MRS. BIDDLE

Lowell Thomas broadcast for the Literary Digest, Monday, March 21, 1932

Page\_

Good Evening, Everybody :-

At Nenana, in the interior of 1 <sup>2</sup> Alaska, a call has been received to <sup>3</sup> send an airplane to rescue Wrs. Edward M. Biddle, a Philadelphia society woman 4 who has been up in the North to study 5 the hardy pioneer life of the Land of 6 7 the Sour dough.

8 The life up there is plenty hardy 9 and plenty pioneer, so it would seem 10 from Mrs. Biddle's experience. For she 11 is marooned in a cabin in the snowbound 12 wilds of the Kantishna region, in the 13 valley of the Tanana River about a 14 hundred miles west of Fairbanks, and to 15 the north of Mt. McKinley. 16

Mrs. Biddle went to Alaska last fall and has been traveling around 18 seeing the primitive side of life in 19 Uncle Sam's vast northern empire. And right off the bat she ran into a real grim and gripping slice of the hard 22 and rugged frontier.

23 She was in an Alaskan dance hall 24 when she saw a man shot down before her 25 eyes. Just as in the days of Dangerous

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MRS. BIDDLE - 2

Dan McGrew and the Lady known as Lou. It was only later that she was told that it was just a piece of hocus pocus -a couple of boys had staged a sham battle and bit of old time Alaskan drama, to provide a thrill for the Philadelphia society lady.

Page\_ 2

Recently Mrs. Biddle made a trip
to the cabin of Fannie Quigley, a
pioneer woman deep in the wilds. She's
there now. A snow storm came up and shut
off all communication with the outside
world.

The driver of the dog team who
 took her over the trail is now bucking
 the snowdrifts and trying to break a
 way through to civilization. If the
 dog team driver doesn't get through,
 why a mail plane will be sent to rescue
 the society woman who is now living on
 flapjacks like a real Sourdough.

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PLANE\_

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Parts of a wrecked airplane were found today along the Ohio River near Steubenville. The cabin of the plan has not been located. It is believed to be at the bottom of the river.

<sup>6</sup> Mail bags in water-proof containers <sup>7</sup> were found first, then a wing and part of <sup>8</sup> a landing gear.

A United Press dispatch in the
 World-Telegram identifies the wrecked
 machine as a mail and passenger air \*\*\*\*\*\*\*
 transport en route from Columbus to
 New York. A pilot and one passenger
 were aboard. It would appear that the
 machine plunged into the river and that
 the cast sank, with bits of wreckage
 floating to shore.

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ZEPPELIN

A giant airship is on its way 1 across the South Atlantic tonight. 2 The Graf Zeppelin is on its 3 r om Sormany to Brazil. Well, the Graf 4 Zeppeting has been doing things like 5 <sup>6</sup> that for some time now. But the present flight is worthy of note because, says 7 on In the New York-Work 8 Telegram, Pt, is the first regular 9 10 commercial flight on the run between 11 Germany and South America. 12 Nine passongers are aboard 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 14 23 24 25

Page 4

GAR\_WOOD

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Newspapers have been carrying stories lately about the new speed boats the British are going to build--"The Miss England III".

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Lord Wakefield has again sent out a challenge to America for the Harmsworth Trophy, which is now in this country.

Well I saw Gar Wood and he tells me that he is getting ready to bring out a defender, -a faster boat to be known as "The Miss America X", and he intends to keep the Harmsworth Trophy on this side of the Atlantic.

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31-32 5M

## CHICAGO

Yes, When a hundred-foot flagpole 1 2 on the top of a 35-story building falls 3 down and lands in the street, why that's a story. The flagpole on the top of 4 the sky-scraping, Tribune Tower has long 5 been a wonder of the Middle West. Today 6 in a blizzard it broke into three 7 8 pieces. One piece, relates the United Press, fell on the roof. Another section 9 crashed 35 stories down into Illinois 10 11 Street. The third went hurtling down that same distance and fell, into Michigan 12 Avenue. The bunch of flagpole that fell 13 14 into Illinois Street did no damage, but 15 the one that came catapulting into 16 Michigan Avenue hit a bus. It caved in 17 the side of the crowded vehicle. And 18 that sounds as if there might have been a 19 loss of life, but only two people were 20 hurt -- a passenger and the bus driver, 21 and they were not hurt seriously. 22

Page\_6

A snow storm was raging, and for that reason the streets were comparatively deserted. Otherwise, those huge sections of flagpole crashing and splintering into

the streets might have caused heavy damage.

3-1-32 5M

LINDBERGH

Another fantastic clue has 1 cropped up in the Lindbergh case. An 2 3 exhausted carrier pigeon was found in Connecticut today, and with it was 4 message with a statement about a kit on 5 a yacht. The police are investigating 6 this clue, just as they have been looking 7 into hundreds and hundreds of others. 8 This isn't the first carrier pigeon 9 that has appeared in the case. The New 10

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York World-Telegram tells how a message 11 was found on a bird near East 12 Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. The message 13 didn't seem to have anything to do with 14 the Lindbergh case, expect that it was 15 signed "Red." It was thought that this 16 might be connected with Red Johnson, the 17 sailor who has been under arrest for 18 some time. This carrier pigeon message, 19 however, turned out today to be a hoax. 20 It was just a foolish note tied to a 21 carrier pigeon's leg by a couple of 22 23 misch vous boys.

Meanwhile, Red Johnson, the sailor who was a boy friend of Betty Gow, the LINDBERGH - 2

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3-1-32 5M

nurse of the Lindbergh baby, was cleared
of suspicion today by the Jersey City
police. He was questioned once more,
and the Jersey City cops said they
couldn't find any reason to hold him
any longer. So they turned him loose.

Page\_8

However, the sailor was immediately 71 8 taken into custody by two Newark detectives and hustled over to Newark, 9 where he will be questioned some more. 10 The New York Evening Post declares that 11 in addition Red Johnson is wanted by 12 the Federal authorities, who claim that 13 his entry into the United States in 1927 14 was illegal. He didn't qualify according 15 to the immigration law. And so they want 16 17 to deport him.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

POLL

tere's some news from Washington, 2 a vote on that perennial subject of 3 discussion -- prohibition. (We know 4 how the House of Representatives voted 5 last week, but this time the whole town 6 is included in the balloting. People 7 in the national capital consist mostly 8 of government clerks and their families 9 and ambitious folks from all over the 10 country who are trying to bust into 11 society. Here's the way the vote is 12 split -- 2,956 in favor of the 18th 13 Amendment, 10,311 against.) 14 Washington is a great place for 15 16 visitors, and so is San Diego, California. Here's the San Diego vote 17 -- 1,128 for prohibition; 4,450 against. 18 Then we have Rockford, Illinois, 19 with 820 votes for, and 2,637 against. 20 21 Cedar Rapids, lowa, polls 525 for, and in that .514 against. Ets Newton, Kansas, votes 22 Massachusetts, 15 407 for, and 3,073 24 against. Union City, New Jersey, 174 m 25

Page\_9

2 PQ Page\_ 10 favor of prohibition 2,901 ágainst. Yonkers. New York. TOP 1 and say nauge n 3,222 against fir, 437 Johnstown. 2 through with 1,243 Pennsylvania, comes 3 dry, and 3,214 wet. And Amarillo, sends dry votes from the Panhandly Texas, 475, for, and 938 against. 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 ..... 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 3-1-32 5M

## WASHINGIBN

Today was given over to various
minor maneuvers in the House of
Representatives. The forces that are
opposed on the subject of the Sales
Tax stuck to their trenches and confinedtheir activities to \*\*\* a bit of raiding
hore and there.

Page\_11

A United Press dispatch in the 8 New York World Telegram explains that 9 <sup>10</sup> the advocates of the Sales Tax are waiting for the anger, wrath and heat under the 11 collar of the enemy to cool down. They 12 <sup>13</sup> want to give the opponents of the tax a chance to think gk things over and 14 become a trifle more tranquil. They 15 also are trying a bit of judicious 16 yielding, something like throwing a bone 17 beefsteak or two to the lions to appease 18 19 their hunger.

One XxXXX XX scheme is to make
a few exemptions, that is take a few
articles off the list to which the Sales
Tax is to be applied. The idea is to
take the tax off lard, sausage, grape
juice, malted milk and a few other

WASHINGION - #2

Page 12

similar items, in the hope that these
 concessions will soothe the rage of the
 opponents of the Sales Tax.

The lions are rearing, however, 5 These Sales Tax opponents declare that, 6 concessions or no concessions, they are 7 going to beat the objectionable measure.

<sup>8</sup> Latest reports are that a
 <sup>9</sup> compromise may be reached. They say
 <sup>10</sup> that the advocates of the sales tax are
 <sup>11</sup> offering to exempt <u>all</u> necessities of
 <sup>12</sup> life, including food, wearing apparel,
 <sup>13</sup> and medicine.

14 Representative Fieretto #. 15 LaGuardia, who has been leading the 16 fight against the sales tax declared 17 that if they fixed it so that no tax 18 would be levied on the necessities of 19 life, why that would satisfy him. 20 Representative LaGuardia spoke only for 21 himself, of course, but his O.K. is 22 taken as an indication that the other 23 opponents of the sales tax might be 24 inclined to look favorably upon the 25 compromise.

SALES\_TAX

I had an interesting telephone call, an important telephone call today on the subject of that same old Sales Tax. It was from the Governor's office at Albany.

Page 13

On Thursday night I gave a resume of a story from a Washington correspondent to the effect that the Democratic vote gagainst the Sales Tax might have some bearing upon the Presidential aspirations of Governor Frankling Roosevelt of New York.

In the course of this was the 13 statement that Governor Roosevelt was 14 in favor of the Sales Tax. In that 15 Governor's office telephone call from the 16 today I was told that Governor Roosevelt 17 has never declared himself in favor of 18 the Sales Tax, and that he has <del>never said</del> 19 20 anything not put himself on record as supporting thet measure, which has causing 21 such a fuss in Washington, and that makes 22 it clear that Governor Roosevelt is not 23 mixed up in that Sales Tax controversy. 24 25

IROIZKY

Page\_ 14

A lot of political and military 1 experts have been analyzing that trouble 2 in the Far East. Now along comes 3 4 another.

5 He is a little man, living in exile on the Turkish Island of Prinkipo--6 7 I mean Leon Trotzky, the arch 8 Revolutionist and builder of the Red 9 Army. He should have a few incisive 10 things to say about that Far Eastern 11 imbroglio, which more and more seems to 12 be becoming a three-cornered affair, 13 involving Japan, China and Soviet Russia. The New York Sun today prints 14 15 a long interview which a correspondent 16 of the United Press had with Trotzky, 17 in which the former War Lord of Red 18 Russia, makes several incisive points.

19 He declares that Japan's method 20 is little by little--take something here-something there, and some more some place 22 else. He believes that in the end Japan intends to turn China into a Japanese colony, but Trotzky thinks they can't do it. China has too many millions of

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TROTZKY - #2

Page\_15

1 possible fighting men.

Then he thinks the Japanese will 2 go on to take Soviet Russia, and once 3 more he is of the opinion that Japan will 4 get the war st of it. It's the old 5 dilemma of Russian distances. There are 6 too many miles in Siberia--too many 7 thousands of miles and Trotzky thinks 8 that Japan, like Napoleon, will just get 9 lost. 10

11 But if war does come between 12 Japan and Russia, it won't be the Soviets 13 that will start it, at least so says 14 Trotzky, and he gives some reasons why 15 the Red authorities at Moscow do not want 16 any war. It would spoil their five-year 17 plan for one thing, A factory 90% 18 completed is not a factory at all, 19 must start to run before it is anything. 20 He compares Russia and its five-year plan. 21 with a partly finished factory. If war 22 came the Soviets would be like a partly 23 finished plant, which would kike lie there 24 with just so many un-assembled parts. 25 Trotzky believes the five-year

## IROLZKY - #3

Page\_16

plan is working but he says that's to be 1 marked down to the credit of the Russian 2 masses and not to the Red bureaucy and 3 power at Moscow today. Trotzky doesn't 4 think much of his bitter enemy Stalin. 5 There are some bitterly cutting remarks 6 about the Red dictator in Trotzky's new 7 book "The History of the Russian 8 Revolution", in which he takes the 9 attitude that Stalin during the critical 10 revolutionary days in Russia was not 11 strong enough and bold enough to meet the 12 situation, but was something of a 13 luke-warm moderate. 14

Trotzky says that later on stalin
 gravitated to the winning side and became
 a flaming Red.

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CHILD

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Don't weep, folks, as I tell you this next one. Save your tears. Yes, know it was a pathetic story. It made a bunch of Chicago cops sniffle a little, and wipe a tear away.

Well, they have big-hearted cops in Chicago, and then anybody's feelings would be touched by a 7-year-old girl, a child with flaxen hair and big innocent blue eyes. She said her name was Gertrude, and she whimpered pitifully that she was cold and hungry.

The big-hearted cops took her to 13 14 the station-house -- and did they give the poor little kiddy a fine meal? They 15 16 sure did! While she was eating she smiled through her tears and told a 17 simply heart-breaking story. Her father 18 was killed in a war in England six years 19 ago. The sympathetic cops couldn't 20 21 figure out what war that could be --22 but anyway, it was very sad.

And then Gertrude told how her
 <sup>24</sup> mother gave her away to another lady.
 <sup>25</sup> And then the other lady had **min** abandoned

CHILD - 2

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3-1-32 5M

her. For three days she had been living
in the Loop section of Chicago, sleeping
in nice clean beds that nice ladies
had offered her.

Page 18

Just then the telephone rang. Mrs. Luchsinger was phoning to the police, asking whether they had found her 7-year-old daughter Gertrude, who had disappeared four hours before.

The next thing you know Gertrude wave **bs** being taken by her mother to her exceedingly comfortable home, and those Chicago cops were looking kind of sheepish, because of all that bighearted sympathy they had wasted.

And that's the sort of thing that <sup>17</sup> makes a burly but gentle policemen grow <sup>18</sup> cynical and destroys his illusions. And <sup>19</sup> when they hear and 'sad story it makes him <sup>20</sup> makes you blane for saying:-

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.