

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1936.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

All over the land they're ringout out the old and ringing in the new, and they're doing it largely with the clinking of coin. Once more the holiday story is told most graphically in terms of money and booming business. Philadelphia chimes in with an estimate of seven million dollars. that much to be spent in celebrating the New Year! Chicago is looking forward to a four million dollar night, ushering in Nineteen Thirty-Seven. In New York the crowds right now are swelling along Broadway and Times Square. Six hundred policemen are on special duty to keep the jubilation within the bounds of public order. At some of the Broadway hot spots the revellers are being soaked a twenty dollar cover charge - just revel in that! It takes us right back to the hectic days of Nineteen Twenty-Eight when there seemed no limit to the sucker's ability to take it - or rather give it.

One sumptuous party for New Year is being staged at

Lexington, Kentucky. There a thousand celebrants will commemorate not only <sup>the</sup> New Year but a Birthday Party - a doggy affair, a horsey affair, a thoroughbred. They're toasting the birthday of the oldest living thoroughbred in the world, the famous old race horse - "Ballot". How old is the oldest thoroughbred? On the birthday-cake, thirty-three lighted candles will gleam, and thirty-three is a lot of candles for a horse.

## NAVIES

The stroke of midnight, the blowing of whistles, the shouts and all the noise-making that usher in Nineteen Thirty-Seven, will also be a signal for a clanging of steel - the naval race. With the passing of Nineteen Thirty-Six, there also <sup>will</sup> ~~passed~~ those celebrated Treaties according to which the sea powers of the earth restricted their arrays of warships and the bristling of big guns. Now, they'll all start building, <sup>another</sup> ~~in a~~ competition of strength on the ocean. (Japan, Russia, Germany and Italy are in the naval race with all the ambition their finances will allow. France is laying down four battleships and a flock of destroyers. Our own program calls for two sea giants and many ~~other~~ smaller craft.)

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The most active contender in the naval race is - Great Britain. And here, singularly enough, we find another reminiscence of the royal romance. Everything in England seems to have a way of evoking <sup>remembrance</sup> ~~reminiscences~~ of that renowned constitutional crisis. What have superdreadnaughts and cannon of great calibre to do with the drama of the King and the woman

he loved? It's this way. Among the hundred odd warships that England will start building with the crack of Nineteen Thirty-Seven, are two super-giants. They've been planned for some time now, right down to the last blueprint. Even their names were selected ~~at~~ some time ago, when it was decided to call the two great battleships - "King George" and the "Prince of Wales." I don't know if the lords of the admiralty have decided ~~xxxx~~ on any change, but H.M.S., the Prince of Wales, will have a moody sound - recalling that Prince Charming who became a romantic king and now is a duke in exile.

EUROPE

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It's a common thing for ~~the~~ European <sup>difficulties</sup> ~~conditions~~ to be veiled in doubt and uncertainty. Tonight the doubt is rather more uneasy, the uncertainty rather more perplexing -- than ever. During the last couple of days we have been hearing insistent reports that Mussolini was drawing out of the Spanish tangle and lining up with Paris and London for non-intervention. Tonight we have reports ~~rather~~ to the contrary -- stories of Italian troops being sent to Spain. In one case the name of a steamer is mentioned and <sup>the</sup> harbor from which it sailed, and also the number of troops it carried -- thirty-five hundred. The rumor states that the pretense was made that the ship and soldiers were bound for East Africa -- Ethiopia -- but they were really on their way to join up with General Franco. They say there have been other sailings on the q.t., secret sending of soldiers from obscure Italian ports. In Rome all of this was denied today -- and called "evil propaganda".

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On the German side, the doubt and uncertainty takes the form of no news. It is not known what the German Foreign Secretary said to the ambassadors of France and Great Britain, but it is strongly intimated that Hitler ~~ix~~ has not made up his mind! — no decision.

CHINA

It's an old and worn out observation that the Chinese do everything backwards. The men wear robes and the women wear trousers. They start dinner with the desert and end with the soup. They wear white for mourning, and rejoice at funerals. It's equally trite and done to death to quote Bret Hart's line:-

"For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain,  
The heathen Chinese is peculiar."

But nevertheless, all those chestnuts are ~~made exceedingly~~  
~~applicable~~ to the point ~~by the news~~ today.

( At Nanking they played the last act of the weird drama of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and the rebellious Marshal Chang. The Marshal was put on trial and sentenced today. The Military Affairs Commission of the Central Chinese government returned a verdict of - guilty. ) Guilty of <sup>n</sup> eight charges - <sup>eight</sup> all concerned with Marshal Chang's exploit of seizing the head of the government and holding him a prisoner in an attempt to force a war with Japan. "Sentenced to be shot at sunrise", might seem to be a moderate penalty for such outrageous conduct. ( The )

sentence, however, is ten years in prison, and ~~it's likely~~  
~~that~~ even that <sup>is likely to</sup> ~~will~~ be called off, <sup>the culprit to</sup> ~~that he'll~~ go scot free.)

One point held in his favor is that he not only turned the Generalissimo ~~loose~~ loose, but himself returned voluntarily to Nanking to take his punishment. Another thing for which he can be thankful is the attitude of (his victim - Chiang Kai-shek ~~who~~ recommends - mercy.) You'd think the head of the government would be good and sore, after being suddenly captured by a rebel general and held a prisoner while all China had a spasm of astonishment and indignation. But Chiang Kai-shek takes another view of it - the Chinese view, another illustration of doing things backwards. (He declares that he himself was in part to blame for the ~~Marshall's~~ Marshall's amazing misdeed. He was at fault, he explains, because he failed in imposing discipline upon his subordinate officer. So he has twice made the offer to resign his offices and dignities, in expiation - punishing himself for Marshal Chang's offense.)

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It reminds me of an episode I read about once in a Chinese history. There was an emperor who was going to the dogs, carousing all the time with wine and slave girls. He filled his palace with beauties and neglected affairs of state. What did his wife do, his empress? She considered her husband's misdemeanors, took ~~account~~ <sup>account</sup> of all the slave girls and palace beauties - and ~~she~~ <sup>then</sup> condemned herself to jail, herself to a dungeon. She said it was all her own fault - because she had failed to make herself charming enough to keep her husband away from the slavegirls and palace beauties. Yes, ~~that's~~ a Chinese puzzle, and <sup>a</sup> Chinese wife.

Today, we find something the same in the conclusion of that fantastic affair of Chiang Kai-shek and Marshal Chang - the head of the government accusing himself of having failed to keep his subordinate in proper discipline. (Anyway, the word is that Chiang Kai-shek is likely to commute the prison sentence, call off the punishment, and grant the Marshal a full pardon - and maybe take him on a vacation.)



## OPIUM

The news tells of another amazing Chinese way of doing things in roundabout fashion. The stroke of the New Year tonight has been announced as a signal for another kind of stroke -- the splicing swish of the executioner's sword. According to what we've been hearing, there will be many a beheading in China, either that -- or a wholesale reform, the reform of all the dope fiends in the celestial land. The hundreds of thousands of Chinese who hit the pipe, have been warned to give up the delights of opium -- or they will be executed. They've been given until the first of the year, tonight at midnight to mend their narcotic ways -- if not, off goes your head. The Nanking government not only announces this again, with emphasis, but illustrates the warning with a grim and threatening display - a display of coffins. Hundreds of coffins have been put on public view in the Chinese cities, as a warning to the addicts of drugged dreams.

That seems a mighty drastic way of curing the opium habit, by killing everybody who has it. Killing the trade by

killing the customers.

Here's the twister. There's no threat tonight of decapitating the merchants who sell the forbidden drug -- although they violate a stringent law. How come? The Chinese authorities speak up with that familiar word - Japan. They claim that the drug merchants are mostly Koreans, and Koreans are Japanese subjects; protected by Tokyo.

They can't do anything to the Japanese protected sellers of the drug -- the only thing that remains is to put pressure on the Chinese buyers. Chinese pressure -- the sharp edge of a sword. However, I don't imagine the event will be as bloodthirsty as the announcement. I suppose that the ferocious promise of executions and the gloomy spectacle of the coffins, is intended to frighten the smokers of the pipe -- and persuade them to reform. In it all there seems to be less of grim reality than of the Far Eastern fantastic.

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At Rome and the Vatican -- a happy New Year. That is --  
much happier than had been expected. After all the grave  
reports about the condition of Pope Pius the Eleventh, the news  
now turns favourable. Last ~~hi~~ night the aged Pontiff enjoyed  
a peaceful sleep -- the best for ten days. The agonizing pains  
in his legs have eased -- and there's a returning hope for his  
recovery.

— 0 —  
And now Neel I'll pause a  
moment while you express your  
New Year greetings to our Sunoco  
audience.

KIDNAPPING

In the Tacoma kidnapping -- nothing tangible to report. There are rumors ~~that~~ that the ~~xx~~ twenty-eight thousand dollar ransom has been paid -- although ~~it's doubtful~~ *it probably isn't so.*

We are told one exceedingly intangible thing -- that the parents of little Charlie Matson seem ~~more cheerful~~ *less anxious* today.

And from that the guess is made -- ~~that~~ *perhaps* they have reason to expect ~~that~~ the boy will be returned ~~to them~~ soon. Otherwise, there is merely a blank nothing to report in this vicious mystery of kidnapping, this anxious drama ~~of~~ *of* waiting.

NAMES

*New Year* at noon today --  
I attended a baptism ~~a~~ a baptism of a hotel. And

I wondered -- how do hotels get their names. In this case it was "The Bryant".

"Is this" I asked "because of devotion to the poet William Cullen Bryant and his stately verse"?

"No," Manager Vilsack told me. No inspiration from Thanatopsis. "We got the name from the telephone book", said he. They just went down the list of telephone centrals and picked Bryant.

I talked to Emerson Owen, Editor of the Hotel Red Book. "Most hotels", said he, "are named after the owner, the man that puts up the money -- like the Willard, <sup>in Wash.,</sup> The Waldorf-Astoria, <sup>in N.Y.</sup> ~~and~~ the Palmer House <sup>in Chicago,</sup> ~~the~~ and so on.

We reminisced about odd hotel names across the country. The Tallcorn Hotel at Marshalltown, Iowa, the Lamp Post at Altoona, Pennsylvania, the Indian Queen at Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. There is the Grim Hotel at ~~Texas~~ <sup>Arkana,</sup> Texas. At Tulsa, Oklahoma it's the Bliss. New York used to have the Bull's Head Hotel.

MOVIE

It seems that bank nights are okay -- at least the New York State Court of Appeals has pronounced them legal. There <sup>has</sup> been a fight to stop those prize-drawing events in motion picture theatres -- legal proceedings against <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ Neighborhood Theatre in Rochester. The prosecutor used these words: "The most pernicious and far-reaching of all forms of gambling." But the judges thought <sup>h</sup> ~~o~~ otherwise and said the movie soiree of chance does not violate the New York State Anti-Lottery ~~is~~ law.

~~So~~ That's news <sup>for</sup> ~~to~~ motion pictures <sup>theatres</sup> all over the country.

Four thousand out of fifteen thousand movie houses in the United States pack-'em-in on bank nights.

The idea started four years ago in Colorado, where theatre managers began placing large books in their lobbies. The customers could enter their names opposite numbers in the book. Then on bank night there was a drawing. The lucky number was selected and the lucky winner paid off with the prize money. The question of legality hinges around the fact that the customer doesn't buy any ticket in the game. He merely ~~a~~ hands in his money at the box office for a ticket to the show. And today the New York State Court of Appeals said that ~~that~~ was okay.

## FOOTBALL

This is the night of the flowing bowl, while tomorrow will be a day of various other bowls -- the Rose Bowl, the Sugar Bowl, Orange, Sun, Cotton and Bacardi Bowl.

The Rose Bowl is at Pasadena -- Pittsburgh tossing rose petals at Washington. The Sugar Bowl is at New Orleans, where Santa Clara and Louisiana will attract the sugar at the gate. The Orange Bowl at Miami where Duquesne will try to squeeze the juice out of Mississippi. The Sun Bowl is at El Paso, Texas, where Hardin-Simmons and Texas Mines will fight for an exceedingly small place in the sun. The Cotton Bowl is at Dallas, Texas, with Texas Christian refusing to cotton to Marquette and vice versa. Yes, there's even a Bacardi Bowl. And you can guess where it is -- Havana. There Auburn and Villa Nova will stagger through four quarters.

At San Francisco it's not the case of a bowl -- just an ordinary football game, the All-East and All-West stars -- plus Larry Kelley. As Damon Runyan says if they'll just give Kelley one other man to help him, he'll win the game!

At the recent meeting of the great minds of college

athletics there was a good deal of criticism of these bowl games -- statements that they were just steaming up the old football demon - "over-emphasis". Complaints that they were stimulating that other football incubus -- professionalism. Tomorrow's schedule shows the bowl games to be a regular epidemic -- just bowling along.



ENDING

And now if that New York Central train doesn't  
bowl off and leave me I'll be bowling on my way to the  
Adirondacks for some Winter Sports in this summery  
New Year weather - and to crown Soglow King of the  
Winter Carnival. Well, Happy New Year, and SO LONG  
UNTI L MONDAY.