



WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON (Consolidated Features-WNU Service.)

NEW YORK—A few years ago, Anita Loos' maid used to deliver to her every day a dash of gopher dust from Harlem. We haven't heard whether she still goes on, but the charm seems to be still working. All goes well as "Blossoms in the Dust" gets warm, almost fulsome from the critics. Miss Loos did the screen play for Ralph Wheelwright's story. It taps deep founts of tears and ranges far from Miss Loos' "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," and its Lorelei Lee, the slurring and unabashed goldigger of 1925. It's one of those "where are they now?" stories, with Miss Loos sitting pretty, literally and figuratively, as a deft, swift, workmanlike story adapter, scenarist and remodeler in Hollywood—one of the best.

The pint-size girl with bangs—weight 87 pounds, height four feet, eleven inches—was riding on the train from California to New York in 1925, considerably bored. She started writing up this goldigger Lorelei, with a soft-stub pencil, in big, round letters. The manuscript strung along clear through Kansas and Indiana and on to New York, and was almost as big as Miss Loos, what with those big ropetrack letters, when she landed here.

It brought her something over \$600,000. It was translated into virtually every language except Eskimo and pigeon-talk, and in England its sales passed those of any other American book. She later wrote "But Gentlemen Marry Brunettes."

Her talent for humor may have been inherited from her father, a country newspaper publisher and humorist of the Bill Nye school, of Sissons, Calif., where Miss Loos was born. She was a shy, quaint little thing, hanging around the newspaper shop, helping polish up a gag or feed the flatbed. When she was 14, she sent a story to the New York Morning Telegraph. They printed it. A year later David Griffith sent for a girl who had sent a scenario which had set his assistants to whooping jocosely.

"What can I do for you, my child?" he asked when the tiny girl with bangs and pigtailed came in. The Loos girl showed him her summons to Hollywood. There she was and is. In the years between she had become a pretty good actress, appearing in San Francisco and other California cities.

JUST a year ago, Roger L. Putnam, go-getting mayor of Springfield, Mass., was much in the news with the Putnam plan to break bottlenecks in industry. He caught the nation's attention by his success in achieving co-operation among the city, industry and labor, the most important detail of his formula being the training of labor by the city, to fit specific needs. He's in the news as Springfield's defense director with some snappy suggestions about the swift and effective integration of civilians and officials, and private and public facilities. His successful battles with two floods and a hurricane give weight to his words.

He's Harvard, 1915, did a P.G. stretch at M.I.T., worked at engineering and was in the navy in the World War. In the navy he learned to crochet cord belts, an art which he still practices, and Putnam-made belts are in great demand among his friends. He is the father of three boys and three girls, 48 years old, stocky in build, but quick-moving both in person and speech. He is president of the Package Machinery Co.

More and more management, as above, is coming to the top, as against finance. Note James Burnham's new book, "The Managerial Revolution,"—mailing over there, still benign over here.

A WIZARD in electrometallurgy is Dr. Francis C. Frary, who explains the exact uses to which aluminum pots and pans may be put in expediting defense. Since 1918 he has been director of the research laboratories of the Aluminum Company of America at Keystone, Pa. His work made possible over 2,000 uses of aluminum. He was schooled at the University of Minnesota and the University of Berlin. He then taught for seven years and became an industrial research worker in 1915.



THE old-timer likes to think the old days and the old ways were the best. As the years slip by he lets his imagination build up the stronger spots and lop off the weaker turns his ancient idols carried into action.

Certainly baseball's two most famous stars for 30 years—from 1905 to 1935—were Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth. Cobb's big league career opened in 1905, Babe's in 1914. For more than 10 years their careers overlapped. Their counterparts in 1941 are Bob Feller and Joe DiMaggio. Bob Feller is, or should be, one of the all-time pitching greats. The same rating applies to Joe DiMaggio as a hitter and outfielder.



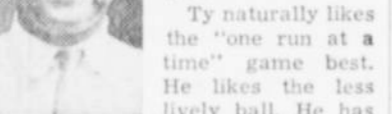
Grantland Rice

Without attempting to rate the value of Ty and Babe against Bob and Joe, there is one department at least where the old-timer can expand his chest and prove his point. This is the matter of color. Cobb and Ruth packed an enlarged amount of personality in their playing systems. They had flame, flare, dash. They caught and held the fancy of the crowd. Feller and DiMaggio are both on the quiet, unobtrusive side who like life better away from the mob. Both are friendly, serious young men who make their entire contribution as a star pitcher and a star outfielder. They make no claim or pretensions to any form of so-called "color."

Cobb and Ruth have always been exactly the opposite. They were actors as well as ball players. Both were on the exciting side. And a big part of their crowd appeal had no particular connection with mechanical skill. They had plenty of that. Feller and DiMaggio are both on the quiet, unobtrusive side who like life better away from the mob. Both are friendly, serious young men who make their entire contribution as a star pitcher and a star outfielder. They make no claim or pretensions to any form of so-called "color."

Disagreeing With Ty

It pains us to disagree with such an old pal as Tyrus Raymond Cobb. I was in Atlanta when Ty was in Augusta around 1904 or 1905 and we headed north from the red clay hills at about the same date. Ty naturally likes the "one run at a time" game best. He likes the less lively ball. He has something on his side of the argument with respect to this.



Ty Cobb

But the modern game is more dramatic. In the old days a three or four-run lead was usually decisive. Today it may mean little, and the crowd knows it. Both infielders and outfielders, especially infielders, have to work at a far faster clip to handle whistling drives that come their way. The home run is still the main crowd thrill. I must disagree with Ty on another point. On his all-time all-star team the pitchers he names are Walsh, Alexander, Mathewson, Johnson, Plank and Feller.

What about a pretty fair pitcher by the name of Denton Tecumseh (Cy) Young, the Paoli Phenom? All Cy did was to win 512 ball games in two major leagues. This winning count totals more games than the great majority of pitchers ever pitch. They talk about pitchers who can win 20 ball games a season—Cy Young averaged better than 20 games a year for more than 20 years.

About Cy Young

Young did his pitching for Cleveland, St. Louis and Boston, working in both leagues. He came up from Paoli, Ohio, in 1890 with hay in his hair.

Cy, a huge hulk of a fellow, had speed, control, a fine head and a stout heart. And you can emphasize control and smartness. Cy worked from 1890 through 1911 and when he had finished he had passed by something like 100 winning games of Walter Johnson's mark in second place. Cobb picks Ed Walsh and Eddie Plank, both fine pitchers, but old Cy won more games than both together.

I ran across Cy a short while back. He gave me then one of the secrets of his success. "How did I ever win 512 games?" he said. "Here's one reason. I had four different pitching motions that I made look alike. Also, I think that I was the first pitcher to cover up the pitching motion completely. I'd practically turn my back to the batter and the ball would be on him before he was set," he explained.

"I also made a close study," Cy said, "of what they wanted to hit and what they didn't want to hit. You don't think I ever gave Wahoo Sam Crawford, a pull hitter, any ball he could pull. Not a chance. That's a big part of pitching—to know a hitter's style and to have enough control to put the ball where you want it to go. There are too many pitchers today who haven't any idea what a batter's weakness is. Nor do they have the control to match this weakness when they do know—and that's almost as bad as not knowing."



Washington, D. C. MEDITERRANEAN MIX-UP

Inside story on General Wavell's transfer to India, as told in diplomatic dispatches, is that Wavell had been quarreling with Churchill and had opposed political-military moves such as the campaign in Greece and Crete and the expedition to Solum. More important from the American point of view, Wavell had favored the evacuation of all British forces from the entire Mediterranean area. And U. S. military experts agreed with him—in fact, urged it.

So although in a sense General Wavell is being demoted, yet in other respects he will be in a position to command British forces from an area to which he had urged that British forces retreat. For some time General Wavell had contended that Britain's position in the Mediterranean was indefensible. The British force of only 400,000 men in the Near East faced a combined Axis total twice as strong—400,000 Germans and Italians in Libya, plus 600,000 Nazis in Greece, Bulgaria and Rumania.

The latter figure has been partially diminished by transfers to Russia; but Wavell argued that the Nazi-Fascist armies could concentrate attack in one place while British troops had to spread out over a far-flung line from Libya to Syria and Iraq. Therefore he disagreed with Churchill on all military moves which had a political motive.

U. S. Worried Over Atlantic

U. S. military and naval strategists sided with Wavell, were strong for the idea of a complete British withdrawal from the Mediterranean. The strategy behind this was twofold:

1. The British have lost 40 per cent of their original Mediterranean fleet. The losses at Crete were much worse than officially admitted, and even in the Syrian campaign naval losses were considerable. Therefore, American naval men, facing the probability of having to help the British fleet in the Atlantic, did not want the fleet further weakened.

2. The United States is more interested in what happens on the bulge of Africa around Dakar (opposite Brazil) than it is in the Mediterranean.

To this end, both General Wavell and U. S. strategists favored the idea of withdrawing British forces from the Mediterranean entirely and establishing a new line of defense across the very center of Africa—from Port Sudan on the Red Sea to Freetown on the Atlantic ocean.

This line of defense meant that about 1,500 miles of the hottest desert in the world would be between the Nazis and the British lines. Over such a desert it is difficult for tanks to operate without heating up; also it is difficult for the average bomber to carry a load over such distances. So it was expected that the Nazis would exhaust themselves in the deep, hot deserts of Africa.

Part of the plan contemplated a highway straight across equatorial Africa from Freetown and later from Dakar to Port Sudan.

Churchill Says No.

However, Churchill was flatly opposed. So were many other British leaders. They felt that the shock of withdrawal from the Mediterranean, traditional sphere of British influence, and from Suez which had been identified with the British empire for years, would be too much for the British public.

This debate occurred before the Nazi attack on Russia and before the British march into Syria. But after the slowness of Wavell's success in Syria, all these factors culminated in his transfer to India.

There Wavell can concentrate on defense of the most important part of the empire—if the Nazis creep up on the Indian border in South Russia. Also, he will not be in the Mediterranean, for the defense of which he had no great enthusiasm.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

It was a breathless day in Washington. The only breeze was kicked up by the little subway car running between the senate office building and the Capitol. Passenger Hat-tie Caraway, senator from Arkansas, clutched at her flying strands of hair.

Curly-haired Sen. Berkeley Bunker of Nevada, who succeeded to the seat of the late Key Pittman, never misses a senate session and is assiduously studying parliamentary procedure. Vice President Wallace has called him to preside during his absence more than any other senator.

United Service Organizations have had some big gifts, but none more touching than the savings brought in by one Harry Katz, who emptied on the desk 512 pennies, 44 nickels, eight dimes, and one quarter.

Displayed in the department of agriculture lobby are four practical pamphlets: "Cockroaches and Their Control," "Bedbugs: Causes and Cures," "House Ants," and "How to Control Fleas."

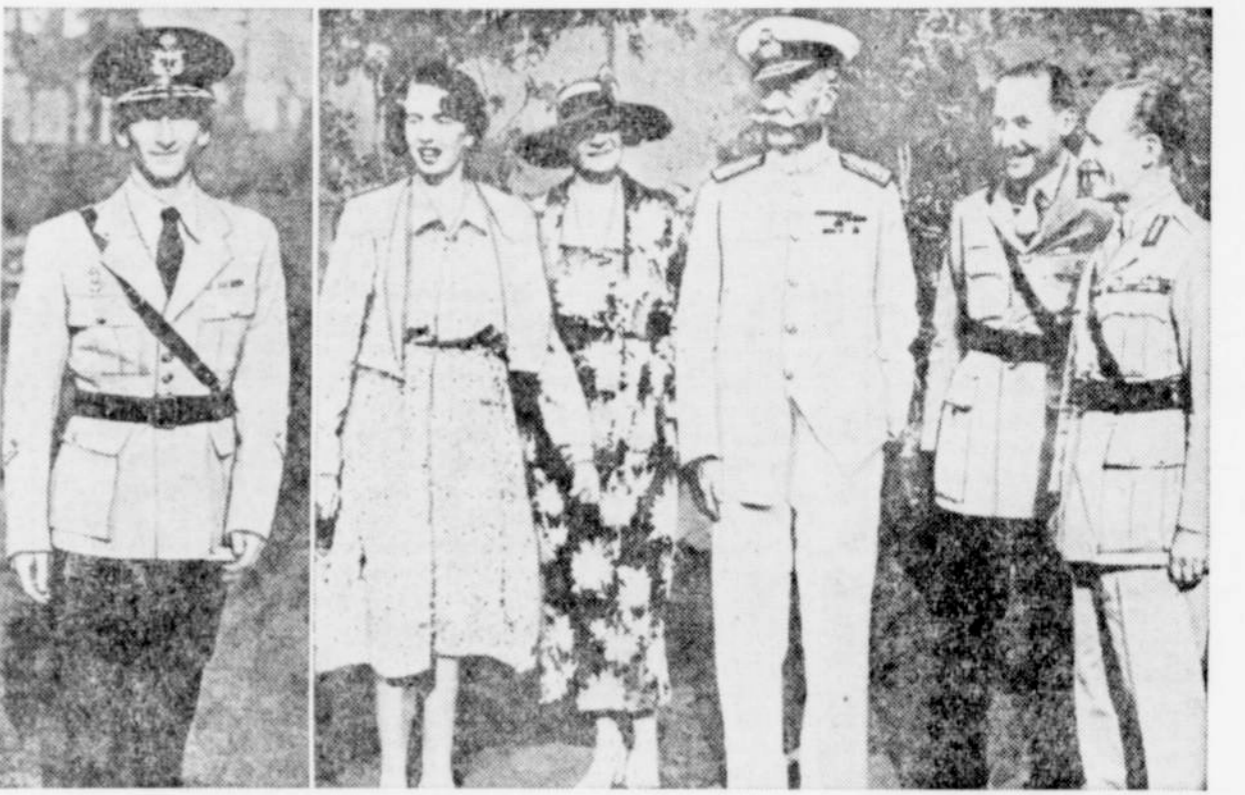
The President has on his desk a new leather briefcase, fastened securely at one end with a steel padlock.

Getting Ready to Take on 'All Comers'



These are days when many nations are preparing against invaders. At the right, British soldiers are shown jumping a trench during a theoretical attack, and the upper picture, which was made in Northern Ireland, shows the men going through a barbed wire entanglement. With Holland in Nazi hands, Netherlands Indies soldiers are ready to fight for the Pacific islands. At left, Indies artillery men are handling an anti-aircraft gun while wearing gas masks.

Royalty in Exile—in England and Egypt



King Peter of Yugoslavia (extreme left) who lost his throne when the Nazis steamrolled through the Balkans, shown in London. At the right, King George of Greece and members of his family rejoice. Left to right: Princess Cathrine, Princess Mary, Prince George, Prince Peter and King George. The king and his party took to the hills when Nazi parachutists invaded Crete, finally boarding a ship for journey to Egypt.

Hot? Look at This and Cool Off



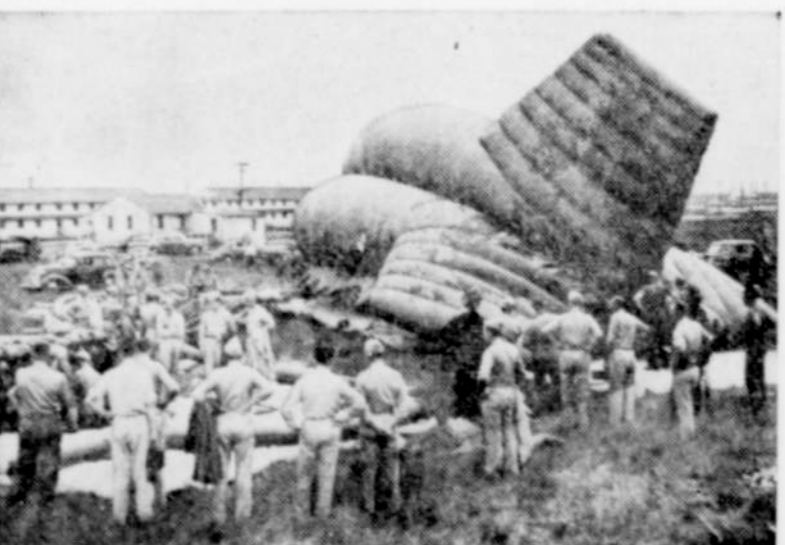
Usually the month of July is the year's hottest, and snow is just so much "wistful thinking." But here we see Marianne Newton (left), U. of Utah senior; Wanda Pratt, U. of Arizona student; and Barbara Kollin, U. of California sophomore, reversing the order of things by shoveling July snow at Cedar Breaks national monument high in the mountains of Utah.

Released



P. G. Wodehouse, noted British author, is free again. He was captured by the Germans in the fall of France, and has been released from the Silesian internment camp and granted full freedom within Germany. He is shown here (left) on visit to Berlin.

First Barrage Balloon at Fort Davis



Barrage balloon crew of the 301st barrage balloon battalion at Fort Davis, N. C., shown inflating a D-5 dilatible type which holds 27,000 feet of helium. It is made of synthetic rubber fabric, and can be inflated in less than a half hour. This is the first barrage balloon to be inflated at Fort Davis.

'Iron' Man



Ald. L. E. Couplin of St. Louis is finding real work pleasant. Because he had grown flabby, Couplin went back to iron working, his trade before entering politics, and is making \$70 a week. He still holds his aldermanic job at \$1,800 per year.