

L.T. SUNOCO - July 26, 1933

Good Evening, Everybody:-

Various sections of ^{the} U. S. A. are having difficulty with old man weather. While part of the Midwest still bakes under one of the worst droughts in history, northern Louisiana has been hit by the wettest flood and rain storm in sixty-two years. In Illinois, fields are baked as never before in the memory of the oldest resident. However, this drought has done one good thing. The weather has been so hot in Illinois that all mosquitos have died. That's something!

As for Louisiana, Sergeant Staniford of Police Headquarters in Shreveport telephones me that the damage from the storm will run into the millions. Northern Louisiana this afternoon is seeing blue sky for the first time since Saturday. Rising waters of the Red River and Cross Lake have flooded hundreds of Louisiana homes. The deluge lasted without cessation for four entire days. Monday night all police, firemen and sheriff's

deputies were ordered on twenty-four hour duty. Hundreds of families have been taken from their homes in boats. Washouts have stopped railroad communication in and out of Shreveport from the West.

I came through a young cloudburst myself this afternoon, on my way back to Pittsburgh from Wheeling, W. Va. The rain came in sheets and we passed a number of over-turned cars -- the old story of slippery roads.

In Wheeling I didn't find the people doing any grumbling. The biggest industrial concern down that way is the Wheeling Steel Corporation. They are working at 72% capacity, and so far as I know this is the top record for any steel concern in the country. They are so busy in Wheeling that they have been obliged to blow-in an old mill.

I also heard of several concerns in Wheeling, W.Va., that have not reduced salaries during the entire depression. I am sure we will all agree that any such company is entitled to a lot more credit than a concern that cut salaries 30-40-50% and is now raising them 10 or 15%.

Wheeling, by the way, is one of the older cities of this part of America. Like every old city, it has a personality all its own, grand old homes, the magnificent sweep of ~~the~~ the Ohio River, great bluffs and forest-covered hills. A place where hospitality knows no bounds.

WASHINGTON

While it has been raining water in Louisiana, it has been raining telegrams in Washington. Some fifteen thousand messages have poured in. This deluge is in response to President Roosevelt's Monday night radio speech. Through these wires folks from coast to coast are promising the President support for NIRA and the recovery program. Industries big and little are joining in the movement to cooperate. Meanwhile, Mr. Roosevelt is pushing his public works program. Already allotments amounting to almost one billion dollars have been made for Government projects -- Federal, State and local. A telephone message from the Pacific Coast informs me that every business executive in San Francisco is present at a mass meeting this afternoon, called by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. The purpose is to secure unanimous acceptance of a blanket Nira Code.

N.B.C.

WASHINGTON - HOTEL MEN

The Hotel Men of America are in session in Washington today. They are discussing a possible Code for the operation of hotels. Mr. Lucius Boomer, head of America's most famous hotel, the Waldorf, is presiding. The meetings are being held in Washington at the Carlton and at the Willard.

According to Harwath and Harwath, statisticians and accountants, the hotel business ranks among the nine greatest industries of this country. That seems rather surprising. For instance, there are twenty-five thousand nine hundred and fifty hotels in the U.S.A. In them are one million five hundred twenty-one thousand rooms. And as a veteran traveler, I can vouch for the fact that they are not all with bath or running water. But, some of them are the best in the world. In them are employed over one-half million people, and the turnover from rooms and meals amounts to way over a billion dollars.

L.T.

NAVY

An important development is reported from the Navy Department. Bids have just been opened for the construction of twenty-one new warships, for Uncle Sam. Five of these will be built out of regular Navy appropriations, but sixteen are to come under the new Public Works Program.

NBC

His Excellency
Haramlampos
Sinopoulos.

Minister from
Greece to USA.

July 26, 1933.

Honorable
Harris Booras.

Head, American
Hellenic Educational
and Progressive
Association.

July 26, 1933.

in New York. If they are, Mr. Booras, will you be so kind as to introduce Mr. Haralambos Simopoulos to those who happen to be listening in?

Yes, Mr. Lowell Thomas, we are here in your studio in New York, and since you have mentioned the American Hellenic Educational and Progressive Association, which is celebrating its anniversary today, may I tell you and your radio friends a little about it?

Ahepa was conceived for the purpose of making better and more useful American citizens of those of Greek origin in this country. Beginning modestly, but with high ideals, the Order has grown with tremendous strides, until it now embraces tens of thousands of members in every principal city, in every state in the Union.

The Ahepa today celebrates its 11th Anniversary. It is succeeding in its lofty endeavors and we are justly ~~pr~~ proud of its achievements. Its far-reaching scope, its patriotic ideals have attracted to its membership not only hundreds of high public officials and men of prominence, but also the President of the United States.

But you have asked me to introduce the Minister from Greece to your radio audience, and here he is -- It is my privilege to present His Excellency, Mr. Haralambos Simopoulos.

FOR THE MINISTER FROM GREECE

Good evening, Mr. Lowell Thomas. We are sorry that we cannot be in Pittsburgh with you. But it is extremely kind of you to allow us to hold this conversation across the continent with you. In case there are others listening in, may I take the liberty of conveying to the people of America the greetings and best wishes of the people of Greece. My countrymen sincerely appreciate the altruistic spirit of friendship that the people of America have always shown toward Little Hellas.

And, since this is the anniversary of the great Greek Order here in America, I would like to express my greetings to all the members, and to congratulate them for their patriotic work in the United States and Canada.

Oh yes, and may I add just one thing more? The next time you set off on another of your journeys around the world, Mr. Lowell Thomas, we hope you will again visit Greece. And I would like to include all the people of America in that invitation.

L.T.'S REMARKS FROM PITTSBURGH TO FOLLOW GREEK MINISTER

Many thanks, Your Excellency. I am certainly grateful to you and Mr. Booras. I am sure that if all Americans were as enthusiastic about the wonders of your country as I am, they would all include it in their itinerary when they go traveling.

One of my favorite spots on earth is the hillside overlooking the ancient city of Delphi, and of course, the incomparable Acropolis at Athens, the Plain of Marathon, and glorious old Mount Olympus.

SPAIN

Here's a wireless from Madrid. It says that more Fascist trouble has just broken out, late this afternoon. We had been led to believe yesterday that with twelve hundred conspirators in prison the Spanish Fascist Plot had been squelched. But today agents of Spain's Secret Service discovered that other conspirators had planned to attack the General Post Office in Madrid and seize it as a Fascist Political Headquarters. The Republican Civil Guards were called out in consequence and over a thousand more Fascists are in Spanish prisons tonight.

NBC

LONDON

The World Economic Conference in London comes to an end tomorrow. There will be no less than fifteen speeches in that farewell session. Count them, fifteen! Among the speakers will be our Secretary of State, Mr. Hull and Ex-Governor, James M. Cox of Ohio -- and of course Prime Minister MacDonald.

NBC

CHINA

My correspondent in the Far East, Mr. Ellery Walter, famous lecturer, writer, and traveler, cables me that he has just had an interview with the Chinese leader, Eugene Chen. Chen told him that General Chiang has been putting one over on generous Uncle Sam by selling American Relief cotton to Japanese mills in Shanghai. Chen also insists that the money loaned to China for relief purposes and so on has been diverted into military channels. Ellery Walter adds that Canton, which means Southern China, is all set for more civil war -- to be fought against Chiang. Walter also tells how on the waterfront at Canton, he found the Nanking government's cruisers that have deserted from Nanking. So, from this we can see that all is far from quiet on the China Coast front.

Ellery Walter

CHICAGO

The International Convention of Police Chiefs assembled today in Chicago. Police headquarters of all the large cities in the U.S.A., Canada, and nearly all foreign lands are represented. The ~~idea~~, as mentioned yesterday, is to come one step nearer to the goal of a world police force.

NBC

WASHINGTON

Attorney General Cummings after a White House conference today said the Government was ready to start its drive against Racketeering, and no one will be spared. He said he discussed with the President, the possible setting up of a Scotland Yard in this country.

NBC

BALBO

The perfection with which General Italo Balbo planned his masterly flight continues to be very much in evidence. The Italian fliers rose into^{the} air at Shediac shortly before nine this morning. After flying five hundred odd miles in four hours, they reached Shoal Harbor, Newfoundland, about one p.m. Whether Balbo leads his Armada via Ireland, or the Azores, far to the South, depends on weather reports.

The Italians will be held up about four days at Shoal Harbor, Newfoundland, to allow for repairs to one of the planes.

NBC

FLYING

There seems to be no end to the summer craze for Trans-Atlantic flying. A wireless message that I have received from London brings the news that Charles Ulm, the Australian Ace, will hope off, with two friends as passengers, tomorrow at dawn. The first leg will be to Baldonel, Ireland. They then plan to fly on to Harbor Grace, Newfoundland and on down to New York. After landing at New York, he hopes to return to Australia by way of San Francisco, thereby flying around the world, much as the other famous Australian flier, Kingsford-Smith did, a few years ago.

NBC

AIMEE

Aimee Semple MacPherson Hutton is in our midst once more, and all aflutter. She arrived in Baltimore today from Europe and apparently was sadly disappointed not to find a process server at the dock with a summons and complaint in the divorce suit brought by her husband, David Hutton, popularly known as Strongman Hutton. At least that's what the Reverend Attorney Eldred Andrews told me over the telephone.

Strongman Hutton's intention of suing for divorce and going into vaudeville surprised and shocked Aimee. Not so much the divorce as his going into vaudeville. She is shocked that the five-a-day should lure Strongman away from Angelus Temple and Four Square Gospel. Attorney Andrews revealed that Strongman has been getting a salary of ninety bucks a week, also living in Aimee's home with the services of her cook and chauffeur and a twelve-cylinder motor car. Aimee says she received loving cables from her Strongman right up to the moment of her departure from Paris.

BRONX

The proprietor of a small grocery store in the Bronx in New York City was sweeping out at noon today. He has had a hard time during the last few years to support himself and family, usually getting up at six o'clock every morning, and on the job until ten at night.

While he was wielding his broom a dapper youth walked in, flashed a gun and said, "Get into the back room!" This was too much for the grocery man. He raised his hands but did not drop the broom. Instead he brought it down smack on the bandit's head. The pistol went off, the bullet went wild and pierced the icebox. The would-be holdup took to his heels. When detectives arrived the grocer said sadly, "It's too bad I got so mad and excited. I should have hit him with the handle instead of the soft end."

Just the same, the grocer was lucky that the stray bullet drilled a hole in his ice box and not in him.

SWEARING GIRLS

just
I've/been reading a sprightly book entitled
"No Nice Girl Swears," a book written by a young society
girl advising other girls what to do and what not to do. And
it's quite a startling document. For instance, the author
heads one chapter "Our Plastered Friends." Then she proceeds
to tell a girl what to do with her goofy, weak-kneed, spineless
escort if he becomes petrified, blotto and soused during the
course of the evening's revelry. After reading it the con-
clusion you come to is that young men these days are a pretty
sad lot. I wonder if they really are? At any rate, you come
to the conclusion that the young lady who wrote the book, Alice
Leon Moats, knows her way around.

HOBBIES

Some time ago I had an item about curious hobbies.

E. H. Clucker of North Olmsted, Ohio, writes me about his hobby.

It surely is a strange one. He collects horse-shoes, that is, horse-shoes worn by famous horses. The walls of his home are covered with them. For instance, he has shoes worn by Lou Dillon, the famous record-breaking trotter. Also shoes worn by Man O' War and many other race horses. And from General Pershing's war-horse, Jeff, and from Tom Mix's movie star, Tony, and now he is getting Uncle Sam to send him the shoes from one horse ~~in~~ in each regiment in the United States Cavalry. His bedroom is full of horse-shoes, his drawing room is full of horse-shoes, his dining room is full of horse-shoes. And I wonder if during dinner he and his wife ever start pitching horse-shoes across the dinner table.

Do you know of anyone with a ~~hobby~~ hobby stranger than that? Neither do I.

At any rate, it is time for me to stop talking now and pitch horse-shoes or do something else -- that something else being a trip to Rock Springs Park, near Chester, West Va., where I am going to attend a huge gathering of judges, jurors, and other folks. So unless I see you there - So long until tomorrow.