

RAILROAD

P.T. - Sunoco Tuesday, Oct. 26, 1943.

\* Tonight we have the serious possibility of a big railroad strike. It has just been announced that fifteen unions have called upon their members to take a strike-vote - the workers to cast ballots on whether or not to ~~strike~~ <sup>walk out.</sup> The railroad employees affected are the non-operating workers, not the ones that run the trains, but those that look after the service -- non-operating. The strike vote is to be completed not later than November Twenty-Fifth, and is based on discontent because of the small wage increase permitted by the Labor Board. In consequence of which - the nation faces the ominous possibility of a railroad tie-up/.

PACIFIC

Today we have a resume of the shattering results accomplished by the American forces during the past ~~few~~ weeks in the southwest Pacific. On one day or another, we had news of Allied blows by air and sea against the Jap, but the accounts were fragmentary, <sup>and</sup> it was hard to get a full picture. Today the picture is given, and it shows that Five hundred Japanese warplanes have been destroyed in the past fourteen days.

The series of Lightning strokes of war began on October Twelfth, with a tremendous Allied blitz hurled against the key Japanese base at Rabaul - a <sup>h</sup>undred and seventy-seven enemy planes knocked out. Another disastrous day for the Japs was October Eighteenth, when in a series of far flung raids, ninety-two planes were destroyed. And there was another climax over this last weekend, when the far flung Eastern enemy lost a hundred and twenty-three planes.

There were ship losses too - three Japanese destroyers sunk, two big merchant ships, forty-three other cargo vessels, and seventy harbor craft.

What were our own losses? They were exceedingly light, as is illustrated by the two big raids on Rabaul. In the first one, only five Allied planes failed to return. In the second - only four were lost.

In New Guinea, the Japs have been beaten back into the hills of the Huon Peninsula. This - after a desperate attempt to capture the beaches north of Finchhafen. And that attempt was a melodramatic affair. The Japs launched a concerted move, on the ground and from the ocean. They were thrusts by several parties driving from the jungle, and these were coordinated with a landing maneuver.

Today's story from New Guinea tells how the Japs

~~took advantage~~ advantage of the darkness and a blinding

rain, and tried to put their troops ashore in a deluge  
at night, <sup>on the Huon Peninsula,</sup> Everything was going well for them, when  
the clanking of the ramp<sup>s</sup> of their landing barges  
gave the alarm. An American with the Australians heard  
it first, and opened up with a machine gun. Nearby  
Japs threw a hand grenade into his gun pit. The explosion  
blew off his leg but he kept on firing - mowing down the  
Japs. <sup>R</sup> The alarm given ~~by~~ all the Allied forces hurried to  
beat off the landing attack. Even cooks abandoned their  
frying pans and seized the nearest weapon<sup>s</sup>, and one of  
the most bitter battles of the South Pacific war was on.  
The fight raged for five days, with ~~the~~ enemy land  
forces driving to help their shore parties. The Japs  
put forth every effort to annihilate the Australians,  
but in the end all they got was a long casualty list of  
killed and wounded. And after the five days of hand-to-  
hand fighting, the Japs drew back sullenly into the hills  
of the Huon Peninsula.

## RUSSIA

The Soviets are still at it, driving <sup>to the</sup> ~~from the~~ south and the southwest in the big bend of the Dnieper. *The large significance lies in those*  
~~The whole story is told from these~~ points <sup>of</sup> the compass,

south and southwest. Meaning - that the Red Army drive is smashing more and more deeply behind the German forces ~~who are~~ trying to retreat <sup>from</sup> to the big bend.

The Germans themselves report that they are taking action in preparation for an abandonment of that key city called Krivoi Rog. That is - they are dynamiting and flooding the iron and manganese mines at Krivoi Rog, which is one of the greatest metal-producing centers

*The latest is that the Soviets have*  
of Russia. *taken a place only a mile from*  
*Krivoi Rog.*  
Moscow's expression tonight is jubilant,

with the dispatch stating that the German defenses in the big bend of the Dnieper appear to be completely disorganized, <sup>— the</sup> ~~and~~ Nazi troops in flight. Soviet correspondents at the front picture the Red Army as

overrunning German positions everywhere and predict that

more sensational victories are in the offing in

addition to Dnieperpetrovsk and  
Dneprodzherzhinsk - Kamenskya

## ITALY

The Allies in Italy today scored gains <sup>of</sup> as much as <sub>1</sub> six miles at various points, and captured eight ~~Italian~~ towns. These are places situated on hills that dominate the countryside - those familiar Italian hill towns. The Number One advance occurred northwest of Alife, where American troops tightened a ring around a Nazi force left behind on the plain of the Volturno River.

Another significant push forward was made by the British Eighth Army, over on the Adriatic side of the peninsula. ~~General~~ Montgomery's forces cleaned out a hard fighting Nazi rear guard at the town of <sup>a</sup>Barnello, <sub>1</sub> and drove on for three miles to a dominating position along a strategic road.

The Germans ~~are~~ in retreat, but today's bulletin emphasizes the fact that the Nazi retirement is in good order all along the line. As the Germans fall back, they cover their troops with steady barrages

from massed batteries of their eighty-eight millimeter guns. And today's dispatch uses this phrase:- "deadly eighty-eights." <sup>ff</sup> The Germans are pulling back to what is described as the strongest position between the Allied forces <sup>and</sup> ~~to~~ Rome - particularly strong on the Adriatic side. There, ~~General~~ Montgomery's Eighth Army faces three jagged ridges ~~xx~~ that run from the main range of the Apennines down to the coast - steep ridges, one after another, the second higher than the first, and the third higher than the second. <sup>ff</sup> The prospect is ~~xx~~ not one for rosy optimism, with word from the warfront making it perfectly clear that the new German line will be easy to defend <sup>d</sup> ~~and~~ that the Germans are certainly going to defend it with stubborn determination, and that the road to Rome can be opened by the Allies only by hard and costly fighting.



DRAFT

The House of Representatives today ~~opposed~~ <sup>passed a</sup> bill to defer fathers from army service - no pre-Pearl Harbor fathers to be drafted until all eligible non-fathers have been taken into service. At the same time, the bill would transfer authority over the draft from War Manpower Administrator Paul ~~V~~ McNutt to Selective Service Director General Hershey.

The deferrment of ~~non-~~fathers represents an almost complete rewrite of the bill as passed by the Senate and presented to the House. The measure okayed by the Senate called for an investigation of government employees and industrial workers who are out of the draft.- this along the line of charges that a huge lot of government employees are keeping out of the army. The Senate bill had nothing to do with the deferrment of pre-Pearl Harbor fathers, but the House today changed all that completely, and voted to keep married men with

~~children out of the draft - until all non-fathers had  
been taken~~

The question of government employees who, it is charged, ought to be in the Army, drew a remonstrance from President Roosevelt today. In letters to congressional leaders, he used the terms - "mud-slingers." The President stated that only three and two-tenths per cent of civilian employees of the government had been deferred because of essential occupation - ninety-eight thousand out of nearly three million = people working for Uncle Sam. ~~The President~~ He added that half a million federal employees have been taken into service, and declared that those who talk about draft dodgers on the government payroll are - "mud-slingers."

## TAXES

The Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives today voted its first big tax increase for Nineteen Forty-four. The Committee boosted excise levies on beer, wine and liquor, *and other luxuries.* And here's another increase voted by the Committee - postage rates. The Ways and Means group decided in favor of raising local postage from two to three cents. If this goes through, you'll have to put a three cent stamp on a letter <sup>in</sup> ~~to~~ your own town instead of a two-cent <sup>one.</sup> ~~stamp as at present.~~

The Committee is on record as being against any boost in the income tax, such as is demanded by the Administration ten-and-a-half-billion-dollar tax program. And the belief is that the kind of money raising devices voted today is about as far as the Committee is willing to go in the imposition of new taxes.

## MURDER

The sensational murder case that is making headlines in New York develops a story of mismatched marriage. The young beauty, Patricia Burton Lonergan, a familiar figure in New York cafe' society, was an heiress reared to ~~the~~ splendors <sup>and</sup> ~~of~~ luxuries. The man she married seems an ambiguous sort of figure. Canadian born, he had followed all sorts of trades all the way from a lifeguard in Canada to a pusher of rickshaws at the World's Fair in New York a few years ago. ~~But, he~~ associated in top-lofty circles, and revelled in the most expensive places. He married the heiress, and then their wedded life seems to have been one of bitter quarreling. They separated, and he went to Canada and joined the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Under arrest in Canada today, he shouted denials that he had killed his wife, and protested that he knew nothing of the brutal crime, <sup>the way</sup> ~~of why~~ she was beaten

and strangled to death. <sup>He</sup> gives an explanation of the bruises and scratches on his face - it being clear that the young woman fought fiercely for her life with clawing and scratching. He claims his face was disfigured in a fight with an American soldier in New York. <sup>R</sup> ~~and~~ The authorities are concentrating on the question of his uniform, which is a major clue. The clothes of the murderer must have been bloodstained, and one peculiar thing about the story is that <sup>after</sup> ~~during~~ the time of the crime the Cadet of the R.C.A.F. wore civilian clothes, not his uniform, and told a story of his uniform having been stolen. <sup>R</sup> The Canadian authorities are holding him for possible extradition to the United States - with the supposition, perhaps, that he will go willingly to New York and submit to police investigation.

The latest is that young Lomergan is on his way to N.Y., to face the police.

## TRIAL

The big murder trial down in the Bahamas becomes more and more a detective thriller -- in the matter of ~~f~~ clues. Today in court appeared the mystery of the clue of the green silk thread. ~~And~~ <sup>AP</sup> This was in connection with that Number One clue that may decide the case -- the screen that stood in the room of the murdered man. The screen was smudged with smoke from the fire with which the murderer tried to destroy the body of the multimillionaire, Sir Harry Oakes. And on the screen was found a fingerprint of the French Count who married the multimillionaire's daughter. The defense contention is that Count Alfred de <sup>Marigny</sup> ~~Marigny~~ was in the room the morning after the murder and might have left his fingerprint on the screen at that time -- the day after the crime.

The clue of the green silk thread was introduced ~~xxx~~ in a rather mysterious fashion today, as the attorney for the defense questioned an American detective who appears for the prosecution.

"Did you," demanded the lawyer, "see a light green silk thread on the screen in Oakes' bedroom during your examination of the room?"

"No," replied the detective.

"From its appearance," continued the attorney, "the green silk thread must have been on the screen at the time of the fire in the room -- it left a line where smoke had smudged the screen."

From this it might appear that the green silk thread was removed from the screen after the ~~murderer~~ *and* the fire. And it is possible to surmise that the defense may try to prove that DeMarigny himself removed the thread from the screen the morning after the murder.

Other testimony today concerned the nature of the fire. The prosecution holds that the murderer poured an inflammable liquid over the body of the ~~murdered~~ *slain* multimillionaire, and touched a match to it in a clumsy effort to destroy <sup>the body</sup> ~~it~~ -- that there was a flash of flame amounting to an ~~explicit~~ explosion.

## MARRIAGE

At LaCrosse, Wisconsin, Ross Hastings, a thirty year old itinerant laborer, was arrested for the kidnapping of Mrs. Dean Ladd Kidder, a sixty year old widow, wealthy and socially prominent. What defense did the alleged kidnapper have to make? He produced a marriage certificate, showing that he was married to the lady.

Today, Mrs. Kidder, whose first husband was an *oil* ~~millionaire~~ *magnate*, ~~manufacturer of motor lubricants~~ told the story. She related that some weeks ago, she hired Hastings as a tree trimmer and lawn manicurist. He went to work, and in the space of two months she paid him three thousand dollars - not bad for operating on the trees and the grass. Today she stated: "I'll give the devil his due - he did a fine job on my lawns." He must have, *at the rate of* ~~at the rate of~~ fifteen hundred dollars a month. In fact, the job on the trees and lawn was so good that she



married him.

The wedding was last Friday, and the bridesmaid<sup>d</sup> was Mrs. Kidder's maid - named Kate. Soon afterward, Mrs. Kidder learned that Kate had been the tree trimmer's wife; the maid had been the lawful spouse of the lawn manicurist. They had, in fact, been divorced just before his marriage to Mrs. Kidder - the divorce having taken effect only a few hours before the wedding.

You can imagine what the lady thought about ~~the~~ that, and also what her reflections must have been today when it was disclosed that the tree-trimmer and lawn manicurist was an ex-convict with a record for petty larceny. Today the authorities declared that he was more interested in the lady's money than in the lady - an old, old story.

HOPKINS

The White House is losing its two permanent guests. Today Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt stated that Mr. and Mrs. Harry D. Hopkins are going to move - "as soon as", said the First Lady, "their house is ready."

Harry Hopkins, the Lend-Lease expeditor, has been living at the White House since Nineteen Forty. He married Mrs. *Louise Macy* in Nineteen Forty-Two, and they made their residence at the presidential mansion. Now, however, they've procured a house for themselves in the Georgetown section, ~~of Washington~~. "The Hopkinses", said Mrs. Roosevelt today, "feel they have a right to a home of their own." Yes, indeed, that's the right of any married couple, *They* should be permitted to have a home of their own, and not be compelled to live *at* the White House.

Today the First Lady stated that Harry Hopkins, in consenting to dwell in the presidential mansion, *had*

made what she called - "a sacrifice." "Self-sacrificing Harry," they call him.

~~And~~ the First Lady of the Land concluded with a lofty tribute to the Hopkinses: <sup>"I shall</sup> ~~I should~~ be sorry to see them go," said she. "They have <sup>been</sup> the nicest guests one could possibly have." Well, we old-time householders who have had a lot of guests, can appreciate that; -

Guests like self-Sacrificing Harry. & S-L-U-T-M.