The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

DREW PEARSON

Washington, D. C.

POLL TAX AGAIN

Despite the bitterest legislative battle of the year, the administration has no intention of abandoning the battle for poll tax repeal. Next round in this savage controversy will be fought out in the courts.

Labor leaders William Green and Phil Murray were given this private assurance by FDR himself when they called to urge the President to make a statement denouncing the filibuster and pleading for passage of the bill.

Green was very emphatic that Roosevelt take a hand.

"This issue has war implications, Mr. President," the AFL leader argued. "While our soldiers are fighting to protect the right to vote, a minority of willful men in the senate is filibustering against it. You could break the filibuster if you spoke out."

Murray also put in some strong licks for presidential intervention. Roosevelt, however, interrupted to say that the administration was doing all possible to put over the repeal bill and he was too busy with the war to become involved in the controversy.

He added that the administration wouldn't give up even if the fight in congress were lost, since Attorney General Biddle was preparing a case to test the validity of the poll tax in the courts.

Green and Murray accepted this alternative. But in talks with friends the labor chiefs are not optimistic about favorable action in the courts, fearing that the Supreme court will dump the issue right back in the lap of congress.

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ARMY MASCOTS

Mascots are popular in the armed services. Dogs are most common, but some units have adopted cats, eagles, goats, mules, horses, prairie dogs, and even kangaroo rats.

In fact on the morning report of the 355th Infantry, Camp Carlson, Colo., appears the name of a certain sergeant who has never received a cent of pay since he joined the army, yet he is one of the happiest and best liked members of the outfit.

The "sergeant" in this case is a white fox terrier, a company mascot. He was in good standing until recently, wore his chevrons proudly on his khaki jacket.

But one night he left the camp AWOL to chase prairie dogs and did not return in time for reveille. Like any other soldier, he had to pay the penalty for misconduct. In a solemn ceremony, attended by officers, he was "broken," his stripes were taken away, and the warrant was signed by the colonel.

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NEW NEBRASKA SENATOR

Senator-elect Kenneth Wherry of Nebraska, who will fill the most famous shoes in the senate, those of George Norris, was in the senate once before, many years ago.

He was then a law student and visited a friend who was the son of a senator. The senator took the two boys to meet Woodrow Wilson, who happened to be at the senate. As Wherry tells the story on himself, he shook hands with the President, after which there was an awful silence. Then Wherry, feeling something must be said, blurted out:

"I've heard a lot about you."

He wished the senate floor might open up and swallow him.

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MRS. LUCE GOES ROUND THE WORLD

Mrs. Clare Luce, newly elected Republican congresswoman from Connecticut, will be an additional problem for the British embassy to worry about. Mrs. Luce came back from a trip through Egypt and the Far East with the feeling that something was wrong with the old British empire. Undoubtedly her views had a lot to do with recent editorials in her husband's magazine, Life, criticizing the British.

In Egypt she found the Egyptians carrying signs in the streets saying "We Want Rommel." In China, she found severe criticism of the British, and she heard the fear expressed by the head Chinese censor that if China let too much news of India pass on to the United States, Chinese supply shipments would be curtailed from India.

Everywhere she tried to find an explanation for the fall of Singapore. Finally one young English officer put it this way:

"We just went cold."

"What do you mean by that?"

"Well, that's your part of the world to defend. Our part is Europe. We know that after the war, you'll give all that part back to us."

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CAPITAL CHAFF

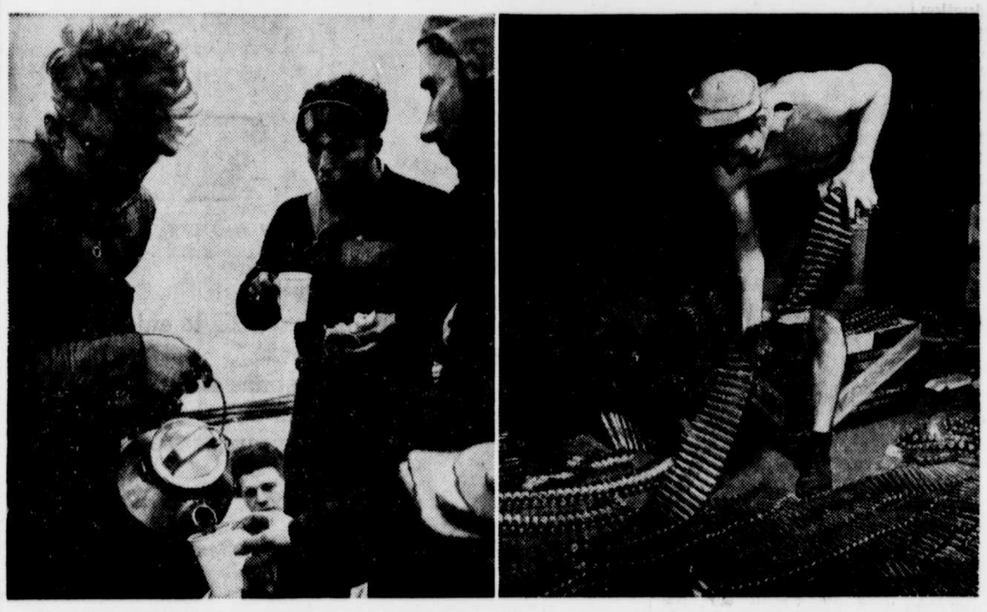
¶ Maj. Frank Capra's first training film, just finished for the army, is so good that every American should see it, either in or out of the army . . . The war department is now trying to make up its mind whether to release it to the civilian public.

¶ For several days after the North Africa landing, the Rockefeller office had 5,000 to 10,000 words cabled daily from Latin America in the form of comment and praise of the new front. This material was then radioed by OWI to Europe.

Momentary Breathing Spell on Guadalcanal Island

Typical of the ground crews' unsung heroes is this U. S. marine mechanic (left), who is checking over the power plant of a plane which has seen heroic service in the daily air battles over Guadalcanal. He plays a vital role in the air superiority held by our forces in the Solomons. Right: The sign says 42nd Street, but it's a long, long way from New York City's Times Square. The sign was posted at a marine camp on Guadalcanal.

Getting Ready for Action Aboard U. S. Carrier



Lunch during general quarters on a U. S. fighting ship is where it happens to find you. Sandwiches, cookies and coffee—plenty of coffee, from the looks of things—refreshes the deck crew (left) of this aircraft carrier as it plows towards the enemy. Right, a U. S. sailor straightens out the belts of .50 caliber machine gun bullets—calling cards for the nation's foes—in the magazine of the carrier.

U. S. Army Nurses Arrive in Middle East

United States army nurses are gradually being sent to every United Nations front. It is their job to care for the wounded and to do everything possible to make sure that injured fighting men will fight again. A group of army nurses is shown here on the East African front waiting for a train to take them to their various units.

Sent Home to Grow Up

U. S. marine corps private George B. Holle, above, was sent back to his Eau Claire, Wis., home after it came to light that in spite of his six-foot-one-inch height, George is only 13 years old. Young Holle enlisted in the marine corps 13 months ago when he was but 12, and after completing recruit training last December he was sent to a South Pacific base. Here, after more than six months at this base, his age was discovered.

President Batista of Cuba Visits Miami

President Batista walks through a guard of honor upon arrival to review the officer candidates' school at retreat, in Miami, Fla., following his arrival from Cuba. On the left behind him is Aurelio Concheso, Cuban ambassador to the United States; on the right is Dr. Jose A. Martinez, Cuban minister of state.

'Lumberjill'

"Lumberjills" are pinch hitting for the men in harvesting the state of Washington's Christmas tree crop. Here Mary Giblin trims the trunk of a young tree before shipping. About 50 railroad cars will be used for Washington's crop.

WAR ON ALL FRONTS

A SERIES OF SPECIAL ARTICLES BY THE LEADING WAR CORRESPONDENTS

Paratroops in Training

By Quentin Reynolds

(WNU Feature—Through special arrangement with Collier's Weekly)

It is lamentably true that neither Britain nor America paid much attention to the training of parachutists until successive German victories were scored by her men who jumped from the sky.

German parachutists have contributed largely to every important British defeat. After taking Holland and Belgium with parachutists in major roles, the Germans used them at Dunkirk and in Crete and Greece, and they helped at Tobruk.

Now, belatedly, both America and Britain are doing what the resourceful Russians did so many years ago. They are finally thinking of parachutists as an attacking force.

The training of a parachutist is an interesting affair—to the spectator. At the British airdrome I visited, a hangar had been converted into what looked like a huge gymnasium. About 300 men were swinging back and forth on trapezes, doing tumbling acts on heavy mats, dropping through an opening to the floor, ten feet below, sliding down chutes. Instructors kept barking at them.

First Lesson for Paratroopers.

"Relax when you fall," an instructor shouted, just as football coaches have shouted for years. That is the first lesson a paratrooper learns —how to fall without getting his brains knocked out. Then on the swings he learns to turn his body while in the air.

One slight man in the uniform of the RAF, with the stripes of a flight lieutenant on his sleeve, was all over the place, snapping out orders.

"He seems to know his business," I said to the commanding officer who stood with me.

"He should," the C. O. said dryly. "He's made more jumps than any other man alive. That's Harry Ward, whom they call the Birdman. Made more than 1,500 jumps."

We talked about the qualities that go to make a good paratrooper. A few days of land training and two jumps from a balloon and they're ready for real business — that is, dropping from an airplane. The American and British methods differ widely at present. Our American troops usually jump from well over a thousand feet. In training, the British troops jump from 800 feet. The chute itself opens after a man has fallen 70 feet. He then comes down at the rate of 19 feet per second. In actual operations, the drops are made from 500 feet or lower.

It takes a man about 23 seconds to make that downhill trip.

The use of the ripcord has been abolished in Britain's parachute circles. A belt is fastened to the fuselage of the plane, and its other end is hooked onto the parachute cover. As he drops, the belt jerks the cover off and the parachute opens.

I watched men drop from the skies one whole afternoon and part of one night, and of the 500 or so jumps made, there was only one casualty, and that only a bump on the head.

An instructor stands in the middle of the plain where the men are to land. In his hand is a microphone, and a large loudspeaker is beside him. He talks to the men as they float down. The men drop in "sticks" of two, five or ten. They drop (if they obey orders) straight and stiffly, although the slip stream from the aircraft sometimes grabs them and whirls them about. Then the parachute jerks open and they hear the voice of the instructor.

"Number one — you're coming down nicely," he'll say, and his voice is clear in the earphones of the man 800 feet above.

"Number two—reach up and grab the straps!" "Number three—bend your knees a little!"

As the men land, they invariably fall, but they fall as a football player does, with elbows well in, feet together, and the whole body relaxed.

After a man has made seven jumps he tries it at night. There is no actual difference in the technique. The commanding officer put on a night show for me.

Four big Whitleys came over, dark black against a moonlight sky. Then, almost simultaneously, ten men dropped from each aircraft.

This as closely as possible approximated the conditions they'll face when they are dropped in France or Norway or Belgium or Germany one of these days.

Night parachuting is the most effective of all, because the element of surprise is to some extent, with you. Even on such a moon-bathed night as this, it would be difficult for enemy marksmen to kill men floating down, unless they expected them at the right moment. When the men landed, they ran to the colored parachutes which carry guns, ammunition and food.

SPEAKING OF SPORTS

By Bob McShane

Released by Western Newspaper Un

FOOTBALL'S "Goofiness Hand cap" for the 1942 season had its usual quota of entries, and no one individual could claim an unquestioned first place for the year's outstanding oddity.

One of the most unusual stories of the year developed when Illinois defeated Minnesota. On that memorable occasion Alex Agase, an Illini guard, scored two touchdowns on plays that started with Minnesota snapping the ball, Bill Daley was back for the Gophe Agase stole the ball from Dale at full tilt and kept movi had chalked up his first ec- ond touchdown can pass from the Gop into the end zone a e for six more point

Oklahoma was ying Iowa Sta Lee Roy Neher o klahoma ran width of the field ree times on same play, reversing his field w he was trapped. He ended up w a gain of exactly one yard.

But screwball happenings weren't confined to collegiate football. James Whatley, a guard on Spencer high school's Negro team in Columbus, Ga., was told to warm up. He raced up and down the sidelines, prancing and limbering up. When he was waved into the game he zig-zagged around nearly every man on the field before reporting to the referee. There he collapsed with a trick knee out of place. He was carried from the field.

About Steve O'Neill

Steve O'Neill, new manager of the Detroit Tigers, may prove to the brass hats of the Cleveland Indians that they once made a fairly large mistake in letting him out as manager.

O'Neill, though probably not the greatest manager in the big leagues, knows how to run a baseball how to ge out of his had a lot develop ly wel players and Lo Most will ad ler wa pitchin come the da

Bob Feller

and Alexander. N one of the grea game, caught threw as a bi bition game 1936. The fanned eigh that day.

Feller becam current attraction and the clubs Clevela tendance always soared was scheduled to go to the

Boudreau, who eventually s ed O'Neill as manager of th dians, reported to Buffalo as a catcher. At the time O'Neill was in need of infielders. He watched Boudreau in action and was considerably impressed with his speed and agility. He sent him to shortstop, advising him not to waste his time behind the bat. Unusual words from a man who made his name as a catcher.

Cleveland gained very little by ousting O'Neill. Soon Oscar Vitt arrived on the scene. With him came the now famous In n mutiny and the loss of a penna t which should have been won by a fairly comfortable margin.

All in all, Detroit is the winner.

Temperament

During a recent display of temperament at the world's pocket billiard championship matches in Detroit, oldtimers were reminded of a New York player who outdid them all in the matter of temperament. This gentleman played in many betting matches and when he missed an expensive shot he had the habit of lowering his head and running into the closest wall full tilt. This raised many a bump.

He was playing once in a place where the wall was made of plastic, unknown to him. He missed a costly shot, lowered his head and started for the wall. Instead of bouncing back he kept on going—halfway through the wall. It was necessary to get a saw to cut him out.

The all-time billiard classic concerns a player named John Deery who was operating in New York at the time. During one tough shot he stopped three times to shoo a fly off the cue ball. He finally hurried the shot when he saw the fly again heading for the cue ball. He missed the shot, walked out the door, jumped in a lake and ended his life.

SPORT SHORTS

¶ Tommy Cross, Philadelphia li ht-weight, is planning a comeback.

¶ Bib Falk, former big league ut- fielder, is a member of the phy education staff at Randolph Texas.

¶ Charles Cherundolo, center Pittsburgh Steelers, is the rea man of the National F tball He played 457 of th utes of the season.

¶ Bob Kurland, ce homa A. and M. b towers seven feet in th