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Lowell Thomas Broadcast for the Literary Digest Wednesday, August 26, 1931

Page.

Good Evening, Everybody:

There was a real bit of romance in an airplane flight today. The huge German flying-boat, the DO-X is on her way up the coast is New York. She made the jump from Charleston, North Carolina to Norfolk, Virginia, today, and in doing so she passed over a bleak set of sand-dunes along the North Carolina shore.

Derricks are set up down there and men are working. Yes, that was Kittyhawk where the Wright Brothers made their first flight a quarter of a century ago and where a monument is now being built in honor of the first time that men ever flew with artificial wings. The international News Service

has a correspondent aboard that German flying boat, the **b**iggest in the world, a and he says that everybody aboard looked down with a profound interest on those dunes at Kittyhawk and thought of the contrast. How the Wright Brothers in their flimsy box kite had begun the history of aviation and how now over that same stretch of shore was flying a 60 ton liner of the sky with its terrific power!

What a contrast between that old crate in which the Wrights made their first flights and the giant DO-X, the final word in huge air-craft.

The DO-X is expected in New York around noon tomorrow.

MILKINS

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The last we heard of Sir Hubert Wilkins was that his submarine was a bit damaged by the ice in northern waters and that he was heading South. But he seems to have repaired the damage, because to day Captain Wilkins sends a wireless from the Far North that he is pushing on further toward the Pole.

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The International News Service states that he is within 350 miles of the top of the world. He's still ramming his way through broken ice, but he soon espects to meet a solidly frozen surface. And then he will dive. He seems determined to make that submarine trip right to the North Pole, after all.

according to reporte tonight al Capone of chicago has been ordered arrested in connection with the bidrapping of John Lynch MEXICO

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In Mexico City a special committee was appointed today to investigate a shooting affray which was ranked as one of the wildest and ugliest in the history of government.

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There was a stormy session in the Mexican Chamber of Deputies. An attempt was being made to throw the Governor of the state of Jalisco out of office.

Map Supporters of the Governor shot the out in his defense. One of them dimma ran to the speakers' rostrum and called his fellow deputies cowards. Instantly, all over the Chamber of Deputies members drew pistols, and a wild orgy of shooting began. The defender of the Governor was killed. Two otherm members were wounded, one of them seriously.

The charge is made, says the Associated Press, that, supporters of the Governor of Jalisco are to blame. They are said to have crowded the Chamber of Deputies, with their pistols ready. They are blamed for the shooting -- although it does seem odd to place the responsibility on the victims.

JAPAN

A reminiscence of political assassination comes from Japan while the Lindberghs are being wildly acclaimed and showered with congratulations on all sides in Tokyo. Yes, they have reached their destination.

The death of former Premier Hamaguchi has cast a shadow over the immense and jubilant celebration that is shaking Tokyo in honor of Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh. The former Premier was shot by an assassin almost a year ago. They say he was a martyr for peace. His labors in negotiating the naval treaty between the United States, Great Britain, and Japan had provoked a storm of protest among the ultra-Nationalists. And the feeling thus aroused against the Premier led to the shooting.

The Associated Press comments that he never quite recovered. He couldn't shake off the result of the injury he sustained, and now, after almost a year, he has died.

In spite of this the Lindbergh reception is referred to in press dispatches as the greatest in the history of Tokyo. Almost the entire population of the city tried to see them. GANDHL

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It was announced today that Mahatma Gandhi will board a ship on Saturday and sail for London, Yos, he's going to attend the conference in London after all.

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The little Holy Man of India had 6 decided he wouldn't go. His refusal was 7 based on an argument he was having with 8 Lord Willingdon, the British Viceroy. tonal News Service reminds us The th 10 that Gandhi claimed that the British officials were using violent methods in collecting taxes from Hindu peasants.

Just the other day the British 14 government at London instructed Lord 15 Willingdon to make peace with Gandhi. The 16 idea was that the London conference on 17 India wouldn't amount to much if the 18 Mahatma was not there. 19

This morning Gandhi had a conference 20 with Lord Willingdon. It was said to 21 have been highly satisfactory to the 22 Mahatma, and immediately afterward he 23 announced that he would gladly attend the 24 conference at London. 25

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Meanwhile, this mystic saint of India has made a new convert -- an American woman. She is Miss Nilla Cram Cook, the daughter of George Cram Cook, the American poet and playwright.

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In joining Gandhi she renounces the world. She prepares herself for a life of self-denial, of sacrifice and service. She gives up everything for the cause of India and Gandhi.

The Associated Press states that 11 Miss Cook is the first American to be 12 admitted to the model colony which Gandhi 13 has established on the banks of the 14 Sbarmati. Here the Mahatma has gathered 15 his disciples who live according to his 16 ideas of holiness. Miss Cook will have 17 for a companion an English woman, Miss 18 Madeline Slade, who is of an aristocratic 19 British family and is the daughter of and 20 a British Admiral, but who nevertheless 21 has taken up the life of a Hindu ascetic 22 and has devoted her life to the service 23 of Gandhi as his attendant and disciple. 24

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PORTUGAL

Word has reached London from Portugal that a military revolt has broken out against the dictatorship of President Carmona. And right afterward. says the International News Service. telephone communication between Lisbon and Madrid was cut. This seems to indicate that some sort of trouble is under way. Later dispatches indicate that the trable has been serious today, airplanes were used in the uprising and a score or more were-leitled. But the government of Portugal claims to have put down the revolt.

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VATICAN

Word comes of the agreement made between the Italian government and the Vatican. The terms have not been officially announced, but they come along on good authority. As outlined by the United Press, the main point is that the Catholic clubs will be allowed to re-open in Italy.

In the new agreement the Vatican formally assures the government that Catholic associations will be altogether nonpolitical.

00 William Thornton Watson

INTRO - WATSON

A traveler from oné of the most remote corners of the earth dropped in while I was running over the news dispatches this afternoon. 10

He is a New Zealander, but he has spent so much time with Australians that he has a nure Australian accent. If you have never heard a real, nukka digger accent, I thought you might like to. So I told him to come along and give us his slant on one of the most interesting news stories that I have passed on to you during the year. I mean that story of the German officer, Eric Baum, who was in New Guinea when the World War broke out. The Australians sent troops to capture New Guinea in 1914. Eric Baum, not wanting to be a prisoner, escaped into the jungle. After years of adventure in the dense tropical forest he discovered gold.

Just the other day **xxx** an Associated Press story came from the wilds of New Guines stating that the savage cannibals had turned on Baum, had danced the dance of **xx** death around him and only two of his Kanaka boys reached civilization to tell the tale. INTRO - WATSON - 2

William Thornton Watson knew Eric Baum. In fact, he has just come from the same region. He's right here; and now Mr. Watson, how under the sun did you happen to go to New Guinea, and what happened to Eric Baum, the Kaiser's officer? WATSON_

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Well, Mr. Lowell Thomas, when I went to New Guinea I didn't know I 2 was going there. Although a New 3 Zealander I was in Australia when war 4 was declared, and was one of the first 5 thousand men to volunteer. They put us 6 on a ship and we thought we were headed 7 for Europe. But the first thing we knew 8 we landed on the north coast of New the part what belonged to Germany. We captured the town of Rabaul, the capital of German New Guinea, and **xxxxxx** that was when this German officer, Eric Baum, disappeared into the jungle. He went "bush".

From New Guinea I went with the first Australian Division to Gallipoli to fight the Turks. I was just a digger, icky enough to a private when I went, but \$ became an officer. I was one of the few who came through that hell at Gallipoli alive and not wounded. But I got knocked a couple of times in France.

When the war was over I returned to **Xx** Australia and with three pals decided

to head back to New Guinea, the country we had helped capture.

We became South Sea Island traders. Then when gold was discovered in New Guinea in 1927 we joined the rush.

New Guinea is shaped like a crocodile. Gold was found in the tail. Although it is only eighty miles inland to this El Dorado of the South Seas, it took us ten days to get in. The ridges were so steep that you could shake hends with a man a day's march ahead of you. Eric Baum who hed gone bush was in there. We used to see him often. He was killed just a half a mile from the place where I was digging for the yellow stuff. — the Kuan function. We were right in the heart of the cannibal country. They often captured our Kanaka boys and that was the end of them. Eric Baum hed been with the natives so long that he trusted them altogether too much. He work is ell.

New Guinea is the second largest island in the world; it's next to Greenland. But it has no more chance of ever having a big white population than Greenland has, and just for the opposite reason. It is covered with the most terrible jungle on earth. There's too much humidity for the white man, and a day's march from WATSON - 3

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any point on the New Guinea coast brings you into the cannibal country.

I married an American, and she talked me into coming here to her country to live. And take it from me, I like it **New Britain**, a lot better than New Guines, or the New Hebrides, or any other wild place in the South Pacific, although I notice your heat here more than I ever noticed it there. lew things worth seeing. For example, sumping \$ Well, you can't keep a good frog down. Yes sir, that's what the new Literary Digest tells us -- I mean the issue of the Digest that comes out tomorrow. The Digest treats us to an appealing article on the subject of frogs -- the jumping frogs of Calaveras County.

DIGESI Ves, Mr. Watson may be this isn't such a bad country after all. We have

9 A good deal of mention was made about this year's annual frog-jumping 10 contest in Calaveras County, California. 11 not long ago. But it takes the Literary 12 Digest to bring to its millions of 13 readers the full color and emotional 14 interest that is to be discovered in the 15 exploits of the jumping frogs. 16

Good old Bud -- he showed them. 17 No siree, you can't keep a good frog 18 down. His full name is Budweiser -- Bud 19 for short -- and it looked as though he 20 was a has-been, just an ex-champion. He 21 is a handsome frog, is Bud, with his 22 bulging pop-eyes, and his big cavernous 23 mouth, and his long muscular legs. He is 24 owned by Louis Fisher of Stockton, 25

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California. He won the frog-jumping championship in 1928. In 1929 he failed to repeat, and again in 1930. Bud jumped his longest jump. The noble old fellow gave everything he had. But once more he was beaten by a frog that could jump farther. And so they said Bud was a has-been. They said he was getting old and weak in the legs and couldn't jump any botter than a 300-pound Missourt perker.

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And so this year nobody gave Bud a: chance: They said the old fellow was in for another licking. What chance had he against that whole big field of up-andooming jumping frogs. For example, what chance would he have against Puddle-Jumper, the jumpingest frog that ever jumped, who was entered by John Decchenino of Oakdale, California?

Well, the story, as the Literary Digest tells us with tears of sentimental joy in its eyes -- if you'll pardon that figure of speech. Well, anyway, the Literary Digest tells that it was the DIGEST - 3

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old heart-throbbing story of a champion that comes back.

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Old Bud made a wonderful jump. "A truly epic leap." the Literary Digest calls its: Old Bud jumped eleven feet and 5 inches. That's a good jump for any man or frog. Old Bud had to jump his head off to beat his hated rival, John Decchenino's Puddle-Jumper. Eleven feet and one inch was the best Puddle-Jumper could do. And just to show you how those frogs were jumping out there in Calaveras County, take the jump made by Joe, who was entered by Joe Cesa of Antioch, California. Joe jumped 10 feet and 6 inches.

The Literary Digest, quoting from 17 an article by Charles My, Byers in Boys! 18 Life, gives us some historical background 19 of that frog-jumping contest. Of course 20 it was inspired by Mark Twain's famous 21 story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of 22 Calaveras County." The original jumping 23 frog about which Mark Twain tells us mban 24 was named Dan'l Webster. Any of us that 25

have read the well-known story will remember the dirty trick that was played by the owner of **kk** a rival jumping frog. He fed a handful of bird-shot to poor old Dan'l Webster. And Dan'l with that weight of lead in his stomach - why, he worked his legs as hard as he could, but he couldn't get off the ground.

ELAG*POLE_SITIER

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Well, it looks as though two records might be made.

Shipwreck Kelly has achieved renown as a flag-pole sitter. Not so long ago he made a record of 43 days on top of a flag-pole. He's out to beat it.

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At Long Branch, New Jersey, he today 7 he climbed to the top of a flag-pole and 8 just sat there. He intends to keep on 9 sitting for more than 43 days -- and he 10 may do it. He may stay up on top of that 11 flag-pole indefinitely, because just as 12 he the Constable of Long Branch 13 appeared on the scene with a judgment for 14 \$75 against the flag-pole sitter. He 15 wanted to hand that judgment to Shipwreck 16 Kelly, but the Constable being no flag-17 pole sitter was unable to climb the pole. 18 He called to Shipwreck Kelly to come down. 19 but Shipwreck announced that he was going 20 to stay right up there. He said he'd 21 out-wait and out-last the Constable. 22

The Constable said like fun he bottom of the would. He'd sit at the flag-pole as long as Shipwreck Kelly sat on top of it. FLAG POLE SITTER - 2

He'd just wait down there until the flag-pole sitter came down. And so the double endurance contest is on between Shipwreck Kelly and the Constable.

But as I am taking part in no endurance contest of any kind I'll just climb down off my flag-pole and say,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.