

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST
FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16, 1931

Good Evening, Everybody:-

Well, the best aviation news in many a long day comes along this evening. It looks as if those two trans-Pacific fliers, Don Moyle and Cecil Allen, are safe. The Associated Press reports that wireless messages were picked up today signed by the two missing aviators. They were addressed to friends of Moyle and Allen. One was addressed to Allen's fiancée. They were sent by the wireless set of the Russian steamer Buriat, which is now in Kamchatka Bay.

The messages, as given by the International News Service, state very briefly that the two fliers on their attempt to span the Pacific were forced down on a remote uninhabited island, are in good shape, and expect to arrive at Seattle on September 22nd.

A later report states that the boys are now on board the Soviet Steamer Pialy Krabalobe. They are in Olyntorski Gulf, Northern Kamchatka.

Another Soviet vessel radioed the good news and it was picked up by the U. S. Naval radio station in the Pribilof Islands. Well, that's great news.

AIRPLANE

But here are two other flyers who were not so lucky. They have found the wreckage of the airplane in which Shorty Cramer and Oliver Paquette disappeared in the early part of August, while flying across the North Atlantic.

The Associated Press received a wireless today from a British trawler which tells of the finding of the wreckage of an airplane in the North Sea. The dispatch gives the numbers marked on the machine, and those numbers have been definitely identified as the markings that were on Shorty Cramer's plane.

The United Press comments that the ill-fated fliers were on their way from the Shetland Islands to Denmark the last leg. The place where the wreckage has been found indicates that the aviators must have been forced off their course.

1 The trouble in the British Navy ^{mentioned last night} that I
2 is more serious than ever. It's outright
3 mutiny. The sailors of John Bull's
4 great Atlantic fleet are on strike today.
5 The Associated Press tells ~~us~~ how the men
6 refused duty, refused to obey orders.

7 There is consternation in Government
8 circles in London. The Cabinet took the
9 matter up immediately, and brought the
10 mutiny in the fleet before Parliament.
11 It looks as if the British Government is
12 going to yield to the demands of the
13 mutinous sailors. Sir Austin Chamberlain,
14 First Lord of the Admiralty, appeared
15 before the House of Commons today and
16 declared that the Government was going to
17 consider the demands of the men and would
18 not be unreasonable.

19 The trouble started because the
20 sailors resented the fact that their pay
21 was being cut in accordance with the new
22 economy regime in London. And now as the
23 United Press relates, the Ministers are
24 trying to pacify the discontented seamen
25 by going easy on those slashes in pay.

1 The mutinous fleet is lying off the
2 Coast of Scotland. The officers are
3 ashore, the men are on the ships. This
4 morning they gave three cheers for King
5 George and then refused to obey orders.

6 The International News Service adds the
7 detail that the sailors passed the day
8 playing games, whistling and singing.
9 The whistling part of it is ominous.

10 It is against naval regulations to
11 whistle aboard ship. It's supposed to be
12 bad luck according to old nautical
13 superstition. And the singing part of it
14 is not according to regulations either.
15 Rising from the mutinous ships came the
16 strains of the Red Flag, the battle song
17 of the Communists.

18 Well, tonight there's a strange,
19 bewildered look in the eyes of old John
20 Bull. I suppose he must think the world
21 is coming to an end when there is mutiny
22 in the ^{King's} ~~British~~ Navy.

1 A curious detail about Gandhi
2 in London is given by the Associated Press.
3 Gandhi is planning to visit old haunts
4 of his in the British capital. He was a
5 student in London forty years ago. He
6 studied law and became a British Barrister.
7 Yes, the Mahatma who is so much the center
8 of world attention, is going to revisit
9 those old scenes of his student days.
10 And he's going to use a guide book. He
11 wrote that guide book. He was very poor
12 in those young days of his and ^{composed a} ~~wrote a~~
13 guide book ^{to} ~~at~~ London hoping to make a
14 little money out of it to help ~~him~~ pay his
15 ^{way} ~~expenses~~ through college. He never
16 succeeded in having it published. He
17 still has it in manuscript form, and so
18 he's going to take those old faded pages
19 and confer with them as he visits the
20 scenes of those former times when he was not
21 a Mahatma but just a Hindu student ~~in~~ at the
22 ~~London~~ Inner Temple.

23 The New York Evening Post tells
24 us of a book that came out today, which
25 gives us some ~~x~~ pertinent facts about

1 that Indian problem which Gandhi is
2 trying to solve. The book which is
3 by Sherwood Eddy, is called The Challenge
4 of the East, and contains a good deal of
5 illumination on the subject of India.
6 Mr. Eddy points out all the improvements
7 that the British have made in India, but
8 he gives the Indian side too. For
9 example, Gandhi and his followers claim
10 that Great Britain managed things so
11 that the Lancashire Cotton Industries
12 ruined the ~~xxxxxxx~~^{old} whole cotton industry
13 of India. That's why Gandhi goes in for
14 Indian homespun. And then India pays out
15 a hundred and fifty million dollars a
16 year in salaries and pensions to British
17 officials. ~~But~~ But just the same, that
18 book, The Challenge of the East, makes
19 the point that India will best be able
20 to work out her destiny by doing it
21 inside of the British Empire rather than
22 by trying it outside of the family circle
23 of John Bull's sons and nephews.
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Joseph
Israel.
traveler to
Mecca.
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1 Ever since I was a youngster there's
2 been one place on this earth that I have
3 wanted to visit. Yes, I've wanted to go
4 there more than I've wanted to go
5 anywhere^{else}. It's in Arabia, and for centuries
6 it has been forbidden to outsiders. Yes,
7 I mean the holy city of Mecca.

8 Well, my dream of visiting
9 Arabia came true. But I never got to
10 Mecca. When I was in Arabia, ^{Mecca} ~~it~~ was still
11 as forbidden as ever. Not more than a
12 dozen Christians had ever been to Mecca
13 and live^d to tell the tale. One of the
14 first Christians to go there was ^{the} ~~a~~ famous
15 Sir Richard Burton. He went in disguise.
16 So ~~did~~ the few others who ^{followed} ~~succeeded~~
17 him. And some never came back.

18 To my astonishment, ~~the other~~ ^{to} day
19 I ran into an American who had actually
20 been to Mecca, and had come back and
21 said nothing about it. He's a young
22 New Yorker who started out a few years
23 ago to see the world. His travels took
24 him to strange lands. He even turned
25 up in Abyssinia at the coronation of

Ras Tafari, Emperor of Ethiopia.

But what startled me was to discover that he had actually been to Mecca, the forbidden city of Islam, the walled city where, if you are an unbeliever, you may be torn to shreds.

King Feisal and King Ibn Saud, the two great Arab rulers of the present day, control the famous pilgrimage to Mecca, which tens of thousands of Mohammedans make every year.

The outside world has long been of the opinion that the pilgrimage to Mecca was a journey fraught with terrible dangers even for the devout Mohammedan - but such was not the case. And these two kings decided to invite a group of foreign journalists to make the trip to mysterious Mecca, to see for themselves what it was all about. I was one of those invited to the forbidden city. The day after you have been to Mecca, to all

1 I guess you'd have to call it
2 an accident. I just happened to be out
3 that way at the right moment. Your old
4 friend and fellow campaigner, Emir Feisal,
5 who is now king of Irak, King of Bagdad,
6 at last made friends with his old blood
7 enemy, Ibn Saud, the Sultan of Central
8 Arabia and present king of the ~~Madjau~~
9 Hedjaz.

10 King Feisal and King Ibn Saud,
11 the two great Arab ^{rulers} ~~royals~~ of the present ~~da~~
12 day, control the ~~famous~~ pilgrimage to
13 Mecca, which tens of thousands of
14 Mohammedans make every year.

15 The outside world has long been
16 of the opinion that the pilgrimage to
17 Mecca was a journey fraught with terrible
18 dangers even for the devout Mohammedan -
19 danger from brigands. And these two
20 kings decided to invite a group of foreign
21 journalists to make the trip to mysterious
22 Mecca, ^{to show how things have changed.} ~~So, for a few days the ancient~~
23 ~~rule was disregarded.~~ and I was one of
24 those invited to the forbidden city.

25 You have been to Arabia, Lowell,

I guess you'd have to call it an accident. I just happened to be out that way at the right moment. Your old friend and fellow campaigner, Emir Feisal, who is now king of Irak, King of Bagdad, at last made friends with his old blood enemy, Ibn Saud, the Sultan of Central Arabia and present king of the ~~Madjda~~ Hedjaz.

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You have been to Arabia, Lowell,

and you, of course, know how the pilgrims come on tramp steamers and in rakish oriental sailing boats. Most of them land at Jiddah, the seaport to Mecca.

For centuries the pilgrims have marched up that desert road from Jiddah to Mecca. They take off their clothes, wrap themselves in white cloths, they shave and trim their nails, and when they get to Mecca they walk round and round the holy mosque saying their prayers, and most important of all, they kiss the holy Mohammedan stone, the holy of holies known as the Kaaba. That stone is supposed to have been dropped from ~~the~~ heaven by the Archangel Gabriel.

Well, all who have read Lowell Thomas' "With Lawrence in Arabia", and other books on that part of the world, know what a strange people the Arabs are.

Instead of walking across the desert from Jiddah we journalists traveled in a modern motor bus. In fact, it is now forbidden to walk from the Red Sea coast to the mountains around Mecca. Even the pilgrims must ride in those busses. And some say that this is because of the financial interest held by high Arab officials in the Company that operates the busses.

At dawn each day the roar of nearly one hundred bus engines disturbs the frosty stillness. Then the sun scorches down like a ball of fire. The trip in a bus is trying enough. On foot it must have been terrific.

1 But when you see Mecca all this
2 is forgotten. It is set in a bowl,
3 surrounded by lava mountains. Almost as
4 far as the eye can see are tiny camps
5 of ~~the~~ pilgrims. Five times a day they
6 fall on their knees, turn toward the
7 holy Kaaba, and go through their
8 Mohammedan prayers.

9 To our surprise we found that
10 there is a hotel for Moslem travelers
11 in which there are electric lights,
12 running water and a telephone. By simply
13 taking off the telephone receiver you can
14 call up distant cities. Why, from there
15 in the holy forbidden city of the
16 Mohammedans you can ring up Jerusalem,
17 the holy city of ^{the} Jews and Christians.

18 Mecca is becoming a ^{place} ~~city~~ of
19 contrasts: - one woman pounds grain in
20 an ancient earthen receptacle, ~~xxxx~~ while
21 another carries ^a five gallon gasoline tin
22 to an American automobile that is used
23 to ~~xxx~~ haul cripples to the Mosque of the
24 Kaaba.

25 Yes, even sacred Mecca is

1 changing. The veil of mystery is
2 lifting in the East, and another decade
3 may see Mecca on the tourist map.

4

1 Well, Mr. Joseph Israels, I'd
2 like to hear you talk about Mecca all
3 night. You are a lucky fellow to have
4 been there and to have come back alive.

5 And by the way, Mecca ~~xxx~~ with its
6 ~~the~~ sacred mosque of the Kaaba is another
7 of the marvels of the world included in
8 the new Literary Digest Book of Marvels

1 There are new signs of trouble
2 in Portugal. ~~The government at Lisbon~~
3 ~~is worried.~~ The authorities took
4 elaborate precautions today. They
5 ordered the troops ~~in the city~~ to remain
6 in their barracks and brought a force
7 of cavalry from the outlying districts
8 to patrol ~~the city.~~ Lisbon.

9 Last month, as the Associated
10 Press reminds us, Portugal had a series
11 of military uprisings and now the
12 government under President Carmona ~~is~~ fears
13 ~~apprehensive of~~ another disturbance.
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1 They had a big time down at
2 Hayanna today. They had free streetcar
3 rides.

4 The big events ^{was the fact that} ~~of~~ the Hayanna
5 trolley ~~street~~ car strike is over. For
6 forty-five days there has been little or
7 no street car service in the Cuban
8 capital, ~~but~~ Today the men went back
9 to work. Hence the celebration.

10 ~~And that made it a day of~~
11 ~~celebration.~~ The Company declared free
12 rides, ^{and} the cars were packed. ~~all day.~~
13 The United Press describes how some
14 enthusiastic passengers rode on the roofs.
15 Others came early and picked comfortable
16 seats and just rode around hour after
17 hour, enjoying the novel sensation of ^a ~~the~~
18 street car ride. The rejoicing passengers
19 blew horns and whistles and sang songs
20 and stamped and clapped to the music.

21 Yes, ~~str.~~ it was a gala
22 Cubanola festival when the street cars
23 started running again.
24
25

1 The next few weeks are going to
2 be important ones for the junior readers
3 of the Literary Digest. And, in fact,
4 for all the school children in this
5 country. A big contest is on, and
6 thousands of children are going to
7 compete for the prize. What prize?

8 Well, ~~it'll tell you~~

9 The Government of the United States
10 has already begun preparations for a
11 glorious celebration of the 200th
12 anniversary of the birth of George
13 Washington. Washington's 200th birthday
14 is still six months away. It will be
15 celebrated on the usual February 22nd,
16 of 1932, ^{and will continue throughout the year} ~~the year~~ ^{whole year}.
17 But already a National
18 Bicentennial Commission has been
19 appointed by President Hoover to arrange
20 for ceremonies in which every American
21 citizen will be asked to take part,
22 especially the children. ~~-- the school~~
~~boys and the school girls~~

23 And the Literary Digest is
24 co-operating with the Bicentennial
25 Commission. The Digest has worked out a

countrywide plan for a series of contests among the school children.

Yes, and more than that -- the Digest is publishing a series of articles on the various phases of George Washington's life which will provide material for the children to use in the contest. Clifford Smythe whose book BUILDERS OF AMERICA is an authoritative work, has been engaged to prepare these articles. And the first one appears in the new Literary Digest, tomorrow. It's about George Washington, the boy.

That Literary Digest prize contest has a number of fascinating features which the kids can easily get. The Digest is working in co-operation with the schools. All the youngsters have to do is ask the teacher about that Literary Digest George Washington competition. Just tell your boy or girl -- ASK THE TEACHER.

1 In Warsaw, Indiana, today a man
2 put a straw hat away. Well, all over the
3 country men are putting away straw hats
4 as a token of the end of the summer
5 season. But in the case of that particular
6 straw Kelly at Warsaw Indiana, today, it
7 was the 42nd time that it has been
8 stowed away for the winter.

9 William Scott who is seventy-three
10 years old, has worn the same straw Katie
11 for forty-two years. Brother Scott was a
12 young man of thirty-one when he got that
13 hat, or rather he made it. He collected
14 the straw and wove that record breaking
15 head piece. At this late date he ~~makes~~ holds
16 ~~it~~ a solemn ceremony every time he puts
17 that venerable ^{straw} sombrero away as fall comes
18 on. He says he expects to live a hundred
19 and when he does he will buy a new hat.
20 Until then the old and venerable shapeau
21 will have to do.

22 And with that, ^{well, I guess} ~~I think~~ I'll grab
23 my hat, though it's not quite so old and
24 venerable. And ~~say~~ so long until tomorrow.
25