

LT in
gas chamber.
Apr. 27, 1934.

LOWELL THOMAS-SUN-April 27, 1934. (FRIDAY)

I've still got mine on. And as we sit here outside this gas chamber we surely look like a company of warle, fantastic
monsters.

Maybe that's how whole populations will look in
the wars of the future. Maybe that's how thousands and

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:-

I've been broadcasting from a lot of places of late,
that crisis in the Far East. Scientist down here sitting here
and tonight you may think I'm in my proper setting. I'm in a
tells me the Japanese are making masks and gas. And he
room surrounded by gas masks, gas masks everywhere. But wait
declares that the Russians have gone farther with chemical
a moment, don't make that joke that naturally pops into your
warfare experiments than anyone else.
mind. I'll say it myself:- When Lowell Thomas is broadcasting,
people here now sitting around me are interested in
you need gas masks.

Anyway, I'm in the place where they make most of
of America, China, Africa, and the whole world with mine
those weird gas-protective devices that are manufactured in the
Safety appliances.
world. I had a gas mask on myself a minute ago. A scientist
took me in a gas chamber where we would have passed out in a
hurry if we hadn't been wearing masks. That gas chamber is
right back of me now. And all around me, still wearing their
gas-mask-harness are the scientists who solve these mysteries
for us.

He

INTRODUCTION #2.

I've still got mine on. And as we sit here outside this gas chamber we surely look like a company of eerie, fantastic monsters.

Maybe that's how whole populations will look in the wars of the future. Maybe that's how thousands and thousands of people will be looking if things go wrong in that crisis in the Far East. Scientist John Ryan sitting here tells me the Japanese are ^{working furiously} making masks and gasses. And he declares that the Russians have gone farther with chemical warfare experiments than anyone else.

But These men sitting around me are interested in masks for another reason. To protect us ^{in our everyday peaceful lives.} To furnish the miners of America, China, Africa, and the whole world with Mine Safety Appliances.

JAPAN.

At any rate

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The whole world is watching the reaction to Japan's pre-emptory invitation to keep hands off China. Which seemed to ^{imply:-} mean "white hands off China"

But now, says Tokyo: "Oh no, most honorable western nations. Japanese meant nothing of the sort. Japanese most peaceful. Japanese did not mean what honorable western nations thought."

"Japanese Foreign Minister Mr. Hirota may be talk out of turn. But very sorry honorable foreign nations misunderstand peaceful Mr. Hirota."

"Monroe Doctrine of Asia?" Exclaims Japan, "Oh fie, Uncle Sam, how could you? To be sure His Imperial Majesty, the Son of Heaven, has almost strongest army in the world. But that only because honorable western nations so suspicious,"

H In other words, Japan is taking it easy, explaining away that declaration. And that seems to be the latest phase of that Far Eastern situation.

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MARINE FOLLOW JAPAN

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The recent experience of General Bradman of Uncle Sam's Leathernecks shows how anxious Washington is to do everything to preserve peace and concord. On Monday, General Bradman arrived in Shanghai to take command of the Marines. In again, out again, gone again, finegan. On Wednesday he was recalled.

And here's the curious diplomatic reason. General Bradman as a Brigadier would have been ranking officer of all the foreign forces at Shanghai. As such he would have become chief of the Defense Council. This is an organization of all the foreign officers who are stationed at that post to preserve life and property.

But Uncle Sam's investments in those parts are far less than either those of John Bull or of the Japanese. So, in view of the ticklish situation, the State Department was obliged to advise the Navy that it would be unwise to have an American officer heading the Shanghai Council of Defense. Not even a submarine lung could save that situation for Brigadier General Bradman.

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SUBMARINE ESCAPE

So much for the Marines, now for the Navy.

The United States Navy is going in for submarine lungs on a large scale. These Science wizards sitting here with me are now making two thousand of them for Uncle Sam's lads who go down to the sea in ships. John Ryan and George Deike, famous for their Mine Safety Appliances, and a score of ~~XXXXXXXX~~ research men are at work on them. Commander Velz and a number of other Navy men inspect every submarine lung while it is being made.

They are equipping our under sea boats so that if anything happens the pressure in the submarine can be equalized, then each man can put on this gas-mask-lung, shoot out into the water and go slowly up to the surface of the ocean.

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KIDNAPPING.

I wish some criminologist would figure out their
a clear explanation for the prevalence of that most vicious
of crimes--kidnapping.

Are the present day kidnapers the former liquor
racketeers? It doesn't seem so clear.

Anyway, we have the same old sad kidnapping story
down in Arizona, with June Robles, the six-year old grand-
daughter of a millionaire rancher, snatched away and held
for ransom.

The melancholy story follows the old familiar
pattern--a statewide hunt, with police, cowboys, and sheriff's
deputies scouring the state, searching houses, stopping auto-
mobiles. The American legion has offered a five hundred
dollar reward and has ordered its members to help the police
in a gigantic hunt.

KIDNAPPING #2.

Familiar too, is the anxiety of the parents, their eagerness to pay the ransom and get the child back, their disinclination to have the authorities spoil whatever chance there may be of buying back the little girl. And that's always the most paradoxical slant to the crime of kidnapping. The parents begging the police: "Don't interfere. Let us handle it. We know what the law is, but we want to save the child." It's happened again and again that the authorities have agreed, and withheld action, while the parents have negotiated or tried to negotiate with the kidnapers. Sure it's against the law. But what would you do? What's the answer?

Agents from Washington.

The consequence was a rumor that leads had been discovered to the crime that shocked the whole world—the kidnapping and killing of the baby son of America's ace flyer and most glamorous hero.

LINDBERGH.

Follow kidnapping.

And there's an echo to that other kidnapping story, the most famous--the most infamous--and the most pitiful of all. The first reports were that some of the money that Colonel Lindbergh paid in the hope of getting his baby back had been traced to a Boston bank. The bank denied that the banknotes in question were the Lindbergh money.

On top of that, quite suddenly, word came from Rutland, Vermont, that forty Federal agents were in that city.

This was revealed when the local police got suspicious with so many strangers in town and stopped some of them for questioning. The strangers showed their credentials as Federal Agents from Washington.

The consequence was a rumor that leads had been discovered to the crime that shocked the whole world--the kidnapping and killing of the baby son of America's ace flyer and most glamorous hero.

LINDBERGH #2. THE KIDNAPING OF LINDBERGH

So it may be the most sensational crime of our time
And the move of kidnaping is found in the Billinger
will yet be solved. It would be a black mark for this age in
case tonight, remember the affair of Edward Bremer, the young
which we live if that fiendish deed were never unravelled,
banker who was kidnaped and his family paid two hundred thousand
never punished.

dollars for his return? The report is that the Bremer ransom
money was found in that little Wisconsin lodge where Billinger
was trapped, the road house from which he and his gang fought
their way out with blasts of murderous machine gun fire. The
supposition is that the gangsters made such a fast getaway
that they left the ransom money behind, money which would
connect them with the kidnaping of Edward Bremer.

Two physicians and a nurse at St. Paul, Minnesota,
are being held by the police, ~~they were~~ accused of having
treated Billinger for gunshot wounds--and then not reporting
the matter to the authorities. The prisoners' explanation is
that they were intimidated by Billinger, ^{armed with a machine gun,} ~~and the threat of~~

DILLINGER, FOLLOW LINDBERGH.

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And the note of kidnapping is found in the Dillinger case tonight. Remember the affair of Edward Bremer, the young banker who was kidnapped and his family paid two hundred thousand dollars for his return? The report is that the Bremer ransom money was found in that little Wisconsin lodge where Dillinger was trapped, the road house from which he and his gang fought their way out with blasts of murderous machine gun fire. The supposition is that the gangsters made such a fast getaway that they left the ransom money behind, money which would connect them with the kidnapping of Edward Bremer.

Two physicians and a nurse at St. Paul, Minnesota, ^{still} are being held by the police, ~~they are~~ accused of having treated Dillinger for gunshot wounds--and then not reporting the matter to the authorities. The prisoners' explanation is that they were intimidated by Dillinger ^{armed with a machine gun.} ~~under the threat of~~

I don't see that you can blame a doctor for giving Dillinger medical attention. According to the old ethics of the Medical profession a human being is a human being, be he an angel or the vilest miscreant. But of course a physician has also a duty as a citizen.

And the Number one desperado still evades the greatest manhunt in history.

ENGLAND. FOLLOW DILLINGER.

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Let's round out the crime record this evening with a few figures from England. It's the old story of how grimly crime pays the penalty over there. A report made by Lord Tenchard, commissioner of the London police, lists twenty-one murders in 1923. How many of the twenty-one assassins were convicted? Why, twenty. That's why they don't have so much crime in England-- when twenty out of twenty-one murderers are punished by the hangman. Even a gas mask or a submarine lung won't save a criminal over there.

MACHADO. FOLLOW ENGLAND.

The American police are having their hands full. They've been hunting an ex-President, and now also an ex-General. The Cuban authorities having demanded the extradition of ex-President Machado, have also called upon the United States to send General Alberto Herrera back to Cuba. The General was Chief of Staff of the Cuban Army under Machado. They had their day of glory together. And now they are being hunted for extradition.

It is unusual - I mean in the behavior of governments, ~~it seems strange~~ that Uncle Sam should be making
such an effort to capture men who are, after all, political refugees. (~~Follow with yesterday's Machado story beginning with phrase "To be sure"~~)

To be sure, General Machado is charged with murder and embezzlement, offenses that would be crimes in this or any other country. But, his followers point out that the acts he is accused of were clearly political crimes.

~~If they catch him, there will be a long drawn out fight against extradition in the Federal Courts. It will be an interesting show to watch. The British attitude in such a case is that no political refugee is extradited, no matter how serious the crime committed, provided he did it in the way of politics. The American way is different-- as is demonstrated by the Federal warrant for Machado.~~

MINE SAFETY

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The news has ~~just been given~~^{is} out that great strides are being made in saving human lives, in mines. Much of ~~this is~~^{it} due to the ~~far sightedness of~~ two former officials of the Bureau of Mines, John Ryan and George Deike. In their experimental laboratories they develop mine safety appliances for the whole world. Also gas detecting devices for all known poisonous and explosive gases. Vehicular tunnel ventilation, and so on.

Partly as a result of the work done by these wizards, mine explosions have been reduced in the United States to the point where there was only one of any consequence in the year 1933.

In conjunction with Thomas Edison they worked out the electric safety lamp, to eliminate the open lights which in the past caused about 75 percent of all mine explosions! So, let's pay a tribute to them.

In the old days, in mine rescue work you carried a couple of canaries in a little bird cage. The

MINE SAFETY #2

gas would affect them before it would you. That would be your warning. And you could get out before you crumpled up and died.

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But that wasn't a perfect system. Jack Ryan discovered that his canaries finally became hardened to gasses. He discovered it when he started into a mine one day, and woke long afterward in a hospital. That was one time when he couldn't stand as much as a canary bird.

These Mine Safety Appliance scientists have worked out what is known as a "crash preserver." For aviators. It enables you to fly into the rarified regions thirty thousand feet above the earth, and on beyond.

Here's the miraculous part:- If you do a nose-dive, with your plane out of control; if you crash into the sea, your oxygen mask can instantly be converted into a submarine-escape device. Thus an aviator can live for a half hour under the surface of the sea, while untangling himself from his submerged plane. Once free he bobs to the surface of the ocean and his "crash preserver" becomes a buoyant life preserver.

ZION

Revolution! Rescue Squad, bring on the gas masks.

Revolution in America! At Zion City, Illinois, the place where the earth is flat, the paradise created by the Prophet Elijah Dowie and more recently ruled by his successor the Iron-Fisted Voliva.

Henceforth the citizens of Zion City may smoke. And that's revolution. And those who live in Zion who don't like the idea and even want to avoid the smell of tobacco, can go to --- the store and buy a gas mask.

Until recently, Overseer Voliva had exercised over Zion City a regime as absolute and as rigid as that of Hitler, Stalin or Mussolini. But he stubbed his toe when he tried to close the schools. And now he has been forced to allow smoking. Lipsticks, however, are still to be eschewed. Not chewed, but eschewed.

We may be witnessing the final downfall of one of the singular figures of our time. The same crash that toppled Samuel Insull and other potentates from their thrones seems to have hit Overseer Voliva and flattened him

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flatter than the earth. In nineteen thirty-one, the properties of the Church of Zion were estimated conservatively at ten millions of dollars. Last year they went into receivership.

Zion City, where they believe the earth is flat, is owned absolutely by the Church. Only members or those in sympathy can get a lease. In Zion City you may not eat pork, oysters, or any fish without fins and scales. No theatres, no dance halls, no drug stores, no doctors. If you want to see the place, you have to go there on weekdays, because neither busses nor trains are allowed to make stops there on the Sabbath. A few years ago, three girls were expelled for chewing gum. Last year a young lady who bobbed her hair was ostracized.

But now change is coming over Zion City. Everybody is smoking, and I hear it's home grown Zion tobacco and you'll need a gas mask or mebbe a submarine lung if you go there.

The first Lady of the Land has given the publishers of America something to think about. Mrs. Roosevelt said in effect "Your women's pages are out of date. Women today read the entire newspaper just as much as men do. Probably more, because a lot of men never get beyond the front page and the sports section". And right there the publishers put on their submarine lungs, pinched themselves and waited for the next explosion from the First Lady. "Women today know all there is to know about pies and cakes," she added. I wonder which women.

All joking aside, Mrs. F. D. R. in her Waldorf-Address substantiated her claim by pointing to the character of her enormous fan mail. Most of it, she says, comes from women, and they don't write to her about pies and cakes. They write about Home Owners Loans, Farm Loans, Old Age Pensions, the Tariff, Foreign Trade, War, Labor Problems, Exonomic Conditions, and so forth.

FAN MAIL FOLLOW MRS. ROOSEVELT

And the voluminous fan mail received by the President and his Lady bids fair to result in an addition to the White House. The President is getting fan mail at the rate of sixteen thousand letters and telegrams a day.

And so, Mr. Roosevelt is going to ask Congress to build a new end to the White House, a room devoted entirely to fan mail. At present the volume of this correspondence is such that a young regiment of presidential clerks and secretaries have to work in the basement sorting it out, they need a few submarine lungs as they dive into that ocean of fan mail.

And Congress gets fan mail too. Although maybe it's not so fannish. The Congressional mail consists principally of demands for jobs, demands for money, demands for action and demands for lower taxes. Walter Davenport of Colliers has investigated and found that in less than four months of this year the legislators have received ten million five hundred thousand letters, many of them so hot that the Congressmen have to be resuscitated after reading them.

And along about now some of you may need re-

FAN MAIL FOLLOW MRS. ROOSEVELT - 2

suscitating. At any rate as I start now for Lancaster,
Springfield and Portsmouth, Ohio for the week-end, with
my submarine lungs I'll say, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.