

INTRO

Lowell Thomas' Broadcast
for the Literary Digest.
Thursday, February 12, 1931.

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Good Evening, Everybody:

1 This afternoon a man from
2 Ridgewood, New Jersey, came into my
3 office. ~~and~~ ^{He} said:

4 "This is Lincoln's birthday of
5 course, but what I wonder is, do you
6 happen to know what a modern-minded man
7 Abraham Lincoln was?"

8 Then my visitor, Mr. George Rockwell,
9 handed me a copy of a lecture on
10 inventions that Lincoln had given. I
11 read it, and I found that the great
12 emancipator really was keenly interested
13 in the development of modern mechanical
14 civilization.

15 Yes, and another old, musty document
16 was recently discovered which indicates
17 that Lincoln was even air-minded, ~~and~~
18 keenly interested in lighter-than-air
19 craft.

20 According to the New York Evening
21 World, Lincoln was the first man ever to
22 receive a telegraphic message from the
23 air. It was sent from a balloon on June
24 18, 1861 -- a few weeks after the outbreak
of the Civil War.

25 Lincoln was immensely impressed.
So he immediately sent a note to General
Winfield Scott, Commander of the Union

1 Armies, asking him to take up the
2 matter of using balloons on the Union
3 side in the ~~Civil~~ War.

4 But after all, the thing that *has*
5 made Lincoln such a beloved figure, *of course,*
6 was his deep understanding of humanity.

7 I have a friend, Dale Carnegie
8 by name, who has studied Lincoln's life
9 for years. I imagine he is just about
10 ready to put out the 438th book on
11 Lincoln. Well, ^{today,} Dale ^{of} told me ~~about~~
12 one small revealing incident in the
13 life of the great emancipator. ~~This~~
14 ~~information, by the way,~~ ^{that} was recently
15 published in the Kansas City Star.

16 In March of 1862, Lincoln's
17 favorite son, Tad, was gravely ill.
18 And Tad refused to take his medicine.
19 He didn't like the taste of the stuff.
20 His nurse couldn't force it down his
21 throat.

22 Lincoln was very busy. He had
23 just introduced a bill into Congress
24 offering to pay the slaveholders of the
25 South \$400 a head for their slaves if

1 they would free them at once and end the
2 war. A large delegation from the border
3 states was at the White House discussing
4 the proposal with the President, when
5 the nurse came in and interrupted the
6 conference to inform Lincoln that Tad
7 wouldn't take his medicine. Lincoln
8 requested the delegation to excuse
9 him, and then he asked the nurse to let
10 him see Tad alone.

11 Lincoln sat down at Tad's bedside,
12 and wrote out a check, which read like
13 this: "Pay to Tad (when he is well
14 enough to present), or bearer, five
15 dollars."

16 Then the great war president said
17 to ~~Tad:~~ *his little son:* -

18 "Tad, if you want to cash this check
19 you'll have to get well and take it
20 to the bank, and if you want to get well
21 you'll have to take this medicine."

22 That ended it, ^{and} Tad took the
23 medicine. ~~Yes~~, Lincoln certainly ^{by} understood
24 human nature.

25 ~~And now let's go on with the~~
~~news.~~ *But what is the news of the world on*
Lincoln's Birthday? Well, let's see.

1 Violent storms have been sweeping
2 over the eastern half of Nova Scotia *and have*
3 ~~today putting~~ more than 100,000 people
4 completely out of touch with the rest of
5 the world. All ordinary forms of
6 communication were ~~temporarily put out of~~ *disrupted.*
7 ~~commission.~~ Snow and rain and sleet
8 beat down in a driving blizzard.

9 Next door to Nova Scotia, on the
10 Island of Cape Breton, there was a
11 terrific electric display -- lightning
12 and thunder -- which are exceedingly
13 rare at this time of the year.

14 The International News Service
15 informs us that after a lot of trouble,
16 one lone telegraph line was opened up
17 today bringing word to the outside world
18 from the storm swept region.

1 And while that tempest was roaring
2 in Nova Scotia, I suppose it was foggy
3 in nearby Maine.

4 Anyway, the foggiest spot in the
5 United States has ^{just} been found. It's the
6 district around the Moose Peak Lighthouse
7 on the northern coast of Maine. The
8 Associated Press informs us that a
9 study of fog conditions in the United
10 States has revealed ~~with~~ that the
11 Moose Peak Lighthouse ^{looks} down ^{on} the
12 foggiest part of ^{this country.} ~~the United States.~~

13 During the past year, they've had
14 1526 hours of fog up there, an average
15 of four hours of wet, blank mist each
16 and every day.

17 I don't suppose London can do
18 any better--or worse--than that.

1 Now Let's all think about a crowded
2 shoe store for a minute and summon up
3 a vision of scores of men and women
4 trying on shoes.

5 It happened out in Sacramento,
6 California, and according to the
7 Associated Press, Detective John
8 Gabrielli was one of the customers.
9 He leaned over to see how his shoe
10 fitted him and his tear gas pistol fell
11 out of his pocket and bounced on the
12 floor. It went off and discharged a fine,
13 ~~good buckshot~~ ^{fragrant blast} of tear gas. That tear
14 gas spread, and eyes began to water, and
15 there was a wild scramble. The customers
16 rushed to the street, some of them in
17 their stocking feet, some of them
18 with one shoe on and one shoe off,
19 women dashing and limping along with a
20 stocking on one foot and a high heel
21 slipper on the other.

22 So the next time ^a Sacramento
23 policeman goes into a store to buy a
24 pair of big cop's brogans size 13, they
25 are going to make him check his tear ^{gas} gun
at the door.

1 *Next!* I have an item which is a first
2 rate lesson in philosophy. You know,
3 how the philosophers have been ~~bidding~~ ^{counseling}
4 us for these long centuries to bear
5 adversity with fortitude; and then again
6 there are certain wise men ~~who~~ tell us
7 that good fortune is sometimes more
8 difficult to bear than ill fortune.

9 An Associated dispatch from
10 Washington ~~tells us~~ ^{says} that Mrs. Edith
11 Brenner lost a pocket-book containing
12 ~~xxxx~~ sixteen hundred dollars in jewels
13 and money. She missed it on the
14 street and calmly and quietly told a
15 policeman about it. She certainly bore
16 her loss bravely.

17 Then a young man walked up and
18 said:

19 "HERE'S YOUR POCKET-BOOK, LADY."

20 And he handed Mrs. Brenner the
21 purse with the \$1600. in it. Mrs.
22 Brenner instantly fainted in the arms
23 of the cop.

24 Well, that lady has a truly
25 philosophic spirit.

1 In my office at the Literary
2 Digest I have two secretaries who help me
3 sort out the news dispatches and clip the
4 newspapers and get out correspondence.
5 They're both lovely and charming and they're
6 college girls. We call them "the two
7 Co-eds." Whenever I want any subject
8 illuminated by the light of fresh, unspoiled
9 intelligence, I call upon "the two Co-eds".

10 This week's Literary Digest
11 celebrates Lincoln's Birthday by printing on
12 the cover thumbnail portraits of all our
13 presidents. Only the pictures are given on
14 the cover; the names are printed in the
15 body of the magazine.

16 I tried to see how many I could
17 recognize, and I also called upon "the two
18 Co-eds." Each was able to pick out eight
19 of the presidents correctly. One did a
20 little better and picked nine, only she had
21 one wrong. Well, I was able to better
22 that record. I picked five wrong.

23 I wonder how many of you can pick
24 out all thirty of the presidents from their
25 pictures on that Digest cover?

1 In Russia today they are talking
2 about - now wait a minute till I see
3 if I can get this name straight - They
4 are talking about FLEB KRZHIZANOVSKY.
5 The five year plan may be still in full
6 swing in the land of the Soviets, but
7 it's author is out of his job

8 Fleb Krzhizanovsky - ^{Great Scott,} ~~Scott~~ what
9 a name ~~that is~~ - well, he is given
10 credit for having been the one to
11 originate the idea of making Russia
12 completely industrialized and completely
13 communized in five years. He has been
14 occupying an important post as vice-
15 chairman of the State Planning Commission.

16 But now, the Associated Press
17 informs us, that Fleb Krzhizanovsky -
18 let's just call him Fleb, ^{well Fleb} has been removed
19 from that job and appointed to another
20 which is less important. This is
21 regarded as a decided come down for the
22 author of the five year plan, and as
23 for the reason? they mention ^{recent} that big
24 melodramatic trial of the engineers who
25 were charged with being mixed up with

1 ~~the~~^a wild and wooly world-wide plot
2 against the Soviets.

3 The engineers were working for the
4 State Planning Commission of which Fleb
5 was the real head, and he is blamed for
6 having had counter-revolutionists
7 working in his department.

8 So it's a case of coming down
9 a notch for Fleb.

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1 I wish I could say something at
2 this point about how international sport
3 promotes good will between the nations.
4 It is a noble thought but I am afraid
5 it wouldn't go very well with this
6 next item.

7 They had an ice hockey game
8 over in Berlin between an American and
9 a German team. The Berlin newspapers
10 themselves say that the German referee
11 was thoroughly unfair, and did everything
12 he could to help the Germans ~~to~~ win.

13 The crowd was howling against
14 the Americans. The Berlin newspapers
15 say that the attitude of the spectators
16 was disgraceful. Finally the referee
17 allowed the German team to score a
18 goal which they apparently had not earned
19 and one of the Americans lost his temper
20 far enough to seize the referee by the
21 collar. The other Americans immediately
22 stepped in between the two men and then
23 the crowd went wild. They howled and
24 roared and tore up railings and seats
25 and threw them down on to the ice at the

1 American players.

2 The American~~x~~ who attacked the
3 referee apologized and the referee
4 changed his decision and the game
5 went on, while ~~xxx~~ the 6000 spectators
6 grew more furious all the time. The
7 Americans won by a score of 4 to 1.

8 The Berlin correspondent of the
9 New York Evening Post points out that
10 there is little or no anti-American
11 feeling among the Germans, but that
12 for some strange reason whenever
13 Americans participate in a sporting
14 ~~xx~~ event the crowd is always bitterly
15 hostile toward them.

16 It seems too bad, because
17 international sport events are supposed
18 to promote peace and good will between
19 the nations. *At any rate that's supposed*
20 ~~to be~~ *the idea — in theory.*

1 I have here one of the strangest
2 news items I've seen in a long time.
3 The incident seems almost impossible,
4 and yet it comes, vouched for as true,
5 in a dispatch from the foreign
6 correspondent of the New York Sun.

7 Near Bergamo, in Italy, a farmer
8 was dying of pneumonia. He was near
9 his last gasp, and all hope was given
10 up for him. In a wild delirium, he
11 got out of bed, climbed out of a window,
12 and went wandering across the farmyard.
13 He fell into a well 30 feet deep, and
14 the water was icy cold.

15 People came to help him, and a
16 man climbed down in the well and tied
17 a rope around the farmer. They started
18 to haul him up. He slipped out of the
19 rope and plunged down into the icy
20 water again. They tied the rope around
21 him once more and got him nearly to the
22 top when the rope broke. Down he went
23 again.

24 Well, they finally got him up and
25 put him to bed. A little while later he

1 ■ remarked that he felt much better,
2 and the doctors noticed that the fever
3 had left him. Two days later he got
4 up, dressed himself, and sat down to
5 breakfast. He said he was just
6 starving, and he ate enough for three
7 men.

8 He's well and hearty now, and the
9 doctors can't find any other explanation
10 than that the terrific ~~condition~~ cold-
11 water treatment had saved his life and
12 cured him.

13 *How's that for a modern miracle?*
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DOG CATCHER

Well, folks, after this let's not have any more of those jokes about the "dog-catcher."

Don't let's hear anybody say "That candidate? Why him? I wouldn't vote for him for dog catcher.

The New York Telegram informs us that they have had an investigation of salaries paid to office holders in Nassau County, Long Island. They have discovered that one of the highest paid of all political appointees is the local dog catcher. He drew down \$17,700 during the past year. That is \$2,700 more than the County pays the District Attorney.

That dog catcher is paid per dog, so much for each animal he captures.

Well, when a political office - holder draws down more than \$15,000 a year he is entitled to more honor than the dog-catcher usually receives. So, hats off boys to the dog-catcher of Nassau County.

THRILLING LETTER_

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1 Mr. C. H. Ohlwiler, of South
2 Bridge, Massachusetts, sends me a news
3 item, one that he thinks has been over-
4 looked by the newspapers. It's a
5 thriller from South America, and it was
6 published in the Alumni Bulletin of
7 Lehigh University.

8 It's the story of a narrow escape
9 from death. An escape from a firing
10 squad.

11 Alec MacHardy who finished his
12 engineering course at Lehigh in 1914, is
13 the assistant superintendent of the
14 famous Cerro de Pasco Copper Mines, in
15 Peru. And Alec is the hero of this
16 thriller.

17 During the recent Peruvian
18 revolution, Communists captured the
19 Cerro de Pasco mines. Alec MacHardy was
20 sitting at his desk there in the Andes
21 when they came. They rushed in and
22 captured him. They took him out,
23 blindfolded him, and put him up against
24 a wall before a firing squad. But just
25 as the revolutionists were about to fire

THRILLING LETTER - 2

their volley, gun fire crashed out behind them and government soldiers from Lima dashed up and saved Alec's life.

There's a Hollywood hair-raiser straight from real life.

1 Tonight, over in romantic Spain,
2 there's a man in a local Spanish hoosegow.
3 He's in jail on account of what he did
4 last night.

5 At a prominent Madrid hotel, dinner
6 was in progress and the ~~caballeros~~ caballeros,
7 and the toreadors, and the señoritas, were
8 at the tables, while the orchestra was
9 playing soft Spanish music. In front
10 of the orchestra was [^]microphone, because
11 ~~that~~ dinner music was being broadcast
12 all over Spain.

13 The music was ~~tangoing~~ ^{swinging} along with
14 a soft, sensuous ^{Spanish} lilt, when a young man
15 among the diners dashed forward, ~~and he~~
16 ~~had~~ ^{There was} fire in his eye. ^{And} Before anybody
17 could stop him, he rushed to the
18 microphone and shouted into it: DOWN
19 WITH THE KING! LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC! ^{And}
20 ^{that revolutionary shout was heard all the Tyrannies to Gibraltar.}
21 According to the International
22 News Service, he was instantly arrested,
23 charged with sedition, and hurled into
24 the hoosegow.

25 Well, he certainly didn't do right.
It's all wrong to put something in a

1 broadcast which shouldn't be there.
2 In fact, I'm a bit worried. In the
3 broadcasting studio here there's a row
4 of chairs reserved for visitors. There
5 are several visitors here tonight and
6 one of them is a farmer from Oskaloosa,
7 ^{Arkansas.} ~~Iowa~~ Now, what ~~is~~ I'm afraid of is
8 that he's liable to dash up to ~~the~~ my
9 microphone here, shake his whiskers,
10 and shout: DOWN WITH OSKALOOSA! AND
11 HOORAY FOR BROADWAY!

12 So I think I'd better hurry up
13 and say, so long until tomorrow.
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