

INTRODUCTION

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Lowell Thomas broadcast
for the Literary Digest,
Tuesday, April 21, 1931

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2
3 A lot of noise and excitement has
4 been disturbing the tranquility of life
5 in Waterbury, Connecticut. There was a
6 roar of a shotgun fire and a splatter
7 of buck-shot flying in almost every
8 direction - hitting almost everything.

9 Two bandits, a man and a woman,
10 held up the store of Gustavo Gioconetti.
11 No sooner had the robbers got out of the
12 front door than Gustavo Gioconetti
13 grabbed a shotgun and went after them.

14 He ^{cut loose} ~~opened~~ a blast of fire, pumping his
15 gun for all he was worth.

16 Gustavo didn't hit either the man
17 or the woman who robbed him, but he hit
18 nearly everything else. Windows went
19 crashing under the rain of buck-shot.
20 The uproar was so deafening that crowds
21 gathered. The man and woman tried to
22 get away but were caught and were
hustled off to jail.

23 Today they have been picking
24 Gustavo Gioconetti's buck-shot out of
25 half of Waterbury.

BYRD DOG

And now for an item about a famous dog. Yes, Igloo is dead. The little mongrel fox terrier that accompanied Admiral Byrd on his famous polar journeys has gone to the Heaven for dogs. He was just a mutt, but, as the Associated Press reminds us, he was Byrd's favorite companion during those adventurous journeys by sea and sky that are so famous. I myself have talked to men who were with Byrd in the Antarctic and they have told me that the closest friend the chief had was that same keen little dog, Igloo.

Wherever Byrd went the dog was sure to go, and although Igloo looked like some sort of terrier, you might call him the Byrd-dog. I met Igloo in Chicago last December. In fact I introduced him to a Chicago audience and he got almost as big a hand as the Admiral.

Well, Igloo fell ill while his master was out on a lecture tour. When Byrd learned the dogs condition was serious he cancelled several dates so he might rush to the sick-bed of his old pal -- or do dogs have sick-beds? Then Byrd got word that Igloo had died, so the Polar explorer after all is going to keep those dates that he cancelled.

1 Igloo will be laid away in a quiet
2 little grave, and I suppose that all we
3 can speak over him is a simple epitaph,
4 which is a good and honorable epitaph,

5 "He was just a dog, ^{a faithful dog,} the
6 only dog to fly over the North and South
7 Poles."

HELEN KELLER

Today, at the Newark, New Jersey, airport, a blind woman climbed into an airplane. It was her first journey through the sky. She was Helen Keller. And according to the International News Service she flew to Washington to be received by President Hoover.

1 I don't know whether to classify
2 this next item as sport or surgery.
3 Anyway, the hair is going to fly, and an
4 ear or two may be snipped off in the
5 excitement.

6 Am important dispatch from the
7 International News Service states that
8 tomorrow at Waterloo, New York, a hair-
9 cutting contest is to be staged for the
10 central New York barbering championship
11 title. The two greatest barbers in
12 central New York state will compete for
13 the honor. They are William Menzer, 65
14 years old, of Waterloo, and James
15 Baldassare of Courtland. James is only
16 45. Each barber will shear 25 heads of
17 hair. The call for volunteers has gone
18 out, and plenty of heroes have responded,
19 ~~offering to place their heads at the~~
20 ~~mercy of the snipping shears of the two~~
21 ~~barbers.~~ Those who have come forward are
22 ten men, fifty-nine women, five boys and
23 five girls. The women in central New
24 York state seem to have more courage than
25 the men, although ^{some} ~~you~~ might call it ~~a~~ more

BARBERS - 2

lack of judgement.

The contest will be decided on a basis of speed and quality. The haircuts will have to be O.K., no tufts sticking out at the sides, and none of that hacksaw effect at the back of the cranium. Pulling it out by the roots will also be barred, and every ear cut off will be a fault scored by the competing barber. A huge crowd of barbers will be present.

Yes sir, the hair is going to fly tomorrow at Waterloo, New York. And, by the beard of Rip Van Winkle, I'll not be there.

STEEL

A practical prosperity note comes in a statement made by James A. Farrell, President of the United States Steel Corporation.

He addressed a meeting of the stockholders at Hoboken, New Jersey. His optimism was carried to a practical point when the stockholders put into effect a big pension plan.

Employees of the company, from floorsweeper to president, will be put on a pension at the age of 70. The New York Times has been informed that a retiring employee will receive one per cent of his salary for each year that he has worked for the company.

If an employee has had 30 years of service, he will receive 30 per cent of his salary for the rest of his life. And there we have another version of the old song -- actions speak louder than words.

TEXAS

Well, yesterday we had a good old New England celebration, ~~at~~ Patriots' Day. And tonight we'll take up the good old New England subject of Texas.

The microphone here is near a window - a window of the Statler Hotel, and I have a magnificent view, stretching into the dim distance, a view of many scenes connected with such things as the Boston Tea Party, and Bunker Hill.

But I'm filled with thoughts of Sam Houston, and Davy Crockett, the Alamo, and San Jacinto. Just how do I get that way? Why, because today is set aside for the celebration of the Texas Declaration of Independence. H. P. Mathews, a stalwart New York - Texan reminds us that the Lone Star State fought its own fight for freedom and won its independence from Mexico.

Perhaps the biggest festivity today is being held in San Antonio. In fact, the whole week is given over to one grand and glorious fiesta in old Bexar County, Texas. A sham battle will be staged in front of the Alamo, this week. And the old shout will be raised:- "Remember the Alamo." But the ground which was once made crimson by the blood of the favorite heroes of Texas,

1 Meanwhile, - some distance from
2 ^{and New England -} Texas - another civic festival was held
3 today. Rome, the Eternal City, celebrated
4 its 2,648th birthday.

5 According to tradition, Rome was
6 founded in the year 753 B.C., when Romulus
7 and Remus started to build a few houses
8 among the Seven Hills, and when Romulus
9 hit ^{Remus} ~~his brother~~ with a shovel.

10 The United Press cables that
11 Mussolini celebrated the day by swearing
12 into the Fascist Party 90,000 young men
13 who've just come of age. And all over
14 the city from the Capitoline Hill to the
15 Appian ^{way} ~~Hill~~ hundreds of thousands of
16 arms were raised in that stately old
17 salute of the Romans.

Word from Spain tonight tells of a new step which the republican government is taking to keep itself in power. The idea is to make the new regime at Madrid independent of the Army.

A civil protective force is being established. It consists of working men who will be called upon to protect the new government in case of emergency. The International News Service says the working men will not be ~~formally~~ *formally* organized but that stores of rifles will be held in readiness for them to use at any time.

With this civil force at its command the government will be able to balance off the Army. It won't have to depend on the Army entirely for protection.

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commissions. They did this in protest against the appointment of Major Ramon Franco, as commander of the Spanish air forces. Franco, you will recall, as the famous trans-Atlantic flyer who took a prominent part in the republican revolt against King Alphonso a number of weeks ago. He had to leave Spain, but now he has returned. He is, in fact, a hero of the hour - and he has just been made boss of the Spanish Army of the Sky. And many of the military flyers don't like it.

The new Spanish Parliament will be chosen and will meet within three months. The United Press tells us that a quick meeting of Parliament will be welcomed by both Republicans and Monarchists simply because it will help clear up a chaotic and confusing situation.

HONDURAS

And the situation in Honduras this evening also seems confused. The President down there continues to say what he said yesterday -- that the rebellion is not over, but that the Honduran government has the upper hand.

Other advices seem to indicate that the revolt is bigger than that. According to the Associated Press, foreign women and children, mostly Americans, are seeking safety aboard ships along the coast.

The President of Honduras tells us that three important battles have been fought. The rebels captured a town, but were driven out after a bitter fighting.

Another force of rebels looted the town of Progreso, but government soldiers ousted them.

A third rebel detachment was beaten by government soldiers - and machine guns and a few bombs were captured. Other

1 reports tell of raids against towns and
2 the destruction of telegraph lines.
3 Some people think that the Honduran
4 rebels are in league with the Nicaraguan
5 trouble maker, Sandino.

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1 Now come a few hard words. President
2 Hoover uttered them, and they were
3 directed against Sandino, ~~the rebel~~
4 ~~leader down in Nicaragua.~~

5 The President spoke of Sandino ~~in~~
6 ~~these words~~ ^{quote:} "AS HAVING PLACED HIMSELF
7 OUTSIDE THE ~~MMMM~~ CIVILIZED PALE BY THE
8 COLD-BLOODED MURDER OF ~~EIGHT OR NINE~~
9 AMERICAN CITIZENS."

10 And then, according to the United
11 Press, the Chief Executive of the United
12 States went on emphatically. He said:--

13 "OUR ADVICES ARE THAT THE NICARAGUAN
14 GOVERNMENT HAS NOW PLACED IN THE FIELD
15 A TOTAL OF OVER 1,300 MEN OF THE NEWLY
16 CREATED NATIONAL GUARD~~■~~, IN A DRIVE TO
17 CLEAN UP SANDINO AND HIS FELLOW BANDITS.

18 "OUR REPRESENTATIVES^{are} ADVISED THAT
19 THIS FORCE IS SEVERAL TIMES THAT OF
20 SANDINO AND HIS BANDS. HIS RAIDS UPON
21 IMPORTANT POINTS HAVE BEEN FRUSTRATED BY
22 THE DISPOSITIONS OF THE GUARD. THE
23 PROTECTION OF OUR CITIZENS ON THE COAST
24 IS MADE DOUBLY SURE BY THE PRESENCE OF
25 OUR NAVAL VESSELS.

1 "THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN
2 ITSELF FULLY COGNIZANT OF ITS
3 RESPONSIBILITIES. WHILE IT MAY REQUIRE
4 SOME TIME, I AM CONFIDENT THAT SANDINO
5 WILL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE."

6 *Thus spoke President Hoover today.*
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1 well, that spread of revolution
2 *(strangely contagious. It seems to be)* ^{Now} seems to be spreading far and wide. It's
3 cropping up in the ^{picturesque} South American
4 republic of Paraguay.

5 The Associated Press ■■ cables
6 that at the town of Luque, ^{Loogway} a band of
7 civilian revolutionaries gathered in
8 front of the military barracks and tried
9 to persuade the soldiers to revolt. The
10 soldiers refused, and the police restored
11 order.

NEWS ITEM

Now comes my news-item-of-the-day, although you may think it somewhat unusual. If I told the story right off you might wonder a bit. So perhaps I had better explain.

I had lunch with the Boston Advertising Club today, and I was talking with a group of advertising executives. Among them the Boston advertising representative of the Literary Digest. We were discussing the Digest ads.

One man remarked that in the preparation of those ads the most highly paid artists in the country are employed. Then take the photographs. High-priced artists of the camera get big prices for making those photographic art studied that we see in the Literary Digest advertisements.

Well, we were talking along when three men came up, two of them husky fellows of the athletic type:- Judge Emil Fuchs, owner of the Boston Braves; Bill McKechnie, the old time star and present manager of the Braves; and Hank Gowdy, that mighty man of baseball.

Said I to him, "Hank, why don't you pick my news-item-of -the-day?"

"K. O.," responded Hank.

So you can blame the news item that's coming now on Hank Gowdy. He explained it this way. Says Hank, "You know, a ball player's dogs do a lot of work, his feet hot-foot it around the bases and they get all tangled up when a grounder comes zipping along. And in the out-field they never travel fast enough to get that fly that means the game."

With those reflections Hank Gowdy handed me an item which informs us that this week is a time solemnly devoted to feet.

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With those reflections Hank Gowdy handed me an item which informs us that this week is a time solemnly devoted to feet.

In fact, it's called Nation-Wide Foot-Health Week.

The citizens of this great country are called upon to devote these seven days to earnest and fervent thought about their feet.

We're called upon to remember admiringly just how much our feet mean to us. We stand on them. We walk with them. We kick our fellow man with them. We trip people up in the street-cars and subways with them. We get cold feet. We get sore feet. We get flat feet. On them we get--well, let's stop there.

At any rate, what would the show clerks do if people didn't have feet? And what would the folks do in Manchester, New Hampshire; Brocton and Lynn, Massachusetts, and a string of other busy New England cities where most of America's footgear is made. What would they do if there were no feet? Even to think of it staggers me.

Well, I've a letter here from the Committee for the Promotion of Foot Health, which, in celebration of Nation-Wide Foot Health Week, ~~xxxxxx~~ reminds us of a few important things. It tells us that Nation Wide Foot Health Week is sponsored by the National Association of Chiropodists-Podiatrists-- and so on.

This letter tells us that walking is healthy. And the letter doesn't mention it, but it should - that sometimes running is even more healthy.

Throughout the country, this week, special foot clinics are operated by the National Association of Chiropodists-Podiatrists for the sole purpose of placing the nation on healthy feet. Efficiency, they say, should be from the ground up. Why? Well, simply because we live 60 per cent of our lives in our shoes.

Yes, sir. It's Nation-Wide Foot Health Week. It's also time for me to take these nation-wide feet of mine away from this microphone. But before I set them in motion, I have just one thing more to say. And that is --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.