

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXIV

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1938

No. 5

News Review of Current Events

MORGAN ASKS INQUIRY

Chairman of TVA Brings to the Surface the Feud With His Colleagues . . . Corn Acreage Allotments



Here, photographed after their arrest in New York, are Johanna Hofmann of Dresden, Germany, and Guenther Gustav Rumrich, former United States army sergeant and a deserter, two of the three persons accused of complicity in an international spy plot, the aim of which was the sale of United States military secrets to a foreign government. The woman, a hairdresser on the German liner Europa, was messenger and paymaster for the ring.

Edward W. Pickard
SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK
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Berry Claim Cause of Row

LONG existing warfare between Dr. A. E. Morgan, chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and his fellow directors, David Lilienthal and Harcourt Morgan, has come to a climax, due to the claims of Sen. George L. Berry for \$5,000,000, because his alleged marble quarries were flooded in the Norris dam area. Doctor Morgan has demanded a show-down in the form of a congressional investigation of the whole TVA set-up and its activities.

A commission appointed by a federal court in Tennessee reported the claims of Berry and his associates were worthless because their properties could not be profitably operated commercially.

Chairman Morgan then issued a long statement revealing that the quarrel in the authority was due not to differences between himself and his colleagues over policy, but to his efforts to obtain "honesty, openness, decency and fairness in government." He said: "The Berry marble case represents the kind of difficulty with which as chairman of the TVA board, I have been faced in the effort to maintain good standards of public service. To a steadily increasing degree I have contended with an attitude of conspiracy, secretiveness, and bureaucratic manipulation, which has made the proper conduct of TVA business difficult."

The statement declared that Berry charged Morgan with blocking "a sacred, binding agreement," when the TVA chairman halted the friendly agreement reached with Lilienthal and Harcourt Morgan.

"In my opinion, a 'friendly' agreement, in the face of what seemed to me to be an obvious intent to exploit was not a good public policy, and lacked several degrees of being 'sacred,'" said the chairman.

Corn Acreage Cut

FARMERS of 12 commercial corn producing states were told by the Agricultural Adjustment administration that they might plant this year in corn 40,491,279 acres in 566 counties. This compares with 58,616,000 acres in 1,123 counties harvested last year. The complete national goal for 1938, including the commercial corn acreage allotments, is 94,000,000 to 97,000,000 bushels.

The 1938 allotments by states and total acres harvested in the total number of counties in each state follow:

Illinois—1938 allotment, 7,348,396 acres in 102 counties against 9,451,000 acres harvested in 102 counties in 1937.
Indiana—3,456,212 acres for 72 counties against 4,706,000 in 97 counties.
Iowa—8,249,259 acres in 99 counties against 11,180,000 in 99 counties.

Kansas—2,108,602 acres for 27 counties against 2,456,000 in 105 counties.

Kentucky—150,390 acres for four counties against 2,906,000 in 120 counties.

Michigan—223,791 acres for five counties against 1,590,000 in 83 counties.

Minnesota—3,319,803 acres in 45 counties against 4,788,000 in 87 counties.

Missouri—3,267,088 acres in 6 counties against 4,260,000 in 114 counties.

Nebraska—6,757,345 acres in 64 counties against 7,904,000 in 93 counties.

South Dakota—1,635,794 acres in 17 counties against 3,155 acres in 69 counties.

Wisconsin—452,810 acres in 6 counties against 2,424,000 in 71 counties.

Ohio—2,521,779 acres in 57 counties against 3,796,000 in 88 counties.

Under the new farm program, acreage allotments will be set by county committees for individual farms.

Tax Bill Battle Starts

ROBERT L. DOUGHTON of North Carolina, chairman of the ways and means committee, submitted to the house the revenue bill formulated by a majority of the committee, and the struggle over this measure began at once. The administration leaders claim the act will stimulate trade and remove hardships on both big and little business without lowering the aggregate federal income.

Mr. Doughton knew he had a fight on his hands, but predicted the speedy passage of the measure substantially as reported. The most vulnerable provision admittedly was a proposed penalty tax on closely held corporations. McCormack of Massachusetts and Lamneck of Ohio filed a separate report attacking this feature.

Republican members of the committee united in a report which blamed New Deal taxes for the "Franklin D. Roosevelt depression" and which charged that the tax on closely held corporations is a political weapon to be used to purge the nation's business structure of corporations controlled by New Deal foes.

Chairman Pat Harrison, Democrat, Mississippi, of the senate finance committee, said his group would begin hearings soon on the measure. A majority of his committee is reported to be opposed to several provisions of the house bill, including the retention of the principles of the undistributed profits tax.

Disaster in California

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, especially the region about Los Angeles, was swept by a destructive flood following extraordinary rains. Nearly 50 persons were drowned or killed in landslides and thousands fled from their homes. It was thought the property damage might reach \$30,000,000. For a time Los Angeles was cut off from all communications except by radio.

Death of D'Annunzio

GABRIELE D'ANNUNZIO, poet, playwright, soldier and Italian patriot, died at his villa in Gardone Riviera of a cerebral hemorrhage. He would have been seventy-five years old in a few days. The demise of this really great man saddened the whole Italian nation for he had made himself the idol of the people especially by his bold seizure of Fiume after the World war and his aerial exploits in that conflict. The world of letters also mourned him deeply.

WPA Rolls Increased

CONGRESS having sent the quarter billion dollar emergency relief appropriation to the White House, the WPA officials immediately authorized the state administrations to hire 500,000 more relief workers this month.

Aubrey Williams, acting WPA administrator during the convalescence of Harry Hopkins, estimated that the March increases would pull up local enrollments from 15 to 25 per cent, depending on state needs.

Williams said he expected large industrial centers to furnish heaviest demands for a slice of the new relief money, but added: "There is no part of the country that is not affected in some real degree."

British Air Program

THE British government announced the greatest air force estimates in the nation's history and disclosed that a corps of scientists had been mobilized to aid in secret air defense plans. For the fiscal year beginning April 1 the air force estimates total \$367,500,000. Next was announced a 23 per cent increase in army appropriations for the coming year.

Gets Out of China

THE Fifteenth United States Infantry left Tientsin after a quarter century of service in North China, during which, its officers boast, it has not fired a shot in anger. The regiment, stationed there under the Boxer protocol, is being withdrawn permanently, to be replaced by a marine detachment.

Soviet Chiefs Face Death

WITHIN a short time we may expect to read of the execution of 21 prominent citizens of Soviet Russia, latest victims of Dictator Stalin's blood purge. They were put on trial before a military tribunal, and there was little doubt as to their fate. Among the accusations against them were conspiring with foreign powers to dismember the Soviet Union, plotting to assassinate Lenin and Stalin, inspiring the assassination of Sergei Kiroff, and putting to death the writer Maxim Gorky and two others previously supposed to have died of natural causes.

Most prominent of the men put on trial were Former Premier Alexis I. Rykov, who succeeded Lenin and held office for nearly two years; and Nikolai Bukharin, chronicler of the red revolution and editor of the government newspaper Izvestia before March, 1937.

All of the accused men admitted their guilt, but Krestinsky, former ambassador to Berlin, tried to repudiate his confession. The others one after another told in court of their alleged conspiracies and treasons.

Three Taken as Spies

GOVERNMENT agents and New York police broke up a ring of spies engaged in selling secrets of the American army and navy to a European nation described as a world power but otherwise not named. Three alleged members of the ring were under arrest and held in heavy bail. Two of them, a former sergeant in the United States army and a private in the army, were said to have confessed. The third was a German girl, hairdresser on the German liner Europa. The G-men were diligently searching for other members of the band.

Guenther Gustav Rumrich, the ex-sergeant, who is a deserter, said he was engaged in obtaining secrets and information concerning military operations of the United States army and was forwarding it through confidential channels to various addresses in Europe.

Erich Glaser, the private, had been stationed at Mitchel Field, New York, the largest army air base on the East coast and key to the air fortifications of the metropolitan area. He supplied certain air corps codes to Rumrich.

Johanna Hofman, the woman arrested, admitted she was the "liaison officer and paymaster" between the ring and its employers. Secret code keys and considerable quantities of money were found on her person.

THIS THING CALLED SWING

America Goes Primitive to Rhythmic Tunes of the 'Cats'

By JOSEPH W. LaBINE

A bunch of the cats were lickin' their chops and friskin' their whiskers, just aching for a jam session. Up on the stage a long underwear gang was handing out sweet and sticky schmaltz while a monkey waved his baton. The alligators didn't like it either.

No, Genevieve, this is not a description of open house at the zoo—it's just a picturesque way of saying that an audience of dissatisfied patrons in a New York night spot are hungry for that indefinable, primitive and captivating type of alleged music called "swing."

The "cats" are swing musicians, rhythm-mad boys who, by "lickin' their chops" and "friskin' their whiskers," indicate a desire for an impromptu gathering of their ilk to play for the fun of it, otherwise known as a "jam session." The "long underwear gang" they despise might be Guy Lombardo's orchestra, famous for its smooth and restful tunes (otherwise, "schmaltz"). Lombardo himself, the director, might be the "monkey."

The "alligators" are several million Americans—mostly younger generation—who play no instrument but have been bitten by the swing bug.

A BIT FAMILIAR

To youth it is a new delight but to middle-aged Americans it has a strangely familiar beat, reminiscent of something they heard 15 or 20 years ago, before what is known as "jazz" attained respectability. Those were the days when jazz was "hot," when polite society frowned on it as primitive and uncivilized. It was before George Gershwin wrote "Rhapsody in Blue," before jazz symphonized itself and fell un-



THE MASTER OF THEM ALL—Benny Goodman, the king of swing, with the "agony stick" that helped discredit "sweet" jazz and brought America a new era of hot music. Or is it music?

and restrained tunes that were popular with the customers but sickening to musicians. In 1931 he tried his own band but it flopped because of the Gershwin-Grofe-Whiteman influence. In 1934, nauseated, he organized another outfit that was fired from Billy Rose's Music Hall in New York. In the nick of time a large commercial radio show picked him up. Next came a Manhattan hotel engagement which closed because the customers weren't prepared for hot music. The skies were again dark until Fate intervened one night at the Palomar ballroom in Los Angeles and swing began an overnight stampede to popularity!

We'll guess with you—that is the mystic element of swing that makes some people stamp their feet and shout, that makes other people sit tensely listening for every note as if life itself depended on it?

Gene Krupa, popular drummer

with Goodman's band, says swing is "complete and inspired freedom of rhythmic interpretation." Which means that you don't follow music; instead you create and improvise as you go along.

Though critics scorn swing as an "art," the musicians themselves have demonstrated a positively artistic regard for their profession. Swing, unlike Gershwin jazz, will thrive without glamor. Some of America's most able "cats" are found in such small and out-of-the-way places as Chicago's "Three Deuces" night club.

The "Three Deuces," like other swing spots, was once famous for its "jam sessions." Nightly, after other clubs had closed their doors, musicians from world famous orchestras made this dark basement their rendezvous, treating the customers to impromptu swing concerts that made the welkin ring. The Chicago musician's union put a stop to this delightful custom, but it still prevails in Harlem.

What will happen to swing? As the "alligators" become more numerous and historians announce that this primitive music is only a second edition of the early jazz, it becomes increasingly possible that swing may also try to get respectable and thereby kill itself.

WILL IT STAGNATE?

Soon may come the stagnation that usually seizes arts patronized by the well-to-do. It will be sponsored and supported. Swingmen will, without realizing, develop a codified technique and a set of rules to which all music must conform before it can be called swing.

True exponents of swing will not be frightened by this prediction. When they gather 'round tonight and "go out of the world," watching hundreds of the faithful cock an attentive ear to the music, all fears will be cast aside.

Even though the current swing craze does give way to the respectable jazz of future George Gershwin and Ferde Grofes, it will probably return at a later date. For the New Orleans honky-tonks will always be loyal and the tom-tom rhythm that beats within a negro's breast must find expression. Then will come a third wave, and the "alligators" will be happy again!

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Indian Father's Vow Costs Lives of Sons

Nahan, India.—During the critical illness of his two sons, an Indian father vowed that if the boys survived he would crawl with them to the shrine of Lord Krishna in Hardwar.

While still convalescing, the two sons and the father set out to fulfill the vow. They planned to do the journey in 60 stages of 5 miles each day. One son died of exhaustion on the seventh stage. The other succumbed when he was within ten miles of the shrine.

The father crawled the remaining ten miles alone.

DON'T "KITTY" THIS ODDEST OF TOMCATS

He Likes to Play the Piano, but Detests Radio.

Circleville, Ohio.—Casey Jones may be just another cat in Siam, but he is something to behold here. Born Dechai, "My Boy," in his native Siam, but renamed after the famous railroader because he was lost in transit here, Casey seems to be a cat only in name.

He won't respond to the conventional "kitty, kitty," but comes running when you whistle.

He likes to play the piano, especially before an audience, and will sit for hours amusing himself by striking the keys with his paws.

The radio is one of his pet aversions. He will tolerate it only while he is sitting on the buffet, where he isn't allowed, but he takes no pains to hide his displeasure.

He lunges for the telephone when it rings, and sits by, growling dog-like, until someone answers it.

He likes rubber balls, but he doesn't play with them in the usual dignified feline manner. He lifts them between his forepaws and hurls them across the room.

The garbage pail under the sink is one of his favorite haunts. It is a rare day when he isn't trapped inside.

A substitute pail without a lid was placed under the sink for Casey's convenience, but the cat still prefers the hazardous old one.

Six-Word Will on Torn Paper Filed in Court

Dallas, Texas.—A will of only six words, hastily scribbled on a scrap of paper no larger than a grocery receipt torn in half, may play an important part in the distribution of a Dallas man's estate.

"All I leave belongs to Bun," the penciled instrument said. Bun is Mrs. W. G. Davis. Her husband in 1920 wrote the instrument, which was filed as his last will and testament.

Davis wrote the statement in Galveston just a few moments before he crossed the causeway to the mainland. Storm warnings were raised while he was working on jetties then being constructed. He sent his wife and children to California but waited until the storm broke to leave the island. He was the next to last person in an automobile to cross the causeway before it collapsed.

Mrs. Davis discovered an old wallet belonging to her late husband, who died last October, recently, in which was the paper with canceled checks and papers indicating he was in Galveston at the time. The paper was signed "W. G. D."

Mrs. Davis, temporary administratrix of the \$7,500 estate, is seeking to be named permanent executrix.

Family Charges Strange Curse to an Elk's Head

St. Paul.—An elk that was killed near the St. Paul business district in pioneer days has put a strange curse on the family of the late Horace Austin, governor of Minnesota, 1870-74, it seems.

Whenever the elk's head trophy is placed a fire breaks out, consuming everything but the trophy, according to its present owner, Herbert W. Austin, city purchasing agent and son of the governor.

The curse began to work in 1881. Governor Austin had the trophy hanging in his executive offices when fire destroyed the building. Excited lawmakers rescued the elk's head, overlooking important state documents.

The trophy was removed to the old Austin family cottage at Lake Minnetonka. Fire consumed the cottage and some valuable walnut furniture, but neighbors retrieved the trophy intact.

The trophy was stored in the old Chapman house pavilion at Mound. The pavilion burned to the ground, but someone saved the elk head, which now reposes at the Austin family's new Minnetonka cottage.



der such artistic control that it was no longer free and natural.

Swing took its place. And swing is nothing more than the original Dixieland jazz, a second wave of the throbbing, carefree rhythm which New Orleans' shanties and honky-tonks discovered 20 years ago.

Riding the crest of this wave has been a bespectacled young man to whom swing is a semi-sacred Cause, an orchestra leader who tossed it right in the laps of New York's social elite by staging a concert at sophisticated Carnegie hall a few weeks ago!

His name is Benny Goodman, and although the Carnegie hall concert prompted one critic to change the name from Manhattan to "Madhattan," he will continue to play hot music until the Cause is won or the battle lost.

SUCCESS STORY

Though still youthful, Goodman is a jazz man of the old school. He got his start in Chicago with the late Leon Bismarck (Bix) Belderbecke, great trumpet and piano man of the early days who played with such outfits as Frankie Trumbauer and Jean Goldkette.

Goodman played for years with other bands, unhappy because he was forced to restrain himself and produce "commercial" music, sweet

