

1  
2 Good Evening, Everybody:

3           Let's start out with two words  
4 -- secrecy and fog. The fog was deep and  
5 misty, and so was the secrecy. ~~The~~ Dino Grandi,  
6 Italian foreign minister, ~~Dino Grandi~~,  
7 arrived on American soil today, and the  
8 police and secret service men were on ~~down~~  
9 their toes. There has been plenty of  
10 worry that the anti-Fascist element<sup>s</sup> in  
11 this country might start a rumpus, ~~and~~ So  
12 every precaution was taken to keep them  
13 from spoiling the proceedings. The  
14 Italian foreign minister ~~departed from the~~  
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18           The United Press makes the  
19 comment that it had been intended to  
20 whisk Signor Grandi to the national  
21 capital through the sky. It was ~~intended~~ <sup>planned</sup>  
22 to have the distinguished visitor flown  
23 to Washington with the most distinguished  
24 aviator in the world at the controls -- ~~Yes,~~  
25 Lindbergh, ~~of course.~~ But that's where

1 the fog came in. A heavy mist covered  
2 New York harbor. ~~No sir,~~ It was not  
3 flying weather. And so the officials  
4 decided that while the railroad might be  
5 a bit slower, it would also be safer  
6 than an airplane fooling around in the  
7 murky weather that prevailed along the  
8 coast.

9           Signor Grandi gave a statement  
10 to the reporters, in which he expressed  
11 enthusiastic sentiments regarding his  
12 mission, and he did it all in ~~very~~ good  
13 English.

14           The <sup>emissary of Caesar</sup> ~~Italian foreign minister~~  
15 is accompanied by his wife, who beamed  
16 happily upon these <sup>foggy</sup> United States of  
17 ours. ~~The~~ Signora Grandi is described  
18 as <sup>exceedingly</sup> ~~very~~ good looking, and the possessor  
19 of a fascinating smile.

20           At Washington this evening  
21 Signor Grandi <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ scheduled for a brief  
22 call on President Hoover, and a reception  
23 at the home of Secretary-of-State  
24 Stimson.

25           And so things are all set for  
the diplomatic negotiations to begin.

1 (Now comes a three letter word  
2 that gives most of us the shivers. It's  
3 T - A - X, Tax. Senator Reed Smoot, the  
4 Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee,  
5 declared today that he thought it would  
6 be necessary for the government to  
7 increase taxes.) The Associated Press  
8 quotes the Senator as declaring that a  
9 sales tax would probably be the best.  
10 That is, a tax levied on merchandise  
11 sold in stores.

12 If income taxes are to be  
13 boosted, it will be the larger incomes  
14 that will have to bear the burden.

15 So says the Senator from Utah.

16 And then there's Senator Watson,  
17 the Republican leader in the Senate. He  
18 had a conference with President Hoover  
19 today at the close of which he told the  
20 reporters that a boost in taxation is  
21 inescapable.

22 The Republican leaders have  
23 hitherto been against the idea of higher  
24 taxes, but now they seem to think there's  
25 nothing else to be done except raise the  
~~tax~~ rates.

1 It looks as though we might have a  
2 Minister of Education in this country.  
3 Over in Europe it's the regular thing  
4 for a government to have a Minister of  
5 Education. But hitherto Uncle Sam has  
6 got along without one.

7 President Hoover has been having an  
8 Advisory Commission on Education at work.  
9 He appointed it to look into the govern-  
10 ment activities concerning education and  
11 make a report.

12 Well, that report was made today, and  
13 one of its recommendations urges the  
14 creation of a Department of Education in  
15 the United States Government.

16 This Department ~~of Education~~ would  
17 handle the activities of the government  
18 connected with schools, and would be  
19 presided over by a Minister of Education,  
20 who would be a member of the President's  
21 cabinet.

22 The Associated Press quotes the report  
23 as saying that the Commission has found  
24 a bewildering and unnecessary complexity  
25 in the government's education<sup>al</sup> activity.

1 And it would be the job of the proposed  
2 <sup>new cabinet member</sup> ~~Minister of Education~~ to untangle the  
3 complexity and make it a little less  
4 bewildering.

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1 Heavy fighting is reported <sup>again</sup> in  
2 Manchuria. <sup>Yes, again.</sup> The Chinese are driving hard  
3 against the Army of the Mikado. The  
4 United Press reports that the Japanese  
5 are greatly outnumbered and are defending  
6 themselves as best they can.

7 They say that another battle  
8 is on at Tokio, a different kind of  
9 battle -- the struggle <sup>for control</sup> between the  
10 Peace Party and the War Party in the  
11 Japanese government. The civilian  
12 elements are for a policy of peace, the  
13 military elements are for war.) The  
14 question of who will win that battle of  
15 words in Tokio will have a large bearing  
16 upon the trouble in Manchuria

17 At Geneva today the Council of  
18 the League of Nations met, and, <sup>adds</sup> ~~says~~ the  
19 International News Service, the Manchurian  
20 question was taken into immediate  
21 consideration. Political observers are  
22 inclined to believe that the opinion of the  
23 League is shifting to Japan. In other  
24 words, the League of Nations is coming  
25 around to the Japanese view and doesn't  
think so strongly that China is altogether  
right.

Victor Berg.

Pearl diver.

no pearldiving.

Nov. 16, 1931-

p. 7

## INTRO TO BERGE

During the past year I have occasionally invited someone to come to the Studio and talk for a minute or two, and of all those who have been my guest none seems to have aroused more comment among the radio audience than a gentleman from the South Sea Islands, Victor Berge, who told us one evening of a desperate hand to hand encounter that he had with a giant octopus. Victor Berge is a pearl diver. And I asked him to join me again some night before returning to the South Seas.

Victor Berge originally came from Scandinavia. He speaks many languages and can talk the jargon of the South Sea Islanders as fluently as he can speak English, Swedish or French.

But he says that he would rather fight an octopus than make a speech. How about it, Victor Berge?



1 Yes, Lowell, making speeches is  
2 ~~certainly~~ out of my line. We Pearl  
3 Divers simply slip a helmet over our  
4 head, jump through the waves and drift  
5 behind a 12 ton pearling lugger in a  
6 world where there is no room for orators,  
7 down there on the floor of the sea.

8 But I wish you could hear some of  
9 the savage chiefs orate, some of the  
10 chieftains I have met in New Guinea and  
11 the Solomon Islands.

12 When we go out on a pearl lugger we  
13 carry fresh drinking water. Some times  
14 we run short and have to stop at an  
15 island where the savages are unfriendly  
16 and ready to put you in the pot if they  
17 happen to be hungry. But we have to  
18 have fresh water. So we take a chance.

19 We place our barrels in a small boat  
20 along with a gramophone, some tobacco,  
21 some large pearl shells, and a few bottles  
22 of Old Square Face <sup>forewater.</sup> ~~water~~. Then when we  
23 get to the beach, I go ashore alone.  
24 The savages are more likely to trust you  
25 if you are alone. Then I place the

1 pearl shells so the sunlight will  
2 strike them and be reflected, <sup>as</sup> ~~just like~~  
3 from mirrors. The reflection shines  
4 into the bushes and is a signal to the  
5 savages. Then I start the gramophone  
6 and have a little refreshment, a  
7 Singapore Sling or a stinger. You have  
8 to give the savages enough time to talk  
9 things over.

10 After a few hours, one warrior ~~with~~  
11 ~~his shield and spear, will~~ come <sup>s</sup> running  
12 toward you and with bravado throw his  
13 shield and spear up, and gives you his  
14 salute - " M-N-G-N-A-A-A-A-A !! "

15 You walk over to him with a beautiful  
16 large pearl shell piled high with tobacco.  
17 He takes this back to his Chief. In an  
18 hour two or three hundred savages come  
19 out of ~~the~~ bush, all in their ugly war  
20 paint, with their shields and spears.  
21 As they come near all shout M-N-G-N-AAAAA  
22 which I, in turn, shout back to them.

23 I switch on the gramophone and hand out  
24 shells, tobacco and other presents. Then  
25 the chief tells the youngsters in his band

1 to carry my barrels back into the mountains  
2 and fill them with fresh water. The rest  
3 of the crowd remain with me and after a  
4 few more rounds of Old Square Face, the  
5 chief is in a mood for making a speech.

6 Dramatically he tells his audience  
7 to sit down. Then with the gestures of  
8 an ape-man, and in the deep guttural  
9 voice that seems to come right up from  
10 his toes, he makes a speech that lasts  
11 for hours. He tells his warriors:-

12 "Don't you remember, long time back  
13 when we were young, a little ship like  
14 this came here, gave us pearl shell and  
15 we gave them water? This man must be  
16 son of that man who made friends with  
17 our fathers. We must treat him right!  
18 He and his men are not police or man-o-  
19 wars. They no care what we do. They  
20 leave us alone."

21 After many years of landing like that  
22 among strange peoples on strange islands  
23 and mingling with them, I have learned  
24 their ways. My friends say I am a natural  
25 mimic and I have sprung many little

1 entertainments on the decks of our  
2 pearling luggers, or on the beach in  
3 the moonlight, and with home-made  
4 drums and other musical instruments of  
5 the South Seas I have imitated the savage  
6 talk, war whoops, war chants and love  
7 chants of the Melonesians and the Poly-  
8 nesians. And now for a moment I'll  
9 see if I can give you an idea of how a  
10 savage chief on the Solomon Islands  
11 makes his speech before his warriors:  
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Well that sounds like a Tall Story — which reminds me that ~~well~~, things are all set for the big <sup>whopper</sup> ~~tall-story~~ jamboree tomorrow night when the Interstate Tall Story Commission ~~will~~ gather<sup>s</sup> in full force.

And now lend an attentive ear to this list of speakers who will each tell a tall one: "Bugs" Baer, the humorist; Ely Culbertson, the bridge expert; Frank Hawks, the speed demon of the air; Wilfred Funk, the poet; Gar Wood, the speed-boat king; Bruce Barton, the advertising executive and author; Kermit Roosevelt; ~~son of the late President, Theodore Roosevelt;~~ and then the Tall Story Champion. Yes, the champion has been picked. ~~You will be interested to find out who he is.~~ And he will tell his prize-winning tall story.

Yes, and we're going to have one other member at this Interstate Tall Story Commission. He is General John J. Pershing, commander of the AEF. General Pershing will tell his tall one from Washington. By special arrangement

1 with the National Broadcasting Company,  
2 the General's <sup>elevated</sup> narration will be put on  
3 the air right along with the rest of the  
4 entries in the whopper competition.

5 ~~You can~~ <sup>The time to</sup> tune in on the high,  
6 the lofty, the tall proceedings, which  
7 will be broadcast on a national hook-up  
8 at 10:00 o'clock Eastern Standard Time,  
9 tomorrow night, Tuesday, November 17th.



1 sensational success. The critics hailed  
2 her as a genius of the theater. The  
3 public acclaimed her with loud and  
4 prolonged ovation. For a whole solid  
5 year she played her part in that dramatic  
6 work, and every night was a triumph.

7 Well, what sort of role did she have?  
8 What character did she play? She took  
9 the part of a girl in a convent, a  
10 Dominican convent. The girl <sup>in the play</sup> was brought  
11 up by the sisters of the old historic  
12 order. She thought of becoming a nun  
13 herself. Perhaps she should have become  
14 one, but she didn't. She decided to go  
15 out into the world. There was a young  
16 fellow -- you know, wedding bells. The  
17 crowning scene was the girl's farewell to  
18 the Dominican sisters. And that was  
19 where Suzanne Delorme scored her great  
20 triumph. The way she played that farewell  
21 scene roused French theater-goers to  
22 ecstasies of acclamation.

23 Every night for a year the actress  
24 played that scene, and now her friends  
25 tell a story of how that stage



1 representation of a departure from the  
2 convent affected her in a singular way.  
3 Suzanne Delorme began to feel that she  
4 belonged to the world of the convent.  
5 The part she played seemed to become  
6 reality with her. The girl <sup>in the play</sup> should never  
7 have left the cloister. It was a mistake.  
8 There was nothing for her to do but go  
9 back -- and Suzanne Delorme felt SHE was  
10 that girl.

11 So now she has gone to the Dominican  
12 convent near the old city of Grenoble, and  
13 become a nun. She has merely picked up  
14 the play where it left off, and has  
15 continued it in real life.

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1 Pardon me if I burst into poetry for a  
2 minute:

3 The boy stood on the burning deck,  
4 He didn't have a nickel.  
5 He didn't have a 5-cent piece,  
6 And he was in a pickle.

7 Or rather it wasn't a boy -- it was a  
8 bunch of girls. Of course, it is always  
9 uncomfortable to be in that sad  
10 circumstance where you haven't got a  
11 nickel. You just as <sup>ke</sup><sub>^</sub> the Senior Class at  
12 Goucher College.

13 The International News Service relates  
14 how the girls at Goucher were in the  
15 Senior Dormitory today when a fire broke  
16 out. One of the girls rushed to the  
17 phone to call the Fire Department. When  
18 she got there she remembered that she  
19 didn't have a nickel -- it was a pay-  
20 phone. She hurried back to the other  
21 girls. There were 29 of them -- but  
22 they didn't have a nickel either. There  
23 wasn't a 5-cent piece between them.

24 And so the girls had to fight the fire  
25 themselves. They did so with pillows.  
They kept smacking the blaze with sofa

pillows until the smoke attracted general attention, and the  
fire wagon came clanging.

And there goes my firebell - and,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.