

L.T. Sumoco. Mon, July 5, 1937.

Sumoco

FIREWORKS

It isn't so many years ago that July Fourth used to be an annual day of fear and anxiety for parents. We all took it for granted that Independence Day should be celebrated with loud noise and explosions and incidentally the killing and maiming of thousands of children. Of course it was fun setting off those giant fire crackers, but it used to make a busy day for doctors and hospital ambulances. It wasn't ^{until} ~~only~~ a great newspaper, The Chicago Tribune, woke up to the terrific annual casualty-list from Independence day fireworks. Its editors ~~started making~~ ^{made a} survey ~~of the country~~ over July Fourth gathering figures from all over the country. And those figures, ^{it} turned out, mounted up to an appalling total, children killed, thumbs blown off, sometimes young eyes blinded for life and a formidable record of lock-jaw contracted from gun powder wounds. The Chicago Tribune hammered away, year after year. At first people, even parents scoffed and declared the Tribune was trying to take the joy out of Independence Day and make it ~~effete~~, effeminate. The slogan for a "safe and sane" July Fourth was jeered at. But as this casualty list grew year after year the country finally stopped jeering. Every state, every city took measure to make the

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"safe and sane" Fourth a reality.

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And tonight reports from the country at large show that this was the safest and sanest of all Independence Days, for ~~wif~~ fireworks and for other accidents. As for firecrackers, they are still with us, but not by any means to such a deadly extent. No matter how zealously the cops may watch there are always ways for youngsters to get what they want. And consequently there were several hundred gun powder injuries, but exceedingly few deaths. The story used to be several thousands of injuries and hundreds of deaths.

The National Safety Council had published the prophesy that no fewer than eight hundred people would die over this week-end, five hundred in traffic accidents, three hundred by drowning. But that prediction fortunately, turned out to have been much too gloomy. Reports from ~~52~~ 39 states and the District of Columbia show that there were only 135 deaths in traffic and 49 drownings.

EARHART

(Somewhere in the middle of the boundless Pacific Ocean are two people, the best known of them a woman - out there tonight floating helplessly upon the waves, indefinite miles away from rescue. For hours the radio signals from Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan grew fainter and fainter, more and more unintelligible - up to several hours ago. And for those several hours - no signal.)

But the last signal, faint and broken as it was, indicated that Miss Earhart and her navigator were at a point two hundred and eighty-one miles north of Howland Island, in mid-Pacific, floating at the mercy of the Pacific waves.) Later on an encouraging bit of information came across. Uncle Sam's headquarters at Honolulu got in touch with a British freighter the MOORBY and to the great relief of everybody it turned out that the MOORBY was at that time only ninety miles away from the spot where Miss Earhart and Captain Noonan were probably drifting. The MOORBY instantly changed her course and proceeded at full steam to ~~hr~~ the rescue. The only other boat available.,

up to this was the Coast Guard cutter ITASCA. When that message was received the ITASCA was one hundred and fifty miles away from the probable position of Amelia Earhart's plane.

At any rate, it seems that she and her navigator are still alive. An amateur radio operator at Los Angeles heard the ITASCA trying to communicate with Miss Earhart asking her to send a signal of four dashes. There was an immediate response. Three long dashes, though the fourth could not be heard. It was explained that probably the fourth dash ended in a long ripple, as though the batteries of the plane were fading.

(Never has such a formidable flotilla been engaged in a rescue errand at sea. Five of Uncle Sam's warships are speeding to the spot including the monster airplane carrier LEXINGTON.) The LEXINGTON with her eighty planes is speeding under forced draft from San Diego, with 4500 miles to go.

of ~~45 hundred miles to go~~ Meanwhile the battleship COLORADO with four destroyers is on its way from Honolulu, nineteen hundred miles away from Howland Island. And the high command of the Japanese Navy has ordered ^{the} Japanese fishing fleet in the South Seas to ~~set on the job~~ ^{Lead that way.} The Mikado's ambassador in Washington has announced that his government ~~ixxx~~ has offered the use of Japan's entire navy if necessary.

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The plight of ~~Earhart~~ ^{Amelia} Earhart ~~ix~~ has aroused a good deal of questioning. Why ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{didn't} she in the first place signal her ~~xxx~~ exact latitude and longitude, ^{ask} ~~The answer that comes from~~ the Navy and Coast Guard ~~headquarters is that she has included~~ ~~to do this all along.~~ In the message received from her on Friday saying "All's Well" she gave no indication of where she was. Again at about half past six this morning the radio operator of the ITASCA begged her to get on a frequency of five hundred kilocycles and communicate so that a direction ~~finder~~ finder might be used to locate her ~~xxx~~ exact position. But this plea was neither complied with nor acknowledged. The text of one message ~~xxxxxxx~~ picked up by an amateur ^{operator} ~~operator~~

in California was like her other communications somewhat cryptic.

"Still alive", she said, "better hurry, tell ~~xxx~~ husband all right."

*A puzzle of radio in this drama of
~~some of these words seems to contradict each other~~
aviation.*

VANDERBILT RACE

That Vanderbilt Cup Race certainly was a walk-over for Germany. Not only was Bernard Rosemeyer decisively the victor, of that prodigious three hundred mile affair, Both he and Dick Seaman, the Englishman who came in second, were driving German cars. And America's racing ace, Rex Mays, who took third place, was sitting at the wheel of another foreign car, an Italian Alfaromeo.

It was indeed a historic meet this afternoon. In spite of lowering skies, as many as seventy-two thousand people watched and yelled themselves hoarse over that thrilling struggle. And really it was something to get excited about. For here were thirty of the greatest racing drivers in the whole world, the top notchers of Europe and America matched over one of the most exciting courses in the world, the Roosevelt raceway on Long Island. Never before, either here or across the Atlantic, had so many champions been gathered for one event.

From the start, the pace was killing. Even champions were forced out. Among them the daredevil, Tazio Nuvolari who won so brilliantly last year. It developed into a three-

man fight, English, German, and American. The German, was easily the favorite and his coming in first made many thousands happy for financial reasons. In the qualifying rounds, Rosemeyer in one of those peculiar auto-union cars, had burnt up the track at such a dazzling speed, that practically all the experts had picked him to win -- and he did - at one hundred and sixty miles an hour on the straightaways.

STRIKE

There has been an armistice in the steel war over the weekend. Not a sign of tumult anywhere. Hostilities confined only to words.

But tonight there are mutterings -- indications of more trouble that may come. As we've been hearing for some time, Republic Steel has vowed it will open its four Cleveland plants tomorrow. And tonight the steel districts of the giant Ohio city-on-the-lake are being patrolled by twenty-five hundred National Guardsmen and police. Farther west, in Indiana, Governor Townsedn has announced that he will use all the forces of the state to insure that workers who want to get back on the job may do so in safety.

From a far corner of the world we learn that one strike was successfully settled. That was in Japan. For five days the Geisha girls of Kisarazu have been holding out for more money. The dispute was referred to a mediation board. It consisted of the chief of police, the head man of the town, and the high priest of the temple. As a result, the famous lady entertainers of Japan won a brilliant victory. Their pay was

raised by a sum amounting in American money to something like half-a-cent an hour, a mere fraction of a yen - for graceful Geishas for whom Japan has an historic yen.

That seems difficult to understand. But it has an official ring, since the information was conveyed in a statement by Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden to the House of Commons today. The inference would seem to be that the tension in Europe over the Iberian civil war is considerably diminished.

SPAIN

The principal news about Spain today is puzzling.

Hitler has withdrawn all his warships from the Mediterranean.

The entire Spanish east coast is now unpatrolled.

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IRELAND

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For a while it looked as though history were hanging in the balance for one of the most remarkable of the world's living statesmen, ~~the fate of~~ ^{the fate of} Eamon de Valera, President of the Irish Free State. Early news from the elections in Erin's fair isle created the impression that it might be a close call for Ireland's ~~magneto~~ man of destiny. It seemed as though he would have to depend upon the votes of the Labor Party to continue to run his government. And though the new Constitution for Ireland was winning, the Constitution which provides for Erin's withdrawal from the British Commonwealth of dominions, according to the early returns it was winning by a surprisingly close margin.

However, it's a different story tonight. Mr. deValera is master of south Ireland, with or without the votes of labor. His party, the Fianna ~~Fail~~ ^{Fail}, has won fifty-nine seats. That gives it a clear plurality over all the other parties. ~~Small~~ ^{Small} ~~plurality~~ to be sure, just one vote. ~~It xxxxxxxxx~~ But, it so happens that for ~~de~~ ^{that} deValera ~~is~~ will be plenty, since labor can be relied upon to support him on most of the important issues.

As for the new Constitution, it has a clear victory, four hundred and twenty-six thousand to three hundred and forty-five thousand.

Rud -
~~of course~~ this puts the Irish President in a strong position to negotiate with Great Britain's new Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain. The idea, of course, is to ~~tear~~ tear up the Treaty of Nineteen Twenty-One, the Treaty which established the Irish Free State, and write a new one. It is expected ~~of course~~ that the British Government will ^{at once} accept the new Constitution as an accomplished fact. ^{President} ~~de~~ deValera on his side is believed to be willing to make concessions. For example, he is supposed to be ready to consent to giving ^{the British Navy} ~~John Bull~~ ~~access~~ access to certain Irish ports if it becomes necessary for self-defense. *R* However, there seems to be no immediate solution of the Ulster problem, the problem that keeps the Emerald Isle divided into two parts, north and south, Protestant and Catholic. Nevertheless, recent reports from both Dublin and Belfast indicate that one of these days that question will solve itself in tolerance and friendship.

GYPSIES

They had another coronation over in Europe today. A new king was crowned by ancient rite and picturesque ceremony. It took place in Warsaw, the capital of Poland. Of course that sounds exciting and may lead some of us to suppose that the Poles have reestablished the colorful dynasty of the Poniatovskis.

But it wasn't a new Polish king who was elected and ~~renewed~~ crowned in Warsaw today. It was a king of that peculiar and somewhat mysterious race, known to us as ^{the} Gypsies, known to themselves as Rom. The event was historic in a way. For this was the first king elected since the Gypsies came, not out of Egypt as is popularly believed, but out of India as later researches have tended to prove. Hitherto their kings, dukes and other potentates have been virtually self-appointed. It was a question of the strongest man getting the job.

The ceremony in the big stadium at Warsaw was one that should have been described by George Barrow, the author of "Romany Rye", and "Lavengro," those unforgettable Gypsy novels. The congregation of the Rom was perforce limited by the Warsaw

police. The campaign prior to the election had been a somewhat tempestuous one. There had been pitched fights between rival factions, and only a couple of days ago, one Gypsy was killed in a rumpus.

There were six claimants to the throne. On the platform were thirty senators, representing Gypsy clans in many countries all over the world. Those Elders of Rom were formally dressed in dinner jackets, white ties and top hats. In the middle of the platform was the throne, a golden chair with the crown and ~~sceptre~~ sceptre of Gypsydom. Each of the six candidates for the crown recited ~~their~~ his claims and his merits to the senators. It took only one ballot for the Elders to make their choice. The man they elected unanimously was a young boiler-maker of Warsaw, named Janus Kwiek. The ritual for the coronation was that of the Greek Orthodox Church. Four priests of that confession solemnly crowned King Janus as absolute ruler of the Gypsies. Thereupon His Majesty formally took his seat upon his golden throne and the Elders paraded past him kneeling as they kissed his hand. — And the Archbishop of Canterbury wasn't there!

The first royal act of King Janus showed him ^{to be} a monarch
of the modern kind. He held a reception for newspaper men.
He said the first measure on the part of his people will be a
visit to Premier Mussolini in Rome. What for? He wants permission
for his subjects to be allowed to emigrate to Ethiopia, en masse.

His Majesty's next official act was of an even more
popular nature. He ordered free beer for everybody.

CHAMPAGNE

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Policemen have had to cope with many curious weapons in the hands of offenders. But the Albany cops encountered an entirely new mode of attack today.

The sounding of an automatic burglar alarm summoned a squad to a liquor store in Albany. ~~Upon~~ Policemen rushed into the place and at first could find nobody. Finally, at the head of the staircase leading to the cellar, they met a young man named John Semeno from Pittsfield, Massachusetts. "We've got you, you better come quietly," said the cops. Semeno's answer was to pick up a magnum of champagne, cut a wire and aim it at the

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and let it pop.
officers. The gallant men in blue were undaunted. They fought
— months open —
their way through a stream of golden bubbles. Semeno backed down

the stairway, firing cork after cork from champagne bottles. But

bubbly
his ~~deadly~~ fusilade did not save him. ~~The~~ cops ended up by
The champagne drenched

cornering him in the cellar and completing the arrest.

At the station house, the Sorrowful young man from Pittsfield, Mass., said that he would have got away with his loot ^{ten} from that liquor store if he hadn't dallied too long for a drink.

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The tippie he chose was champagne and the first bottle he opened back-fired down his throat and laid him out. So when the cops arrived he figured that the same weapon which had knocked him might defeat the police.

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A popping good Fourth of July item on which to say so long until tomorrow.