ORINOCO

Lowell Thomas broadcast for The Literary Digest, Wednesday, July 29, 1931.

Page 1.

Good Evening, Everybody:

1 An important geographical discovery was reported today. The head-2 waters of the Orinoco River have been found. 3 discovered The Orinoco is an immense 4 5 stream, the next to the largest in . South America -- second only to the 6 7 Amazon. The sourcesof the 8 Orinoco have always been a mystery. The 9 stream is long and difficult. It has 10 mighty rapids and cataracts and winds 11 through some of the wildest have jungle 12 spaces in the world, the equatorial forests of South ameri 13 The are told in today's New York 14 Times how an expedition under Doctor 15 Herbert S. Dickey started up the Orinoco 16 with boats and canoes. And they just 17 kept going and going. until they arrived 18 at the beginning of the streams They 19 traveled 312 miles beyond a village which 20 is the last civilized point on the river. 21 They traveled 100 miles farther than 22 anybody on record has traveled before. 23 After a strenuous and adventurous

trip they came to the Parima range of mountains. The explorers stood on the

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ORINOCO - 2

top of a peak and looked down on a whole 1 network of streams and brooks which join 2 up and become the beginning of the 3 Orinoco. The immense river is but a 4 pigmy at that point. It's only about 20 5 feet in width as it tumbles through a 6 deep gorge and then emerges to wander 7 on its long winding way through the 8 jungle as one of the world's greatest 9 rivers. 10

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Page 2

And thus Dr. Dickey filled in mother of the white spaces on the map. Another geographical mystery has been solved by a bold explorer.

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AVIATORS

Right up until this evening there had been mighty little news about those two planes that set out yesterday from New York, one bound for Moscow and the other for Constantinople. Nearly all day no sign of the two planes was seen either by people on ships at sea or by people on land. The first significant report came from Valentia. No, not the Valentia in Spain. I mean Valentia in Ireland. People there heard the hum of motors in the sky, but it was too foggy to see anything. The United Press reports the drone of motors being heard twice this afternoon, at intervals of two hours apart. It was believed that two airplanes somewhere and above the Irish clouds were Pangborn and Hernden, bound for Moscow and Boardman and Polando, bound for Constantinople. But late this afternoon the International News Service received a dispatch. Pangborn and Hernden had landed at Moylegrove, Pembrokeshire, Wales, near the town of Cardigan. So they got across alright. But I wonder what has happened to the plane bound for Constantinople. They should be in the vicinity of the Golden Horn by now - or perhaps they are down in the Balkans. The two boys who landed in Wales

AVIATORS - 2

were driven down by fog. They landed on a farm. And the folks who came out to greet them spoke to them in Welsh. Tomorrow they intend to fly on to London and Moscow.

And then there has been only a little information from the Graf Zeppelin. She, of course, carries full wireless equipment, but that flying laboratory isn't wasting much time in sending wireless messages. Presumably the scientists are too busy making their far-northern studies.

But what word there is from the Graf Zeppelin is positive and definite. The International News Service passes along a radio from the Graf in which she states that she **x** is over Nova Zembla, far in the Arctic, and is on her way back. She's steering south for home, and apparently is not going on to the Pole. Another later bulletin from the United Press states that she has already **xxx** passed over the city of Archangel, Russia, on her way

South.

One amazing report was printed in the New York Times this morning. It tells us that the scientists aboard the big dirigible have discovered that the group of far-northern islands known as Franz Josef Land is really not a group of islands at all, but part of a huge peninsula. And that certainly sounds very strange. If you will glance at your Literary Digest Atlas you will see that Franz Josef Land is a great

AVIATORS - 3

distance away from any nearby mainland. 1 And if it really is a peninsula it means 2 that there are thousands of miles of 3 land there in the Arctic which have 4 hitherto escaped the attention of the 5 geographers and the explorers. The 6 report from the Graf Zeppelin states 7 that the icy country thereabouts has 8 been entirely mis-charted. Well, it 9 certainly must have been mis-charted 10 plenty if Franz # Josef # Land is a peninsula. 11

Page_5

And another maximum aviation item 12 comes in the progress of Amy Johnson, 13 the British woman aviator who's making a 14 flight from England to Japan. She left 15 Moscow today. The word was that she would 16 fly on into Siberia, but the International 17 News Service reports that she landed this 18 afternoon at the city of Kazan, which 19 is in eastern European Russia, something 20 more than half way between Moscow and 21 the borders of Siberia. 22

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ALRPLANES

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Here's an announcement of some new regulations to increase the safety of passenger air-travel. The United Press gives us the list and declares that the new rules will be announced by the Department of Commerce within a few days.

Page \$6

One regulation decrees that only planes equipped with 2-way radios that is, receiving and sending -- will be allowed to fly above clouds and fog banks.

And then pilots of passenger planes are forbidden to work more than 8 14 hours a day, or 30 hours a week. Between flights lasting more than 6 hours a pilot must be given a long period of rest. The idea, of course, is to cut out fatigue as a possible cause of mistakes by pilots.

If one of those big multi-motored passenger planes flies more than 6 hours in a day it will have to carry 2 pilots, so that they can change off. Otherwise. only one pilot will be necessary. As it stands now all those big ships are supposed to have 2 pilots, but the

AIRPLANES

Page K7

passenger-plane lines claim that this is unnecessary and uneconomical. DIGEST

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Along about now I seem to see a vision of a baseball game and a man tearing along the base paths. Holy Smoke! How fast that guy can run -- with what smoothness, grace and power of movement. And now he hurls himself into a swift breath-taking slide, with spikes flashing in the sunlight. Yes, you know who I mean -- Ty Cobb, the datume dashing, fighting, flaming out-fielder of the Detroit Tigers.

Page # 8

Well, I'll tell you what started me thinking about old Tyrus Raymond Cobb. Somebody has conducted a sort of poll among the principal baseball men of the day on this question -- WHO WAS THE GREATEST BASEBALL PLAYER? Since The Tharoha built the Tyramida? The results are reported in the new Literary Digest, the one that will come out tomorrow. It was C. William Duncan of the Philadelphia Public-Ledger who gathered the opinions of baseball men, and as the Literary Digest tells us, Ty Cobb came out first. The next on the list as the

6-16-31-5M

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second greatest baseball player was old Honus Wagner, the burly bow-legged Dutchman who played in the infield effor the Pittsburgh Pirates.

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Third comes our present-day immortal;-the walloping, fence-busting, home-run slugging Babe Ruth, the old Sultand Swat in ference Literary Digest, continuing to quote baseball-writer Duncan, tells a few sparkling incidents about Ty Cobb when he was in his prime.

Detroit was having a hot game with Washington one afternoon, and Cobb was on third base. The man at bat took a hefty swing but merely lifted a high infield fly -- and George McBride, the Washington shortstop, was under it. The ball plopped into McBride's glove, and the moment it did Cobb astonished everybody by starting lickety-split for the home plate. McBride raised his arm to throw the ball to the catcher. Cobb stopped suddenly. The shortstop lowered his arm for a fraction of a second, and that fraction of a second was

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just long enough for Cobb. He tore eut for the home plate again and slid in safely.

Page 7/10

The catcher in that particular game was Gabby Street, who for years was Walter Johnson's battery mate. Street is the authority for that story of Ty Cobb's quickness of mind --

And he also tells another:-In one game the Washington regular third baseman was sick or injured or something and they had to play a second baseman at third. In the game that followed Ty Cobb made 5 consecutive hits, and each time he cut the ball down along third base.

After the game the Washington catcher asked him about it.

"Oh, that's easy," explained Cobb, "that fellow at third was out of position. He's a second baseman, and I figured he'd play out of position at third. And so I just kept shooting the ball down is him." Yes sir, old Ty Cobb had a

4-9-31-5M

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90-horsepower baseball brain. And what a scrapper he was.

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Just the other day I heard a story from an old baseball man about Cobb's cocky hot-tempered disposition. He hadn't been long in the **built** big leagues, and he was strutting around ready to fight at the drop of the hat. He got into one fight after another -and he was pretty good. He'd fight like one of his na tive Georgia wildcats. And after Cobb had got in a few punches the other fellow would drop.

Cobb had a team-mate on the Detroit Dutch Schmidt. Now Dutch Schmidt was **mmm** a quiet phlegmatic Dutchman. He never looked for trouble, but he was in fact one of the heatiest battlers in baseball.

It would seem that Cobb's cockiness and his succession of pugalistic victories must have got on Dutch Schmidt's nerves. One day after a game he walked up to Ty and said:

"Cobb, put up your bands."

4-9-31 5M

DIGEST - 5

Well, Ty always enjoyed putting 1 up his hands. The scrap that followed, 2 from the way to was told to me, was 3 certainly lively. Schmidt landed a 4 haymaker and knocked Cobb down. And then 5 he proceeded to flatten Ty out a few 6 times more. And that was that. 7 A couple of days later the spirit 8 seemed to move Dutch Schmidt once more. 9 He again casually walked up to Ty and 10 said: 11 "Cobb, put up your bans 12 Cobb put up his hands and took 13 another awful Ecking lambasting. 14 After it was over Schmidt said: 15 "Cobb, if you need another licking 16 I'll give it to you, but I think you've 17 had enough. I think it's made a better 18 man and a better baseball player out of 19 20 you." After that Cobb and Schmidt were 21 22

Page # 12

the best of friends. The Georgia Peach was a real man and knew how to value a worthy antagonist.

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MUSSOLINI

And talking about scrappy

1gentlemen, Mussolini had his ears pulled today. In fact, he had his ears pulled 2 plenty -- 96 times. The black-shirt 3 dictator of Italy was 48 years old today. 4 He didn't receive any birthday presents. 5 He doesn't like birthday presents. And 6 there wasn't much of any ceremony, 7 except that Mussolini got his wears 8 pulled. 9

The International News Service tells us that it's an Italian birthday custom that children are entitled to pull their father's ears as many times as the years in the father's age. Mussolini's two youngest children -- a boy of 4 and a girl of 2 -- got the job. And I'll bet they enjoyed it. Anyway, it ought to be a rare sight to see the formidible leader of the Fascists getting his ears pulled 96 times, -- 48 times by each of the two children.

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Page 14

In the old world city of Auch, the capital of the quaint French province of Gastony, a statue has been unveiled. It is a figure in old time costume, with a sword.- Of course, there must be a sword. The face is decorated with a pair of fierce mustachios, and a gay, proud look.

Yes, it's D'Artagnan, the swaggering swordsman of that immortal romance, The Three Musketeers.

Well, it's more than two centuries and a half since D'Artagnan took his way to the skies along with his memorable companions, the giant, jolly Porthos, witty Aramis, and the melancholy Athos - the three Musketeers. But today a statue stands in honor of D'Artagnan in the town where he was born.

For D'Artagnan was a real person. The New York Evening Post explains that Dumas romanticized his hero tremendously, and it is difficult to get at the real facts of D'Artagnan's

6-16-31-5M

THREE_MAXXK_MUSKEIEERS - 2

life. But he did live and forght in the wars. He was a Gascon born at Auch. He was **XXEXEXX** the captain of the King's Musketeers, and was killed at the siege of Maestricht in 1673.

Page_15

But there isn't much importance in the real facts about D'Artagnan when he lived - he still lives. The romance is perhaps truer than life and D'Artagnan remains a swaggering gallant who with Aramis, Porthos, and Athos fought the Cardinal and defended the queen and achieved marvelous prodigies.

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CLARENCE COOK LITTLE

This next dispatch tells us that reverberations are expected. Yes, I suppose there may be a reverberation or two.

Page_18

Most of the reverberations are expected to proceed from the general direction of the University of Michigan, because the gentleman who has touched off the big blast is Doctor Clarence Cook Little, former president of the University of Michigan.

Doctor Little has come out with a list of the chief evils of American colleges. The International News Service gives us a list of the evils which Doctor Little condemns. The chief evil -- I suppose you'd call it College Evil Number One -- is co-education. The idea is that the girls in a college don't help the boys to keep their minds on their studies. And the boys in a college do not give the girls any particular assistance in keeping their minds on their studies.

Doctor Little declares that he

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CLARENCE COOK LITTLE - 2

does not consider it advisable to bring mixed under-graduate students together -- by mixed he means boys and girls.

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"It spoils more people than it helps," declares the Doctor.

The second evil is automobiles, which help students to get farther away from their textbooks than they could get simply by walking. And the third evil is beverages.

Just to make sure that people won't think him too optimistic, Doctor Little declares that the college fraternities are splendid centers of hypocricy. And he makes the matter final and complete by denouncing college athletics.

In his list of evils Doctor Little doesn't make any mention of those things that the students consider the greatest evils of all --. I mean Latin, physics, mathematics, economics, physics, chemistry, and the other studies. Nes, Suppose that will produce a few reverberations, but no further reverberations from me. In through meter reverberating for the evening - and solong until tomorrow.

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