

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The flood story tonight is as stirring as a tale of war and battle, a colossal struggle of man against the river.

(The flood of the Ohio is now surging into the Mississippi. So the battle is transferred to that might stream, one of the greatest on earth.) A river which the Indians personified with the name of - father, "Father of Waters." And it's personified by the present day inhabitants of its banks, who call it - old man, "Old Man River." He's always a danger - that father of flood. Again and again he has worked havoc - old man deluge.

(The fight against the river right now is represented by fifty thousand men, flood fighters. For a stretch of a thousand miles, they are strengthening the levees, patrolling the dikes,) watching signs for a break, ready to dynamite openings at strategic points, to let the water flow out over wastelands and relieve the pressure.

"We are holding the levees!" is the battlery sounded by army engineers, in command of this monumental tussle with the river.

At the same time, they are prepared to evacuate the

population en masse, if the levee system shows signs of breaking. If the peril becomes critical at any one point, the army will move all the people out of that threatened area. If it seems that the whole of the flood control is about to collapse, there'll be a mass exodus of everybody from the lands adjacent to the river - an exodus of half a million. But tonight that doesn't seem likely, probably it won't be necessary.

This afternoon an announcement was made by General Malin Craig, Chief-of-Staff of the Army:- "Mississippi levees", he declared, "will take care of all expected water heights, <sup>So</sup> our engineers now believe." The General ~~believes~~ <sup>thinks</sup> that the ~~billion~~ <sup>existing</sup> dollar system of flood control will stand the test.

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At one point though, a break is threatening - at Mallwood, Arkansas. The levee shows signs of buckling, and if it does, the flood water will surge over a hundred thousand acres of low lying land. So today in this perilous basin, farmers were on the move. The army have <sup>S</sup> herded them out. Some of them were reluctant to go, and had to be forced at the point of bayonets, when they refused to obey.

In Memphis, the Mayor has been given the powers of a dictator, so that he may deal with the situation if the dikes break in that area. It will mean that tens of thousands of refugees from the nearby river lands will stream into Memphis and a strong hand be needed to govern the army of ~~refugees~~ *the homeless.*

At New Orleans, where they have a giant system of flood control, a decision was made today to open the ~~Bonnet-Carre~~ (pronounced "Bahn-Cair") spillway. They'll throw open the spillway next week, when the flood is scheduled to reach New Orleans, and that will run a regular ocean of water into the big lake east of ~~New Orleans~~ *the city.*



## FLOOD CONTROL

49  
While the flood control system along the Mississippi is getting its trial by fire, or rather by water - there's a controversy about deluge-strategy in Washington. Both sides are in entire agreement with the President, who announces that the deluge of the rivers is a national problem and must be controlled by national action.

But - what kind of control? Secretary of Agriculture Wallace speaks up as a dyed-in-the-wool conservationist. He looks at flood control from the conservationist's viewpoint, declaring that the remedy is - reforestation and the checking of soil erosion. Keep the rains and rivulets from running swiftly down to the streams. Catch the water before it has a chance to become a flood. Do this by renewing plant life - more woodlands and grasslands, which hold the water. Snare the <sup>moisture</sup> ~~waters~~ in traps of vegetation.

BT  
The opposite theory is advocated by General Edward Markham, Chief of the Army Engineering Corps. He says the mid-western deluge presents not a conservationist, but an engineering problem - the greatest in the world. He declares



that grass and the roots of trees are not enough to hold back floods. It takes giant dams and dikes to control rampaging rivers. *The same as that* ~~that's the~~ system of a billion dollar construction which the army engineers put up <sup>*some years ago*</sup> along the Mississippi - the system that right now is getting its trial by water.

General Markham is a professional flood battler. He has been campaigning against the waters ever since he left West Point. ~~The engines~~ He engineered against floods in the Philippines, in Cuba, and in many parts of the United States. He fights the water, and when he is not doing that, he breaks into a flood of melody. His hobby is - writing songs - words and music. In Nineteen Eighteen he composed one which begins - "Our land is fair --". The general might revise that one tonight with, "fair and flooded."

## DAMAGE

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( While the situation is in suspense on the Mississippi River, they are ~~xx~~ reckoning the damage in the Ohio Valley. The death list ascertained thus far stands at two hundred and ninety-three, and it may rise to four hundred before the count is complete. The number of homeless has swollen to a total of one million. The damage soars to half a billion dollars.) ~~But~~ Meanwhile the high water of the Ohio is slowly sinking. Flood sufferers notice a drop of a few inches here, a few inches there -- but those mere inches are like signs from heaven. They tell that the inundation of the Ohio Valley is on its way out.

Soon the work of rehabilitation will begin, stupendous and a ~~stupendous~~ work it will be. Hundreds of thousands of water-damaged homes to be repaired; bedroom and parlor floors covered with thick layers of mud and silt ~~p-~~ all to be cleaned out. What's the money phase of it here? Federal officials estimate that on the average it will cost two hundred and fifty dollars to put a house back into shape. Multiply that



by some hundreds of thousands, and the total ~~estimate~~ ultimate cost of the flood soars ~~fantastic~~ fantastically.

When a large part of the Ohio valley <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ turned into an inland sea -- that was not merely the greatest national disaster of nature, but also probably -- the costliest.



## STORMS

52  
From flood to storm - that's the sequence, ~~tonight. But~~  
~~it's also~~ from America to Europe. The old world is feeling the  
evil of the wind. Tremendous gales all over the continent.  
Cyclone winds are sweeping the ~~eastern~~ <sup>other</sup> side of the Atlantic,  
ships missing, ships lost. The death list in British waters  
rises above fifty, sailors caught in the doom of foundering  
ships. <sup>P</sup>In the Baltic the storm fury sank <sup>h</sup>a large German vessel,  
~~and two hundred of the crew~~ and the two hundred aboard are lost.

In England the raging seas flooded the lower valley  
of the Thames. The gale was blowing high tides <sup>enough</sup> to flood London;  
but, <sup>7</sup>a change in the wind reversed the surge of water. The  
Shetland Islands are marooned, <sup>cut</sup> ~~knocked~~ off from the outside world.

At Gibraltar a hurricane is battering the Straits.  
Off the coast of Portugal a steamship is reported wrecked,  
and fishing fleets are scattered.

The storm news climaxes <sup>with</sup> ~~the~~ war news. The Spanish  
Civil War is almost at a standstill, held up by wind and  
torrential rain. Sky fighting, stopped for the duration of the  
tempest. Ceiling zero, the weather more perilous than war.

53 Rebel trenches in Madrid are flooded, turned into canals.

# The Left Wingers claim that Franco's men have had to clear out of a considerable area of deluged strongholds. Today the ~~Spanish~~ <sup>Spanish was</sup> ~~war~~

is "storm-bound. "



Kirsten

Flagstad .

Jan. 28, 1937.



FLAGSTAD

I heard an interesting story about the lumber business today - or rather about grand opera. It concerns the most brilliant star on the musical horizon, the soprano who has made Wagnerian music drama the reigning vogue at New York's Metropolitan Opera House. Madame Kirsten Flagstad, who tomorrow will sing Elsa in Lohengrin at the Annual Metropolitan Opera Performance given by Vassar College. I heard the story of how <sup>she</sup> ~~Madame Flagstad~~ came to America. For years the great soprano wanted to visit our shores, but never could do it - until at last a singular turn of events came. And it was wonderful for the lumber business -

I mean grand opera. But let's have Madame Flagstad herself

tell the story. She is here <sup>with me.</sup> ~~in the studio, with a microphone~~  
<sup>Would you</sup> ~~handy.~~ <sup>this country?</sup> ~~So~~ tell us, Madame Flagstad, about your coming to America.

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MADAME FLAGSTAD: Yes, for a long time I wanted to <sup>came to America.)</sup> ~~go.~~ I talked to my husband about it, and told him it should be a business trip. I was not thinking of music, but of my husband's factory. He manufactures ply wood in Norway, and he imports lumber from

Oregon - Oregon pine. <sup>So</sup> ~~He~~ has lumber interests there. But everything was going well, and there was no need for him to make the trip.

<sup>So</sup>  
L.T.: ~~So you didn't go?~~ You didn't get a chance to see the Oregon pine and spruce and fir. But you were telling me, Madame Flagstad, that you were singing ~~in~~ <sup>and</sup> Tristan <sup>and</sup> Lohengrin <sup>in Norway.</sup>  
~~in the Ring Cycle in the opera houses of Europe.~~ Then, how you felt - when you got a contract with the Metropolitan Opera House in New York.

MADAME FLAGSTAD: I was delighted, thrilled to see America, and sing for America. And I was also thrilled because of my husband's ply <sup>wood</sup> ~~work~~ factory. I know about mahogany, walnut and oak. So I said to him - "Henry, now I will see the timber in Oregon, the pine, the spruce and the fir."

L.T.: So you came here and made your dazzling success at the Metropolitan? Have you been out west to see the lumber?



MADAM FLAGSTAD: Yes, after the Metropolitan season was over I went to sing in California. And I took a trip up to Oregon, and saw the magnificent forests. The northern woods were marvelous, inspiring. Among the great trees I didn't feel so far away from Wagner and the music drama. I could feel the forest music, as in Sigfried. In the great woods I could better appreciate the spirit of Isolde, and Elsa, Sieglinde and Brünhilde. It made me realize that my husband's business career and my own musical career were not so far apart.

---- yard.  
L.T.: Grand opera and the lumber ~~business~~.

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MADAM FLAGSTAD: Yes. (Laugh).

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L.T.: A great artist so much interested in her husband's ~~work~~  
~~business affairs~~ --  
~~in industry and commerce~~ -- that seems to me a revelation of the  
~~profound~~ good sense of the renowned soprano who tomorrow will  
sing in the opera for the Vassar girls.



GIRL

56  
Tonight the bogeyman is in jail and the New York police are hailing a six-year old girl as a first-rate detective. She is Marilyn Shapiro, who has curly hair on a cool head. Marilyn thought it was the bogeyman. What else would you think, if you were six, and you heard a noise in the parlour and you crawled quietly out of bed and tip-toed to look, and you saw a dark figure <sup>there.</sup> ~~in the parlour.~~ You'd <sup>think</sup> ~~have thought~~ just what Marilyn <sup>thought--</sup> ~~said~~ -- it's the bogeyman.

But if you were six, and unless you had an exceedingly cool, curly head -- you'd never do what Marilyn did. Instead of screaming and crying, she tip-toed back down the hall to her parents bedroom, and quietly awakened her mother.

"Mama," she whispered. "I saw the bogeyman."

"You saw what?"

"The bogeyman, he's in the parlour."

Just then Mrs. Shapiro heard a noise. She shook her husband.

"Wake up," she whispered. "There are burglars in the house."

Mr. Shapiro heard the noise too. He grabbed for the

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 telephone on the table next to the bed. But instead of the telephone he got hold of a small electric light, a table lamp. He jammed it into his face and shouted to the light: "Help, police, there are burglars in the house!"

After this confusion and mistake Mr. Shapiro finally got the ~~the~~ telephone, yelled for help and got the police.

Meanwhile, with all this commotion, the bogeyman was thoroughly alarmed, and beat a quick escape. Police cars came speeding. The cops in one noticed two negroes a few blocks from the Shapiro house, and picked them ~~up~~ up. They had in their possession a diamond ring and an overcoat which have been identified as belonging to the Shapiros. The police announced today that the two have confessed a whole series of burglaries in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn. And all day today curly-headed Marilyn was telling her playmates how she saw the bogeyman and he was caught ~~two of them.~~

So, children, look out for the bogeyman,  
~~and s-l-u-t-m.~~



## AVIATION

I saw a lot of flying today -- not at any airport, but right out of my office window here at Rockefeller Center. Two hundred roaring planes staged a sky parade over the metropolis.

Leading the overhead procession was Howard Hughes, the millionaire smasher of the coast-to-coast records. Hughes has just been granted the Harmon Trophy, for the outstanding achievement in aviation. The purpose of all the sky doings was to herald the opening of the National Aviation Week, which is featured by a big Aviation Show in New York.

At the show can be seen the new trends in aircraft since Nineteen Thirty. Monoplanes are replacing bi-planes. All metal construction is superseding fabric and wood.

A bit of news comes from Italy about aviation, or maybe you'd call it bicycling. The Italian Aero Club has a five thousand dollar prize for-- human flight, flying without an engine, man-power instead of horsepower. From Milan comes the report that a chap named Bonomi has made a flight of five-eighths of a mile at a speed of twenty-eight miles an hour - in a craft operated by his own leg power. It is described as having pedals like



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a bicycle, with which the aviator drives the propeller. He just goes pedalling along not down the road, but through the air.

Bicycles in flight! And here's a commentator in flight!

And -----SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.