

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

## Washington, D. C. ITALIANS BITTER AGAINST DUCE

Official and uncensored U. S. reports from Italy tell an amazing story of resentment against Mussolini. It is so strong that, according to U. S. observers, the present Fascist regime could not remain in office without the support of German troops.

Most significant of all is the fact that most of the Italian army is heartily out of sympathy with Il Duce, and Field Marshal Badoglio, ex-chief of staff, does not even attempt to conceal his criticism. Apparently Badoglio is so popular that Mussolini cannot touch him, for no attempt has been made to jail or exile him.

The sentiment of the Italian army explains in large part the recent failures in Albania and North Africa, where thousands of Italians have surrendered. On the other hand, fighting in Ethiopia has been just the opposite, with the Italians putting up a fierce resistance. This is explained by the fact that the Italian army in Ethiopia has not been in touch with conditions in Italy.

There are now more Gestapo officers (German secret police) in Rome than in Berlin. Together with about 136,000 Nazi troops, the Gestapo are also stationed in every other key city in Italy.

It is the Gestapo which has been particularly active in isolating the American Embassy, with the result that Ambassador Phillips at present is able to see few people. If found talking to Phillips, his old Italian friends are warned, then arrested. Even other foreign diplomats in Italy have received Gestapo warnings not to communicate with American diplomats.

Americans, however, are extremely popular with the Italian people, who remember the efforts of President Roosevelt to prevent the war in the first place, and to keep Italy from entering the war. Also, the state department has facilitated the passage of certain Italo-Americans back to Italy. Their work has been effective.

Meanwhile, food scarcity in Italy has increased to the point where even the upper classes feel the food pinch. Poorer people are starving. All the reports indicate that when the break finally does come in Italy, it will be an explosion of major proportions.

## AAA CORN BATTLE

Inside the agriculture department a savage row is raging between AAA advocates of acreage control and apostles of larger farm production. This time the battle is over corn.

A referendum has been set for May 31 to permit farmers to vote on wheat marketing quotas, and the dispute is whether to conduct a similar election on corn. Some of Claude Wickard's boys say corn is threatened with a price decline due to the loss of export pork markets in embattled Europe, but experts contend that pork is in for a big boom under the defense and lend-lease programs.

Inside fact is that Secretary Wickard has just about decided to call off a plebiscite among corn-hog farmers, unofficially scheduled for next fall, despite the loud demands from Triple-A boss Rudolph M. Evans, that one should be held. Evans, spokesman of the big "cash-income" farmers, has been arguing that it is just as important to control corn as wheat.

For a time he seemed to have Wickard convinced. Up to a month ago, Wickard was planning to slap a 10 per cent curb on this year's corn crop by declaring marketing quotas, with stiff penalty taxes on excess production. The matter was to be put up to corn-hog farmers in a referendum next fall.

However, Wickard now takes the position espoused by small farm champions, particularly Milo Perkins, aggressive chief of the Surplus Marketing administration, that rising meat, poultry and dairy prices will prevent a surplus this year, since farmers always fatten up their stock when prices justify it.

Also, it is certain that a considerable portion of the huge 700,000,000-bushel carryover of corn from last year will be bought for foreign shipment under the lend-lease program. The Commodity Credit corporation, which owns, or has under loan, about 500,000,000 bushels of the carryover, is strongly banking on this.

So it looks as if Evans, who has been warning farmers of a corn quota election this year, will have to eat his words.

## DIVIDENDS VS. WAGES

More altruistic than most big business leaders is Dollar-a-Year Man Edward Stettinius, chairman of the giant U. S. Steel corporation, which maintains cordial relations with SWOC, a C.I.O. union. Last year U. S. Steel paid stockholders \$100,000,000. This year it should pay about \$150,000,000.

But now the Steel Workers union is demanding a wage boost. Stettinius wants to pay the additional dividends. Labor wants to get the additional pay.

# My Week

by Eleanor Roosevelt

## ART COLLECTION

The other morning I spent an hour at the National Gallery of Art looking at the early Italian primitives. What a marvelous collection! It seemed to me I had never seen so many priceless treasures gathered together in one place. Mr. David Finley and his staff are particularly happy over the fact that they have had between eight and nine thousand visitors daily. So, beauty does appeal to the American public.

In the afternoon, I went to the concert at the Library of Congress to hear the Budapest String Quartette, which was a joy.

On the next afternoon, I went to tea at Mrs. Florence Kerr's with the regional directors for the WPA community service projects. As usual, I was impressed with the amount of valuable service which the bulk of the WPA projects render in every field of community life.

## FUND APPEAL

There seems to be one more fund appeal which cannot be ignored. It is the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund of the U. S. A. Inc. Their offices are at 515 Madison avenue, New York city and they are helping the needy dependents of RAF pilots, punners and observers, who are killed or disabled in the performance of their duty.

I think all of us have been stirred by the extraordinary services of the RAF, and you will perhaps be interested to know that the royalties from the books written by Lawrence of Arabia, were willed by him some time before his death to this fund, which was founded in 1919. He, himself, enlisted as a mechanic in the RAF and was known in the service as Aircraftman Shaw.

One interesting thing about the fund is that neither in England nor in the United States, does a penny raised go to overhead. The necessary administrative expense is carried on by the small group of people who were instrumental in setting up the fund.

Perhaps, because I like flying so much, I often think of that particular branch of the military services. I know that even in peace time pilots worry about the care of their families in case they "go west." The men who fly daily and nightly across the enemy lines may meet death almost any time. All we can do is to give them the assurance that those they leave behind will be cared for.

## DOCK THEATER

In driving around the City of Charleston, S. C., I passed the Dock Street theater, which is one of the interesting buildings erected by WPA. The theater is charming and a real effort has been made, I understand, by certain people to revive and present old plays. I have been told that they have been charmingly done, but that the support is not really sufficient to warrant continuance of the effort. Audiences just do not attend, and so it may be necessary to close the doors of the Dock Street theater. This seems a sad waste. It is hard to understand why, in this city of great culture and taste, such a program as has been carried on is not successful financially.

## MIDDLETON GARDENS

The sun has not been very kind to us. The other day Miss Thompson and I walked around Middleton Gardens in Valdosta, Ga., in the early morning bemoaning the fact that no sunlight danced upon the water, or played through the leaves of the trees. However, nothing can really spoil the beauty of those gardens and we enjoyed our walk and came back to thank Mrs. Smith, who had invited us into her house.

I always think that it must seem very odd to have strangers wandering around your garden. But she told us that though they marked with care "private residence" outside the house, people come in if they leave the doors unlocked. One morning the maid heard some people in the dining room and, on coming in, found them examining some silver.

Of course, in Europe certain houses with wonderful collections of paintings, prints and furniture were open to the public at certain times, but never do I remember the families' living quarters open while they were at home. When one owns works of art, there is an obligation to let the public see them. But it seems to me, that the public has a certain obligation in return to respect the privacy of the owners.

Mrs. George Huntington drove with us well on the road to Savannah, and then we pulled up under some trees and ate a delicious picnic lunch. She feels as I do, that food eaten out of doors always has a better flavor. I always rejoice when the time comes when we can have breakfast and lunch on the porch at the White House.

We practically always eat on the porch of my cottage at Hyde Park. The President likes to go even one step further and has the table put right out on the lawn. It may be a trifle disconcerting if it begins to rain or, if towards evening, the mosquitoes begin to bite.

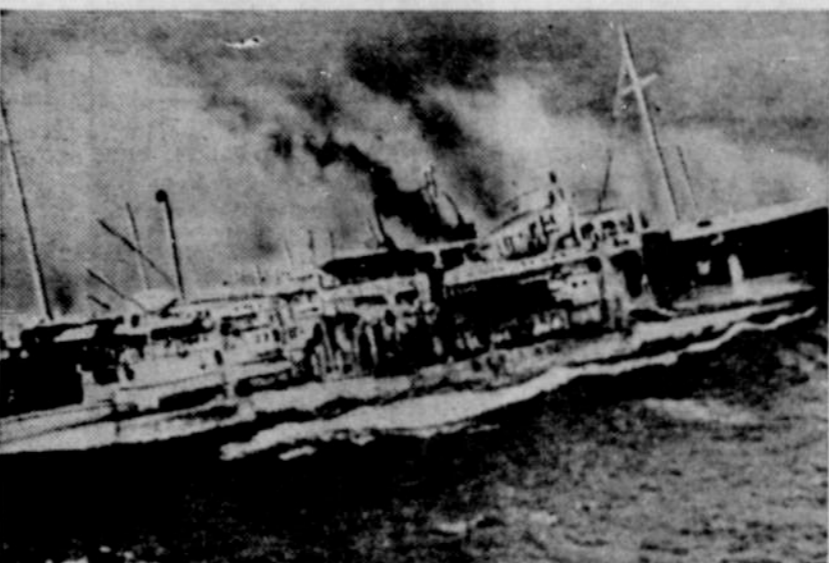
From Savannah to Valdosta, we went through the turpentine country. I can not help feeling that the big slashes made in the trees must be harmful to them, but they tell me that the same trees are used for a number of years.

## When Ford's River Rouge Plant Closed



When the gigantic River Rouge plant of the Ford Motor company—largest single industrial establishment in the world—was completely closed by a strike of the United Auto Workers union, a C. I. O. affiliate, tying up \$150,000,000 in defense contracts. Photo shows a huge crowd of workers being addressed by Ruether and Taylor, leaders.

## Axis Ship Burned by Crew Off Costa Rica



Dramatic airview off Punta Arenas harbor, San Jose, Costa Rica, showing the Nazi freighter Eisenbach burning as she goes down. It is alleged that the fires were started by the vessel's own crew members. Costa Rican authorities arrested 120 seamen and officers, who were clapped in jail on arson charges.

## Ousted by U. S.



Soundphoto of Adm. Alberto Lais, Italian naval attaché at Washington, whose recall was demanded of the Italian government by the United States, in connection with the attempted sabotage of Italian ships in American waters.

## Takes Life



Count Paul Teleki, the premier who aligned Hungary with the Axis but fought German domination, was found dead in bed. Authorities said he shot himself.



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Form for Aunt Martha, Kansas City, Mo. Enclose 15 cents for each pattern desired. Pattern No., Name, Address.

## Prophetic Author

Copenhagen's first bombproof shelter, built a short time ago, is on the site where Ludvig Holberg, the celebrated Scandinavian author, wrote his Epistola in 1727. In it, says Collier's, Holbert predicted that if men should ever learn to fly they would swoop down upon and attempt to destroy great numbers of innocent people who, to save themselves, would have to take refuge in holes in the ground.

## Uncle Art Says:

WORTHWHILE friendships can always survive a quarrel. But when you bottle up your feelings they go sour.

The man who never lends money has but few friends. But then, he doesn't need so many.

Snap judgments have a way of coming unstuck.

Don't worry when you stumble. Remember that a worm is the only creature that can't fall down.

The snob's hero is the snob who snubs him.

The English office boy has a new one: He asks for a day off to evacuate his grandmother who has been bombed.

## INDIGESTION

may affect the Heart Gas trapped in the stomach or gut may act like a hair-trigger on the heart. At the first sign of distress smart men and women closed on Hill's Tablets to get gas free. No laxative but made of the fastest-acting medicine known for acid indigestion. If the FIRST DOSE doesn't give Hill's a better, return bottle to us and receive DOUBLE Money Back, 25c.

## Great Character

Character is higher than intellect. A great soul will be strong to live, as well as to think.—Emerson.

Advertisement for Black Leaf 40, a product that kills aphids. It is described as a powerful insecticide that kills aphids on sucking insects, leaf miners, young sucking bugs, etc. It is used on trees, shrubs, plants of ever garden crops.

## MERCHANTS

## Your Advertising Dollar

buys something more than space and circulation in the columns of this newspaper. It buys space and circulation plus the favorable consideration of our readers for this newspaper and its advertising patrons.

LET US TELL YOU MORE ABOUT IT

## Pre-views

## Major Leagues Open Baseball Season

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

- Opening Games: New York at Brooklyn, St. Louis at Cincinnati, Pittsburgh at Chicago, Boston at Philadelphia

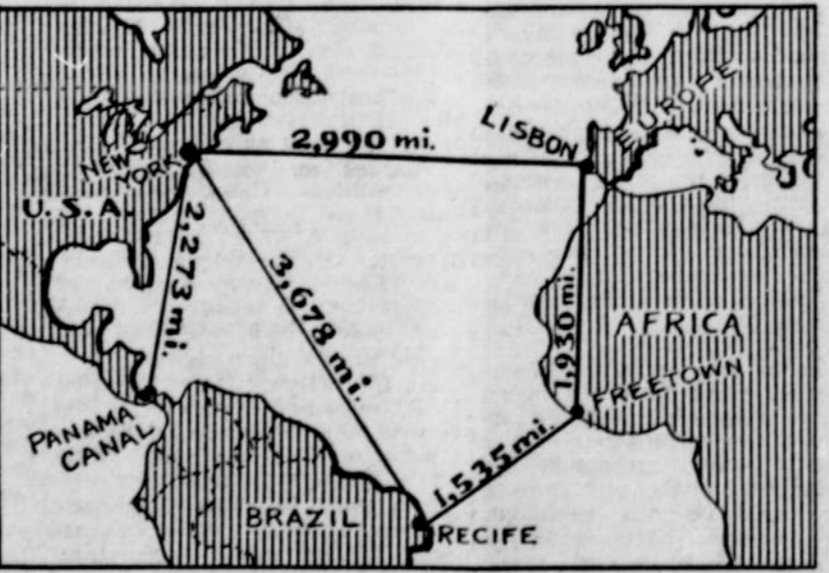
### AMERICAN LEAGUE

- Opening Games: Chicago at Cleveland, Detroit at St. Louis, Washington at Boston, Philadelphia at New York



The 1941 major league baseball season will open April 15. This year teams face changing personnels, as players are called into the army. Among leading players subject to call are Bob Feller, Cleveland Indians; Henry Greenberg, Detroit Tigers; John Rigney, Chicago White Sox; and Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox.

## Strengthen Pan-American Solidarity



Pan-American day, first observed 10 years ago, will be celebrated April 14 in every independent country in the Western hemisphere. Map shows shortest distances between points in the Americas and the Old World. With the airplane reducing these distances to hours, co-operation between the Americas becomes increasingly important.

## D. A. R. Convenes



Concluding a three-year term as president of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mrs. Henry M. Robert Jr. (above) will preside at the organization's fiftieth congress in Washington, April 14-19. The D.A.R. has 143,000 members.

## Writers' Meet



Writers from both Americas will attend the Inter-American writers' meet at Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, April 14-24. A. MacLeish (above) will head U. S. group.