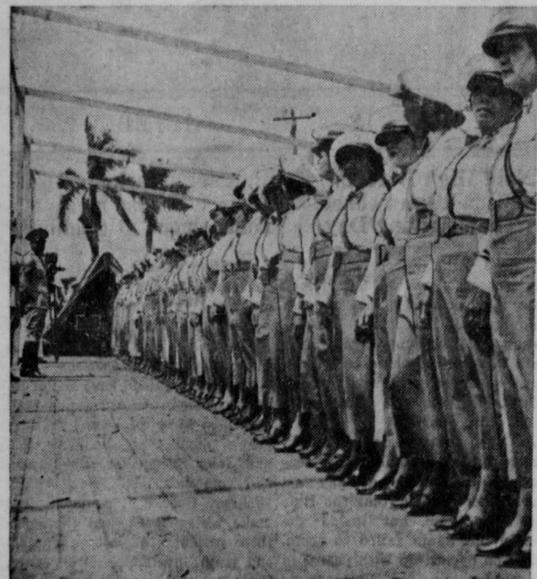


Cuba Today Is Vastly Changed From Days of Columbus Visit



CUBAN WOMEN have been organized into a reserve army to aid and supplement the island's regular military unit. Pictured here are a number of volunteers to the corps as they are lined up for inspection by their commanding officer, Col. Fulgencio Batista.

Havana, Capital City, Is Now a Modern Seaport.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

As the skyline of Havana rises from the deep blue waters of the Gulf of Mexico and takes form, one wonders of the thrill that Columbus must have felt on that memorable October 27, 1492, when first his tired eyes beheld the virgin shores of the island, and his mind quickened at the vision of gold and other precious metals he hoped this fair territory would yield to the coffers of Spain.

What would be his feeling now were he to approach the Cuban capital and see the golden dome of the new Capitol building glittering in the



HERE IS COL. Fulgencio Batista, dictator of Cuba, who rose from a lowly ranking army officer to become Number One man of the republic. Last year on a trip to the United States Batista was given a royal reception by the federal government.

sunlight? Landing, he would feel increased awe at the size and the splendor of this building, which would eclipse anything known to him.

Then someone might whisper in his ear that \$17,000,000 had been spent in its construction, and that, set in the floor beneath its golden dome, is a 24-carat diamond!

From that diamond Cuban distances are measured; it is a glistening marker corresponding to the Zero Milestone south of the White House in Washington.

Weather-Beaten Harbor.

Grim and weather-beaten, Morro Castle since 1597 has stood guard over the bottle-necked harbor of Havana. As one's ship slips softly through the narrow channel, the massive walls and tower of the fortress rise sheer to the left, while to the right the shore seems so close that one could almost shake hands with the people on the sea wall.

No doubt many visitors have had several years of Spanish at school, but the chances are that they will not understand the rapid-fire chatter of boatmen, porters, and chauffeurs. It sounds so different. Much of it is different, just as everyday English is far from the correct and precise language of the classroom.

Venturing into the older sections of Havana, a visitor finds narrow streets and tiny sidewalks not more than 18 inches wide. The pedestrian on them brushes against people standing in the doorways or windows. Here it is customary to walk in the street, using the sidewalk only as a safety zone to let some vehicle pass as you flatten yourself apprehensively against the wall.

In this area, too, both homes and shops are built flush to the sidewalks. They have massive wooden doors with huge metal knockers, many of them shaped like a hand, an oddly coiled serpent, or a garbale with a ball in its mouth, with which you may set up a resounding demand for admittance.

Iron Bars on Windows.

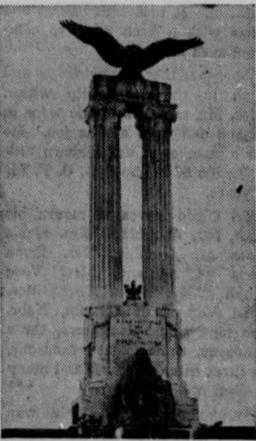
The windows are in nearly every case enclosed with iron bars, those of the more pretentious residences having fancy scroll patterns. Most of them have a hinged section at a convenient height, which may be opened when desired, so that one may lean out and see what is going on farther down the street. To us, this custom may seem strange, except for jails or banks, yet it provides ventilation without the danger of intruders.

Cuban stores are blessed with an infinite variety of names—the smaller the establishment the more ponderous the name. As a rule the name selected has no bearing on the nature of the business conducted, as in the case of a small laundry bearing the royal designation of "Alfonso XII"; a tailor shop entitled "Nueva Retreta" (New Retreat); "El Canonazo" (The Cannon Shot); a photograph and furniture store; or "Flor de Oriente" (Flower of the Orient), a butcher shop!

The ground floor of many houses is often set back some distance and the second story, called the "first floor," is built out over the sidewalk, thus forming a broad arcade with heavy, supporting columns of masonry rising from the curb.

The rooms of an older house are huge, the ceilings high—often 15 to 18 feet high—and the floors usually of marble or tile. Between the rooms are ornamental doors, the upper part mostly of colored or frosted glass to make them opaque. Air can circulate freely over them as they do not reach the lintel. This gives some ventilation, for generally at night all outside doors and windows are closed to keep out the night air, which, according to legend, is thought to be injurious!

There are no built-in closets, and the walls are of painted plaster,



"REMEMBER THE MAINE"? This monument in Havana is Cuba's way of remembering the 260 American sailors who lost their lives when the battleship Maine exploded in Havana harbor on February 15th, 1898. The event was considered a contributory factor to the Spanish-American war and on each anniversary of the historic event, Cuba pays homage to the victims.

without benefit of wallpaper. The furniture in the parlor usually consists of a center table with much bric-a-brac, while along the walls are two rows of chairs facing each other, placed with military precision.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by CARTER FIELD

New Deal insiders about-face on Paul V. McNutt . . . Fleet of destroyers helpless against pocket battleship, as explained by experts . . . How idea of transferring U. S. ships to the Irish flag originated.

WASHINGTON.—It may not mean a thing, but it is mighty curious how all the inside New Dealers have suddenly taken Paul V. McNutt to their bosoms. It was only a few months back that they were denouncing him as a Fascist, to put it mildly. They were bitter, of course, about what they considered his reactionary attitude toward labor when he was governor of Indiana.

Why such a man should be singled out by the "Chief" and made high commissioner of the Philippines, they simply could not understand. At about this time McNutt was a guest—during a visit to Washington from the Philippines—at a stag dinner at which President Roosevelt was also a guest. A little skit was put on, with McNutt the target. The President was urged, in advance, to pull a certain line when the character depicting McNutt should conclude his bombast. The original suggestion came from a man very close to the New Deal. The committee arranging the skits for this dinner thought it would be a wow. Not only that, but they were sure the President would take malicious pleasure in taking a part in the entertainment which would be humiliating to McNutt.

Much to their surprise, the President merely smiled at the suggestion, and the skit had to be played without including the Chief Executive as one of its actors.

Bear in mind that this dates back to when McNutt was still in the Philippines, though very much a candidate for the presidency. New Dealers all over town were interested in the story, but they all agreed that it would be beneath the President's dignity to take part in such a slapstick comedy.

Refused to Take Part in Skit That Belittled McNutt

The point is that anyone who has seen Roosevelt, either in Albany or Washington, at parties of this sort knows perfectly well that he thoroughly enjoys that particular sort of slapstick.

He openly enjoys taking part in the original skit, if there is some point to his doing so. And he finds plenty of things to kid his lieutenants about without seeking outside help.

But he refused to take part in a skit which would have belittled the Hoosier who was so obviously gunning for Roosevelt's job!

It took the New Dealers a long time to get on to this policy of the President towards McNutt. Even after he was brought into the present administration setup there was considerable wailing from the left wingers. Some of them privately opined that perhaps the "Chief" was purposely assigning McNutt a task which would be so big that he would rattle around in it—rattle so obviously that he would destroy himself in the eyes of the country as a contender for a still bigger job.

Of course there is nothing to prove that this last theory is impossible. So far McNutt is not rattling. He may never rattle. The job may make him instead of killing him off. But perhaps that is what Roosevelt has been intending ever since long before he declined to help make a laughing stock of the Hoosier at this dinner party.

Destroyers Are Helpless Against Pocket Battleship

Few laymen understand the difficulties which confront the British and French navies in running down the Nazi pocket battleships. Nearly everyone now knows that there are only about three ships in the whole British navy—the battle cruisers—which are capable of both overhauling the pocket battleships and then sinking them. Incidentally the United States navy has neither the pocket battleship nor the battle cruiser—has none under construction—and unless developments should shake the present determination of the admirals our navy has no intention of ever building them.

But what the layman does not appreciate is the difficulty of hunting down a pocket battleship with numbers rather than with power. In arguments about the situation, for example some layman will demand to know why a squadron of destroyers does not go after each of the pocket battleships reported to be preying on our commerce, and hunt it to death like a pack of wolves might destroy a bear.

Two or three of the wolves might be killed, the layman will say, but the pack would kill the bear. Or, translating the simile, two or five of

the destroyers, if the pursuing craft are destroyers, might be sunk, but the squadron would get the pocket battleship.

It is by no means as simple as that. Naval experts say that the only function destroyers could play in such a chase would be as scouts. The only thing they could do would be to locate the pocket battleship, and keep contact with her, so to speak, until a battle cruiser could come up for the kill.

Present-Day Gunfire Is Amazingly Accurate

What the layman does not appreciate in his theory about a whole squadron of destroyers attacking a pocket battleship is the amazing accuracy of present-day gunfire even at tremendous ranges.

Of course the destroyers have slightly greater speed than the pocket battleships, and therefore could determine the range at which the action would be fought. But unless they could come up fairly close under cover of fog without being detected they would all be sent to the bottom before they got close enough to fire a shot or dispatch a torpedo with any hope of its finding its mark.

For accuracy a submarine or torpedo boat must be very much closer to its target than a big-gun ship. For example, the face of a chief gunnery officer of a battleship would be very red indeed if he did not hit a target as big as a destroyer on the third salvo—at a distance of 20,000 yards and with the battleship from which he was firing proceeding at full speed in a rolling sea!

Besides, the pocket battleships carry airplanes, which are not only useful for scouting the surrounding ocean, but can be used with amazing precision, by triangulation, for aiming the heavy guns of the ship when the target is over the horizon.

It would be suicide to send a whole fleet of smaller craft against a pocket battleship except on the long chance that, in fog or mist, they might get close enough to loose a school of torpedoes.

Proposal to Transfer U. S. Ships to Irish Flag

One of the most amazing international moves in all history, so far as its inception is concerned, whether it ever works out or not, is the proposal to transfer ships now flying the United States flag to Ireland instead of Panama.

Actually, it amounted to a straight tip from the President of the United States to the Irish republic and to international shipping men that while the United States government would no longer countenance any transfer of United States ships to the flag of Panama, or any other American republic, the same objections would not lie against their transfer to the Irish flag!

Had the scheme been thought out in advance, and the tip then discreetly conveyed, it would be merely a clever device. It was the way the idea developed that makes it stand out.

Actually President Roosevelt was answering questions of newspaper men about the transfer of United States flag ships to Panama. He had added one argument which had not been printed before—that to do this would be to encourage one of the American republics to take a position on neutrality divergent from that taken by the United States.

With this subject disposed of, the President was then asked about the complaints of the Irish Free State made through its minister in Washington, against the Irish ports being held to be in danger zones, and hence forbidden to ships flying the American flag.

The President expressed his sympathy with Ireland, Belgium, Holland, Denmark (naming these individually) and others, but said that unfortunately the question of whether a particular part of the sea is a danger zone is a question of fact, not sympathy or desire.

Suggests That Irish Buy Some Ships of Their Own

Finally, the President himself suggested that the Irish should have some ships of their own! To the immediate question of whether the United States would be interested in a bid of the Irish for the ships that cannot now be transferred to the flag of Panama, the President indicated that the government might be very willing to sell. To the further question of whether the same objection would apply to the transfer to the Irish flag of ships flying the United States flag which had applied to their transfer to the Panama flag, the President answered emphatically in the negative.

That's how the idea was born, the President stating that he had heard no suggestion of it, but would welcome a proposal!

Most newspaper men at the conference were so intensely interested in the bigger story that the transfer of additional ships to Panama was definitely off—this being the first time that this was really settled—and in the collateral and also tremendous story that Secretary Cordell Hull had again won a spectacular victory (he has never lost a battle since he became head of the department of state) that very little attention was paid to this remarkable Irish story.

But politicians and diplomats alike are speculating since they have been told about it. The thing looks foolproof. For instance, would the Nazis dare to sink an Irish ship? If they did, what would be the reactions (a) of the Irish government and people, and (b) of the Irish-Americans in the United States?

(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON

NEW YORK.—When we went into the World War, Sen. Smith W. Brookhart of Iowa said our crack riflemen would win for us if he were allowed to recruit and train them. Americans, he said, were born marksmen, and the rifle would be suited to our native genius. He was soundly patriotic and moving, as he worked in Daniel Boone and individual initiative, but his plea went unheeded—in fact, the senator's suggestion seemed amusing to most commentators.

But, at that time, there was a young fellow popping off the conveyer belt ducks at Coney Island with such accuracy that he became a virtuoso of rifle fire, and, in between war years, made the rifle the mainstay of our army firing power, just as Senator Brookhart said it ought to be. The Garand self-loading, semi-automatic rifle, tested by National Guardsmen at Camp Smith, Peekskill, has for several years been put down by military men as the world's most sensational achievement in light arms. The army took it over in 1937. It is the creation of John C. Garand, the young toolmaker whose earlier laboratory was a Coney Island shooting gallery. It weighs only nine pounds, and fires 60 shots to the minute—one shot with one trigger-pull.

Young Garand made several models, embodying his basic idea, and sent one to the navy department at Washington. They planted him with the bureau of standards to continue his experiments.

Later, they sent him to the United States army at Springfield, where in 1923 he brought through the deadliest small weapon ever made. It has been steadily improved since then, and, according to the most authoritative military judgment, has more than trebled our army's firing power. Automatic in all but the trigger-pull, muzzle gas is used to power it.

John C. Garand was born in a French-Canadian village, 20 miles from Montreal, and was brought to Putnam, Conn., by his father, when he was seven, after the death of his mother. He was the seventh of 14 children. He was a textile mill machinist at 18. In 1930, he married a Canadian girl. They have a boy and a girl. He is 52 years old, still a gunsmith at the Springfield armory.

THERE was once a hillbilly girl who went to a neighbor's cabin to borrow a hammer. She said, "Pappy's fixin' to build a house next fall." Over in Europe, they are "fixin'" to build a federated Europe, forehanded about it, as above, with the building apparently dependent on a preliminary wrecking job.

Within the last few days, plans for the grand remodeling have gone forward, with two sets of blueprints on each side of the west wall. Franz von Papen thinks the new commonwealth of Europe will be devised by Germany, while Paul Reynaud, French minister of finance, and his conferees in London, are making other arrangements. The wide range of planners swings from intellectuals, such as Julian Huxley, the British scientist, to the man of action, General Wladislas Sikorski, premier of the Polish government which is just now camping out in France.

General Sikorski, the latest mar-triculate in the peace seminar, visions a "consolidated Europe," but one in which a reconstituted Poland will somehow be happily encysted.

He is a soldier who became a writing, as well as a fighting man, also, with his gift of ready speech, an orator and politician. He was an effective leader of the war of 1920, when the French general, Maxime Weygand, helped the Poles stop the Bolsheviks, and he became premier in 1922 when he was replaced by Marshal Pilsudski as chief-of-staff. He was forced out in 1923, and in 1924 became minister of war. One of his first official acts was to forbid women workers in the department to wear silk stockings. He decreed dark, high-collared dresses, high shoes and cotton stockings. He is a strict disciplinarian.

A handsome and romantic figure of the old feudal Polish aristocracy, he took full account of modern conditions as he tried desperately to tool his country into modern statehood. Now, it appears, he would just skip it and take a chance on the world of tomorrow.

(Consolidated Features—WNU Service.)

ASK ME ANOTHER ?

A Quiz With Answers Offering Information on Various Subjects

The Questions

1. What part of the world's population does the Southern hemisphere contain?
2. Is there a federal or state law for the punishment of a stowaway discovered on an ocean vessel?
3. Which is the longest verse of the Bible? The shortest?
4. What is the name of the geological period in which we live?
5. Will all kinds of oil float on water?

The Answers

1. The Southern Hemisphere contains but 5 per cent of the world's population.
2. No.
3. Longest—Esther 8:9; shortest—St. John 11:35.
4. The Holocene. It extends from about 20000 B. C. to the present time.
5. Several kinds will not, among them are sassafras and wintergreen.

ROMEOS

Don't let your love-making be spoiled by a cough due to a cold . . . Keep Smith Brothers' Cough Drops handy. Black or Menthol, just 5¢. **Smith Bros. Cough Drops are the only drops containing VITAMIN A** Vitamin A (Carotene) raises the resistance of mucous membranes of nose and throat to cold infections, when lack of resistance is due to Vitamin A deficiency.

Royal Act 'Tis a kindly action, believe me, to assist the fallen.—Ovid. Hope a Pillar Hope is the pillar that upholds the world.—Pliny.



R. J. Smith (left) says to N. A. Harding (center)



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