## LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1931

## VETERANS

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Today uniforms of gray appeared again in the South - at Montgomery, Alabama -- uniforms of gray and clouch hats that bring back shadows of old times and memories of a lost cause.

The 41st annual reunion of the Confederate veterans went into session today at Camp Stephens, near Montgomery, Alabama. The men who fought under Lee and Jackson have gathered to commemorate the days when they marched to the defense of their native states seventy years ago.

More than 500 Confederate veterans are at this year's reunion to tell the southern story of those heroic days. Their ranks are thinning fast, but still the veterans bear themselves bravely under their burden of years, as bravely as when they wore the uniform of gray in their stalwart youth.

Simultaneously the United Sons of Confederate Veterans are holding their thirty-sixth annual convention at Camp Stephens.

And they're showing the old fellows a great time. There's a band

concert nearly every hour, and vaudeville, and motion picture shows, and sight-seeing tours.

The Associated Press has referred to a rumor that this would be the last reunion of the Confederate veterans. The report is denied. The veterans are going to select a site for next year's convention. As one grizzled old fellow put it:-

"So long as there are two of us who can get together to raise the rebel yell, and so long as some southern city wants us, there'll be a reunion."

And that's the spirit; and there'll always be, not one southern city, but many southern cities to want them.

The men who fought in uniforms of gray are still full of fire and spirit. And tonight the rebel yell is ringing down in Alabama.

Here's an interesting coincidence:The Confederate veterans got their 41st
reunion under way in Alabama today -and in Washington, D.C., the Government
of the United States accepted a statue
of Jefferson Davis, president of the
Confederate States. The statue of Jeff
Davis is of bronze and is presented to
the federal government by the State of
Mississippi.

The Associated Press reminds us something of the brilliant career of Jefferson Davis, the leader of the lost cause. As a military officer he was a hero in the Mexican War. He was a Senator, and then became Secretary of War of the United States.

Then he led the movement of secession and stood opposite Abraham Lincoln in the war of the states.

Well, it's just another happy indication, when the statue of the leader of the Confederacy is placed there in Washington among the other important personalities of American history.

## JEFFERSON DAVIS - 2

It's a striking symbol of the reconciliation of the blue and the gray.

## AIR MANEUVERS

President Hoover expressed himself today regarding those recent air maneuvers. He wrote a letter of congratulation to Secretary of War Hurley. The President seemed to be highly pleased and referred to the whole affair as having been carried out with remarkable success.

A bit of important business news was given out in Washington today. The government announced that it will take no further steps to interfere with the gigantic merger of the Standard Oil Company of New York and the Vacuum Oil Company.

When the two huge organizations announced a merger the government filed suit. A decision in the lower courts was that the merger was 0. K. and the question was whether the government would appeal to the higher courts to stop the billion dollar merger.

Today's announcement was that no appeal would be taken, and so the huge merger can become an accomplished fact.

Mr. Goodhue, the financial expert for the International News
Service, called me up and pointed out to me the importance of this bit of financial news. He said that sometime ago
Attorney General Mitchell announced

that in enforcing the anti-trust laws, his department would abstain from doing anything that would be meddling with business, and now the government's decision not to appeal to the higher courts to stop the oil merger is right in line with that policy of not monkeying around with business.

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Yes, last night's prophesy was correct. It certainly looks as though Uncle Sam will be well represented in the British open championship golf tournament; The big tournament over in Scotland. Today the qualifying play came to a finish and the chief American stars were among the survivors. In fact, they came through with flying colors, especially that same MacDonald Smith who was the miracle man yesterday. 11 "Mac" Smith distinguished himself again today. He romped around the Carnoustie course in 71 strokes. Yesterday he made it in an even 70, and so for the entire qualifying play his figure stands at 141. And that beats the score of any other player.

The other Americans who qualified today were Farrell, Sarazen, Manero, Hunter, Horton Smith, Armour, Turnesa and Kirkwood.

One of the upsets came when H.C. Joll#y, the crack British golfer, was

eliminated. His total for the two qualifying rounds was 162, and any golfer who wants to play in the British open must make it in at least 161. So Jolly went out today by a margin of one stroke.

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Great Scott! Here's a kid who had an awful time of it, but thank goodness, he's safe and sound now.

The Associated Press states that for two days, in Rhode Island, a hunt has been going on for Albert Terranova, a seven-year old boy, of the town of Westerly.

The lad's father hunted for him day and night and today found him in the marshes Pawtucket.

The boy left a motion picture house at night, and bewildered--started off on the wrong direction. He wandered into the marshes and trudged along, hour after hour. Finally, he was exhausted and could go no further. When his father found him the lad was kneeling down in two feet of water. He couldn't stand up anymore, and was trying to crawl through the water and the mud.

Well, he's at home now. He's scratched up a bit and all played out, but they say he will be all right. And mighty glad there's a happy ending to that story.

I've often heard mention made of the woes of the children of the rich, the idea being--"pity the poor little rich boy".

But I've got a new slant on it from half a dozen anecdotes I've been reading. Here's one:

A private tutor in a millionaire's home was teaching the six-year-old afamily heir how to write. The little boy wasn't learning very well, and the tukor said to him:

"Now, Jack, you know how important it is to write well. Suppose you were writing an important letter--"

Right there Jack interrupted eagerly:

he piped.

"That's just it, "I wouldn't be writing an important letter. I'll have people to write them for me."

In the case of another rich little boy the tutor was on his neck all the time because of incredibly sloppy handwriting. The boy's father protestedm.

"Now really," he expostulated,

"don't you think you very much exaggerate the importante of handwiting in my son's case? He'll never have to write. He can hire secretaries to do it for him."

"But," replied the tutor, "you are very careful to have the boy learn his golf strokes carefully."

"That's entirely different," responded the father. "Good golf is essential for a business career."

That's the way Baby Billionaires are being raised--at least some of them. There's an article about in it in this week's Literary Digest. The Digest quotes from an article in the North American Review, in which James Noble Gifford discusses the strange case of some Baby Billionaires. The Digest gives us a number of the curious experiences of Mr. Gifford as a tutor. Take this one:

Mr. Gifford once happened to reveal to several Baby Billionaires the fact that he didn't own an automobile. The gilded infants gaped at him in amazement. A little boy and a little girl clapped their hands in delight at the novelty. And the little girl spoke up:

"Oh, that must be so nice. When you have to go to a store you just take a taxi, and you don't have to wait for the chauffeur to bring the car around."

Well, those stories give a bit of sober reality to the phrase--"pity the poor little rich boy".

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"Well, Don Manuel, Duke of Seville, and Count Cordova, you're not a Duke or a Count any longer" -- at least not officially in the eyes of the Republican government of Spain.

The Spanish cabinet has passed a decree abolishing titles of nobility. Any nobleman, if he signs an official paper, will have to write his name as merely a common citizen.

The International News Service reckons that there are about 26 hundred titled aristocrats in Spain right now. Hereafter they will be allowed to use their titles in private. This democratic move is costing the Spanish Republican government about 300 thousand dollars a year. Heretofore the government has levied a tax on titles. Every Duke or Count had to pay so much for the privilege of ranking above the common run of mankind. The new government has refused to keep the tax on titles going and figures that democratic equality is worth the 300 thousand dollars a year and maybe it is.

King Reports from Roumania indicate that the government has won a victory 3 at the polls. They've had an election 4 of deputies to the Roumanian 5 parliament.

The International News Service 7 cables that only about 60 per cent of 8 the voters cast their ballots, but of 9 those 60 a large majority voted for 10 King Carol's government.

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There are election returns from Egypt too, and the government has won out.

A dispatch to the United Press states that the Egyptians elected members to the national parliament, and that the regime and in power successfully put across a large majority of its candidates.

Many of us have wondered whether those great kings of old really had as much wealth as they're said to have had. History is full of the stories of the fabulous treasure of kings and Pharoahs,

Well, one of the richest is said to have been King Roger II of Sicily. He was the glittering monarch of the brilliant kingdom which the Normans of old established in Sicily and southern Italy.

Old records tell us that he possessed a treasure of gold which, in modern money, would amount to almost half a billion dollars. That's a lot of gold to keep in any king's strong box. And some have thought the story exaggerated.

But now, as the New York Evening Sun tells us, archaeologists have been restoring the royal palace of King Roger at Palermo, in Sicily. In one of the towers of the huge castle the floor has been raised, and the treasure room of Roger IL has been discovered.

archaeologists have found are many large jars. These once had contained gold. Now they are empty. But 800 years ago those jars were filled to the brim with the gold metal. The archaeologists have measured thems, and the results show that the treasure jars are large enough to have contained the half a billion dollars, which old histories say was the amount of the great Norman king's treasure in gold.

So maybe those old boys were really as rich as the old story tells.

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Every so often I am reminded of the fact that some of the best newspapers in the United States man are not the big town newspapers, but are journals printed in smaller cities, well written, well edited, and full of news.

printed in a small paper of Michigan.
It comes in the form of a clipping sent to me by George Maines, of Flint,
Michigan. George runs a whole string of newspapers in Michigan. in those parts.

"It's not a contribution to the Tall Story Club. The story is perfectly true and actually happened."

well, Here's the way the story goes:

And now let's sing the old refrain-that truth is stranger than fiction.

Over in China, Lieutenant James
Devereaux, of the United States Marine
Corps, was riding along in a cross-country

mace, near Peking. His brother officers saw him galloping bravely--a dashing equestrian figure.

In a flash--presto chango!--his horse disappeared from sight, and the lieutenant was standing on the ground. There certainly was something Chinese about it, and those brother officers must have thought that Taoist magic had got to work somewhere.

Lieutenant Devereaux, himself, was somethat bewildered. He said that as he was in the middle of a fine gallop his horse just disappeared right into the earth, and he took a jump and landed safely on his feet.

The horse disappeared in a hole in the ground. It was an old well and the animal went right down to the bottom of it.

The second miracle came to light when they got a block and tackle and hauled Lieutenant Devereaux's charger out. The animal was uninjured except for a scratch on his nose. According to the International News Service, the Lieutenant remounted his trusty steed and just kept on his way.

The people of the capital of Germany learned today that they had missed taking a look at one of the most important stunts of the year. A glider, a plane without any power, made an entire circle of the city of Berlin. This is perhaps the most ambitious glider flight on record.

We are told by the International News Service that

Otto Fuchs, the pilot, took his motorless flying machine to a

height of 3,000 feet. I suppose he was towed by an airplane

Then Otto made a long glide around Berlin, circling the city

as he slowly descended toward earth. He passed over crowded

streets. But the thousands of people below didn't bother to

look up to any extent. To those who saw the glider, it was just

another airplane. And Otto glided silently out of the picture 
just as I am say auf wiedersehn and So LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.