

## INTRO

Lowell Thomas Broadcast,  
for the Literary Digest,  
Thursday Evening, September  
3, 1931-----

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3 GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

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5 Well, I'm in Cleveland tonight  
6 and I'm all out of breath and my heart  
7 is going like a trip-hammer and my  
8 hair is still standing on end.

9 I came out to take a quick look at  
10 the National Air Races that are going on  
11 here at Cleveland. And along with  
12 about 50,000 other folks I saw plenty:-  
13 planes, massed in formation on the field,  
14 a vast armada of the sky, army planes,  
15 navy planes, marine planes and scores  
16 of private ships.

17 And today was a double header  
18 on account of bad weather yesterday. The  
19 events were doubled up and they went so  
20 fast I'm still in a whirl.

21 One of the most interesting of all  
22 was when Al Williams, the speed man, shot  
23 into the air. Al was up there in his  
24 red ship darting around just like a wild  
25 streak. On the ground was Cy Caldwell,

1 the humorist of aviation. Al in the  
2 speedy plane and Cy in the grandstand.  
3 Yes, and Cy gave Al all his orders by  
4 radio and Al obeyed each one in turn.  
5 Among other things Cy told Al to give an  
6 imitation of the members of the Wickersham  
7 Committee working out their recent report.  
8 Whereupon Al nosedived, barrel rolled  
9 slipped one way and then the other,  
10 wobbled, and then he stalled his plane.  
11 Certainly a great clown act.

12 It was a new stunt for an acrobatic  
13 flyer to do each maneuver according to  
14 orders from a man on the ground.

15 And the flyer who ran off with  
16 today's show was Ernest Udet, the German  
17 war ace, who did most of his wild  
18 acrobatics right down within a few feet  
19 of the ground.

20 The crowd nearly stopped breathing  
21 while Udet was up there.

22 And then there were speed races and  
23 still more speed.

24 This National Air Race each year is  
25 just about the biggest spectacle ever  
devised by man.

1 From other parts of the world the  
2 news comes of two spectacular and  
3 disastrous aviation accidents. They  
4 happened to military airplanes.

5 In Italy King Victor Emanuel had  
6 a narrow escape from death. He was at  
7 the air maneuvers, sitting in his box  
8 watching, when a powerful Army plane that  
9 was trying to take off got out of  
10 control and went careening wildly.

11 The International News Service  
12 cables that the speedy machine plunged  
13 into the crowd. Barely missing the royal  
14 box where the King of Italy was sitting,  
15 it hit a group of spectators. Eleven  
16 were killed.

17 The second accident happened in  
18 Brazil. They were having military  
19 maneuvers, and among the planes flying  
20 were those big Italian bombers which  
21 flew across the South Atlantic not so  
22 long ago. You'll recall the spectacular  
23 flight of a squadron of 14 planes under  
24 the command of the Italian air minister,  
25 General Balbo. After the planes had



1 made the first formation flight across  
2 the Atlantic, they were sold to the  
3 Brazilian government.

4 Well, says the International News  
5 Service, they were taking part in the  
6 air maneuvers today. Two of them  
7 collided in mid-air. Five men were  
8 killed and twelve injured.

9 Yes, those are the perils of  
10 military aviation, with intricate  
11 maneuvering in formation by those  
12 roaring fighters of the air.

1           There was an exciting scene in the  
2 old city of Aden on the coast of Arabia.  
3 Aden is the port at the entrance of the  
4 Red Sea. Among its inhabitants are  
5 hundreds of Hindus and they all gathered  
6 at the dock, chattering enthusiastically.  
7 The Associated Press describes them as  
8 wearing Gandhi caps. This is a kind  
9 of simple white headgear, made of kaddar  
10 cloth--homespun--which Hindus wear to  
11 show their belief in the doctrines of  
12 the little holy man of India.

13           The occasion was the arrival of  
14 the steamship Rajputana, at Aden. Aboard  
15 are Gandhi and a party of followers on  
16 their way to the conference at London.

17           The Mahatma went ashore at Aden  
18 for a brief visit and received a ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~  
19 tumultuous greeting greeting. He also  
20 received a contribution. The Hindus of  
21 Aden had made up a purse and they present-  
22 ed it to Gandhi to be used in behalf of  
23 the freedom of India. The sum amounted  
24 to \$1625. Gandhi said he thought that  
25 wasn't too much. He had an idea that

1 ~~xxxxxxx~~

2 the Hindus of Aden might have put up a  
3 little more for the freedom of India.

4 But just the same he said thanks and made  
5 a speech. The International News Service  
6 quotes Gandhi as declaring that he was  
7 going to the London conference to  
8 represent not a hostile India but a  
9 helpless India.

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1           We hear a Swan song tonight. Yes,  
2 it's a Swan song of the Anschluss. That  
3 famous Anschluss made its formal farewell  
4 to the world today. Both Austria and  
5 Germany announce the abandonment of the  
6 proposed customs union between Germany  
7 and Austria. Dr. Johann Schober,  
8 the Austrian foreign minister, and Dr.  
9 Julius Curtius, the German foreign  
10 minister, spoke their pieces and declared  
11 the Anschluss was a thing of the past.  
12 They made their declarations at a session  
13 of the European Union commission at  
14 Geneva. This bears out a number of  
15 reports during the past few days that  
16 the Anschluss was scheduled for the  
17 waste paper basket.

18           For a while, a couple of months  
19 ago, the whole world was singing: "a  
20 troublesome bird is the Anschluss", or  
21 words to that effect. The proposed  
22 customs union between Germany and Austria  
23 which was so strenuously opposed by ~~xxx~~  
24 other nations, especially France, seemed  
25 likely to cause plenty of trouble.

1 But along came the desperate financial  
2 crisis of central Europe, and that put  
3 the quietus on the Anschluss. In fact,  
4 it put the quietus on almost everything  
5 except the question of how Germany and  
6 Austria were going to get enough  
7 immediate cash to tide the emergency  
8 over. The world economic crisis took  
9 the first place. The Austrian foreign  
10 minister is quoted by the United Press  
11 as saying today that Austria was renouncing  
12 the proposed Customs Union in the  
13 interest of confidence and harmony and  
14 for the purpose of fighting off the  
15 economic crisis.



1           In Berlin the stock exchange  
2 opened today after a shut down of seven  
3 weeks. When Germany got so badly tangled  
4 up financially, one of the first acts  
5 of the government was to close the doors  
6 of the stock exchange. The idea was to  
7 stave off a swift and disastrous collapse  
8 of stock values.

9           Well, today the Berlin stock  
10 exchange began where it left off seven  
11 weeks ago, and right off the bat says  
12 a United Press dispatch to the Cleveland  
13 Press, there was a sharp drop in prices.  
14 The government is keeping a sharp eye  
15 on the market, and is ready to step in  
16 once more in case anything that looks  
17 like a calamity should start to  
18 develop.

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1 Well, here in Cleveland I've heard  
2 a bit about that subject which is so  
3 timely in homes throughout the country.

4 I heard a kid on the street say:-  
5 "Yep, next week we'll all be in school."

6 And a chap I met remarked about the  
7 amount of stuff his wife was buying to  
8 get the children ready for school.

9 There's one thing that has made me  
10 wonder. The attitude of the youngsters  
11 toward school. It certainly is different  
12 from what it was when I was their age.

13 We liked school so much that playing  
14 "hookie" was the national sport. But  
15 that's all changed. Nowadays, why, I  
16 actually believe they like school. At  
17 any rate it's less like slavery.

18 Well, something has changed. I  
19 suppose the youngsters are just about  
20 the same as they always were. It must be  
21 the schools. Yes, that's it.

22 The system of education has made  
23 learning more pleasant. But my guess is  
24 that one important part of it all has  
25 been the improvement in the accessories

1 of the schools. The tools the youngsters  
2 use in their schooling have a great deal  
3 to do with the fact that school days are  
4 more enjoyable now.

5 The new Literary Digest, which came  
6 out today, has some pointed observations  
7 to make on this subject. There's lunch,  
8 for instance, with neat, trim lunch  
9 baskets, and good things to eat--package  
10 goods and canned goods.

11 There are fountain pens --just  
12 think how a good fountain pen helps  
13 Johnny or Mary along in the routine of  
14 the school. Many a pupil even uses a  
15 portable typewriter. And a camera has  
16 its place in modern education.

17 And then there are educational  
18 movies and talkies, radio and school-room  
19 lanterns for stills--also water colors,  
20 crayons, compasses, printing and  
21 multigraphing outfits, book covers,  
22 magnifying glasses, better pencils, filing  
23 cabinets, indexing systems, and soap, and  
24 even tooth pastes or tooth powders, and  
25 tooth brushes for the tooth-brush drill.



1 Well, if I had heard about all  
2 those things when I was a 12-year-old  
3 out in that Colorado Mining camp, I'd  
4 have thought that Santa Claus had gone  
5 on a spree. Our school accessories  
6 consisted mostly of a spelling book and  
7 a "gogerfy", as we called it, and a  
8 slate.

9 And our school clothes, well I get  
10 a laugh when I even think of them. A  
11 sweater with stripes and what stripes.  
12 And pants--well, they were what in the  
13 automobile world they'd call repossessed.  
14 That is father wore 'em first and then  
15 mother cut 'em down for me.

16 Oh yes, and don't forget the marbles  
17 we had, most of which would make a  
18 modern school boy turn up his nose. An  
19 agate or fancy-shooter was a treasure.  
20 Most of the marbles were just clay, and  
21 some of us used to make marbles out of  
22 clay ourselves.

23 Yes, and do you remember those  
24 baseballs we used to make ourselves,  
25 winding the ball with a cord and sewing

1 the cover on?

2           And do you remember the old-time  
3 school desk? I guess one of the reasons  
4 why we used to hate school was the ~~q~~nerly  
5 qualities of that same old-time school  
6 desk. They were about the most  
7 uncomfortable seats ever invented.

8           One of the most important items  
9 in the modern way of making school  
10 pleasant is to be found in the up-to-date  
11 type of school desk. Somebody had the  
12 bright idea of making a study of the  
13 bodily postures of children and of  
14 devising desks to fit. Nowadays the  
15 youngster can sit at his studies in  
16 comfort. Reading and writing surfaces of  
17 desks are adjustable, so that you can fix  
18 them at a slant to suit your own particular  
19 posture.

20           Yes, it's a far cry from those old  
21 rough and ready school days, to these  
22 modern days when the youngsters actually  
23 enjoy school, that is I suppose they do!  
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1           It looks as though there might  
2 be severe diplomatic trouble between  
3 China and Mexico. The Associated Press  
4 in a dispatch from Nanking quotes the  
5 foreign minister of the Chinese  
6 Nationalist Government as saying today  
7 that the relations between China and  
8 Mexico had been strained to the breaking  
9 point.

10           The trouble is about an anti-Chinese  
11 movement that is going on in the Mexican  
12 states of Sonora and Sinaloa. The  
13 Chinese form a large and influential  
14 element down there. A lot of bad feeling  
15 has cropped up of late, and there is a  
16 movement on among the Mexicans to expel  
17 the Chinese from the country.

18           The Chinese foreign minister  
19 explains that the situation has become  
20 acute of late, all on account of that  
21 familiar villain, Old Man Depression.

22           Business conditions have thrown  
23 a lot of Mexicans in the United States  
24 out of work and thousands have gone  
25 trooping back to their own country. When



1 these unemployed Mexicans from Sonora  
2 and Sinaloa return to their native  
3 states, why they find thousands of  
4 Chinese in possession of the jobs. The  
5 result is an anti-Chinese movement.

6 It looks as if the Chinese might  
7 have to go. The United States has  
8 consented to allow expelled Chinese to  
9 come into this country, on their way back  
10 to China--the idea being that they are  
11 not immigrants but are merely passing  
12 through on their way home.

13 The Chinese and Mexican governments  
14 have been negotiating, but the  
15 negotiations seem to be getting no  
16 where. The Chinese want to submit the  
17 matter to arbitration, with the United  
18 States government to do the arbitrating.

19 The United Press reports on the  
20 authority of the Chinese Government that  
21 Uncle Sam is willing to act as a  
22 peace-maker in the dispute between Mexico  
23 and China.

1 Here's word from Sir Hubert Wilkins.  
2 Wireless messages have been picked up from  
3 his submarine, the Nautilus.

4 A Norwegian whaling company has  
5 a cookery on Bear Island, to the north  
6 of Spitzbergen. That's where they render  
7 out the oil from the carcasses of the  
8 whales that have been killed. Well, the  
9 wireless station at this cookery on Bear  
10 Island has caught a signal from the North-  
11 Pole-Going submarine. It merely states  
12 that Captain Wilkins and his party of  
13 adventurers are battling with a wild  
14 Arctic storm to the north of Bear Island.

15 At the same time the International  
16 News Service sends the report of a steamer  
17 that intercepted radio signals from the  
18 Nautilus last night. The message was so  
19 faint, however, that the wireless operator  
20 could not make out what it meant. It  
21 would seem as if the silence which  
22 shrouded the North-Pole-Going submarine  
23 for several days might be the result of  
24 that storm, which with an icy wind and  
25 the stinging snow and sleet, has been  
whipping down upon the hardy explorers.

1 Men who know the north tell of  
2 other obstacles up there in the Arctic  
3 region which often put a stop to radio  
4 communication. There's that magnificent  
5 display, the aurora borealis, and there's  
6 also what is known as the "barrier,"  
7 a strange phenomenon of nature in high  
8 latitudes which may shut down on radio  
9 communication like a wall.

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1           The Tall Story Club this evening  
2 takes up the subject of that grasshopper  
3 plague that infested certain parts of  
4 the West. The grasshoppers must have  
5 been pretty bad in certain parts of  
6 Colorado, because a devotee of the Great  
7 American Whopper who signs himself "A  
8 Worthy Candidate for Membership in the  
9 Tall Story Club," sends me a clipping of  
10 a United Press dispatch.

11           At gageby, Colorado, there is  
12 George Pointon, a farmer who has a great  
13 reputation for veracity. He tells us  
14 that his farm was covered with  
15 grasshoppers, so he made a little experiment.  
16 He took a quantity of moonshine and  
17 sprayed it around the pesky insects.  
18 Here's what happened, according to Farmer  
19 George Pointon:-

20           As soon as they got a whiff of the  
21 moonshine, the hoppers started jumping  
22 backwards and turning somersaults.

23           Then as the moonshine continued  
24 to take effect, they got fighting mad and  
25 started tearing each other limb from

1 limb. They were so ferocious that they  
2 killed each other, until finally only  
3 one hopper was left, and he was  
4 champion of them all.

5 "He started after me," relates  
6 Farmer George Pointon. "He chased me  
7 through the house and down the road.  
8 After he had run me clean out of the  
9 county, he wandered away into the hills  
10 looking for mountain lions."  
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1 Well, there's no ferocious Cleveland  
2 grasshopper to chase me out of here right  
3 now. But there is a Cleveland gentleman  
4 announcer, John Pat, who's not exactly  
5 ferocious, but just the same he's  
6 signaling that it's time for me to say

7 So long until tomorrow.  
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