

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart
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Washington, D. C.

Washington.—Word comes from Rio de Janeiro that the government of Brazil has decided at long last to place its coffee business again on a competitive basis. That is to say, Brazilian coffee once more will be sold in world market conditions. It was 14 years ago that crop control was started, and now it has flopped finally after costing the growers losses accountable in millions and after virtually wrecking some portions of Brazil's foreign trade.

I think it might be said also that the fallacy of the coffee control policy was among the real causes which eventuated in the dictatorship that established itself in Brazil recently. President Getulio Vargas succeeded in placing himself at the head of the nation "indefinitely" and he did so, he said, because of "unrest among the peoples" of the provinces. The first dictatorship in the Western hemisphere, therefore, is a fact.

But to get to the coffee question: it was the determination of the Brazilian leaders that a policy of scarcity would force coffee prices higher in the world market. The state of Sao Paulo initiated the scheme. It failed to work, and its sponsors said the reason was its scope was limited. Thus, it was expanded until the whole nation was embraced. Still, coffee prices did not go high enough and it was then that actual destruction of coffee began. Millions of tons were dumped into the Atlantic ocean and other millions were burned—even as we in this country burned surplus wheat and corn and killed 6,000,000 pigs.

As the destruction continued and the growers found themselves tied tighter with regulations and decrees, there were some increases in prices. But the promised great profits proved to be as illusory as a mirage on the desert.

The whole thing was a boomerang. Not only were the producers in Brazil disillusioned by failure to gain the record returns they had been led to expect, but they found another sad and wholly disadvantageous result staring them in the face. There was some increase in the price—just enough, indeed, to reduce consumption to some extent—for the growers, but with Brazil reducing available supplies others got into the producing business.

Among these new coffee growing areas, Colombia sprang into prominence. Maybe Colombia coffee was not as good as Brazil's, in quality. Maybe it was not quite as acceptable otherwise. But it was cheaper, and it was profitable for Colombia planters to produce. They found a ready sale.

That, however, was not the worst. When other coffee-using nations bought coffee from Colombia and other growing areas, Colombia was able to buy other commodities from the nations buying her coffee. New trade agreements suddenly showed up; new relationships were established, and some of Brazil's former business connections throughout the world are gone with the wind. They may never be re-established.

We, in the United States, ought to give quite a bit of thought to Brazil's coffee experiment for we have had, and are threatening to have more, experiments of a kindred nature. Lessons in crop control are right expensive, and more important is the fact that sooner or later all through history, they have had to be abandoned. And when I refer to crop control, I include all kinds of production control whether agricultural or industrial. Somebody always has to pay dearly for it and usually the cost has been extended. It is reflected in other commodities and in taxes until the actual loss from the experiment is multiplied many times over.

Speaking of congress, the way it has started off makes me think that the extra session was purely a political move. I am quite sure it is going to accomplish some great good like amending the neutrality act. Of course, I suppose I should not be selfish. I ought to consider that the representatives and senators must have time to make speeches for this or that or the other so that their constituencies back home will be duly impressed with their importance. Maybe so! But I repeat that the prospect of anything worth while in either the special session or in the regular session to follow in January is decidedly dull.

Politically, there are several things to watch for in the time that congress will be heave-ho-ing. One of these definitely now visible is the maneuvering among the Democrats to find out whether President Roosevelt really wants to be a candidate for a third term.

I think I am violating no confidence when I say that a good many of the President's real friends at the Capitol would like to know, and know now, whether he is going after a third term. He hasn't told them in a way that is convincing. He made a speech at the "victory dinner" last March 4 in which he said

he had an ambition to leave the President's chair and desk with "the nation intact, a nation at peace, a nation prosperous," etc. He said he planned to do that in January, 1941.

That would seem to be clear enough. Yet, it is amazing how many members of the President's party at the Capitol contend that those remarks did not constitute a final withdrawal. They point as well to the fact that other Presidents, after being re-elected for a second term, have come out flat-footed with their announcements and have told their party, in effect, "Go out and get yourselves a new candidate."

So, I am making a small prediction. There will be plenty of odd maneuvers, unusual situations, that will appear to "just happen" that way. Their purpose will be to bring about a circumstance wherein President Roosevelt can appropriately tell all of those who have so faithfully stood by him that he is, or is not, a candidate for a third term.

The other phase of congressional activity that will prove interesting links in somewhat with the third term question. It involves the personal political fortunes of the representatives and senators who will seek re-election in 1938. It is easy to see how many Democrats, if they know definitely that President Roosevelt will seek a third term, will want to ride again on the New Deal wagon. It is equally easy to understand how some of them, desirous of observing the tradition that no man shall serve more than two terms as President, may want to take a stand opposing the course if President Roosevelt decides that way.

This condition leads far afield. I am informed, for instance that some senators and representatives who have been back home in conservative sections of the country want to dodge further support of the New Deal. This class obviously is biding its time for something to happen to justify a jump. Announcement by Mr. Roosevelt of intention to be a candidate for the third term would provide the reason. The converse is true, as well, for there are those in the house and senate who have found the President's personal popularity at home as great as ever and they are looking for an excuse to sound off that they believe in the Roosevelt policies 100 per cent and want him to have a third term.

The election results in various parts of the country will have some influence on the attitude of representatives and senators as the session continues. Take the vote in Arkansas, for example. Representative Miller won the senatorship in succession to the late Senator Joe Robinson. His victory was over Governor Bailey, who announced that the New Deal was for him and that his defeat would be a slap at President Roosevelt. It is a fact that New Dealers were pulling for him—but Representative Miller was elected.

That is just a sample. The senators and representatives are going to interpret such elections in the light of sentiment in their own bailiwicks. Undoubtedly, some are going to show more spunk in behalf of the New Deal while others have come back determined to foster their ideas of Democratic principles rather than those of New Deal.

This date being what it is, I want to record a tribute in these columns, a tribute to a grand public servant who never has sought publicity for himself nor claimed the credit that is due him. For, it was 40 years ago this week that Col. Edwin A. Halsey, of Tye River, Va., entered the employ of the senate. Now, he occupies the post of secretary of the senate, the highest available outside of senate membership. The senate never convenes but that I am again impressed with the smoothness of the senate organization under "Eddie" Halsey's direction. I truly believe him to be the best informed man at the Capitol on legislative procedure. As his colorful messenger once said to me: "Yessah! De cunnel he suah do know his stuff."

And that goes for Colonel Halsey's political acumen, too. He has performed the chores of the Democratic side of the senate to everybody's satisfaction. I suppose some of the senators who like to be regarded as big shots won't care for this exposure, but I have seen them saved from unnumbered mistakes that would have made them the laughing stock of their constituencies. Day after day, in season and out, "Eddie" Halsey has done more for the Democratic senators than they can ever repay. He ought to be called "the Sage of Tye River," as his counsel warrants that description. The state of Virginia could do itself a good turn if it kept "Eddie" Halsey in mind for something higher.

STAR DUST

Movie • Radio

By VIRGINIA VALE *****

WHEN motion picture producers wander away from their office desks, they get the most promising ideas for pictures. For instance, it might never have occurred to the head man of the 20th Century-Fox studios to cast Shirley Temple and Sonja Henie in a film together if he hadn't happened to pass the ice rink where Miss Henie practices.

At first he was horror-stricken to find the company's precious child risking her neck trying to learn Sonja's whirlwind capers, but when he saw that she learned them as easily, and safely, as she does tap-dancing routines, he decided that she must do a skating picture with her teacher.

At Paramount, the big boss heard shrieks of hilarity coming from the portrait photographer's studio, and on investigating found W. C. Fields and John Barrymore clowning around as Romeo and Juliet. Right away he was inspired to cast them together in a loony story called "Things Begin to Happen."

Grown-ups may well envy the school children of today who learn their history lessons through such an exciting medium as the R. K. O. motion picture, "Victoria the Great." Filmed in England with Anna Neagle in the role of the queen, this picture was made with the hearty co-operation of government officials, so all the glory of real castles and authentic royal settings make it a feast for the eyes.

Sixty years of her life are covered in this story, so it is a series of dramatic high spots. And so skillfully has the story been told, it is just the story of a woman's heart, a woman who was willful and pathetic—with all her regal splendor.

Lanny Ross was all ready to sign a contract to make pictures for M-G-M when it occurred to him that with Nelson Eddy and Allan Jones already signing on that lot, there wasn't much room for another singer. So, the shrewd Lanny hustled over to Columbia Pictures' studios and arranged to make pictures for them instead. There he will be sure to get all the good singing roles.

Those folks you hear on Gabriel Heatter's "We, the People" program certainly enjoy the evening of that broadcast. After the first broadcast, Heatter takes the whole troupe of visitors across the street to dinner. Afterward, they return to the studio for the repeat western broadcast.

All the youngsters who were thrilled over Dick Merrill's ocean flights will want to arrive for the first showing and stay all day when "Atlantic Flight," starring Dick Merrill himself comes to their local theater. In the picture he is the same engaging, modest, casual young man that he was in the newsreels. And the picture boasts some hair-raising stunt flying.

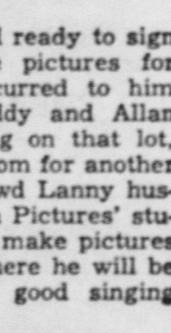
All three of the Lane sisters are now working for Warner Brothers. Priscilla, who with her sister Rosemary, provided many bright moments in Waring's "Varsity Show," will do the same for the next "Gold Diggers" in support of Dick Powell. And Lola, who has been in pictures much longer than her sisters, will be seen in "Hollywood Hotel."

Turning down several coast-to-coast radio programs offered him, Henry Hull, the distinguished stage actor, is going to try motion pictures again. He will play a prominent role in M-G-M's "Marie Antoinette" in support of Norma Shearer. About the time that picture is ready for the screen, another Marie Antoinette will be competing for attention. Deanna Durbin is going to play the role in a story written around her more tender years.

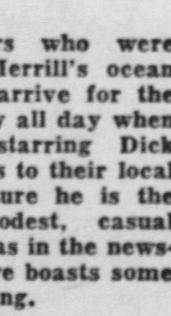
ODDS AND ENDS—Helen Menken, long-suffering "Second Wife" of the radio serial is going to make a motion picture for Warners . . . Clark Gable, weary of being a swaggering, wise-cracking hero wants to play in a tense drama about the fight against yellow fever in the tropics . . . Carole Lombard is wearing a black wig in "Food for Scandal" and she is not sure it is a good idea. Her best friends don't recognize her . . . Bob Hope, radio comedian, is such a hit in his first Paramount picture that he has signed to do more.



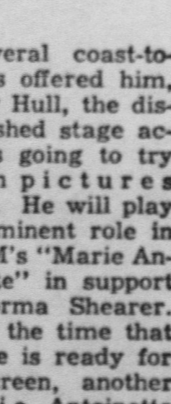
Sonja Henie



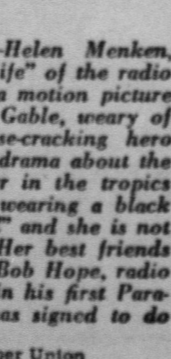
Lanny Ross



Dick Merrill



Henry Hull



Norma Shearer

Historic Hoaxes

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
© Western Newspaper Union.

September Morn

DO YOU remember back to the days when college and prep school boys shocked their elders by displaying on the walls of their rooms the picture of a nude girl standing in a pool of water? It was called "September Morn" and, although it was considered "highly improper" in those days, it became the most famous picture in America—thanks to a press agent named Harry Reichenbach, who was out of a job, and Anthony Comstock, head of the Anti-Vice society of New York. It came about in this way:

The original painting had been rejected for a brewer's calendar and was hung in the window of a New York art shop which offered reproductions of it for ten cents. But few people were interested enough to buy these copies until Reichenbach came along and saw the possibilities in it. He needed \$45 to pay his room rent and the art shop promised to pay it if he could think of an idea for disposing of the 2,000 copies in its stock.

Reichenbach had a large display of the picture put in the window and then, pretending to be an outraged citizen, phoned Comstock about it. He persuaded others to do the same thing and they all declared that the picture was undermining the morals of the youth of the city. Down to the shop marched the virtuous Anthony. He found a group of ragamuffins (hired by Reichenbach) loitering around in front of the shop and making leering remarks about the picture.

Convinced that "September Morn" was indeed a menace to the youth of the city, Comstock immediately appealed to the courts to stop the sale of the reproductions. The result was just what Reichenbach had hoped for. In fact, the picture became something of a national issue and before the excitement over it died down 7,000,000 copies had been sold at \$1.00 each!

The Magic Stone

"CAN the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots?"

About 30 years ago a great many people evidently believed that the first half of that question could be answered "yes" and, for a time, this belief threatened to give Tulsa, Okla., the largest negro population of any city in the United States.

It came about when J. Burr Gibbons, a reporter for the Tulsa Democrat, wrote a news story announcing the discovery of a negro having an oil lease near Sapulpa who had succeeded in making a white man out of himself. According to the story, the transformation resulted because the negro drank from a mineral spring on his lease. At first, white spots began to appear on his body. Then they gradually spread until he was as white-skinned as any man of Caucasian origin.

When this story was widely reprinted in other papers, an avalanche of mail descended upon the Democrat. It almost swamped the Tulsa post office. It came from negroes all over the United States who wanted to know more about this magic spring, what were the chances for finding employment in Tulsa so they could bathe in it and enjoy its wonder-working powers, etc.

Of course, they were doomed to disappointment but it was a long time before the last inquirer was convinced that there was no such spring and before the last echoes of the reporter's hoax died away.

The Hoaxer Hoaxed

TO PHINEAS T. BARNUM one day came a letter from a man in Vermont saying that he had a sensational attraction for his American Museum on Broadway. It was a cherry-colored cat which he would sell for \$200 but the terms were cash-in-advance and immediate acceptance of the offer.

Always eager to obtain some new wonder, Barnum promptly sent on the \$200. When the "wonder" arrived, he discovered that it was only an ordinary large black cat. Attached to its neck was a card which read: "I forgot to tell you that the cherries up here are black ones."

At first Barnum was furious at the deception. Then he saw the humor of the situation and decided to turn it to his own advantage. He displayed the animal in his museum and gave wide publicity to his acquisition of a "genuine cherry-colored cat from Vermont."

If a customer, upon seeing the animal, complained that he had been deceived and demanded his money back, the showman explained that he had bought the animal in good faith and that, furthermore, it really was the color of cherries, only they were Vermont black cherries. Usually, however, visitors to the museum were so delighted to see how the master hoaxer had been hoaxed that they did not complain. Instead they were inclined to consider it a good joke on themselves that they had been taken in by Barnum's claim to ownership of a "cherry-colored cat."

Waiting to Be Sewn



NOW we ask you isn't this the layout supreme for Young America Miss Modern and Mother Meticulous? Childish glee sophisticated gusto and maternal satisfaction will be the order of the day when you have run-up these swank wardrobe assets. Remember it's the natural thing to Sew-Your-Own!

For Master or Miss.

It's grand to be young in the wintertime; there's so much fun to be had. Mother, to be sure your edition of Young America has its share of outdoor fun this winter make this smart and complete ski ensemble. (For either boy or girl.) It is styled after a real ski champion's outfit and makes an instant hit with every young husky.

Sophomore Sensation.

Here's a dress after your own heart, Milady!—I betcha. Sew-Your-Own calls it its Sophomore Sensation. From gay Paris comes its concave silhouette; from S-Y-O its concise, easy to follow sewing instructions. Make your version in thin wool or velvet for Ace occasions this winter.

Carefully Planned.

Mothers are sweet in almost any kind of dress, but in the trim new model, above right, they're superbly sweet. There's something genteel about its styling. It was carefully planned to bring you the best in style, the most in comfort. A glance at the diagram will convince the woman who sews of its simplicity. Two versions will be better than one of this charming fashion. Anything from percale to sheer wool will do nicely as the material.

The Patterns.

Pattern 1965 is designed for sizes 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 years. Size 6 requires 2½ yards of 54-inch

material for the ensemble plus ¼ yard knitted fabric for hat, sleeve and trouser bands and ½ yard zipper fastener for blouse front.

Pattern 1359 is designed for sizes 12 to 20 (30 to 40 bust). Size 14 requires 4½ yards of 39-inch material. With three-quarter sleeves 4¼ yards are required. The bows and belt require 2½ yards ribbon.

Pattern 1402 is designed for sizes 34 to 46. Size 36 requires 4½ yards of 35-inch material. The collar in contrast requires ¾ yard.

Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 247 W. Circle-Third Street, New York, N. Y. Price of patterns, 15 cents (in coins) each.

New Pattern Book.

Send 15 cents for the Barbara Bell Fall and Winter Pattern Book. Make yourself attractive, practical and becoming clothes, selecting designs from the Barbara Bell well-planned, easy-to-make patterns.

Advertising Reduced Cost

A third of a century ago the price of the cheapest automobile was about \$5,000. Today a much better car can be bought for around \$700. Advertising created demand, demand created mass production, with many times the number of jobs, and mass production improved the quality and reduced the price.

CONSTIPATED

Many doctors recommend Nujol because of its gentle action on the bowels. Don't confuse Nujol with unknown products.



INSIST ON GENUINE NUJOL

The Story of Habits
The moving finger of one's habits writes their story on his face.

666 checks
MALARIA
in three days
COLDS
LIQUID, TABLETS
SALVE, NOSE DROPS
first day
Handache, 30 minutes.
Try "Rub-My-Tum"—World's Best Laxative

CHEW LONG BILL NAVY TOBACCO

5¢ PLUG

Are Women Better Shoppers than Men?

GRANTING a woman's reputation for wise buying, let's trace the methods by which she has earned it. Where does she find out about the advantages and details of electrical refrigeration? What tells her how to keep the whole household clean—rugs, floors, bathroom tiling—and have energy left over for golf and parties? How does she learn about new and delicious entrees and desserts that surprise and delight her family? Where does she discover those subtleties of dress and make-up that a man appreciates but never understands?

Why, she reads the advertisements. She is a consistent, thoughtful reader of advertisements, because she has found that she can believe them—and profit thereby. Overlooking the advertisements would be depriving herself of data continuously useful in her job of Purchasing Agent to the Family.

For that matter, watch a wise man buy a car or a suit or an insurance policy. Not a bad shopper himself! He reads advertisements, too!