

Sun. Tall

Good Evening, Everybody:

As Mark Twain once observed, the weather is still giving us plenty to talk about. A serious aspect of this

invasion of Jack Frost is that throughout the United States no

less than eighty people ~~are~~ have perished within the last 48 hours as a result.

~~One of~~ The <sup>most</sup> dramatic features of the cold wave <sup>story</sup> ~~today~~ is the search for <sup>those</sup> ten missing people, <sup>the</sup> eight men and two

women, who are somewhere on Long Island Sound in a schooner being

driven <sup>no man</sup> ~~God~~ knows whither, by the gale. Six airplanes of the

New York National Guard are circling round and round the Sound

under the direction of no less distinguished an aviator than my friend

Clarence Chamberlain, looking for this missing thirty foot schooner.

In addition ~~to~~ <sup>lads</sup> the Coast Guard along ~~both~~ the Connecticut and

~~the North Shore of~~ Long Island <sup>shores</sup> are scanning the waves for some

sign of the craft. Furthermore, seven Coast Guard Cutters, three

private planes, and a score of private <sup>speed boats</sup> ~~craft~~ are aiding in the

search. Motor cars manned by keen-eyed observers with binoculars are patrolling the roads north and south of the Sound.

It is feared that the schooner with ~~its cargo~~<sup>the</sup> of eight men and two women may be lost. Fishermen wise to the ways of the wind-swept Sound declare that if she were afloat she would surely have been sighted from the air before this.

Another spectacular feature of the cold wave occurred at a million dollar fire of a grain elevator in Chicago. It took hundreds of firemen seven hours in zero weather to bring the flames under control. The temperature was so low that the water from the hose froze before it could reach the flames. Several lengths of the firemen's hose were <sup>actually</sup> frozen stiff.

A sad feature of the cold wave was the spectacle of the myriads of people in the large cities driven to seek refuge in over-crowded Municipal lodging houses. The latest ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ communique from the Weather Bureau is that Jack Frost's fingers will relax somewhat, but in consequence snow will probably blanket

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the Atlantic seaboard, ~~which has up to now been immune.~~

Southwest winds, says Uncle Sam through the mouths of his weather prophets, will warm up the mercury in your thermometer and make the temperature rise.

FOLLOW WEATHER

Excuse me a moment. Somebody <sup>is</sup> giving me a Bronx cheer. Two telegrams have just been handed to me. One comes from the Coal Dealers Association of Springfield, Massachusetts, and it reads as follows: "Your Monday night's blizzard news story certainly qualifies you for highest office in Tall Story Club. Stop. We respectfully nominate you for nothing less than Chairman of the Board." My reply to this is -- and I hope Ed Wynn will forgive me -- Dear Coal Dealers of Springfield, Massachusetts: I am already the Grand Giraffe of the Tall Story Club."

Another rude telegram signed by John ~~Woolrich~~ Woolrich, of Woolrich, Pennsylvania, <sup>is couched</sup> in these words: "You should join the Tall Story Club as your <sup>predicted</sup> ~~predicted~~ blizzard has not arrived as yet. Stop. Kindly rush same as we are in the woolen business."

*Here's my reply:-*  
All right. <sup>^</sup> Dear John Woolrich: Regret exceedingly

your order for blizzard not filled as per specifications. Stop.

Evidently you have so much woolen goods on hand that you use ~~some~~

for ear muffs when listening to broadcast. Stop. When it comes to

prophesies on blizzards, I pass the buck to Uncle Sam's Weather

*Stop.*  
Bureau. <sup>^</sup> Am using my influence with Jack Frost and, if no

blizzard <sup>^</sup> ready for immediate shipment, hope to deliver at least

one full sized snowstorm. If this not satisfactory, why don't you use

*the old bean and*  
~~you~~ go into the electric fan business. Signed *yours truly Grand Giraffe.*  
~~Lowell Thomas~~

~~There's one advantage to these radio jobs. They~~

~~sometimes save you telegraph tolls.~~

## EXPLOSION

A disaster occurred in Germany today which had nothing to do with politics. In the basin of the River Saar some two dozen ~~thousands~~ towns and villages were convulsed by a shock that broke windows, shook foundations, and terrified the population. The people were afraid it was a recurrence of Wednesday's heavy earthquake. The real cause was the explosion of a huge gas reservoir. The first reports indicated that at least a ~~thousand~~ hundred people were killed, and many more injured.

The comedy of that mutinous Dutch battleship in the Java Seas took a tragic turn today. The officers of the pursuing war ships of the Netherlands fleet decided that the ~~the~~ <sup>farce</sup> ~~comedy~~ had gone ~~on long~~ <sup>far</sup> enough and that they could stand no more nonsense. It took just one bomb from a naval airplane to end that mutiny.

The pursuing fleet consists of a cruiser, two destroyers and eight airplanes.

The cruiser and the destroyers threatened to open fire. The mutineers persisted in their defiance and refused to surrender. Then a seaplane flew over the mutineers and dropped a small bomb alongside. The reply of the mutineers <sup>by radio</sup> was:- "Don't bother us." The bombing plane then dived down and flying low over the battleship released a hundred pound bomb.

It scored a direct hit killing eighteen and wounding twenty-five, — ~~including~~ <sup>and</sup> Europeans as well as Sumatran ~~natives~~.

The mutineers then realised, as those in the Chilean Navy did about a year ago, that it <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ hopeless to buck against bombing airplanes. <sup>So</sup> They <sup>or</sup> surrendered; and that ends the ~~comedy~~ <sup>tragi-comedy</sup>.

108 YEARS OLD

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AS I CAME IN THE DOOR JUST A MOMENT AGO I  
RAN INTO FOUR RADIO SINGERS-- "THE SOUTHERNAIRES." I'M  
GOING TO BE LISTENING TO THEM SUNDAY MORNING AT TEN O'CLOCK,  
JUST BEFORE I GO TO ~~XXX~~ CHURCH. WHY? BECAUSE THE OLDEST  
MAN IN AMERICA IS GOING TO BE WITH THEM ON THE AIR, AN OLD  
NEGRO PREACHER, REVEREND MOSES ALLEN, BORN IN 1824. THAT  
MEANS HE IS 108 YEARS OLD. REVEREND MOSES ALLEN HAS BEEN  
PREACHING EVER SINCE HE WAS EMANCIPATED. IN FACT HE SAYS  
HE WAS ALMOST BORN A-PREACHIN', 'CAUSE HE GOT RELIGION WHEN  
HE WAS NINE YEARS OLD. THAT MEANS HE'S BEEN ~~KXXX~~ FIGHTIN'  
SIN FOR ALMOST A HUNDRED YEARS.



Dictator:

Here is an interesting historic development of political and economic events. (They are saying in Washington today that the powers which Congress is being asked to give to President-elect Roosevelt after his inauguration have in many respects the aspect of a dictatorship.) A remarkable fact is that <sup>was until recently - in fact until today -</sup> there ~~is~~ <sup>^</sup> <sup>^</sup> so little opposition to this movement. The principal objection comes from President Hoover. Republican leaders in Congress are quoting the President as being decidedly opposed to the plans of the Democrats to give his successor <sup>sweeping</sup> ~~all these~~ <sup>^</sup> powers.

It intrigued me considerably to observe that Walter Lippmann, usually a staunch upholder of the Democratic idea, in his article of today frankly recognizes the fact that they are proposing to give Mr. Roosevelt extraordinary <sup>authority.</sup> ~~powers.~~ And he says in so many words that it is necessary. ~~Mr.~~ Lippmann speaks for a large section of the population whose view is that we are face to face with an emergency and that Congress ~~is~~ as now organized is incompetent to deal with a crisis. It is necessary, therefore, to have somebody with extraordinary powers to

organize and ~~first~~ direct legislation. In other words these are extraordinary times and extraordinary measures must be adopted to <sup>cope</sup> ~~cope~~ with them.

A tide of opposition <sup>has arisen</sup> ~~has arisen~~ also in the Senate - *opposition* to the drastic plans which will give Mr. Roosevelt practically a fiscal dictatorship of the Federal government. At the same time the proposal has strong support. Speaker Garner, Vice-president elect, is one of the foremost advocates of the idea. When newspaper men questioned him today he was described as absolutely irritated. Said Mr. Garner:- "I am not going to tell you what the proposal is in advance so that you can go out and stir up opposition to it." Then Mr. Garner expressed himself:- "I want to see the expenses of the Federal Government reduced," he said, "It seems plain that Congress is not going to do it. Therefore, we ought to <sup>allow</sup> ~~allow~~ the President to have the power and I am in favor of giving it to him."

FOLLOW DICTATOR

A still more astounding piece of news is that one of the states of the Union has gone frankly for <sup>the Mussolini idea.</sup> ~~a dictatorship.~~

That state is Indiana. It has given its governor, Paul ~~McNutt~~ McNutt, former national commander of the American Legion, powers which can be described in no other terms than those of a constitutional dictatorship. Governor McNutt has been given absolute control of eight departments, departments newly erected, which are to replace about one hundred existing boards and commissions. In addition to this he has absolute power to hire and fire any state employe<sup>e</sup> except officers of the courts. Into the bargain he has complete authority to group and regroup, transfer and re-transfer at any time and without check, the administrative agencies of the government of Indiana. As the New York Sun points out, this makes him governor in fact as well as in name. *Well, that's something to think about.*

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These developments help to emphasize what extraordinary times we are living in.)

Regardless of their hardships, they are of immense historical interest.

SUNOCO TALL

I've had a letter on my desk for sometime from an  
old schoolmate, Bob Sigafoos, <sup>the Primo Carnera of my Ohio school days.</sup>  
~~Bob~~ <sup>A good deal of water has passed</sup>

<sup>were those canal boats.</sup>  
under the bridge since Bob and I ~~cribbed~~ <sup>cribbed</sup> each other's exam papers.

He's a successful <sup>orthodontologist</sup> ~~dentist~~ <sup>Bob</sup> now in Columbus, Ohio. ~~He~~ <sup>He</sup> tells me that

~~xx~~ among his patients are several university professors, as he

described them, "of one type or another." ~~Wix~~ Well, University

professors are like that. Bob had one of them in his chair the

other day with a tooth that needed to be extracted. "Professor",

said he, "will you have gas?" "Yes", replied the Professor

quickly, "Blue Sonoco and check the oil and water too." <sup>An Old</sup>  
~~whiskery~~ <sup>whiskery</sup> one, Bob — but still good. Anyhow,

If I hear no objections I'm going to send ~~my old~~  
~~friend~~ <sup>Dr.</sup> ~~Bob~~ <sup>the eminent orthodontologist of Columbus,</sup> Sigafoos, a copy of the Tall Story Book. ~~for that.~~

No objections? ~~heard~~ Motion's carried. ~~O. K. Professor~~

MRS. ROOSEVELT

Now for a ~~really~~ vital piece of news for the ladies. It is a description of the gown ordered by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt for the inauguration. Mrs. Roosevelt, whose first name as you doubtless know, is Eleanor, will wear a gown -- or is it <sup>twoilet</sup> a toilette -- I ~~never~~ could get the difference between a gown, a dress, and a toilette. At any rate, the duds Mrs. Roosevelt will wear will be crystelle velvet in a greyish blue shade that has been named Eleanor blue, as a special tribute to her. Here's Mrs. Roosevelt's own description of the dress, gown, toilette, or what ~~ever~~ <sup>you will.</sup> Said she: ~~It has a belt, and on the~~ "It has a belt, and on the belt I shall wear a jewelled buckle that was given me many years <sup>ago</sup> by Franklin's godmother, Miss Eleanor Blodgett. The coat will be of dark blue uncrushable velvet. With this will go a plain dark blue straw hat and dark blue kid shoes." Mrs. Roosevelt added: "The shoes will have to have low heels, for I expect I shall be standing most of the day."

At the inaugural ball Mrs. Roosevelt will wear a white

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brocaded gown. Incidentally, not a new one, a gown that she has worn to formal dinner parties in New York several times this winter.

And that let's me out for fashion notes as far as ~~this~~ *this* ~~week~~ *week* is concerned.

OPERA

Hundreds of thousands of people throughout the country have experienced a feeling of dismay at the news that (the Metropolitan Opera House is appealing for help in order to preserve its existence.) At first hearing this may sound to you like an item of local news affecting only New York, but actually it concerns a multitude of ~~xxx~~ people from the rest of the country who visit New York or hope to, ~~visit New York.~~

~~I can't say I am~~ <sup>not</sup> much of an opera fan: ~~the truth is I have~~ <sup>although I have</sup> attended them in Dresden, Vienna, Moscow, Berlin, London, Brussels, Paris, Rome, Milan, Naples, Malta, & Cairo — dragged by ~~the wife — and slept through them all.~~ <sup>very little time ~~xx~~ to go to the Opera. x So it is in the capacity</sup> of a non fan that I am now talking. There are two ways of looking

at the Opera. Its opponents ~~will~~ maintain it's a luxury. Its extreme advocates <sup>prefer it to — yes, even to food.</sup> ~~will talk about its cultural values.~~

2

From the point of view of a non-fan the thing that strikes me is that the Metropolitan Opera House is one of the institutions, one of the big institutions, that make New York what it is. Whether you like opera ~~music~~ or don't, I'm sure you will agree with me that New York would not be New York without the Metropolitan Opera House. So, even though I <sup>seldom</sup> ~~never~~ have a chance to

# RETAKE

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attend, here is one outside listener who hopes that the present appeal will be successful. Among other aspects of the situation is the fact that the closing of the Metropolitan Opera House would throw hundreds of people out of work.

Another aspect which directly concerns radio fans is that if the Met is forced to suspend you will ~~not~~ not hear those thrilling Saturday afternoon opera broadcasts. The performances simply won't take place, and the stars will have gone to other world capitals.

Another reason why the Met's appeal for funds should meet with generous response is, that (the Chairman of the Committee is that brilliant singing actress, that charming daughter of Spain, Lucrezia Bori. )

I am leaving tonight for Philadelphia, then on Saturday I'll be over in central Pennsylvania, at State College. I expect to find the boys up there all on skis.

That's State College, Pennsylvania, and cold weather suits me. But just to prove it isn't cold everywhere, William H. Browne, Professor of Electrical Engineering at North Carolina State College, Raleigh, writes me that crocus and daffodils are in bloom down there. He encloses a sprig of blossom from a shrub in front of his office. The last sentence in his letter reads: "I admit Monday morning was fresh in Raleigh. Every one seemed to have a whiff of Blue Sunoco. But as for severe weather, Raleigh is the nearest place to Paradise I know of."

One of the Mogul emperors of India once said of the Vale of Kashmir, "If there be a paradise on earth, it is this, it is this, it is this." But the Great Mogul evidently was mistaken. He should have said, "If there be a paradise on earth, it is Raleigh, it is Raleigh, it is Raleigh." To which I add, "Three rahs for Raleigh, and so long until Sunday."