

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

Washington, D. C. BIBLICAL DESTROYERS

There were two reasons for that grin on the face of North Dakota's Gov. John Moses when he left the White House the other day.

One was an assurance that the President would personally investigate why North Dakota has not received any of the new defense plants. Moses argued that his state was so far inland that it was ideal for defense industries. Roosevelt promised to look into the matter immediately.

The other reason was an anecdote the President told Moses "about a famous namesake of yours." It happened when Roosevelt was assistant secretary of the navy in the Wilson administration.

He was asked to select from a list of American naval heroes, the name of a new destroyer. He picked "Israel," in honor of a U. S. captain who distinguished himself in the war against the Barbary Coast pirates in 1815.

Some time later, Roosevelt was asked to approve the personnel of this destroyer. And while looking over the list of personnel, another aide entered with another personnel list for a destroyer named "Moses."

"This coincidence struck me as very funny," Roosevelt related, "and I leaned back and laughed. The young naval officer looked perturbed and inquired, 'Aren't those the right crews for those ships—Moses and Israel?' And then I laughed some more, because heading the lists of officers were the names of Murphy and O'Reilly."

Note—Moses, a Democrat from a rock-ribbed G. O. P. state, is the tallest governor in the country—6 feet 4 inches.

ALBANIAN MOUNTAINERS HELP GREEKS

(Editor's Note—The Washington Merry-Go-Round's famous Brass Ring this week is awarded to the unsung allies of the Greek army, the peasants and mountaineers of Albania.)

Much tribute has been paid to the gallant Greek army and royal air force for winning one of this war's most crucial battles, in that wildest and most remote corner of Europe—Albania.

But little has been written about the Albanian peasants and mountaineers who have provided the Greeks with the most amazing intelligence service of this war, so accurate that the Greeks have known down to the last detail just how many Italians were located behind each hill, where their guns were placed, and the exact nature of their fortifications.

An army without eyes is helpless. And the Albanians, who have never forgotten the manner in which Mussolini drove their queen and her day-old son out of the country two years ago, have contributed materially to the surprising succession of Greek victories.

STATE DEPARTMENT WIDOWS

There was not much Christmas joy this year in the homes of 124 "blitzkrieg widows" of the American diplomatic service. Their husbands' diplomats are still on the job, but the wives are prevented by official regulations from joining them.

From Warsaw, from Berlin, from Copenhagen, from Oslo, from Brussels, from the Hague, following the spread of the war, these "blitzkrieg widows" came trekking home—on government order—with children by the hand.

A few capitals, such as Moscow and Helsinki, have now permitted wives to rejoin their husbands, but meanwhile, a new warning has gone out affecting citizens in the Far East, and the ranks of the widows are swelling still further.

This separation is much more than a sentimental problem. It creates a strain on the budget of each family, for they are obliged to maintain two establishments, and the salaries of the foreign service are not gauged to meet living costs in this country.

The state department has had so much grief from the "widows" that a move to be considered to lift the ban and allow them to return to their husbands' posts.

CAPITAL CHAFF

The state department is getting a heavy volume of mail from all parts of the country urging strong U. S. assistance to Greece.

Josephus Daniels, ambassador to Mexico, is the only ambassador appointed by Roosevelt in 1933 who still remains at the same post.

Experts of the house migrant investigating committee estimate that at least 4,000,000 job-hunters are constantly on the move in the country.

Some American women have switched to cotton stockings as a protest against Japan, yet in the first nine months of this year, the United States imported \$66,000,000 worth of silk from Japan.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Two former editors of the "Amerec News," daily paper of the 1918 U. S. army of occupation at Coblenz, Germany, are now on active duty at the war department. They are Col. Fred J. Mueller and Lieut.-Col. B. H. McMahon, both assigned to the public relations staff.

Walter Winchell

Reporter's Private Papers:

Val Guest, the colyum's star correspondent in the London air raid shelters, reports: "The old women still feeding the pigeons in Trafalgar Square with the guns booming over them. Even the birds are used to them now. . . . The newsboy in Piccadilly chalking up: 'Half-Time Scores: Jerry, 54 Down' . . . The pieces of incendiary bombs fetching anything from a dollar for smarties who pick them up. . . . A tin-hatted chocolate-and-gum vendor doing a roaring trade in the shelters. . . . The raid during a violent thunderstorm. . . . After a loud thunder crack, an urchin comforted an old lady with: 'That wasn't Hitler, lady, that was God, and he won't hurt you' . . . The real need of a coat with two pairs of pants. One to work in, the other to sleep in. . . . The Savoy Hotel, where, when you book a table, you can book a bed in the shelter. They ask you politely: 'Will you be staying for the raid, sir?' . . . The ten-cent stores, now fifteen cent. . . . The gag badges you can buy with the inscription: 'Please, don't tell me how nearly you were bombed' . . . Well, there goes the all-clear, Walter. I enclose a bit of shrapnel. Maybe you can use it for a paper-weight."

Virginio Gayda, Benito's boy, now has a chance to show how good an editor he is. All he has to do is explain (to his fellow Italians) whatever became of what he called: "The soft, decadent British Empire."

The United Press includes in its ten best news stories of 1940 "The Enigma of Russia" . . . There's been no news out of Russia since Stalin established his censorship last January. . . . So what the UP is asking you to believe is a big news story is: "Russia Keeps Its Mouth Shut!"

Paul Waner, The slugging star for Pittsburgh (for 15 years), has been fired. Paul, when he was tops, was reported to have been guaranteed a life job in the ball club owner's will. . . . Now he joins Babe Ruth in idleness. . . . Babe being the player who saved baseball from ruin after the Black Sox scandal. . . . It must not be thought, however, that baseball forgets its crowd-getters. . . . No, indeed. They are always elected to baseball's Hall of Fame.

New York Heartbeat
New Yorchids: Abe Lyman's new theme song: "Moon Over America" . . . The Rosalind Russell-M. Douglas worduels in Columbia's: "This Thing Called Love" . . . Warner's "Santa Fe Trail" . . . Hildegard's version of "The Last Time I Saw Paris" . . . The "Truth or Consequences" program . . . The forthcoming "High Sierra" picture, another Hellinger high-spot.

Times Square Ticker-Tape: John Barrymore told a chum that the greatest actor on the screen is Gary Cooper and that he wished he could act like him. . . . They insist that the femme half of that "scandalous" duo of Hollywood stars went to the Will Hays office and, after she unveiled the entire story, was completely exonerated. . . . The Taluca Lake natives will betcha that Ann Sheridan and George Brent were married two months ago, despite the denials.

Memos of a Midnighter: The Phil Plants, celebrating their 2nd Ann'y, stifling the rumors. . . . The MGM information booth at Times Square will become a recruiting station. . . . The songwriters will picket radio stations with pianos on trucks. . . . Count Adelburg, of the White Russian colony here, and Rosemary Warburton, of the Social Register, are Like That. . . . Trent Patterson, the thrush (recently in court over a friend's husband), is being consoled by a hooch exec. . . . Sally Rand incorporated herself last week to dodge claims from her recent bankruptcy. There is still \$7,000 against her, chorus girl wages, etc.

Sounds in the Night: In The Stork: "What a face! She looks like a million dollars your enemy has" . . . In Reuben's: "Nope, I don't wanna be a Broadwayite. I don't look good with a knife in my back" . . . In Club Cuba: "Tell me, whose little cheek-book stub are you?" . . . At Chateau-Moderne: "The big whoops! Give him enough rope and he'll start jumping it" . . . At The Copacabana: "When he enters the room it's just as though someone left" . . . At The Radio Franks: "Why shouldn't he be crazy? Isn't he out of her mind?"

Street Scenery: The sleeping pill ads in a drug store window: "Take dese and doze!" . . . The safety slogan on a car: "You keep your distance and we'll both keep our health!" . . . The new airlines terminal building—architectural poetry. . . . The tiniest autograph-signer in town: Little 8 year old Joan Carroll, besieged by the autografters at the "Panama Hattie" stage door. . . . The pathetic looking sign-carriers giving Broadway a droopier look as they battle the win-terr weatherrrr.

Sportlight

By GRANTLAND RICE

LOS ANGELES. — The paths of Francis Ouimet and Eddie Lowery crossed again at the Bel-Air course of Beverly Hills. Who is Eddie Lowery? He is now a successful San Francisco business man and a good golfer in his own right. But nearly 28 years ago Eddie Lowery was the 10-year-old caddie who worked for Francis Ouimet in the famous Vardon-Ray play for the U. S. Open at Brookline in 1915.



Grantland Rice

Lowery's Story

"I was only 10 years old at the time," Eddie said, with Ouimet listening, "when my older brother and I used to caddie for Francis. We both played hookey the first day of the tournament. My brother caddied for Francis while I followed Vardon and Ray. That night our mother said we both had to be at school next day. My brother went back to school, but I played hookey again and carried Ouimet's bag. I had to keep an eye on Ouimet's ball—and also on the lookout for truant officers, who were pretty keen."

"I'll never forget the last three holes of the last round," Eddie continued. "Francis had to play these in 10 strokes, one under par, to get a tie with Vardon and Ray, who had already finished. On the short sixteenth Francis had a 20-foot putt for a two. This seemed a good chance to go for that birdie. But he was too bold, and the first putt ran eight feet by the cup. But he holed that one for his three. On the seventeenth he holed another 15 or 20-footer for the needed birdie and then through pouring rain got his par four on the last hole which resulted in the now famous triple tie."

What Happened Later

"You can imagine how tremendous was the excitement," Lowery said. "Few thought the 20-year-old kid with the 10-year-old caddie had even an outside chance against two famous British golfers who had played in so many British Opens. A good many of Ouimet's friends thought I was too young and too small to caddie in an event so important. They insisted on some older caddie, but Francis held out for me."

"I'll pick the story here for a moment," Ouimet cut in. "Next morning, a short while before the match, Eddie came and got my bag. 'You won't want to hit any practice shots, will you?' he asked, knowing that I seldom did. I said, 'No.' Eddie then said, 'I'll see you in about half an hour.' 'Where are you going?' I asked. 'We start in a few minutes.' 'I'll tell you later,' Eddie answered as he hustled away. As we were all three ready to drive off I looked around again and there was Eddie."

"Where have you been?" I asked him.

"I didn't want to bother you," he whispered, "but I've been hiding in that barn. There's a truant officer after me to take me back to school so I had to keep out of his sight. And listen," he said, "you're going to beat these two guys sure. You just keep your eye on the ball and I'll take care of everything else."

Lowery Speaking

"As I recall it," Eddie said, "the three were all even as they passed the turn. I could see a worried look on the faces of both Vardon and Ray. They had expected the inexperienced 20-year-old kid to crack wide open. But here he was cooler than ever. He didn't watch their drives. He just kept playing his own game. Then on the tenth hole both Vardon and Ray took three putts and Ouimet was out in front."

"They all played fine golf the next few holes, and then big Ted Ray was the first to break up. This left the battle between Francis and the great Harry. And it was Vardon who finally couldn't stand the strain and the fast pace any longer as he, too, cracked and Francis with a birdie picked up two more strokes. The killing thrust."

"Francis was still as cool and as unruffled as if he had been playing a dime Nassau with two old pals. It was still raining and the course was wet and soggy, but Ouimet's drives continued to find the middle. His iron play was perfect and his putter was smoking hot. The two veterans couldn't stand up against that finishing 34 under such conditions, especially when they had looked for a certain runaway."

"That must have been a big thrill," I said to Lowery. "It was a thrill I've never forgotten, and never will," Eddie said.

House of Commons Damaged by Bombs



View of part of the damage wrought by German bombs in Britain's historic house of commons in recent raids. Public parts of the building were unharmed, and nearby St. Stephen's chapel also escaped, but the cloisters in the crypt and the public bill office were hit. The private bill office was struck by high explosive and oil bombs.

New Nazi Army Moves Into Rumania



German troops arriving in Bucharest, Rumania. A total force estimated at 20 divisions, or 300,000 men, with artillery, bridge-building equipment, tanks and motor transports formed the vanguard of a new German expedition into the Balkans. Hungary's grant of right-of-way stirred up many conjectures as to what this move might mean.

Our Newest Bomber in Flight



The newest and best of the U. S. medium bombers is B-26, shown here taking off (above), and in the air (below), during a test flight at Baltimore, Md. Product of the Glenn L. Martin factory at Baltimore, this high performance dealer of destruction will soon be rolling off the production lines at mass production rate.

President Awards Collier Aviation Trophy



President Roosevelt awarded the Collier trophy, principal aviation award of the year, to 15 representatives of commercial airlines for the safety record achieved last year. Three physicians were also honored for developing an oxygen mask. They are L. to R., standing (front), Dr. W. Boothby and Dr. W. Lovelace II, of the Mayo Foundation, and Capt. H. Armstrong of the army medical corps, Wright field, Dayton, Ohio.

New Sub Grampus



Uncle Sam's newest submarine, the 1,475-ton Grampus, sliding into the water at New London, Conn. The craft, one of eight similar type ordered under the Vinson act in 1939, is named after a common type of killer whale.

Seized as Spy



Oscar Stabler, German barber on the American export liner, Excambion, who was taken from the ship at Bermuda by the British and held under suspicion of espionage. Stabler became a U. S. citizen in 1933.

Power for Defense



John C. Garand, inventor of the army's famed semi-automatic Garand rifle, is shown at work in his model shop at the Springfield, Mass., armory, where his grand gun is in mass production to arm our defense forces.

Sees Fascism's End



Count Carlo Sforza, former Italian premier, who is credited with the statement that the Italian people are dissatisfied with Fascism. He is now an exile in the U. S.