

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1936.

Annal  
1936

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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

*Call me early Mother  
for I am to be Queen of the May. That's what  
they used to say in medieval England.*

We can hardly say tonight that <sup>this</sup> May Day was as

gentle and flowery as it used to be in ~~the~~ times of old, but  
it was almost that. Back in the days of ancient Rome, May Day  
was the feast of the Goddess, Flora - the joyful divinity of  
blooms and blossoms. In medieval England, the lads and lassies  
gathered hawthorn blossoms on May Day, and wove a wreath with  
which they crowned the fairest maid - as Queen of the May. Then  
they danced around the May-pole, <sup>TP</sup> ~~then~~ fifty years ago, the first  
of May was adopted by European labor as a day for radical demon-  
strations. That made it a threatening time for violence,  
revolutionary rioting, an anxious day for the authorities. The  
feast of Flora and the flowers, the Queen of the May, and the May-  
pole became a red mark on the calendar, with the likelihood of  
fighting and mobbing in the great cities of the world.

Today, however, seems to have been about as placid as

*blooms*  
~~the flowers~~ waving in a breeze. In Chicago the police prepared

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for possible trouble. Six thousand workers of the radical Left Wing staged a parade, but nothing seems to have happened. <sup>TP</sup> In New York there was a huge but peaceful demonstration. For seven hours tens of thousands of working men and women tramped past a reviewing stand at Union Square. <sup>TP</sup> There was some talking of having Tom Mooney, the prisoner of San Quentin, come east to lead the parade. They were mentioning putting up a million dollars for bail. But the Governor of California waved aside the suggestion. <sup>TP</sup> There may have been minor disturbances here and there, but on the whole the American May Day was as tranquil as May flowers.

And so was the European. Spain came the nearest to having ructions. They had their first official workers' feast since the establishment of the republic in Nineteen Thirty-One. This follows the victory of the Left Wing Radicals in the recent election, and they whooped their celebration today in peppery Spanish style. <sup>TP</sup> London celebrated in the sedate British way, with the usual long-winded speeches by radical orators in Hyde Park.

In Germany the revolutionary occasion has been transformed into a Nazi <sup>^</sup> Day, and Hitler's labor organizations turned out in

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mighty processions. Soviet Russia has adopted May Day as its own red revolutionary feast, and put on the usual pageant of Communism. Only in Rome - was there no celebration. The Fascist government ignores May Day, and Italian public interest was focused on East Africa - the people thinking of nothing else, and waiting for nothing else, but the hourly expected fall of Addis Ababa.

There was one thing that seemed as if it might time ominously with May Day - the threatened strike that has had the American coal industry worried. The agreement between the United Mine Workers and the owners of the black pits, expired on May first. For weeks labor and capital had been negotiating for new scales of wages and working hours, but they hadn't been getting anywhere. The miners want the wage scale to be raised. And the operators want it to be lowered. So it looked as if the feast of the workers might witness a menacing strike of a hundred and five thousand coal miners.

But here also this year's May Day has taken on a peaceful aspect - with the news that threat of a strike has been staved off. At the last minute, Secretary of Labor Perkins intervened.

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Edward McGrady, Assistant Secretary, ~~of Labor~~, used his personal powers of persuasion. And both the union and operators consented to an extension of the present agreement. They'll keep it in force until a new contract can be worked out. This eleventh hour armistice seems to eliminate the probability of a strike - if they keep the old agreement going until they decide on a new one.

German.  
May 17 1956.

BILL GERMAN

L.T.:- Bill, I wish you had dropped in on us ten days ago, when all the world was keyed up over that Nova Scotia mine cave-in!

--o--

BILL GER:- Sorry Lowell. But at that time I probably was prowling around underground in a mine in West Virginia.

--o--

L.T.:- Oh, I should have explained that, sitting beside me, is a man who knows as much about mine accidents as any one in the world.

I believe he has the reputation of having saved just about as many

trapped miners' lives as any one. His name is Bill German. *Iran*  
*into him at the Waldorf today. At*  
present he spends most of his time in the Pocahontas Coal Mining

Fields of Virginia and West Virginia. Some of you may recall a

terrific accident twentyone years ago in a mine at Leland, West

Virginia. One-hundred-and eighty-four men went into the mine at

the usual time one morning. An hour later there was a staggering

explosion way down in the mine, an explosion so terrific that the

force of it even killed one man up on the ~~xxx~~ surface. For four

days the rescue party led by the gentleman who sits here beside

me, Bill German, ~~task~~ dug with desperation to rescue any who might

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be alive. In those four days they brought to the surface one-hundred-and-sixteen bodies. Then, on the morning of the fifth day they found forty-two miners still alive. They had barricaded themselves in a tunnel, and had survived. Bill, along with all the rest of the world, you must have had a special interest in that Nova Scotia rescue. It's still a topic of conversation around the globe. And hundreds of thousands of people are reading the absorbingly interesting story of what happened that is now being syndicated in the newspapers -- the story being told by Dr. Robertson. So that mine disaster is still in the news. And what I want to ask you is -- what is being done to prevent things of that sort from happening in mines generally?

--C--

BILL GER:- First of all, mining men are being trained to prevent disasters. And, in coal mines we've found ways of keeping down the rock dust, the dust that used to cause many explosions.

--O--

L.T.:- Bill, in the coal-mining fields there has been quite a bit of trouble in recent years between the operators and the miners, like the present wage dispute.



You ought to be able to speak for both parties, because you've been both a miner and an operator. How do you think these labor problems can be solved?

--o--

BILL GER:- Lowell, my suggestion is a more sincere and earnest application of the Golden Rule.

The debate about the Corporation Tax Bill is turning into a more and more complicated, back and forth argument. As the Senate Finance Committee holds its hearings, new lines of reasoning are flashed, new varieties of pro and con.

*M. L. S. Aidman of the N. Y. Board of Trade,*  
Today, for example, one tax expert, on the witness

stand denounced the bill as a gamble, and a bad gamble. He

said that by abolishing the present corporation tax and substituting the new-fangled system, the government would be

giving up a sure billion dollars ~~in the pocket and taking a~~ *to take a*

chance on getting that much and six hundred million more *from*

the uncertain new kind of tax. They might get it and they

might not, a gamble, a bird in the hand for about a bird and

a half in the bush.

*The* spokesman for the Administration defended the

proposed tax on corporation surpluses on the ground that it

would increase the value of stocks. Because corporations *would*

divide up their surpluses in dividends, and the paying of

dividends boosts the value of securities.

~~The business world is excited about that tax bill,~~

WENDEL

It's amazing how long Paul Wendel stood legally charged with the crime for which Bruno Richard Hauptmann was executed.

The accusation lodged against the disbarred Trenton lawyer with the Grand Jury in New Jersey in <sup>March</sup> ~~May~~ <sup>delayed the doom of</sup> ~~gained~~ the Bronx carpenter <sup>for</sup> two days. Hauptmann went to his end, but still Wendel remained charged with the kidnapping and murder of the Lindbergh baby.

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That strange and paradoxical situation ended today, when the Hunterdon County Grand Jury dropped the case. The Grand Jury held some more or less formal proceedings, and then said - "Charges dismissed", thereby accepting ~~the~~ Wendel's defense that he had signed the confession because they had kidnapped and held him prisoner, and tortured him, in a house in Brooklyn.

That takes us to Brooklyn, where District Attorney Geoghan is promising a sensation in his investigation of the Wendel kidnapping. He is still trying to get hold of Ellis Parker, Junior, son of the New Jersey detective, who promised to exonerate Hauptmann. Parker is under indictment in the Brooklyn episode of the forced confession, but they can't seem to find him.

Today it was revealed that they are <sup>also</sup> hunting for a former

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prize-fighter. He <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ said to have had something to do in bringing the money from New Jersey <sup>to finance the kidnapping.</sup> This follows statements made by a prisoner arrested in the case, who <sup>attempted</sup> ~~tried~~ to hang himself in his cell. It is now explained he tried to commit suicide because he is being called a squealer. He admitted he took a hand in bringing money for the kidnapping. <sup>It</sup> The case is turning into an affair of tracing the money that was paid for the <sup>weird plot,</sup> ~~kidnapping~~ <sup>Who</sup> ~~is~~ Who put up the cash? Who was interested in financing that piece of skullduggery for the purpose of saving Hauptmann? The answer is likely to be the sensation of the case. ~~And~~ the suspicion cannot be escaped - that the answer is likely to point to politics.

## ETHIOPIA

There seems to be some doubt about just what the Emperor Haile Selassie intends to do, as the Italian columns come storming to the gates of his capital. The certainty is that Addis Ababa tonight is virtually deserted. The native population has fled by the thousands. And the Negus Negusti has marched his soldiers away.

The question is -- where is he going to fight? One report has it that he has mustered all the man-power of Addis Ababa to march out against the oncoming Italians and put up a last ditch defense of his capital. Another account declares that he is retiring south of Addis Ababa, to fight his battle there -- that he's abandoning the capital without a struggle.

There seems to be some substance in the Italian story of a few weeks ago that Haile Selassie was hiding from the hostility of revolting tribes. We're now told of an episode of peril, in which Ethiopian rebels opened fire on the royal party and killed the emperor's valet who was at his side.

However, there seems to be no truth in that other

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Italian rumor that the Lion of Judah has shaved off his beard  
to disguise himself. The King of Kings reappearing in  
Addis still has that familiar royal beard. But now it's ~~is~~  
streaked with grey -- after the weeks of his ordeal of battle  
and disaster for Ethiopia.

Meanwhile the Italians are being held up by pouring  
rains.

## DERBY

Since May Day doesn't provide us with any excitement, let's look at tomorrow. And that takes us from labor affairs to sports -- horse racing. For tomorrow as a few million people know is Kentucky Derby Day.

Tonight all over the country addicts of horse racing are wrangling and debating -- deep in their annual task of trying to pick a winner in the American Classic. At Churchill Downs, leading sporting celebrities will watch the competition of flying hoofs. There's Colonel Bradley, the Dean of the Derby - grand magnifico of Bradley's Casino at Palm Beach. He understands the vagaries of chance. Having had the rare distinction of having won three times in the Kentucky Classic - and one of these times he experienced the full blow of an illusion shattered. He always has two entries in the race. That year one of them looked like a sure winner. The other was a rank outsider. The Colonel plunged his money on the favorite. When the race was run, everything looked exactly according to form -- that is until the very end. The favorite was running ahead, seemed to be winning easily. Thundering

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behind him came another horse, overtaking the favorite,  
passing the favorite -- and winning the race. It was Colonel  
Bradley's rank outsider. So he had won the Derby, but with  
the wrong horse. His money was on the other one. So he won  
and lost.



## CHESS

And now the sports news of the day comes to a climax. I suppose it should be that, with word of the tournament that is deciding the United States championship in that venerable and highbrow game -- chess. Right now they're fighting it out to see who will be the American Chess Champion. But that news hasn't made the wild headlines. Nobody paying the slightest attention.

They're selecting a successor to Frank Marshall, who is something of a legendary figure. With his hawk nose and his peering eyes he was the champion for many a long year. Marshall retired some time ago, gave up his title, saying he had been champion long enough, and the younger fellows should have a chance.

Now the younger fellows are getting their chance, with kings and pawns, checkmates and stalemates, in New York. (Today's figures show Israel Horowitz and George Treysman tied for the lead.) However they've got a long way to go, many more games to play and a chess game is a study in slow motion.

BULL FIGHTER

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The next sport on the program is bull fighting. Today, the New York Supreme Court handed down a decision which puts money into the pockets of that celebrated toreador from Brooklyn, Sidney Franklyn. And all because somebody making a motion picture also made a bull.

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A one-reel <sup>or</sup> on sports was turned out, and in it were scenes of the career of Sidney Franklyn, the only American who ever achieved renown wielding cape and sword in the bull rings of Spain. The commentator, in speaking the monologue for the picture, grew a bit facetious, as movie commentators are likely to do. And he gayly enunciated the following sentence: "Now, folks, meet Sidney Franklyn, one of the greatest bull throwers - I mean bull fighters - born under the sunny skies of Brooklyn." Sidney Franklyn didn't like that. It was an insult. So he went to Court and sued for three hundred thousand dollars. He said the wise-crack about his being a bull thrower was libel, because he could prove that he was a real toreador, and had actually fought bulls in the full regalia and ceremony of the Plaza de ~~la Toros~~ <sup>los Toros,</sup>

And the court agreed with him, and returned a verdict

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in his favor. The case was appealed and once more Sidney Franklyn won. It went on to the highest court in New York State, and today the verdict was sustained. The American toreador doesn't get the three hundred thousand dollars he sued for. The verdict was for five thousand dollars. That's what it costs when a movie makes a bull and gets <sup>throwing</sup> mixed up with fighting.

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Come to think about it, I'd better not take any more chances tonight.  
So - solving until Monday.