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Lowell Thomas' Broadcast for The Literary Digest, Tuesday, March 10,1931

Page

There was a spectacular airplane flight today--a flight that ended rather suddenly in a muddy field in Kentucky.

Captain Ira Eaker, the famous army pilot who flew the "Question Mark" a year or so ago, had to make a forced landing near Tolu, Kentucky--not far from Paducah. and crashed. According to the International News Service his machine was badly wrecked, but luckily Captain Eaker came out with hardly a scratch.

The Captain took off this morning at 5:13 from Long Beach, California, and headed east. He said he wasn't trying to beat the transcontinental flight record. It was just a test flight He was trying to see how far he could go on the amount of gasoline the plane carried.

He made fast time across the Continent--but the Kentucky mud ruined the Captain's plans and his plane.

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Captain Eaker, by the way, is one of the Army pilots who flew around South America on the 22,000 mile Good Will flight several years ago.

Page 2

And now Ladies and gentlemen, right this way for the rubberneck dirigible.

According to the United Press a ten passenger dirigible named the Defender, is going to be put into service as a sight seeing airship flying over New York. The big blimp will make regular trips, and passengers will be able to rubberneck to their hearts content and get one grand eyeful mad of the metropolis of Bagdad-on-the-Hudson. I suppose they'll have a barker aboard just as they have on rubberneck wagons and he probably will bawl out:- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: TEN THOUSAND DEET BELOW YOUR VERY EYES LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OVER THERE ON THE LEFT YOU WILL SEE THE HOLE MADE BY PETER STUYVESANT'S WOODEN LEG. YES AND LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND THAT SMALL QUADRANGULAR OBJECT ON THE RIGHT IS THE HOUSE WHERE JIMMY WALKER STAYS ON HIS VARIOUS VISITS TO NEW YORK.

WASHINGTON

Meanwhile, tomorrow there'll be a big meeting in Washington - a meeting mm which may be accompanied by fireworks. It's that convention of progressive leaders, the one called by the Insurgent Republican senators.

The New York Evening Post informs us that Senator Borah, who will attend, expects to use the gathering as a means of shoving the farm problem right back in politics.

It is said that the regular Republicans are countering this move by beating Senator Borah at his own game. They've already formed an advisory committee for agriculture.

At any rate, by this time tomorrow evening we probably will be hearing the loud bang of the first firecrackers and political bombs touched off by that insurgent convention in Washington.

ther daughter to have beauty, or wealth, or fame? . But the famous woman-introduction intelligations replies that she wants none of these for her daughter. She hopes that the girl will have a home, a husband, and many childred. EERRERO

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Here comes a note that rings as if from far away, and sounds strange in this jazz age of ours.

Page 5

The United States has a distinguished 4 visitor, or rather two--Guglielmo 5 Ferrero and his wife, Gina Lombrozo Ferrero. He has been called the greatest 7 historian of our time and is far-famed 8 for his remarkable studies in Roman 9 history. She is one of the world's 10 distingished intellectual women and is 11 the author of several books. 12

Wett, Gina Lombrozo Ferrero is 13 indeed an interesting woman. Her father 14 was Lombrozo the great criminologist, 15 and her husband is the great historian. 16 A reporter for the New York Evening Post 17 went to her and asked her what she 18 wishes for her daughter. Did she want 19 her daughter to have beauty, or wealth, 20 or fame? But the famous woman-intellectual 21 intellectuat replies that she wants none 22 of these for her daughter. She hopes 23 that the girl will have a home, a 24 husband, and many childred. 25

•	EERRERO - 2. Page 6
1 2 3	And that does seem like a distant bell echoing in the turmoil of the jazz age, doesn't it?
4 5	ELENA ANALIS SALA TE CHE SHUKS //
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Ohyes, I ran across a highly melodramatic headline in the New York Sun today. Here's the way it reads :-

GRAVE AWAITS MAID IF SHE SHUNS CUPID.

That so unds as if the maid were going to be condemned to death if she didn't fall in love and get 8 married, or something of the sort .. 9

The item turns out to be a 10 good deal less tragical, but it's just as 11 odd. 12

According to the Associated 13 Press, Mrs. Francis Barrett of Chicago 14 stipulated in her will that if her 15 maid, Martha Youngsborg, doesn't get 16 married, why then the maid is to be 17 entitled to a grave. If Miss 18 Youngsborg fails to get hit in the right 19 spot by one of Cupid's arrows, why then 20 Mrs. Barrett's estate is required to 21 provide her with a grave next to Mrs. 22 Barrett's grave. In other words if 23 Martha wins a husband shell 24 losesa grave. 25

DYNAMLIE

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No, this next item doesn't end with a bang, and that's lucky. In fact, it seems almost like a miracle. Today at St. Paul, Minnesota, the police are searching through streets and in front yards, tooking for dynamite. They're collecting dozens of sticks of dynamite.

Page 8

A gang of boys, not one of them more than eleven, got into a storeroom where sticks of dynamite were kept. Well, those sticks of dynamite looked just like handy clubs to the boys. They gathered armfuls of the explosive and started down the street throwing the dynamite at each other and rattling the explosive sticks along picket fences.

Winde No, nothing happened. Not a signle bang. Somebody saw the boys and recognized their pretty little yellow sticks as just so much compressed thunder and lightning. The police were notified and the boys chased home. Then the cops went around collecting the dynamite. BEANS

I've heard about incidents like this next one, but never about anyone so fond of beans, - the common old familiar beans that the soldiers in the army hated so much. The beans that have become famous in song and story.

Yes, every once in a while prisoners do refuse to escape from jail because they are quite comfortable in the cooler.

At Little Rock, Arkansas, officers were making their rounds in the jail when they found a cell door open. Inside were forty Arkansas negroes who could easily have escaped. But there they all were.

According to the International News Service, the officers asked them why they hadn't tried to get away, and the answer was:

"DERE'S GOOD COFFEE AND BEANS HERE BOSS. IT SHOA AM FINE, SPECIALLY THEM BEANS. YES SAH!"

Well, it's possible to think of reasons why men wouldn't want to escape from jail, but it never occured to me that beans might be one of them.

Page_/0_

D

There's nothing in particular about India in the news tonight, and so we won't have anything about the land of the Ganges and Gunga Din. Just the same, this next item concerns Brahmins and caste, Hindus and Sikhs--and the scene is im California.

The United Press informs us that three Hindus have been arrested for the murder of a Hindu student--and he was the fourteenth victim of a weird drama of East Indian revenge out on the Pacific Coast.

Sant Ram Pande was a former 14 student in the University of California. 15 He disappeared and later was found 16 murdered. The police say that he was 17 of high caste and was a supporter of 18 the British in the recent disturbances 19 a 13 of his fellow countrymen in India. 20 too. Evidente Some have been killed in California, 21 secret vendetta or feud was under way. 22 A Hindu storekeeper had advanced 23 money to Pande for his studies, and 24 the son of this storekeeper was shot. 25

HINDU

The police add that Pande started out to hunt down the Hindu band that committed the crime. As a result he lost his own life. D

And now arrests have been made and the authorities are acting to stamp out a caste war between the Brahmins and the Sikhs - a war which threatens to break out all on account of this latest crime.

Well, one of the favorite situations of British writers of mystery dramas has long been that of East Indian feuds transferred to England and carried out with grim terror in fashionable Mayfair or within the shadow of the underworld of Limehouse. And that same sort of thing is what has now happened in real life with California as the scene.

DIGESI -- IURKEY

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A lot of these things that are happening over the world are obscure and puzzling until somebody gets a searchlight out and throws an illuminating beam.on them. That's what the Literary Digest does this week in the case of these disturbances over in Turkey, if the disturbances which there has been rebellion and fighting and savage suppression by the government.

Page 12

D

At the bottom of the trouble, the Digest tells us, are the dervishes. The modernist government of Turkey is determined to get rid of those strange holy men who for centuries have been the spiritual leaders of the Mohammedan world.

The Digest quotee the Manchester Guardian as saying that the present government of Turkey is all for religious freedom--that is, religious g freedom for everybody except the dervishes. They represent the old ideas of Turkey, the Turkey of the sultans. They've enjoyed immense power, and as a matter of DIGESI -- IURKEY - 2.

Page 13

fact have been the backbone of reactionary, Mohammedism. Any movement to modernize Turkey and bring it into accord with western ideas is certain to find the dervishes its bitterest enemies. That's what the present very modernist government of Turkey found, and the first thing it did was to put the dervishes under the ban and deprive them of their old privileges. The result was the recent rebellion of which the dervishes were the instigators.

That rebellion was suppressed, but, as the Digest informs us, the dervishes still have a great influence. Theyare close to the people and the pious Turk looks to them for guidance. They represent the age-old source of wisdom on which he has always relied.

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NICARAGUA

Here's a late flash which tells 1 of a fight the U.S. Marines have had 2 down in Nicaragua. The report comes from 3 a Mexico City representative of Sandino. 4 the Nicaraguan rebel leader, who is still 5 fighting against the Marines. According 6 to the International News Service. 7 Sandino claims that his men had the best 8 of it in a skirmish and that there were 9 seven casualties among the Marines. 10

Page 14

Sandino reports a few other 11 battles--five of them. According to 12 the Associated Press, Sanding has sent 13 out reports that he and his rebel 14 bandits have won five fights with the 15 government forces in Nicaragga and that 16 he has captured quantities of American 17 munitions. The Marines don't seem 18 to have figured in these, battles. But 19 of course most of the Marines have been 20 ordered out of Nicaragua and only a 21 small force of them are left. 22

Well, that chap Sandino certainly
Seems to have plenty of talent as a
trouble maker. Perhaps too much talent
to suit many.

HAYANNA

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Page 15

We've been hearing a lot about the trouble⁵ of the president of Cuba, but now comethe troubles of a Cuban editor.

He's Julio Gonourd and he runs 5 a humorist weekly. The stuff printed 6 in the paper didn't appeal to the 7 president and he suspended the 8 It was allowed to resume publication 9 last week, but his next issue may have 10 trouble in appearing. Because, according 11 to the Associated Press, five men 12 entered the offices of the comic paper 13 and they proceeded to smash up the 14 place. The writers of comic stories was were 15 beaten up, shots were fired, and one of the 16 them, hit and wounded the editor. 17

I suppose the editor of a comic
Weekly ought to be able to see a joke
in almost anything, but if Senor
Gonourd can find anything funny in
that--he's goods a glutton for comedy.

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OLD_LADY

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And now, I'm going to do something a bit out of the ordinary. Something that until today was forbidden. I'm going to tell a certain story, and mention a certain name.

Page 17

A couple of years ago folks around the broadcasting station began to get an occasional letter from an certain old lady at Syracuse, New York. And those letters somehow were different. They were so cheery, so kindly, so helpful.

The lady was bedridden, so she wrote. In fact she had been in bed for five long years. The radio was her only entertainment, her only contact with the wide world. But her letters were full of gladness and resignation and joyous philosophy. Everybody wrote back to her, announcers, musicians, actors and officials. Then she wrote to them again and again and they wrote to her.

She told them what she liked and what she didn't like about the radio

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programs with which they were connected. In a charming, kindly way she made suggestions and criticisms and she was liberal in her praise too. There was so much good sense and shrewd, sound judgment in her criticism that the folks around the studio watched for her letters to find out what she thought. They began to feel that they were talking to her and that their acts and their music were especially for her. They wondered what she would like and how this thing or that would appeal to her.

Page 18

Then she sent one and another a 14 pie--an apple pie, or a mince pie, or a 15 pumpkin pie. She was just barely able 16 to get to the stove and do a bit of 17 baking, every month or so. When a radio 18 feature had a birthday she baked a big 19 birthday cake. And the boys would cut 20 it up, and eating that cake was a great 21 event around the studio. 22

Well, that cheery, bedridden old lady and her joyful letters, her shrewd, sound criticism, and her pies and her birthday cakes--became a regular thing, a part of life in the studio--especially that curious vein of happy philosophy

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OLD LADY - 3.

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in the face of adversity.

One thing, however, was strict and stern. She wanted no publicity. The boys wanted to tell about her 4 over the radio or in the newspapers, but that she sternly forbade. She told 6 them if her story or her a name were 7 mentioned her letters would instantly 8 cease, that they would never hear from 9 her again. But tonight I'm telling 10 her story and her name. She was Mrs. Gladys Stanton.

A few weeks ago she wrote that she 13 was worse and was going to a hospital. 14 She continued to write from the hospital 15 and said she didn't think she could live 16 much longer. But she was still her 17 cheery old self. 18

And now a telephone message has 19 come from Syracuse. It's from 20 Mrs. Stanton's son. He tells us that 21 his mother has died. And that's why 22 I'm telling about it tonight. The boys 23 feel that now the story can be told and 24 they can tell the world as loudly as 25

and the second	
	OLD LADY - 4. Page 20
1	they please about that dear old lady,
2	Mrs. Gladys Stanton, of Syracuse.
3	There's a bit of sadness this
4	evening among a number of men who work
5	at the entertainment of the radio.
6	And there's a touch of sadness, as I
7	say,
8	So long until tomorrow.
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