

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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## EGGS AND STEEL

The senate could learn a lot from the house about brevity in public address. Members of the house have learned to express themselves without taking two hours—in fact, some of the best speeches last for only one minute.

The other day Congressman William L. Nelson of Missouri rose in the house and said, "Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak for one minute." Then he delivered himself of the following, within exactly 60 seconds. The gavel fell in the midst of applause from the other congressmen:

"Mr. Speaker, headlines and footnotes are always interesting and thought-provoking. In the metropolitan press I note such headlines as these:

Indiana Standard Clears \$33,597,342.

Record Breaking Backlog by Republic Steel.

\$30,076,739 Earned by Eastman Kodak.

General Motors has Sales Record with \$1,794,936,640 in 1940.

Anaconda Copper Earns \$35,052,699.

United States Steel Reports 26 Per Cent Business Rise.

And so on.

"Then, in contrast, I notice this footnote in a country weekly:

"Eggs, strictly fresh, 14 to 15 cents a dozen."

## LABOR SHORTAGE

A totally different labor problem than strikes gives increasing worry to defense chiefs. Some even consider it more serious—eventually—than disputes between management and unions.

It is the problem of securing trained workers for vital defense occupations.

The Army-Navy Munitions board has just completed a confidential report listing 661 occupations in which serious labor shortages are likely soon. The report warns that the tremendous increase in production, as high as 60 per cent in some industries, is certain to aggravate the problem.

The training program of the National Youth administration and others will afford some relief, but the labor shortage is so urgent that authorities have quietly taken steps to cull skilled workmen out of the draft.

Over 500,000 men are slated to be called to the colors by July 1. And although the Selective Service law bars "group deferments" so desperate is the need for trained labor that draft boards have been advised to exercise the greatest care in inducting certain groups.

Among these are experienced merchant seamen, also apprentices in highly skilled occupations—lens grinders, toolmakers, chemists, aircraft mechanics, and other crafts which the Army-Navy Munitions board calls "occupations that have special significance in the national defense program."

## AMERICAN RUBBER

When a government bureau moves fast, that's news. A bureau of the department of agriculture, beginning last August, has completed a survey of potential rubber production in 11 Latin-American countries and is now moving into two more.

But more important than speed, the survey is the first step in an important long-range plan to make this country independent of East Indian sources for rubber, and increase trade between the Americas. Earlier this year, congress appropriated \$500,000 to the department of agriculture "to develop rubber production."

First objective is to establish two permanent experimental stations, one for Central America, the other for South America. It is almost certain that they will be located in Costa Rica and Brazil.

Brazil originally produced most of the world's rubber, but the seeds were smuggled out of the country by the British, who set up their own rubber plantations in Malaya. The present drive is to restore to Latin America her birthright in this essential product.

## THRILLED A FARMER

A home town farmer friend was kidding homely Claude Wickard, secretary of agriculture, about sitting next to Clark Gable at the President's defense "fireside chat."

"You know, Claude," the friend said, "there are a lot of young ladies back in Indiana whose hearts fluttered when they heard you were palming around with a movie star."

"Well," replied Wickard ruefully, "that's just about the closest I ever came to getting the ladies excited."

## MERRY-GO-ROUND

In the caste-bound British navy enlisted men can rise to the rank of lieutenant commander, but the U. S. navy does not permit enlisted men to take examinations for permanent commissions except in one branch—the supply section.

Dr. George A. Buttrick, former president of the Federal Council of Churches and a supporter of Herbert Hoover's plan to feed Nazi-occupied Europe, claims that Secretary of State Hull also approves the idea.



# WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

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

NEW YORK.—If Lord Halifax has been homesick for England, he no doubt feels better after his week-end at Unionville, Chester County, Pa. There has been a gesture of gracious hospitality it would seem, a tiny spot of old England as authentic as diligent effort could possibly make it. Chester county comprises the fox-hunting domain of Lord Halifax's host, W. Plunket Stewart, and so faithfully has Mr. Stewart adhered to the British tradition that Chester county is often called the Leicestershire county of America, with its hmts comparable only to the Melton, the Mowbray and the Quoin of Leicestershire—the same comprising all the superlatives of fox-hunting in England.

## Halifax Heard No American Accent In Pack's Baying

In 1911 Mr. Plunket—a banker when he isn't riding to hounds—began searching for the perfect hunting domain. He found it in Chester county. The terrain was sufficiently broken to give the fox a break, but open enough for some slam-bang, tallyho riding, with woods, streams, stone walls and all the required hazards and lures, without too many people to get in the way. Mr. Plunket bought a large tract and thereafter, it appeared, banking was somewhat of a sideline.

He and his brother Redmond had bred a pack of hounds and built the famous Green Spring Valley hunt, of Glyndon, Md. Hence, knowing all the ins and outs of fox-hunting, he proceeded rapidly to recreate the Leicestershire of the Eighteenth century. Gilbert E. Mather, already established in Chester county as a fox-hunter, was moving eastward in search of new territory. Mr. Stewart bought his English foxhounds and began importing others from England, along with hunters of ancient pedigree.

There is in Mr. Stewart's hunt the most careful observance of all ancient traditions of British fox-hunting, particularly in dress. The master and his staff wear scarlet, with crimson collars and the every-day dress is scarlet with crimson facings and scarlet velvet collar.

Mr. Stewart is a native of Maryland, related to European royalty. He was in the army remount service in the World war. Incidentally, the natives of Chester county have co-operated enthusiastically in the fox-hunting, and real estate values have risen.

WE'VE started leasing and lending, and the quarterback snaps the ball to Adm. Emory S. Land, chairman of the maritime commission and "co-ordinator of facilities for ocean transport," as of his recent appointment. There is historic precedent for his finding a hole in the line, weaving through a broken field and planting the ball on the other side of the goal posts.

That was in the famous "crap game" session between the Army and Navy in 1900. With less than a minute to play, "Jerry" Land, as his shipmates always called him, in the backfield for the Navy, blocked a kick and made one of those Frank Merriwell zig-zags down the field, winning, 11 to 7 for the Navy, just a few seconds before the whistle blew for the finish. Such doings are pretty much in his horoscope.

In the World war he was in the navy bureau of construction and repair and got the Navy cross for building submarines and for his work in the war zone. In 1919 he turned in the most comprehensive and searching technical study of German submarines the navy ever got, along with a study of what they might do or try to do in the next war. He retired in March, 1937, but got only a month's lay-off, as President Roosevelt got him back on the job as a member of the maritime commission. When Joseph P. Kennedy retired to become ambassador to Great Britain, Land became chairman of the commission, and within two weeks the same was shaking a leg as never before.

The admiral, a small, wiry, eager man, with a touch of the mule-skinner about him when he's driving things through, lost no time in putting to work the first congressional allotment of \$400,000,000 for building our merchant marine.

He is a native of Canon City, Colo., and a cousin of Charley Lindbergh. At Annapolis, he was tops not only in football but in several other sports, and rowed the bow oar on the academy crew. He was the successful conciliator in that long-drawn-out Army and Navy athletics row of a few years ago.

# My Week

by Eleanor Roosevelt

## 'Young America'

We had a smooth flight from Mobile, Ala., to Greensboro, N. C., the other day but I must say that getting up at 4:45 a. m. seemed a trifle early! I was much impressed to be greeted at the Hotel King Cotton by the proprietor and his daughter, who allowed us to go to bed for several hours.

The poor secret service man, however, who had met us and arranged to motor us to Fayetteville, said he had had no sleep because everyone was telephoning him to find out if we could drive 30 to 50 miles off our route to see some point of interest.

We proceeded leisurely by motor to Fayetteville and as we went through Fort Bragg we picked up Maj. Eugene Harrison, one of our former White House aides who is now aide to General Devers.

When the President's train pulled in, we had a few minutes before he got off and I had a chance to admire the tan acquired by all the fishermen of his party. The President looks not only tanned but very much rested and is in fine spirits.

The governor of North Carolina and Mrs. Broughton came in his car soon after the President arrived. Then Mrs. Broughton, Miss Thompson and I, with Major Harrison got into one car while the President, the governor, the mayor and General Devers headed the procession.

The drive through Fort Bragg was extraordinarily interesting. They had expanded rapidly. In fact, I heard the general say they put up a building of some kind every 32 minutes!

The camp stretches 25 miles in length and 11 miles across. The equipment is adequate for training, so the men are kept very busy. A great effort is being made to provide occupation at the camp for them during leisure hours. There is an athletic program, and a group of hostesses plan entertainments in the recreation rooms. In addition, there are three movie theaters running two shows a day.

Fayetteville is a comparatively small city and this sudden addition of 65,000 men certainly has strained every facility they have. The officers at the post, however, say that everyone in the city has co-operated marvelously and the efforts they have made to provide living quarters for the families of the non-commissioned officers, as well as for the officers' families, while keeping the rents at a reasonable level, are very much appreciated.

On the whole, the health of the boys seems to be about normal. When they were living in tents it was a trifle better than when they moved into barracks, but that is almost always true.

We drove slowly, watching them perform their usual tasks. I could not help being impressed by "young America."

## PRESS CLUB DINNER

I have not yet told you anything about the annual dinner given by the Woman's National Press club. This is a most entertaining party and if I weren't called upon to make a speech at the end, I should enjoy every minute of it. Last year I promised myself that if I were able to attend the party this year, I would not be sitting at the speakers' table. I would be completely carefree, with perhaps a little sense of superiority towards those who carried the responsibility of speaking before this gifted group of women. But here I was again, listening intently to everything said on the stage, knowing that at the end I had to answer the best I could what quips or friendly jibes had been made at my expense!

Despite this sense of responsibility, I really enjoy this party very much and look forward to it from year to year. The imposing list of honor guests shows that many other people do too.

We had several ladies staying with us and I think the gentlemen of the household felt rather relieved when they found that their only obligation was to entertain us for a brief moment before dinner. Then my husband, Mr. Hopkins, and Jimmy had dinner alone and a chance afterwards to work or to talk as they saw fit.

## NEW YORK

The other morning I left Washington for New York city to keep a dental appointment at noon, followed by the luncheon of the Women's division of the American Jewish congress. In the afternoon I spoke to the Open-Air Classroom Teachers association of the New York city department of education. Then I had the pleasure of a visit with my mother-in-law.

I always think when I come up to New York that I am going to have ample time to do a great many things which I should like to do, such as seeing art exhibitions and really getting a chance to talk with some of my old friends. For the most part, however, in the end I find myself doing many semi-official duties and thrusting personal affairs into the background. Some day all this will be changed and I only hope that my personal friends will have the patience to bear with me during the interval and will not forget old ties.

## Final Tribute to Dean of Hill



The body of Sen. Morris Sheppard (D), of Texas, being carried from the flower-banked senate chamber, where it was placed on a caisson in a military procession to Union station, en route to Texarkana, Texas. Funeral services were held at Texarkana, where the dean of congress and the author of prohibition lived.

## Proud Skipper



A proud commander is Capt. Olaf N. Hustvedt, shown standing beneath one of his 16-inch gun turrets during the commissioning ceremonies of the new battleship, "North Carolina," at New York Navy yard. The ship carries nine 16-inch rifles.

## Italian Crew Arrives in New York



Italian seamen give the fascist salute from the deck of a U. S. troop transport, the "Leonard Wood," on arrival in New York, after being taken off the steamship Conte Biancamano, luxury liner of Italy, which was taken over by the United States at Panama. U. S. troops are guarding the prisoners.

## Roosevelt Romance



James Roosevelt, the President's eldest son, and Romelle Schneider are shown applying for their marriage license at the Los Angeles marriage license bureau.

## Strikers Make Use of Satire



The coffin represents the Allis-Chalmers company. It is perched on a junk wagon, and a striker, wearing a gas mask, gives a satirical address showing the connection. This was one of the lighter angles of the Allis-Chalmers strike in Milwaukee, Wis., as recorded by the News of the Day Newsreel.

## Inspects Shelters



Mrs. Anthony Drexel Biddle, wife of the United States ambassador to the European governments in exile, in England, shown while inspecting some British bomb shelters in London. Mrs. Biddle is studying the women's services during the great war.

## Trailers for Defense Workers



The first of 2,000 trailers purchased by the Farm Security administration with funds from the \$5,000,000 urgent deficiency appropriation voted by congress to provide temporary shelter for homeless defense workers are shown leaving the nation's capital for Wilmington, N. C. They will be used to house defense shipyard workers.

## U. S.-Mexico Pact



Sumner Welles (left) and Mexican Ambassador Senor Dr. Najera signing mutual defense pact giving the U. S. the right to use Mexican air bases, and vice versa.