

### Fliers Shiver in Frozen North as Martin Loses Way

#### Airmen Hear Weird Bear Stories of "Sourdoughs" Near North Pole; Whales Play Water Polo.

Told By LOWELL THOMAS. (Copyright, 1924.)

After the forced landing of the Seattle at Portage bay, and while Martin and Harvey were overhauling their plane and fighting with the "wille-waws," the other members of the flight were living in the cannery bunkhouse at Chignik. They spent their time between the emergency radio station, their planes and sitting around the sheetrock stove in the light of a flickering oil lamp listening to the fishermen spin yarns.

Chignik is in the heart of the region where the largest bears in the world are found—the giant Kodiak brown bear that weighs nearly a ton and is stronger than any wild animal with the exception of the African elephant.

The town of Chignik consists of nothing but two canneries and a few frozen native huts. It is situated on the shore of a horseshoe-shaped bay, at the foot of mountains that look like sheer walls of rock rising from 4,000 to 5,000 feet right out of the sea. There is not a tree on any of these peaks and they are coated with ice.

Planes Scare Natives.

"Be fore landing we circled around over the village," says Lowell Smith. "Afterwards we learned that the natives had been nearly frightened out of their parkas and mukluks. As we flew up the harbor the roar of our engines reverberated back and forth between the mountain walls, and the women and children ran indoors crying. They were sure that strange monsters had been sent from heaven to destroy them.

"In addition to 100 natives, the only inhabitants were some 20 men who spend the spring getting the canneries ready for the summer run. These are the men whom Rex Beach has told us about in 'The Silver Horde.' They are Americans, Russians and Swedes, and the leading citizens are the superintendent, Jim Osborne, and his wife.

"That first night we sent Jack and Odgen out to hang lanterns on the planes so that the watchman would be sure to see them from the shore in case a 'wille-waw' tore them adrift. But after they had reached the planes they found the wind so high that it was impossible to light the lanterns, so they returned to the shore and hammered at the door of a native hut.

Celebrate "Thunder Birds" Coming.

"When they got inside and out of the storm they found a dozen or more Aleuts dancing and celebrating the arrival of our 'Thunder Birds.' Jack and Hank stayed quiet a while watching them and even joined in the dancing. We thought they were well out in the harbor and after they

had been gone for an hour or more we were afraid they had capsized, because up to that time they had not yet become very proficient boatmen. In alarm we ran up and down the beach blowing our police whistles, until we finally discovered them at the native sloop.

"We carried these police whistles around the world with us in order to signal between planes when not in the air and when the engines were not running. For instance, if some one happened to be out on a plane and wanted to get ashore, he could signal the others to send a boat by blowing his whistle twice.

Queer Bear Yarn.

"But the best part of our stay in Chignik was the time we spent listening to the old 'sourdoughs' tell bear stories to us 'chechakoos.' One old bear fighter called 'Dad' had passed his three score and ten, and can do it again." His beard was so long he stuck it inside of his shirt to get it out of the way. He said that he was out rowing a boat up one of the fjords of Kodiak island, when he heard some growling and spluttering. Looking over his shoulder, he saw a huge brown bear swim right beside his boat. Reaching over, he grabbed the bear by the ears, and the bear towed him and his boat ashore, but having no gun along that morning, before they reached the beach he decided to turn the bear loose and row on home.

"But the bear followed along the beach, and when he reached camp it was dark. Dashing into his cabin, he grabbed his rifle, and when he got to the door he saw a bear's head above a log not many yards away. Taking careful aim, he fired. But to his amazement the bear's head appeared again. Taking even more careful aim, he pulled the trigger, and to his consternation up came a bear's head once more. Nine times in all he fired, thinking that his aim must be completely off.

"Next morning when I went out to have a look," said Dad, "there were nine bears lying dead behind that log."

Climb Mountains for Exercise.

"In between snow squalls, while waiting for clear weather, several of us did a little mountain climbing and scaled the cliffs of rock and ice for about 4,000 feet. From the highest point we reached we could look off toward the mountains where Major Martin and Sergeant Harvey afterwards wandered for many days when the Seattle crashed into a peak.

"Smiling Jack," in his diary, describes the way the world fliers looked by the time they got to Chignik: "A strong constitution and plenty of heavy woolen clothes are what one needs up here in Alaska," wrote Jack. "You ought to see us now. With our Alaskan parkies all greasy with muckfoot oil, our thick woolen socks sticking out over the tops of these boots, corduroy shirts, sweaters and unbelts, and our fur-lined flying helmets for hats, we are certainly a picture in comparison with the snappy way we looked in our 'pink breeches' the day we had our photos taken with President Coolidge.

"Those same pink breeches, by the way, are no longer pink. Their leather knee facings have cracked from the salt water and they are black with oil and carbon.

"A radio just came in from our navy friends cheering us up with the news that all the harbors in the Kurile islands are filled with ice and that they do not think it will be possible for us to get through there. Well, we'll go if we have to put the planes on skis and slide across.

"Shiver and Shake."

"Next day—although weather reports were fine, there was a stiff wind blowing across Chignik harbor, and in lying across the pontoons to release the planes from their buoys the waves dashed over us and we were soaked through. So we did not sing but shiver and shake on that whole flight down to Dutch harbor.

"O, boy, what a time we had getting out of that bay! The 'wille-waws' came whistling down the valleys just as we were getting under way. And being in between high mountains, we struck some awfully rough bumps in the air. They were the worst jolts we've had since leaving Seattle. First one wing would go down just off the water, then as soon as we would get righted the other one would dip.

Give "Willes" the Slip.

"The old wheels were fairly spinning in both directions and the rudder bar swinging from side to side to keep it right side up. Thanks for a good engine, good controls, and a good pilot, or we would have crashed. But after flying for a few minutes we got around the corner and gave the playful 'willes' the slip.

"After leaving Chignik we repeated most of the experiences of our last few flights, going around or under or over snow squalls, looking down on rocky islands and flying past ice-capped mountains. If we went down around Castle Rock and over Cape Ikt, the distance would be about 40 miles, whereas by going up through Chignik lagoon and over a 10-mile portage into Kuliakta, the distance would be only half that. Smith was leading on this hop and took us by the short cut. Major Martin, by the way, was trying to do the same thing when he missed the lagoon in the snowstorm and collided with the mountain.

"It was on this jump to Dutch Harbor that we really left the mainland of North America for the first time when we crossed Isanotaki strait from the southern tip of the Alaskan peninsula to Unimak island. The only difference we noticed in the country down here was that we passed many volcanoes and islands where there was not quite so much snow. The region looked even more barren and desolate than ever.

Whales Frolic.

"Flying over Cold bay we passed a school of whales spouting and frolicking in the water. They never even stopped their water polo, or whatever it was that they were playing, to look up at us. On Unimak island a flock of mountain goats were bounding over the rocks as we roared by just a few hundred feet above them. After that we saw no living thing until we arrived at Dutch Harbor, although we hit a lot of squalls that tossed us about. Sometimes we would strike an upward current of air that would throw us up for a thousand feet. The current would run into a downward current and drop 500 or 600 feet as though we had fallen into a hole in the sky. All this was in addition to

### Deficiency Bill Is Big Irrigation Aid in Nebraska

#### Farmers Will Have Five Years to Pay for Canal Improvement Along North Platte.

Special Dispatch to The Omaha Bee, Gering, Neb., Dec. 8.—The passage of the deficiency bill by congress, carrying with it the recommendations of the fact-finding commission for reclamation, is the greatest piece of news that has come to irrigated Nebraska in many years.

It solves most of the problems that have been hampering development in this section and opens the way for increasing development, and removes unjust burdens that have been bending the backs of irrigation farmers for years.

In effect, the new provisions governing reclamation by irrigation puts irrigation farming on the same basis as the railroads. In the case of the railroads, the return allowed is based upon the value of the property invested in and used in the service of transportation.

In the case of the irrigation farmer the payments required for reclaiming the land and the water used is based upon the production of the land.

Classified for Fertility.

The new provision requires that the land be classified as to fertility and productivity, and payments based upon the gross values of the crops produced. This takes the place of the old arbitrary payments per acre, regardless of the value of crop produced.

Under the old method many farmers on the north side of the North

### Platte river were unable to meet the excessive tax payments, and the penalty of 1 per cent per month on delinquent payments added heavily to their indebtedness. This resulted in discouraging not only the farmers on cultivated land, but practically killed all demand for raw irrigable land. This penalty has now been reduced to one-half of 1 per cent. This applies to all delinquencies, and these may be paid upon the terms outlined.

#### Means Much to Nebraska.

The relief afforded under the new act is even greater than that sought by the land owners, and means much to the irrigated sections of Nebraska. It means that payments may be made in proportion to receipts from the land. It means immediate relief from excessive burdens of irrigation taxes. It means the rapid development of irrigated territory and a consequent increased demand for land. That means better land prices. And by no means the least of the bene-

### Ed Smith to Be Rotary Speaker

#### WOMAN TO MAKE TOUR OF WORLD

Ed P. Smith, mayor of Omaha from 1918 to 1921, will be speaker of the day at the regular Wednesday noon meeting of the Omaha Rotary club Wednesday. The subject of Smith's address is to be "Who and Where Are the Recruiting Agencies?" The meeting will be in charge of A. B. Currie, chairman.

Upon conclusion of the meeting, the Rotary club members are asked to drop a letter in the Air mail box. A moving picture is to be made of the ceremony and the Rotarians are planning to be in the middle of the picture.

Table Rock, Dec. 8.—Mrs. C. D. Robinson, a former resident of Pawnee county, has planned a tour which

### WILL TAKE HER AROUND THE WORLD AND INTO MANY FOREIGN LANDS. IN COMPANY WITH TWO WOMEN, SHE LEFT LOS ANGELES FOR NEW ORLEANS, WHERE THEY SPENT SOME TIME SIGHT SEEING. A FEW DAYS LATER THEY LEFT FOR NEW YORK, WHERE SHE SAILED IN THE STEAMER "BELJANLAND."

#### SILVERWARE

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### LOST WAR VET VISITS MOTHER

For five years Mrs. Anna Newberry mourned for her son, Ellsworth, world war veteran believed to have died in 1919.

Today he is visiting, very much alive, at her home in Omaha. He arrived Saturday from England.

Newberry enlisted in the Canadian forces at the outbreak of the world war. He was wounded in August, 1918, and has been in English hospitals until he sailed for America seven weeks ago, after his mother had learned of his whereabouts.

### Read the next installment of the thrilling 'round-the-world flight story in The Omaha Bee tomorrow.

"The officers of the million-dollar coast guard cutter gave us a chance to get warm and clean up, and then ushered us into the dining saloon, where we sat down to a regular Thanksgiving dinner of roast turkey, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, delicious salad, and too many other delicacies to mention. Just think of a feed like that away up here in the far north, on a barren island, at the entrance to Bering sea, next door to the north pole!

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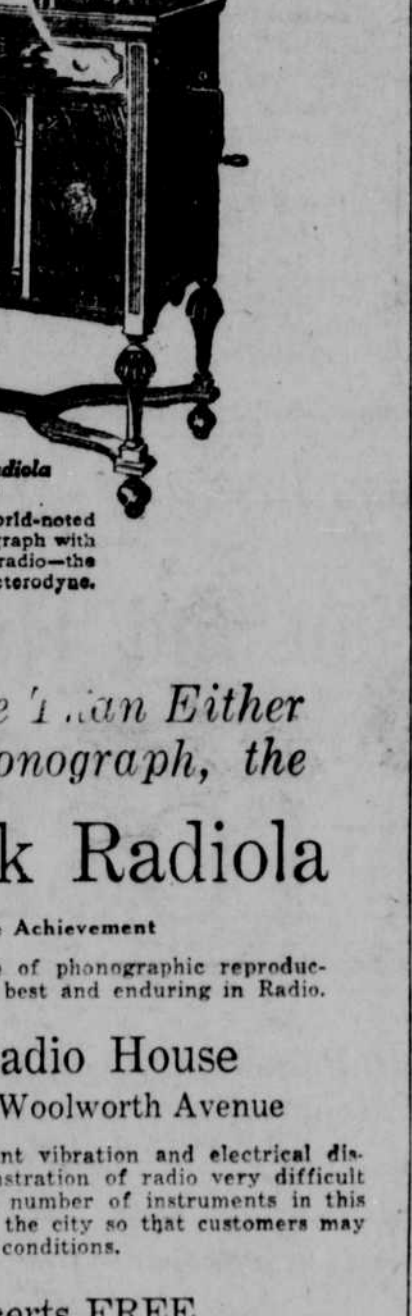
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