

1 Good Evening, Everybody:

2 I suppose we'll have to call today
3 the beginning of the 1931 open season for
4 big airplane flights, long jaunts through
5 the sky, and especially over oceans.

6 Today, the first of the season's
7 trans-atlantic fliers took off for the
8 great adventure of flying across the sea
9 from continent to continent. ¶ Several
10 planes have made the preliminary hop
11 from the flying fields around New York
12 up the coast ~~■~~ toward Newfoundland. But,
13 after all, the real thrill comes when the
14 old bus goes zipping down the runway,
15 climbs into the air and goes roaring
16 across the vast expanse of sea -- right
17 out into the blue.

18 Anyway, tonight somewhere in the
19 sky, over the grey waters of the North
20 Atlantic, a plane with two men in it is
21 speeding eastward. The aviators are
22 Wiley Post and Harold Gatty. They call
23 Post the one-eyed aviator, for the
24 simple and obvious reason that he
25

has only one eye.

Gatty, by the way, is the pilot who taught Colonel Lindbergh's wife how to fly.

The International News Service speaks of the spirit and precision of these two fliers. They landed at Harbor Grace, Newfoundland today, sat down for lunch, helped to get a supply of gas aboard their ship, and immediately took off. Four hours after reaching Newfoundland they were in the sky again, heading out across the ocean.

And they expect to use that same spirit and precision not merely in jumping the Atlantic, but all the way around the world.

Their immediate destination now is Berlin. They intend to stop at Berlin just long enough to start off again. From there they hope to fly on to Moscow, and then on around the world.

Their plane does 150 miles an hour and they expect to circle the globe in ten days. If they succeed it will be an epoch making record breaking flight.

Post and Gatty have won the race for the first getaway. They had two other immediate competitors. One was Ruth Nichols who, as the Associated Press reminds us, flew north yesterday but came to grief when she tried to land. A dazzling, blinding sun was in her face as she slid to earth. There was a crash. The plane was badly damaged. Miss Nichols was hurt although not seriously. There is some doubt now about when she will be able to attempt the trans-atlantic flight.

Meanwhile two other aviators are all set to shake the dust of North American from their feet, or from their undercarriage I should say. They are the Danish fliers Horriss and Hillig. The Editor of the International News Service doesn't bother with those names. He just calls them H. and H. Anyway, H. and H. are at Harbor Grace, ready to shoot into the sky with Denmark the first stop. They say they are deeply disappointed about the accident that befell Ruth Nichols because they had hoped to take off for the ocean flight at the same moment as Ruth. They wanted to make an international race of it.

The United Press ^lcompetes the picture of sky adventure

by telling us of all the other planes that are getting ready to jump the ocean. At Roosevelt field, two Hungarian aviators, Captain George Endreas and Alexander Magyar are tuning up their plane. They intend to make a non-stop sky dash across the sea and then across Europe all the way to Budapest, the capital of their own native country.

And then there are Clyde Pangborn and Hugh Herndon, Jr. who are getting ready for an ambitious flight. They say it's to be all the way around the globe.

And last but not least come Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh who are getting set for their holiday sky cruise across the North Pacific to Japan. As yet no date has been set for their take off.

Yes, today's news brings forth a glamorous colorful pageant of sky wanderings and venturesome travel jaunts among the clouds.

AVIATOR

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1 The art of aviation has received a
2 sock in the eye in the stately academic
3 precincts of the University of Arizona.

4 Alfred A. Hudgin is an Arizona
5 aviator. He may be a gallant Arizona
6 aviator, or, on the other hand, maybe he
7 just made a forced landing. At any rate,
8 it's costing him 25 bucks.

9 The United Press tells the world
10 that Aviator Hudgin landed on the grounds
11 of one of the sorority houses of the
12 University of Arizona. He jumped out of
13 his plane, looked up one of the girls
14 and made a date.

15 The ^{roaring} descent of the ~~■~~ airplane
16 created a considerable stir, and the Chief
17 of Police arrested the aviator for
18 operating a motor vehicle without a
19 muffler. Everybody is agreed that that
20 thundering airplane motor didn't have
21 any muffler at all. The aviator claims
22 that he couldn't help it -- he said it
23 was just an accident that he came down.
24 He had to make a forced landing, and it
25 was merely a coincidence that he took

1 the occasion to make a date with the
2 girl. Maybe so. ^{But} The Tuscon cops,
3 ~~however,~~ say "maybe not." Or rather,
4 probably not. In fact, they say
5 absolutely not. ^{They insist that} the sentimental aviator
6 landed deliberately to make the date.
7 If so, I think we'll all admit that it
8 was one grand and noble way of dating up
9 a girl. But just the same, it's costing
10 the aviator 25 simoleans.

1 I read a thrilling, dramatic,
2 story today. It is Sir Hubert Wilkins'
3 own description of the adventures and
4 misadventures of his submarine the
5 Nautilus in getting across the Atlantic.
6 The famous undersea craft bound for that
7 under the ice trip to the North Pole,
8 as you know, broke down in mid-Atlantic
9 and had to be towed.

10 They had an exciting and
11 dangerous time aboard the submarine
12 while the battleship stood by, trying
13 to pass a towline to the adventurers --
14 and on the rest of the wild voyage thru
15 angry seas. Here are a few bits of Sir
16 Hubert Wilkins' vivid description, as
17 printed in the Hearst newspapers through-
18 out America today:

19 "Our slender deck, every time the
20 Nautilus dipped into the sea, seemed
21 like an arrow plunging into destruction.
22 The play of the battleship's searchlights
23 on our wireless tripods cast long black
24 shadows like gnarled roots in some sub-
25 sea forest.

1 "At times when we sank into the
2 trough of the sea, an oncoming wave would
3 swing high above us. When that happened
4 between me and the searchlights, I could
5 see weird wriggling forms silhouetted
6 against the water, myriads of fish.

7 "A passenger ship went past, her
8 deck and saloon lights glaring. A
9 waning moon glowed fitfully in the
10 scudding clouds.

11 "Our men were now practically
12 exhausted. Still they heaved and
13 shouted, but the shouts were feeble.
14 And all this time the men aboard the
15 submarine were struggling desperately,
16 trying to make fast a ~~towing~~ line from
17 the battleship."

18 It's a thrilling account of a wild
19 adventure, a voyage that Sir Hubert and
20 his companions regard as more dangerous
21 than the trip they now propose to make
22 thru far quieter waters under the ice
23 of the Polar Sea.

1 At a New Jersey shipyard today a
2 bit of a ceremony was held. No, there
3 wasn't any grand pageant blazing with
4 romantic color. It was all quite simple.
5 The keel of a ship was laid down. The
6 new vessel is to be a 16,000-ton
7 passenger liner, and it will be the first
8 of 4 similar vessels. They are being
9 built by the Grace Line for service
10 between New York and San Francisco.

11 This, as the International News
12 Service points out, is a real prosperity
13 item. It is a good sign for the
14 shipping business. And it has a still
15 more immediate significance -- it means
16 that for 2 years 2,000 men will be kept
17 steadily at work on those 4 ocean liners.
18 Heads of the company told the workmen
19 on the job that they could be assured
20 that they would have 2 years' of solid
21 work, without any chance of their being
22 without jobs.

1 Now I am sorry to say, folks,
2 there won't be any use in dashing outside
3 tonight to take a look at the sky. It's
4 cloudy and rainy here, but even if the
5 skies are clear out your way, you won't
6 be able to see Encke's comet.

7 That far wandering celestial
8 vagrant is a visitor to our skies. The
9 International News Service tells us that
10 the observatory at Harvard has been
11 informed that Encke's comet has been
12 found by a South American astronomer,
13 using the latest scientific device of
14 telescopic photography.

15 And so there is no use - at least
16 just at present, of looking for old man
17 comet unless you are an astronomer
18 equipped with the latest scientific
19 apparatus.

EXPLOSION

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1 There was a tremendous explosion
2 over in England today. The British
3 navy has a factory for making cordite,
4 that savage high explosive ~~that is~~
5 used in naval guns. In one section of
6 that naval cordite factory, nitroglycerine
7 is handled, and in that nitroglycerine
8 section the blow-up took place. Ten
9 men were killed, and scores were injured.
10 And the International News Service tells
11 us that the country around was shaken for
12 miles, as quantities of high explosives
13 went up in one immense explosion.

1 Over in France they still refuse
2 to become enthusiastic about President
3 Hoover's plan to call off for one year
4 all payments on war debts and
5 reparations.

6 ~~The New York Evening Post~~ quotes
7 the leading French newspapers ~~as being~~ a
8 bit critical and sour about the whole
9 idea. They point out the familiar
10 fact that France has been getting most
11 of their reparations money from Germany,
12 and will make the principal sacrifice
13 if the year's holiday in war debts and
14 reparations goes through.

15 The French Prime Minister in an
16 interview with the newspaper correspondents
17 had a bit of sharp comment to make:-

18 "It is easy for those to rejoice
19 who have nothing to lose", he declared.

20 A new angle comes in the
21 suggestion that President Hoover's plan
22 may be held up in the American Congress.
23 Congress will have to give its O. K.,
24 and the President took care to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
25 secure the approval of the most important

1 congressional leaders. But it is
2 pointed out that things are going to be
3 awfully mixed up when Congress meets in
4 December.

5 It's the old story of how
6 evenly both the House and the Senate
7 are divided between the Republicans and
8 the Democrats. There will probably be
9 one grand free for all before either
10 House gets organized, and President
11 Hoover's stroke of international
12 diplomacy may be delayed in the scramble.

13 Well, now that the excitement
14 has died down a bit, many of us are
15 refreshing our minds on the subject of
16 the International situation that lies
17 behind President Hoover's bold stroke
18 of state. Many of us have been going
19 to the Literary Digest for our information.
20 As usual, the Digest is right on the job.
21 The leading article in this week's issue
22 gives a full account of that German
23 reparations mix-up.

24 The ^{Lit.} Digest, quoting from the
25 Boston Globe, gives us the ^{following} picture:

1 A crippled, restricted and defeated
2 Germany snared in a world depression,
3 finds herself unable to go on further
4 in the struggle to maintain government,
5 meet terrific domestic charges, foster
6 industry, and pay reparations.

7 On the other hand, the Boston
8 Globe is a trifle sarcastic. The Digest
9 quotes the Globe as saying that if the
10 United States will agree to ~~the~~ postpone
11 payments on the debts and the late
12 Allies will agree to postpone reparations
13 payments, Germany will agree not to
14 throw an epileptic fit, and this is only
15 part of the account that the Literary
16 Digest gives us of the complicated
17 political and financial situation that
18 lies behind President Hoover's leap into
19 the middle of the great international
20 muddle.

1 Now let's see, if any of us were
2 elected to Congress -- would we like it?
3 Well, I guess we would. And as a
4 general thing you don't see any Congress-
5 men at Washington who are itching to
6 throw up their jobs as law-makers,
7 depart from the ^{state} halls of the national
8 capitol, and go back home to the farm.

9 It appears to be different over
10 in Turkey. The New York Sun tells us
11 that a new Turkish parliament has just
12 begun its sessions in the city of
13 Angora. And already many of the new
14 deputies are sick of it and want to go
15 home. They are Turkish farmers from the
16 rugged plains of Asia Minor. They admit
17 they don't know much about law-making,
18 but they are sure they know plenty about
19 farming.

20 Abdul, the farmer, has shown up at
21 the capital city of Turkey, and he's just
22 a Mohammedan hayseed. He's got straw in
23 his whiskers, and all of his clothes are
24 genuine homespun. Fatima, his wife, runs
25 an old-time spinning wheel, and spins the

1 cloth. And then she's a tailor and
2 makes a suit for Abdul. He gives praise
3 to Allah, and is thankful to the
4 prophet Mohammed, because he has such
5 an industrious wife.

6 They say the new Turkish parliament
7 is an exceedingly quaint collection,
8 largely because it contains so many
9 countrified Turks from down on the farm.
10 And there's some difficulty in persuading
11 them to stay. They want to be back where
12 the green grass grows on the hills of
13 Asia Minor. And they are singing: I LOVE
14 THE COWS AND ~~THE~~ CHICKENS - or - WE'LL
15 SING ONE SONG OF OUR OLD ANATOLIAN HOME
16 -- or something like that.

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1 You might expect that Mrs. Mari a
2 Caruso should know how to sing. Anybody
3 by the name of Caruso ought to be capable
4 of a few high notes. However that may
5 be, Mrs. Caruso is a hot letter writer.
6 The New York Sanitation Department is
7 in receipt of a communication from her -
8 including a claim for seventy-five
9 cents.

2
10 Mrs. Caruso tells a sad story.
11 She ~~declares that she~~ was crossing ~~the~~
12 ~~street near her home, and the~~ street
13 ~~was~~ covered with tar. It was sticky.
14 ~~Mrs. Caruso was crossing the thoroughfare~~
15 ~~at a leisurely gait when~~ a taxicab
16 came bounding along. ~~It came so fast that~~
17 Mrs. Caruso had to ^{move} ~~get a~~ quick ~~move on.~~
18 But the tar was so sticky that her
19 shoes got stuck. She ~~had to~~ ^{made} one
20 leap right out of her shoes which
21 remained embedded in the tar covered
22 street.

23 Mrs. Caruso had to make the rest
24 of the journey across the street in her
25 stocking feet and if you think walking in

soft gluey tar in your stockings is any fun - you just try it.

When she recovered her shoes from the tar a showmaker charged her seventy-five cents to scrape the tar off. She doesn't add what happened to the stockings in which she traveled through the tar. She merely demands justice, to the tune of seventy-five cents.

1 I've a letter here which tells of
2 a curious incident. There are so many
3 jokesters in the world that you never
4 can tell what's serious and what's
5 supposed to be funny.

6 Recently I was one of a group of
7 judges who presided in a slogan contest.
8 A big company was giving a series of
9 prizes for the best slogans.

10 And now I'm informed by one of the
11 officials of that company that the winner
12 of the first prize is an old-time
13 newspaper man who certainly needed the
14 money.

15 The amount of the money was five
16 thousand bucks.

17 When they called up the newspaper
18 man to tell him he had won the \$5,000,
19 they thought his response would be one
20 of astonishment and delight. Well, it
21 wasn't.

22 "Look here," he said. "If this is
23 a joke, it may turn out to be a serious
24 joke."

25 He thought some alleged humorist

1 was trying to kid him--and it's cruel
2 when a fellow trying to be funny raises
3 sudden high hopes, and then those hopes
4 are dashed.

5 "If it's a joke," the newspaper
6 man repeated, "I think it's a mighty bad
7 one."

8 It was only after a bit of
9 persuasion that he could be convinced
10 that he had actually won the \$5,000.
11 And then he manifested the customary
12 pride and delight to find that it was
13 no joke after all.

14 Well, I see the timer signalling
15 to me that my time is up--and that's no
16 joke either, so--

17 So long until tomorrow.
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