

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

U. S. BASES IN AFRICA

The public doesn't generally know it, though Nazi agents do, but the United States is very quietly and efficiently building up a series of strategic bases along the coast of Africa to guard against a Nazi air putsch from Dakar to South America.

First of these bases will be airdromes at Freetown, in the British colony of Sierra Leone, now being developed by Pan American Airways on the airplane ferrying route to Egypt.

Second will be an important airdrome in Liberia, the Afro-American colony just south of Freetown. Equally important will be a submarine base in Liberia.

The Liberian airdrome is now being built in co-operation with the Firestone Rubber company.

Purpose of these bases is to take the place of the U. S. fleet in the South Atlantic. Long ago, U. S. naval strategists figured they could reduce materially the number of U. S. warships around Hawaii and California, if there were enough big bombing planes on the Pacific island bases to patrol the Pacific.

So now U. S. bombing planes operating from the African coast will do the same thing for the South Atlantic in order to guard against Nazi moves from Vichy-dominated Dakar.

The problem of shutting off a Nazi blitz in the South Atlantic is much harder than in the Pacific, due to one factor: distances in the Atlantic are about one-third less than those in the Pacific.

BAD EGGS

A member of the British air mission in Washington, back after a flying trip to England, has a report on food conditions that is a combination of humor and hard, unpalatable fact.

Regarding the food shortage in England he says that eggs in most places are unobtainable. The ration is one egg per person per week. Some millions of eggs shipped from the United States were all bad. "Bacon and eggs" today is unknown in England. The nearest approach is bacon and "egg," and if the day you want it is not egg day, you have to be content with bacon and tomato instead.

Sugar is limited to half a lump per person per meal. At Claridge's, one sardine per person per day is the most sardines anyone can obtain. Next in scarcity at this swank London hostel is butter. At each meal, you get a vast dish in which you may be able to discern two little dabs, each smaller than a penny.

Fresh fruit is nearly non-existent. There are no oranges at all. The returning Britisher also reports that the general shortage of clothing results in sloppy dressing.

The report urges that England immediately import thousands of small home-canning machines to be used by housewives in preserving current crops of fruits, vegetables, rabbits, and meats of all sorts. He advocates "that the women of England be obliged to preserve food, instead of devoting themselves to the hopeless hip and tummy development that results from continual knitting."

OFFERS FARM FOR DEFENSE

John H. Perry, president of Western Newspaper Union, has offered his 2,500-acre model farm in Owen county, Kentucky, to the Royal Canadian Air force as a pilot training center. The rest of his large estate has been offered to the U. S. government. "I am for national defense," said Perry, "and Uncle Sam can have my place, lock, stock and barrel."

ILLITERATE DRAFTEES

One of the uncomfortable facts disclosed by the selective service system is that thousands of young men in this great country of educational opportunity are unable to pass a simple test of reading and writing.

In a recent two-month period, May 15 to July 15, a total of 91,919 draftees were "excused" on account of illiteracy. Of these, 37,217 were white, and 54,702 were Negro.

The southern states have the heaviest percentages of illiteracy. In Louisiana, 4.8 per cent of the whites and 23.7 of the Negroes were rejected on this score. In Georgia and Florida, the percentage was only slightly less. Other states of high illiteracy are Virginia, Mississippi and North Carolina.

Partly to offer the benefits of education, partly to increase the number of men fit for military service, WPA is setting up a project to teach reading and writing to the rejectees.

NO GAS TROUBLES

The shortage of gasoline in the East raises no problems in the life of Hattie Caraway, though, as ranking member of the senate commerce committee, she plays an important role in the investigation of the alleged shortage.

The motherly senator from Arkansas is one of the few members of the upper chamber who doesn't own an automobile.

Mrs. Caraway depends on street cars and buses to get to and from her office.



STUDIES IN THE GAS SHORTAGE

Out of luck
Is Wilbur Wrenn:
He thought of gas
At 7:10.

Sad indeed
Is Arthur Bott:
'Twas 8 p. m.—
And he forgot!

Shed a tear
For Minnie Wray:
Her friend used all
Her gas by day!



Weep for John
J. Applegate:
The gas man said,
"You're just too late!"

Sympathize
With Nell's friend Joe:
He only said,
"My watch was slow!"

Do not laugh
At Johnson (Will):
He called on her
With just one gill.

The ladies' pride
Is Wallace Wright:
He saves his gas
To drive by night.

Oh lucky egg
Is Luther Mix:
The gas shack clock
Had stopped at six!

And wottaman
Is Barnett ("Puggy"):
He never sold
That HORSE AND BUGGY!

HINTS FOR GAS SAVINGS

SLOGANS
Harold Ickes has labored and come forth with a sticker, "I Am Using One Third Less Gas" as a terrific weapon in the drive to save fuel. Well, to this department it seems feeble, trite and ineffective, especially when dealing with human beings who have shaken off their real skin and donned the tough hide of automobilists. Nobody reads the stickers on a windshield, not even the fellow who pastes them on.

If they are to be used, however, why not put a kick in 'em. Something along this line:
"I Am Not a Hog, Even When in an Auto."
"I Wouldn't Cripple Uncle Sam Just for a Few Extra Miles of Touring."
"I Put Patriotism Above Petroleum."
"America First. Picnicking Second."
"I'm Stepping on Hitler, Not on the Accelerator."
"I'd Rather Lay Up My Car Than Lay Up My Future."

Of course in this crisis there is bound to be the fellow who takes the attitude, "I only regret I have but one limousine to give for my country."
Washington announces that boneless beef is making a hit in the navy. It's better than beefless bones.
Defense bonds and stamps are to be sold through dry goods stores, etc. And we know a lady who is going to wait for them to advertise a special sale.
"What this country needs is unity," declared the orator as he proceeded to insult all who disagreed with his personal opinions on the crisis.

The idea of tipping railroad porters ten cents per bundle or bag is now being denounced by both porters and railroads. But nothing they can say would equal the strong language being used by the traveling public. It has never believed there was an iota of fairness in paying 40 cents to have a porter carry a coat, a brief case, a hat box and a book while the fellow with the bass violin and the doghouse got off with 20.

Ima Dodo calls her auto an Ickes-mobile because it has become just a day coach.

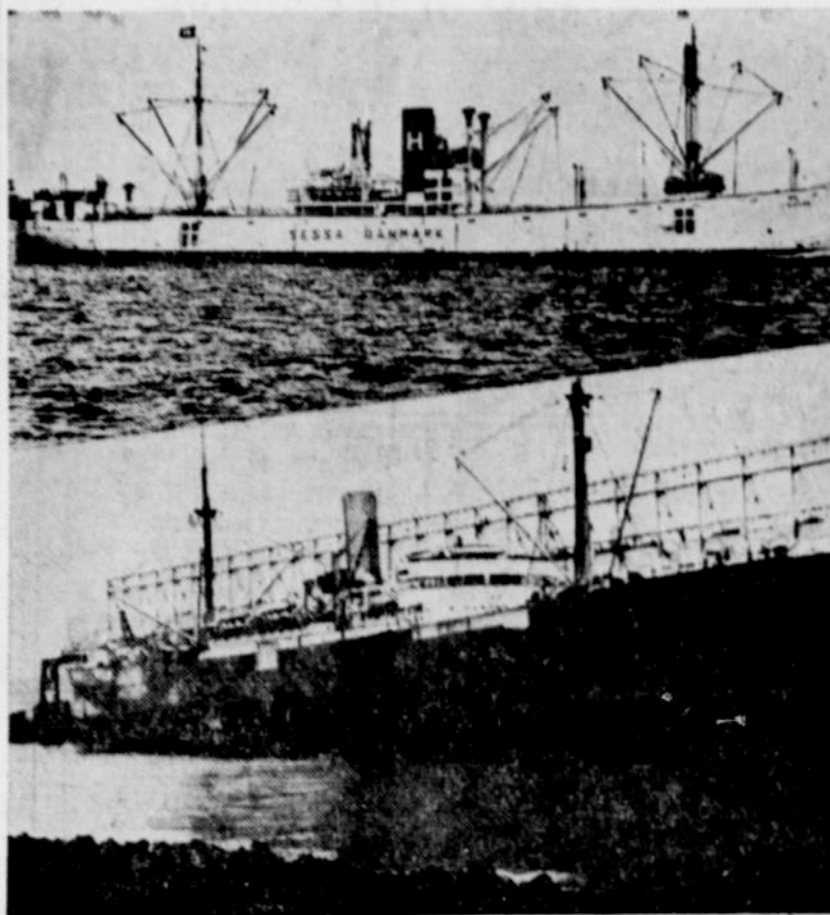
Those Churchill photos in conference with Mr. Roosevelt must make a lot of advertisers wish they knew what kind of a cigar he smoked.

Eleven oil companies are to send billions to pump oil to the East. It sounds like a pipe dream.

SUCCESS SECRET
An author's life is often hard
Until he gets a book that's barred.
—Merrill Chilcote.

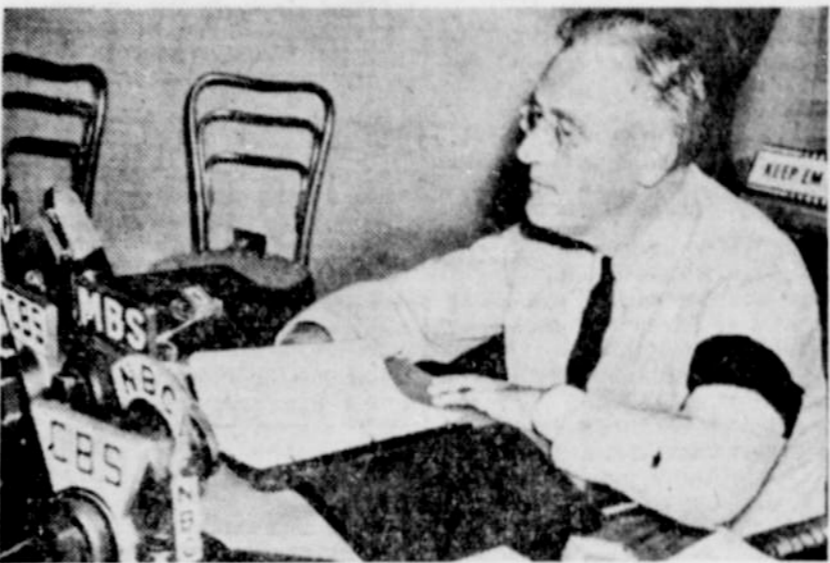
The United States Golf association has rescinded its rule prohibiting golfers in regular tournaments from ceasing play during a lightning storm. "They may now stop temporarily if they think they are in danger," it says. Boy, there's what we call consideration, even if it does expose an unnecessarily slow backswing.

Victims of Axis Raiders



Shown above are two ships which figure in the five sea incidents mentioned in President Roosevelt's "shoot first" address. Pictured at top is the American-operated S. S. Sessa, former Danish freighter, torpedoed and sunk off Iceland. Below: American freighter, Steel Seafarer, shown at Baltimore dock, which was sunk by an Axis bomber in the Red sea.

Orders Navy to Free Western Sea of Raiders



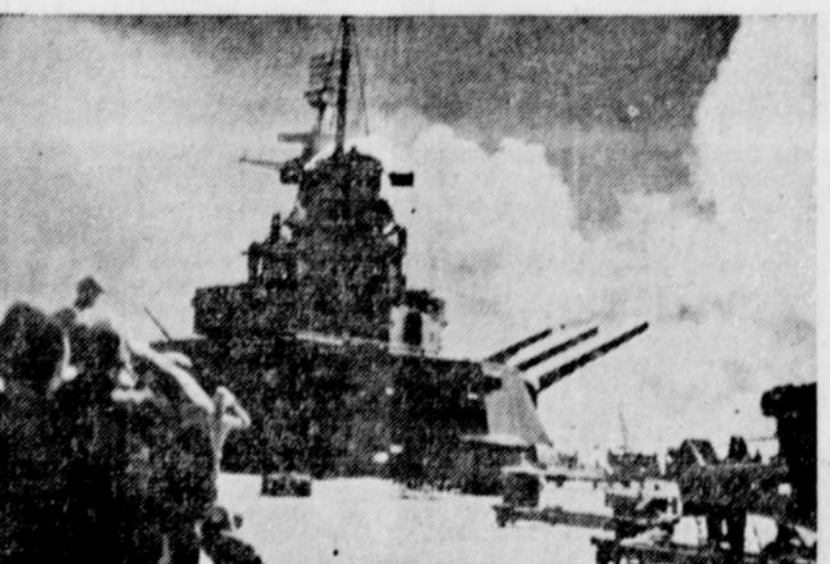
President Roosevelt as he delivered his momentous message to the world, following recent attacks on American shipping by Axis submarines. The President warned Axis powers that he had issued orders to the navy to shoot first if Axis war craft are sighted within American defense zones. He pledged protection of all shipping.

Mexico Pledges Co-operation



In top photo Avila Camacho, president of Mexico, delivers his first annual message to congress. He stressed the attitude of the Mexican government as favoring democracy, and pointed out the Mexican intention of co-operating in the defense of America. In lower photo labor union adherents to the O.T.M. stage demonstration as evidence of their support of the president's announced principles.

To Whom It May Concern



The 16-inch rifles on the No. 3 turret, aft, of the 35,000-ton U.S.S. North Carolina cut loose with a roar as they hurl shells about 26 miles to sea in the greatest broadside of history. This soundphoto was made from the stern of the navy's superdreadnaught during recent firing tests. The North Carolina is under the command of Capt. Olaf M. Hustvedt.

Confers With F.D.R.



Constantine A. Oumansky, Soviet ambassador to the U. S., arrives at the White House for a conference with the President and Secretary of State Cordell Hull. It is believed they discussed the Chief Executive's radio address to the world.

Questioned on FBI



Keith Ferguson, 21, New York model, one of several girls questioned about shakeup of G-men in New York city. She threatened suit against the FBI for its treatment of her.

Curtain Falls



Mrs. Sara Delano Roosevelt, mother of the President, who died in her home on the Hudson river, at Hyde Park, N. Y., at the age of 86. Mrs. Roosevelt, famed for her beauty in youth, was from an era of grand dames and dowager duchesses and she ruled her household in a regal manner. She was buried beside her husband, James, who died in 1900.

Miss America



The crown of Miss America of 1941 was placed on the blonde locks of Miss California, Rosemary La Planche, at Atlantic City, N. J. The 19-year-old, hazel-eyed beauty, resides in Los Angeles, and was a runner-up in last year's beauty pageant.

Beautiful Glass Garden From Old Jug or Bottle



Plants, Flowers Grow Rapidly

A DELIGHTFUL mystery! Heliotrope with sweet clusters of tiny flowers, graceful palms and ivy-striped pandanus—all growing merrily in a small-necked jug. Admiring friends ask "How on earth did they get there?"
Bottle terrariums are almost as simple to make as the most usual kind. Pour in some drainage material, pebbles perhaps, and then add soil. Shake and tilt the bottle as you pour in each layer until it lies evenly.

Our 32-page booklet gives complete directions for making terrariums and dish gardens of all kinds—including landscaped, gardenia, orchid terrariums. Tells how to grow kitchen-window herb gardens. Send your order to:

READER-HOME SERVICE
117 Minna St. San Francisco, Calif.
Enclose 10 cents in coin for your copy of GLASS GARDENS AND NOVELTY INDOOR GARDENS.
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Why Invent Words?

Some writers go to the trouble of inventing words, which few outside their own circle can understand. The English language is extremely rich in words, and not impoverished. In the unabridged edition of the English dictionary there are some 500,000 words, far more than any man can hope to use. Shakespeare had a vocabulary of only 13,000 words, compared with 60,000 used by the educated adult today. Milton used 17,000 different words, and the Bible contains only 7,200 different words.

The best way to find out what to send soldiers in camp is to ask the soldiers themselves. Surveys among the men with the colors show cigarettes and smoking tobacco head the list. Actual sales records from service stores in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard show the largest-selling cigarette is Camel. Prince Albert Smoking Tobacco is well-known as the "National Joy Smoke." A carton of Camels or a pound tin of Prince Albert is always welcome, doubly welcome around the end of the month. Local tobacco dealers are featuring these brands as ideal gifts for men in the service.—Adv.

DON'T BE BOSSED

BY YOUR LAXATIVE-RELIEVE CONSTIPATION THIS MODERN WAY
• When you feel gassy, headachy, lousy due to clogged-up bowels, do as millions do—take Feen-A-Mint at bedtime. Next morning—through, comfortable relief, helping you start the day full of your normal energy and pep, feeling like a million! Feen-A-Mint doesn't disturb your night's rest or interfere with work the next day. Try Feen-A-Mint, the chewing gum laxative, yourself. It tastes good, it's handy and economical... a family supply costs only
FEEN-A-MINT 10¢

Man's Creation
Men heap together the mistakes of their lives and create a monster they call Destiny. — John Oliver.

Nervous Restless Girls!

Cranky? Restless? Can't sleep? Tired easily? Because of distress of monthly functional disturbances? Then try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.
Pinkham's Compound is famous for relieving pain of irregular periods and cranky nervousness due to such disturbances. One of the most effective medicines you can buy today for this purpose—made especially for women. WORTH TRYING!

WATCH the Specials

You can depend on the special sales the merchants of our town announce in the columns of this paper. They mean money saving to our readers. It always pays to patronize the merchants who advertise. They are not afraid of their merchandise or their prices.