

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1931

SPEED RECORD

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Another speed record has been shattered. For the first time in history a boat has traveled over a hundred miles an hour.

Gar Wood, speed marchant of Detroit, took his craft MISS AMERICA-NINE over a speedway at Miami Beach, Florida and, according to the United Press, he made an average of exactly one hundred and six-tenths miles per hour. Then he tried it again, and as the International News Service tells us, he made more than one hundred and one miles. Then he took her over the course again for a third record of one hundred and two and 25/100 M. P. H.

Boy, how the spray must have flown in misty clouds when the old boat hit it up like that! Uh, uh!

The former record was held by the late Sir Henry Seagrave of England, who was killed at this game. That old record was ninety eight and seventy-six one hundredths miles per hour. That sounded fast, too, for a boat - but now it's just another shattered record, with the pieces lying around.

1 ~~is~~ Talking about records --
2 here's one: -- For the first time in the
3 history of the United States Army, a
4 complete battery of artillery has been
5 transported by a ~~air~~ ^{flown} aeroplane -- all the way
6 across the Isthmus of Panama, from Fort
7 Davis to Rio Atta.

8 The stunt took place during
9 the ~~course~~ course of maneuvers. According
10 to the International News Service, the
11 battery of artillery ^{was} ~~is~~ a mule-pack out-
12 fit, but in the speed of ^{the} ~~a~~ maneuver, the
13 old army mules were discarded. They were
14 just left to munch their hay and look --
15 I suppose with astonishment -- as their
16 old guns, caisson and all, were loaded
17 into planes and went winging through the
18 sky.

19 The guns were swiftly landed
20 at the other side of the Isthmus and went
21 immediately into action in the mimic war.

1 And here's another champion
2 kicked off his throne. He was no real
3 champion, at all -- he was just a cheese
4 champion.

5 What was his particular branch
6 of sport? ~~ask you.~~ Why, headaches. Yes,
7 headaches!

8 Some ^{weeks} ~~time~~ ago, I told how
9 doctors at the University of Illinois
10 Research Hospital were studying the
11 malady called Migraine. "Migraine" is
12 merely a two-dollar word for Headache.
13 The doctors wanted a real, first-rate
14 case of headache to study and so they
15 advertised for the champion headache.

16 A competition was held, and
17 it was won by ^{a certain} Theodore Roberts. The
18 doctors decided that of all the
19 contestants, Roberts had the champion
20 headache.

21 What did he get for a prize?
22 Why, fifty dollars a month and board, ^{all for}
23 doing nothing. All he had to do was take
24 it easy at the hospital and let the
25 doctors observe his headache.

But now the champion headache owner has been ignominiously dismissed. According to the United Press, the doctors say he has no headache at all. That is, not a real headache -- one with stamina and endurance. After a few weeks of very simple treatment, diet, and rest, Roberts' headache has vanished. He can't produce any pain in his head to save his life. And he has to admit that he feels fine.

So their star headache case has vanished - leaving things just where they were except that the doctors themselves have a slight pain in the neck.

1 A big airplane took off from the
2 Boston airport today. It is on its
3 way to hunt for possible survivors of
4 the Viking, the sealing ship that was
5 blown up off Newfoundland while engaged
6 in making motion pictures.

7 In the relief plane are two famous
8 flyers: one is Bernt Balchen, who flew
9 Byrd across the Atlantic and who also
10 flew Byrd to the South Pole. The other
11 is Marion Cooper, a famous war ace, and
12 the man who made the two films GRASS and
13 CHANG.

14 They are going in the faint hope of
15 rescuing some of the twenty-eight men who
16 were on the Viking and who are still miss-
17 ing. An Associated Press dispatch from
18 St. Johns, Newfoundland, reports that ship
19 captains have searched every foot of ice
20 within twenty-two miles of the scene of
21 the Viking disaster, and they say that
22 this new airplane search is useless. The
23 feeling up in Newfoundland is that the
24 airplane expedition will needlessly
25 endanger the lives of the flyers and cannot
possibly accomplish anything. But Bernt
Balchen and Marion Cooper are determined
and able ~~men~~ men and as flyers there are

probably none better. They also are two of the most
modest and self-effacing men I know.

1 You won't like this next item.
2 It has an ugly sound. It tells of a
3 plot formed by a communist to wreck the
4 giant airship, THE AKRON, ^{- the mammoth dirigible} ~~which is~~
5 being built for the United States Navy,
6 at Akron, Ohio.

7 Work is being rushed on the great
8 dirigible. Scores of men are busy on
9 its lofty framework. ^{But} Some time ago a
10 heavy iron bar was dropped mysteriously
11 from the top of the framework. It
12 looked as if somebody were ^{up} ~~trying to do~~
13 ^{mischief - trying to do} ~~some~~ malicious damage. The authorities
14 became suspicious of a workman, named
15 KASSAY, and watched him. They found
16 that he was talking communism to the
17 other workers ~~and~~ ^{and} trying to persuade
18 them to slow up ^{up} the job and do what
19 harm they could, on the sly.

20 According to the Associated Press,
21 they found that Kassay was a former
22 captain in the Austria-Hungarian navy.
23 After the World War he became a
24 communist and took part in the Red
25 Revolution in Hungary.

1 He is a skilled mechanic, and
2 got a job as a highly paid mechanic at
3 the factory where the dirigible was
4 being built.

5 ~~At Kassay's house they found a~~
6 ~~quantity of communist literature; then~~
7 ~~the man~~ ^{Today he} broke down and confessed that
8 he meant to see that the dirigible
9 never made a successful flight. His
10 plan was to leave out rivets and
11 weaken the structure of the ship in
12 such fashion that she would break up
13 while being launched, or ~~that~~ if she
14 ever got into the air she would ~~have~~
15 come to disaster.

16 The authorities are trying to find
17 out whether the communist organization
18 in ~~the~~ ^{this} country had anything to do with
19 the plot, ^{that is, as an organization.} But Kassay ~~won't tell~~ ^{refused to tell}
20 anything about his connections.
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1 According to the Associated
2 Press, it is suspected that Kassay had
3 a hand in dirty work that was done in
4 building American aeroplanes, and the
5 Washington Star states today that it
6 has been reliably informed that an
7 additional charge will probably be
8 placed against the man.

9 He is said to have been
10 connected with the crash of a Naval
11 bombing plane at San Diego, California,
12 last September.

This next sounds like the
~~Now let's just say~~ -- [^] same

1
2 old story! There was another disturbance
3 at the Illinois State Prison at Joliet.
4 A board of investigation was sitting,
5 trying to find out what had caused the
6 epidemic of prison riots. ^{And} The proceedings
7 were interrupted by an outbreak of
8 pandemonium.

9 A prisoner in a cell started
10 yelling at a guard; another guard fired
11 a rifle in the air as a signal of
12 possible trouble; at the sound of the
13 shot, hundreds of prisoners, all of whom
14 were confined in cells, began to yell
15 and scream and throw ~~about~~ whatever
16 movable objects they could find.

17 The investigating committee
18 discontinued its session until the
19 trouble ~~was~~ quieted ^{down.} ~~It didn't last long.~~

20 A large hunt for the why and
21 the wherefore is being staged at ~~that~~
22 prison. With three wild riots among the
23 convicts in one week, something must be
24 wrong somewhere.

In fact those Joliet uprisings have a puzzling look.

The big Illinois penal institution was built as a model prison, - intended to embody a new and humane way of handling offenders. Efforts were made to keep the convicts entertained, with radio and motion picture shows; and yet a model prison has now been the scene of perhaps the worst series of prison riots on record.

In the Chicago Daily News today there is an article by my old colleague, Robert J. Casey, who tells of the investigations that are being held. Bob Casey says the ILLINOIS PAROLE BOARD is being blamed for the trouble, and that Parole Board by the way, is another one of those modern humane systems of dealing with crime. A criminal is given what amounts to an indeterminate sentence -- maybe ~~in~~ ~~xx~~ from one to twenty-five years, and the Parole Board then has the power to turn him loose. The idea is that when a criminal is making progress toward reformation -- why keep him in jail any longer?

Well, the convicts are dissatisfied with the way the Parole Board operates. They are always in doubt about how long

they have to stay in jail; and that doesn't help their peace of mind.

At the same time, criminals who were convicted before the new Parole law went into force are bitterly dissatisfied because the law is not retro-active, and they don't get any benefit from it. They have to serve their sentences in accordance with the old law, the law under which they were convicted, and it has made them angry and savage.

That moral seems to be that sometimes these new-fangled idealistic things don't work out as beautifully as they are supposed to work.

DIGEST - LINES

I ran across an amusing line today. It was about the Democrats. It said that some of the prominent Democrats are getting ready to have harmony, even if they are compelled to punch somebody in the nose to get it!

The Literary Digest quotes that one from the Indianapolis News.

From the Passing Show the Literary Digest quotes one that hits me, because I do love my sleep. Here it is:-

A doctor says he often wonders how much sleep the average man really wants. The answer is -- just five minutes more.

I suppose all they would have to prove is that Capone was seen begging on the street, or holding out his hat for coins, or asking for a handout at a farmer's back door. Of course, that might be difficult. And on the other hand, Capone might possibly be able to prove that he has a few dollars, at least enough to buy himself ham and eggs for the next couple of days.

According to the International

1 Here's ^{a news item} ~~one~~ that ought to make
2 a hit with ~~the~~ cross word puzzle fans --
3 anyway, it's a real puzzle, and it may
4 be hard to solve.

5 The puzzle consists of the
6 small matter of proving that Scarface
7 Al Capone is a vagrant; that is, a poor,
8 wandering, homeless waif who has no
9 money, no job, no means of support.

10 In Chicago Capone is up on a
11 charge of vagrancy, and it's up to the
12 prosecution to produce witnesses who can
13 swear on their own knowledge that Capone
14 is really a vagrant.

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16 to prove is that Capone was seen begging
17 on the street, or holding out his hat for
18 coins, or asking for a handout at a
19 farmer's back door. Of course, that
20 might be difficult. And on the other
21 hand, Capone might possibly be able to
22 prove that he has a few dollars, at
23 least enough to buy himself ham and eggs
24 for the next couple of days.

25 According to the International

1 News Service, the judge has continued
2 the case until April the third and the
3 prosecution has until then to solve the
4 puzzle, which seems to be harder than any
5 ^{chinese or} cross word puzzle you ever saw.

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CYCLONES

Tragic news comes from the South today. It was raining at Clinton, Oklahoma, and the clouds were dark and heavy. Suddenly out of the black sky to the southeast swept that familiar old funnel shaped cloud -- a cyclone. And today a good part of the town of Clinton is in ruins. According to the United Press the tornado killed three people, blew down houses and sent barns spinning. Sixty thousand dollars' worth of damage was done by that black, funnel shaped cloud.

Well, Betty Gerard is a society girl who recently busted into the news by getting a job in a Fifth Avenue women's wear shop in New York. All the clubwomen at tea said how wonderful it was that Betty was working every day -- just to show people.

Today, however, Betty went to work under the guard of a policeman, and this evening she went home with that same burly cop at her side.

She still intends to live her own life and all that sort of thing -- but she'll have to do it with police protection.

1 And now comes the case of a
2 Poor Rich Girl -- and she seems to be
3 having her difficulties.

4 You know the old story of how
5 wealthy young women, and socially
6 prominent debutantes, want to have
7 careers and want to work and "do some-
8 thing". And how they get jobs and prove
9 that they aren't mere gossamer-winged
10 butterflies.

11 Well, Betty Gerard is a
12 society girl who recently busted ^{right} into
13 the news by getting a job in a Fifth
14 Avenue women's wear shop in New York.
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16 wonderful it was that Betty was working
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20 this evening she went home with that
21 same burly cop at her side.

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23 own life and all that sort of thing --
24 but she'll have to do it with police
25 protection.

1 According to the International
2 News Service, women communists thought it
3 was all wrong for Betty to take a job
4 away from a poor girl who needed it, and
5 they are threatening to give her a taste
6 of life that she hasn't been looking for.

7 But Betty is a determined
8 example of independent young American
9 womanhood, and she is resolved to go
10 right ahead living her own life --
11 although ^{to some it may} ~~it does~~ seem a trifle impractical
12 to hold a shopgirl's job if you have to
13 have a couple of cops to take you to and
14 from work.

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17 According to the International
18 News Service, a party was held in New
19 York for a group of the intelligentsia.
20 Dreiser and Lewis were there, -- and what
21 happened has just come to light. Lewis
22 said NO, he wouldn't make a speech,
23 because three men who were antagonistic
24 to him were present -- in fact, he didn't
25 like them, either. Later on Dreiser

1 Now we come to a loud smack, and
2 then another equally loud smack. Those
3 represent the two slaps in the jaw that
4 Theodore Dreiser gave Sinclair Lewis.

5 Yes, the literati were just having
6 a slight exchange of compliments--of
7 clever WIT--that is to say, smacks in
8 the jaw.

9 I am pained to have to inform you
10 that all is not love and friendship
11 between those two great lights in
12 American letters, Theodore Dreiser and
13 Sinclair Lewis,--Theodore Dreiser, the
14 writer of heavy American tragedies, and
15 Sinclair Lewis, the winner of the Nobel
16 prize!

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18 News Service, a party was held in New
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24 to him were present--in fact, he didn't
25 like them, either. Later on Dreiser

1 Dreiser said to Lewis, AND WHO ARE THE
2 OTHER TWO?

3 Whereupon, Lewis announced what he
4 thought of Dreiser. He said that as a
5 writer ~~xxxxxx~~ Dreiser was O. K., but
6 personally he was something else again.
7 The words he used were said to have been
8 quite expressive, if not hard, and
9 Dreiser slapped Lewis across the side of
10 the face.

11 Lewis just smiled. Dreiser is a
12 considerably older man than he. Lewis
13 contented himself by saying a little more
14 about what he thought of Dreiser.

15 And Dreiser slapped him again.

16 WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?
17 asked Dreiser. WHY, I'LL JUST TURN THE
18 OTHER CHEEK, laughed Lewis.

19 Dreiser said he was willing to
20 fight, but Lewis just walked away. And
21 that was the end of the brilliant exchange
22 of wit between the two great masters of
23 American literature.

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1 Well, like Sinclair Lewis, I am
2 an author, too -- although of course
3 not such a famous one. And when I
4 leave here now and go strolling down
5 Michigan Boulevard I hope Bob Casey or
6 Carl Sanburg or some other fellow author
7 will not walk up and poke me one in the
8 eye.

9 At any rate, here's hoping!-- and
10 SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

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