

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

Washington, D. C. CANAL DEFENSE PLAN UPSET
It isn't going to be announced, but Nazi propaganda in South America has upset U. S. plans for an important new base defending the Panama canal. Plans had been carefully laid for commercial development of an island off the coast of Ecuador, to be followed by naval installations. But genial Jesse Jones innocently let the cat out of the bag, and the Germans did the rest.

The island is known as Albermarle, in the Galapagos group, lying southwest of Panama, a perfect location for watching Japanese maneuvers near the Pacific entrance of the canal. To inspect it Roosevelt went fishing there three years ago, when the U. S. S. Houston took him on a Pacific cruise.

Roosevelt had heard about the Galapagos since childhood. His great-uncle, Capt. Amasa Delano, put in at the islands on his voyages to China. And his mother, as a young girl, stopped there on a voyage to China.

The President personally was responsible for the strategy of forming an American trading company to develop Albermarle. He knew the sensitive Latins, knew that a direct proposal for building a U. S. naval base would arouse the old enemies of "Yankee imperialism," and that the only safe way was to set up a company for the development of fishing and cattle, thus bring the navy in edgeways.

Accordingly, the Pacific Development company was formed, incorporated in Delaware, and financed with funds from the RFC. First it got a credit of \$30,000, but later, when a credit of half a million was extended, RFCzar Jesse Jones innocently announced it to the press.

Jesse Jones' Joke.
Apparently the naval stratagem was such a dark secret that even Jesse, a member of the cabinet, didn't know about it. So he announced it as nothing but a commercial development, because the island was owned not by Ecuador but by a private individual. And then he added a little jest of his own.

"And if you can spell the man's name," said Jesse, "I'll give you the island. The name is pronounced 'heel'."

Up spoke a correspondent who knows Spanish well. "You spell it G-I-L," he said.

"That's right," said Jones. "Go to the head of the class."

"No," said the newsman. "I want the island."

"I'll owe you the island," said Jones, and everybody laughed.

But there was no laughter in the navy department; for German propaganda, through short-wave radio and local newspapers, stirred up the old fear of Yankee aggression, intimating that a U. S. naval base off the west coast of South America would make little puppets of the Good Neighbors for all time.

The propaganda was successful, and the deal had to be cancelled. It may be that the Pacific Development company will still pursue its "livestock, fishing, and mining of sulphur," as provided in the concession, but President Roosevelt's dream of a Panama defense base is sunk.

MORE CRACKDOWNS
You can put it down as a certainty that there will be other OPM crack-downs, in addition to the one on the Chicago "juke-box" firm, for "bootlegging" scarce raw materials.

OPM Priorities Director Donald Nelson said nothing about it, but he has his gimlet eye fixed on a big steel plant, an auto manufacturer and others. Both have been secretly thumbing their noses at priority restrictions.

The auto maker was called on the carpet by Nelson and spent several uncomfortable hours trying to explain the unauthorized purchase of a large quantity of strategic materials and the action of a parts subsidiary selling such supplies.

When the auto executive left OPM he was red-faced and obviously worried.

The steel company is suspected of secretly filling orders for big customers in direct violation of defense requirements, particularly naval. An investigation is now under way. The company has a long history of battling the government and the fur will fly if the suspicions are substantiated.

Note: After Nelson's investigators finish with their aluminum inquiries, they will move into chemicals, where there have been numerous complaints of wholesale disregard of priority orders.

MERRY-GO-ROUND
Informed that defense officials want to use her famous legs to publicize non-silk stockings as soon as she has recovered from her fractured ankle, movie queen Marlene Dietrich sent back word that she stands ready, or will sit if preferred, for any patriotic purpose.

One subject that Speaker Sam Rayburn always is ready to talk about is his Texas ranch. "I like to be known as a rancher," he grins, "although I haven't got much to show for it."

The Once Over

H.I. Phillips

IMAGINARY DIALOGUES: MRS. ROOSEVELT AND THE OGD CHIEF
("Mrs. Roosevelt takes office as assistant to Fiorello LaGuardia, director of the Office of Civilian Defense.")—News item.)

Mrs. Roosevelt (making her first appearance)—Good morning, boss.

Mr. LaGuardia—Good morning. What can I do for you?

Mrs. Roosevelt—I'm the new girl here. Roosevelt is the name.

Mr. LaGuardia—Oh, yes. I remember. Let's see . . . just what were you to do?

Mrs. Roosevelt—You just said to report as your assistant.

Mr. LaGuardia—So I did! Well, are you all set?



Mrs. Roosevelt—I'm willing to give you all my spare time.

Mr. LaGuardia—Come, come! You'll have to do better than that!

Mrs. Roosevelt—Dear me! If it isn't one thing it's another these days.

Mr. LaGuardia—If it isn't ONE thing it's A DOZEN OTHERS!

Mrs. Roosevelt—I don't see how you get time to attend to so many matters in so many places.

Mr. LaGuardia—I'm puzzled about you in the same way. Gosh, I guess we are the four busiest people in America.

Mrs. Roosevelt—Four? There are only two of us.

Mr. LaGuardia—Let's not belittle ourselves!

Mrs. Roosevelt—I'm very anxious to get going.

Mr. LaGuardia (whipping out a bunch of timetables)—So am I.

Mrs. Roosevelt—I mean to get going here . . . on the new job.

Mr. LaGuardia—Oh, yes. My error. Let's see what the set-up is. I'm head of the OCD and I need help.

Mrs. Roosevelt—Fancy Fiorello LaGuardia needing help!

Mr. LaGuardia—It does seem fanciful, I admit. But I need a deputy and I thought of you, as the First Lady of the Land and such a great worker in so many causes, would be of great help.

Mrs. Roosevelt—What can I do that you can't do?

Mr. LaGuardia—Well, a daily column for one thing. And you have a radio sponsor, too. I heard you on the air. I went right out and bought some of that tea.

Mrs. Roosevelt—I spoke for a coffee program.

Mr. LaGuardia—Sorry! It must have been a bad reception on my radio set.

Mrs. Roosevelt—I've often wondered why you didn't do a newspaper column yourself.

Mr. LaGuardia—I guess the papers don't use that kind of language. But I've had a radio offer.

Mrs. Roosevelt—From a sponsor? Who?

Mr. LaGuardia—A cigarette company. It wanted some new noises for the Modern Design theme.

Mrs. Roosevelt—Are you going to accept?

Mr. LaGuardia—No. My doctor thinks I am doing too much already.

Mrs. Roosevelt—I don't blame him from worrying about the strain on you.

Mr. LaGuardia—That isn't it. He's worrying over the strain on him in worrying about the strain on me. To get back to business, do you think you understand just what our job requires?

Mrs. Roosevelt—Hark!

Mr. LaGuardia—What is it?

Mrs. Roosevelt—I thought I heard enemy bombers overhead.

Mr. LaGuardia—Excellent. You get the whole idea exactly!

CAN YOU REMEMBER—
Away back when people could always find out whether they were in a war or not without much trouble?

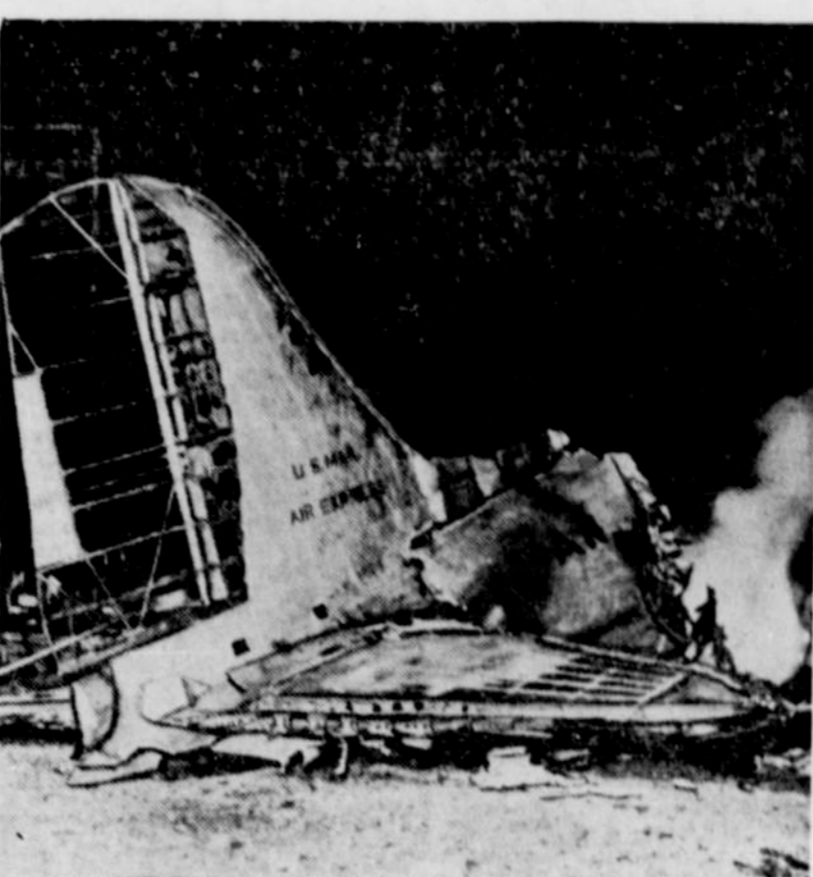
DEPOT SCENE
Commuters kiss their wives good-by
As the Seven-Thirty's distant shriek
Calls them forth with grunt and sigh,
To station platform, cold and bleak;
Climb out of cars, last link with home,
Pull collars up around their throats,
Look back at wives who sit alone
In nightgowns under polo coats.
—J. H. NILES.

"Does anyone ever see a picture of life in Russia under Bloody Joe Stalin?" Senator Clark at the movie inquiry.

Well, if the senator was any kind of a movie fan he would know that the answer is "Yes, indeed." In fact the Russian picture is something that the public got fed up with long ago.

A New Rochelle letter carrier was bitten by the same dog three times. This is easy to explain. The dog isn't expecting any letters.

Where Twenty Died



A Chicago-bound air liner, flying low in a heavy fog near St. Thomas, Ont., crashed and burst into flames, killing 20 persons. It was the second crash on a major airline within 24 hours and brought the day's death total to 34. This soundphoto shows wreckage of the huge American Airlines Douglas ship which started its flight in New York. The wreckage is still smouldering in spots.

Discuss Air Associates' Strike



President Roosevelt directed the war department to take over the C.I.O.-struck plant of Air Associates, Inc., Bendix, N. J. Photo shows Col. R. M. Jones, left, and Maj. Peter Beasley, center, discussing reinstatement of strikers with Anthony Grimaldi, C.I.O. organizer at the plant.

Closed Coal Mines Four Days



Pictured above is John L. Lewis as he appeared at a press conference before a truce brought an end to a strike of 53,000 miners in the nation's "captive" coal mines. When the picture was taken Lewis declared he was telling President Roosevelt "no" in response to a White House request for a settlement of the dispute. But after a conference between the President, Lewis, Myron Taylor, former head of U. S. Steel, and William Davis of the National Mediation board, the miners went back to work under terms of a 15-day truce which called for further mediation of the issues involved.

Harriman Reports to F.D.R.



W. Averill Harriman, upon his return from Moscow, where he had been heading the U. S. mission to Moscow, called at the White House to have a further conference with the President. Photo shows him as he was talking with members of the press in the reception room in the executive offices of the White House.

Hit—but Lucky



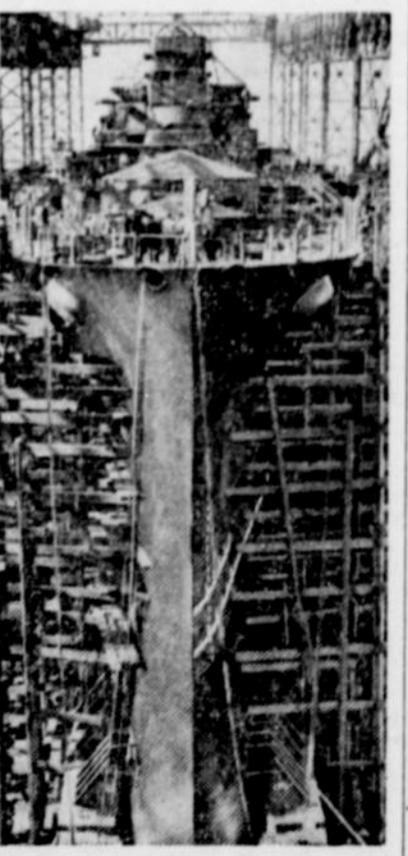
U. S. minister to Iceland, MacVeagh (arrow), inspects damage done to U. S. destroyer Kearny, which fared better than destroyer Reuben James sunk while on convoy duty west of Iceland the day above picture was released.

Bomber Saboteur?



William Eitel, 22, paint foreman at the Glenn L. Martin airplane plant, Middle River, Md., who was arrested by FBI agents, charged with acts of sabotage to bombers.

Growing Fast



Unusual view of the bow of the battleship Indiana, which is rapidly taking shape at Newport News, Va. Construction work on the deck of this 35,000-ton ocean giant is well forward, and she is scheduled to slide down the ways in December.

Lehigh's Skipper



Capt. Vincent P. Arkins, commander of the torpedoed U. S. freighter Lehigh, who gave an account of sinking upon his arrival at Freetown, South Africa.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

When making chocolate candy or frosting always melt the chocolate over hot water, as it burns very easily because of the fat content.

If a cloth is dipped in vinegar and rubbed over the kitchen stove before it is blackened, it will remove all the grease that may have accumulated on it.

Lard has the greatest shortening power of any of the plastic edible fats.

When taking a pie from the oven do not put it on flat surface of a table to cool, but on a high wire rack. The rack helps to keep the crust crisp.

INDIGESTION

Does not harm the heart, but it can make one mighty uncomfortable. If gas seems to distend stomach, causing that embarrassing "gurging" and crowding, try ADLA Tablets. They contain Bismuth and Carbonates for QUICK relief. Drug-gists have ADLA Tablets.

Old May Learn
It is always in season for old men to learn.—Aeschylus.

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Filled with pictures of famous movie stars, over 100 illustrations, with many cartoons in color. The introduction by Bing Crosby is a scream.

"A best seller," says one reviewer.

"Funniest book of the year," according to a New York critic.

Don't miss getting this book...for the sake of your sense of humor! Now easy to get...at your favorite drug counter. Just go in. Get a package of any Pepsodent product...medium or large size...and this new Bob Hope Book costs you only 10¢. Don't delay...get yours today!

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