

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

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AUTOGYRO

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

There was an accident to a windmill today -- I mean one of those windmill planes. Amelia Earhart was flying in her autogyro, and the bus cracked up.

Miss Earhart, who already has made the first trans-continental flight in an autogyro, was doing some more of her cross-country flying. She took off from the aviation field at Abilene, Texas. The autogyro hopped into the air neatly enough. But as it went skimming along, Miss Earhart evidently couldn't get it to climb.

The contraption nicked the top of a landing field lamp post and headed straight for the automobile parking space. The famous woman flier tried desperately to maneuver it out of the way, but, a moment later the crash came.

The tail of the windmill plane slapped into two cars. Then the machine hit the ground with a resounding crash, and was badly damaged. But, as the International News Service informs us, Miss Earhart climbed out of the wreckage smiling that infectious

charming smile of hers and in no way seriously injured.

And that was a lucky break.

1           The old theme of swords beaten  
2 into plow-shares or of the Royal war  
3 horse which in his old days was put  
4 to work pulling a laundry wagon --  
5 well, that melancholy story is repeated  
6 tonight in the case of an airplane that  
7 has been turned into a hot-dog stand.

8           Only two years ago a giant transport  
9 plane which could carry 25 passengers  
10 was ~~built~~ built at a cost of about  
11 100 thousand dollars.

12           The company that manufactured it  
13 was forced to sell its properties at  
14 public auction. The big plane went for  
15 a song.

16           And now once more it has been sold,  
17 this time for only 500 ~~■~~ dollars. The  
18 New York Sun tells us that the Majestic  
19 transport plane which was intended to  
20 wing its way through the sky, will now  
21 be used as a hot-dog stand.

22           The man who bought it thinks that a  
23 big airplane standing at the road-side  
24 will attract the people passing in cars  
25 and will make an ideal hot-dog stand.

*And that is the sad sad tale of the stately  
hundred thousand dollar transport plane that has been transformed  
into a home for hot dogs.*

1 I've <sup>a bit of</sup> ~~some~~ new light on <sup>some</sup> ~~those~~ ugly  
 2 scandals that are coming through from  
 3 President Hoover's summer camp at  
 4 Rapidan.

5 The morning papers carried a few  
 6 earlier rumors about a lot of disgraceful  
 7 happenings among the group of distinguished  
 8 statesmen that are <sup>visiting</sup> ~~attending~~ the  
 9 President of the United States.

10 Assistant Secretary of the Navy  
 11 Janncke has preferred charges against  
 12 Hugh Gibson, the American Ambassador  
 13 to Belgium, who is visiting President  
 14 Hoover.

15 ~~It seems~~ The President has a private trout  
 16 pool in which pet fish are kept.  
 17 The Assistant Secretary of the Navy  
 18 accuses the Ambassador of having gone  
 19 fishing in that pool of pet trout and  
 20 of having caught Toby, the favorite  
 21 Presidential fish. Toby was a large,  
 22 over-fed trout that was the special  
 23 pet of the President's five-year-old  
 24 granddaughter, Peggy Ann.

25 The International News Service, in

1 reporting the story, declares that a  
2 friend of the President recognized  
3 Toby as the fish was just about to be  
4 put into Ambassador Gibson's frying  
5 pan.

6 But the latest word is that this  
7 is not the first scandal of the sort  
8 at the President's Rapidan camp. Last  
9 week, Representative Will R. Wood,  
10 Republican of Indiana, visited the  
11 President. Mr. Wood has quite a  
12 reputation as a fisherman. <sup>According to the story</sup> ~~He~~ got <sup>^</sup> his  
13 eye <sup>tell</sup> on that ornamental pool in which  
14 the pet Presidential trout are kept.

15 These fish are really of superior  
16 size and quality. They're fed by the  
17 Presidential help and are given the  
18 leavings from the Presidential table.  
19 In consequence, they're large and fat,  
20 and hang around the surface of the  
21 water waiting for ~~some more~~ <sup>tit bits</sup> ~~to eat~~.

22 Representative Wood got himself  
23 a rod and line, and a fish hook--also  
24 a worm. And he proceeded to do some  
25 very successful fishing. The pet

1 Presidential trout were accustomed to  
2 have somebody come along and throw *them*  
3 something good to eat, ~~to them~~, and  
4 they didn't make any difficulties  
5 at all.

6 Representative Woods, <sup>*they say,*</sup> ~~however~~,  
7 made the mistake of showing his prize  
8 catch to the President. He expected  
9 to get the praise which every good  
10 fisherman desires. But, unfortunately,  
11 the President instantly recognized  
12 the fish as some of his choicest  
13 domestic trout. So all the praise  
14 that the Republican from Indiana got  
15 from the Chief Executive of the  
16 United States was a growl something  
17 like this:

18 "Huh," grunted the President, "you  
19 better keep out of my aquarium." ~~after~~  
20 ~~this.~~

21 ~~But~~ It does appear as if the visiting  
22 statesmen at the Presidential camp just  
23 can't keep their fish hooks out of  
24 the ~~pool~~ pool full of tame fish. *Yes, that's*  
25 *a terrific temptation to put in front of*  
*anyone.*

1 *And* Now ~~comes~~<sup>for</sup> the strange story of a  
2 54-year-old bookkeeper who dreamed a  
3 dream -- and it was a bad dream. At  
4 Gary, Indiana, Ferdinand Daum has been  
5 arrested. And mostly for a dream. He  
6 has been dreaming of a life of crime.

7 He was a bookkeeper who day after  
8 day sat over his ledgers and pushed his  
9 pen, living a grey, quiet life. But  
10 curious visions were fermenting in his  
11 brain. He dreamed of himself as a  
12 master-mind of crime, as one of those  
13 nefarious evil geniuses who plan and  
14 direct the operations of armies of  
15 crooks.

16 The United Press tells us that this  
17 middle-aged clerk started in to turn  
18 his evil dreams into evil realities.  
19 He got hold of two young men and  
20 persuaded them to become his followers.  
21 He outlined grandiose schemes of crime.  
22 He explained his plans to flood the  
23 brokers' offices of the country with a  
24 shower of forged stock certificates.  
25 He had a grand idea of a giant counter-

1 feiting ring.

2 Kidnapping too was a part of his  
3 criminal vision. He wanted to establish  
4 a whole chain of kidnapping gangs.

5 In his wild dreaming he went even  
6 so far as to think up a gigantic plot  
7 for demoralizing the stock market and  
8 causing another panic.

9 The middle-aged bookkeeper ~~went~~  
10 ~~further.~~ He sent one of his young  
11 disciples to consult a Chicago engraver  
12 on the subject of getting dyes for  
13 making counterfeit money. He bade  
14 his other disciple to go to a prominent  
15 packing magnate and demand 4,000 dollars  
16 by way of extortion.

17 And he also primed both of his  
18 followers for a plan to kidnap another  
19 rich packer.

20 Here was where the would-be master-  
21 mind went wrong. He really wasn't meant  
22 for crime at all. He was merely  
23 innocent. One of his disciples was a  
24 more cunning fox than he. The young  
25 man went to the packer who was to be

kidnapped and offered to expose the plot -- in return for some money. Well, they were all much too smart. The packer moved fast, and all three landed in jail.

The police found an arsenal of weapons in the possession of the middle aged bookkeeper. They asked him what he wanted with all the fire-arms, and he replied simply that someday he thought he might take up a life of crime.

Well, the middle-aged dreamer seems not to have carried any of his crimes much beyond the stage of fantasy. He merely had a wicked vision, and that vision turned into the sour reality of a dreary, cheerless cell in a jail.

And how's that for a marvelous plot for a short story.

1           What I need <sup>for a moment</sup> now is a tone of deep  
2 humility. The truth is that I can't  
3 tell the difference between the new  
4 golf-ball and the old golf-ball.  
5 The new one acts just as badly for  
6 me as the old one did.

7           And so I'm a sort of innocent  
8 bystander in <sup>present</sup> that controversy <sup>that</sup> ~~which~~ is  
9 raging among golfers, some men singing  
10 the praises of the new ball and others  
11 howling in furious protest.

12           This week's Literary Digest tells  
13 us the odd fact that in some places  
14 they're bootlegging golf-balls. The  
15 United States Golf Association has  
16 ordered that only the new ball be used.  
17 But some of the indignant golfers are <sup>secretly</sup>  
18 buying the old balls and sneaking them  
19 into play.

20           The new golf-ball is slightly  
21 bigger and also slightly lighter than  
22 the old one. And it ~~happens~~ appears that  
23 the golfers can't drive it so far.  
24 And if there's anything that most men  
25 on the links love--it's distance.

1           The Digest quotes George P.  
2 Hammond, writing in the New York Sun,  
3 who declares that while the new ball  
4 may be O.K. with the expert professionals,  
5 ~~why~~ it handicaps the average dub golfer.  
6 And naturally old John Q. Dub is  
7 mighty sore.

8           The Digest gives us a few opinions  
9 of Paul Gallico, who writes in the  
10 New York Daily News. Paul tells us  
11 that he was ~~was~~ at a golf course  
12 recently where there was a painful  
13 chorus of complaint.

14           "They were blaming the new ball  
15 for the depression, for the weather,  
16 for their troubles, <sup>and</sup> for the bottom  
17 falling out of the market."

18           "She won't putt," they squawked.  
19 "She won't drive. She won't come out  
20 of traps. ~~She won't hold a line.~~ She  
21 flies away in the wind."

22           "The~~t~~ new ball did everything but  
23 bite them on the leg."

24           But there are a few golfers at  
25 least who approve of the new ball.

1 Paul Gallico says he rather likes it.  
2 He declares that the somewhat larger  
3 and somewhat lighter sphere behaves  
4 pretty much the same as the old one.

5 "Hit her and she'll go. Slice  
6 her and she'll slice. Hit a good  
7 shot and it's good. Dub it and you  
8 get what you deserve."

9 But just the same, the new ball  
10 does provide Mr. John Q. Dub with a  
11 beautiful alibi when he hits a bad one.  
12 He doesn't have to blame himself any  
13 more. He can just blame the new ball.  
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1 I ran across a news dispatch this  
2 afternoon which contained what I  
3 consider a priceless bit of description.

4 The story concerns the marital  
5 ~~wags~~ of a man who is 68 years old, and  
6 also is blind. His wife is ten years  
7 younger.

8 The aged blind man sued for a  
9 divorce, and the priceless bit of  
10 description comes in an International  
11 News Service report which tells us  
12 of the complaint that the blind man  
13 made against his wife. He declared  
14 that his wife "blackened his sightless  
15 eyes while he was kneeling in prayer".

16 That's all forgotten<sup>now</sup>. The couple  
17 made up. The blind man forgave his  
18 wife when she returned to him<sup>^</sup> his  
19 box of liver pills.  
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1           The London correspondent of the  
2 New York Evening Post cables this  
3 afternoon that he has learned that  
4 the present crisis in ~~the~~ British  
5 Parliamentary affairs is nothing more  
6 than a clever scheme to get rid of  
7 one of the present members of the  
8 government.

9           The Labor party is in power only  
10 because it is supported by the Liberal  
11 party. And at present the Labor and  
12 Liberal parties are having an argument  
13 about the Labor project of taking from  
14 the British landowners a certain  
15 percentage of the value of their land  
16 as taxes. ~~The Laborites say the~~  
17 ~~percentage should be taken from the~~  
18 ~~value of all land. The Liberals think~~  
19 ~~that only unused land should be taxed~~  
20 ~~in this manner.~~

21           But the story now is that this is  
22 only a sham battle. And the real idea  
23 is to bring about a crisis which will  
24 force out the Labor minister responsible  
25 for the proposal.

1 He is Phillip Snowden, Chancellor  
2 of the Exchequer. And they say he has  
3 made enemies both in his own party and  
4 in the Liberal party by the cold and  
5 methodical way with which he insists  
6 on logic and good sense.

7 They say that the austere socialist  
8 Snowden is proud of having a reputation  
9 in financial circles as being a sound  
10 financier.

11 And so, according to the report,  
12 both parties want to get rid of him in  
13 a nice, gentle way. And they're trying  
14 to create a situation where either  
15 he'll stick to his guns and see the  
16 Labor party thrown out of power, or  
17 he'll resign, or he'll accept the  
18 Liberal party's ideas.

19 Of course, they hope that he'll  
20 resign. They're banking on him not to  
21 accept the Liberal party's ~~ideas~~ <sup>notions</sup>  
22 because one of Snowden's chief  
23 characteristics is stubbornness.

24 The whole story has an air of  
25 round-about and ~~conflicted~~ <sup>complicated</sup> ~~intriguing~~ <sup>intriguing</sup> political  
intrigue.

1 My News Item of the Day was picked  
2 for me by one of the most interesting  
3 little ladies in this old world of ours.  
4 She is a Chinese princess--Princess  
5 Der Ling.

6 Well, I can't begin to tell you  
7 the amount of exotic Oriental romance  
8 that this little lady represents. She  
9 is of an ancient family of the Manchus,  
10 the conquering, ruling class that  
11 **governed** China for centuries.

12 Her father was a great dignitary  
13 under the old Manchu regime that preceded  
14 the Chinese republic. He was <sup>special Chinese</sup> Chinese  
15 ~~Ambassador~~ <sup>envoy</sup> to Washington, ~~to the Court~~ <sup>also ambassador</sup>  
16 ~~of St. James, to Paris,~~ <sup>to France, Italy, Spain and Germany.</sup> He was one of  
17 the most distinguished diplomats of his  
18 time.

19 And his daughter, ~~Princess Der~~  
20 ~~Ling, a nobleman's daughter~~ when a little Manchu  
21 princess, was a lady in waiting to the  
22 famous Empress Dowager, that extraordinary  
23 woman whom they called "Old Buddha",  
24 and who ruled China as long as she  
25 lived.

Princess Der Ling was reared in the bizarre, curious life of the old Chinese imperial court -- in a regime of haughty Manchu nobles, learned silken mandarins, and that formidable woman, "Old Buddha" herself.

Well, as I remarked, I had Princess Der Ling pick my News Item of the Day and here is the bit of news that she considers the most interesting item in the tidings of the day.

It's a dispatch that concerns bandits and a missionary.

Months ago, reports the United Press, the Reverend Bert Nelson, a missionary of Indianapolis who has been laboring in China, was captured by bandits. They demanded a ransom.

The ransom has been paid, but the bandits have decided to hold the missionary so that he can teach them English. The American Consul at Hangkow has received a letter from the Reverend Mr. Nelson in which he says "THEY HAVE DECIDED TO KEEP ME HERE AS AN ENGLISH TEACHER."

Meanwhile, the bandits having received the ransom in money, are making new demands. They say that before they release the missionary they must have 360,000 feet of telephone wire, some medicine, a few airplanes, printing presses, pianos and pipe organs. They also request a lot of tennis racquets, basket balls, golf clubs and other sporting equipment. The assumption is that these peculiar bandits have an idea of giving up their wicked ways, and are taking up music and sports. And that wouldn't be a bad thing at all.

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On the other hand, the belief is that they are making their demands so complicated merely for the purpose of having more excuse for keeping the missionary with them -- as an English teacher.

END

In addition to picking the News Item of the Day Princess Der Ling told me how to bid you goodnight in the stately Manchu dialect of old China. She has translated it for me literally. Here it is:- Until the morrow may the golden butterfly sit on your ear and feed you honey and may you have happiness and prosperity. And,

So LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.