

L.T. - Sunoco - Fri. August 6, 1937

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(Today in Washington President Roosevelt presented an award, the Collier Trophy -- which is given for the greatest practical achievement in aviation during the past year. Who do you suppose got it? Think back and say what aviation achievement you think the most important during the past twelve months. The word that flashes to mind is -- Trans-Pacific, the ~~is~~ establishment of a regular air service operating on schedule across the world's greatest ocean. Who accomplished it -- why, Pan-American Airways. And so today President Roosevelt presented to that company the Collier Trophy.)

The history of the award goes back to 1911, when flying was indeed in its infancy, a mere fledgling. A list of the names of the winners year by year covers most of the history of the art of aerial navigation. Among the names are Orville Wright, ~~and~~ Glen Curtis, Elmer Sperry. And here's an odd name on the list. It reminds one vividly of the yacht race that was completed yesterday. The winning craft, the Ranger was designed by W. Starling Burgess, the most famous creator of racing yachts. Well, back in 1915 the Collier Trophy for aviation was awarded to that same W. Starling Burgess, who

then was one of the famous birdmen of the day.

PRICES

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Back in the time when the great boom was on its way up, the echoing refrain was: --- ^{H.C.L.} the high cost of living. That old ^{HCL} ~~echo~~ evoked many a growl and groan. And now, with recovery in full swing, (we are getting a dose of high cost of living all over again. Today a survey puts attention on meat prices. Pork Chops, commonly the poor man's dish, are selling for forty-nine cents a pound in the larger cities. And that's hardly a poor man's price.) A year ago chops were thirty cents a pound. City dwellers are paying sixty cents a pound for sirloin steak. A year ago thirty-five cents was more like it. A bit of figuring shows that the level of meat prices had ^S gone up from fifty to twenty-five percent all over the country -- which is causing many a ~~growl~~ ^{growl} about the increasing cost of living.

But the farmers are not growling, because when the consuming side pays more the producing side gets more. In the Chicago market hogs have hit a top ~~xxx~~ ^{top} price for eleven years -- thirteen dollars and sixty-five cents per hundred pounds. For top quality loin the wholesale price is thirty-two dollars a hundred. That's ten dollars more than it was last year. And at

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one time during the depression the price slipped as low as six dollars and a half.

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The climb of prices is a symptom of recovery, but it's also a hangover from the drought of last year. The corn crop was hit hard by the dry spell and the farmers have less of it to feed to their hogs and cattle. So they shipped fewer to the market. So right now there's a livestock ~~shortage~~ shortage. Chicago packing houses are working on part schedule. And one-half of the hog alley of the stockyards has been closed.

One food ~~index~~ item gives us a story, not of shortage, but of greater consumption. And it's hard to figure out why.

We Americans are drinking a lot more of that favorite British beverage -- Tea. For some unknown reason the first six months

of this year show twenty percent more Tea consumed in the

United States than in the same period last year. Six million

pounds more. You can get one hundred and twenty cups out of a

pound of Tea. Figure that out and it shows that we Americans

have drunk seven hundred million extra cups of Tea the first

half of this year. Why? Are we out to emulate the Englishman

and his afternoon Tea?

The answer of course is that there has been an effective advertising campaign M - a campaign to turn this into a tea drinking nation.

RUSSIA

U.S.

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The new trade agreement with Russia provides for a boost -- an increase in the amount of goods the Soviets buy from us. In the previous trade treaty Moscow guaranteed to purchase thirty million dollars worth of American merchandise a year. This has now been raised to forty, and it is believed that the actual amount of buying will exceed the forty. Last year Soviet purchases went seven or eight million dollars above the thirty.

In return for agreeing to buy, Russia gets the most preferred nation kind of treatment. That is -- gets as much tariff concession and commercial privilege as ~~any~~ any other country gets. This is the first time the Soviets have been put on that most preferred nation list by the United States. The new trade Treaty was announced by President Roosevelt in Washington today.

Flying over the North Pole
— I wonder if that hasn't been
of some help in all this? I believe
so.

POPE

From red Moscow there sounds a blast against the Vatican. An article today in the official Soviet Newspaper accuses Pope Pius of running a Spy School, and an academy of espionage and anti-Soviet propaganda. The Communist writer claims that in Rome white Russian exiles are trained by the Vatican in regular classes to work against the Soviets. And the graduate pupils are then supplied to anti-Communist States on Russia's Border where they are employed as secret agents and anti-Soviet propagandists. Such is the Red journalistic accusation made today.

ITALY

Here is something that sounds like good news for those who get tired of hearing about wars and threats of war:- The prospects for peace in Europe look brighter after the word we have from Rome today. An Italian Government dispatch relates that there is to be a big conference of Italian and British diplomats to settle the quarrels between Rome and London. It's been arranged by Italian Ambassador Grandi and British Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, Sir Robert Vansittart. This friendship and harmony conference is to be staged a month hence. It follows that personal exchange of letters between Mussolini and Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. And -- it's about time say we onlookers from this side of the Atlantic!

SPAIN

But the day's news is still full of war news. Here's the latest from Spain. Word of another siege, another epic of a beleaguered City. The old land of Iberia is historically famous for its sieges, of which the present civil war has provided striking examples -- the Alcazar of Toledo; Oviedo; Madrid; Bilbao. And now the latest is -- Huesca. This time it's the insurgents who are beleaguered. The news tells that a powerful Catalan Army has advanced upon Huesca and almost encircled the City. The word Catalan has a news angle here, because heretofore the Left-Wingers of part of Spain have taken little part in the civil war. Catalonians have been torn by bitter dissensions between the Socialist, Anarchist and Communist elements. Now they seem to have suppressed the Anarchists and achieved some sort of unity - and are besieging Huesca.

It is really - another siege of the City, still another. In the present Civil War Huesca has sustained thirty attacks. It's been the most heavily besieged City on the insurgent side, assailed thirty times. As you may guess from that, it is a most powerful stronghold, strong by nature and heavily fortified. The Franco regime considers Huesca impregnable, and the fortress is

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confident as it stands prepared for still another assault.

An American correspondent in the City describes life as light and gay, merry as usual -- even though Left Wing planes have just bombed the town and five hundred people are reported killed.

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War News from Spain brings us an American note today -- an American captured by the Franco insurgents in the fighting near Madrid. He tells that in the radical international brigade there were six hundred Americans, but nearly all of these were casualties in the latest fighting -- killed or wounded.

What about China and Japan?

(The center of interest in the Far East shifts suddenly from North China to Hankow. ^{Some} ~~There~~ six hundred miles ^{to the} south, deep in the center of China.) Hankow is a vast industrial city, the Pittsburgh of old Cathay, ^{some} ~~It is~~ ⁵⁰⁷ hundred miles up the great Yangtse River, far from the ocean. But it's a great port -- for the Yangtze, broad and deep, is navigable by large ships. ^{TR} ~~But~~ What happened at Hankow today? There's a good deal of mystery about it. The news advances no explanation.

[^] The clear and certain fact is that (Japanese marines were landed in ^{the} Chinese Pittsburgh today, [^] six hundred of them.) They were put ashore by a flotilla of torpedo boats lying in the river. The marines at once took up positions and rounded up Japanese civilians in the city. Several hundred of these were put aboard boats and sent downstream to Shanghai for safety. Others were told to be ready at a moment's notice, to gather at the wharf - under the protection of the guns on the Mikado's warships. Japanese reservists in Hankow were mobilized to aid the landing party of marines if need be.

The Mikado's men seem all stirred up. What's it about? Nobody seems to know. Telephone calls from Shanghai to Hankow failed to reveal any trouble or any threat against the Japanese. Foreign residents of the Chinese Pittsburgh declare over the wire that the city is in a condition of profound peace.

From the Tokio side there's an account of Chinese Airplanes flying low over the Japanese quarter in Hankow -- premonition, perhaps, of a sky attack. It is known that an anti-Japanese boycott has been started in the city -- merchants refusing to sell food stuffs to the Nipponese, banks refusing to have commercial dealings with them. And, there's a supposition that Tokyo generals may have some sort of secret word that Chinese troops in the surrounding country are planning to attack the Japanese in Hankow.

But it's all quite mysterious, with nobody able to say why the Mikado's commanders took such sudden action today -- landing marines in Hankow. One theory is that Tokyo may be getting ready for one of those incidents which would give an excuse for a military move in Central China.

A STRONOMERS

From the learned halls of science there's a call -- for a million astronomers. And that's a lot of star gazers. Professor Charles Olivier of the University of Pennsylvania is deeply interested in the perseid meteors, showers of shooting stars that are due to scintillate in the heavens in the nights of August 11th and 12th. There are myriads of those shooting stars, and science would like to have them counted. The more observers that do the counting, the better, which provides an opportunity for a vast host of amateur astronomers. So the Professor is recruiting them.

In previous years he's done the same thing. And the reports turned in enabled the astronomers to get a better idea of the meteors. This year the Professor wants to break all records for amateur astronomy. He's out to have a million star gazers on the watch. So remember those perseid meteors will be along on August 11th and 12th.

ALEXANDRIA BAY

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One of the important towns in the United States, fairly important, will be entirely closed tomorrow -- no one able ~~to~~ either ^{to} leave or enter the town. The name of the place is Alexandria Bay, in upper New York State, next door to the Thousand Islands.

The reason for all this is that tomorrow, is the day of the big race, ^{the annual race} staged by the Automobile Racing Club of America. It is called "The Race 'Round the Houses".

There are thirteen entrants cars of British, French, Italian and American manufacture, ^{all} driven by wealthy young men who have a yen for speed. Immense stacks of hay have been piled at the most dangerous corners to help take ~~some of~~ the jolt if a car fails to make it!

How would you like to get in a racing car and turn her wide open on Main Street? ^{Tom Dewart one of the racers tells me} That's what they'll be doing

tomorrow at Alexandria Bay.

MAN WHO DREAMED

Here's one that sounds fantastic. The druggists of America, at the Statler in Boston ~~presented~~ ^{have} presented a special gold medal to a Kentucky druggist, ~~presented it to him~~ ^{all} because he dreamed a dream. No, he didn't dream that he ran a drug store entirely devoted to drugs. The name of the gold medal winner is Frank Miller. He lives in Louisville, Kentucky. And, early this year he dreamed that he was going into his drug store in a rowboat.

Druggist Frank Miller was so-convinced of the reality of his dream that he told all his friends in Louisville, warned them to be ready, warned them that the Ohio River would soon be rising, urged his fellow Louisville druggists to make emergency ~~be~~ preparations.

He did all this just one week before the Ohio went on the rampage, the greatest flood in American history. He even made an appeal over the radio for ~~these~~ funds to combat the flood ~~when~~ that he had dreamed about.

Then, as we all know came the great Ohio flood. Frank Miller instead of sitting back and saying : "I told you so," he led in the flood work, filled all flood victim prescriptions free of charge at his place, and directed relief work.

Recently the Druggists of America took a vote and decided that Frank Miller should be proclaimed "America's gold medal druggist," for this year. And now this has been done. Who said dreams don't come true?

CANDIDATE

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Here's just about the oddest political-campaign-story since a jazz leader got himself elected ~~to~~ Lieutenant Governor *of the state of Washington* ~~in the northwest~~ several years ago. And once again it's a case of music and electioneering.

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At Ravenna, Ohio, Jerry Miko wants to be Mayor, and is running in the Democratic primaries. Jerry has studied law, which he figures qualifies him as Mayor. But his real profession is -- music teaching. *And* he thinks that provides him with a way to be elected Mayor. Jerry reasons that people vote, not so much from the head as from the heart. And the way to the heart is through music. Specifically -- a fiddle. Jerry is quite an artist with the violin, and so his campaign ~~style~~ system is as follows: carrying his fiddle he leaves his home in the morning, and makes a house-to-house canvass. He knocks at a door, and if an Irish housewife happens to respond -- he plays the Wearing Of The Green. If it's an Italian family he leans the bow on the strings, and it's O Sole Mio. For Hungarians he plays one of those melancholy Magyar songs. For plain Americans it's just an old time tune.

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Jerry believes he's fiddling his way to political eminence. Anyhow he's sure he's not just fiddling around as I'll be in a moment if I don't hurry and say SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.