The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

Washington, D. C.

GOOD NEIGHBOR CO-OPERATION

The United States is getting much better co-operation from some of our South American neighbors than has leaked out to the public.

When Portugal protested to the United States against Roosevelt's fireside chat hinting the seizure of the Azores, the Brazilian government immediately got in touch with the U. S. state department. The Portuguese had sent the Brazilians a copy of their protest, and Brazil asked us what reply we were going to make.

Ambassador Caffrey in Rio de Janeiro immediately showed Foreign Minister Aranha a summary of our proposed reply, and Aranha volunteered to send Portugal exactly the same answer—telling them it was vital to the safety of the Western hemisphere that the Azores be in friendly hands, and that Brazil could not afford to see the islands taken by the Axis.

This message was sent: which means that Brazil will co-operate with the United States if and when the time comes to occupy the Azores.

Argentina also has been more co-operative than ever despite the die-hard efforts of our Rocky Mountain congressmen to prevent the importation of Argentine canned beef. Argentine sentiment is overwhelmingly anti-Hitler and pro-Roosevelt. The Argentines are much stronger for Roosevelt than for the United States, and have their fingers crossed as to what may happen after Roosevelt leaves office.

Dakar and Robin Moor.

For approximately one month, however, all White House advisers have agreed that the Azores were far less important than Dakar and the coast of West Africa. That is what makes the sinking of the Robin Moor by a Nazi submarine so doubly significant.

Despite the menace of Dakar, presidential advisers have been worried as to what we should do about it. To take Dakar from the French and to hold it against all comers would require more men than the 50,000 in the U. S. marine corps. It would require an expeditionary force from the regular army.

And while such troops are available, the bottoms to transport them are something else again. Once before, the British urged us not to get mixed up in the South Atlantic because it would divert our navy from the all-important North Atlantic.

The sinking of the Robin Moor, however, has played directly into the hands of those who have been urging the President to adopt the strongest policy in the South Atlantic and, if necessary, land troops on the bulge of Africa.

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CATHEDRAL OF AGRICULTURE

Paul H. Appleby, diminutive, didactic undersecretary of agriculture, made a flying trip to Nebraska the other day which had some interesting inside background.

Purpose of the trip was to set up what some agricultural hands call a "Cathedral of Agriculture" in Lincoln, Neb. What Appleby was working on was a plan to pool all of the different federal agricultural agencies under one roof and under one director at Lincoln.

These were to include the AAA, Rural Electrification administration, soil conservation, farm security, extension service, farm debt adjustment, and so on. The plan was to make the state of Nebraska a guinea pig to test the idea. All of these different farm representatives would then report to one director in Lincoln rather than to Washington.

However, the proposed Nebraska director was Cal Ward, regional supervisor of farm security. And although working for a Democratic administration, he is branded as a staunch Republican. His selection therefore caused opposition from various federal farm representatives in Nebraska who didn't want to join any "Cathedral of Agriculture" under Cal Ward.

Chief objector was Fred Wallace, chairman of the Nebraska AAA, and it was to bring him into line that Appleby flew out to Nebraska.

Appleby had first ordered Wallace to Washington. But Wallace refused. Even after Appleby flew out to see him, he could not make Wallace budge. "I'm interested in an agricultural program, not a lot of bureaucracy," Wallace said.

Appleby stayed an extra day, finally flew back to Washington. His "Cathedral of Agriculture" for Nebraska definitely side-tracked.

Note — Secretary of Agriculture Wickard has been looking around to find a new berth for his undersecretary—outside of the agriculture department.

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Army Movies.

Movies are the top amusement of the boys in camp and the army gives them all they want—at bargain prices.

For this purpose the war department has organized the Army Motion Picture service, which in a few months has become one of the largest theater chains in the country, with about 300 theaters in operation. There is at least one movie theater in every army camp, with shows seven nights a week, plus Saturday and Sunday matinees.

Sportlight

By GRANTLAND RICE

IN AN age of prodigious hitting, no matter what the game, there is still a wide sweep of argument in regard to record distances. There is a wide divergence of opinion as to how far the mightiest of the hitters can drive a baseball, golf ball or polo ball, to take up three examples.

Grantland Rice

Few have ever smacked a baseball beyond 500 feet. I mean on the carry. A good many years ago one of Babe Ruth's Florida wallops that dropped into a plowed field was measured around 520 feet. Anything over 430 feet is no part of soft hitting.

Ruth remains the long-distance champion, both as a record hitter and as the most consistent one. The Babe not only had bulk and power back of his punches, but he also had one of the finest swings that baseball has ever known in the way of timing and smoothness.

But the Babe rarely reached a full range of 500 feet. There is no way to make any exact measurement when the ball sails out of the park or crashes into the upper stands.

Babe Ruth

There is a center-field fence in the St. Petersburg park around 500 feet away, and no one has ever hit this palisade on the fly yet, according to the best knowledge I have.

Golf Sluggers

In golf Jimmy Thomson remains the long-distance ruler with something to spare.

As I recall the figures Thomson has won the last six driving contests arranged by the PGA.

It must be remembered that the only true measure in golf is from a flat surface, with no helping wind. Roll doesn't count. You can drive a golf ball a mile on the ice. And a few of the long hitters can stand on an elevated tee and pass 300 yards on the carry with a helping gale.

One earnest seeker for records once drove a golf ball well over a mile—standing at the top of the Grand Canyon.

Driving from a level surface, unhelped by a wind, Thomson's best blows usually range from 270 to 275 yards. This is big blasting. A carry of 250 yards under these conditions is big hitting. I doubt that any golfer ever carried 300 yards on flat ground, minus a keen breeze.

I know that few good hitters care to risk a carry beyond 225 yards when there is trouble to face.

A helping or a headwind makes a much greater difference than many know. A headwind is also a mental handicap since it usually brings on pressing and overeffort, which is always a mistake.

How Far a Polo Ball?

In his prime, Tommy Hitchcock could hit a polo ball as far as anyone I ever saw. Dev Milburn and Wilburn Guest were also on the longer side.

Hitchcock figures that 150 yards, half the distance of the field, is about all one can get from a full polo smash. Any wallop beyond 100 yards is good, hard hitting.

"The longest drive I've seen," an eyewitness writes, "came from a combination of golf and polo. Winston Guest teed up a golf ball at Meadowbrook one day, mounted his polo pony and was then handed a polo mallet. With a good, galloping start and a double windup Guest drove the golf ball the full length of the polo field—a matter of 300 yards. It was all carry."

Golf machines can reach 500 yards, which shows how far the human machine lags behind the metal contrivance.

Getting Distance

Distance isn't a mere matter of bulk and physical power by many yards.

Ben Hogan, weighing less than 135 pounds, is longer by yards than most of the 180 or 200-pound swingers.

I once saw Cyril Walker, then weighing 110 pounds, outdrive Walter Hagen, at 185, consistently in a big tournament.

Distance comes largely from clubhead speed—more so than from any other single factor.

Bobby Jones one day, with his own clubs missing, used his wife's set. Mrs. Jones' driver weighed only 12 ounces, much lighter than Bob's.

"I was astonished to find that I was hitting the ball that day longer than usual," Bob said. "I found out that I could get much greater speed from the lighter clubhead. Naturally it called for less effort in swinging."

The Once Over

By H. I. Phillips

WHAT! NO NEW AUTO MODELS?

There is talk of discontinuing any changes in automobile models during this year, but the decision should not be made except as a last resort. Few things will break down the morale of the people more than a sudden suspension of their ancient right to trek down to the annual auto show and see how many gadgets have been shifted.

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There is a limit to sacrifice. And it may be reached when you ask Americans to go through a whole year in which even the windows in automobiles open the same way they did before.

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You can get Gus Q. Citizen to give up many things in a crisis without a squawk. He will give up meat, cut down on fuel, and if necessary climb into a uniform to defend his country, but when you ask him to take calmly the news that Detroit will turn out sedans with the humps and bulges unchanged, you're taking a chance on insurrection.

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Elmer Twitchell is among those horrified by the prospect and he has written the following appeal to the President:

"Dear Franklin:

"If you want the morale of America kept intact, do something at once to stop this idea of no changes in auto models during the emergency. Year after year, through floods, fires, dust storms, quakes, strikes, erosions and depressions, no matter what happened to the country, automobile models came out every season full of changes. The more trouble, the more changes. And the people of America are not going to feel that everything is all right if cars come out next fall with the starting button right where it is today, and with the gear shift not lowered, raised, hidden or camouflaged in any way.

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"I think I could stand news of an American reverse in battle better than I could endure the sudden realization that the ash trays in our limousines were to be left as in the 1941 models, and that nobody had decided on a new type of bumper.

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"Franklin, if we are to come through this great crisis okay, don't prevent those auto makers from monkeying with the gadgets, color schemes and front ends. It's little things like that that undermine confidence, kill causes and lose wars.

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"Of course I want the auto industry to concentrate on defense, but it must make a few changes in the limousine and roadster models if we are to remain a happy people. See that the least they do is to keep shifting the doorknobs.

"Yours for unity and a harder search for the starting button every season,

—"Elmer Twitchell."

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And we think Elmer is right. If the President doesn't do something, congress should.

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FOOT NOTE

Some of our lady knitters—
Their spirit can't be beat—
Seem to think the British soldier
Runs to large and lumpy feet.

Length and strength are featured
Rather than the fit;
Heaven help the British army
In some of those socks they knit!
—J. H. Niles.

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We understand that the new movie "Hudson's Bay" had a tough time getting through under that title. A lot of Hollywood people wanted to call it "Bay Meets Girl."

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The height of something or other: an advertisement by a racing tipster claiming "Positively no guesswork."

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LAFAYETTE, WE ARE HERE!
(Modern version.)

From Rome they started out to fight
Old Egypt's troops who wear the fez,
And British soldiers in their might
Who man the forts that guard Suez.

A quarter million strong they fare
To Libya colony's gleaming strands,
And thence to swarm by land and air
'Cross Egypt's leagues of desert sands.

Suez at last! No victory's throne!
No flash of arms! No bugles, clear!
Seventy thousand captives drone,
"Mussolini, we are here!"
—W. F. Dix.

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PREPAREDNESS

Hi—

I saw a fellow walking up and down a gangplank naked, blindfolded and wearing a roller skate on one foot and a greased pad on the other. When I asked, "What's the idea?" he replied, "I'm just getting myself into condition for the next depression."
—Zoops.

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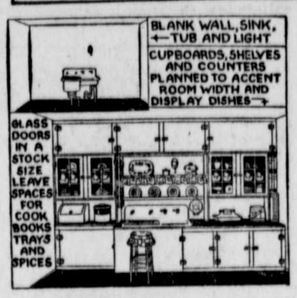
"Germans Predict England Will Fold."—headline. Nonsense. It's been off the fold standard for months.

NEW IDEAS for Home-makers

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS



SOLID doors for the cupboards at the sides of this sink would have placed the accent on vertical lines and made the room seem narrower. But most important of all, this combination of glass doors and plywood doors gives an opportunity to display dishes and other things that lend color, and at the same time makes a place to hide away less decorative utensils.

The lower cupboards and sink enclosure were built first. The vertical supports for the glass cupboards are 1 by 12-inch boards. These rest on the lower cupboards and are placed far enough apart to accommodate the glass doors. The 1 by 12-inch board across the room makes the top of the glass cupboards and the bottom of the upper cupboards. The ruffle trimmed shelf between the glass cupboards is 6 inches wide and the plate rail below it is made of two moulding strips.

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NOTE: If you are fixing up your kitchen you will find complete directions for fascinating new curtains on page 16 of your copy of Book 3, containing reprints of this series by Mrs. Spears. It also contains directions for a space-saving pantry door pocket. In Book 4 there is a cook book shelf to be made for a kitchen table; also a twine bag that you will find useful. These booklets may be secured by writing direct to:

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Uncle Phil Says:

With Doers in Minority

The world is divided into people who do things, and people who take the credit.

So far, no navigator has made a reliable chart of the Sea of Matrimony.

A little pull will get you most places—but not through a door marked "push."

Monkeys Look On Seriously

Men laugh at the behavior of monkeys, but the monkeys are more polite.

When a man pays his taxes his patriotism is at its lowest ebb.

A chairman spends 20 minutes introducing the man "who needs no introduction."

Many a man is put in the shade because he stands in his own light.

A Blessing Possible

Peace can be made perpetual if nations will agree not to make new wars until they have paid for the old ones.

Of the two, I'd rather listen to the boaster than the alibier.

There are three kinds of men who do not understand women: young men, old men, and middle-aged men.

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