

L.T. - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, MAY 30, 1939
(Springfield, Ill.)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Hugh James, for the Sun Oil Company, has just saluted the Veterans from Radio City, and I, too, wish to salute them. But not from New York. I am in Springfield, Illinois, tonight; sitting before a microphone in the parlor of the home of Abraham Lincoln. Surely an appropriate place to be on Memorial Day.

But, before I explain why I happen to be broadcasting from the Lincoln Home, let's have a look at the news, the bulletins that have been coming to me over the press wires from all parts of the world:-

Bergdoll

One of the strangest observances of Memorial Day was proposed today. Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, most famous of draft dodgers wanted to lay a wreath in honor of american soldiers who died for their country. Bergdoll, back in world war days, created all sorts of excitement and headlines by his refusal to take any chance of dying for his country, but today he issued a statement asking that he be allowed to lay a memorial day wreath.

In the military prison at Governors Island, awaiting a prison sentence as a draft dodger, Bergdoll took pen and paper and wrote his plea. Now a pudgy middle aged man, he asked forgiveness for the misdeed of his youth—when he refused to fight against Germany, the native land of his parents, and fled from the draft, fled to ^Rgermany. Today he described his action as— "The mistakes of a very reckless young man" and insisted that in wartime he was sincerely a conscientious objector. He declared that during his twenty years in Germany he was well treated. Why then has he come back—to serve a prison term? He speaks of his children and of freedom. "Free schools," as he says, "Schools free from —————→"

SHEET 2.

ADD BERGDOLL.

hate, free from religious hatred, free from regimentation,
and free in democracy dedicated to liberty. "

such are the words of the NUMBER ONE DRAFT DODGER? , AND
HE MADE THE PLEA THAT HE BE ALLOWED TODAY TO GO TO THE STATUE
OF LIBERTY AND THERE LAY A MEMORIAL WREATH IN HONOR OF THE
SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT.

It didnt happen, *Not exactly.* *Army regulations with respect*
interfered. to military prisoners, *maybe* the army chiefs thought the idea
sounded a bit spectacular and stagey.

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Today in Philadelphia they had a memorial day ceremony
that stands in dramatic relation to bergdoll's plea. American
legionnaires paid homage to Russell c Gross. His name was
next to Bergdoll's name on the draft list *when they* ~~which~~ called the
draft dodger to military service. Bergdoll fled, but the next
man on the list put on his uniform and went with his outfit to
France. Today in Philadelphia the Russell c Gross post of the
American legion fired a salute over his grave, a grave bearing
the inscription, "killed in france october eighteenth, nineteen
eighteen."

(end item)

RACE The dark shadow of death whirled in the auto race today as the cars went whizzing and thundering around the brick track at Indianapolis. A crowd of over forty thousand was watching, the largest week-day crowd the famous track has ever known, an electrified multitude that thrilled to the maddening speed, — speed and more speed— as the drivers drove to win the fifty thousand dollar prize.

At the half way mark, the five hundred mile race half run, all the signs were that the record would be broken. The cars were setting new marks for sprints, and the record for the five hundred miles of Indianapolis classic seemed sure to fall.

whirling
Those [^] round and round on the brick track seemed ~~certain~~ to be driving faster than they ever ^{drove} ~~been driven~~ before. Yes, the electrical thrill of record-shattering-speed. Then it was that the ~~dark~~ shadow of death whiled [^] into the race: —

Floyd Roberts was driving at a breakneck pace, not in the lead, but a flaming contender. Last year the racer from VanNuys, California, won the Indianapolis classic and ^{set} ~~sent~~ an all time new speed record for the track. It was his record that seemed about to be broken this afternoon, ^{And} he himself went out to shatter his own

RACE.

former mark and win the race today. He hoped that luck would be with him. He had taken precautions so that he should have good fortune. Floyd Roberts believed that black cats were good luck. This year somebody gave one of the blackest of cats, which he had kept as an omen, as a talisman to ward off evil tricks of chance. He had the black cat at the race, kept in his garage at the side of the track. That inky dark feline which was ~~to bring~~ ^{to bring} ~~him~~ ^{him} assure good luck. ~~so he'd win~~ ^{But} Today Floyd Roberts lost. ~~Never mind the race,~~ ^{! He} lost his life.

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The cars were ripping along, one after another, side by side, passing each other. And Floyd Roberts' car at the height of its speed, got into a collision. A three-car collision. Robert's car hit Bob Swanson's car. Swanson's car burst into flames and went bouncing end over end across the track, a flaming wreck. Swanson was thrown clear and was injured, but not critically. Along came Chet Miller of Detroit, and he hit the flaming wreck of the Swanson car. His own machine was knocked out of commission, but he himself was only slightly injured. ^R But what about Floyd Roberts car that hit first in the collision? [?] It went hurdling off the track, flew smashing

Race.

into the wall, a mass of wreckage. Pieces went ~~a~~ flying for two hundred and fifty feet. One fragment hit a woman, and she was injured, ~~about the head and shoulders.~~ Another spectator, another woman, ^{came out of it with} ~~sustained~~ a broken leg. They took Floyd Roberts out of the wreckage. He was unconscious. They rushed him to a hospital, and there within a half an hour he died. The first driver to be killed in an Indianapolis race since nineteen thirty-five-though last year, a spectator was killed when a wheel flew from one of the cars and hit him.

The triple ^{crash} ~~crashed~~ immediately caused the whole race to slow down. Signals were flashed to drivers to cut their speed to seventy five miles an hour, and hold their positions. This, until the wreckage could be cleared away. The slowing down spoiled the chance of breaking the track record, -- ^{so} ~~that~~ record which Floyd Roberts ^{had} ~~set~~ last year. ^R He lost his life, but his record was saved -- his own death saved it. ~~Such was the bitter trick that death played in the Indianapolis classic today.~~ ~~When the dark shadow whirled into the race, Floyd Roberts was lost, but his speed record was saved.~~

RACE.

The classic ended with a trilling duel between Wilbur Shaw and Lou Meyer.

Shaw-- who had previously won the race, two years ago, in nineteen thirty seven, and Meyer-- the only driver who has won the Indianapolis classis three times. A heart-breaking duel it was.

Right down to the last few minutes, Meyer had driven without changing a tire-- four hundred and fifty five miles on the same set of tires. But then one went and he had to stop for a change. He seemed to be out of the running. Then Shaw had trouble with only twenty ^{OH} miles to go, ~~he~~ had to stop and pull ^A to one side, ~~of the track~~ to fix things up. Did that stop him? not at all, he climbed back into his little car, an ^{Italian} ~~Italian~~ speed box and drove it to the limit of its power, simply hurled it along the track, ^{But} only seven and a half miles from the finish, ^{2A} Lou Meyers speeding auto went into a spin-- only three laps from home. And ^{Wilbur} Shaw went by him like the wind. And won..

(end item)

DANCER. Hollywood is having another one of these suits about

plagiarism - ~~that~~ time it concerns the eloquent art of dancing

with "buckets on your feet," I'd rather do my dancing without

buckets on my feet, but it would appear that some ingenious

souls prefer to have milk pails for shoes when they do their

hoofing. ^{Rashall}~~Ben Rashall~~ goes to court declaring that he invented

the bucket-footed dance. he points out that BUDDY EDSEN WENT CLO-

GING AROUND WITH PAILS ON HIS FEET IN THE PICTURE, "the kid

from texas ." So one bucketer is suing the other bucketer

for twenty five thousand dollars, ^{a whole}~~which is a~~ bucketful of
money.

~~To Mr Thomas. How much local material will you have~~

~~Prosper.~~

~~(end Item)~~

SOFT BALL.

I thought I had it all figured out-- how to win a soft ball game. Today at Bronxville NewYork there was a class^h between two powerful teams,-- or shall we say powerless?[?] My nine old men played the Ford Frick Furies. Ford Frick is president of the National League, and I figured he would do some mighty masterminding to win the game. So as manager of the NINE OLD MEN I did some master-minding on my own. Every time I'M there managing them in person, that Novena of ancient hombres seems to lose. So I figured the way to make them win was for me to ~~out~~^H and be as far away as possible. Well, Springfield, Illinois is pretty far from Bronxville, NewYork,-- but not far enough apparently. In spite of my absence, in spite of my not being there to master-mind-- those senescent athletes lost just the same, by a score of eighteen to nine.^H Maybe it was Dale Carnegie's pitching that caused them to lose, (or Colonel Stoopnagle's third basing on Homer Croy's right-fielding or-- Oh ^{what's} ~~what's~~ the use. Or maybe it was because the FORD FRICK FURIES played bang-up soft ball-- with Graham McNamee's short-stopping, Ed Thorgersen's left-fei~~lding~~, McClelland Barclays third basing. But again, what's the use? Even ~~my~~ absence doesn't

SOFT BALL

help those NINE OLD MEN, and the echo reverberates -- what's
the use?

~~(Enditem - Good night)~~

Let's see what the King
of England was doing today! -

KING..

For the first time in history, a British King has gazed upon the Pacific ocean. Today King George and Queen Elizabeth are at Victoria, British Columbia and in an address today the ^{man} ~~Morach~~ said: "Here on the shores of the Pacific, I can realize the position which Canada occupies. Her Atlantic windows look to Europe, her Pacific windows to Asia and the Far east.

"Some day^s" ~~he~~ ^{he} went on, "The peoples of the world will come to realize that prosperity lies in cooperation and not in conflict". and then he reflected: "With the dawn of that bright day, I look to Canada to play an increasingly important part in furthering friendly relations between the east and the west".

Such is the thought that George the Sixth speaks as he stands on the shore of the Pacific ocean-- the first British Sovereign to see what Balboa was the first European to see.

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PREBYTERIANS

If the shade of Lincoln is hovering over me as I sit here in his Springfield home tonight
In the world of religion ~~was~~ of the

important events of the year, was the union of the methodists-North and South. today, the presbyterians decided to put off their own question of reunion until next year. Just as with the methodists, the presbyterian church was split in two by the bitter controversy that led to the civil war- North and South, Abolitionists and slavery.

Long up a new item that will interest him!

Today, the seventy-ninth general assembly of the Presbyterian church south passed ^{along} ~~all of~~ the reunion problem to the presbyteries- the individual churches. On the question of amalgamating with the presbyterian church north, the southern assembly made no recommendation. Let the presbyteries decide- according to their own lights.

That puts the whole thing off until next year, and there is something fitting in that for next year will be the one hundredth anniversary of the presbyterian church south. Just one hundred years, the presbyterian church split in two- amid the angry disputes that led to the civil war.

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Yes, Lincoln would be interested in that. And he undoubtedly would hope to see the churches of the North and South united - he would want to see all of the old scars healed.

(End Item)

LT from
Springfield

Ill.

May 30, 1939.

L. T. Broadcast, Springfield, Illinois, May 30, 1939.

YOUNG MR. LINCOLN.

And now for the brief explanation of why I am broadcast-
ing from Springfield, Illinois tonight; my 20th Century Fox
colleagues invited me to come out and take part in the World
Premiere of the ^{latest} Fox film: "Young Mr. Lincoln". Trains have
been converging on Springfield, all day, bringing screen stars
from Holly wood, and newspaper representatives, and theatre men,
from far and wide. I happed to come in by way of Chicago
on a train named after Lincoln's sweetheart, ^a stream line train
on the C. & A. called ^{the} Ann Rutledge. With me were Alice
Brady and Arleen Whalen, who play important parts in "Young Mr.
Lincoln", film comedian, Binnie Barnes, comedy star, Eddy ^{Collins} Collins
who is Lincoln's pal in the film. Eddy was "Dopey" in Walt
Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs". ^{Caesar} Romero, —
and others.

It seems to be quite the vogue this year to have these
so-called World Premieres in places far away from Broadway.

And, everybody along the route of the Chicago and Alton seemed to know this morning that ^{the} screen stars were coming through.

There were crowds of fans at every station; at Joliet, Bloomington, and so on. ^R And, when the Ann Rutledge rolled into Springfield the Hollywood contingent was literally mobbed.

There was a brass band, a parade, and tens of thousands of people lined the streets of Springfield between the station and the Lincoln Hotel. - School girls screamed with delight

when they saw their handsome favorite, Cesar Romero; little children whistled and shouted ^{and} ~~as they~~ waved at "Dopey", Eddy ^{ie}

Collins; farmers and business men ^e ~~throwing~~ their straw hats in the air as they cheered Alice Brady, Binnie Barnes, and

the Cinderella girl, Arleen Whalen, who only a couple of years ago was an unknown manicure girl in a barber shop, —

now a star.

^{they are all here.}
From the Governor and the Mayor on down, Illinois ^{and descendants of} Legislators, and Lincoln scholars, ~~were~~ on hand to welcome

former neighbors, are were
Lincoln's

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the ~~Fox~~ actors and actresses. Tonight "Young Mr. Lincoln" will have its first showing on any screen, in the Fox Lincoln Theatre. So this is a big day in Springfield, ~~a famous~~ ^{and Springfield} is an Illinois city that has had many big days in its long history.

~~And~~, Appropriately, before the lights grow dim in the

Springfield theatre, tonight, Marian Anderson, famous negro singer, will sing patriotic songs and spirituals.

^{Negro} Both Springfield papers, the Journal and the State Register

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have

~~The Illinois State Register, a paper to which Lincoln once contributed,~~ ^{One of them} describes the event in these words:

"The curtain of history is ^{to be} rolled back ^{so that} today, ~~so~~ once

more on this hallowed ground ^{will} ~~might~~ be re-enacted a segment of the past; to permit us, who have come too late, to steal a few vivid moments from the life of Springfield's first citizen - -

Abraham Lincoln." ^{And that's how I happen}

to be broadcasting from the home of Abraham Lincoln here in Springfield - and s-l-u-t-m.

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RETAKE

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