

U. S. Birdmen Span Desert Lands "That God Forgot," Peek Down at Sacred Crocodiles, Leper Colony

Told By **LOWELL THOMAS**
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Upon arrival at Karachi, the sea port at the mouth of the Indus, the world fliers had to remain long enough to install new engines and overhaul their planes before venturing across the wild mountains of Baluchistan and the Persian and Arabian desert.

Instead of stopping at a hotel British officials took them to their bungalows. Several stayed with the English commissioner of Sind, who is the chief civilian administrator of all the vast desert region in western India just north of the Arabian sea. Several were the guests of the collector who is the chief financial head of the local government.

But "Les" Arnold happened to draw the honor of stopping at the home of Major General Cook, one of the highest ranking officers in the Indian army. Of course "Les" was still a "shavetail" lieutenant and the incongruity of being waited upon for two days by a major general was a novel and gratifying experience.

"That first afternoon when we arrived in Karachi, I mean the afternoon of July 4," says "Les" Arnold, "we were all much relieved to get down out of the air, especially Erik and Jack whose engine had been disintegrating and trying to be during the last hour on our way down from Multan. We stayed out at the field and worked on the planes until dark, and I was smeared from head to foot with oil and grease that when General Cook's 'Rolls Royce' complete with chauffeur and footman, took me to his white mansion I felt like the ragged ulecin in the story books who dreams that he is a prince or a millionaire.

Good British Repair Shops.

"Karachi is the repair depot for the royal air force in India. There are big shops for the overhauling of motors, the rebuilding of wings, and the setting up the planes. In fact, it is one of the finest establishments of its kind in the world. The shops are all housed in well-equipped, attractive stucco and concrete buildings and there are many officers and enlisted men of the R. A. F. in Karachi. They insisted on placing the entire depot at our disposal. Although we accepted the assistance of a number of expert mechanics who proved to be unusually competent and careful workmen, we did our own changing of motors and inspection.

"Saturday evening, July 5, the royal air force entertained us at dinner and Commander Hicks, head of the R. A. F. at Karachi, made a witty speech in which he said he had seen all of the expeditions attempting to circle the world and that all of them passed this way. He went on to mention several British, a couple of French expeditions, an elaborate Italian attempt in the course of which five or six planes were smashed, and they had all passed through Karachi, flying from west to east. Then he added that Americans had the reputation of always doing things different from any one else, and here they are doing it again in trying to fly around the globe from the opposite direction. But he said they were delighted to see this if only for the sake of variety. Then he added that we had already flown farther than any of the competitors and that the others had all crashed before covering the mileage we had made between Los Angeles and Karachi.

Make Early Morning Hop.

"Monday morning we left calls for 3. General Cook even got up at that unearthly hour to have breakfast with me and escort me to the field. At 6:30, shortly after sunrise, we taxied across the airfield, circled around over the rapidly growing seaport which, as a result of the vast irrigation projects of British India, is one of the principal grain ports of the world, and then we headed west toward Persia and Bagdad.

"On the outskirts of Karachi we flew over a pond in which sacred crocodiles are kept by the Hindus, and we also passed a great leper colony. With all that the British have done to introduce western civilization, with its sanitation and modern medical methods, the east is still the east. There are millions in India who live on the verge of starvation. There are tens of millions who do not know whether America is the name of one of their 30,000,000 gods and who do not even know there is a difference between Americans and Britishers. There are hundreds of millions who believe in reincarnation and think that in our various lives we are in turn cows, vultures, crocodiles, mosquitoes, and hooded cobras. India is still a land of mystery, romance and startling contrast. The British have done much despite the fact that in this one country they are ruling one-fifth of the entire population of the world around which we were flying. We do not envy them their task. Surely it must be a thankless one. Although we were glad to have visited Hindustan, we were gladder still to leave.

Frying Pan Into Fire.

"But as we turned and took our last look at India, before flying on across the Kir Thar mountains to Baluchistan, our thoughts and our sympathies were with our royal air force friends and our other hosts whom we were leaving behind in that fascinating and mysterious but torrid land.

"But we soon discovered that in leaving India we were merely flying out of the frying pan into the fire. Of all the countries we passed over, Baluchistan turned out to be the dreariest, the deadliest, the most inhospitable, and the hottest. It is a desert land bounded by India on the east, by Persia on the west, by the little known country of Afghanistan on the north, and the Arabian sea on the south. It is a country that can be classified only with the innermost part of the Sahara desert, and the unexplored Roba-el-Khali or great emptiness of southern Arabia. Although it has belonged at various times to the old Babylonian empire of Nebuchadnezzar, to the Persian empire of Dar-

ius, and to the rulers of Afghanistan, today, like so much of the rest of the planet, it is under the control of the British.

Over Desolate Country.
"Baluchistan is certainly the land that God forgot. For hours and hours on end we flew without seeing a human being, or a tree, or even a bit of cactus. Sometimes we passed over jagged saw tooth mountains 5,000 feet high. Or we would look down on a desolate region made up of great gashes in the crust of the earth. As we flew over this part of our route

we felt as though we were circumnavigating some other planet; some lost world where human beings no longer live, a planet as withered and full of cracks and craters as the moon.

"All of the airmen who have made long flights from Europe to Japan, and from England to India and Australia, have passed this way. Sir Ross Smith, who was the first to reach India through the air from the west, came this way. Then he afterwards flew over Baluchistan in the dual-engine Vickers Vimy in which he won the \$50,000 award for being the first to fly half way around the world from England to Australia.

"But the most daring flight of them all was made a few months after Rosa Smith passed this way. It was the flight of Lieuts. Ray Parer and John McIntosh, who staggered half way around the globe from England to Australia, in a secondhand DH-9.

They flew across the Mediterranean and even across the South seas from Singapore to the Dutch East Indies, and on to Port Darwin without pontoon. Their wheezy old bus caught on fire once. As they flew over Mount Vesuvius they were nearly jerked into the crater.

"For 450 miles we flew across Baluchistan, over a region where a forced landing would have meant a fatal crash. At last we could tell from our maps that we had crossed India, and in less than an hour we descended at the little seaport of Chahbar, on the Gulf of Oman, merely to refuel and take right off that same day for Bandar Abbas and the land of dates, camels, and Persian rugs.

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

20 on Waiting List for Shoes

Reavis Case Cited in Plea for Funds for Youngsters.

Cold and privation drove Mary Reavis to suicide in her bare home, 809 South Eighteenth street, this week.

You would be surprised to learn how many other such homes there are in this city where daily the grim specter stares into the faces of poor and helpless children.

Can't Patch Shoes.
Homes where there is no longer a father. Homes where a mother car-

ries the heroic struggle alone against great odds. Homes where shoes form the big problem. They can sew and patch their clothes, but not shoes.

So readers of The Omaha Bee keep up the Free Shoe fund which provides shoes for the children in such homes. School teachers do it in vestigating of each case and do it without a cent of cost to the fund.

Only the most urgent cases are taken care of. If the child has any other possible means of getting shoes the Free Shoe fund will not give shoes. Thus every dollar goes only where the greatest need is.

20 on Waiting List.
More than 20 are on the waiting list now.

Your check, cash or money order sent to The Omaha Bee, Free Shoe fund will do a great good right now. Send it.

Acknowledged heretofore \$1,907.21

Cash	1.00
Friend	1.00
Bill and Mary Hammond	2.00
O'Neill, Noh	3.00
Shirley Leitch	3.00
A Friend of the Children	2.00
Total	\$1,924.71

tant taxes, and that the transfer of road building and maintenance from the county boards to a central agency, as provided by the proposed bill, will destroy the fundamental principles of local government.

The club also opposes the proposed gasoline tax and auto license reduction bills, which are expected to be given much consideration at the present session of the legislature.

Stolen Ring Returned.
Atchison, Kan., Jan. 9.—Jeff F. Connard, Burlington railway brakeman, of Wymore, was arrested here and charged with stealing a \$250 diamond ring from Warren Fauver, a fellow brakeman, at Wymore, who said he had the ring strung on his watch chain and locked with his street clothes in a locker in the caboose. The ring was produced by Connard after a grilling.

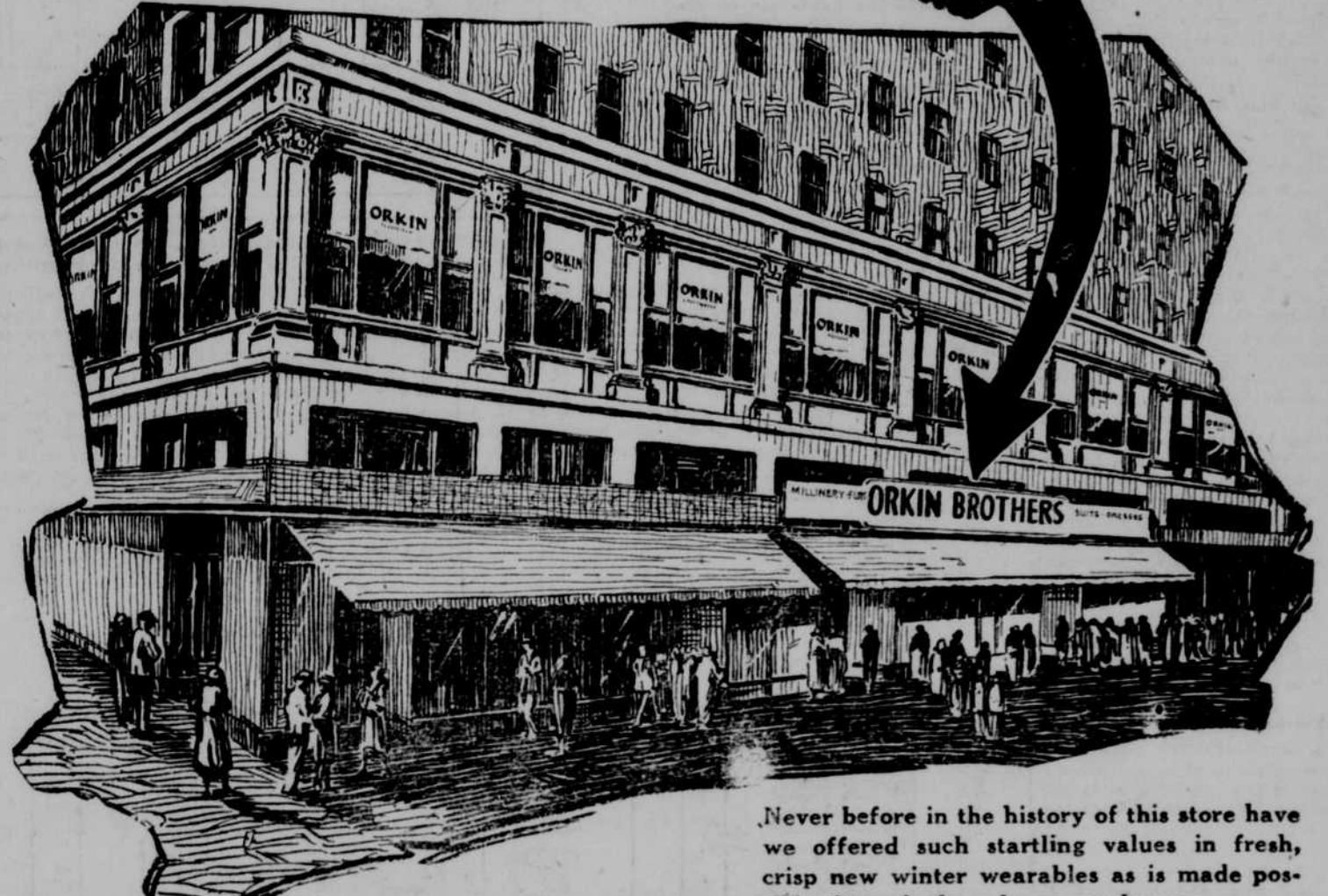
Starting Saturday 16' and Harney Orkin Bros Conant Hotel Building Starting Saturday

Gigantic Purchase of Manufacturers' Surplus Stocks of Beautiful Fall and Winter COATS and DRESSES

Thrown into the Year's Most Amazing Sale

At an Average of **40¢ on the \$**

Never before in the history of this store have we offered such startling values in fresh, crisp new winter wearables as is made possible through these huge purchases.



Our entire first floor will be devoted to the selling of dresses, while our immense second floor will be devoted exclusively to the sale of coats.

Come Saturday---Own Your New Coat and Dress at a Price Less Than the Cost of Material Alone

Coats

Dresses

You will find gorgeous fur-trimmed coats, coats in every imaginable color, coats for the miss, the small woman, the average size woman and the large woman. Coats in such wonderful array that you are certain to find a most satisfactory selection.

A showing so marvelously broad that it matters not for what occasion you may desire a new dress, it is here in your color, your fabric and at a price far, far below what you might anticipate to pay.

- MANDALAY EXCELLO FORMOSA VELVETTE
- TRUVENETTE FURLAINE NEWZELLA
- FLAMINGO VELORIA ROT DE LAINE LUSTROSIA

- Canton Crepes Satins Twill Cords
- Crepe de Chines Brocades Flannels
- Georgettes Jacquards Beaded All Colors