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World Fliers Get Their First Peek at Oriental Tokio

Japanese Admiral Introduces Airmen to "Topsy-Turvy Land;" Smith, Harding Adept Chopstick Pupils.

Told By LOWELL THOMAS.

"There is something exotic and Alice in Wonderland like about the appearance of Japan from the air-plane," says Lieu-



tenant Ogden, 'The main island along the eastern flew from Minato to Tokio is far The coast's line under us was dotted with dozens of fishing villages, and on our right we watched the rice fields, ests and towns

age, and we often did at the rate of

out to be an archipelago of forest porous volcanie rock.

tic shapes, each with a picturesque

Odd Tes Houses. "It was an ideal afternoon in May. The ghostly shadows of our aerial ing sea under us were so smooth ly, nearly crashed into a small steam-that the freakish shaped rocky er. You never heard such frantic

they remind one of elves. about it in a book he picked up on out to tow him away. the captain's desk aboard the U. S. S. Pope the other night. It said somethem but their money. no monopoly on this idea, because around at the bottom of the bay like hour their geishas got them so they tourists are regarded as fair game a pearl diver and two or three min-could swing a wicked chopstick.

Lake Kasumiga Ura ahead of us to the right. It is only about 45 miles north of Tokio, and we had come all the way south from Hitokappu, distance of 900 miles, in this one day, There must have been 20,000 or 30.00 people waiting for us, among then various heads of the imperial govern ment, generals, admirals, representa tives from our own embassy, and dignitaries from many other countries. First Jap Reception.

"Long concrete runways extended out into the lake and led up to a stone pier, where the vast throng waited to give us the first big reception that we had had since leaving Seattle. There were three of these runways. and motor boats came out to tow one plane alongside each. As we approached the pier at this Japanese naval air base, the people waved flags, thousands of them, and shouted 'bonzi.' They shouted as though they really meant it. There were photographers in front of us, photographers to the left of us, photographers to the right of us, behind us, on platforms, on poles, and even on the cofs. There also were flocks of newspaper correspondents from all parts of world-French scribes with beards. Englishmen with monocles, and Americans with straw hats and horn rimmed glasses. As the reception committee led us through the throng the Japanese patted us on the backs and kept on shouting 'bonzi.'

"There were thousands of fraillooking little Japaness women in their fancy kimonos and sashes, with their hair piled up on their heads so neatly. For variety and color we had never seen anything like it. And their smiles-ah, we were going to like Japan! After coming down out of the Arctic it was indeed a beautiful pic-

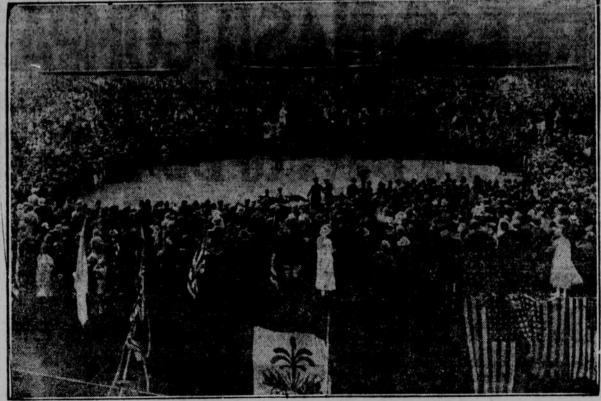
"After the formal reception, at which we were most cordially welcomed by the high officials, and after we had made our planes fast for the night, we were taken to the Japanese naval air service club nearby, and each assigned a separate room and an orderly. Our quarters were just as modern as a New York hotel, special cooks prepared American dishes for us, and as for service, it was the last word. It seems that there were quite a number of English aviators here right after the war, teaching the Japanese how to fly. The club was built at that time

First Mail From Home. "We had been up since midnight

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World Fliers Given Snappy Reception in Tokio



After many weeks of battling storms, cold and ice, the United States world fliers finally arrived in the land of lotus blossoms and civilization again. Photograph shows a part of the reception crowd which greeted the fliers on their arrival in Tokio.

two a minute, we could see people and had flown 900 miles in 11 hours. utes later came up with it in his scurrying out of their thatched so we were very tired. But after mouth. houses to see us. Off to our left dining with the Japanese officers, were countless thousands of sampans, when we retired to our rooms we were fishing smacks and junks bobbing up handed the first mail from home that we had received. So it was just like who had heaven to us. I can't exactly explain come out with a sampan load of gas it, but coming down from the Arctic for us at Minato told us to be on the to Japan was like I imagine a cat look out for Matsushima, one of the feels coming out of the cold into a 'three principal sights' of Japan, on warm room, curling up before a fire-our way south. Matsuslima turned place, stretching and going to sleep.

"Much as we wanted to see Tokio covered islands of Hondo from Min-ato to Tokio, and we dove down for a nearer view. There are nearly a thousands of them, all made of soft, porous volcanic rock.

"Much as we wanted to see Tokio, we spent all of the next day getting the planes ready so that we could overhaul them, checking over the sup-plies, and preparing to take the ships out of the water so we could change story book. "The waves of the Pacific have out of the water so we could change worn them into the welrdest fantas." It was the property of the water so we could change from pontoons to wheels. It was lucky, too, that we were going to name such as the 'Sun' 'Moon' and change to pontoons, because when Smith and Arnold were on the Chica-'Never Growing Old Island.' From go that morning a boatman came row where we were in the sky they lookwhere we were in the sky they look-ing alongside, and when they asked ed like 'green cameos set in an opales-him to move on he put his oar against a pontoon to push himself away and

"Later when 'Les' was on the Chi cruisers blended in the water below cago alone and being towed into the with the shadows of the white and dock the motor in the boat stopped vellow junks. The waters of the shin- and the plane, while drifting helpless

islands covered with grotesque dwarf yelling. 'Les' couldn't speak Japanese pines looked as though painted on a and no one around him could speak mirror. Here and there we saw tiny English, although, they were all dy-tile roof tea houses and rustic bridges. Ing to help. First 'Les' hopped over These Japanese are so quaint to the power boat, but, unable to get about nearly everything they do that it started quickly, he took a flying they remind one of elves. "A few miles south of Matsushima ing so collided with a Jap, who fell we passed near Sendai, one of the overboard, kimono, American straw largest cities in northern Japan. Al- hat and all. Then 'Les' crawled out though larger even than Baton to the edge of the wing that was Rouge or Natchez back home, I'll about to hit the steamer and held frankly admit that I'd never heard them apart with his own strength of it until Jack read me something until another motor boat was sen

Dives for Screwdriver. "A few minutes later one of the thing about Sendal being a city Japs helping him dropped a screwdriver overboard. It was one that | food drop and one stick would II; as strange creatures, with nothing to 'Les' used a great deal, and when he up and hit me in the eye. Smith and looked rather unhappy about it the 'Smiling Jack' seemed to be the two After all the Japanese of Sendal have Jap dove right off the pontoon, swam most apt pupils, because after a half

"That evening we had our first in. It seems to be served everywhere troduction to the teahouses and and flows almost as freely as water. It looked as though there were a hungeisha girls of Japan, when one of It is a light white wine made from dred thousand people to meet us, in depot were again established here, the admirals took us to dinner in the town of Tsuchimira. Having often pail of ice they put it on the stove tographers who had bombarded us at products would be purchased annu-

heard of the geishas, and wondering and heat it.

Kasumigaura, as well as a hundred just who they really were, we all "Japan surely is a topsy-turvy land, others on poles, roofs, and shooting just who they really were, we all looked forward to this party. Nor were we one bit disappointed. When Not only do the Japanese drink their the train. A reception committee the train. we stepped from our limousines to the wine hot instead of cold, take scald- made up of high Japanese officials veranda of the teahouse, checked our ing hot baths instead of cold ones, and nearly all of the members of the shoes and were welcomed by a crowd and read and write from right to Royal Japanese Aero society greeted stepped right into the pages of a "We entered a room with a floor

weed and paper. The admiral invited us to kneel on silk cushions. Then a tiny table of lacquer was placed in front of each of us by very pretty geisha girls assigned to serve and entertain us. All of them were demure, charming, laughing-eyed, 16-year-old Each time one of them brought in another course she would kneel down on the floor, bow and derision. Each geisha devotes herself exclusively to the gentleman whom she has been assigned to wait upon, removes the various courses, brings others, lights his cigarets as he reclines on his cushion, fills his little him into the mystery of using chop

Chopstick Difficulties.

"The admiral had ordered nothing but Japanese food, but we were too busy fiddling with our chopsticks to Just try eating rice with two knitting needles and you will know what it is like. After I had finally coaxed a morsel half way to my mouth, suddenly the sticks would fall apart, the

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"Sake was another thing we knew nothing about until we arrived here. poetry again.

seem peculiar to the western world, an old-fashioned Fourth of July." such as never using profane language and regarding it as extremely vulgar for women to reveal their arms, thrilling story of the round-the-world shoulders, and ankles as occidentals flight in The Omaha Bee tomorrow. do. If a Japanese wants to abuse or insult another he simply omits the Recovering From Operation. FARMERS TURN TO usual polite superlatives or spreads them on so thick that they indicate

Maidens of Refinement. harmonious, but the dancing was reported to be recovering now most artistic and utterly different from our American jazz or shimmy. cup with warm sake, and initiates The geishas, in bright silks, with dainty fans, merely postured before gold and silver screens, It all seemed in exquisite taste. As they danced the Japanese officers told us a little about them and explained that the most of them are maidens of re finement and by no means the 'Mabother about what we were eating. dame Bulterflys' that foreigners so often think.

"It was an evening in a life time MARKER CHERRICH

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so novel and altogether charming Omahans May See In speaking about the rather long stay of eight days that the world fliers made at Kasumigaura, Erik Nelson explained that it not only was

ecessary to overhaul the planes and ontoons but the Japanese would Gould Dietz Back From Meethave been deeply offended if they had ing of Aeronautic not attended the official receptions and banquets that had been ar-Society.

Our uniforms arrived from Tokio Omahans during the American Saturday morning, May 24, so we blossomed forth in regular army air Legion convention in 1925 may see service dress for the first time since one of the large air meets planned leaving Seattle. That day also is by the government and the National nemorable because it was the day

when we caught our first glimpse of If the air meet should come to "The Japanese naval people rode us to the station in automobiles, ac- of the War department, and army companied by a naval escort. A airplanes will take part. special train had been arranged for

The government and the aeronautic us, with separate coaches for our society are planning two air meets newspaper correspondents and photog- for 1925, according to Gould Dietz, who returned Friday from Washington, where he attended a meeting of "The Japanese reporters not only the aeronautic society, of which he

plied us with questions all the way is a governor.
into Tokio, but they even handed He said the other air meet would us pencils and pads and asked us be under the auspices of the navy each to compose a poem appropriate and would be at some seaport point. to the occasion! We apologized and A balloon race is also being considput them off with the explanation that ered for the Legion convention, Mr. we had temporarily lost our normal Dietz said,

poetical powers while flying through While in Washington Dietz visited snow squalls and willie-waws along Major General Hart, in charge of the the Alaskan coast. But Smith made quartermaster depots. General Hart them glow with pride when he as-said the quartermaster depot asked sured them that if we remained in for by Omahans would be taken up flowery, sunny Japan very long we at the end of the fiscal year. General would soon get back to writing Hart said he would co-operate with Omaha business men in trying to se "When we alighted from the train cure the depot for Omaha.

Kasumigaura, as well as a hundred ally.

of Japanese maids in flowered ki- left, but we noticed up at Hitok- us on the station platform with burg's tangled bank affairs were nos, it seemed as though we had appu that the sailors on their de speeches and flowers. It was a dull further complicated this morning stroyers would beach their boats stern day, so the photographers had to when the Farmers Savings bank foremost. At the village of Yanketo use their flash guns, and with a hun-failed to open. Withdrawal of funds we saw men backing horses into their dred or more of them going off like and depletion of cash were given by covered with straw mats and with stalls instead of leading them. Then bombs it not only was a picturesque the board as reasons for turning it they have several other customs that oriental welcome but a noisy one, like over to the state department. C. W. tional bank in Hamburg, of which Read the next installment of the John Lingo is president, closed several months ago to readjust its af-

> Tecumseh, Dec. 20 .- Sanford B Rice, veteran Burlington roadmaster, with headquarters here, returned

Columbus, Neb., Dec. 20 .- More "After we had dined, the gelshas from a Rochester (Minn.) hospital than 50 farmers in Platte county danced and sang for us. The music Thursday. He underwent a serious have started to raise sheep in com was odd and weird and somewhat in operation for kidney trouble, and is parison to less than 20 farmers keeping sheep last year. Increasing prices

for wool and fair prices for mutton as the reason for the increase by are said to have caused the increase, wool buyers making this territory for and the ease with which the animals eastern firms, who declare sheep Large Air Meet can be kept and the cheapness with raising in Nehraska is increasing by which they can be cared for is given leaps and bounds.



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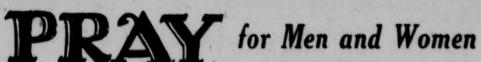
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