

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON

## PRESIDENT IN MISSOURI

WASHINGTON. — The next two months of President Truman's life are filled with junkets similar to that which he has just taken through the heart of the Mark Twain country. At first, newsmen covering the White House figured that he took these trips for political reasons, but they have now changed their minds. The President takes these junkets because he loves them. Never since that fateful April day when he took the oath of office has he had more fun than at Caruthersville, Mo., where he swapped yarns with the local postmaster, got up at 6:15 to "spit" in the Mississippi river, and ran out in the street to ring the bell of a small-scale locomotive.

The locomotive was being conducted through the streets of Caruthersville by the "Forty and Eight" club of the American Legion (commemorating the "40 men—8 horses" capacity of French freight cars in the last war). Suddenly the President of the United States spied it. Perhaps it reminded him of 1918 when he unloaded artillery horses from those same French freight cars in the Meuse sector.

Anyway, with a shout to War Mobilizer John Snyder, who once worked behind the cashier's cage of small-town Missouri-Arkansas banks, Harry went over to the locomotive. Right then and there the war mobilizer and the President of the United States had the time of their lives staging a locomotive bell-pulling contest.

## SECRET SERVICE FROWNS

Another incident the secret service men didn't like was when the President arose shortly after 6 a. m., left the austere frame 42-room Majestic hotel which had been cleared of guests in his honor, and walked down to the Mississippi river. It seems that there is an old custom in those parts which makes it incumbent upon a visitor to spit in the Father of Waters.

The secret service men, not being in the know regarding this spitting custom, were taken by surprise. One of them, however, spotted the truant President of the United States ambling off in the direction of the river, sounded the alarm, and a few minutes later, four bodyguards were trailing him.

After Harry got through spitting, he skimmed a few stones out over the river, found that his technique as a stone-skimmer hadn't changed since boyhood days, and was then content to go back to town.

On the way, he met two old Caruthersville cronies, Neal Helm, county wholesale liquor dealer, and James Reeves, former commander of the American Legion. They swapped stories as they walked down to the post office, where they dropped in to see Postmaster Bailey S. Brooks. There they swapped some more.

## BOMBS FOR CONGRESS

Six members of a congressional committee sailing to Europe last August were nearly scared out of their wits while on the Queen Mary. Headed by Rep. Louis Rabaut of Michigan, a subcommittee of the house appropriations committee had debated whether to fly or to go by boat. Finally they decided to sail—but they wished they hadn't.

The group which decided to enjoy some relaxation on steamer chairs included Dean Gillespie of Colorado, Robert Jones of Ohio, Butler Hare of South Carolina, Thomas O'Brien of Illinois and Judge John Kerr of North Carolina. Kerr had argued for the boat trip and finally convinced his colleagues.

The congressmen were just beginning to relax on their first night out from New York when an army officer came to Chairman Rabaut with a disturbing message.

"The skipper thought you gentlemen ought to know," he said, "that we have just received a code message from the FBI. They report they have discovered there are a number of incendiary bombs on the boat scheduled to go off at midnight."

"There are several companies of Japanese-American troops on board," the officer told Rabaut, "and Japan is still at war with the United States."

Rabaut called his colleagues together and told them the news. Judge Kerr's first comment was: "I wonder if the skipper has ordered airplanes to hover around the ship."

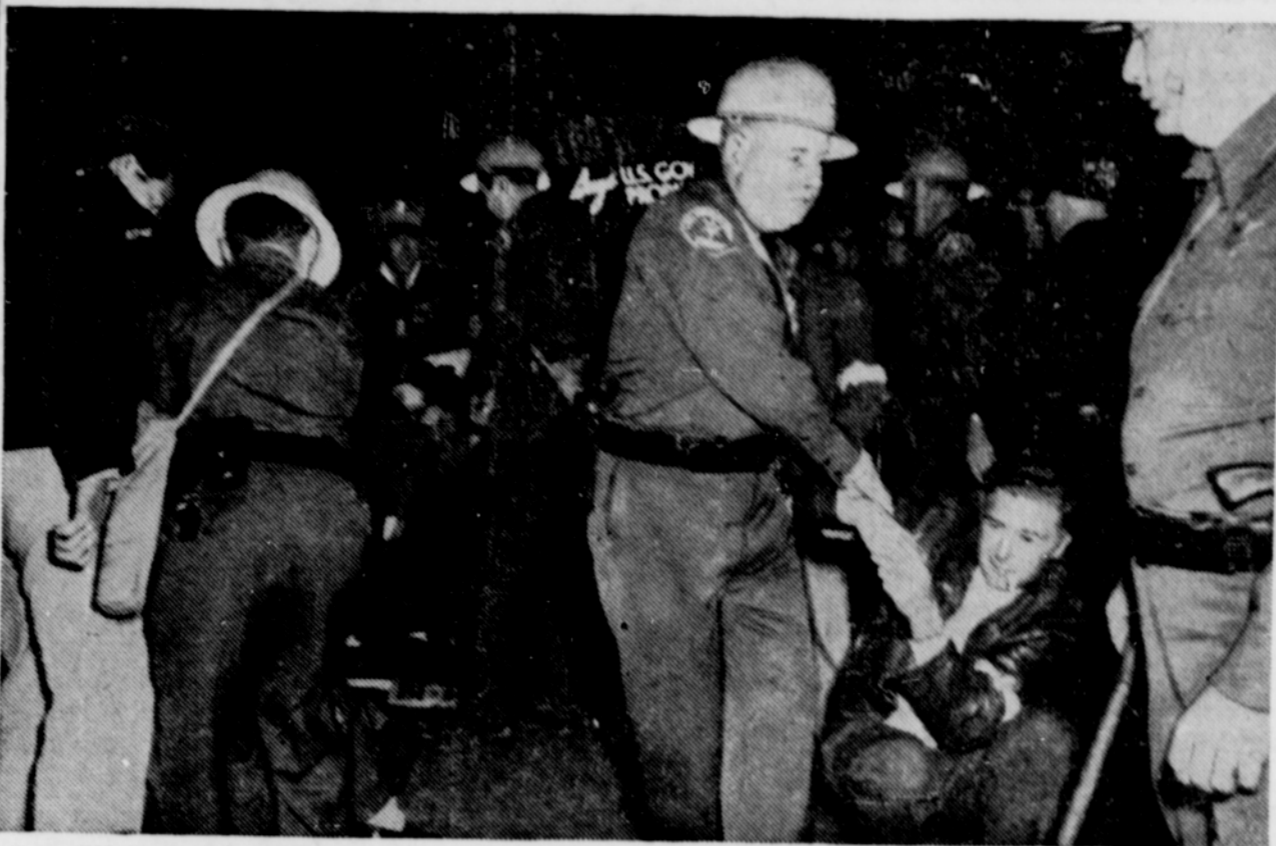
All were alerted the entire night while the ship's crew searched unsuccessfully for the bombs. No trace of them was ever found, but the restful relaxation the congressmen had hoped for was not achieved until they set foot on solid ground once again.

## CAPITAL CHAFF

Congratulations to Gen. Arthur Esterbrook of Santa Ana, Calif., for permitting his enlisted men to give him their gripes face to face and for speeding up discharges. If there were more generals like Esterbrook, there would be more men wanting to stay in the army.

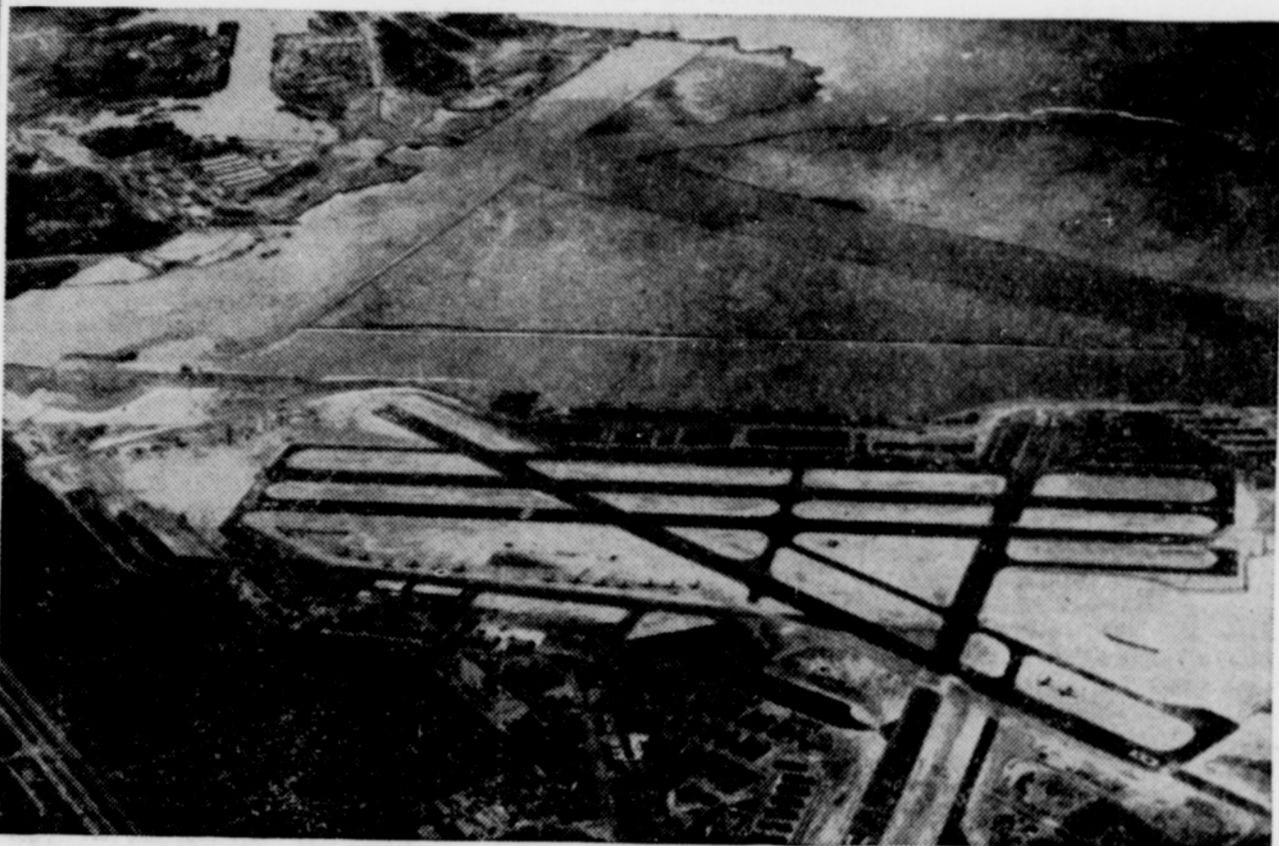
Wayne Coy, one-time Roosevelt lieutenant, now assistant publisher of the Washington Post, is a dark-horse possibility in Indiana politics. Hoosier Democrats are trying to persuade Coy to run for the senate.

## Hollywood Adds 'Atomic' Touch to Nation's Strikes



As all productions from Hollywood must no longer be considered colossal but "atomic," the strikers at the motion picture plants have led the way in proving to the world that they can put on an "atomic" strike. Shown above were sit-down strikers who blocked the main entrance to Warner Bros., Burbank, during the height of their strike. Deputy sheriffs who did not approve of the blockade are shown removing some of the strikers from the entrance.

## Honolulu Now Has Largest Airport in the World



One of the first photos of the John Rodgers airport in Honolulu to be released since before the war. The largest in the world, the airport is truly the crossroads of the Pacific, and it is here that Hawaiians will greet many of the delegates to the United Nations organization if their proposal to the Preparations committee, meeting in London, to make Hawaii permanent UNO headquarters is accepted.

## They're Here Today . . . Gone Tomorrow Led Kachin Rangers



If you are mentally agile, perhaps you can keep up with the Argentine situation. Here is Vice Adm. Hector Mernengo Lima, who became minister of the navy in the coup which ousted Vice Pres. Juan Peron for a short time. When Peron returned to office the admiral was arrested.



Capt. Charles Coussoule, who was a leader of the famed Kachin Rangers who snaked through swampy Burma jungles to beat the Japs at their own game. He has returned to his home at Indiana, Pa.

## Women's U. S. Softball Champions



The Jax maids of New Orleans, who drove to the U. S. softball championship to make it the third year in the last four that they have won. They won in 1942 and 1943. The bevy of beauties hammered out a win over the Toronto club, also winning the title of world's champions. Nine Korgan of the Jax allowed but two hits by the Toronto lassies

## From Beat to Opera



Ian Cosman, Manhattan patrolman, who made his operatic debut as Turiddu in "Cavalleria Rusticana," with the New York City Opera company. He has been on the force seven years.

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