

Washington Merry-Go-Round

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Washington, D. C.

U. S. COULD TIP BALANCE
The diplomatic reports which President Roosevelt now has on his desk all indicate that the war has reached the most crucial point in its variegated history, and that adroit, even strong-arm diplomacy by the United States might tip the balance to a British victory.

How this may be done is now the most vital question before the White House and state department.

One possibility was to woo Russia, keep her out of the Axis. This was the chief reason for the Oumansky-Sumner Welles conversations. They have partially failed, due to the fact that all the United States can offer Russia is machine tools and gasoline, while Adolf Hitler can make an offer of India, Persia, Afghanistan.

Another possibility was to stiffen U. S. policy against Japan, perhaps by sending ships to Singapore, thus taking over the British burden of policing the South Pacific. This would have devastating repercussions upon the Axis, but Roosevelt considers it risky, so it is being held in abeyance.

Third possibility, and the one actively under discussion inside the state department now, is to bolster the French forces in North Africa, help bring them in on the side of the British.

This has tremendous possibilities. For at present General Graziani is bogged down in Egypt, where Mussolini has been sending him peremptory orders to advance on Suez, to which Graziani has replied that he will not advance until he has sufficient supplies. So should Graziani be attacked by the French from the Tunis side, and by the British from the Egyptian side, it would mean certain defeat and probably the end of Mussolini.

Furthermore, it would probably take Italy out of the war.

This is the main effort to which American diplomacy is now directed. First step was a plan to send General Pershing, old friend of Marshal Petain, as special ambassador to France. To this end, the 30-year-old general underwent a thorough physical examination at Walter Reed hospital. But although anxious to undertake the mission, his doctors forbade it. Unless he ignores the orders of the physicians, which is not likely, the Pershing mission is out.

However, the chief problem is to influence not merely Petain, who already has veered away from the Axis, but also Marshal Weygand. The latter is now in North Africa, and the French troops in that area would rise to his leadership overnight in any attack upon Italian Libya.

U. S. SHIPS TO DAKAR

Another plan which has been considered in army and navy circles is for the United States to take cognizance of the part which Dakar might play in any attack upon South America.

The Germans are now developing Dakar as a giant air base under the protection of the French fleet. This is of vital concern to the United States, Brazil, Argentina and the rest of South America. Therefore, it has been suggested that the United States instigate joint Pan-American representations, followed perhaps by a naval display off Dakar, in order to persuade the French fleet to divorce itself from Germany and neutralize Dakar.

This plan does not get much encouragement from the White House and state department, where it is considered risky.

NEW CROP CURTAILMENT

Beginning December 1, the AAA inaugurated the "Alabama plan," which marks a sharp turning in the policy of crop control. It is aimed to remedy what has long been loosely described as "paying farmers for not growing something."

Henry Wallace and the AAA never acknowledged that their program was as negative as that, but the new program sets out to eliminate all doubt.

Heretofore a farmer could earn benefit payments merely by abandoning a certain acreage—that is, by reducing the number of acres of his major crop. But under the Alabama plan, he is required also to carry out certain soil building practices, such as terracing, planting erosion-resisting crops, and setting aside an acre of permanent pasture.

The plan, first adopted in Alabama, puts farmers on their mettle. If they fail to perform, the benefit payments are withheld. In other words, the objective is shifted, from acreage reduction to improvement of the soil of American farms.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

The surplus marketing administration is pushing the consumption of powdered eggs, which its experts claim taste about the same as fresh eggs. Last year bakers used 19,000,000 powdered eggs, which sell from three to five cents less than fresh.

Few people realize the expanding scope of the defense commission. For instance, its press relations officer has a representative in Hollywood, Leo Rosten, to explain Washington to film directors.

Walter Winchell

The New York Scene:

Faces About Town: The F.D.R. Mrs. practically necking at a ring-side table (next to this column's) the other night just when several newspaper men phoned him to check this "reliable" tip: "We hear your wife is in a plane bound for Reno" . . . Count Vincent Orsich talking tactlessly for an alien . . . Prettiest of the Texas skyscrapers—turning every neck at the Stork club—lovely Mary Dowell, of Fort Worth . . . Tommy Manville growing old gracefully. He can dance only one chorus, and then retreats back to his coca cola and ringside table . . . Charlie Chaplin being greeted affectionately wherever he goes.

Sallies in Our Alley: George Jean Nathan, the critic, was asked his opinion of a young newcomer playwright. "The best thing I can say about his writing," Nathan'd George, "is that it is legible" . . . Wilkie Mahoney, the scripper, says that for every genius in Hollywood there's a rotten movie on Broadway . . . A drunk displaying a gigantic Wilkie button was yelling: "I won with Wilkie! I won with Wilkie!" in front of the Rivoli theater. One of the stem's gamblers asked him: "Whaddaya mean you won with Wilkie? He came in second!" . . . "So what?" hiccupped the stew, "I had him across the board!"

Memos of a Midnighter: They are saying that Twentieth Century-Fox stopped growing when Shirley Temple didn't . . . Phyllis Ruth is Pretty-Face Shearer's successor in G. Raft's affections . . . Marjorie Logan, filing from golf champ Chapman, is the shadow of J. Carrott of Greenwich . . . The L. Carltons of the Post have a new Blessed Event . . . The Taft Bellmen's annual affair will attract the Broadway crowd. Satdee at the Park Palace on 110th . . . Doris Greb, one of the many omigoddesses in the Copacabana girl division, is the reason for the nightly attendance of Horacio Sanchez Alzagar. He is Macoco's nevew and one of the richest blokes in Argentina.

New Yorkids: The American Artists Group's contribution to quicken appreciation for contemporary art—Yuletide cards. Merely wonderful . . . Twentieth Century's "Chad Hanna," a Nunnally Johnson delight . . . Gloria Blake's thrilling trilling at the Beachcomber. A 17-year-old young lark . . . Joey Adams' Loew's units, the talk of the circuit . . . The British Empire Circle's Grand Ball at Manhattan Center . . . "Big White Fog" by talented colored players at the Lincoln theater . . . And the marriage of words and music in the ditty: "The Girl Who Took a Second Look at Me."

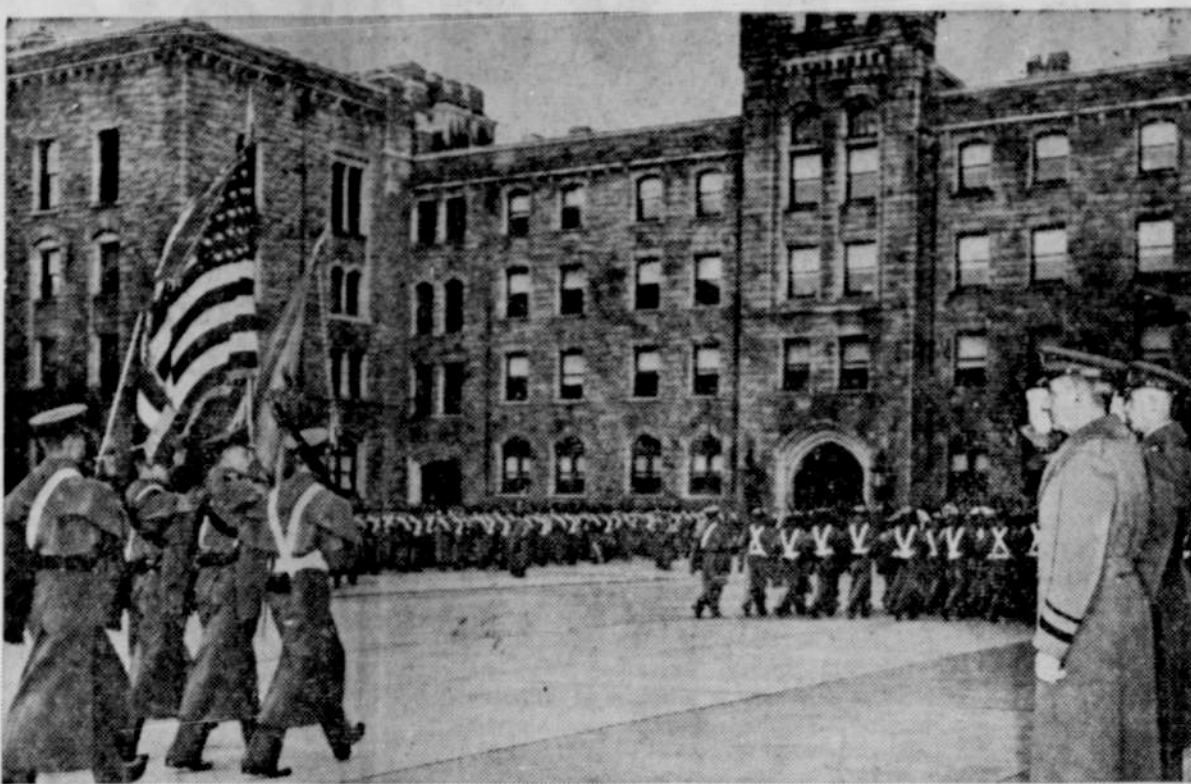
Broadway Smalltalk: An Austrian baroness is to be evicted from a midtown hostelry because her kind friend, an aging banker, refuses to pay her rent any longer . . . George Davis, who was recently reported proposing to Gypsy Rose Lee, has quit Harper's Bazaar . . . The wiseguys will betcha that wheat will again be \$1.50 in May, 1941 . . . "Meet the People," the revue in H'wood (it is a pet there) debuts in New York December 23 in a Shubert house . . . Jerry Cooper thinks the authors of those three Hollywood plays (which libel the movietown people) should be written up themselves in a show entitled: "Beverly Heels" . . . Park & Tilford, now celebrating their centennial, pensioned four vet workers with full salary . . . Allan Finn is now radioed of Newsweek . . . French Vichy-men are using U. S. society women (whose friends leave by clipper) to carry their confidential messages to Vichy. To escape censoring and control at Bermuda.

Manhattan Murals: The projectionist at Radio City Music Hall listening to Uncle Don on his portable radio while screening "Escape" . . . The two Japanese with miniature candid cameras slung over their shoulders. One took pictures (at night!) of a Fifth Avenue shop interior. Sunday eve's about 6:45. Looked very comical . . . The eatery on 116th and 7th which advertises: "Don't Eat Until I Open!"

Midtown Vignette: Jean Harrington, the post-deb, tiffed with the Stork management recently and stayed away from the joynt for a few weeks. She walked in again Sunday midnight, waited for the balloons to fall an hour later. She caught a lucky one containing a \$100 bill . . . The following day she gave a luncheon for several friends—at "21!"

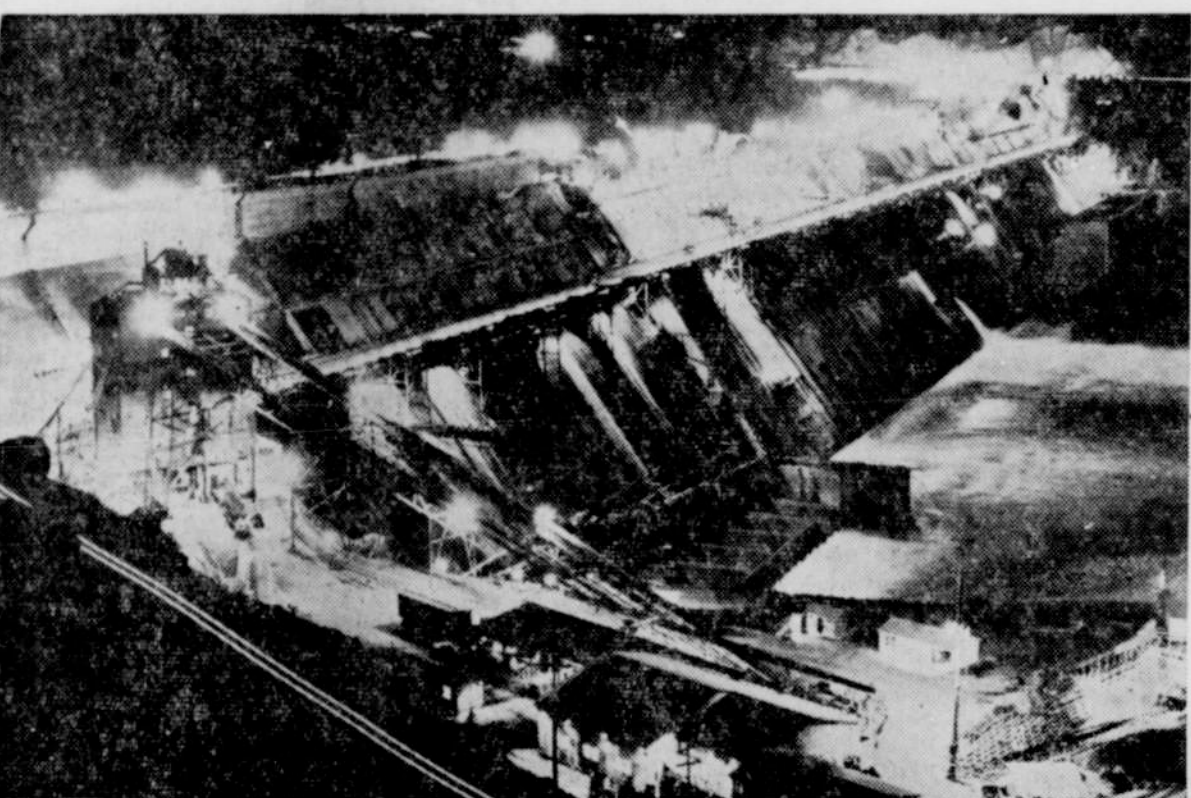
Midtown Melodrama: Stage magazine's debut was a bit tardy for the darndest reason. The editors investigated the background of one of the four "pretty and promising" girls who were shown meeting all the celebrities—and discovered that one of them, a cute and dimpled thing, was too well-known about Sixth avenue as a Midnight Madonna . . . And so another had to be selected and new pictures made . . . She is so hurt—she has vowed to tell the wife of her "finger-man" next time she meets them in public.

New West Point Head Reviews Cadets



Brigadier General Robert L. Eichelberger, newly appointed superintendent of the military academy at West Point, N. Y., reviews the corps of cadets for the first time since taking over his duties at the academy. On the general's right is Lieutenant-Colonel Ryder, commander of the cadets.

Night Shift on the Grand Coulee



When the day's work is done on the Grand Coulee dam on the Columbia river, in eastern Washington, the night's work begins under the glare of powerful lights that make a striking picture against the surrounding black hills. The dam, which is now nearing completion is being built by the Bureau of Reclamation. It will be the greatest man-made structure on earth.

Japanese Buddhism Shingon Anniversary



Shown in Seattle celebrating the 1,160th anniversary of the founding of their sect, the Japanese Buddhism Shingon, are (l. to r.) Bishops S. Hasu, and T. Ohno, and Vice Archbishop Jisho Matsuhashi, all of Japan. Vice Archbishop Matsuhashi spent 35 years in holy seclusion atop Mt. Koya in Japan, and is one of Japan's most revered religious characters.

Inspecting Indo-Chinese Guard of Honor



Hajime Matsumiya (right) Japan's special envoy to French Indo-China, in company of French officials, and Rokuro Suzuki (left), Jap consul-general at Hanoi, inspecting an Indo-Chinese guard of honor, upon his arrival at Haiphong. Matsumiya was appointed to this diplomatic post in the French colony shortly after the Vichy government capitulated.

Boy King



King Ananda Mahidol of Thailand (Siam) is shown here with his mother when he was at school in Lausanne, Switzerland. Today the country ruled by the young king is at war with France, according to an announcement issued in Vichy. Thailand had made territorial demands on the government of the French colony. King Ananda succeeded King Prajadhipok when the latter abdicated in 1935. Thailand is ruled by a regency until the young man comes of age.

Youngest Mayor

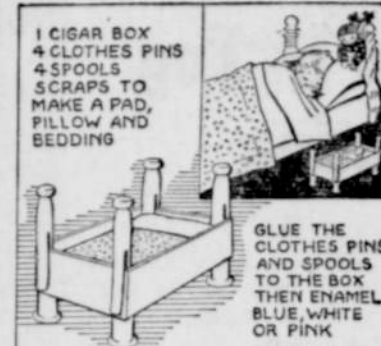


Mayor William O. Kelly of Flint, Mich., 32, believed to be the youngest mayor in the United States. Mayor Kelly is pictured at the piano, which he plays well.

Four-Poster Doll Bed For Santa to Bring

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS

NOBODY knows better than I how many willing helpers good old Santa has. Hundreds of you have written me that you have made gifts from directions in this column and in SEWING BOOKS 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Book 6 is now ready and as it goes into the mail I want you all to know that I have a very real feeling of friendship for you who find joy in making things with



your hands. Your letters keep me posted about the things you want to know. Refurbishing old furniture, curtaining difficult windows, new slip covers, rug and patch work designs, lamp shades, dressing tables, smoking, gift and bazaar novelties—you have asked for these and they are in the new Book 6. It also contains a description of the other booklets in this series.

And here is something that is not in any of these booklets. This tiny four-poster doll bed will be just the thing for Santa to leave beside some one's big bed on Christmas Eve. After the cigar box, spoons and clothes pins are glued together and enameled you will have a grand time making the bedding, pillow and coverlet. Send order to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS
Bedford Hills, New York
Enclose 10 cents for each book ordered.
Name
Address

There's a Good Reason You're Constipated!

When there's something wrong with you, the first rule is: get at the cause. If you are constipated, don't endure it first and "cure" it afterward. Find out what's giving you the trouble.

Chances are it's simple if you eat the super-refined foods most people do: meat, white bread, potatoes. It's likely you don't get enough "bulk." And "bulk" doesn't mean a lot of food. It's a kind of food that isn't consumed in the body, but leaves a soft "bulky" mass in the intestines and helps a bowel movement.

If this is your trouble, you should eat a natural "bulk" producing food—such as one as the crunchy, toasted, ready-to-eat cereal, Kellogg's All-Bran. Eat it often, drink plenty of water, and "Join the Regulars." All-Bran is made by Kellogg's in Battle Creek. If your condition is chronic, it is wise to consult a physician.

Majesty in Simplicity
There is a majesty in simplicity which is far above the quantities of wit.—Pope.

TO RELIEVE MISERY OF **COLDS** quickly use **666** LIQUID TABLETS SALVE NOSE DROPS COUGH DROPS

Prolonging Trouble
Dwelling on troubles doesn't help to remove them.—B. C. Forbes.

Is your child a NAIL BITER?

It isn't always "nerves" that makes a child bite his nails. Often it's because of a reason few mothers suspect—WORMS!

If, along with nail biting, there are signs of uneasy stomach, finicky appetite, fidgeting, restless sleep . . . take heed! These may be the symptoms of round worms; a nasty infection that can cause real distress.

JAYNE'S VERMIFUGE is the best known remedy in America for expelling round worms. It has been used by millions of mothers, for over a century, and is backed by the most modern scientific study.

JAYNE'S VERMIFUGE has great ability to drive out large round worms, yet it tastes good and acts gently. JAYNE'S does not contain santonin. If there are no worms it works merely as a mild laxative. Ask for JAYNE'S VER-MI-FUGE at any drug store.

FREE: Valuable medical book, "Worms Living Inside You." Write to Dept. M-2, Dr. D. Jayne & Son, 2 Vine St., Philadelphia.

"All the Traffic Would Bear"

● There was a time in America when there were no set prices. Each merchant charged what he thought "the traffic would bear." Advertising came to the rescue of the consumer. It led the way to the established prices you pay when you buy anything today.