

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1931

BASEBALL

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The batteries for today are O'Flaherty catching and Miss Mitchell pitching. Yes, I mean just that. Miss Mitchell. She's a seventeen-year-old girl of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and she's just become the first girl player to ever get a contract in organized baseball. Yes, and she's a lefthanded pitcher - a good old southpaw - and how she can smoke 'em over!

Miss Mitchell is the daughter of a Chattanooga eye doctor, but the daughter operates on the boys' batting eyes. She first learned about baseball from Dazzy Vance, the Brooklyn fireball pitcher. Vance lived in the Mitchell home when he was pitching for the Memphis Chicks ten years ago. Little Jackie was then a girl of only seven, but she certainly liked her baseball - hot and right across the pan. And the Dazzler amused himself by teaching her to pitch the old spheroid. Since then she's been playing baseball right along, and now this girl phenom has been signed up as a pitcher on the Chattanooga club.

According to the United Press, Miss Jackie Mitchell is

likely to take the mound against the New York Yankees, who play the Chattanooga club in an exhibition game next week. The seventeen-year-old girl will start buzzing them across the plate against Gehrig and Lazzeri -- and up will come the Sultan of Swat himself - the mighty Babe Ruth. I wonder how the old Bambino will make out against the eye doctor's daughter? I'd certainly like to see that game. I'm a great admirer of the Babe, but I hope the fair southpaw fans him.

PING PONG

And while we're on the subject of strenuous athletics the great ping pong tournament is under way in New York this week. At rows of tables scores of contestants keep themselves busy in the task of eliminating each other. And how those boys play ping pong! All the papers are describing the tournament.

The New York World-Telegram emphasizes the solemnity of the event. There's nothing light-hearted or facetious about those ardent ping pongers. For them the game is a serious matter. They smite the little ball with an intent and almost gloomy concentration,

A big crowd looks on, and ping pong is no laughing matter with them either. They applaud brilliant shots with a fervent enthusiasm. Colman Clark, the western champion, and the favorite with the gallery, is a huge fellow who has quite a reputation as a tennis player. But seemingly ping pong is the real game of his choice.

The betting however favors Morris Scheussheim, the wizard New York ping ponger. Mr. Scheussheim is only 19, but the way he

PING PONG - 2.

1 can ping ^{the} a pong is something to sing a
2 song about.

3 The great ping pong tournament
4 ends Saturday night when the champion
5 will be chosen and crowned, and will
6 receive the acclamations of the whole
7 ping ponging world.

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1 I can't tell you the name of the
2 hero of the story that comes next. For I
3 don't know it. Nobody seems to know ^{his name.} ~~it~~

4 According to the New York Evening
5 Post, there was a fire in Brooklyn. A
6 passing automobile stopped and a man
7 jumped out. He dashed into the burning
8 house; and one after another ^{he} dragged out
9 six people. He was very much the hero
10 of the occasion. A cop asked him his
11 name.

12 "Oh, never mind that," he replied.
13 "I'm in a hurry. I'm late for work now."

14 He got into his car and disappeared
15 down the street. And so we can't mark
16 him down on the list of heroes, because
17 we don't know who he ~~is~~ was. *But, whoever*
18 *he is, here's to him.*

1 This evening the local jail at
2 Saint Joseph, Missouri, holds an
3 important prisoner. He's charged with
4 what was perhaps the most spectacular
5 crime of our times.

6 His name is Fred Burke. The police
7 have a whole list of ^{desperate deeds} ~~murders~~
8 against him. And the principal one is
9 Chicago's famous garage massacre.
10 Burke is said to have been the man with
11 the machine gun on that St. Valentine's
12 Day when a gang of ^{gunmen} ~~killers~~
13 Chicago gangsters in a garage, stood
14 them ~~up~~ against a wall, and mowed them
15 down.

16 According to the United Press,
17 Burke was trapped at the home of his
18 wife's parents. The police had been
19 watching the farm for a long time.
20 Today they ^{cornered} ~~trapped~~ him there. They
21 expected that he would put up a gun
22 battle, but so swiftly was the trap
23 sprung that the much sought for ^{Burke} ~~killer~~
24 surrendered. And tonight he's in jail;
25 and ^{he} ~~he~~ refuses to say a word.

BANDITS

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1 All the New York newspapers today
2 carry a wild, fantastic tale of bandits.
3 *take show* Two men and two girls held up the
4 house of Dr. Edmund Bigall in the dead
5 of night. They held the doctor and his
6 wife prisoners while they proceeded to
7 make merry. They switched on all the
8 lights and turned on the radio. They
9 danced, and laughed, and talked, and
10 drank. The girls put on the doctor's
11 wife's fanciest clothes and waltzed
12 around.

13 They found only \$48.00 in the
14 house and demanded more. They tortured
15 the dentist, demanding that he reveal
16 hidden money. They beat him with the
17 butts of their guns and burned him with
18 lighted cigarettes. And all the while
19 the music was blaring from the radio,
20 and the girls were dancing, and the wild
21 party went on.

22 The neighbors heard the racket but
23 thought it was nothing more than an
24 ordinary late party in the dentist's home.
25 The two bandits and their girls disappeared
into the night, and the grim, fantastic
drama of robbery was over.

PHILIPPINES

Now comes an idea that I imagine will startle most of us. It is that the United States should hand over the Philippine Islands to Japan.

According to the Associated Press this rather astonishing proposal is made by Dr. Herbert Adams Gibbons of Princeton University who is an author, historian, and well known authority on world affairs. Dr. Gibbons declares that the Filipinos do not want to become Americans, and that eventually the possession of the Islands may lead us into a war. He urges that we ought to retire gracefully, and offer the Islands to Japan. The Philippines, he thinks, don't mean much to us, but they would round out Japan's empire nicely.

Well, I used to know Dr. Gibbons. He was always saying interesting things. His ideas are often a trifle advanced. And many people will think his notion rather excessively radical when he suggests that we make Japan a present of the Philippine Islands. That would be quite a present.

1 A headline in the New York Sun
2 this afternoon caught my eye. It
3 sets forth the idea that the Universe
4 is just one big corporation. The
5 world, and the sun and stars and space
6 are something on the order of the
7 Standard Oil Company or the United States
8 Steel Corporation, *or Sears Roebuck.*

9 The article goes on to say
10 that this idea is propounded in a book
11 called The Academy ^{for} ~~of~~ Souls by John
12 O'Hara Cosgrave, who for many years
13 was the Sunday Editor of the New York
14 World.

15 Well, it appears that an
16 inhabitant of Mars visited the earth.
17 He was quite invisible but he got into
18 a conversation with an earth dweller
19 and proceeded to explain that the people
20 of Mars are so far advanced that they
21 know the secret of the Universe. ~~quite~~
22 ~~well~~ The Universe is a big machine,
23 much like any other machine with a
24 purpose. It was built just as machines
25 on earth are built, and it is run by

a guiding hand. The builder and the guiding hand are the Great Architect and Directing Will - the Deity.

It's all run on an intelligent and efficient basis just as a big business concern is run. And so Mr. Cosgrave thinks the Universe is pretty much the same as a great corporation like the Standard Oil or United States Steel or Sears Roebuck.

1 I've a confession to make. Not
2 very startling. But here it is: I am
3 one of those people who, when they read
4 a magazine, like to read the advertise-
5 ments. I know of course that the
6 advertisements are informative and
7 keep one up to date in the matter of
8 merchandise, but that isn't the biggest
9 thing with me. I simply find them
10 interesting reading. I like to look
11 at the pictures and then go through the
12 text in the ads.

13 That's what I did with the new
14 Literary Digest today, the one that
15 came out this morning.

16 The Digest, as you probably know,
17 is famous for its sprightly and interest-
18 ing advertising copy. There are
19 advertisements about soap, and they made
20 me remember days out on the Afghan
21 desert when I felt like yelling -- A
22 CAKE OF SOAP! MY KINGDOM FOR A CAKE OF
23 SOAP! And then the automobile ads
24 always make me do a bit of reminiscing.
25 Those handsome stream-lined cars that

1 are pictured in the Digest remind me of
2 delightful automobile trips along dizzy
3 mountain roads and thru tropical jungles,
4 and also of a few jaunts in wild places
5 in cars that were groaning and falling
6 apart with every bump.

7 Did you ever try it?

8 Did you ever glance through the
9 advertising pages of the Literary Digest
10 just to see what memories they brought
11 to you? It's like a game. Just try it
12 tonight, or some night. Auto tires
13 bring memories of visits to rubber
14 plantations in Malaya and Borneo;
15 gasoline reminds us of those oil fields
16 of Venezuela and Persia; tobacco brings
17 to mind the Turks and Arabs we have seen
18 smoking their hubbly-bubbly water pipes;
19 ~~athletic~~ equipment, travel talks, locks,
20 books, telephone and telegraph, insurance,
21 railroads, mimeographs, and a host of
22 other things that figure in the common
23 events of our lives. They also figure
24 in the uncommon events, and that's where
25 the interesting reminiscences come in.
Yes, I sure do enjoy reading the
ads in the Literary Digest.

1 Down in Mexico a man is missing,
2 and that fact has created something of
3 a sensation. His name is Barraza, and
4 he is credited with being the killer
5 of ~~Francisco~~^{Pancho} Villa. Villa, the famous
6 bandit who had retired to peaceful
7 life on a ranch, was ambushed ~~and killed~~
8 in 1923.

9 Barraza is said to have been
10 the leader of the band that fired a
11 deadly hail of bullets into the ~~bandit~~
12 bandit chief's car. They ~~killers~~ are
13 supposed to have been actuated by a ~~desire~~
14 desire to ~~be~~ revenge ~~for~~ injuries
15 which Villa had done their families
16 in his long and sinister career as a
17 revolutionary and a brigand.

18 Some of Villa's followers
19 are said to have sworn a blood oath
20 that they would square accounts ^{with} ~~for~~ the
21 ~~assassins~~^{assassins} ~~killing~~ of their chief and now that
22 Barraza has ~~dis~~ disappeared, his friends
23 believe that some of Villa's former
24 lieutenants have carried out their oath.
25 According to the Associated

1 Press, Barraza has recently been locked
2 up in a Chihuahua jail for some of fence
3 against the government. He was released
4 several days ago, and informed friends
5 that he was going immediately to Juarez.
6 Then he dropped out of sight and has
7 not been seen since.

1 I suppose this next item means
2 spaghetti.

3 Over in Rome, Mussolini told a
4 conference that he thought people were
5 wrong when they say there's an over-
6 production of wheat. In Il Duce's
7 opinion the real trouble is that there's
8 an under-consumption of wheat. He
9 added that it seemed foolish to call for
10 a reduction in the production of grain
11 when there were so many millions in the
12 world in want and suffering from hunger.

13 According to the Associated Press,
14 Mussolini declared that the wheat situation
15 could be remedied by an increased
16 consumption of foods made out of wheat.

17 ^{Being an Italian}
And, I suppose he meant spaghetti.

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1 An advertisement printed in
2 British newspapers today reveals a
3 curious fact.

4 On the morning of March 1st
5 somebody cut one of the big transatlantic
6 cables. The cable was sawed in two
7 in the Bristol Channel, and now the
8 Cable Company is advertising and offering
9 ^{a reward} ~~\$500~~ for information about the one
10 who did the damage. They say that the
11 cable was probably lifted by the
12 anchor of some vessel and that somebody
13 aboard the ship ~~it~~ thereupon simply
14 sawed the cable in two.

15 Anyway, ^{it} ~~the cable~~ was cut -
16 and that's one of the mysteries of the
17 day.

18 When the series of Peruvian
19 revolutions began Captain Grew, or
20 General Grew as they call him in Peru,
21 was made a prisoner by the rebels. And
22 for a while it was feared that they
23 might shoot him. The case of the former
24 American Naval Captain, who was in grave
25 danger in that Peruvian revolution, was
one of the important bits of news.

1 My News Item of the Day was picked
2 for me by a man who figured prominently
3 in the news not long ago. He was an
4 important figure in that same old trouble
5 down in Peru. He is a retired officer
6 of the United States Navy. He is a
7 young man. He retired from our Navy
8 to become Inspector General of the Air
9 Forces of Peru. There he founded a
10 great Peruvian system of airplane routes,
11 skyways leading across the craggy
12 mountains and jungle filled valleys
13 of the Andes and the upper reaches of
14 the Amazon.

15 For many years he was associated
16 with the old Leguia government in Peru.
17 But when the series of Peruvian
18 revolutions began Captain Grow, or
19 General Grow as they call him in Peru,
20 was made a prisoner by the rebels. And
21 for a while it was feared that they
22 might shoot him. The case of the former
23 American Naval Captain, who was in grave
24 danger in that Peruvian revolution, was
25 one of the important bits of news.

■ ■

1 Well, this famous pioneer of the
2 air is in New York now. And today I
3 commandeered his services. I asked
4 him to go through my sheaf of news
5 dispatches. ~~today~~. He did--and he
6 picked out a singular incident of war
7 as the item that interested him the
8 most. It was an item from another land
9 of jungle and towering mountains.

10 Trouble has flared in Burma

1 again. The British trained police
2 are skirmishing with parties of rebels.

3 According to the Associated
4 Press one band of a hundred insurgents
5 had a brilliant idea. It centered
6 around a charmed elephant, an elephant
7 that possesses magical powers. They
8 made the charmed elephant their leader,
9 thinking that it must surely guide them
10 to victory, and so that elephant became
11 their commander. He wasn't merely Mr.
12 Elephant. He was General Elephant.
13 They had him lead the way through the
14 jungle and they followed, believing
15 implicitly in the pachyderm's magical
16 powers. Well General ^{flapped his ears, trumpeted}
~~that~~ ^{a few times, and} elephant led them right

17 ^{But} ~~and~~ sad
18 along through the jungle. ^{to} ~~say~~ he guided them straight into
19 an ambush set by the police. The
20 army of General Elephant was trapped.
21 The rebels following their ponderous ^{commander}
22 ~~leader~~ found themselves ringed by rifle
23 fire. Twenty-two fell, among them two
24 of their principal leaders. The rest
25 scurried away in the jungle.

And I suppose they'll think
twice before they entrust themselves
again to the guidance of an elephant.

1 What's this they want? Oh, yes--
2 the boys want girls. At Dartmouth
3 University a questionnaire was circulated
4 among the men of the senior class, and
5 among other queries it asked--what does
6 the college need the most? In other
7 words, what did the boys want the most?
8 And the reply was--girls. Dartmouth is
9 an exclusively masculine institution,
10 and the seniors think it ought to be
11 made a co-educational institution; in
12 other words, they want co-eds.

13 And what kind of co-eds? According
14 to the International News Service, the
15 seniors told what they thought the
16 ideal girl. She's five feet six, weighs
17 120 pounds, has dark hair and blue eyes.
18 Brains? They say the ideal girl is of
19 medium intellect. They don't want them
20 too dumb, but at the same time they
21 don't want them too smart.

22 In deciding what they wanted most,
23 the senior class voted heavily in
24 favor of a new ice plant for the hockey
25 rink. In fact, the ice plant and the

girls ran a close race. But the girls won out. You might say that they won by a neck. I suppose the seniors figure that the girls might be a bit warmer than the ice plant.

Well, as usual the women won. They scored a great victory over the ice plant. And now after that one fellows, what do you say let's join the ladies.

And, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.