

L.F. - Sunoco. Monday, Dec. 5, 1934.

POST

This morning, at Bartlesville, Oklahoma, a one-eyed man ~~by~~ got himself up to look like a scarecrow. He wore a huge swelling, bulbous suit made out of some rubber material, draped over steel ~~hoop~~ hoops. It was an oxygen suit and was designed to keep the one-eyed man from suffocating in high altitudes. He ~~climbed~~ climbed into an airplane, took off and proceeded to spiral upwards to those high altitudes - the highest altitude, he claims.

Yes, Wiley Post, the around-the-globe girdler, says he broke the altitude record today. He's the only man who ever flew around the world twice, and now he claims to have soared higher than any man has ever soared before. He landed today, after his dizzy spiral into the stratosphere, and gives the figure as forty-eight thousand feet, ~~nearly~~ <sup>nine</sup> ~~ten~~ miles high. It isn't final yet, but if an inspection of Wiley's instruments gives the ~~xxx~~ answer of okay, why then it certainly beats the <sup>airplane</sup> record. That record was <sup>recently</sup> ~~really~~ established by the Italian flyer, Renato Donati, who climbed forty-seven thousand, three hundred and fifty feet.

Let's hope it turns out <sup>okay for Wiley,</sup> ~~that way~~ because there is a thrill in the idea of the only man who has flown around the world twice reaching up and grabbing **the** record for high flying.

## BUSINESS

The cohorts of business and industry are staging their march on New York. Today they began to gather in the metropolis, the captains and financial leaders of commerce preparing for the big meetings on Wednesday and Thursday. <sup>π</sup> With the largest congress of business men in years, scheduled to meet in full force at the Waldorf-Astoria, there is a promise of big time action in the relation of business and government, perhaps a final turning point in the battle against the depression.

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The occasion is considered so important that the Congress of American Industry and the National Association of Manufacturers are holding their annual meetings jointly, in one grand combined session of those two powerful business groups. It will be addressed by Donald Richberg, the President's Number One Recovery Assistant, by Secretary Roper of the Department of Commerce, and also by another member of the Cabinet, one of the more conservative members. There will likewise be a speech by Professor Raymond Moley, the original big time professor of the Brain Trust, who many believe is still the President's closest advisor.

The advance guard of dominating business figures has already begun its preliminary sessions at the Waldorf, working out tentative plans to present to the host of industrialists on Wednesday and Thursday. And the indications are that cooperation will be the keynote, cooperation with the Administration and with the New Deal, in a final decisive push for recovery. From the way the bosses of big business were talking today, it looks as if <sup>the howl of</sup> ~~that Congress of~~ ~~American Industry~~ would turn into one large and enthusiastic jump aboard the recovery band wagon. They say the band wagon of returning prosperity is already on the move, all primed for a triumphal progress, with blaring horns and a booming base drum.

Of course there will be criticisms of the New Deal, but they will take the form mostly of helpful and cooperative advice. Business men are said to feel that the New Deal is in the saddle, that they can go places by working along with it, especially as they feel that the major points of difference and dispute will soon be minimized and ironed out by the returning parade of prosperity - the band wagon.

And the big convention in New York will be confirmed in *this*

optimistic belief by the report of the Merchants Association in the metropolis, which presents booming figures that show eighty-two conventions, expositions and business shows ~~are~~ scheduled for December in New York alone. ~~And Fifty~~ <sup>to</sup> thousand business men ~~will~~ <sup>^</sup> make December trips to the banks of the Hudson, <sup>— —</sup> buying-trips!

Then there is the American Bankers Association, which plans an extensive advertising campaign ~~xxxx~~ by newspaper, magazine and radio. The banks are going to advertise money to lend. They are going to propagandize the fact that they are easing credit. They are spending a big budget of money to inform the people that the banks are willing to lend and are eager to cooperate financially for the sake of better business. "Credit will be eased" - that's the reassuring word from Rudolf Hecht, President of the Bankers Association.

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The steel industry's report for November shows a twenty per cent gain over October. And that tells only part of the steel story. It is pointed out that the schedule for automobile production for next season shows a jump. The railroads are buying more locomotives. It takes a good deal of steel to build an automobile and it takes a whale of a lot of steel to build a

locomotive. So the metallic forecast for the coming months is even better than the report for the past month.

The railroads were one big industry that lost money even during the boom times. The depression was just another and a steeper stretch of downward grade for the cho~~cho~~o trains. But now the railroads are reporting gains in passenger and freight transportation - not merely for the first time since the depression but for the first time in ten years. Gross revenues this year are seven per cent higher than last year. The upturn is attributed to those new streamlined trains and the interest they stirred up, air conditioned cars, and the comfort they stirred up, also reduced fares on fancy excursion trips.

All these commercial ~~bankers~~ factors were in <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ background as the advance guard of business leaders gathered in New York today and started laying plans for the big sessions on Wednesday and Thursday - the band wagon sessions, as they are expected to be.

## SAAR

This next concerns the Saar valley. It's an arrangement between France and Germany. And the word comes from Rome; meaning that the French and German Ambassadors to Rome arranged the final details, and signed the agreement. It is that same compromise that we have been hearing about for several weeks -- the same plus a provision concerning the Jewish question.

The experts abroad agree that in the January election the Saar is going to vote to return to Germany. The French are resigned to that fact and I've told several times how an agreement between Paris and Berlin was being negotiated on the basis of Hitler getting the district and of France getting money in return.

All of those suppositions are borne out by the agreement today. France promises to let the election take its course, without any interference. In return, Germany promises to pay the French claims to the Saar mines, and pay promptly. The French claims are based on the damage done to French mines which the Germans overran in the World War. The payment that Germany is to make will be in both coal and money.

And Germany makes <sup>that important</sup> ~~one further~~ promise - that there will ~~be~~

no anti-Semitism in the Saar when Hitler takes control. The Jews in the territory are guaranteed equal treatment.

RUSSIA

This evening the air of mystery is unbroken, in the case of that sensational political assassination in Russia. The Soviet authorities are preserving an impenetrable secrecy -- punctured by only a few startling facts.

Today brought forth more speculation concerning the strange angles of the affair. People outside Russia and in Russia too, spent the day trying to get a line on why the Soviet Government is ~~fixing~~ blazing and blasting the importance of the assassinated official.

He ~~was~~ described as one of the grand heroes of Communism, one of the dominant figures in the Soviet regime, a possible successor to Stalin.

Yet a rigid search of the news <sup>paper</sup> files and records <sup>over here</sup> fails to reveal any mention of Serge Kiroff. Of course there are many personalities

<sup>Red</sup> in the <sup>^</sup>autocracy who are background figures, not publicized. Yet you'd think there would be some hint ~~of~~ in the records telling a

little bit about so prominent a personality, an official whose assassination has evoked <sup>tempests of</sup> ~~extreme~~ praise, glory, indignation and grief in the Soviet newspapers and over the Red radio.

The inevitable assumption on the outside is that the assassination of Kiroff in ~~St. Petersburg~~ <sup>Leningrad</sup> is ~~causing a flare of~~ <sup>a pretext for a flare of</sup>

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violent propaganda against the internal enemies of the Soviet, propaganda to stiffen the morale and arouse the militant ardor of the Communist masses.

It is to be remembered that it was a couple of assassinations of Soviet leaders and an attempt on the life of Lenin that provoked the first outbreak of the Red Terror and its orgy of killing. The Soviet leaders are exceedingly touchy about assassinations. They are old assassinating terrorists themselves, and they know! It is significant that Stalin himself has gone from Moscow to Leningrad under extraordinary heavy guard. He goes to the bier where Kiroff lies in state surrounded by flaming Communist ritual. And Stalin is protected with almost melodramatic precautions by massed soldiers and police -- careful of his own safety.

Yet, so far as can be ascertained there seems no reason to suppose that the man who shot the official in Leningrad was acting in behalf of any wide-spread anti-Soviet movement. Of course, the Moscow agencies of propaganda are raising the cry of "Counter Revolution"! and "Class Enemies"! But foreigners

in Moscow are suspect that it was a mere private grudge that actuated the young former employee of the Soviets who slew Kiroff and then tried to kill himself and failed.

Owsley  
Dec. 3, 1934.

OWSLEY

A United States diplomat has honored us this evening. Uncle Sam's Minister to Rumania is in the studio. I suppose it would be futile to ask any diplomat to tell us frankly what's going on in the world. If he did he wouldn't be a diplomat -- long. But this particular foreign emissary has a reputation for talking straight from the shoulder, for frankness. In fact how could he be otherwise having once been National Commander of the American Legion. But, to hold that post I guess you'd have to be a diplomat too.

At any rate Colonel Alvin Owsley, of Texas, U.S. Minister to Rumania is sitting across the table from me. Colonel Owsley, we were horrified and thunderstruck over here when the king, not of Rumania, but of its neighboring state, Yugoslavia was killed by a terrorist. And I wonder, is there anything in connection with the killing of King Alexander that you could tell us.

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By the way Colonel Owsley ~~who~~ how is the famous Ex-Queen of the Balkans -- Queen Marie?

Col. Owsley: She's more beautiful and lovely than ever!

FOR COLONEL OWSLEY

Mr. Thomas: King Alexander was a popular and able ruler. I can say this, that the reflex action of the assassination was greater in Roumanis than in any country other than Yugoslavia itself. The two countries are allies, and Alexander was the brother-in-law of King Carol of Roumania. Bucharest was simply stunned. There was a week of the most intense mourning I have ever seen. Day after day we of the diplomatic corps attended services in one church after another.

Politically - the first revulsion was against France. Both Roumania and Yugoslavia are allies of France, and the apparently Roumanians felt the French did not protect King Alexander properly, that the French police should have been able to prevent any such outrage. Then the feeling turned against Hungary, with the belief that the assassins had operated from Hungarian territory.

But now I can say that feelings of hostility are dying down. The danger is dying away in the Balkans, that danger of an explosion, which was so grave a few weeks ago.

Queen Marie is still lovelier than ever. Marie will take her place among the great women in history.

ENGLAND

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There's a tremendous stir in England over that "mercy murder" case. The Home Office is flooded with demands that mercy should be granted to the mother. They say that an appeal will be made to the King. Well, English law ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~enforcement~~ <sup>enforcement</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~strict~~ <sup>punishment</sup> is drastic. ~~according to the law,~~ But it is not to be expected that even the severest law enforcement would proceed rigorously in so pitiful a case.

Yes, the case of a mother with an imbecile son, for whom she had cared during thirty years of <sup>wretchedness,</sup> ~~imbecility,~~ dressed him, fed him, played games with him, treated him like a 'baby. Then she fell ill, and had to undergo an operation, might die. And her only concern was that helpless grown-up son. She couldn't bear to ~~have~~ have him left to the mercy of others. So she gave him some tablets - a hundred sleeping tablets, so that he might sleep in case his mother was not there any longer to take care of him.

In the presence of that mercy murderer, even ~~English~~ English law softens and melts to mercy.

## McNAMARA

Even an iron man is clay, human clay. That is proved again and again in the majestic pages of history, and it is proved once more ~~at~~ the Six Day Bicycle Race in New York. Reggie McNamara, the iron man, was scheduled to have entered. It would have been his one hundred-and-first Six-Day-Race. Not so long ago he ran his list up to a hundred, ~~one hundred of those Six Day grinds, six hundred days of bicycle racing not including mere ten and twenty mile competition and practice spins.~~ He is the grand old man as well as the iron man, of the "two-wheel round-and-round." He is ~~forty-eight, but~~ <sup>fifty, and</sup> that's venerable for a bike racer.

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Well, Jack Dempsey was just about to fire the opening gun when iron man Mac telephoned Madison Square Garden and said he was ill. So they put a substitute in for him. Now it appears that he won't push a pedal for a single turn in the current race. Illness and the patriarchal age of ~~forty-eight~~ <sup>fifty</sup> have kept the iron man from chalking up number one hundred and one.

And this may be the end of the career of Iron Man Mac.

~~He~~ was one of thirteen children born on a sheep ranch in New South Australia, Wales, He and his twelve brothers and sisters all learned to ride on

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the same bicycle. He became a champion down under in <sup>the Antipodes,</sup> ~~Australia,~~  
but that didn't make any money for him. He had to go out shooting kangaroos and come back and sell their skins to <sup>raise</sup> ~~pay~~ the fare to the United States. He got here by the kangaroo-skin-route, and proceeded to star in bike races of five miles, ten miles, twenty ~~miles~~ miles and finally the Six Day monstrosity. ~~R~~ He got the name of Iron Man not merely for his many years in the gruelling game, but also for his many injuries. He has broken arms, legs, nose, collarbone. He broke his ribs so many times that he lost count. Once he fractured his skull. He went to the same hospital so often, and had the same nurse, that he married her.

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But even an iron <sup>man</sup> is clay - and must stop sooner or later. And so must a radio news commentator, who is no iron and all clay, and

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SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.