

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Howard Hughes continues to crowd President Roosevelt's western tour off page one of the newspapers.

At the present moment, Hughes is breathing the air of his native continent again. He's over American territory. At five minutes to four today, Al Lodwick at Hughes' New York headquarters, announced that the flyers reported themselves nine hundred and three miles west of Fairbanks, Alaska. That meant less than five hours from the heart of Alaska. Still flying at more than two hundred miles an hour. They may be coming down at Fairbanks right now.

Geographically, there were only three events in their flight from Yakutsk, which they left at eight o'clock this morning, our time. Those were the crossing of two mountain ranges in Siberia, the Verhoyansk and the Kolymsk. They ~~had~~ ^{had} then to cross the Gulf of Anadir. Fearing that there might be fierce sudden squalls over the Bering Sea, those famous Will~~ie~~-was-Hughes took his ship up to ten thousand feet, at which height he would escape

all such disturbances.

His reports were coming to New York by way of Uncle Sam's Army radio station at Anchorage, in Southern Alaska. But later we learned that Dick Stoddart had established direct communication with a ham amateur station at Harmosa Beach, near Los Angeles.

One of the people Hughes will meet at Fairbanks will be none other than Mrs. Wiley Post, widow, of the man ^{whose record} Howard Hughes is now breaking, almost cutting it in half. She arrived at Juneau yesterday aboard a ship and flew to Fairbanks to meet old friends. Mrs. Wiley Post would be glad of the opportunity to congratulate Hughes and his companions.

Hughes is now expected to arrive back in New York about five o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

BATHELT

The proceedings in the cement coffin murder case took a ^{surprise} turn today, ~~that was a complete surprise.~~ John Paul Bathelt, Jr., husband of a New York Park Avenue heiress, was brought into court at Northampton, Massachusetts. He was brought there to plead to the grand jury indictment charging him with the first degree murder of Charles Morris. ~~First of all, Bathelt had been examined as to his sanity. A committee, headed by the Superintendent of the Northampton State Hospital, pronounced the man completely sane and as such liable to the accusation of first degree murder.~~

Everybody had expected a large drawn out trial with sob-sisters, cameramen, a regiment of reporters, and the usual ~~trimmings~~ trimmings of a murder show followed by appeals, etc. But, to the astonishment of that courtroom, Bathelt stood up and, facing the clerk, said loudly and clearly: "I plead guilty to second degree murder." The prosecution accepted the plea and Bathelt was sentenced. ^{Whereupon the judge gave him,} ~~out of hand. There's only one sentence that Massachusetts judge can impose. In accordance with the law of the Commonwealth, he condemned Bathelt with~~ imprisonment for life.

Back in New York his heiress wife, ^{recently} ~~almost~~ a bride,

was distraught with astonishment and dismay. She had championed her husband stoutly, offered to sacrifice her fortune in his defense.

But one thing is still a mystery in ~~this~~ ^{the} ~~bloodthirsty~~ affair. It has not come out why young Bathelt, ~~a man with everything~~ ^{wealthy and} ~~in his favor,~~ ^{prominent - why he} ~~had~~ killed his one-time pal, ^{and} ~~a~~ racetrack associate.

~~To be sure,~~ ^{He} did profit by his death to the extent of fourteen hundred and fifty dollars. Yet that's hardly ^{likely to have been the} ~~accepted as~~ ^{motive.}

The guessing is that it was a quarrel ^{over} ~~of the~~ bets.

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MATTSON

We heard this morning that the kidnapper and murderer of little Charles Mattson of Tacoma, had been caught. But tonight it's another story. The chief of the Washington State police arrested a thirty-two year old farm laborer. He confessed. The crime occurred two nights after Christmas, Nineteen Thirty-Six. When the news was telegraphed east, it was reported to J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. His reply was a refusal to say anything.

And then the chief of the state patrol out there had grave doubts about the confession; said the man, Olson, has confessed not once but four times. And, he adds:- "the fellow is obviously whacky. and I wouldn't be justified in asking for a warrant."

However, the man does resemble drawings of the

kidnapper which were made by an artist from descriptions furnished by the little boy's brother and sister. When the newspaper men were allowed to take a look at ^{Olson,} ~~him~~, he showed signs of pride at being the object of interest. But the shower of questions that was hurled at him elicited no reply; ~~but~~ ~~not a thing.~~ There was no expression, no gleam of intelligence in his bearded face. Stoop shouldered, slight ^{of} frame, evidently tired, he stood there with his hands behind his back, his knees sagging.

At the end of the investigation, Olson was pronounced ~~definitely~~ insane and sent to an asylum, ~~his~~ so-called confessions ~~are~~ worthless. ~~and have done nothing towards clearing up that ghastly crime.~~

PRISON RIOT

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~~It is believed that~~ a prison riot was narrowly averted in Canada. It had been planned for the penitentiary at Kingston, Ontario, a place where many dangerous criminals are interned. But some word of the plot was conveyed to the authorities. So they removed a hundred and fifty of the most dangerous inmates from Kingston, ~~under heavy guard~~ ^{took them under} a heavy guard of Royal Mounted Police. ~~They are being taken~~ ^{Going} west to be distributed in the prisons of western Canada.

There's a rumor that ~~the~~ ^a mutiny at Kingston is liable to break out any day now, in spite of this removal. ~~The~~ ^{ff} authorities of the penitentiary say merely that they transferred the prisoners because the place was overcrowded.

SOCIAL CREDIT

One bit of news from Canada today ~~rather resembles~~
~~reports from Europe.~~ It concerns the social credit government
in the province of Alberta. From time to time we have been
hearing intimations that this Utopian scheme was ~~not~~ not working
~~exactly~~ as its authors and prophets had ^{hoped.} ~~outlined.~~ The social
credit cabinet tried to put laws through which would enable the
provincial government virtually to repudiate part of its debt;
~~That is, it would authorize the government to issue decrees~~
~~reducing the debt.~~ Premier Aberhart, the social credit prime
minister of Alberta ran up against a snag, ^{for} ~~in that~~ The Dominion
Government declined to allow such tax laws in Alberta.

^{now}
So the Social Credit government has another idea.

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It will pass a law forbidding anybody to pay or send money
out of the province. Debts outside ^{Alberta to} ~~the province will~~ be paid
in goods and produce. All this was announced in Toronto
today by Mr. Unwin, a member of ~~the~~ Premier Aberhart's government.
~~Mr. Unwin is quite vehemently one of the faithful.~~ ^{Unwin} He described
the Canadian judiciary as "A bunch of old heelers." And he
declared that the ^{Dominion} ~~federal~~ government is discriminating against the
government of Alberta. ~~But he declared: "The West will never back~~
~~up, no matter what the government at Ottawa may do."~~

Countess Barbara disappointed a crowd today. It was a large and fashionable mob, mostly women, that had gathered at Bow Street Police Court in London. They went there early this morning in the hope of seeing more fireworks, fireworks between

the Countess and her Count. ^{All this} ~~The fine works~~ had been promised but ~~they~~ ^{out as} fizzled ~~as they~~ though somebody had poured ^{water on the fire-} ~~a shower on them~~ ^{works.} ~~Can it~~ ^{or pour gold perhaps!} ~~Could it have been a shower of liquid gold?~~ At any rate

today's session at the Bow Street police court was a flop.

^{TF} Truth may be stranger than fiction, but these real life dramas are apt to be poorly arranged. Life ^{as} ~~is~~ a dramatist is somewhat scornful of the need of climaxes at the proper place. The long

and short of it is, the Countess ^{now} withdraws her charges against her handsome Danish count. The warrant is dismissed, bail is

lifted, the noble count is a free man. ^{TF} Said the imposing and melodramatic Sir Patrick Hastings: "I have appreciated that the threats uttered by the Count to "shoot a certain gentleman like a dog," may have been uttered under stress of emotion." ~~And~~

~~that~~ ~~should say, as an under statement, Sir Patrick's statement almost takes the cake.~~

One thing was obvious today, the Countess did her

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best to keep from mentioning the name of the celebrated and fashionable gentleman ~~the~~ whom the Count had threatened to shoot.

Thus her chivalry protected the reputation of ^{one} ~~Mr.~~ Frederick Hohenzollern, ~~one time Prince Frederick of Prussia.~~ *grand son of the Kaiser.*

WINDSOR

The Duke and Duchess of Windsor are on the Italian Riviera -
arrived in Genoa today. On the streets the crowd cheered them.

A small boy

gave a Fascist salute to the former Edward the Eighth, and shouted:

"Long live the Englishman!"

The ~~former monarch~~ ^{*ex. King*} smiled, perhaps a bit wistfully -

an Englishman who has to stay away from England!

SOCIETY RACKET

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There is weeping, wailing and the gnashing of teeth in the homes of certain English peeresses today. They are the ladies who have been cashing in on their titles, selling an introduction to the King and Queen for five thousand dollars, and getting similar sums for introducing strangers to London Society.

Today a crimp was put in that aristocratic
~~There's a bad crimp in their racket today. And it was administered~~

game —

by none other than the ~~noble lord who is the~~ Lord Chamberlain to

His Majesty, King George the Sixth. Lord Clarendon, the new

Lord Chamberlain, has ~~not been heard of for many and many a year~~ *notified the social promoters*

that the royal door is shut to them.

~~He has literally given the bums' rush from court to some impecunious~~

~~ladies of title. He has notified them, "Your presence is not~~

is the gist of it,
required at any further functions of the court this season," [^] And

this is no arbitrary whim of the Lord Chamberlain's. He has done

it upon instructions from the King and Queen themselves.

The Prime Minister arose in the House of Commons today and declared: "His Majesty's government cannot protect British ships which enter danger zones in Spanish waters." And he explained: "If ships not engaged in contraband trade expose themselves voluntarily to the risks in these danger zones, they must bear the consequences of their own temerity."

Prime Minister Chamberlain gave a further insight into the state of mind of the British government. He told the Commons "His Majesty's government have made plain that they cannot accept the bombing and sinking of merchant ships as legitimate." Then he added: "But at the same time these cannot be effectively protected without engaging in hostilities, and the government are not prepared to embark on such a course." No war! Not now!

MEXICO

There's a bill before the Mexican Congress which it is hoped will establish more favorable relations with Uncle Sam. It's a measure to repeal the tariff decree that was published in January and to bring back the former scale of duties, which was much lower. The bill was unanimously approved by the *Mexican* Chamber of Deputies and the Senate today.

It means something to us, because the cutting of that high tariff barricade is expected to improve trade with the United States.

UTILITIES

~~An announcement from Washington has meaning for the customers of public utilities companies.~~ It is ^{an} announcement by Secretary Ickes, Public Works Administrator. Money has been allotted by the P.W.A. to twenty-one power projects. These power projects are to be used to bring down the prices of power, light and gas, wherever they are considered exorbitant. They will be established in communities where there is already service from public utilities corporations. And they will compete with those corporations, but only if the private utilities companies decline to sell their properties for a fair and reasonable price. The question may arise - what is a reasonable price? That will be decided by Mr. Ickes.

TREASURY

A figure shark in the Treasury has been making an interesting calculation. In the coming year, Uncle Sam will spend seventeen thousand and ninety-five dollars every minute. His income every minute will be nine thousand, five hundred and thirteen dollars. In other words, for every minute of the year the government will spend seven thousand, five hundred and eighty-two dollars more than it takes in.

BUFFALO

Here's a new candidate for the meanest racket on earth.

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A fellow in Buffalo makes a specialty of stealing from shoe shine boys, ~~he~~ gets hold of a lad, sends him on an errand, usually to collect a package in a downtown store. Before the boy leaves, he borrows all his nickels and dimes to make a phone call. And the boys fall for it because they're promised a bonus when they come back with the package. ^{Then} they find the errand is a phoney, no package, no man, no nickels, no dimes.

BASEBALL

Something happened in a Brooklyn cafe which will challenge the wits of every baseball writer in America. For many years, sporting editors at a loss for a joke, have picked on Brooklyn. Year after year, the Dodgers have been either in the cellar of the National League, or close to it.

Yesterday afternoon, the Dodgers distinguished themselves by trouncing the League leading Giants, thirteen to five. It was an important game because it put Pittsburgh into the lead by three little points. A clerk in a Brooklyn post office station, and also a Dodger fan, was celebrating that victory. He got a ribbing from old friends and long time companions. He had taken plenty from them in the past on the same subject. But last night when they told him that the Dodgers were all "A bunch of bums", that was the last straw. He rushed out, shouting: "I'm going to get a couple of guns and shoot up this place!" His pals didn't take him seriously. But a few minutes later he came rushing back: and shot ~~point~~ point blank. To the floor fell one of the kidders, dangerously wounded. A bystander grabbed the pistol and rushed out the front door looking for a policeman. As he did so, the post office clerk drew another pistol and turned upon another friend. The man made a

dive for the telephone booth but he wasn't in time. The infuriated Dodger fan, pulled the trigger, and shot his old friend through the heart.

As for the Dodgers -- they are still in sixth place.

BATTLE

The City of Westwood, California is a lumber town, and there a strike is making trouble. It isn't so much a dispute between capital and labor. It's a fight between one union and another. Yes, the old A.F. of L. versus C.I.O. scrap.

And today there was a pitched battle in the streets of Westwood. Two thousand lumberjacks went to it with hatchets, axes, blackjacks, clubs, knives and guns. But the police showed up with a better weapon -- fire hoses. And that dampened the ardor of the fighters, all two thousand of them. Though the streets were littered with unconscious men, few were injured seriously

AND SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.