

SKIS

Lowell Thomas Broadcast
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Good Evening, Everybody:

1 Well, for the first time in history
2 a man has walked across the English
3 Channel---yes, walked. He wore a pair
4 of water skis. They are contraptions
5 which you wear on your feet and they keep
6 you afloat and you sort of slide along
7 on the surface of the sea.

8 The Associated Press gives the name
9 of the man who walked across the English
10 Channel as Karl Naumestnik, an Austrian.
11 He started out from the French shore.

12 ~~He started walking~~ On and on he shuffled,
13 sliding across the choppy waves of one of
14 the nastiest bits of water in the world.
15 ~~But waves or no waves, he kept those~~
16 ~~water skis on either foot of his, sliding~~
17 ~~along.~~

18 A fishing boat followed him--just in
19 case. ~~anything happened.~~ But he didn't
20 need any help. Although it was one hard,
21 fatiguing trip.

22 The man who walked on the water didn't
23 eat anything on the way, because he was
24 afraid of being sea-sick. When he got to
25 the English coast he could just barely

stagger over the waves

1 ~~strike~~ to the shore. ~~He was that weak.~~

2 And the first thing he said was--"Give
3 me 'a glass of water". I suppose he needed
4 it after walking his way across that old
5 English Channel famous in song and story ~~for~~
6 for its choppy cross-seas and all-round
7 mean disposition.

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1 The Statue of Liberty had a
2 visitor today. A huge flying boat
3 came down to the surface of the water
4 and landed in ~~the~~ New York harbor just
5 across from the big goddess that
6 stands as a symbol of freedom.

7 This marks the end of a long
8 trip which has had many delays.

9 A lot of us must have thought
10 the German flying boat, the biggest in
11 the world, would never get here. But
12 she did. She flew across the South
13 Atlantic ~~for~~ ^{to} South America, and then up
14 by gradual stages to New York, a *faunt of 12,000*
15 *miles.*

16 Germany's great aircraft put
17 on a show for the citizens of New York.
18 With sixty passengers aboard she took
19 a spin up the Hudson River to the top
20 of Manhattan and then turned around and
21 proceeded to ^{her} landing place opposite
22 the Statue of Liberty. ^{Hundreds of} Thousands of
23 people craned their necks and watched.

24 The International News Service
25 describes the DO-X in the air as
huge to look at, something like a ship

1 that is flying. She's a flying boat
2 with a big hull which has rows of
3 portholes along the sides, and these add
4 to the impression she gives of a ship
5 that has sprouted wings and taken to
6 the sky.

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1 An interesting bit of comment upon
2 the formation of the new cooperative
3 cabinet in England is seen in a bit of
4 financial news that comes from Wall Street
5 today.

6 American bankers are arranging for
7 a ^{Two}~~200~~ hundred million dollar loan to
8 Great Britain.

9 ~~International News Service~~ ^{The I. N. S.} tells us
10 that this big amount of money will be
11 ~~not~~ put up by various American
12 financial institutions and will be
13 passed along as a loan, which England
14 needs to tide her over the financial
15 crisis.

PORTUGAL

The report tonight is that the casualties in the Portuguese uprising are forty killed and one hundred wounded.

The United Press describes an artillery battle in Portugal which raged as government troops attacked a force of rebels in the village of Caneza near Lisbon. The rebels fortified themselves in the town. The government placed cannon on the surrounding hills and blazed away. Tonight Lisbon is under martial law. The revolution is said to be squelched.

POPULATION

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1 About three miles northeast of
2 the town of Linton, Indiana, which
3 isn't so far from Terra Haute, there is
4 a point in an open space of farming
5 country. Nobody lives at that particular
6 point. It's in a field. It is,
7 nevertheless, the center of population
8 in the United States.

9 The International News Service
10 passes on to us today figures given out
11 by the census bureau which tell us that
12 if you consider the density of population
13 for the whole country and average it *up,*
14 ~~off,~~ you'll find that the dead center
15 is at that bit of Indiana farm land.

16 During the past ten years the
17 population has moved nearly twenty-two
18 and a half miles to the west, and a
19 little more than seven and a half miles
20 to the south. In 1920 it was located
21 near Spencer, Indiana.

22 The meaning of it all is that
23 the population of the United States is
24 still moving westward, and it's also
25 traveling a bit to the south.

1 Chicago police are still looking
2 for Scarface Al Capone, but meanwhile
3 John J. Lynch, the wealthy California
4 racehorse man, has returned home safe
5 and sound. And the belief is that
6 Capone made the arrangements according
7 to which the kidnappers who have been
8 holding Lynch a prisoner, were
9 satisfied, so that they turned him
10 loose.

11 The kidnappers demanded a
12 quarter of a million ransom, and the
13 story, as the Associated Press reminds
14 us, is that relatives of the missing
15 man went to Capone and asked him to do
16 something to help them. Apparently
17 the lord of the underworld must have
18 helped out quite a bit.

19 The police claim that the
20 relatives of the kidnapped man could
21 not raise a quarter of a million dollars.
22 The best they could do was fifty
23 thousand. And Capone persuaded the
24 kidnappers to be satisfied with that
25 sum, *so the police say.*

1 The idea of the authorities
2 is, that according to law the Big Shot
3 is supposed to tell what he knows
4 about the kidnapers. And that's why
5 they want to arrest him.

6 Lynch upon his return denies
7 all knowledge of the ransom part of
8 it, and merely declares that the
9 kidnapers treated him well. *The United*
10 *Press states that a couple of St. Louis*
11 *gunmen are suspected.*
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PRISON

Page 10

1 *have just*
2 They [^] had a desperate outbreak
3 in the state prison at Marquette,
4 Michigan. First it was feared that
5 there would be a general uprising among
6 the prisoners, but this did not
7 materialize. Just the same, there was
8 an outburst of shooting and killing,
9 but the outbreak was confined to four
10 convicts.

11 Three of these, as related by
12 an Associated Press story, tried a
13 desperate plan to escape. They went
14 to the prison hospital. This is near
15 the main gate and the convicts hoped
16 to make a ~~break out~~. In their
17 desperate attempt they coldbloodedly
18 shot down a prison physician, Dr. A.
19 W. Hornbogen. *says the United Press.* Then followed a pistol
20 battle, [^] A trusty was shot down and
21 badly wounded. A warden was clipped
22 by a bullet, but not seriously hurt.
23 The guards drove the three desperate
24 convicts back into an industrial
25 building where they barricaded themselves.
 Then an attack with tear gas bombs was

1 made. The infuriated convicts were
2 trapped, and they carried their desperation
3 to the last. They turned their pistols
4 on themselves. Each committed suicide.

5 A little while later, after
6 quiet~~x~~ had been restored, another convict
7 ~~who seems to have taken no part in the~~
8 ~~attempt to escape,~~ drew a pistol and
9 fired ~~at~~ a guard. He missed. Then he
10 immediately shot and~~x~~ killed himself.
11 ~~The authorities think that he must have~~
12 ~~planned to make his escape.~~

13 The International News Service
14 connects this prison outbreak with the
15 recent death of a convict in the
16 institution. His name was Ed Wiles, and
17 he declared: "If I die in this hole my
18 pals will wreck the place." Some seem
19 to think that the shooting today was an
20 attempt to carry out that prophecy, an
21 attempt of his pals to go ahead and
22 wreck the place.

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1 ~~Over here in the United States~~
2 ~~we, of course, have a crime situation,~~
3 But let's go to a romantic island where
4 they also have a crime situation. It
5 sounds like a page out of an old novel,
6 because the island is Corsica, whose
7 brigands have been famous for
8 generations.

9 The boss brigand of ~~the~~ Corsica
10 just now is a desperado named Cavigoli.
11 Not long ago the French authorities
12 hunted down and killed the famous
13 Romanetti who had terrorized the island
14 for many a year. They thought that would
15 end the bandit situation. But this
16 Cavigoli seems to be able to fill the
17 shoes of the ~~king~~ legendary Romanetti.

18 The Paris correspondent of the
19 New York Evening Post cables ~~today~~ and
20 tells how Cavigoli's bandit gang raided
21 a popular seaside resort. They stalked
22 into the town with revolvers in their
23 hands and their belts stuffed with
24 ammunition. They went to a big hotel and
25 told the manager that unless they got

1 four ~~xxx~~ hundred dollars they would
2 kill everybody inside and burn the place.
3 The manager promised to get the money
4 but proceeded to barricade the door.
5 He shouted to the guests to close the
6 shutters of their windows. He expected
7 to hold out until help came. One hotel
8 guest was curious. He went to a window
9 and looked out. He was immediately
10 shot down.

11 The bandits laid siege to the
12 hotel and stayed there until they got
13 tired. Then they went around to the other
14 hotels of the town. In these cases the
15 managers didn't have so much spunk. They
16 paid up. The bandits remained in
17 possession of the seaside resort for
18 hours, just as if they were military
19 invaders. Then they decamped to their
20 native hills.

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DIGEST

Now listen folks those of you who like the odd and the thrilling and the exciting. Just take a look at a couple of pictures in this week's Literary Digest. They're on page 30. They show a terrific battle between a snapping turtle and a big water snake.

The Digest tells us that the struggle began when a five foot water snake meandering peacefully along happened to pass slithering over what looked like a rock. But suddenly the rock came to life. A head and a long neck darted out. It was a snapping turtle, a pugnacious fighter in a swamp near Narraganset Bay, Massachusetts. Yes, that darting head had a pair of snapping jaws which instantly ~~se~~ seized hold of the snake's back at about the middle, and that's what the first picture in the Digest shows.

The story is quoted from the Philadelphia Public Ledger. Lynn M. Chase, a naturalist, which a camera, was nearby when the battle began. He watched every move of it and snapped those remarkable pictures you see in this week's Digest.

When that snapping turtle grabbed hold of the water snake there was one tremendous burst of swirling action. The snake writhed like mad. He flung his sinuous coils around the armored body of the snapping turtle. The snapping turtle just held on like grim death. Then the snake tried to bite. Again and again with lightning speed he struck the turtle's back. The snake found there wasn't any use trying to bite that hard surface. And that seemed to lash him into desperation. He made a wild and terrific effort, beating the ground with his ~~ix~~ sleek, muscular body, and, flip, he turned the snapping turtle right over on his back. But that didn't make any difference. The snapping turtle just held on.

The second photograph in the Literary Digest shows us that critical stage of the battle, the turtle on his back with the snake writhing around him.

And now the water snake began to get some idea of strategy. The coils found the snapping turtle's neck and now the snake wound itself around. He began to strangle the snapping turtle. And now it was time for the turtle to do something. Still keeping the snake clamped between his jaws Old Mr. Snapping Turtle

turned himself over right side up. The snake was still coiled around his neck and drawing those coils tighter and tighter. The turtle began to use his claws. The sharp points on the short broad feet were tearing and ripping along the snake's back. And that made old Mr. Reptile let go his hold.

Well, so the battle went on. The turtle time and again seized a new hold with his snapping jaws. He was gradually working his way up to the neck of the snake. The Literary Digest tells us how it all ended. Just guess who won.

1 I have a correction to make this
2 evening. I have been called down and
3 called down plenty.

4 It seems that I have disgraced the
5 Tall Story Club by being a trifle
6 inaccurate in some of my facts of
7 natural history.

8 The other night I told a story of a
9 fish ~~that~~ with one red eye and one green
10 eye, ~~and~~ ^{that} by closing one ^{and} then the other ^{he} ~~he~~
11 used them as stop and go signals for the
12 other fish.

13 Charles E. Wright, ex-historian of
14 the Duquesne Chapter of the Anglers Club,
15 of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, sends
16 in a highly scientific protest. He
17 himself is a member of the Tall Story Club
18 and he reminds me that a fish has no
19 eyelids and therefore can't close and open
20 its eyes. Nevertheless he doesn't deny
21 the main facts of that stop and go
22 signal.

23 He declares it couldn't have been
24 a fish. It must have been a large specimen
25 of the Fresh Water Electric Eel, which

1 is well-known in the Monongahela River,
2 especially in Turtle Creek.

3 This electric eel undoubtedly had
4 one green eye and one red eye. But
5 he wouldn't have to open or close an
6 eye. That electric eel just turns on
7 the juice or cuts off the juice and that
8 ~~would~~ cause^s the red eye to shine or the
9 green eye to shine.

10 Tall Story Teller Wright explains
11 how those Pennsylvania electric eels get
12 their electricity. They get it from
13 feeding on a plant, which occurs in that
14 locality. It is an electric plant. In
15 fact it is the Westinghouse ~~plant~~ plant.

16 Well, all I can do is make a deep
17 salaam and apologize for having said it
18 was a fish when it was one of those
19 electric eels that feed on the ~~Westing~~
20 Westinghouse plant.
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MEMORY

Page 20

1 Now wait a ~~xx~~ minute. I'd
2 better not forget this bit of news.
3 It's about memory. It tells us of a man
4 who it is claimed, has the most
5 remarkable memory in the world. He's
6 a ^{retired} professor of physics over in Italy.
7 His name is Dr. Mancini.

8 The good doctor has a marvelous
9 memory for all kinds of things, both
10 useful and useless. In a test he
11 rattled off all the stations that are
12 contained in all the time tables of
13 the Italian ^{rail} ~~air~~ways. He can reel off
14 the number of people in every town
15 or village in Italy. The doctor is
16 great on military statistics. He can
17 tell you the names of the officers of
18 every outfit in the Italian army. He
19 knows how many airplanes, how many
20 cannon, how many rifles there are in
21 Italy. And all sorts of things like
22 that.

23 And also he can tell you the
24 name of every mule in any artillery
25 unit of the Italian army - and I think

1 reeling off the names of those mules
2 is the most remarkable achievement of
3 all.

4 Yes, the doctor has a prodigious
5 memory, and a memory like that is a
6 wonderful thing - if you can find any
7 use for it.

8 Now wait a minute. I had another
9 remark to make at this point - let's
10 see if I can remember it. No, I'm
11 afraid I've forgotten, and so I'll
12 just say so long until tomorrow.

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