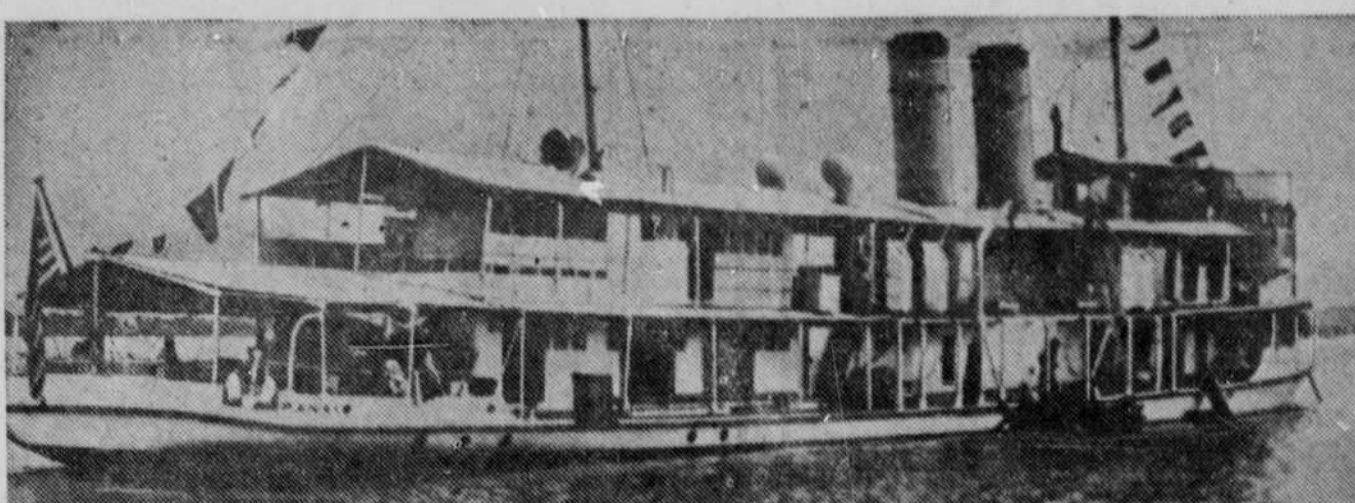


## Fleeing Before Japanese Onslaught



Terror is clearly written on the face of this elderly woman and the two younger men as they trot from their native city quarters in Shanghai to the border of the French concession where all sought safety from the Japanese soldiers.

## Scenes and Persons in the Current News



Top, the U. S. Gunboat Panay, the sinking of which in the Yangtse river by Japanese bombing planes precipitated a grave international crisis and brought sharp demands from President Roosevelt for Japan to desist from such outrages in the future and make full restitution. Lower left, Premier Neville Chamberlain of England, whose government joined with the United States in protests against indiscriminate bombing of neutrals by Japs. Right, former Governor Landon of Kansas, left, Senator Capper, center, and John Hamilton, chairman of the Republican national committee, discuss strategy.

## Blue Wings

By LYDIA LION ROBERTS  
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WNU Service.

THE little girl looked like a miniature carved figure in the middle of the big white bed. The slender little hands on the smooth sheet lay soft and still in limp perfection.

### SHORT STORY

"Take a drink of this, dear," urged Ruth's mother. She tried to keep the intensity out of her voice and make it a commonplace affair. She must cover the hopeless, longing despair which was the undercurrent of the simple words. Perhaps she would drink it this time.

"No." The white lids lifted quickly, showing dark eyes that were luminous in a milk white face, then the lids dropped and blankness reigned.

Mrs. Gordon sighed and looked at the cup. She fought a losing battle every three hours.

"Time for the temperature, dear. Slip this into your mouth." She hated the bright thermometer. It seemed to twinkle with fiendish delight as she held it up to the light and read its message in dreadful, silent code—one hundred five—one hundred three—one hundred six—one hundred four. It was the same, over and over, day after day.

"She is no worse. We've got to win." Every morning and evening the doctor said it.

"Open your mouth and take a weeny bit," she begged again.

"No," said the little girl from the depths of the big white bed.

"She must take it or she will not live." The doctor's warning tolled again solemnly in the quiet room.

"Pretty." A gleam of light passed over the pearly face as the little girl spoke.

Startled, the mother bent over her.

"Pretty." One hand came up quickly and fluttered down as if a white flower had fallen.

The hand had pointed straight at the pendant swinging free from the mother's neck as she hovered and brooded over the child. The butterfly pendant, blue wings edged with gold.

Blue wings! That was what she wanted for the little girl. Not white wings, like the other baby angels playing in the meadows of heaven. Blue of meadow flowers, of a summer sky, twinkling through green-leaved branches, the blue of the ocean against white sand, of a lake dropped into a green valley among fragrant pines, like a star fallen in quiet beauty to its resting place. Blue wings!

"Look at the blue wings," gently called the mother.

The dark eyes opened and fastened on the pendant.

"Blue flowers, like a field of stars for you to play with," said Ruth's mother. "The blue of the ocean where you and I will go bathing. Blue butterflies that go whirling and dancing in the sunlight. Watch the blue wings, dear, and drink this."

Slowly the little mouth opened while the dark eyes dreamed on the blue wings.

"I—want—one—like—that." The voice died away, the tired lids drooped, the lip petals folded away from the cup. The mother stared down at the cup in her hands—it became sacred—it was empty.

The day and the night became one year; the next year and the next came formidably, stayed interminably and went with slow finality. The thermometer glittered evilly. Every three hours the pendant swung over the little girl as the cup touched her lips.

"Blue wings," whispered the little girl. She tried to stay awake to think about it, but she drifted away. Had she started for those meadows where the baby angels waved their white wings?

"You shall wear blue wings," promised the mother one morning, as the little girl held the thermometer in her mouth. "You shall wear a pendant just like mine, and play in the meadow with blue flowers and splash in the blue water and lie on the white sand and look up at the blue sky."

She took the thermometer from the tiny lips, and the lids fluttered shut again as the pendant swung away. The door opened softly and the doctor came in. The mother read the thermometer with tired, painstaking care; she stared at it, then handed it silently to the doctor.

"We're going to win!" The mother's voice was hushed, yet vibrant. "She's coming back to health and songs and love and butterflies."

"I'm going — to — have — blue wings," piped a wavery voice from the middle of the big white bed.

The doctor stared; the small voice trumpeted in the hush of the room. It was the first time the little girl had ever spoken to him.

"Blue wings—like mother." The dark eyes flashed a triumphant look at the doctor. The mother turned, smiling, then stood carved in joy at a sound. A sound came from the lips soft as the petals of a flower, a blessed, low, golden sound that rang good news as if all the bells of the city had pealed in the mother's ears.

"Blue wings," said the little girl decidedly, and laughed.

## Just Another Saturday Night



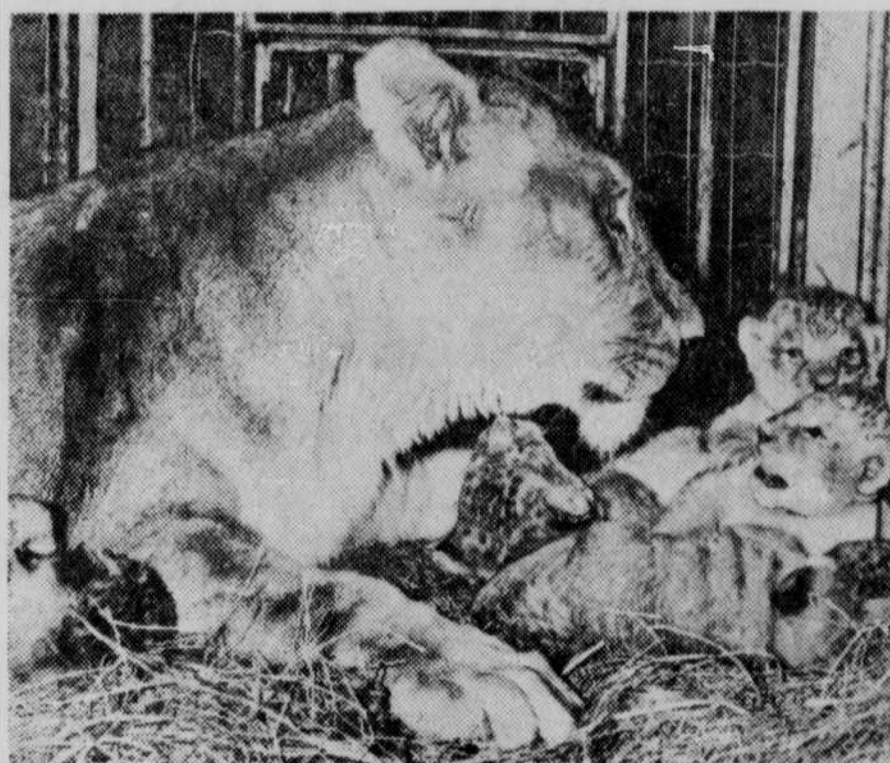
Visual proof that the Saturday-night ritual of the tub is not popular even in Europe is contained in this picture made in a north London home. "Big sister" does the scrubbing as little brother cries his heart out.

## 65-FOOT WASHINGTON



The largest portrait statue fashioned by mankind in modern times will honor George Washington when the New York World's fair opens on April 30, 1939, commemorating the First President's inauguration. The sculpture, shown above in a model by James Earle Fraser, will be 65 feet high, including a 15-foot base.

## Quints Born to Zoo Lioness



A lioness in the St. Louis zoo is believed to have broken all records for her kind when she gave birth recently to five cubs. The mother is shown here with her young which have attracted national attention.

## COUNTY JUDGE



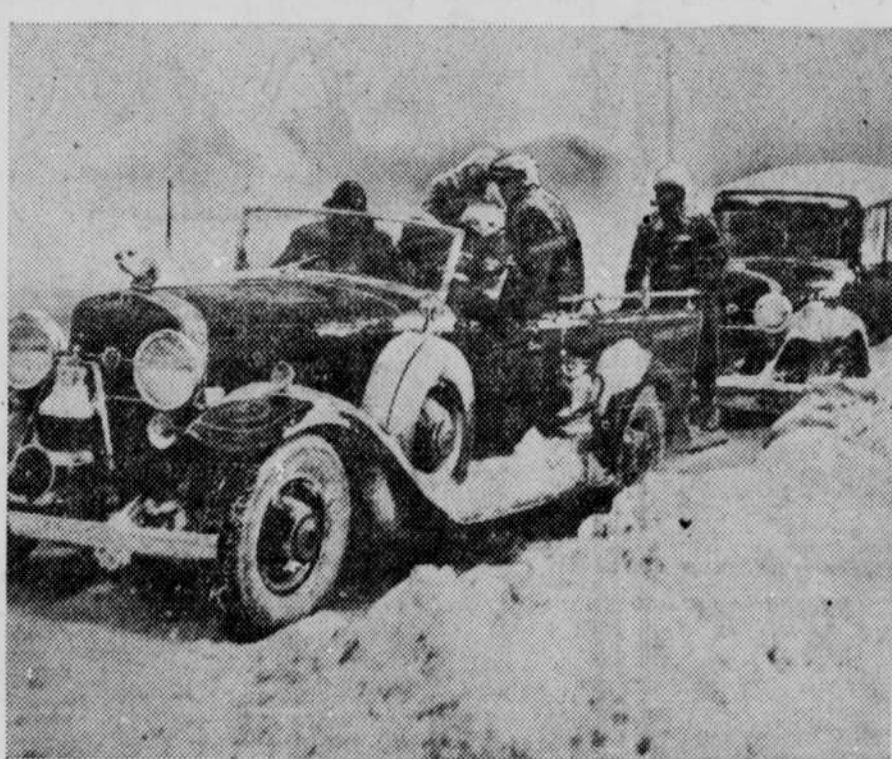
Miss Jessie Sumner of Watska, Ill., daughter of a country banker, niece of a late county judge, who became Illinois' first county judge as a result of a special election.

## ROYAL ROMANCE?



A photograph of Lady Anne Cavendish-Bentnick, daughter of the marquise of Titchfield, whose name has been linked romantically with that of King Leopold of the Belgians. Leopold and his mother were recent guests at Walbeck abbey, seat of the duke of Portland who is the grandfather of Lady Anne.

## Matter of Life and Death



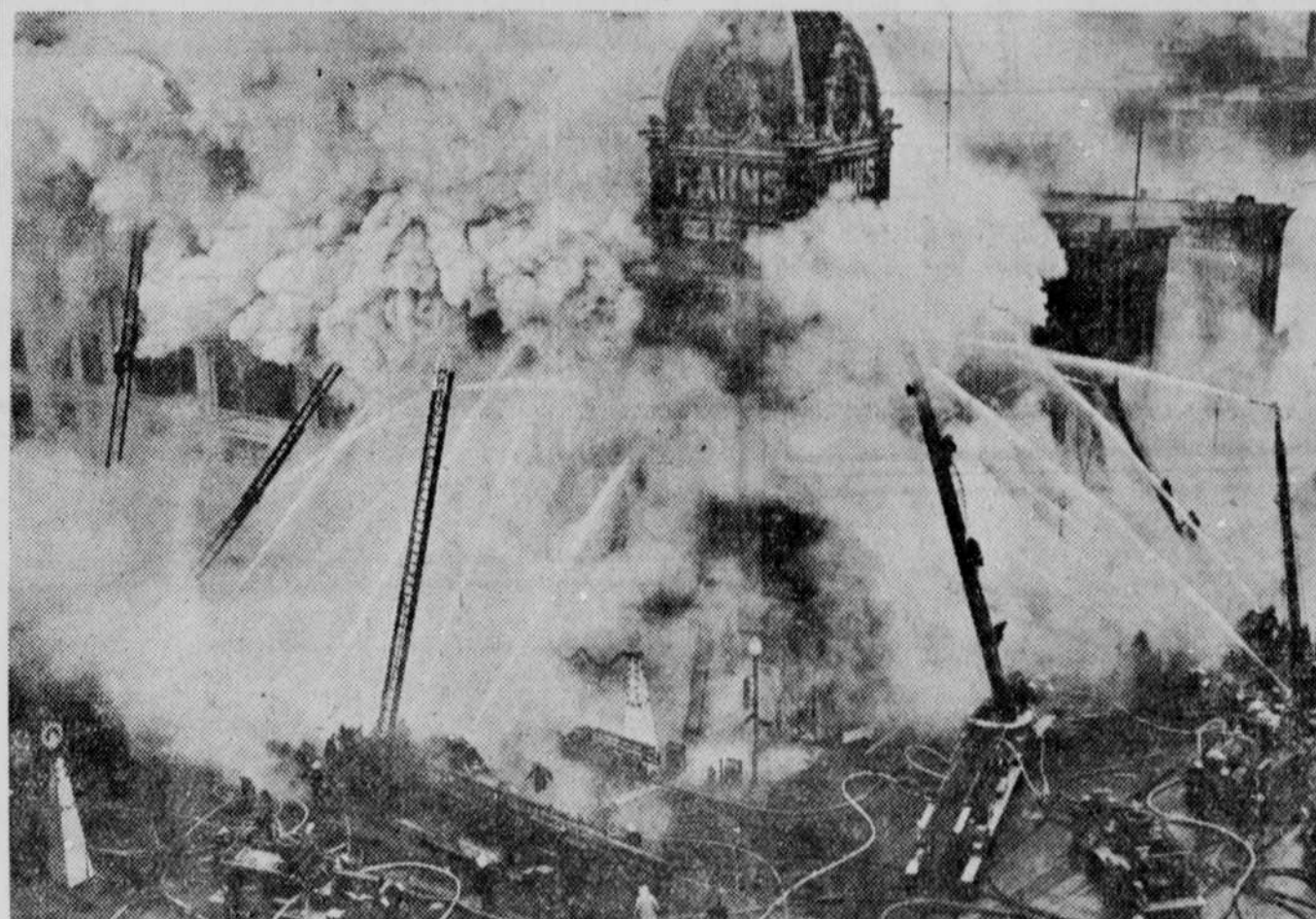
Three expectant mothers were rescued from a snowbound riding academy by a rescue party headed by the Eggertsville, N. Y., fire department over snow-buried, windswept Niagara Falls boulevard. The fire department broke a trail for the ambulance which took the three women from the academy and brought them in safety to the Buffalo city hospital.

## German Kids "Joyride" in Armored Cars



German youth attending the "open house" of the Berlin garrison at the Stahnsdorf barracks are shown being treated to a ride in the high-speed armored cars. The army post was thrown open to the public to aid the winter relief fund.

## Battle Spectacular Washington Blaze



View of the battle waged against the fire which destroyed a large building and threatened an entire block in the shopping district of Washington, D. C. Damage was estimated at \$600,000. The fire, one of the most spectacular the capital has seen in recent years, brought out every available piece of apparatus.

## HARVARD SKIPPER



Bobby Green, who will captain the Harvard university football team in 1938, shown after his election at the Dillion house at Cambridge, Mass. He succeeds the famous Clint Frank as captain of the Crimson team.

## Snow Army Goes on Maneuvers



A unit of New York's mechanized snow army is shown gobbling up a seven-foot drift at Lake Placid, where the new equipment was first tried. This machine, can move 21 cubic yards of snow in 35 seconds.