

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

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HALLOWEEN

Well, to millions of you the most important news tonight is that it's Halloween. I can remember when Halloween meant more than Christmas or April Fool's Day, or even the Fourth of July. That was when I lived in a town where the youngsters stayed up all night on Halloween and they moved everything in the town that wasn't nailed down.

This is the night when the goblins are about, and when witches soar through the sky on their broomsticks, and when the owls cry.

"When the frost is on the punkin
And the fodder's in the shock,
And you hear the kluck and gobble
Of the struttin' turkey cock."

This is the night of ghosts, and the night of hilarious
fun.

OIL

Some of the people of Oklahoma City have too much Halloween excitement already today. They without their breakfast this morning -- and a lot of them went without their lunch too. The reason was because an oil well went on a rampage. Maybe it was too much of the Halloween spirit. This oil well happened to be within a few blocks of the main business section. It blew its valves and ever since has been spouting oil into the air at the rate of about 4,000 barrels an hour. And it also has been spouting natural gas at the rate of 2,000,000 cubic feet an hour. The roar can be heard all over Oklahoma City. According to the Associated Press, every building in the eastern section of the city was soaked with oil last night and today. Roads were blocked. Trains coming from the East were stopped. Schools were closed, and all kitchen fires in that part of the City were put out by order of the police. Floods of crude oil drove hundreds of negro families from their snacks along the river banks. The report is that if the oil-soaked buildings catch fire it will just about be curtains for Oklahoma City, which, by the way, is one of the finest cities in the South West.

CHICAGO

Now, in the Middle West -

Chicago seems to be determined on a crime clean-up. They want that gangster situation solved by the time the Chicago World's Fair comes along in 1933. Anyway, a group called the Secret Six is hot on the trail. They are six millionaires who, working under cover, are determined to put an end to the reign of racketeering. They represent the Chicago Association of Commerce. The Associated Press informs us that the Secret Six have appointed Alexander Jamie as their chief investigator, their Czar in the war against the underworld.

Jamie, who is described as soft-spoken and hard-hitting, until now has been Chief of Special Intelligence in the Prohibition Bureau out in Chicago.

Word has come through the United Press of the arrest of Al Capone's treasurer, Frank Nitti. They've been looking for him for months. An indictment for income tax evasion is out against him, and he is also one of the 28 Public Enemies for whose arrest a reward was offered.

Some more public enemies - farther down in Illinois - have had a bad break.

YOKUM

That Yokum kidnapping case out there has certainly come to a farcical end. You recall how the millionaire banker was kidnapped and held for ransom, it was reported that his wife would pay the ransom, then had paid it, and wouldn't talk to the police?

Well, the kidnapers have been arrested, and now it's revealed how they were tricked by the plucky Mrs. Yokum. She pretended she was desperately frightened, and that she was paying the ransom. She gave the kidnapers a package, supposedly of money. In reality it contained nothing more than sticks of wood. Mrs. Yokum acted the part of a frightened woman so well that they suspected nothing, and released her husband. Meanwhile she had been planning with the police, who descended on the kidnapers. They got away temporarily, and there was a chase and a man hunt. Now they've been caught and have confessed. It's great to have a clever wife.

Let's see - what's next on the Halloween program.

BORIS

Ah yes, King Boris and Queen Giovanna are still with us. They have reached their capital, the city of Sofia. On their way from the Black Sea several bullets ricocheted off the sides of the royal train, and one guard was seriously injured. But their greeting in Sofia itself was boisterous and cordial. Bulgarian airplanes roared overhead. Tens of thousands of Bulgars cheered. And the Mayor Sofia officially gave the king and queen bread and wine in accordance with what he said was "just an old Bulgarian custom". Then the couple was married all over again ~~in~~ according to the rites of the Greek Orthodox Church. Oh yes, and here's an International News flash from Berlin. That's a round about way to get news about Bulgaria, but Berlin reports that 200 Bulgarian radicals have been rounded up as the result of the shooting and there is intense excitement in Sofia.

SHORT

While we're talking about marriages, I might as well tell you about CUPID'S CRACK SHOT. At least that's what it's called in the Spice of Life Column of the Literary Digest. The Spice of Life Editor thinks up headlines with a lot of zip to them for that sprightly page of his. Anyway, this is CUPID'S CRACK SHOT, and the Digest quotes it from the Press Telegram of Long Beach, California. It announces the betrothal of Miss Grave Loving to Clarence Kissam. There certainly oughtn't to be any incompatibility in that marriage.

Well, incompatibility of a political kind comes in news from England.

BALDWIN

We have had a lot about Stanley Baldwin lately, the former Prime Minister of Great Britain. His enemies have been trying to oust him as leader of the Conservative party. He has just been defeated in an important by-election. Which means that one of his henchman has lost out. Baldwin's defeat was reported to be a victory for tariff protection in Great Britain, and there is an important article in the current issue of the Literary Digest which shows how strongly the British labor leaders are against a British tariff. It tells about the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Snowden, declaring that the British Parliament would be transformed into a "sink of corruption" if Britain abandoned her free trade. That tariff situation in England affects us a great deal, and this article in the Literary Digest is the best way I know of getting a clear idea of the whole situation.

England is having her business troubles, and that's why -

PRINCE OF WALES

The best known traveling salesman in the world is going on the road again. I mean that popular young man, the Prince of Wales, who sets forth periodically to peddle British good-will. The Associated Press announces that he is planning a trip to Latin America in a month or two. He will cover much the same route as President Hoover did just before he was inaugurated. It seems that British business has been hard hit in South America by competition with Germany and the United States, and the visit of the Prince is expected to help England get back some of her Latin-America trade. I accompanied the Prince on about the most difficult trip he ever made -- the one through India, and when it comes to winning good-will, that lad certainly is a wizard.

Here's a funny little problem among John Bull's many big problems.

ONE FUNNEL

There is uneasiness along the far-off Persian Gulf. The British have sent a new warship to represent the might of John Bull in Mesopotamian waters. The New York Times tells us that a new man-o-war has just arrived at Basra, and she only has one funnel. She's taking the place of another ship which has two funnels. And the local British administrators are complaining bitterly. They say that one funnel makes a poor impression on the natives, who are accustomed to see Britain represented by two funnels. They say it will look as if Britain is coming down in the world, and is no longer a two funneled nation, but only a one funneled nation. So they are proposing to London that fummy funnels be built on all one funneled ships sent to the Persian Gulf. The natives simply must be impressed.

BRAZIL

Here's a late International News Service bulletin from South America. Getulio Vargas, the new provisional revolutionary president of Brazil, arrived in Rio de Janeiro tonight at 6:40 amid the wildest demonstration that Brazil has seen in modern times. A half a million people were on the street to welcome Vargas.

Let's see - what was I talking about when that flash came in? Oh yes, British troubles in the East.

And here's a piece about --

NOBEL PRIZE

The Nobel prize for medicine for this year, has just been awarded. It goes to Dr. Karl Landsteiner, a bacteriologist and pathologist of America. Dr. Landsteiner, says the Associated Press, was the first man to transfer the germs infantile paralysis form man to monkeys. The Nobel prize is one of the greatest honors in the world -- and carries a money grant of \$50,000, to sweeten the honor a bit.

HOOVER, JR.

The President's son, Herbert Hoover, Jr, will go to Asheville, North Carolina, tonight, to take a rest cure, and when he arrives all Dixie will make him welcome. The bungalow in which the Hoovers will live is called Blue Briar cottage and was once owned by William Jennings Bryan. It is on the western slope of Sunset Mountain, and overlooks the city of Asheville, one of the loveliest spots in America. The South is full of glorious places and beautiful scenery that Northerners know far too little about. Well, we all wish Herbert Jr. a speedy recovery.

FOOTBALL

Football romps into its mid-season strike tomorrow, and the ranks of the unbeaten elevens are getting pretty thin. There are only eleven big teams left from coast to coast that haven't been licked yet. The list includes Fordham, Cornell, and Dartmouth in the East. And Notre Dame, Northwestern, and Kansas in the Middle West. Down below the Mason-Dixon line Georgia, Alabama, and Kentucky still carry their battle plumes unsullied. While out beyond the Rockies, Washington State and Oregon are the only teams that haven't taken it on the chin so far. I wonder which of these possible champions will get its nose rubbed in the mud tomorrow? I wonder. The latest information from New Haven is that the plucky little midget Booth will be in the line-up tomorrow against Dartmouth. Down in Augusta, the fullback of the Georgia team, Roberts, lays claims to the Babe Ruth laurels of football to date. He is the highest individual point winner, having personally conducted the old pigskin across the goal-line twelve times this season. 72 points! That a stout effort for one man, for mid-season.

RANSOM

Two French aviators are being held for ransom by warlike desert tribesmen over in Morocco. Their plane, carrying mail from South America, was forced down near the Northwest African coast. The tribesmen seized it and held the two pilots. Two others of the crew escaped, and are arranging to pay the ransom.

LA CORONELA

All you short story writers, get this one. Nearly everybody, you know, has either written a short story, or tried to, or has thought about it. How's this for your plot?

In Mexico City a woman died. She was a woman of mystery, and they called her La CORONELA. In Spanish, that's feminine for Colonel. She was a Colonel, the only woman ever to hold the rank of officer in the Mexican army. And now she has died of a broken heart.

A few years ago, during a Mexican revolution, a woman enlisted in one of the armies. In one battle after another she fought like a tigress. She became an officer, and was called LA CORONELA. She was very beautiful, and nobody knew anything about her. The soldiers said that she smiled at death and laughed at love. At ~~the~~ the end of the revolution she had a good supply of looted gold, and disappeared, no one knew where.

Recently she reappeared in Mexico City, still beautiful, but worn and ragged. Every day she went to a little restaurant, where she would sit smoking cigarettes for hours.

LA CORONELA

And she was there, when, as they say, her heart broke. A richly dressed, beautiful girl passed through. La Coronela looked at her. The girl ignored the older woman, and walked on. La Coronela turned to a man nearby, and said: "She snubbed me. Do you know who she is? She is my daughter."

La Coronela's head dropped to the table. When they went to her she was dead.

SLANG

What English words does a foreigner learn first upon arriving in America? According to the New York Evening World, an Exchange Student has just arrived from Poland at the New Jersey College for Women. She reports that the first two English words she learned, and she learned them within fifteen minutes after arriving, were: O. K. and CUTE.

Well, that's okay with me - and so is this:

DOG ON FIRE

Here's a dog that turned in a fire alarm. It happened out in South Bend, Indiana. A big police dog dashed through the streets barking his head off. We often pay no attention to a dog's barking. But this dog had his tail on fire. He belonged to a garage keeper. According to the United Press, people recognized the dog, dashed to the garage, and found it on fire. The dog?-- well, he wisely headed for the nearest river and put out his own fire. In the meantime it had just about put an end to his tail.

Well done, thou good and faithful Fido.

FISH DOG

We all like stories about dogs, and some of us can even stand a fish story -- now and then. Well, here's a combination of both: It comes from Owosso, Michigan, where the Associated Press tells us, there is a fish-catching dog. This dog is a regular canine cormorant. He dives into the river out of Owosso and comes up with a fish in his mouth. His master doesn't even have to have a hook and line!

CONCLUSION

Here's wishing you a jolly Halloween. I hope you win the apple bobbing contest and get to kiss the prettiest girl in your town tonight. I think I'll start off home, get out the old sawed-off shotgun, fill it full of salt and pepper and try and keep the boys from putting my hayracks on top of the barn.

So, GOODNIGHT.