

INTRO

Lowell Thomas broadcast  
for the Literary Digest <sup>Page</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
Thursday, Oct. 22, 1931.

1  
2 Good Evening, Everybody:

3 Let's start in by talking about the  
4 weather. That's what they're doing in  
5 Chicago. A lively controversy is on.  
6 ~~there~~ Everybody is agreed that the last  
7 few days have been remarkably warm and  
8 balmy for this time of the year.

9 It's weather prophesy that is  
10 causing the argument. Chicago has an  
11 active corps of amateur weather  
12 prognosticators, and they're loudly  
13 predicting that the coming winter is  
14 going to be an exceptionally mild one.

15 There's Oscar Knop, a Park official.  
16 He's quoted by the Associated Press as  
17 declaring that during the coming winter  
18 Chicago will see only two weeks of  
19 skating weather, no frost until November  
20 9th, and not enough snow for tobogganing  
21 until the last of December.

22 How does he know? Well, Weather  
23 Prognosticator Knop goes on to explain.  
24 He says that the fur on the squirrels is  
25 so thin that you can see right through

1 the bush of their tails. The ducks have  
2 only white pin feathers on their breasts,  
3 hardly any really heavy feathers at all.  
4 And the dandelions are blooming in  
5 Lincoln Park.

6 And then there's Alfred E. Parker,  
7 keeper of the zoo. He also declares  
8 that it's going to be a mild winter. He  
9 can tell it from the fur on the animals  
10 that are in his care. He asserts that  
11 for the last 43 years he has been  
12 predicting the weather by studying the  
13 fur of the animals in the zoo, and has  
14 been right 90 per cent of the time.

15 On the other hand, the official  
16 professional weather prophets are inclined  
17 to poke fun at the amateurs. C. A.  
18 Donnell, the government weather fore-  
19 caster in Chicago, makes a satirical  
20 reference to the fact that the country  
21 is full of amateur weather predictors.  
22 He declares that nobody in history has  
23 ever been able to prophesy the weather  
24 correctly over the length of a whole  
25 season -- unless it was just a lucky

1 guess. And he seems to be worn<sup>e</sup> out by  
2 the weather that is reported from  
3 Colorado. It doesn't bear out those  
4 prophecies of an excessively mild  
5 winter.

6 Snow is falling two weeks earlier  
7 than usual in Monarch Pass, where the  
8 automobile traffic is tied up by the  
9 heavy drifts. And snow is also falling  
10 on the Sangre de Cristo Mountains <sup>in Colorado</sup> ~~of~~  
11 <sup>and</sup> New Mexico.

1 Well, the negotiations have already  
2 begun. In fact, they began on the train,  
3 while Premier Laval of France was  
4 speeding southward from New York to  
5 Washington.

6 The head of the French government  
7 and his charming daughter landed in  
8 New York today and were received with all  
9 due ceremony. Then, as the United Press  
10 relates, Premier Laval immediately  
11 boarded a special train for Washington.

12 Among the dignitaries who greeted  
13 him in New York was Secretary-of-State  
14 Stimson. <sup>Then</sup> ~~and~~ Mr. Stimson accompanied ~~him~~  
15 Premier Laval on his way <sup>to the nations capital,</sup> ~~to Washington.~~  
16 The two officials got together all by  
17 themselves in their special car, and  
18 they started to talk things over.

19 The International News Service  
20 declares that this was a real beginning  
21 of the negotiations which the French  
22 Premier will conduct with the American  
23 government. Tomorrow he'll begin his  
24 business conversations with President  
25 Hoover.

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The special train pulled into Washington this afternoon, and Mon. Laval and his daughter paid a social call at the White House.

The Premier of France declared that he will confer with the President on all international problems that need attention just now.

1 Word comes along this evening of a  
2 slight hitch in the triumphant career  
3 of the big Navy dirigible, the Akron.  
4 The New York Sun declares that the Navy  
5 Department was compelled to accept the  
6 giant airship, although the Akron ~~did~~  
7 does not meet with the specifications of  
8 the contract. The contract, however, was  
9 drawn up in such a way that if the Navy  
10 refused to take over the Akron, why it  
11 would cost a lot of money. So they  
12 might as well say "O.K., the big ship is  
13 ours."

14 There are several ways in which the  
15 huge dirigible has not lived up to  
16 expectations. For one thing, she is ~~said to be~~  
17 between 20~~000~~ and 25,000 pounds overweight.  
18 She was required to carry a military  
19 load of 10,000 pounds, but now <sup>if</sup> she is  
20 to do this she will have to cut down on  
21 the amount of food, fuel, water, and  
22 other stores which she would normally  
23 carry.

24 The airship was supposed to have a  
25 speed of 72 knots an hour. In her test

1 flights the Akron was not able to sail  
2 along through the sky at a rate of more  
3 than between 68 and 70 <sup>knots</sup> ~~miles~~ an hour.

4 The Naval experts reckon that a  
5 dirigible that would be of any value  
6 should operate at an altitude of 20,000  
7 feet. The Akron, <sup>they say,</sup> ~~today,~~ has never gone  
8 above 6,000 feet. The experts believe  
9 that she will be able to go as high as  
10 16,000 feet, but only when she is not  
11 entirely loaded.

12 But nevertheless, under the terms  
13 of the contract the cheapest way out was  
14 to take over the dirigible, in spite of  
15 the fact that she <sup>didn't</sup> ~~could not~~ come up to  
16 expectations. And tonight she is at  
17 her <sup>new</sup> home in the great naval hangar  
18 at Lakehurst after a successful voyage  
19 over the mountains.

1           There is serious trouble in  
2 the island of Cyprus. Today there have  
3 been wild scenes on that beautiful  
4 historic bit of land in the Western  
5 Mediterranean.

6           The International News Service  
7 reports that four British war-ships have  
8 been sent to put down the rioting. Also  
9 a squadron of British military airplanes  
10 are flying from Egypt to Cyprus.

11           Mobs have been storming  
12 around. They ~~complexe~~ compelled the  
13 ~~BR~~ Greek members of the executive  
14 legislative Committee to resign. They  
15 also destroyed the personal effects of  
16 the British Governor General who is on  
17 his<sup>S</sup> way to England.

18           The United Press reminds us  
19 there is a strong Nationalist movement  
20 on in Cyprus. The majority of the people  
21 are Greeks and they want to unite with  
22 Greece. They resent the fact that the  
23 British rule the Island and today the  
24 mobs paraded with loud shouts of  
25 "DOWN WITH TYRANNY".

John Bull seems to be getting in from all sides. But he's used to that.



1 Here's another one about that  
2 irrepressible personality, Mahatma  
3 Gandhi, or rather this time ~~XXXXXX~~  
4 it's Gandhi's goat that breaks into the  
5 news.

6 It has been published far and wide  
7 that the little holy man of India lives  
8 largely on goat's milk. ~~XXXX~~ On his  
9 trip to the <sup>London</sup> round-table conference he  
10 took a goat along ~~with him~~ to provide  
11 ~~him with~~ milk.

12 All during Gandhi's stay in England  
13 the goat has been one of the most  
14 important members of his party.

15 And now the Associated Press reports  
16 that Gandhi's goat has been awarded the  
17 first prize in an English-dairy-show.  
18 It was held at Royal Agricultural Hall.  
19 The holy man's goat was the center of  
20 attraction and was awarded the blue  
21 ribbon. It's really a most superior  
22 goat. As the blue ribbon was tied around  
23 the animal's neck, the officials formally  
24 gave that goat a name. They called it  
25 ~~XXXXXX~~ "MAHATMA". <sup>To which the goat replied "m-a-a-a."</sup> It was simultaneously

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announced that since the arrival of Gandhi and his goat the price of goats in England has gone up.

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AIR MAIL

Well, I'm learning more these days about the air-mail. First I started on the air that the first air-mail flight took place 20 years ago. Then I received a letter of correction which informed me that the first air-mail flights were during the Seige of Paris by the Prussians in 1870, when balloons carried mail out of the beleaguered city.

And now I have another letter telling me that the first air-mail flight actually took place nearly 100 years ago.

This comes from Karl Weber, historian of the American Air Mail Society.

"The first official air-mail flight in the world" he writes "was made on November 7th, 1836, when a British balloon crossed the North Sea carrying a letter from the King's

1 Councillor-General, to King William First  
2 of Holland. The letter, <sup>he adds</sup> ~~I understand,~~  
3 "is still preserved in the Royal Dutch  
4 Archives in Holland."

5 That seems to be official, but  
6 just the same those balloon flights out  
7 of Paris ~~■~~ were certainly dramatic,  
8 ~~stunts of air-mail delivery.~~

9 A bit of interesting information  
10 comes along from George W. Angers,  
11 President Emeritus of the American Air  
12 Mail Society, ~~at Springfield, Massachu-~~  
13 ~~setts.~~ Mr. Angers reminds us that Paris  
14 was beseiged for over 4 months. Fifty-  
15 five balloons soared into the sky and  
16 drifted with the wind away from the  
17 stricken city. Two hundred and 38  
18 people were carried, 384 pigeons for a  
19 carrier-pigeon service -- 6 dogs, and  
20 12 tons of mail, <sup>totalling</sup> about 4 million letters.

21 Mr. Angers himself has a large  
22 collection of those same Paris air-mail  
23 letters, and he sent one along to me, ~~as~~  
24 ~~a sample.~~ It is written on special air-  
25 ~~mail paper.~~ It was carried by the 13th

balloon to leave Paris, the balloon called "Le Victor Hugo."

It was in the air for nearly 6 hours, and landed 72 miles away from the city, just beyond the Prussian lines.

## TAXI

Now comes what seems to be a record in the way of taxi rides, also a record taxi bill. It happened over in France.

The New York Evening Post relates that a well-dressed young man hailed a taxi on the main street of Marseilles. He nonchalantly told the chauffeur to drive him to Bordeaux. That was several hundred miles away, a rather long taxi drive. The driver thought the young man must be some fabulous millionaire. So he shrugged his shoulders and said, Oui, oui, -- and they started for Bordeaux. When they got there the young man made a call or two and then told the taxi driver to take him to Paris. And that was a few hundred miles more. Again the driver said oui, oui. Yes, all in all, it was one long taxi ride.

At Paris the driver presented the bill -- a record bill. It came to 3500 francs -- or about \$140. Experts say that this is the largest bill in the history of French taxis.

The young man looked at the bill with a vacant stare. And then it was

1 revealed that he hadn't a sou<sup>to his name</sup> ~~on him~~.  
2 He was flat broke.

3 The unfortunate taxi driver called  
4 a gendarme. The French police ~~was~~ <sup>were</sup> very  
5 much interested in the young man. They  
6 found that he was just ~~returned~~ <sup>back</sup> from  
7 Algeria, where he had been a soldier.  
8 In Algeria he had got into trouble by  
9 taking a taxi for a long ride, when he  
10 had no money to pay. He had been let  
11 off for this because he was a first  
12 offender.

13 The end of the story is as sad as  
14 you'd expect -- the melancholy taxi  
15 driver got into his taxi and started  
16 for Marseille<sup>s</sup>, with that record-breaking  
17 bill in his pocket -- still unpaid. The  
18 young man who took that longest taxi  
19 ride in history was given four months  
20 in ~~jaill~~ <sup>the local bastille</sup>.

1           They say that a mountain lion never  
2 attacks a man. As a matter of fact, it  
3 ALMOST never does. But here's an  
4 exception to the rule, and a thrilling  
5 exception it is. The story is told in  
6 the new Literary Digest, that came out  
7 today.

8           It's a case of a baseball player  
9 against an infuriated mountain lion. A  
10 man who has stood out there on the  
11 pitcher's mound and buzzed the balls  
12 across to the batters. He has a whip-  
13 ~~last~~<sup>fast</sup> right arm that can burn the ball  
14 fast and true. It's lucky for him that  
15 he has -- because it was a case of  
16 matching his pitcher's arm against the  
17 cunning and ferocity of an enraged  
18 mountain lion.

19           The Literary Digest tells us that  
20 the man is Charles E. Mattern, assistant  
21 woods superintendent of a timber company  
22 at Longview, Washington. Mr. Mattern is  
23 an athlete. He is a wrestler and also,  
24 as I remarked, a baseball pitcher.

25           He was out in the woods of the



1 Northwest, and went tramping through the  
2 trees to fetch a pail of water, like  
3 Jack and Jill. It was then that he  
4 found himself face to face with that  
5 mountain lion. The Literary Digest,  
6 quoting from the Philadelphia Public-  
7 Ledger Magazine, tells us what happened.  
8 The man was 4 feet away from the  
9 snarling face of the mountain lion.  
10 Its ears were laid back, its eyes gleam-  
11 ing, its mouth open, showing all its hate  
12 and fury in that one baleful stare.

13 Baseball-Pitcher Mattern wasn't  
14 looking for any trouble. He started to  
15 retreat, walking backward and keeping his  
16 eyes on the mountain lion. And now came  
17 the proof that there was one mountain  
18 lion at least that would attack a human  
19 being. The big cat followed the retreat-  
20 ing man. Presently it was <sup>almost on him.</sup> ~~so close that~~  
21 ~~Forest Superintendent Mattern, still~~  
22 ~~walking backward, began to kick at the~~  
23 ~~beast. Near him was a boulder 4 feet~~  
24 ~~high. He jumped to the top of it. The~~  
25 ~~mountain lion leaped after him. A heavy~~

1 ~~kiok threw the animal back, but swiftly~~  
2 ~~it returned to the attack.~~

3 ~~To one side of the rock~~ The baseball  
4 player saw a heap of stones. They looked  
5 mighty welcome. He leaped down and  
6 quickly picked up three -- three fine  
7 hunks of rock about the familiar size of  
8 a baseball. The mountain lion was  
9 coming toward him, crouching low. Now  
10 it was only 6 feet away.

11 The man took a short wind-up,  
12 pretty much as if he were burning a fast  
13 ball across in a baseball game. His arm  
14 flashed around, and he threw the rock  
15 with every ounce of strength he had.  
16 The stone flew true, and hit the mountain  
17 lion square in the mouth. The infuriated  
18 cat stopped. The pitcher threw a second  
19 stone, but this time his aim wasn't so  
20 good -- he missed.

21 That seemed to encourage the enraged  
22 beast, and once more it crouched and came  
23 to the attack.

24 Pitcher Mattern knew that his life  
25 might easily depend on that last rock.

Once more his arm lashed out with all its strength. The heavy stone simply hummed through the air. It hit the mountain lion square between the eyes. The animal was knocked off its feet and thrown backward.

That tremendous crack in the head was too much for even an enraged mountain lion. The big cat, partly stunned, crawled slowly away into a clump of bushes.

The man went back to camp and procured a rifle. Then he returned to the clump of brushwood where the mountain lion had taken refuge. It was still there, dazed. He shot the animal and discovered a bruise on the skull. The blow of a powerfully flung stone like that would have broken a human head, but the mountain lion had been only partly stunned.

(1)

1 Another round-the-world-trip  
2 was announced today.

3 A man intends to travel round  
4 this terrestrial globe on roller skates.  
5 He is Jack Hyland of North Carolina,  
6 who a couple of weeks ago skated all the  
7 way from his native state to the American  
8 Legion Convention in Detroit. Jack says  
9 he is going to start travelling round  
10 the world on roller-skates within the  
11 next few days.

12 He intends to head westward  
13 and just go on skating. That is he will  
14 skate wherever there is pavement. When  
15 there is just open country he'll walk and  
16 I suppose when he comes to an ocean he'll  
17 take a ship <sup>and spend his time skating around the deck,</sup> ~~unless he intends to head~~  
18 ~~up for the frozen Arctic and do a bit~~  
19 ~~of ice-skating.~~ I am afraid that Jack  
20 is going to find that there is an awful  
21 lot of territory in this world where  
22 there are no pavements for his roller-  
23 skates.

24 And after that rather <sup>disillusioning</sup> ~~sad~~  
25 observation I think I'll put on my own  
roller skates and <sup>skate along</sup> ~~go~~ home.

AND SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.