

# Reynolds, Eleanor Packard Covered Europe for 7 Years

By Walt Rundle  
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New York, (U.P.)—To the average American, Benito Mussolini's name calls to mind a cartoon character — tattered, begrimed and wearing an assortment of court-plasters on his out-thrust chin.

To Reynolds and Eleanor Packard, authors of the book, "Balcony Empire," the leader of Italy's Fascism is more than a buffoon. They know from years of first hand experience that he is an ambitious, treacherous figure who still must be reckoned with in world affairs.

No two persons in America are better qualified than the Packards to speak with authority on the rise and decline of the fortunes of the strutting, one-time journalist who dreamed of becoming the Caesar of a new Roman Empire.

During the past seven years as United Press correspondents, Eleanor and Reynolds Packard have been eye-witnesses to virtually every bumbling step Mussolini trod on "the road to empire". For six months after the Duce shouted his defiance to the United States and led his country into war against America, they were Mussolini's unwilling guests in an Italian concentration camp.

Years earlier they had tabbed the serio-comic leader of the new Italy as the subject for a book. On reaching home with other Americans repatriated aboard the exchange liner Drottningholm, they began hastily assembling notes accumulated through the years and smuggled out of Italy under the noses of Italian guards at the end of their internment.

Obtaining two months' leave from United Press, they rented a suite in a Manhattan skyscraper apartment and set to work.

The Oxford University Press bought the uncompleted manuscript on submission of an outline, and the Packards went to work with the zeal they formerly reserved for the opening of a new campaign by Mussolini's black-shirted legions. The publisher set a two months' deadline for delivery of the completed manuscript.

The Packards found New York's sultry July too much for them and donned Tahitian sarongs, acquired on an earlier U.P. assignment to the South Seas, for the task.

"Waiters and chambermaids," Mrs. Packard recalled laughingly, "never had seen such strange garments before and were goggle-eyed when first they answered calls to the paper-lit-tered suite."

Wrapped in their sarongs, the Packards waded into their task. For forty-six days they argued, wrote, dictated, rewrote and criticized each other's work. They spent 14 to 16 hours daily pounding their typewriters and mopping their brows. But when Sept. 1 rolled 'round the job was done—360 pages of manuscript bringing into clear focus the workings of Fascism in Italy; telling how Mussolini's ambitions for empire led him into a ruinous alliance with Germany.

While it took only two months to put the story on paper, the Packards actually spent nearly 15 years gathering their material. Since 1927 they have been foreign correspondents for the United Press and have acquired in that time the intimate knowledge of foreign affairs and the experience in weighing, judging and analyzing events which makes "Balcony Empire" such an accurate and informative book. It reflects their unique experience as correspondents assigned to cover every phase of Italy's aggressive policy in the Mediterranean and North Africa.

When Mussolini sent his legions into Ethiopia in 1935, Reynolds and Eleanor Packard were with the Italian army. They moved on to Spain with the Duce's Blackshirt soldiers and aviators who aided Franco during the Spanish Civil War. When Mussolini, by organizing "spontaneous" demonstrations in Rome, laid claim to the French protectorate of Tunisia, the Packards went to Tunisia and saw how the Fascists were attempting to undermine French rule through use of a fifth column.

One evening in Rome the Packards got a tip that Italo-Albanian relations had taken a bad turn. Eleanor caught what proved to be the last plane to Tirana at dawn next day. Two days later the Fascist troops invaded Albania and the Packards covered both sides of the brief struggle for United Press—Eleanor from Tirana and Reynolds from Rome.

**Duce's Skullduggery**  
The outbreak of World War II found the Packards again in Rome, where they stayed until the entry of the United States into the war. In their book they trace the course of diplomatic skullduggery Mussolini followed during Italy's non-belligerent period and they show the way the Fascists mismanaged their military campaigns. Reynolds was the only American correspondent who got to Albania to visit the Italian front during the Italo-Greek war. He tells how surprised the Fascists were to

have to fight that war and how unprepared they were because they had believed that they could bluff the Greeks.

The book is full of behind-the-scenes stories of Italian military failures in North and East Africa, of Mussolini's political juggling in the Balkans. It explains why Hitler has not allowed the Duce to realize his claims to French territory, of Italy's place in the Italo-Russian war and what the Fascists had hoped to get out of it.

How is morale on the home front in Italy? The Packards will tell you it is very bad and that resentment against the Fascists is rapidly growing among the tightly rationed Italians. What are the chances of an anti-Fascist revolution? "Balcony Empire" contends that Italian patience is worn thin and relates how near Italy came to an army revolt in December 1940, when the Duce brusquely dismissed Italy's leading general, Marshal Badoglio.

## POLICEMAN TRIES HARD TO ENLIST

McKeesport, Pa. — (U.P.) — Patrolman Thomas Flaherty, Jr., is still determined to get into this war some way and eight months of being rebuffed haven't fazed him.

First, Flaherty tried to join the navy and spent \$160 on his teeth and for X-ray examinations.

"Eight navy doctors said I was physically fit and just when I was ready to take the oath, they rejected me because of needed college schooling," he related.

"After I passed the navy physical test, the marines said I had flat feet. The army requested that I wait until they called me."

Flaherty is head of his own welding company, so he offered his complete welding outfit—valued at \$3,000—to any branch of the service. But—no response.

Finally, Flaherty offered his Irish terrier to the war program—the dog was rejected because it was three inches too short of the required height.

But now Flaherty has discovered that welding courses are not available in the long vocational war program. So he is keeping his fingers crossed, hoping to become a supervisor of welding classes.

## CALIFORNIA INAUGURAL WITHOUT FESTIVITIES

Sacramento, Dec. 10 — (U.P.) — Governor-elect Earl Warren today promised a very simple inauguration in January "without frills or festivities or an inaugural ball."


Warren said it was not in keeping with the times to ask people to come to the capital by automobile or public transportation. He said the government is trying to discourage such things and the state administration would cooperate.

## BRUCE CABOT IN ARMY

Camp Blanding, Fla., Dec. 10 — (U.P.) — Movie Star Bruce Cabot was sworn into the army as a private today and will be sent to Miami Beach for training in the air corps. The actor volunteered for service and asked for duty in the air corps.

See Mail Tribune Want ads.

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# MONTGOMERY WARD'S SECOND STATEMENT TO NATIONAL WAR LABOR BOARD

The Following Statement Was Submitted To The National War Labor Board At Its Meeting In Washington On December 8, 1942

The War Labor Board, on November 5, 1942, issued an order that Wards "incorporate" in a contract with a C. I. O. union at Chicago:

1. A clause establishing a form of closed shop called "maintenance of membership," together with a check-off of union dues from wages.
2. A clause providing for compulsory arbitration on any questions the union wishes to raise.
3. A clause guaranteeing in these uncertain times present wage and working conditions for a year.

Wards rejected this order of the Board for these reasons:

1. The Board was without authority. Congress, the only law-making authority under the Constitution, has not empowered the Board to order any employer to do any of the things which the Board demanded of Wards.

2. The order violated the fundamental principles of liberty. Liberty requires that an employee be free to join or to resign from a union without jeopardizing his livelihood. Liberty requires that an employer be free to employ the person best suited for the work.

3. The order was, in itself, illegal. The order required Wards; First, to interfere with the choice of its employee to resign from the union; Second, to give support to the union by a check-off of union dues, and Third, to discriminate against employees if they resigned their membership in the union—all in direct violation of the National Labor Relations Act.

4. Wards operates in a highly competitive field composed of 1,750,000 retail establishments. It is unfair to impose burdens upon Wards and not upon those with whom it is in competition.

The imposition of the closed shop against Wards cannot be justified by reference to the so-called no strike agreement. Wards was not a party to this agreement. Wards had no voice in the selection of those who, as representatives of industry, attended the conference in December, 1941, which formulated this agreement. Wards has never ratified the results of that conference. Furthermore, the conference itself did not agree that the War Labor Board might impose the closed shop principle; those acting as representatives of industry expressly recommended to the President that this issue not be considered by the Board.

The Board, in ordering a form of closed shop at Wards, has acted contrary to these expressed recommendations of the industry representatives. If Wards had had the right to test the legality of the Board's demands in a court, Wards would have done so, but Wards was deprived of a remedy in the courts by the Board's complete lack of legal authority to compel obedience of its order.

The court will only act when legal rights have been violated. The courts have declared that the mere making of demands, which do not have to be obeyed, does not, in the eyes of law, violate any legal right. The Board's very lack of authority thus resulted in a denial to Wards, as it has to other employers, of a right to relief in the courts.

The President of the United States, as well as the Board, is wholly without Constitutional authority to order any employer to do the things demanded of Wards, even deep respect for the President and his great responsibility in time of war, Wards said in rejecting the Board's order.

"If Congress imposed closed shops, compulsory arbitration or contracts for a year's duration on employers, or if the President of the United States, as commander-in-chief in time of war, directs that Wards accept the Board's ruling, which we earnestly believe are illegal and uneconomic, we will respectfully obey."

The President, on November 18, wrote the company saying: "As commander-in-chief in time of war ... I ... direct Montgomery Ward and Company to comply, without further delay, with the National War Labor Board's directive order of November 5, 1942."

Wards immediately answered: "Your order of November 18th has been received and will be promptly obeyed."

Wards thereupon altered the general form of its contracts with unions and incorporated, word for word, the clauses ordered by the War Labor Board. This document was offered to the union. The Company has fully complied with the President's direction and will continue to do so.

The document, which the President has directed Wards to sign, is not a contract. The requisite of a contract is that there be a meeting of the minds or agreement between the parties. There has been no agreement between "Wards and the union. The document, which the President has ordered Wards to sign, affects the rights and liberties of Wards and of its employees. Therefore, in order that the document itself may be clear and state the facts, Wards informatively included these three sentences:

"The following provisions are not voluntarily agreed to by the Company. In the Company's opinion they are illegal and unsound. These provisions are copied verbatim from the War Labor Board's order of November 5, 1942, and are incorporated herein, on the Company's part, under duress and only because the President of the United States, as commander-in-chief in time of war, has expressly ordered that they be included."

These three sentences are in all respect true. They do not alter the effect of the provisions ordered by the Board, provisions which Wards will carry out. Nevertheless, the union has refused to sign the offered document. Wards will be happy to accept any improvement in the wording of this statement, but Wards will resist any attempt to hide the truth by a change in its substance.

On January 9, 1942, the President said: "In the future days which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon the four essential human freedoms. The first is freedom of speech and expression—everywhere in the world."

Wards feels that it is bound by the rules of good citizenship to make sure that the single truth about these provisions and Wards' acceptance of them be not hidden from or misrepresented to its 100,000 employees, its 60,000 shareholders, and its many millions of customers. The elimination of this statement would serve no purpose but to conceal the truth from readers of the document.

Wards has cheerfully met with the union and with its board whenever requested. Wards has promptly obeyed the direction of the President. Wards insists that its right to tell the truth not be destroyed.

MONTGOMERY WARD & COMPANY  
SEWELL AVERY  
PRESIDENT