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

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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 of $f$ 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.

INTRO:-_=_?

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

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 wat 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 GENTLEMRN: TEN THOUSAND DEET BELOW YOUR VERY EYES LAD IES AND GENTLEMEN OVER OHERE ON THE LEFT YOU WILL SEE THE HOLE MADE BY PETER STUYVESANT'S WOODEN LEG. YES AND LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND THAT SMALI QUADRANGULAR OBJEGT ON THE RIGHT IS THE HOUSE WHERE JIMMY WALKER STAYS ON HIS VARIOUS VISITS TO NEW Y $¢$ RK.

Meanwhile, tomorrow there'll be a big meeting in Washington - meeting 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 Borak, 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.

Here comes a note that rings as
visitor, or rather two - Guglilelmo Ferraro and his wife, Gina Lombrozo Ferraro. He has been called the greatest historian of our time and is far-famed for his remarkable studies in Roman history. She is one of the world's distingished intellectual women and is the author of several books.

## Wet. Gina Lombfozo Ferraro is

 indeed an interesting woman. Her father was Lombrozo the great criminologist, and her husband is the great historian. A reporter for the New York Evening Post went to her and asked her what she wishes for her daughter. Did she want her daughter to have beauty, or weal th, or fame? But the famous woman-intellectual intectuat replies that she wants none of these for her daughter. She hopes that the girl will have a home, a husband, and many children.EERRERO - 2.

And that does seem like a distant bell echoing in the turmoil of the jazz age, doeent it?

GRAVE
Ohyea, 1
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 to be condemned to death if she didn't fall in love and get married, or something of the sort..

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

According to the Associated
Press, Mrs. Francis Barrett of Chicago stipulated in her will that if her maid, Martha Youngsborg, doesn't get married, why then the maid is to be entitled to a grave. If Miss
Youngsborg fails to get hit in the right spot by one of Cupid's arrows, why then Mrs. Barrett's estate is required to provide her with a grave next to Mrs. Barrett's grave. In other words if Martha wins a husband she loses grave.

## DYNAMo LIE

Page
No, this next item doesn't end with, in lng, and that's lucky. In fact, it seems almost like a miracle. Today police are searching the pugh streets and in front yards, They're collecting dozens of sticks of and ito high explosive.

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.
single 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 honed home. Then the cops went around collecting the dynamite.

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 poler.

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 SAM!"

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.

There's nothing in particular about
2 India in the news tonight, and so we 3 won't have anything aron the 1 and of
5 the son of this storekeeper was shot.

HINDU - 2

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

And now arrests have been made and the authorities are acting to stamp out a caste war between the orahmins 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

A lot of these things that are happening over the world are obscure and puzzling until somebody gets a searchlight and throws an illuminating beam. on therm. That's what the Literary Digest does this week in the case of 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 quotes the Manchester Guardian as saying that the present government of Turkey is all for religious freedom--that is, religious 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.

 Mohammedism. Any movement to modernize Turkey and bring it into with western $j d e a s$ 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 great influence. Theydre 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. down in Nicaragua. The report comes from a Mexico City representative of Sandino, the Nicaraguan rebel leader, who is still fighting against the Marines. According to the International News Service, Sandino claims that his men had the best of it in a skirmish and that there were seven casualties among the Marines. Sandino reports a few other battles--five of them. According to the Associated Press, Ser mo has sent out reports that he and his rebel m bandits have won five fights with the government forces in Nicaragua and that he has captured quantities of American munitions. The Marines don't seem to have figured in these, battles. But of course most of the Marines have been ordered out of Nicaragua and only a small force left.

Well, that chap Sandino certainly seems to have $p l e n t y$ of talent as a trouble maker. Perhaps too much talent to suit many.

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

He's Julio Gonourd and he runs a humorist weekly. The stuff printed in the paper didn't appeal to the president and he suspended the sheet: It was allowed to resume publication last week, but his next issue may have trouble in appearing. Because, according to the Associated Press, five men entered the offices of the comic paper and they proceeded to smash up the place. writers of comic stories beaten up, shots were fired, and one of the there, hit and the editor.

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 a gentlon for comedy!

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

A couple of years ago folks around the broadcasting station began to get an occasional letter from an 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

## QLD_LADY_=_2

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

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

## 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 over the radio or in the newspapers, but that she sternly forbade. She told them if her story or her name were mentioned her letters would instantly cease, that they would never hear from her again. But tonight l'm telling her story and her name. She was Mrs. Gladys Stanton.

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

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

## OLD LADY - 4.

they please about that dear old lady, Mrs. Gladys Stanton, of Syracuse.

There's a bit of sadness this evening among a number of men who work at the entertainment of the radio. And there's a touch of sadness, as 1 say,

So long until tomorrow.

