

AUGUST DOLDRUMS
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The summer heat has caught up with us. We can only report—after a three-day visit to New Orleans in mid-July, where the temperature was 95 and the humidity 80%—that it could be worse. Nothing seems to get done.

We started out several weeks ago to write a reminiscent piece for the *Bulletin* this month, which dealt with a medical journey back in August 1943. At that time, serving as a lowly battalion surgeon with the 157th Infantry, the medicine we practiced called for a good pair of legs, a strong back, a minimal amount of first aid knowledge and little else. The complications encountered on this particular ramble evolved from a stubborn Sicilian donkey named Angelina, a wandering concertina player and an over-enthusiastic mortar squad. But as we wrote and wrote, the tale became longer and longer, and the deadline slipped by. So, the story will have to wait until next month.

Another subject we never got around to writing about is the incident involving the two black, teenage girls sterilized in Montgomery. Evidently, the chief foul up in this case was the failure of the welfare agency involved to obtain a proper court order for the procedure. It was just enough to open the door of exploitation to the same hungry headline seekers of press and television who—along with greedy lawyers, the A.C.L.U., publicity conscious civil righters and political opportunists— successfully distorted the Tuskegee affair into a national "scandal." These people apparently don't intend to let racism die a natural death.

And finally, John Van Duyn appropriated another timely subject, which had been bugging us (no pun intended) with his article this month on Watergate. We side with John on this one. The incident, which bordered on the ridiculous from the beginning, has been thoroughly exposed, the culprits identified and its ramifications investigated ad nauseam. The book on it should have been closed long ago. The present, prolonged hysteria is almost entirely a creation of political infighters and a large, antagonistic segment of the communications industry determined to bring Nixon to his knees regardless of the consequences.

Better we should have finished the donkey story.