

L. J. - Sunoco. Friday, April 5/35.

Luman  
7/18/35

From Washington the word is -- still another drive against crime. J. Edgar Hoover announces that the Federal agents have swooped down on the underworld in a campaign to arrest five thousand known bank robbers. There are that ~~many~~ many crooks in the country, whose profession is attacks on banks.

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And, it might be well to include train robbers in the Federal roundup. Because we hear of an Illinois Railroad holdup in the traditional Wild West style. An hour after the Chicago-New Orleans express on the Illinois Central left the Windy City, four men jumped out of obscure seats, brandished pistols, and hollered:- "This is a stick-up!" They held up forty passengers, and took all their cash, eight hundred and forty dollars. One man thought it was a joke. They shot him in the leg.

They jumped from the train as it slowed up for Kankakee. An auto was waiting for them. Later they commandeered another car, kidnapped the owner and threw him from the car near Wheaton, Illinois. All afternoon an Illinois manhunt has been combing the countryside for the train robbers.

NEGRO

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There was a real impact of the novel and unexpected in the announcement -- Alabama will have negroes on juries hereafter. This follows the United States Supreme Court decision reversing the conviction of the Scotsboro defendants. Let's just remember that the high justices based their verdict on the fact that negroes had not been called to serve on the jury which tried the black men for attacking two white women.

That decision <sup>was</sup> ~~xx~~ handed down several days ago. And today we find the State of Alabama taking the word of the Supreme Court as a mandate. The State has started to ~~xx~~ revise its legal system. Governor Bibb Graves has written to every Alabama judge, lawyer and jury commissioner, giving the mandate to ~~xx~~ include the names of negroes on jury ballots. So hereafter, whenever the name of a negro is drawn for jury duty, he will serve -- providing of course that he qualifies according to the conditions laid down by the law. That's the official word -- to which skeptics may reply with the surmise that some way may be found to get around the ruling.

And there's a story behind the story, which is this --

Governor Bibb Graves was once a Klan Governor of Alabama.

There was no secrecy then that he was supported by the Klu Klux.

9 <sup>And</sup>  
~~Klan~~ Now he gives the order that all negroes shall have the  
right to serve on juries.

ROOSEVELT

I wish I could tell something about the presidential doings aboard the Yacht Nourmahal, but I don't see any glaring headlines about the giant fish the Chief Executive has caught. Perhaps Mr. Roosevelt is that never-before-heard-of prodigy, a modest fisherman. But anyhow, Vincent Astor had better be navigating that yacht of his in waters where they're biting, or he may be forced to resign his post as Secretary of the Department of Sailfish and Barracuda, and head of that famous old alphabetic agency -- the H.L.S., Hook, Line and Sinker.

Still, the name of Roosevelt has been <sup>figuring</sup> ~~fixing~~ in the news -- I don't mean the mention ~~of the name~~ of James, ~~Roosevelt~~, the President's son, in the Senate Munitions Inquiry. There doesn't seem to be anything so definite in the statement that he took a hand in negotiations concerning Government shipbuilding contracts. ~~It's~~ Just another name brought up in the oceans of testimony <sup>at that</sup> ~~brought before the~~ investigation.

The President is concerned in an arrest made today in Cambridge, Massachusetts, though I don't imagine it will bother him particularly. It's a case of threats made against his life. One Thomas Murphy, twenty-nine years old, wrote

a letter to the President on March 27th, about a week ago. It complained about unemployment conditions. And the writer went on to make menacing declarations -- threats.

I don't suppose Mr. Roosevelt ever got the rambling and excited epistle, but the Secret Service men did, so they got busy in Cambridge and arrested Murphy, <sup>today,</sup>

The prisoner was arraigned before a Federal court. ~~was~~ He tried to plead guilty, but the Judge wouldn't let him. His Honor refused to accept the guilty plea and sent the defendant to a hospital for mental observation, the suspicion being that he's not <sup>all there,</sup> ~~right in his head.~~

AUTOGRAPH

Anybody who speaks a dozen words on the radio is likely to have to sign his name -- autographs -- be it Baby Rose Marie or Joe Penner's duck. I myself have put my John Hancock on all sorts of pages <sup>presented</sup> ~~XXXXXXXX~~ to me, from autograph albums to drivers' licences and revolver permits. But here's something extraordinary. I have in my hand the most amazing autograph book I've ever seen.

I'm broadcasting from a convention of two thousand Sunoco dealers here in Philadelphia. *Chris* Cox of the Sun office just handed me a book. A friend had asked him to have me write my moniker in it. When I thumbed through the pages I felt an attack of paralysis in my hand, so far as writing in it ~~is~~ concerned.

Let me turn the pages and give you a few samples of the autographs in this book. Here on Page One is a poem, written and signed by Washington Irving. Next, the autograph of General Winfield Scott, victor of the Mexican War.

Here's Chief Justice Taney of the Supreme Court, who handed down the Dred Scott decision that had much to do with bringing on the Civil War.

Here's a poem in the handwriting of John Greenleaf Whittier. And another, script and signature of Longfellow. Autograph of Edward W. Stanton, Lincoln's Secretary of War. Gideon Welles, Lincoln's Secretary of the Navy, and Seward, his Secretary of State. The man who bought Alaska.

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Phil ~~Sheridan~~ Sheridan of Sheridan's Ride. And he signs it "Phil." General George H. Thomas, the Rock of Chickamauga. And William Tecumseh Sherman, who went marching through Georgia.

Here's an autographed poem of Oliver Wendell Holmes. One by Julia Ward Howe, author of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Another by William Cullen Bryant.

Charles Dickens, who writes in his own handwriting the episode of the death of Little Nell, in Oliver Twist. Here's the way it begins in Dickens' small, rather crabbed script:-  
"Dear, Gentle, patient, noble Nell was dead."

There's an elaborate signature in ornate script dated 1863, by the Chief of the Cherokee nation. And the autograph of Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, in illiterate

script of the backwoods. The handsomest writing in the whole book is that of the Chief of the Cherokees. The poorest calligraphy by a President of the United States.

And then I see here this sentence: "It is a privilege to sign my name in such distinguished company of the olden days of literary glory." Franklin D. Roosevelt.

On another page the autograph of Herbert Hoover.

**ixi** If I try to sign this, my hand will be shaking with palsy!



STRANGE ART TALE

Here's a funny one. Art fanciers were ~~gathered~~ gathered at the Waldorf discussing this problem of practitioners of the fine arts on Federal relief payrolls -- artists painting pictures for the Government. It was told how a dozen relief workartists had been assigned to paint pictures for the department of Public Markets in New York City. One of these artists turned in a splendid picture. He saw a striking type of pushcart man, and painted a portrait of the peddler and his pushcart.

But here comes the absurd anticlimax. The Deputy Commissioner of Markets explains to me that the pictorial masterpiece in question has him in a hole. The picture is so realistic that the moment he saw it he recognized it as an unlicensed pushcart peddler operating illegally in a part of town where it's unlawful for a ~~pushcart~~ pushcart to be. That painting was sufficient legal evidence for arrest and conviction and a sentence to jail. It's <sup>the</sup> Commissioner's duty to act on the evidence. But it would take a mighty hard-hearted copper to lock up a pushcart peddler because an artist had used him as a model for a masterpiece, now wouldn't it?

## GERMANY

In the exceedingly complicated affairs of the nations, about the only thing they can devise is -- treaties, international pacts. For every problem some sort of treaty is proposed. There are combinations and complications of those international pacts, either in force or being suggested. They are the universal cure-all for every sort of ill. And that's natural, because nations and even tribes are always either at war or under a treaty. But just the same, one can't escape the chilly question -- what good are treaties when they are not observed? An international pact may be a perfect arrangement, but suppose the nations can't be counted on to resist the temptation to violate it? And that's the uneasy condition of diplomacy nowadays, -- that a nation's pledged word cannot be depended on one hundred per cent.

Germany has just knocked the arms clauses of the Versailles Treaty into a cocked hat. And all of the postwar peace agreements seem ready for the waste-paper basket. Of course, those treaties were imposed by force. Well, so are a lot of diplomatic documents. And, have the allies, on their side kept those peace treaties with an absolute scrupulous fidelity? And how about the Far East?

That's the uneasy  
background <sup>↙</sup> against which to project Germany's grand proposal.

We hear now ~~more~~ on sound authority just what ideas Hitler propounded to Sir John Simon. He said that Germany was willing to take a pledge to abstain from war for ten years. If her re-armament move is sanctioned and she is formally conceded the right to build up a big military establishment -- which she is already doing -- why then Germany will not try by force to regain any of the territory she lost in the World War -- she won't try it for ten years.

This proposal itself is rather menacing. It suggests what is obviously a mere armed truce. Even if such a treaty were signed, sealed, and delivered, it would serve notice that after ten years the Teutonic Reich <sup>probably</sup> would <sup>^</sup> make the attempt to push <sup>^</sup> ~~back~~ beyond the Versailles boundaries and regain <sup>all</sup> <sup>^</sup> the property she has lost.

In its favor would seem to be the fact that it looks like an easy way out, putting things off for ten years. I don't suppose anybody expects Nazi Germany to rest content with those territorial <sup>slices of pie</sup> ~~outs~~ <sup>^</sup> that Versailles handed out. So why not take the ten-year way out, as a bit of breathing space? There's

temptation in that. <sup>There</sup> ~~And~~ always is in the good old Latin-American doctrine of mañana.

Beyond all that there's the stubborn fact that a treaty has been broken, and the only way suggested to remedy that, is, another treaty. But then that's an anxious seat, by no means new. Some agreements are broken, but then, some are also kept. The history of the nations is one long dilemma of making treaties and then figuring out what to do in case they are violated.

ADD GERMANY

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Meanwhile France continues to pile up military strength on her eastern border. New masses of troops are being hurried to the line where France faces Germany. Paris has called most of her regiments from her Italian boundary. Everything is being pointed toward the <sup>Rhine</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>along</sup> where that iron ring of fortifications ~~is also~~ ~~the line where~~ a powerful army is being deployed.

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## AVIATION

Two South American aviation stories this evening.

Concerning the first, the Curtiss-Wright Company officials in New York declare that they seriously doubt whether those four controversial planes grounded in Chile could be rebuilt for war. However, the government in Washington has the pilots under a decree of suspension. Their flying license<sup>s</sup> ~~is~~ null and void for the time being.

The story began some time ago with four bombers built in this country for Bolivia, for use in the war in the Gran Chaco. Before they could be shipped to the southern continent, the United States, trying to discourage those bitter hostilities in the tropical wilderness, put an embargo on armament~~s~~ shipments to the belligerents. So the shipment of the war planes was forbidden.

However, the war planes were transformed into peace planes. They were converted into passenger transports. Because of that, shipment was allowed. The planes were sent by sea to Chile, to be flown from there to ~~England~~ inland Bolivia.

Now, however, Washington has heard that the planes, upon getting to Bolivia, were scheduled to be changed around

again, <sup>into</sup> ~~and become~~ fighting ships. ~~Peace planes converted back~~  
~~into war planes.~~ That's the reason for the suspension of the  
licenses of the American pilots, ~~mx~~ just as they were about  
to fly the skyships from Chile to Bolivia. They are grounded  
in Chile now. The American fliers can't take off with them without  
getting in dutch with the American aviation authorities. So  
presumably the flying will have to be done by South American  
aviators.

1/2  
The second Equatorial flying machine story comes  
from the Republic of Colombia, where it seemed that evil designs  
might be meditated against a big American plane down there. It  
looked sinister and suspicious when <sup>several</sup> ~~sixty~~ Colombian Indians  
were found prowling beneath the wings of the giant bus. What  
were they doing? What evil designs did they have? Upon being  
sternly questioned the <sup>n</sup>Indians confessed that they were looking  
for eggs. They suspected that the giant bird might have laid  
a few. The condor of the Andes lays eggs, doesn't it? And how  
could this supremest of all condors reproduce and multiply, as  
the Bible commands, unless it laid eggs?



Maybe those Indians are now reposing in a Colombian  
hoosegow for the crime of stealing airplane eggs. Or does an  
airplane lay eggs. And do news commentators lay eggs -- and,

SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.