

PACIFIC FLEET BIDS FOR SPEED CROWN OF WEST

Vancouver, B. C. (AP)—White steamship lines on the Atlantic are building feverishly for supremacy by construction of larger and faster liners a milder form of competition is being enacted on the Pacific.

The Canadian Pacific Steamship company is bringing to this coast a new palatial liner which outshines anything in regular service on the trans-Pacific route.

When the Empress of Japan, the modern version of the once proud clipper built liner of the same name, arrives here on August 19, a new race for trans-Pacific trade will be commenced.

The largest and fastest liner engaged in regular traffic on the schedule of the company giving a frequent service between the Far East and this continent as is given by other lines with a greater number of ships.

The acquisition of the Empress of Japan will give the company a fleet of four liners on the trans-Pacific run. The fleet comprises the Empress of Russia, Asia, Canada and Japan.

While the Bremen and Europa are speed champions on the Atlantic the Empress of Japan on this coast will bid for the blue ribbon of the Pacific.

The Empress of Canada at present hold the record of eight days 19 hours and 9 minutes from Yokohama to Victoria. The nearest that any liner has come to this is 19 days.

The Canada and the Japan will pace each other for the speed crown as they both have the same type engines and are capable of 21 knots.

The Empress of Japan is a twin-screw oil-burner of 25,000 tons. It is 640 feet in length, 83 feet breadth and 56 feet deep. Passenger accommodation will be 268 saloon, 164 second, 109 third and 548 steerage making a total of 1089.

In keeping with the war time tradition the liners are of a greyish white color, hence they have been called the greyhounds of the Pacific, reminiscent of the time when these huge vessels carried guns fore and aft to give protection to the passengers and be ready for emergency if pressed into actual wartime service.

BROAD YAWN
Boston, (AP)—Henry Brown required hospital treatment after he had yawned too enthusiastically. His jaw was dislocated.

ON TRIAL IN NEW YORK



Mae West went on trial in New York charged together with 57 other persons including a producer, stage manager and actors, with having committed a misdemeanor in placing on Broadway in October, 1928, "Pleasure Man," which was raided as an indecent play and closed.

Famous Passion Play is Given Every Decade to Fulfill Ancient Pledge

Berlin (AP)—Oberammergau's Passion Play, which its sponsors hope will be viewed by some 150,000 paying guests during the coming summer, has not been the same mystery play throughout the 300 years of its history. Albert, despite its various changes, the 1930 presentation will be much closer to the simplicity of its form and the coherence of its movement to the original of the 17th century than was the elaborately allegorical Passion Play of the early 18th century.

The oldest text of this religious drama is found in a manuscript of the Augustinian monastery of Saint Ulrich dated in the 15th century. As given at that time the drama was purely an ecclesiastical mystery play presented by the monks on certain holy days. It has been described as "a sort of secular and divine service and worship combined." Evidently it was of necessity simple in form and in presentation, but when it was later taken up by the residents of various villages in Bavaria and Austria for production its scope was enlarged. Even after its initial production in Oberammergau in 1634 the text of the play was materially altered.

Again a century later extensive and fundamental changes were made in the play when it was virtually rewritten by a priest of the Ettal Monastery. He set the spoken parts in verse of 12-syllable lines, embroidered the theme with allegorical figures and songs, changed the instrumental music and intro-

CENTENNIAL OF REAPER TO BE OBSERVED 1931

Raphine, Va. (AP)—A little farm shop in the Virginia hills will have an important part in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the reaper in 1931.

It was there that Cyrus H. McCormick constructed the "contraption" that was to revolutionize agriculture and give to the world cheap bread.

The first reaper was crude, but the principle remains the same in the efficient machines of today.

Celebration of the 100th anniversary will be national and possibly international in its scope.

Virginia, naturally, will be interested in the 100th anniversary, although it has long since given place to the mid-west as a leader in grain production.

A model of the first crude machine is preserved in the state museum at Richmond.

Cyrus McCormick was one of the many who toiled on farms, swinging the old-fashioned "cradle" through the wheat on his father's acres in Rockbridge county, Virginia.

He profited by the mistakes of his father, who had sought unsuccessfully to construct a harvesting machine. His father's plan of a machine to be pushed was abandoned.

Instead McCormick adopted a cutting blade on the side. Then followed the device to separate the stalks to place them in cutting position, and arms to gather the fallen stalks. The machine floundered along the field, a "joke" to some of the neighbors. But it worked.

The McCormick home lay in the Shenandoah valley, a spot to be known in after years as the "granary of the Confederacy" because of its productivity.

duced many devices then similar to the Italian operative stage. All this, however, was cut bodily out of the play at the beginning of the 19th century when another Ettal priest, Father Ottmar Weiss, wrote a new text, restoring the play to a strict agreement with the biblical account of the life of Christ, thereby making full use of the dramatic elements fundamental to the story of Christ, which Father Weiss believed needed no artificial aid or adornment. There have been many changes since the time of Weiss, but these have all been of a minor nature and have not substantially altered the text as he wrote it.

The Oberammergauers were among

the first to present a play performance of the Passion Play. In the year 1633 when a pestilence, brought in by the armies participating in the 30 Years' War, swept over Central Europe it reduced the population of Oberammergau by half or more. Survivors in the village made a solemn vow that if God would spare them from further ravages of the plague, they would present the Passion Play every 10 years. This they have done with unflinching fidelity since 1634. In the first 50 years the play was produced in the fourth year of each decade, but since 1680, with one or two unavoidable exceptions, it has been performed in the tenth year of every decade.

MAN IN THE MOON HAS PUMICE CHEEKS

Delaware, Ohio (AP)—Detecting the differences in the quality of heat reflected from the cheeks of blondes and brunettes has not been done yet, but it seems possible, judging by astronomers' heat measuring accomplishments.

The kind of stone that makes the cheeks of the man in the moon has been detected by measuring the "quality" of the heat this stone radiates.

"It has the same quality," says Dr. Harlan T. Stetson, director of Perkins observatory of Ohio Wesleyan university, "as the heat radiated from pumice stone on earth exposed to the rays of heat from the sun."

STEAL THE PATROL
Saugus, Mass. (AP)—While local authorities were conducting a liquor raid, somebody stole the police patrol wagon which had been parked outside the house.

MEARS STUDIES FLYING TO SPEED GLOBE CIRCLING

Camden, N. J. (AP)—No one is watching the return voyage of Rear Admiral Richard Evelyn Byrd from his Antarctic adventures with more expectancy than John Henry Mears, America's famous round-the-world racer.

Mears, whose greatest aim in life apparently, is to circumnavigate the globe faster than any other human being, is hard at work here mastering the art of flying in preparation for his next attempt to bring back to the United States the record for globe circumnavigation.

He wants to be a capable pilot before next June when he and Bert Balchen, Rear Admiral Byrd's famous co-pilot, will attempt to lower the record of 21 days made last year by the Graf Zeppelin for a round-the-world flight. Balchen is at present with Byrd but Mears expects him here about the end of May to complete plans for the flight.

Bill Day, operations manager here for Ludington Flying Service, who is teaching Mears to fly, said the New Yorker is going to make a "cocking good pilot." Day is a war time flier and has been an instructor most of the time since. He has been with the Ludington people for the past year as operations manager at their Camden field.

Mears, who has made two previous round-the-world records, knows full well the strain on a pilot in such an undertaking and he is determined to be fully capable of

taking over the controls from Balchen periodically during the proposed flight which will include considerable trans-oceanic flying.

The next attempt by Mears and Balchen will be made in a Lockheed Vega monoplane. This plane is capable of exceeding 175 miles per hour with a cruising speed of 140 miles per hour.

Among Mears' accomplishments in circumnavigating the globe in the record time are his 35-day record in 1923. In that speed test he employed trains, steamships and a short hop in an airplane which ended in a forced landing in Puget Sound.

In 1928 Mears and the late Capt. C. B. D. Collyer lowered the record for the "City of New York," a Fairchild monoplane, for the major portion of the trip. Collyer was killed in a crash in Arizona some months after while attempting to establish a new transcontinental record.

AWAIT REINHARDT
Paris, (AP)—French theater circles the forthcoming visit of Max Reinhardt looking forward with interest to hardt, billed here to appear with a

specialty picked German troupe. Knowing the usual excellence of Reinhardt productions, and his insistence on methodical as well as artistic preparation, the theater goers will have the opportunity of making an interesting comparison between French and German stage productions.

Medford, Wis. (AP)—Leon Blomberg and Neil Vetter, Medford trappers, have collected state bounty on their 14th wolf killed this winter in Taylor county.

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