

Laughing Around the World

With IRVIN S. COBB

You've Seen Some Plays Like It

By IRVIN S. COBB

THE late John Stetson, famous in the early days as a theatrical producer, was a unique character. His own generation knew him as a shrewd and canny individual who'd take a chance. He was self-educated and in some respects the education had been neglected.



One day there called upon him at his office in Boston an aspiring playwright who brought along the script of a melodrama he had done. The young man may have been gifted in other regards but so far as his speech was concerned he suffered from a severe handicap—he stammered terribly. Being sensitive, he rarely mentioned his affliction. Indeed, he had no need to do so—as soon as he opened his mouth it advertised itself.

He came now by appointment to see the great manager. As he entered the room where Mr. Stetson sat, the latter barked at him: "No need for any talk—I know who you are. You know who I am. You say you've got a play. All right. I'm a busy man. Set right down there and open it up and read it to me."

The young dramatist obeyed. He made heavy going of it but eventually he finished.

"I'll take your play and put it on," said Stetson. He pressed a button and his assistant entered.

"Fix up a contract for this young fellow," commanded his chief. "I'm going to take his play. It ain't much of a play in some ways but it's got one great novelty in it that ought to make an audience laugh their heads off—all the characters stutter."

President Says No More Threats From West Africa

Assures the American Nations that Danger of Invasion from Africa is Gone

Washington, Jan. 30—(UP)—The Western Hemisphere today had assurance from President Roosevelt that "never again" will west Africa be allowed to become a blockade or invasion threat to the Americas.

Homeward bound from his historic North African conferences with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Mr. Roosevelt met with President Getulio Vargas of Brazil Thursday at Natal where they surveyed the "future safety of all the Americas."

They agreed, the White House disclosed, that it must be permanently and definitely assured that the new world will not be threatened again from the North African shores across the narrowest reaches of the Atlantic.

Mr. Roosevelt, it said, demonstrated to Vargas that the allied invasion of North Africa has, for the present, eliminated the possibility of a German-held Dakar that would threaten the freedom of the Americas.

The French city has been turned over to pro-United Nations forces, thus removing a menace which has occupied the thoughts of allied leaders for many months because of its close proximity to the Americas and its potential use as an enemy air base.

Perhaps significantly, Dakar was an "integral part of the discussion which also touched upon the South Atlantic submarine menace and which provided Mr. Roosevelt with an opportunity to inform the Brazilian president of the very significant results of the conference in Casablanca and of the resolve that the peace to come must not allow the axis to attack civilization in future years."

After their talks—continual for about 24 hours—Vargas and Mr. Roosevelt issued a joint statement seemingly containing a delicate dig at Argentina which still maintains diplomatic relations with the axis.

"This meeting," the statement said, "has given us an opportunity to survey the future safety of all the Americas. In our opinion each of the republics is interested and affected to an equal degree."

"In unity there is strength. It is the aim of Brazil and of the United States to make the Atlantic ocean safe for all. We are deeply grateful for the almost unanimous help that our neighbors are giving to the great cause of democracy throughout the world."

Critical Manpower Shortage

Lincoln, Nebr., Jan. 30. (UP)—Nebraska and the entire nation are faced with a very critical manpower shortage—Governor Dwight Griswold warned today upon his return from the Council of State Governments meeting at Baltimore, and a visit to Washington, and predicted it would become more serious in Nebraska during July and August, especially if there is a good crop this year.

He reported a serious loss in production throughout the nation due to "absenteeism." He said it was reported at the meeting that 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the men in defense and vital production plants are not reporting to work on Mondays. He gave as example the Saturday following Christmas in the Detroit area when 34 per cent of the workers failed to report.

Little Business May Be Aided

Washington, Jan. 30 (UP)—Little business no longer will have to be satisfied with the crumbs from the table when war contracts are doled out of the smaller war plants corporation carries through a "bit tough" policy demanded by Congress, it was learned today.

The act establishing the Corporation, empowers it to compel procurement of the armed service to turn over prime contracts if it can prove that small business can do the job involved. This power never was evoked under the Chairmanship of Lou E. Holland of Kansas City, Missouri. War Production Board Chairman Donald M. Nelson removed Holland and named Colonel Robert Wood Johnson as Chairman.

It is reported Johnson is prepared to exercise the corporation authority. If he does not he will have to explain why to the little business committees of the Senate and House.

Destroy German Planes

London, Jan. 30. (UP)—The U. S. air force announced today that American flying fortresses and Liberator bombers destroyed 22 German fighter planes in last Wednesday's attack on Wilhelmshaven.

Three American bombers were lost in the United States' first offensive thrust against Germany by air in this war, the announcement said.

Remove Naval Commander

London, Jan. 30. (UP)—DNB—German news agency broadcast from Adolph Hitler's headquarters today an announcement that Admiral Erich Raeder has been removed as Commander of the German navy and that Rear Admiral Karl Doenitz, a submarine expert had been appointed to succeed him.

Advertisement for a flight simulator titled 'MAKING AMERICA STRONG'. It features an illustration of a man in a cockpit and text: 'THEY "FLY" ON THE GROUND. MANY OF AMERICA'S PILOTS RECEIVE THEIR PRELIMINARY FLIGHT INSTRUCTION WITHOUT GOING ALOFT. THIS INGENUOUS TRAINER, DEVELOPED BY AN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER, DOES EVERYTHING A PLANE CAN DO... EXCEPT FLY! NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS'

Rubber Priority Needed

Washington, Jan. 30 (UP)—Rubber Director Wm. M. Jeffers today held priorities for the immediate expansion of the synthetic rubber program to produce about 452,000 tons of rubber a year. The priorities gave him a partial victory in his battle with the armed services.

The authorization will enable production of only 43.6 per cent of the program originally outlined by the Baruch committee which proposed an output of 1,037,000 tons annually.

The priorities were ordered by Economic Director James F. Byrnes thus ending a dispute among the army and navy, Jeffers and War Production Board Chairman Donald M. Nelson.

Jeffers charged that disaster threatened unless between 65 and 70 per cent of the synthetic rubber program was given the highest priority.

To Leave for Health Resort

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Warden leave tomorrow for Hot Springs, Ark. Mr. Warden, who farms near Union, suffers from arthritis and will take treatment consisting of health baths at the famous resort. While there he will keep well informed on the happenings at home as he called at the Journal office and asked that his paper be sent to the Arkansas city during his indefinite stay there.

Undergoes Operation

Miss Eleanor Giles, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Giles of this city is at the Clark hospital at Omaha where she was operated on Friday morning for an appendectomy. She is reported as resting quite easily at this time.

Returns from Hospital

Miss Louise Rishel, who has been recuperating from the effects of an appendectomy at an Omaha hospital, has so far recovered that she is now home. Miss Rishel came home a few days ago and is now resting at the family home and feeling much better.

Refuses Superintendent's Aid

Lincoln, Nebr., Jan. 30 (UP)—State Superintendent Wayne O. Reed today was complying with a written request of the legislature appropriation committee which held he was evading the intent and purpose of the state law concerning appointment of two assistants and setting their salaries. The snarl was caused when Reed appointed Leonard Larson and Dr. Frank Sorenson to head the finance and curriculum divisions and set their salaries at \$3,600. State Auditor Ray Johnson refused to honor the pay vouchers on the ground the law made no provision for assistants and specifically authorized one deputy superintendent at an annual salary of \$2,640.

Reed is working with bill drafter Walter James to draw up a bill calling for appointment of an assistant at \$3,600. Johnson later honored the pay voucher when rewritten to the "wages and funds" account.

HUSBAND TRANSFERRED

Mr. and Mrs. Don Seiver received a wire today from their daughter Shirley, today, to the effect that her husband, Lieutenant R. Y. Buchanan has been transferred from Camp Edwards, Mass., to Detroit for schooling. Mrs. Buchanan left only a short time ago for Massachusetts to be near her husband.

British Planes Raid Berlin As Goering Speaks

Raid Comes as Nazi Celebrate Tenth Anniversary of the Hitler Regime

London, Jan. 30. (UP)—Just as Marshal Hermann Goering was preparing to start his speech in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Nazi accession to power today, British mosquito planes bombed Berlin and caused confusion in the hall where he spoke.

The daring raid—made at a time when Berlin's anti-air defenses probably were at full strength—was a complete success. All British planes returned safely it was said authoritatively.

It was presumed that only a small force of mosquitoes participated in the attack. The planes are swift daylight raiders each capable of carrying a 2,000 pound bomb load and making a round trip flight of 1200 miles.

The sudden attack delayed Goering's address for an hour and three minutes and explained the confusion that came over the radio as the marshal gave the German armed forces at home a pep talk in the darkest hour of the war for the Reich.

After the British planes departed, Goering delivered a gloomy speech that was uninterrupted by applause throughout. He said every man, woman and child of Germany's 80 million population must be prepared to die if necessary at the order of Adolf Hitler.

Bearing out the German's insistence that Hitler would make today the occasion for peace feelers, Goering said peace with Russia without victory was impossible—but because Germany could deal only with "gentlemen—not with bolsheviks." He did not say it could not deal with its other enemies—Great Britain and the United States.

In a speech of seventy-two minutes Goering spoke in the Hall of Honor of the Berlin Air Ministry where he is Chief. He addressed delegates of the German armed forces ostensibly in the hall, and the German people by radio. He explained tremendous Russian victories by painting Russia as a power which, unlike Germany, forced its people to give all. Germans he said would do the same voluntarily—for Hitler.

Goering explained Hitler's deliberate sacrifice of 220,000 men of the German's Sixth army at Stalingrad by saying that they had to stay there to permit the German line to be "reorganized," that they had died for the world as well as for Germany—and that other Germans must follow their example. He compared the stand at Stalingrad with that of Leonidas and his 300 at Thermopylae, and said that now, as then, the stand had been against barbaric hordes from the east.

READY TO OBLIGE

London, Jan. 30. (UP)—One reason British planes bombed Berlin today was that W. E. McLachlan, a city councillor of Liverpool, which was bombed by the Germans for six straight nights at the height of the blitz, sent this telegram to Prime Minister Churchill yesterday: "Liverpool has not forgotten the blitz and would applaud a gift of 'tinned plums' dropped by a thousand bombers over Berlin as a memento to 'the beloved fuhrer' on his anniversary. Will you oblige?" Churchill obliged.

Annual Boy Scout Day

Final plans are rapidly taking form for the annual "Dawn to Dusk" Financial Campaign of the Boy Scouts of America in the Arbor Lodge District, scheduled February 10th. W. A. Robertson, Dan Hill, and Morton Steinhart have been selected as members of the initial Gifts committee. These men are now contacting the Initial Givers, and plan to have their portion of the campaign finished by February 5th.

Local directors who have been named by Walter Smith, Dr. V. Y. Coulter, and Memo Wilhelms are: Dr. Leonard Fitch, Plattsmouth; Charles Boedeker, Murray; Dale Karnopp, Union; Glenn Rutledge, Nehawka; R. P. Hobson, Weeping Water; Dan Hill, Nebraska City; Donald Thomson, Syracuse; F. H. Effken, Cook; Everett H. Good, Peru; Sterling Nelson, Auburn; and Searl D. Lovelady, Julian.

Allies Move To Devastate Axis-Held Ports

Move in North Africa to Cut Off Possible Aid to the Germans and Italians in Tunisia

London, Jan. 30 (UP)—American bombers today were believed embarked on a program to devastate every axis-held port in Tunisia, so the Germans and Italians will be cut off from sea-borne aid when the nearing zero hour of the supreme allied offensive strikes.

The harbor of Sfax had already been leveled by wave upon wave of flying fortresses and medium bombers in the greatest air attack the allies have made to date in Tunisia. Observers in London believed axis ships now were unable to get in or out of Sfax harbor.

Presumably the axis was still able to use the ports of Bizerte, Tunis, Sousse and Gabes to some extent, although Bizerte and Tunis had been damaged so heavily in earlier raids that the Germans and Italians had been compelled to shift much traffic from them to the other ports.

With its Tunisian ports knocked out, the axis would be powerless to reinforce and supply its bridgehead from the continent. Likewise, the axis would find it almost impossible to evacuate its forces by sea, although a United Press staff correspondent with the Mediterranean fleet reported that British sailors were praying for a chance to spoil a German-Italian Dunkirk.

Dispatches from Algiers, via Madrid, said British patrols were extremely active in the Medjez El Bab sector, some 30 miles southwest of Tunis, and in a valley had driven axis forces back from a number of advanced posts. Reinforced allied units, with guns and tanks, were slowly advancing again along a low line of hills 20 miles west and northwest of Kairouan, the dispatches said. Kairouan is some 60 miles south and slightly east of Medjez El Bab.

The same dispatches said units of Lieut. Gen. Mark Clark's American Fifth Army in the Gafsa area, northwest of Gabes, were slowly pushing south, and that the Americans firmly held Maknassy, 34 miles from the coast, threatening to cut off the retreating Afrika Korps from Axis forces in the north.

Leather Traveling Cases for Men in Service. \$2.00 to \$9.00. Bates' Book Store.

Ph-o-o-c-y!



Here's the rogues gallery in Walt Disney's current short phantasy "Der Fuehrer's Face" from which the immensely popular satirical song of the same title was taken. Anyone can guess who these characters are.

Plane Engineer Injured

Omaha, Jan. 30 (UP)—Flight Engineer Ralph Hubbard, of the makers of the famed Martin B-26, today was recovering in an Omaha hospital from injuries necessitating the amputation of his right leg which he received when the plane in which he was a passenger crashed during a takeoff.

Hubbard was the only casualty among the five men aboard the plane when it fell at the Fort Crook field yesterday. The B-26 was only slightly damaged, officials said.

Notice Mail Patrons

Due to a shortage of employees at the Plattsmouth Post Office and more particularly due to a recent post office department order clarifying the previous orders relative to the 48-hour week, Saturday afternoon city delivery service is not to be offered. This is effective at once.

Advertisement for 'Let's Buy Our Way to VICTORY With War Bonds!' featuring a stylized 'V' and a soldier's helmet.

DO YOU KNOW—

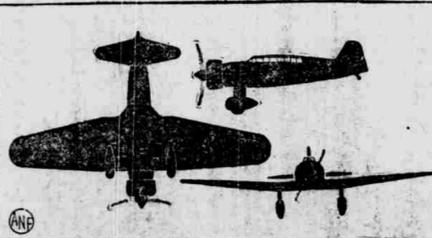


That dodging the splash is a new motorcycle sport in Scotland. A bucket of water (holding about 2 gallons) is mounted on a board in the air and the rider passing beneath tips the bucket over. On the speed of the machine depends the degree of ducking the rider receives.

Advertisement for scrap metal collection: 'America needs Scrap. Throw Your Scrap into the FIGHT!' with a graphic of a recycling symbol.

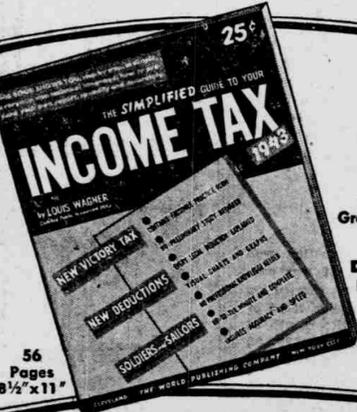
Know the Enemy's Planes

JAPANESE TYPE 97 RECONNAISSANCE PLANE



Shown above by the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America as the twenty-sixth in its series of enemy plane silhouettes is the three-view drawing of the Japanese Type 97 Mitsubishi army and navy reconnaissance plane. Powered by a single radial air-cooled engine, the 97 is a low-wing monoplane with slight dihedral. The rounded-tip wings are tapered on both edges, that of the trailing edge being more pronounced. The plane's non-retractable landing gear is equipped with "pants," the gear extending farther forward than the leading edge of the wings. The upper portion of the fuselage contains a sizable area of transparent covering over the crew quarters. The tail plane is high and symmetrical.

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