

Of Wreckage Railway Empire For Auction

In case you're in the market for a mansion, the late Van Sweringen brothers' famous Daisy Hill farm may be purchased for \$80,000.

Of course, you'll have to provide the furnishings for the 64 rooms, and only 17 of the 475 acres comprising Daisy Hill farm are your new house.

Following the disintegration of the railroad and real estate empires, the death of Oris Partridge Sweringen five years ago, the remainder of the estate—bequeathed on behalf of creditors—being split into highly re-located sites.

Van Sweringen, who spent his life in railroad cars, one of them November 23, Eleven months before, Mantis James Van Sweringen in a Cleveland hospital. This was written an un-fulfilling end to one of the most colorful stories, for the brothers were millions of dollars in debt.

started life with nothing, and it with \$80,000,000 less, acquired Daisy Hill in a brief period which saw their assets climb to \$110,000,000 (paper value). Associates turned them to cash in and quit, but persisted in the nearly full idea of putting together a coast-to-coast rail sys-

Congressman Off to Britain



Representative J. Buell Snyder (left), of Pennsylvania, chats with Capt. Harold Balfour, British under secretary for air, as they board a Clipper at LaGuardia Airport, New York, for the flight to Europe. Snyder is a member of the House military affairs committee

SUPERSTITIONS SURROUND "POWERS" OF CHRISTMAS

There is a Scottish belief that to be born on Christmas is to have the power to see spirits and even to command them. Sir Walter Scott says that the Spaniards attributed the haggard and downcast looks of Philip II to the terrible visions he was able to see because he was born on Christmas.

French peasants believe that babies born on Christmas have the gift of prophesy.

In Silesia a baby born on Christmas will become either a lawyer or a thief.

In middle Europe it is said that if a baby is born at sermon time Christmas Eve, someone in the house will die within the year.

English mothers used to take sick babies to the door Christmas Eve midnight. Mary was expected to pass with the Christ Child. If the baby recovered, it was a sign that it had been touched by Christ, with healing fingers, and if it died, the Christ Child had called the baby to be His playmate in heaven.

To Wed Ball Star



Selected from among thousands of contestants as the "ideal brunette," Constance Joannes will wed Emerson Dickman, pitcher for the Boston Red Sox. Announcement of the engagement was made by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Joannes, of Wood Ridge, N. J.

YOU'RE TELLING ME!

By WILLIAM RITT
Central Press Writer

EARTHSHINE, astronomers tell us, is 12 times as potent as moonshine. Gosh, mutters Zaddock Dumbkopf, if someone only could find a means of bottling and selling it!

The average weepy radio serial ought to make a swell program for the manufacturer of crying towels.

Indian summer is well-named. It seems to disappear even more quickly than the Vanishing American.

Grandpappy Jenkins says the most popular war would be one

fought between Hitler's army and Hitler's Gestapo.

A feature horse race is named Cup and Saucer. A gentle hint to the bettors that there's many a slip?

Scientists say it has never been discovered why human beings walk in circles. A study of the headlines from Europe might give us a clue.

The subsidized football player earns his dough the hard way—by working on Saturday afternoons when most everyone else is loafing.

A geologist claims that the earth is diminishing. That's easy to understand. The dirt is being used in current jokes.

The passion of acquiring riches in order to support a vain expense, corrupts the purest souls.

Congressmen are wanting more pay. If they don't get it, they know how others workers get it—call a strike.

In the summer the baseball umpires called the strikes. Now the labor leaders are calling them.

WING LADY, WE'RE TALKING OF LETTERHEADS

DON'T GET EXCITED,
BOSS—THE NEWSPAPER
SHOP WILL PRINT
SOME IN A
HURRY IF WE
PHONE
THEM



medieval moat.

There the railroad rulers relaxed from worries of their tremendous transactions. And there they worked, even on week-ends—confering with executives and studying their favorite textbooks, railroad maps. A private telephone switchboard connected them with the world, and guests ate on rare china at an 84-legged banquet table.

But the depression forced them to dismiss half their 14 servants, to drive comparatively modest automobiles sent "O. P." leader of the brothers, scurrying for help to their perennial bankers, J. P. Morgan & Co.

A \$39,500,000 "rescue party" loan by various banks was arranged but when the note—secured by controlling securities and the brothers' personal indorsements—fell due in May, 1935, "We were sick of putting up money," Banker William Chapman Potter recalled later. So the key securities were auctioned to satisfy a note which had climbed to \$48,000,000.

Attracted by the prospects of profits, in stepped George A. Ball, the Muncie, Ind., fruit jar maker. For \$3,121,000, he and an associate purchased control of a \$3,000,000 empire which included such diverse interests as steamships, a radio company and even a peach orchard.

Ball paid the Vans \$100,000 a year to run the realm, and gave them a ten-year option to buy back control for a nominal \$8,050—provided they first satisfied their credi-

tors. They died and Ball disposed of many key stocks to a syndicate headed by Robert R. Young, New York financier, who today is chairman of Allegheny corporation, the top holding company. Young probably is the most influential director of the Chesapeake & Ohio railway, top road of the system, and heads Allegheny despite Ball's ownership of the largest single block of stock in the holding company.

Of the Vans' 25,000-mile rail network from New York to Utah, and Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, the C. & C., Pere Marquette, Nickel Plate and Wheeling & Lake Erie lines weathered the depression, but the Missouri Pacific, Erie, Denver & Rio Grande and Chicago & Eastern Illinois plunged into reorganization and out of the empire. Also under court control went Van Sweringen corporation, parent of the 700-foot tall terminal, tower dominating Cleveland's skyline, and the Van Sweringen company, holder of the brothers' Shaker Heights real estate.

In life the Van Sweringens shared the same luxurious linen-papered bedroom, slept in twin beds. In tree-shaded Lakeview cemetery where lie the remains of John D. Rockefeller and President James Garfield, they now share the same ivy-covered grave. From the joint tombstone may be heard chugging a block away the engines of the Nickel Plate—the railroad which started them on their spectacular climbs.

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