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City Management

THE FAST-TRAVELLING city manager plan, which Prince Rupert city council is investigating, is headed for a milestone marked 1000.

The manager form of local government has been adopted by 986 communities in the United States and Canada—345 of them in the last five years.

Clarence E. Ridley, director of the International City Managers Association, says:

"I wouldn't be surprised if it reached the 1000 mark late this year or early in 1951."

The manager plan, in its bid for public favor, has been competing against two older types of municipal government. One is the familiar mayor-council type. It dates back to colonial times.

The second is the commission system. Under this set-up, a city is run by a group of men elected by the voters. It was introduced in 1900.

The council-manager plan, as it is formally known, usually works this way:

Citizens elect a city council on a non-partisan basis. The council hires an experienced administrator as city manager. The council sets up the budget, enacts laws and determines the policies to be followed.

The manager takes it from there. He appoints department heads, supervises city employees and directs the day-to-day operations of the city government.

The first municipal use of the title "manager" was in Staunton, Va. The office of "general manager" was created there in 1908. Sumter, S.C., adopted the manager system in 1912 and it began to spread.

Among the larger centres that have had managers for 15 years or more are San Diego, Miami, Kansas City, Mo., Cincinnati, Rochester, N.Y., Dayton, Oklahoma City, Fort Worth, Dallas, Norfolk, Va., Oakland, Sacramento and Grand Rapids, Mich. The system has also spread to Canada.

"Cities grew during the 20th century," Ridley says. "Activities of local governments have more than doubled. Government became big business. The many activities of cities required co-ordination. The manager system offered a simple method of bringing about this co-ordination."

The National Municipal League says that at latest count—July 28—986 places had the council-manager form of government. The total includes villages, towns, cities and counties in the United States and 42 communities in Canada, Alaska and Puerto Rico.

(The International City Managers Association is an organization of city managers. The National Municipal League is an organization of citizens which advocates the manager plan.)

There have been losses as well as gains. So far, the council-manager system has been abandoned by 46 cities. Among them are Cleveland and Akron, O., Houston, Tex., and Hot Springs, Ark.



As
I
See
It

By ELMORE PHILPOT
SHAW FOOLS US

GEORGE BERNARD Shaw has done it again. He has fooled the world in general and the newspapers in particular. All the press services of the world (including even Russia's) had their obituary stories of the famous playwright up to date and all ready to print at a moment's notice.

But the 90-plus-year-old man has fooled us all. He has recovered from his accident, recovered from his two operations, recovered from the numerous washings to which they subjected him night and day. He has gone home.

THE LITERATE world has argued about Shaw for half a century and more. They will argue about him for centuries to come.

Here is my two-bits worth: I regard Shaw as by far the most influential writer of this period. In fact, my guess, for what it is worth, is that Shaw will emerge as the most-studied playwright since Shakespeare.

That is partly because of the sheer brilliance of the man; partly because he has a genius for making himself a storm centre of public controversies of the particular type which newspapers love to print in their front pages. But, above all, Shaw will loom larger and larger in future centuries because he has expressed judgments upon just about everything under the sun. He did that, not only in his plays and books and articles. But above all he did it with clarity in the introductions he wrote to his plays.

MANY PEOPLE think Shaw was, and is, a failure. He was a lifelong socialist and radical. Yet the welfare state, with its thin top layer of state-capitalism, is poles apart from the system of complete equality for which he stands. Moreover, it is doubtful if Shaw's expressions have ever had much short range effect. That is partly because the Irish genius can be quoted against himself on just about every current question. In later years he has said kind things about Stalin. He backed Konni Zilliacus, who was snowed under in the latest British election. But some people remember that Shaw also condemned Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia; also his predictions that the second world war was not inevitable.

MY OWN CONCLUSION is that Shaw deliberately withdrew from the day-to-day political struggle and concentrated on creations which he believed would have more lasting bene-

fits for the human race. He was certainly a deep enough student of history to know that the writings which have the most profound effect are those which take a long time to "hatch out" so to speak. If I recall correctly, Adam Smith wrote his famous book *THE WEALTH OF NATIONS* in 1776. But the free trade and free enterprise he advocated did not win out even in Britain for about 75 years. Karl Marx wrote his *Communist Manifesto* about 1848. It was not till 1917 that any great nation went Communist.

What Shaw taught and advocated, therefore, will have a far greater long range than short range effect. For it is long range writing.

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SHAW HAS MADE a vast fortune by ridiculing and even devastating most of the illusions and even institutions which his rich paymasters hold most dear.

Some will say the English (and Americans) were too dumb to know what the witty Irish-

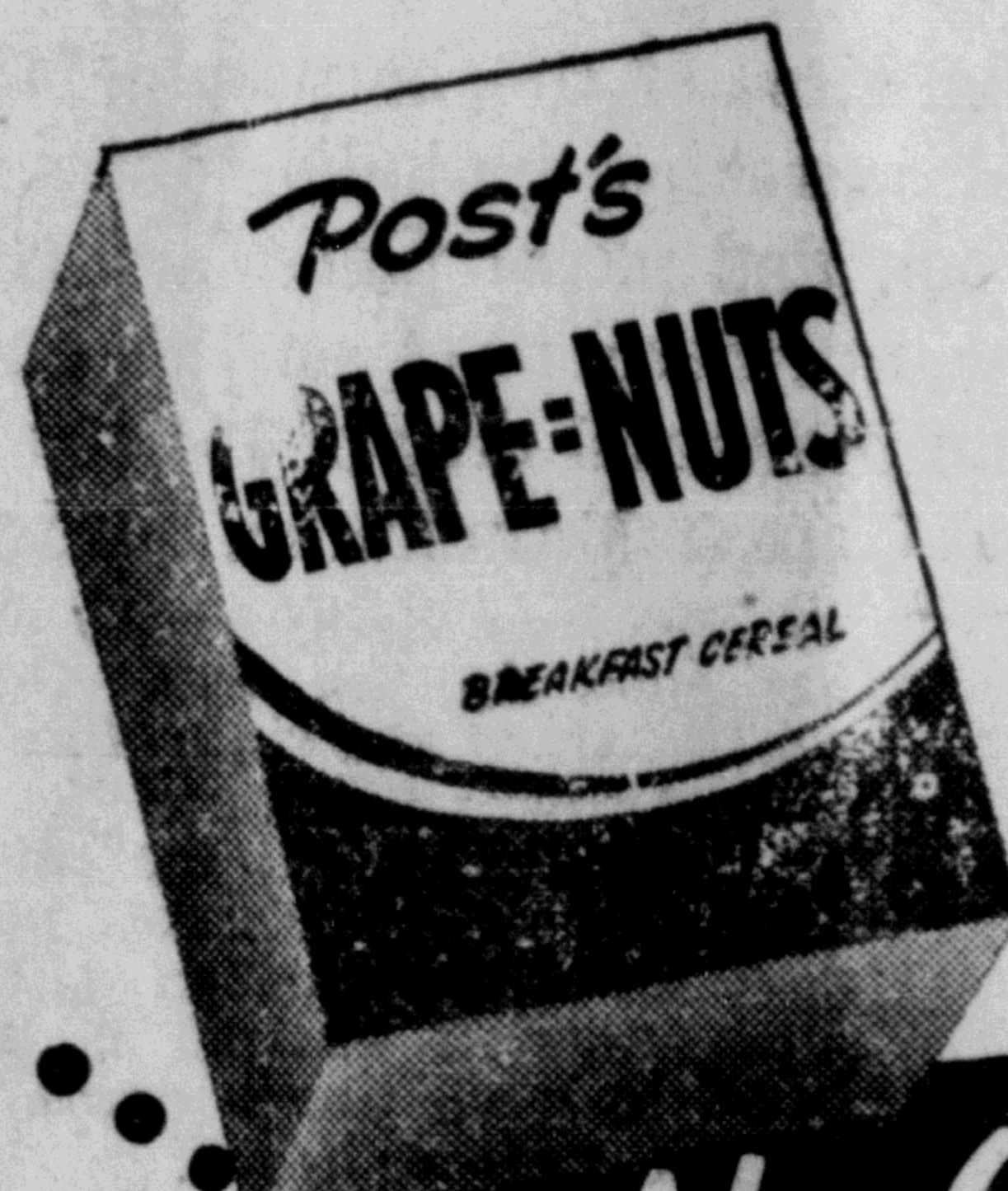
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1 cup milk
2 egg whites, stiffly beaten

• Cream butter and sugar thoroughly, add egg yolks, lemon juice and rind; then flour, Grape-Nuts, and milk. Fold in egg whites. Pour into greased baking dish placed in pan of hot water. Bake in slow oven (325°F.) about 1 hour and 15 minutes, until set. Serve hot or cold with cream. Makes 6 servings.

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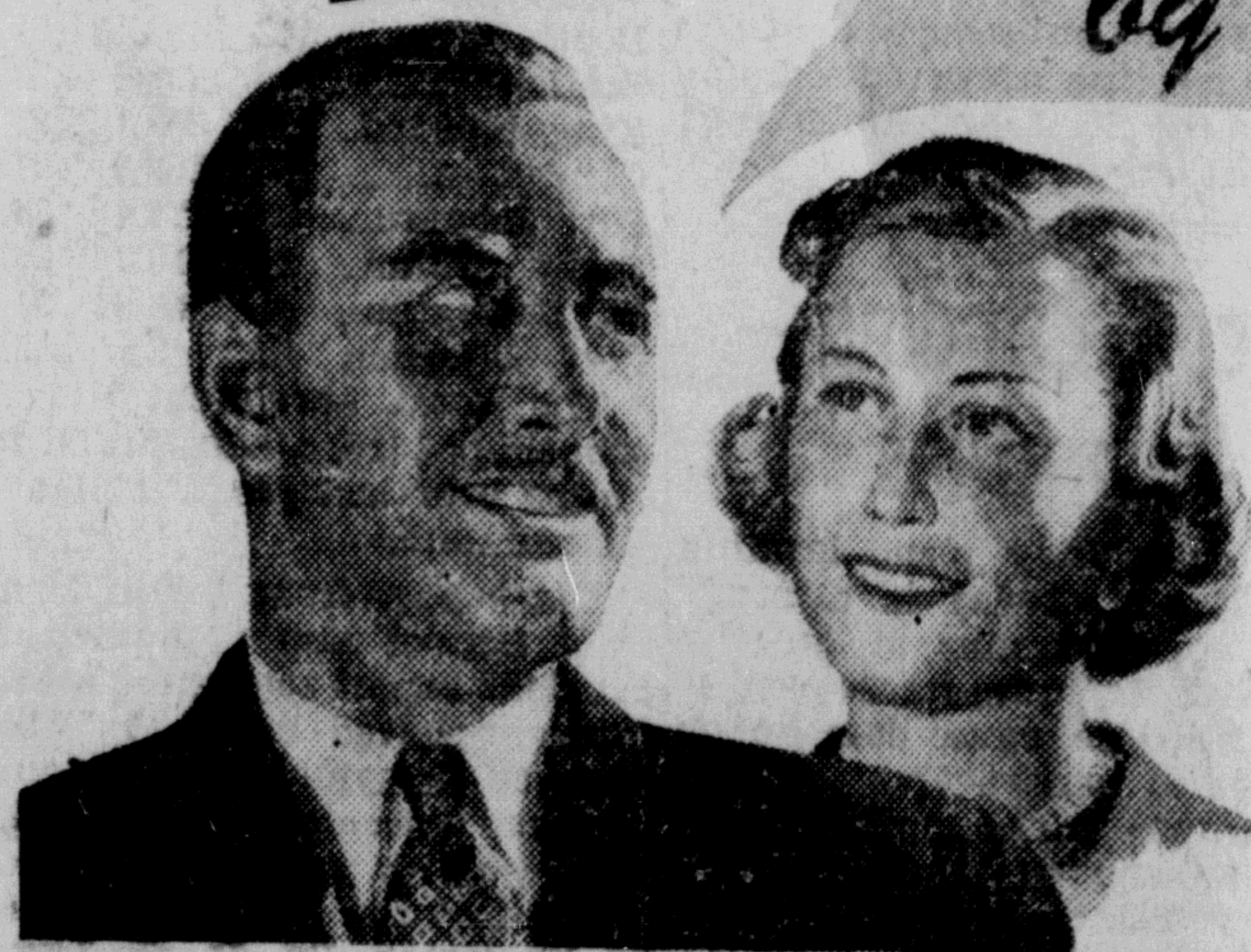
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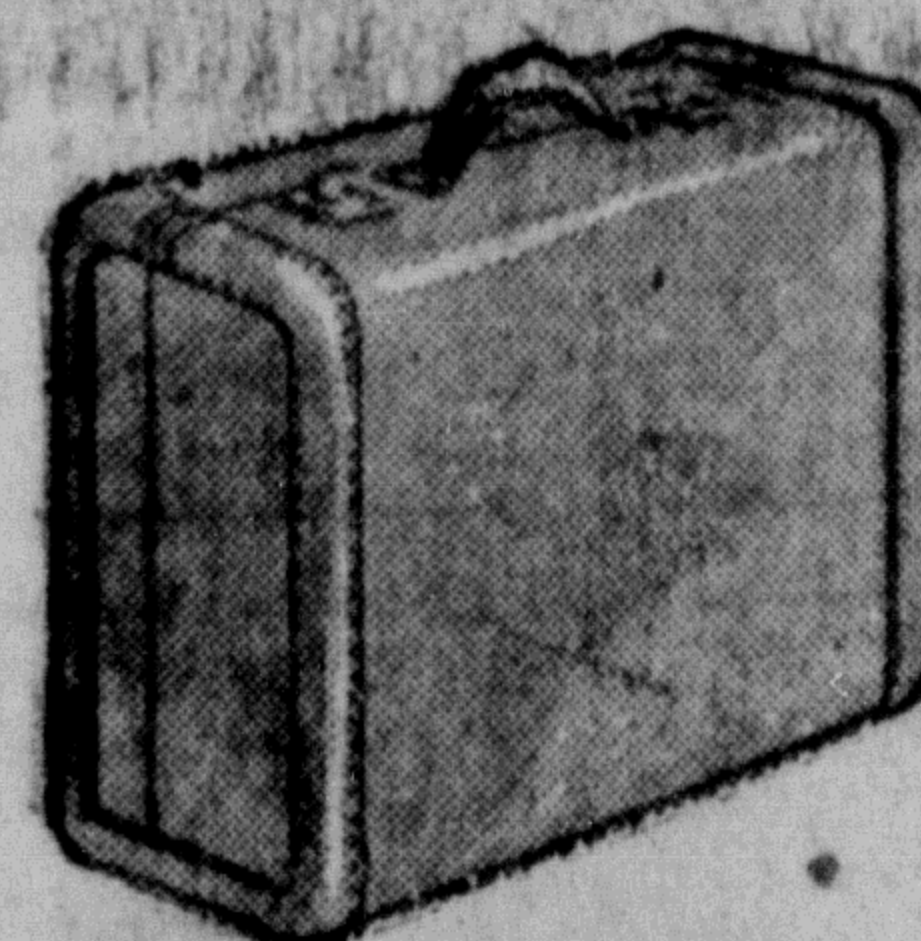
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