

L.T. - Sunoco. - Thurs. - August 5, 1937

YACHT

There was a surprise in the yacht race today -- though not so far as the result is ~~am~~ concerned. Ranger won, which is the complete opposite of surprise. Ranger made a new record, which is not so astonishing either -- after the way the Vanderbilt boat has been showing herself to be a super-yacht. Ranger, leading all the way, sailed the thirty mile course in three hours, seven minutes, and forty-nine seconds. That's about three minutes under the former record, established in 1934.

R The surprising thing is -- how well the Endeavor ~~i~~ did.

Tom Sopwith steered her across the finishing line, right behind the Ranger, a quarter of a mile back in point of length, three minutes and thirty-seven seconds later in point of time.

~~was~~ Since Ranger beat the record by three minutes, Endeavor was mighty close up there to the record.

In the four races the British boat got better and better and better. She took a shabby beating in the first two, was not so bad yesterday, and today she sailed a fine competition. Maybe if they had a few more races to go Sopwith might win one. Today ^{was} ~~saw~~ the last, and the cup stays in America.

But hats off to the Endeavor for the race she ran this afternoon!

WASHINGTON

In Washington today the first thing on the list is something entirely to be expected. It occupies number one position in the list of recommendations made by the House and Senate Tax Avoidance Committee. The Committee outlines a program for plugging up the loopholes in the Income Tax Law, loopholes which they say cost the Government from a hundred million to two hundred million dollars a year. This follows the tax hearings of some weeks ago, in which it was shown that various big tax patrons had cut their payments down by forming Holding Companies -- which was admitted to be legal.

So today the Committee on recommendations starts in by proposing that deductions allowed for Holding Companies be abolished. Don't let people charge Holding Company items off their Income Tax. The Committee points out that to allow such deductions is to tempt people to form companies just to cut their taxes.

Then another company angle is hit with the suggestion that the Law should be changed to strike at such performers as Radio entertainers and ~~newsreel~~ ^{movie} actors who incorporate their

WASHINGTON - 2.

talents. Change the tax so that they won't get any benefit from talent incorporation. Also, alter the Law so as to stop incorporation of estates and ~~taxes~~ yachts. And, there's the proposal for ways that will make aliens earning their money in this Country pay more taxes.

The Committee has made its report on loopholes, but it is possible that action in Congress will have to wait until the next session.

TAMMANY

~~the~~ Politics in New York City take^s a new turn, not for the better, but for bitter. With the entrance of Judge Jeremiah T. Mahoney in the race for Mayor, the bitterness is just about complete -- acrid and burning. The most furious kind of cat and dog fight among the Metropolitan Democrats -- with all sorts of national implications and repercussions.

The trouble began with a split between Tammany Hall, which is the Manhattan organization, and an alliance of political machines in the other four boroughs. The question at issue was -- who should be nominated in the Democratic primaries ^{for} as Mayor ^{to} ~~and~~ race against fusion ^{candidate} Mayor La Guardia, ~~in~~ ~~the elections~~ ^{And it all} ~~it~~ turned into a pro New Deal and anti-New Deal fight. Tammany, ^{to} ~~fighting~~ the Roosevelt Administration, picked Senator Copeland, who is an acid Roosevelt critic. The alliance of the other four boroughs with Postmaster Farley in the background, chose the suave and urbane Grover Whalen, supporting the New Deal. That was the line-up when today the word flashed that Grover Whalen stepped out, and his place has been taken by ^{Jeremiah} Judge Mahoney. You might think that was in the interest of

TAMMANY -2.

peace. But far from it. The battle is on more savagely than ever among the Democrats, with charges of double-crossing and threats of political death.

The forces opposing Tammany charged today that an agreement had been made, whereby both Senator Copeland and Grover Whalen were to be withdrawn -- the two factions uniting behind Judge Mahoney. They did their part - they say - but the agreement was violated by Tammany - double crossing.

What does Tammany say? Today the new leader Christopher T. Sullivan passed orders along to the district leaders. Get behind Copeland, was the Tammany mandate. Back him to the limit, or you'll lose your jobs.

The New Deal and anti-New Deal angle is emphasized by the fact that Judge Mahoney is a supporter of the President. He has been Chairman of the New York Regional Labor Board, which is a New Deal Agency. Judge Mahoney is expected to go well with the Jewish vote. He was head of the A. A. U. and was a leader in the fight to keep American athletes from going to the Nazi Olympic Games in Hitler's Berlin. That puts him in competition with

TAMMANY - 3.

Mayor La Guardia who won favor with the Jewish vote by the international sensations he made denouncing Hitler and the Nazis.

All of which provides new complications, as Judge Mahoney's entrance in the political limelight gives the New York fight for Mayor a doubly embittered aspect of cat and dog.

CHINA

51

To the north of the old city of Peiping a highway used for ages traverses a hilly pass. This is the gateway of Peiping to the north and the west, ^{famous} Wankuo Pass. Since the time of Genghis Khan and long before that, this strategic pass through the hills has been the scene of many savage fights. And so it is today. The Railroad runs through ^{the Pass.} ~~the~~ The Chinese hold it, ^{and} The Japanese are storming it. ^{It's} Wankuo Pass becomes the focus of all the widespread and confused fighting in North China, because it controls the line of Railroad communication between the Japanese forces in Peiping and their armies to the north, based on Chahay and Manchukuo. At last reports the battle was still raging, the Chinese regiments ^{holding doggedly} ~~hanging on~~ to Wankuo Pass. The Japanese are attacking from the sky, with incessant bombing. They are striking at ^{the} Railroads and ^{other} communication lines far and wide.

China is mustering ^{all} its troops ~~for~~ war -- also money.

* A hundred million dollar loan has ^{just} been raised in London. That was announced today in a statement from the Chinese Embassy.

The money will be used for the defense against Japan.

In Nanking General Chiang Kai-Shek is debating the

52
crucial issue with his council^{of} advisers - whether to declare war on Japan. H Chiang Kai-Shek made a declaration today. He will fight to the death, said he. But he has said that before.

In Tokio the foreign Minister speaks of peace. He declared today that Japan wanted a solution without war, but he still insisted that the Empire of the Mikado must dominate North China.

53
Meanwhile complaints continue of the maltreatment of foreigners at the hands of the Japanese, and the ticklish issue is - photography. We've heard time after time in the past how sensitive the Japanese were when somebody snaps a picture of something. So it isn't surprising to hear that the foreigners beaten up in North China were using cameras. One was Sheridan Fahenstock, a writer who has often contributed to the New York Herald Tribune. He tried to photograph a parade of tanks and artillery. Mrs. Joe Lacks, a photographer of the Associated Press, was roughly handled when Japanese troops stopped her from taking pictures. Bonney Powell, cameraman of Movietone Newsreel, was threatened with rifles. He is reported

to have been arrested. At the Italian Embassy a party of photographers, some of them Germans, were menaced so dangerously by Japanese soldiers, that a dozen Italian marines stepped to the front with fixed bayonets, and the Japanese retired. They don't seem to like picture-taking out there in the Far East.

Today the United States, Great Britain, France and Italy, through their Ambassadors, reminded Japan of the boxer protocols: ~~this is~~ an international agreement reached after the Boxer Rebellion in the last century. It provides among other things that communications between Peiping and Tientsin must be kept open. The Ambassadors told Japan -- be careful and observe those boxer protocols.

PANAMA

It was raining today in Panama, a cloud burst and tropical downpour -- so rescue planes could not take off. At last reports they were still waiting to fly to the aid of a party of stranded aviators. And this is the latest in that story of the lost army airplane in Panama, the missing sky ship which we heard day before yesterday, when the planes were sent out, to search for the Pan American passenger liner which crashed into the sea off the canal zone.

Lieutenant T. J. Schofield was one of the pilots who flew on that search. Then he returned to his base and took off on another mission, a trial flight of a big army transport. Five soldiers went with him, and the transport was accompanied by a pursuit ship. The two planes ran into a violent equatorial storm and climbed high to get above the clouds.

The pursuit plane lost touch with the Army transport, couldn't find it, couldn't communicate by wireless. It returned to its base and reported. Other planes flew out to search, and spied the wreckage of the Army transport on a mountainside in the wilds of the Chiriqui province. And, it looked like another disaster with lives lost.

But now the natives have got the word through. The transport crashed all right, but the men aboard ^{had} bailed out.

~~They~~ Took to their parachutes and got to earth. ^{Safe!} ^{That is} safe in the ^{dense} heart of the ^{tropical} wilderness.

Now ^a tropical tempest is delaying the rescue work, but as soon as it clears, skyships will fly over and drop food and medical aid to the marooned flyers. They can't be taken out by the sky route. They are in ^{a region of} such forbidding mountain and jungle that no plane can land. They'll ^{have to} be brought out the long way, the hard way, by native guides.

EARHART

Today a man was arraigned in a New York Court on a charge of extortion, *and indicted by the Grand Jury.* By the time the evidence was presented there was on record the final version of one of the most impudent hoaxes ever attempted. This man went to George Palmer Putnam, husband of Amelia Earhart, and told him that his wife was alive. Not only that, he declared that Amelia Earhart was in the neighborhood of New York.

With this astonishing beginning, the story teller proceeded to relate a yarn even more astonishing. He said he was a sailor, a member of the crew of a gun running ship of the South Seas. The gun runner, he continued, while navigating in New Guinea waters, came upon an island where its crew found the wreck of an airplane. Nearby was the body of a man killed in the crash and a woman alive, survivor, castaway, Amelia Earhart. The gun runner rescued her, and sailed for America. Right now the ship was lying off the coast near New York, with Amelia Earhart aboard. The sailor explained that he, as one of the crew, had been commissioned to carry the tidings to the husband of the lost flier, Not only the tidings -- but also the proof -- and he produced a scarf, a brown and white neckpiece

Amelia Earhart's scarf he said. The most surprising thing of all came, when the scarf was identified. A woman secretary of Miss Earhart's recognized it. Yes, said she, that brown and white scarf was an article of apparel that the aviatrix had owned. That surely added the strange touch of authenticity to the sailor's story.

The authenticity was diminished when the inevitable demand came -- money. The sailor said he wanted two thousand dollars for the return of Amelia Earhart -- was commissioned to get it by the crew of the gun runner. They were a bad lot he explained, and they'd have to be given the cash.

"The boat," said the sailor to Amelia Earhart's husband, "has a lot of cut-throats aboard and they talked about dumping your wife into the sea." That was the sinister touch in the demand for the money.

A trap was sprung. Money was given to the sailor with the melodramatic story, whereupon he was arrested by the G-Men. They found him to be a resident of Brooklyn. A sailor? Well -- an ex-sailor, very much ex. He hadn't been to sea for twenty-two years. He had been living in his Brooklyn neighborhood

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during all the time of his supposed voyage with the gun runners.

But what about the scarf? That telling piece of evidence which was identified? The ex-sailor **broke** down and confessed. It was **Amelia Earhart's** brown and white scarf all right. She had dropped it at Roosevelt field three years ago, when she landed from an ordinary flight. The ex-sailor had picked it up and kept it as a souvenir. And souvenir it had remained until the sky tragedy of the Pacific. Then the scarf gave the ex-sailor the idea of using it as the basis of his crazy yarn -- and the attempt to extort two thousand dollars.

As someone said:- this is a mad, mad world. If you don't believe it just listen to this next:-

HEAD

58 1/2
Here's one for Ripley. It's also about Ripley --
Samuel Ripley of Beechwood, New Jersey. He's alive today,
alive and well -- believe it or not. A three-and-a-half ton
truck ran over his head. One wheel rolled right over his coco.

Sam Ripley works for the borough of Beechwood on a
garbage collecting truck. He fell off. The driver of the
truck felt a heavy jolt. He climbed to the ground to
investigate. He found Ripley lying flat with the marks of a
tire tread plainly imprinted on his head. The wheel had passed
squarely over his skull.

59
Today he's not only alive, but says he feels fine.
The Doctors have xrayed his skull and agree that there's no
fracture. They are puzzled, can't account for that much

resistance in a human cranium. ^{IF} ~~After which, believe it or not~~ *The mere idea of a*
heavy truck leaves me so dazed that ~~the~~
and jittery that all I can say is: -

59 1/4
So long until tomorrow.