



**U. S. JOCKEY ABROAD**—Johnny Longden (left) chats with Irish jockey Morny Wing at Curragh race track, Ireland, where Longden won on Pink Larkspur, his first mount abroad.

## Three Hour Luncheons The Greatest Evil In Sin Ridden Manhattan

By HAL BOYLE  
NEW YORK — (AP) — What will finally destroy New York City?

Time has washed down the drain the great metropolises of many previous civilizations. And in time this hubbub-on-the-Hudson probably will also be reduced to the whisper that now echoes from Sodom, Gomorrah, Ninevah and Tyre.

But how?

It is unlikely that atom bombs will make it a wilderness again. The pigeons may slowly cover it up as the starlings are fast obliterating Washington, D. C., or, as some believe, the city may be wiped out in a sudden mass outbreak of violence by maddened riders of the Long Island railroad.

**Three-Hour Lunch**  
My own theory, however, is that Shangri-York will be done to death by the three-hour Manhattan lunch. This is a spreading epidemic that attacks our social, economic and cultural structure at the top.

The modern three-hour Manhattan luncheon is the old simple businessman's blue-plate special raised to the stature of a Hollywood production.

Its temples are the popular restaurants of the midtown and financial districts places where the waiters purr and the menu prices look like a listing of the war debt.

Gathered around the table are two to four people who ostensibly have met to undertake important business, but whose real objective is to gossip, see, and be seen.

**Ritual Begins**  
The ritual begins promptly at 12:30 o'clock.

"Anybody going to have a drink?" says the first man tentatively. "Think I'll pass myself."

"Pass," says the second, after a pause.

"Well—" hedges the third.

"Let's have one anyway," says the fourth, mad because they have all palmed the real decision off on him.

So they all lap up a double round of martinis—extra dry. And the first man orders a third martini, wondering if the others think he is drinking too much. He wonders himself, too.

**Cares Disappear**  
By then the havoc of the night before and the cares of the morning are gone. In a mellow glow they go on to a half dozen oysters

or clams—for energy. Next comes a huge plate of chicken au gratin with asparagus tips and a side order of salad. Like women they hesitate over whether to try a dessert. The answer is always "no"—a chunk of pastry big enough to throttle a hippopotamus.

Then comes coffee and "brandy?"

"Oh, why not?" and a double round seems only sensible. Why let a good fire die once it's burning well?

The four gents by now are cooking on 16 burners. If they are radio writers they are plying Shakespeare. If they are business executives, they are agreeing that J. P. Morgan would have died a really wealthy man if he hadn't made so many boners.

**All Geniuses**  
A rosy glow wraps them in goodwill, and they are all geniuses together. Then someone says:

"Good lord, it's 3:30!"

They waddle out and grab a cab back to the office. There the double martinis, chicken, oysters, salad, coffee and French pastry churn them into a torpor. The afternoon is lost. Until quitting time they sag like sugar sacks over their desks. They have to stop off for a couple of quick highballs on the way home to keep alive.

"Tomorrow I'm going to just have a snack lunch," they promise themselves. But they don't. It's back to the same old trough for another wallow.

Three-hour luncheons may take a long time to destroy New York. But they do a quicker job on the men who eat them.

**Three States Agree  
On Trucking Tax Law**

SALEM — (AP) — Oregon, Washington and Idaho have agreed tentatively to recognize each other's system of licensing commercial trucks, William E. Healy, assistant secretary of state, declared.

Healy said the agreement was reached at Spokane last week-end at a conference of officials of the three states.

Healy said the new agreement provides that each state should receive its proportionate share of license revenue from inter-state travel in the three states.

Last year, Idaho cancelled its reciprocity agreement with Oregon on grounds that Oregon's truck taxing law penalized Idaho truckers. The recent legislature changed the law so that Idaho now is satisfied.

Under the new agreement, truckers will be able to operate in any of the three states with plates bought in only one of the states, provided that state is the trucker's headquarters.

Healy said California, Montana, Utah, Wyoming and Arizona are considering joining the agreement.



**STUDYING LAY OF THE LAND** — Gerhard Hornemann (seated, center), Berlin schoolboy who won a prize of four weeks in England and the U. S. in the European Recovery program essay contest, studies a map of America, surrounded by his mother and five brothers and sisters.

## Stubborn Ruhr Fire Guards 418 Victims Of Mine Blast

By TOM REEDY  
KAMEN, Germany, Sept. 16. — (AP) — After three and one-half years, a stubborn fire still guards the tomb of 418 German miners in this tiny Ruhr valley coal town.

The men were entombed in February, 1946 by a mighty explosion that never has been explained. It was one of the worst mine disasters in history.

The entire shaft was cut off. Engineers flooded it in an effort to halt the raging fire that followed the blast. Then it was sealed off to protect other veins.

**Fire Never Stopped**  
The fire never has actually stopped, officials of the Essen Steinkohle Werke said. Crews have dug steadily from another direction ever since to reach the area and remove the bodies.

"It will take another year," said Director General R. J. Werning.

Eventually the bodies will be extricated for burial in the village cemetery.

The disaster cost the company an estimated ten million marks (\$3,000,000), without calculating the unexplored coal veins which

were blocked off.

The effect never has worn off in a community of only 8,000 people. Trades union officials said even now the young men of Kamen are reluctant to become miners and risk such an experience.

Werning said mine experts have examined every possibility to explain the blast that shook the Ruhr countryside. They finally blamed the weather.

"That is the only conclusion we could reach," he said.

On that February night, the Ruhr valley experienced a peculiar phenomenon. The air suddenly became heavy and hot. Then it was split by a deafening thunderstorm and a brilliant display of lightning.

The mine men think something in this peculiar combination must have touched off gas that otherwise would have been harmless. The Kamen mine had the reputation of being among the safest in the Ruhr.

**Nationalists Forces  
Wreck Huhwan Island**

CANTON, Sept. 16. — (AP) — A Nationalist amphibious force damaged or destroyed all military establishments on Huhwan Island, 230 miles south of Shanghai, in a daring raid today.

The island is an important Red base off the coast of Chekiang province.

An official announcement said the amphibious force landed under the protection of naval gunfire. It withdrew, the announcement said, after accomplishing its mission, the first of its kind by the Nationalists in the Chinese civil war.

The small Nationalist air force assigned to the defense of Kwangtung province began attacks on Red forces there.

**Large Expenditures Are  
Listed For Hanford Plant**

LOS ANGELES — (AP) — Figures of the atomic energy commission's area manager showed close to 90 per cent of the expenditures planned in the western states are slated for the Hanford project.

Area Manager Walter Stagg told a chamber of commerce construction committee the planned construction in the west totals about \$501,000,000.

He said some \$450,000,000 will be spent on the Hanford, Wash., project alone under the present plans. He described it as possibly the largest peace time construction project in the nation's history. Construction work has been under way there for some time. The Hanford figure was described as a long-range one, possibly for a 10-year period.

Stagg said the AEC's western budget for this year totals \$98,000,000 and that it will be \$112,500,000 next year.

The United States has more than a dozen communities named Berlin.

**WOMAN KILLED**  
BAKER, Sept. 16. — (AP) — A young housewife died near Baker Wednesday afternoon when the car she was driving left the road on a long curve and threw her from the car. Emma Sarah Johnson, about 24, Pondosa, was the

accident victim. She was driving alone. Her body was discovered by Pondosa people driving behind her to Baker.

**CROSBY BUYS RANCH**  
COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — (AP) — Bing Crosby has bought a \$75,000 home on the shores of Hayden lake near here to use as a vacation headquarters, a real estate dealer disclosed.

The singer bought the E. J. Gibson Point home overlooking the lake. The Gridley Investment company, which handled the sale, did not disclose the price, but the home is in the \$75,000 class.

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**CAR DRAGS BOY**  
PORTLAND, Sept. 15. — (AP) — A 14-month-old boy, playing under his father's car, was dragged 10 to 15 feet when the car started up.

The father, Lt. Cmdr. Walter P. Ramsey, drove away Tuesday night without knowing that his little boy was injured. He did not learn of it for several hours.

When making baked custard use a slow (325 degrees F.) oven and have the water in the pan in which the custard cups are set come to about the level of the custard. Individual custards prepared this way may take as long as one hour to bake.

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