables". Isadora has been referred to as an "international whore"--mainly, I think, because she lived

for twelve years with Henry Singer, founder of the sewing machine company, without being married. Also, she was said to have had a black baby. I recall such a baby being in bed with Preston's mother every morning, but I assumed it belonged to the black maid. Perhaps I was mistaken.

After World War I, Preston Sturgis bought a used plane from the Government and wanted me to go with him on a barnstorming tour--stunt flying at country fairs, but I had decided to go back to law school. I have often wondered what my life would have been like if I had gone on the barnstorming tour and later on to Hollywood with him. He died several years ago.

I had breakfast and played golf with Roy Young, Chairman of the Board of New England Merchants National Bank and former Governor of the Boston Federal Reserve Board.

Recently, when in Vail, Colorado, I saw former President Gerald Ford on the golf course with four Secret Service men following him. Another was probably driving the cart. Presidents are entitled to five after leaving office.

One of the most remarkable men I've known was Jack Maguire. He had to quit school at fourteen when his father, a Jersey City fireman, died. He went to work as a messenger for White & Case. When he was twenty-one, he was named Assistant Cashier of the old Liberty National Bank, and was said to be the youngest bank officer New York City ever had. When he was twenty-eight, he was able to persuade a group of bankers to put up five million dollars to start Textile Bank.

Dorothy Loudon, two time Tony Award winner, still gets standing ovations nightly for her performance in "Annie", a successful Broadway production. She is about to make her first film, "Good Times--Bad Times". She was a counsellor at Soanghataha, a camp Barb went to a couple of summers.

John, Bill, and Tom spent a total of twenty-two summers at Camp Wallula, a democratic, but rather exclusive, boys' camp in New London, New Hampshire, limited to fifty campers. Bud Hoban, a three-letter man at Dartmouth, was owner and director. When we were first introduced to him at Bromwell Ault's Park Avenue apartment in New York City, Grantland Rice, the Dean of American sports writers, was entertaining at the piano. It was Rice who came up with: "It's not whether you win or lose--it's how you play the game that counts". Counsellors at Wallula included Leo Barry (swimming coach at Brown and twice coach of the United States Olympic swimming team), later Hal Uhlin (Harvard swimming coach), Henry Lamar (Harvard boxing coach and later Boxing Commissioner for Massachusetts), Leo Rawls (captain of

the Princeton tennis team and who had national ranking), Evvy Woodman (captain of the Dartmouth baseball team and later President of Colby-Sawyer College), Merryl Frost (all-American football back from Dartmouth), and others with impressive backgrounds. A national sports publication referred to Frost as a "twinkle toed runner", but at camp when he was called "Twinkle Toes", he expressed such displeasure that the nickname didn't stick.

Impressive sports backgrounds alone did not qualify men for counsellors at Wallula; in addition to personality, appearance, and moral strength, they had to understand young boys, be able to work effectively with them, and set good examples for their future. John and Tom became junior counsellors at Wallula and Bill eventually became a senior counsellor. While a camper, John was the boxing champion, never having lost a match.

Campers from great or near-great families included Adrian Rothschild of the foreign banking family, Napoleon Bonaparte XIV, Andrew Carnegie VI, Rene Mendes-France (son of the Prime Minister of France). Vincent Astor and Alfred Vanderbilt were among the campers the first year the camp opened. Not too many years ago the Vanderbilts and Astors were the only American families recognized by English royalty. John says none of the counsellors ever talked about their achievements nor did the campers ever talk about their families or their social or financial status. Bud Hoban coached the University of Mexico's first football team.

I had a couple of "firsts" myself. In 1940 I became the first Catholic ever elected treasurer of a savings bank in New Hampshire. In 1935 I filed the first "Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors" ever filed in the Virgin Islands. While not a "first", I had the somewhat unusual experience of learning to fly a plane and flying solo before I learned how to drive a car. In those days, as they say, "We flew by the seat of our pants". We did not have today's sophisticated instruments.

Another "not a first", but quite unusual, Beulah started teaching school when she was only eighteen years old. Also, when Beulah was sixteen and attending Potsdam Normal School, she was teaching ballet to her classmates and other students.

While in the Virgin Islands, I spent two evenings with the Governor of the Islands and his wife. They were close friends of the Walter Maguires, where I stayed for six weeks.

Camp Maryln in Andover, New Hampshire, was Wallula's sister camp operated by Bud Hoban's sister Margaret. Barb went there and Bill and Janie's three daughters all spent several summers there.

In the late twenties, following Vernon and Irene Castle and his death in World War I, Veloz and Yolando were the No. 1 ball room dancing team in the nation. I knew Veloz--he worked at Textile Bank before he became famous.

At that time Pat Rooney was the No. 1 tap dancer. I saw him perform at the Palace in New York and in the Ziegfeld Follies. I talk with Pat now at the Country Squires luncheons--he lives in Bradford, New Hampshire.

Alex Barth was one of my closest friends in New York. When I was with Textile Bank, I arranged a loan of \$40,000 for him to buy a textile company. By the time he was thirty-six years old he had made a million dollars. For a year or more (just preceding our move to New Hampshire), Alex and I had a standing date for luncheon every Wednesday at the Lawyers' Club.

Often I used to see former President Herbert Hoover in the lobby of the New York Life Building. He had an office on an upper floor and Textile Bank was on the ground floor.

Martin Meany was Deputy Police Commissioner of New York City. He was a friend of mine and we often had lunch at the Manhattan Club.

Ernest Blood was coach of the Passaic (New Jersey) High School basketball team during the years when they won over three hundred consecutive games. He was my track coach in high school and he gave Beulah ballet lessons. Before he went to Passaic, he coached the Potsdam Normal High School basketball team. The high school was associated with and played under the name of "Potsdam Normal School". While the team was composed entirely of high school students, they played (and often beat) Columbia, Cornell, and other college teams. Each of the five players from one year's team later became captain of his college team. The colleges were Dartmouth, Cornell, St. Lawrence, Clarkson Tech., and Columbia. Rufus Sisson, who went to Dartmouth, was named to the All-American team. Coach Blood eventually coached at West Point.

On TV I recently heard Danny Thomas say that Abe Reynolds was the funniest comedian he ever knew. Beulah and I knew him when we lived in Baldwin Harbor, Long Island. He was a neighbor, and his brother, Artie Reynolds, was a good friend of ours.

One summer, when I worked at Paul Smith's Hotel, two gals were there--sisters (and well known entertainers) and I saw them daily. Their names were Vivian and Rosetta, and they were either the Duncan Sisters or the Dolly Sisters--I don't recall which.

Jean Schwartz, a song writer, wrote "Bedelia" and several other songs. He autographed and gave me a copy of one of them when he was at Paul Smith's Hotel.

I spent two hours with Robert Stevens, President of J. P. Stevens & Co., one of the largest textile companies, and Secretary of the Navy during World War II.

I had dinner with Horace Cheney and his family at their palatial home in Wilton, Connecticut. Horace and his brother, Ward Cheney, were co-owners of Cheney Bros., one of the outstanding silk manufacturers for many years prior to the nineteen-thirties.

John Browning was a classmate of mine in Ground School at Princeton and the University of Texas at Austin. His father invented the Browning machine gun used extensively in World War I. I can still name the eleven moving parts of that gun. Some of the planes I flew were equipped with the Browning machine gun that was synchronized to shoot through the propeller. Another Ground School classmate was Jim Hershey of the chocolate family.

Joyce Kilmer, who wrote the poem "Trees", was killed in World War I. In 1920 I took his widow to a dance in Brooklyn.

In 1933 Dr. Weiss, brother of Houdini, the Magician, took out my tonsils. I went to work the next day.

Finally, I have lived for twenty-seven summers next door to Dr. Karl Folkers, who discovered vitamin B₁₂ and vitamin B₆ and who has received many awards in his field of research.

Of all these interesting people, Beulah is still No. 1 in my book!

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October 16, 1977.