



WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

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

NEW YORK—Admiral Claude C. Bloch, commander of the naval district at Hawaii, has been known as the "Jack Dempsey of the Navy" because of his repeated and vehement insistence on the importance of "beating the enemy to the punch." He made a remark to that general effect when he was urging the thorough fortification of Guam, early last year.

Things didn't work out that way, with Japan letting loose the "punch," behind diplomatic shadow boxing, but that couldn't be charged up to the admiral. Any government adhering to the forms of international law and order is at a disadvantage in the prevailing international anarchy. But Washington can't say that the ruddy, desk-thumping old admiral, 42 years out of Annapolis, didn't give it ample warning. He has long been a vigorous advocate of widely based naval preparedness in the Pacific and readiness to strike at the first goop.

He is a Kentuckian, as thoroughly schooled in our high-seas workouts of the last few decades as any man in the navy, entered in all of them and repeatedly decorated. He won the specially meritorious Medal of the Spanish-American War, when, as a young ensign in the Battle of Santiago, he rescued Spaniards from Cervera's burning ships. His other medals came from the Philippine and Cuban campaigns, the Boxer rebellion and the World war, the last being the Victory medal, and with it went the Navy Cross, for running transports through the blockaded section around France and England.

He has been chief of the bureau of ordnance, a gunnery officer, commander of many ships, a budget officer, judge advocate general, engaged in training activities, and commandant of the Washington Navy yard. He became commander of the battle force, with the rank of admiral, in 1937. From 1928 to 1940, he was commander in chief of the U. S. fleet, and was assigned to command of the Hawaiian district in the latter years. He's a naval officer's officer, with a high reputation for strategic and technical skill.

THIS onlooker, meeting quite a few explorers in various parts of the world, has noted in them, almost invariably, a good sense of drama and an instinct for showmanship in makeup of this woman explorer.

Miss Louise A. Boyd, just now cited by the Washington Bureau of Standards for her scientific work on her last Arctic expedition, is lacking in these attributes. She rounds out 17 years of Arctic exploring with never a tale of a close brush with death, and never anybody drawing lots to see who would shoot himself when they were down to the last kilo of pemmican.

She does a lot to validate the strictly scientific assumptions of Arctic exploration and to disprove the tradition that women are garrulous. When she popped off 29 polar bears in 1926, it was only by accident that the news leaked out through other members of her expedition. Her log is never like that of Henry Hudson which spotted up a lot of mermaids and sea demons around Spitzbergen.

She is back from her sixteenth trip up north on Capt. Bob Bartlett's stout little schooner, the *Effie Morrisey*. For 17 years she has been commuting up to the icebergs every summer—farther north than any other white woman ever went. This writer frequently has seen the imposing old Victorian Boyd home in San Rafael, Calif., behind tall privet hedges, whence came the smart, comely young girl, to buck a frozen wilderness, get decorations from two former governments, special and unique recognition from the National Geographic society, and have "Louise Boyd Land" spotted up on government maps, where the De Geer glacier used to be.

Ship news reporters find her uncommunicative, coming and going, and her reports go through official scientific channels. En route to the Far North, she usually arrives in New York with a car, chauffeur and maid. She quietly sidetracks silly questions about whether she powders her nose in a gale.

This writer was once in some remote regions of the Darien country. Later interviewing a gabby explorer who had just returned from there, he conceived a distrust for ground-and-lofty travelers' tales which made Miss Boyd his favorite explorer.

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

CHANGED CITY
Washington has changed overnight. Washington was a boom town one week; next week it was a war town. The change is partly a matter of visible things, partly things that are felt without being seen. . . . Khaki-clad soldiers, with tin hats and bayonets, patrolling two abreast between the White House and the state department. . . . Darkness over the Capitol dome, where searchlights are blacked out, for the duration. . . . A jam of volunteers for Civilian Defense. . . . New flags delivered at Civilian Defense headquarters, two for LaGuardia's car, two for Mrs. Roosevelt's car, six for the motorcycles. . . . The residence of German correspondent Kurt Sell is raided at night and Sell is taken into custody by FBI.

Though the department of commerce deals with such innocuous subjects as census figures, its great steel doors are locked, and guards demand credentials at the main entrance. . . . Women fliers of America call a hurried meeting to speed up plans for training. . . . An extra detail of police strolls on the south grounds of the White House, last trampled by egg-rolling Easter crowds.

In his press conference, the President's voice is so grave and low that a newsman calls out, "Louder, please." . . . Four plainclothesmen, in two cars, sit parked all day on Waterside drive, where the bank rises sharply on the back garden of the Japanese embassy. . . . Even Falla, the President's Scottie, feels the change, for the White House guards have less time to play with him, and he curls up disconsolate in his green dog-house, just back of the President's office.

JAPANESE SPIES
Last summer Congressman Martin Dies had investigators make a thorough survey of Japanese activities along the West coast. The results eventually were suppressed by the state department and the President himself, but a brief summary of them indicates that some parts of the United States face a dangerous problem when it comes to fifth column activity.

Hitler had many agents planted through Norway, France and the Low Countries when he attacked, but the Japanese, according to the Dies report, start out with 150,000 of their countrymen in the United States. These are all Japanese citizens, and do not include 50,000 second generation Japanese born in the United States. The Dies report shows that 200 key Japanese have been decorated by the emperor during the past two years and that many Japanese are in close co-operation with the homeland through the Central Japanese association which has been directed by consulates in California.

Dies agents have collected photographs of various Japanese truck gardens operated alongside oil tanks and strategic railroads. Also they report 5,000 Japanese residing on terminal islands in Los Angeles harbor, where are located strategic oil tanks, Reeves field and a shipbuilding company. Oil storage tanks blown up in the harbors would endanger all of the Los Angeles area. The most revealing documents seized by Dies' agents are maps, showing all the U. S. strategic points and fortifications, and a naval manual showing the size of all American naval vessels.

The naval manual, published in 1941, is so up to date that it even shows latest models of U. S. mosquito boats together with the Presidential yacht *Potomac* and the plan of U. S. airplane carriers. The location of guns, engine room, etc., is indicated alongside the photograph of each vessel. It must have taken Japanese agents months or years to collect this data.

NEW FORMATIONS
Another Japanese map seized by Dies' agents is revealing in the extreme. It shows the layout of the American fleet in a typical battle formation near Hawaii. U. S. naval officers confirm the fact that the map correctly shows past naval maneuvers.

The documents show the details of Pearl Harbor, the Panama canal, San Francisco, Manila, Guam and Vladivostok. They also give the normal cruising radius of the U. S. fleet out of Honolulu, together with the normal location of airplane carriers, cruising battleships, scouts and auxiliary transports. Maps also show the whereabouts of submarine cables, mines, channels, wireless stations, Japanese consulates and air bases all along the West coast.

WAR CHAFF
It was significant that Japanese struck first not at the Philippines, which is armed to the teeth with heavy bombers, but at Hawaii. Hawaii had sent its best war planes on to the Philippines. . . . If the navy had read the newspapers it might have been better prepared. . . . Constantine Brown, foreign affairs expert of the Washington Star, predicted war with Japan 10 days in advance and named Sunday, December 7, as the starting date.

Adaman Club Greet New Year on Summit Of Lofty Pike's Peak

While most people will be celebrating New Year's in comfortably warm homes, theaters and other amusement places, a small group of men will be battling bitter cold and high snow drifts as they climb to the top of Pike's peak.

Every year at the stroke of midnight on New Year's eve members of the Adaman club set off a huge display of fireworks from the summit of Pike's peak. The mercury has fallen as low as 40 degrees below zero during the nine-mile climb, and the wind blows relentlessly atop the 14,110-foot peak.

Early in the afternoon of December 31 the hardy group will leave Colorado Springs. They will ride in automobiles as far as Manitou Springs which is located at the base of the peak. Their ride ends here, and they begin their long climb.

At first the climb is easy, but after the Half Way House is passed the climbing becomes extremely difficult. Snow drifts are more than 20 feet deep in places, and the incessant north wind whips the snow particles with great force.

In addition to a food supply, each man carries his share of the fireworks. The trip is a grueling test of endurance and strength. But the men really enjoy it.

U. S. Had Quiet Year During '42

No one knows what the year 1942 will bring, but '42 exactly 100 years ago was a relatively quiet one for the United States.

In that year the national debt reached the high level of more than \$13,594,000. La grippe (influenza) was prevalent throughout the country. This year also saw Charles Dickens visit the United States, and the Horatio Greenough statue of General George Washington was placed in the federal Capitol.

Other events of national importance which occurred exactly one century ago follow:

March 31—Henry Clay of Kentucky resigns from the U. S. senate.
May 2—Col. John C. Fremont commenced an exploring expedition to the Rocky mountains.

June 29—President Tyler vetoes the tariff bill.

August 9—Maine boundary established by the Webster-Ashburn treaty between the United States and England.

August 30—President Tyler signs the tariff bill.

September 29—Order of the Sons of Temperance organized in New York.

Columbus Achieved 'Greatest Discovery' Just 450 Years Ago

The year 1942 would ordinarily be one marked by a great observance of some sort for the achievement of Christopher Columbus in 1492. For 1942 rounds out 450 years since the discovery of America.

In 1892, on the occasion of the four hundredth anniversary, the Chicago fair, one of the most renowned in the world, took place. But for World War II, 1942 would have brought about another significant celebration.

Even as it is, there is some talk of paying due honor to the great navigator who, in 1492 like the world we know in the dawn of 1942, also had his "darkest hour" before the light burst on a new world.

Joaquin Miller wrote of this hour in Columbus' life—and it could be symbolic of the arrival and hopes of the year 1942. The poetry follows:

Then pale and wan he kept the deck
And peered through darkness.
Ah, that night, of all dark nights
And then a light—a light.

It grew, a starlet flag unfurled
It grew time's burst of dawn—
He gained—a world.
He gave that world its grandest lesson.
On—and on!

U. S. Only Sixth Rate In Father Time's Eyes

Although the United States leads the world in many ways, it is about sixth rate in the eyes of Father Time. He brings the new year first to Australia, Asia, Africa, Europe and most of South America before he finally gets around to this country. Then for three more hours the people of California must be satisfied with 1941 before they receive the fresh new year of 1942.

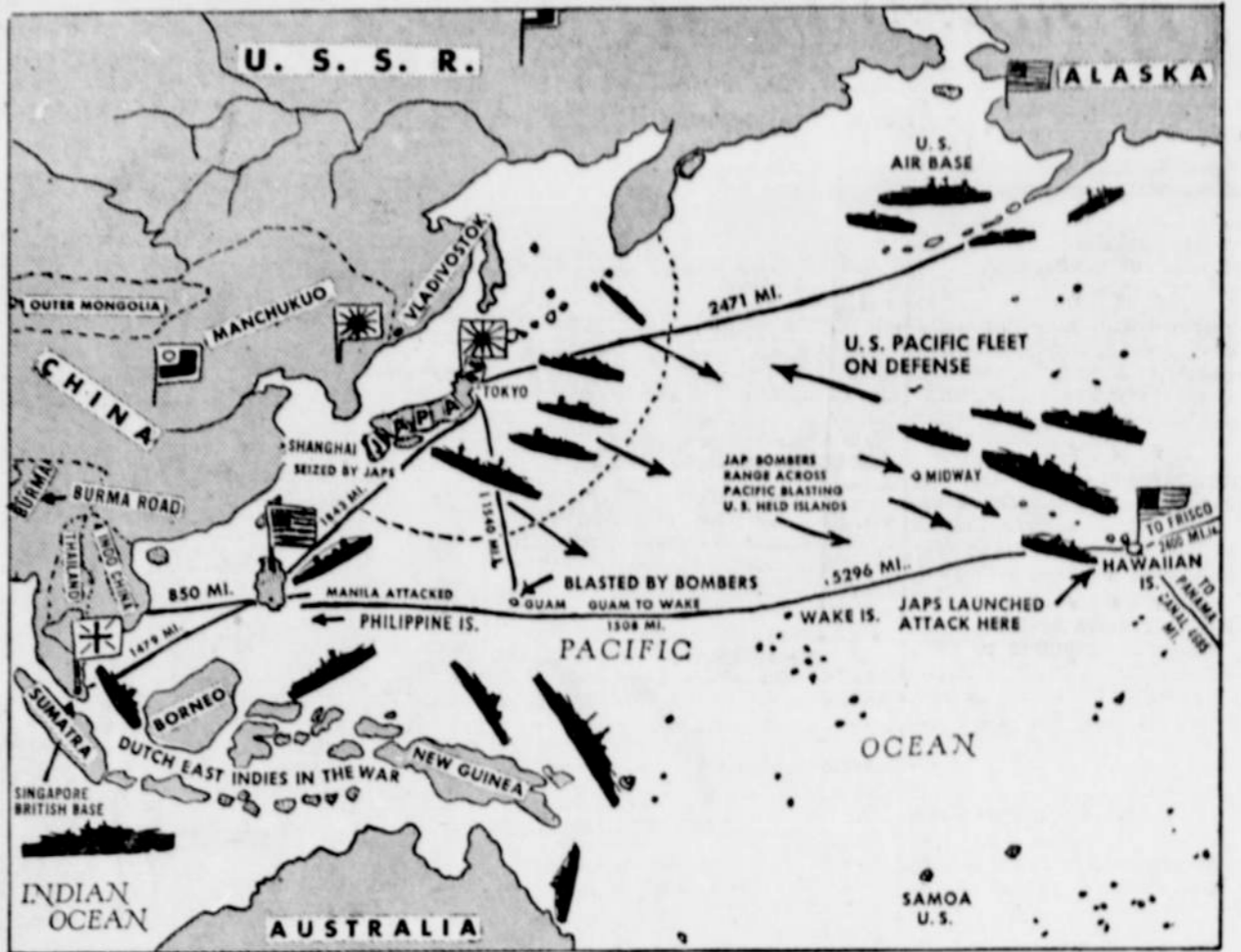
When the new year is born it will be 7 a. m., December 31, in our eastern cities; 6 a. m. in the central time zone; 5 a. m. in the mountain zone; and 4 a. m. in the Pacific coast states.

Early Scots Used Bible

For Glimpse Into Future
A glimpse into the future was believed possible by the early Scots who turned to their Bibles on New Year's day.

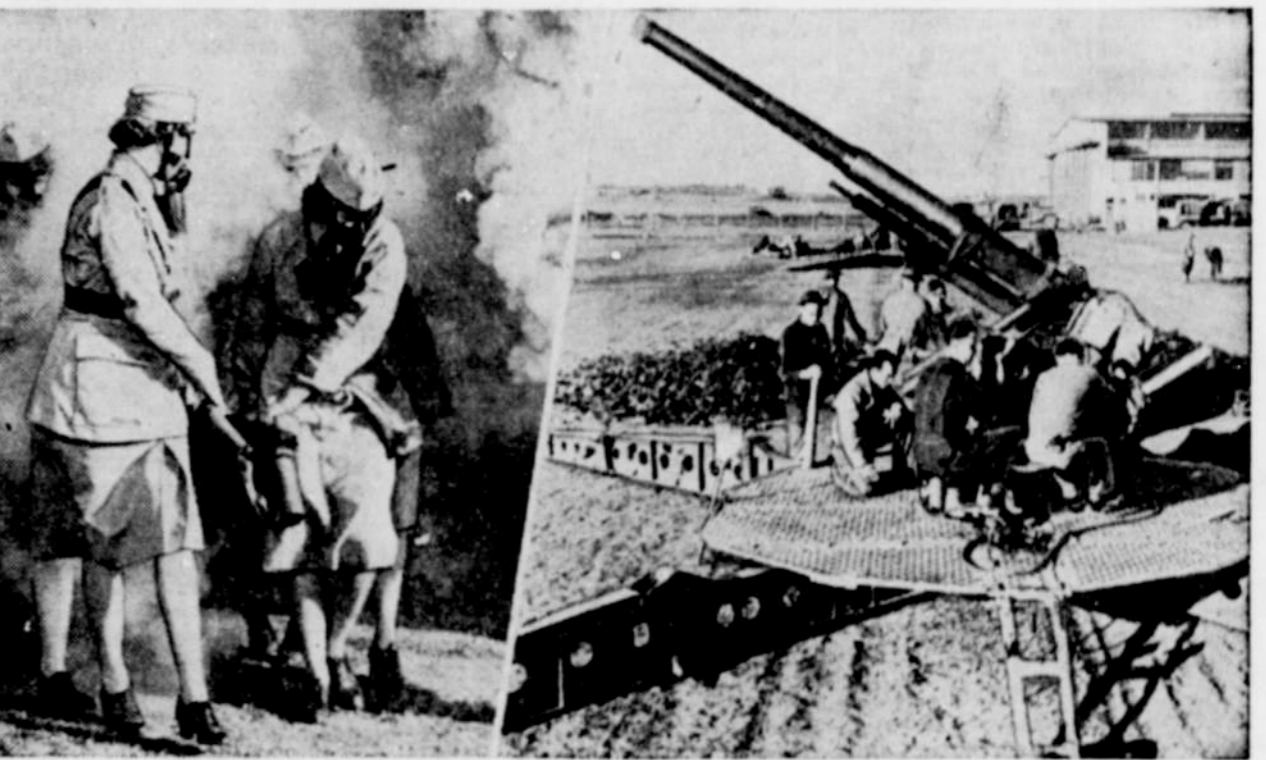
The sacred book was laid upon the table, opened at random and a finger was placed on the printed page. The entire chapter was then read, and the message it held was then believed to describe in some way the happiness or misery in store for the person adhering to the practice.

Battle Stations on Pacific Front



Above map shows strategic points in the naval and aerial war now being waged between the U. S. and Japan in the Pacific.

Los Angeles Girds Itself for All-Out War



With the U. S. and Japan fighting so close to home, maneuvers of Los Angeles Women's Ambulance and Defense corps turned into a public morale-building review. At left you see a demonstration of a gas mask drill, and rescue of a victim during a mock gas attack. Picture at right shows an anti-aircraft gun crew.

Isle of Guam, Attacked by Japs



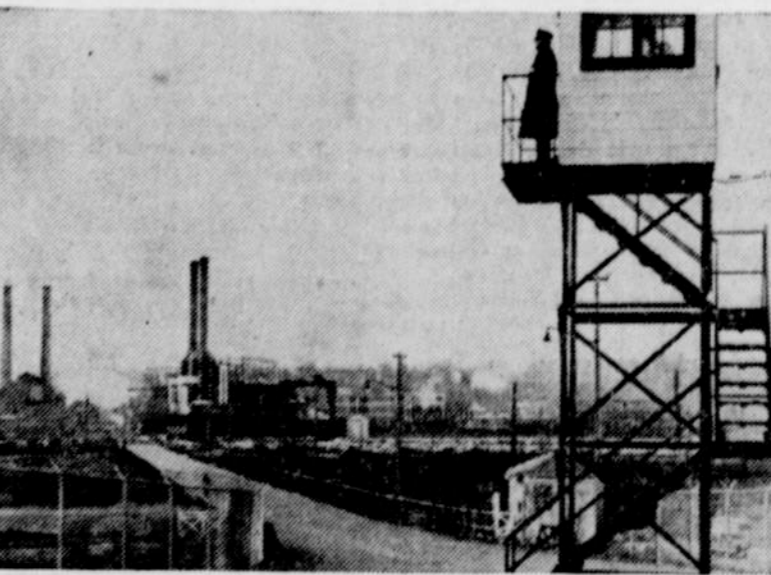
View of Guam, our lonely island outpost in the Pacific, which has been attacked and reported taken by Japanese military and naval forces. Guam is regarded as the key American Pacific outpost. At the upper left is the Pan American Airways terminal.

East Indies Leader



A recent portrait of Dr. A. W. L. Tjarda van Starkenborgh Stachouwer, governor-general of the Netherlands East Indies. With the Japanese move into Thailand, Netherlands East Indies are threatened.

Guarding America's Industries



Elevated positions permit guards to give better protection to General Electric's plant at Schenectady, N. Y. There are several guard houses such as this one. They are being built hurriedly to prevent sabotage, now that America is at war with Japan. Atop each guardhouse will be a powerful searchlight, with armed guards inside.

Patrol Chief



Maj. Gen. John F. Curry, who has been named national commander of the Civil Air patrol. He will seek enlistment of 90,000 licensed pilots and 90,000 student pilots.