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News Review of Current Events

CHARGES FILM MONOPOLY

Government Sues Big Movie Producing Companies and Officers to Break Control



Vincent Meyer, farmer of Johnson county, Kansas, received the first crop insurance policy issued by the Federal Crop Insurance corporation. Left to right in the picture above are: Donald Meyer, Mrs. Meyer, Rita, James, Joseph and Vincent Meyer, Roy M. Green of the Washington bureau of the corporation, and Roy Turner, Johnson county bureau superintendent.

Edward W. Pickard
SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK
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Film Companies Sued

UNDERTAKING to break up what the government alleges is a great moving picture monopoly, Attorney General Cummings started a civil anti-trust suit against 8 major motion picture producing companies, 25 subsidiary or associated companies and 132 officers or directors, in an effort to divorce production, distribution and exhibition phases of the cinema industry.

The suit was filed in the federal district court for the southern district of New York. Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard signed an order for the service of subpoenas on all the defendants, directing that each appear before the court in New York within 20 days after being served.

The government is seeking an equity decree, Thurman W. Arnold, assistant attorney general, announced, requiring the companies to divest themselves of ownership of theaters or of production and distribution facilities.

The suit named Paramount Pictures, Inc., Loew's Inc., Irving Trust company, New York, as trustee in bankruptcy for Radio-Keith-Orpheum corporation; Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc., Twentieth Century-Fox Film corporation; Columbia Pictures corporation; Universal corporation; and United Artists corporation.

Mr. Arnold said that allegedly monopolistic power exerted by the defendants has a "tendency to drive independent theaters out of business or to compel them to sell to the producer-owned theater chains on the latter's terms."

First 'Death Clause' Case

ACTING under the utility holding company act, the federal securities commission began its first action to simplify a major utility holding company system.

Chairman William O. Douglas announced that a hearing would be held in Washington August 8 to determine what steps the \$300,000,000 Utilities Power & Light corporation should take to limit operations "to a single integrated public utility system."

Douglas said the commission's action was being taken under section 11B of the holding company act—the so-called "death sentence" section.

Russia vs. Japan

SOVIET Russia and Japan, quarreling over a disputed territory at the junction of Manchukuo, Siberia and Korea, were openly threatening each other. Maxim Litvinov, Soviet foreign commissar, in conference with Japanese Ambassador Shigemitsu in Moscow, told the latter that Russian troops would not be withdrawn from the area in question, that the territory was a part of Siberia, and that Japan would be held responsible for the consequences if the present "calm" there is disturbed. The two statesmen used violent language and the situation was considered decidedly delicate.

Pick-a-back Flies Sea

MERCURY, the top part of the novel British pick-a-back seaplane, separated from Maia, the lower and heavier part, about a thousand feet above Foynes, Ireland, and then sped across the North Atlantic, making the crossing at moderate speed and without mishap. Passing over Botwood, Newfoundland, the pilot flew on 850 miles further to Montreal, alighting on the St. Lawrence. After refueling the plane completed its flight at New York.

The flying time from Foynes to Montreal was 20 hours and 20 minutes.

Madden Is Accused

J. WARREN MADDEN, chairman of the national labor relations board, was charged with secretly conferring in Washington last December with C. I. O. officials concerning the Weirton Steel company hearing at Steubenville, Ohio. The charges almost broke up a hearing of the board.

The three members of the board were considering the appeal of Clyde A. Armstrong, chief counsel for the steel company, who was barred from the Weirton hearing by Examiner Edward Grandison Smith.

Attorney E. F. Reed, acting for Armstrong, made these charges:

That C. I. O. Organizer Kenneth Coe, active in the Weirton hearing, went to Washington last December, conferred secretly with Madden, and then returned for another conference with Lee Pressman, chief counsel of the C. I. O.

That another C. I. O. follower, an armed constable, served subpoenas for the labor board, while requests by Weirton lawyers for subpoenas were ignored for weeks.

Strike Brings Martial Law

GOVERNOR KRASCHEL of Iowa declared martial law in Newton, home of the Maytag Washing Machine company, whose plant was kept closed by C. I. O. pickets despite efforts of nearly half the employees to return to work. National Guardsmen with armored cars and machine guns occupied the area but before they got there the two labor factions had a bloody street battle.

In North Chicago pickets of the Steel Workers' organizing committee, affiliated with C. I. O., who had been keeping employees from returning to a hardware plant in defiance of court orders, were routed by deputy sheriffs with tear gas.

Charles P. Howard Dies

CHARLES P. HOWARD, president of the International Typographical union and secretary of the C. I. O., died in his sleep at Colorado Springs, Colo. He was fifty-eight years old. Howard was defeated for re-election in a referendum last May by C. M. Baker of San Francisco and would have gone out of office September 1.

Owen Wister, author of "The Virginian" and other novels, died at his summer home in North Kingston, R. I., at the age of seventy-eight.

British Monarchs in Paris

KING GEORGE VI and Queen Elizabeth of England went to Paris for a state visit of four days, and this was regarded as a vitally important event politically. Apparently it was undertaken to let the dictator countries know that Great Britain and France would continue to stand firmly as allies.

Britain's foreign secretary, Viscount Halifax; the French premier, Edouard Daladier, and Foreign Minister Georges Bonnet held political talks to discuss the world situation during the visit.

To demonstrate the strength France can lend the common cause with Great Britain, the French paraded 50,000 men and their latest war machines before George and President Lebrun. This military display outdid that put on in Rome for Hitler, and it was significant that places in the reviewing stand were reserved for the German and Italian military attaches. After the review the royal visitors were sumptuously entertained at the Palace of Versailles.

C.I.O. Proposes a Purge

MORE than 40 members of congress are marked for C. I. O. opposition in the fall elections by a blacklist formulated by John L. Lewis and given out by E. L. Oliver, executive vice president of Labor's Non-Partisan league, the political agency of the Committee for Industrial Organization. Oliver said the opposition to those named was based chiefly on their stand on the wage-hour bill. He indicated it merely was a coincidence that almost without exception those marked for defeat also fought Mr. Roosevelt's government reorganization and Supreme court packing bills.

Included in the Lewis blacklist are Senators Tydings of Maryland, Adams of Colorado and Loneragan of Connecticut.

Wheat Allotment

H. R. TOLLEY, AAA administrator, announced a national wheat allotment for fall and spring planting of not more than 55,000,000 acres—the minimum allowable under the act.

The action, which came as the result of the 967,000,000-bushel yield forecast for this year on a seeded acreage of 80,000,000, came in the form of an order signed by M. L. Wilson, acting secretary of agriculture.

State allotments for 1939 compared with 1938 and 1928-'37 average acreage of wheat land in the major grain producing states include:

Pennsylvania, 772,659 acres, compared with 1,093,000 in 1928 and 1,039,076 for the 1928-'37 period; Oklahoma, 3,783,954; 5,959,000 and 5,088,684; Texas, 3,684,963; 5,315,000 and 4,955,426.

Illinois, 1,789,192; 2,074,000, and 2,406,116; Indiana, 1,481,810; 2,029,000 and 1,992,747; Iowa, 389,177; 686,000 and 523,367; Michigan, 669,954; 917,000 and 900,958; Minnesota, 1,418,702; 2,582,000 and 1,907,878; Missouri, 1,705,277; 2,717,000 and 2,293,266; Nebraska, 3,049,982; 5,041,000 and 4,101,634; Ohio, 1,654,847; 2,415,000 and 2,225,448; South Dakota, 2,943,821; 4,277,000 and 3,958,867; Wisconsin, 90,203; 128,000 and 121,306.

California, 626,306; 815,000 and 842,260; Colorado, 1,314,022; 1,846,000 and 1,767,104; Idaho, 895,549; 1,253,000 and 1,204,340; Kansas, 11,067,349; 17,453,000 and 14,883,436; Montana, 3,414,642; 4,918,000 and 4,592,030; North Dakota, 8,300,488; 10,634,000 and 11,162,545; Oregon, 768,303; 1,013,000 and 1,033,218; Washington, 1,681,159; 2,295,000 and 2,260,832.

'Sneak' Flight Over Ocean

DOUGLAS P. CORRIGAN, a young airplane motor expert from California, couldn't get permission from the air commerce bureau to fly across the Atlantic, so he started off secretly from Floyd Bennett field, New York, and landed at Baldonnel, Ireland, 28 hours and 13 minutes later.

The remarkable feature of the flight was that it was made in a rickety old single-motored Curtiss Robin plane that was not equipped with navigation instruments, radio or the ordinary safety devices. Corrigan did not even carry a parachute.

Having neither flight permit, landing papers nor passport, Corrigan laughingly declared in Dublin that he had intended to fly back to California but set his magnetic compass wrong and flew in the opposite direction. His was the sixth west-east solo flight across the Atlantic.

What's Your HOBBY?



Everybody's Doing It: The Banker Has a Toy Railroad, the Butcher is a Camera Fan, and the Baker Collects Stamps!

By JOSEPH W. LaBINE

How do you spend your spare time? Or do you waste it?

There's a difference, you see. It's easy to stand on a street corner and watch the world go by, but you're apt to crawl into bed that night feeling like a fifth wheel on the buggy that makes this world go 'round.

How to utilize spare time is a problem that vexed mankind long before bored monarchs snapped their pudgy fingers to make the pipers play.

Today, in a world of shorter working hours and increased social consciousness, intelligent use of our "loafing" hours is a serious matter. But don't take it seriously; instead, why not find a hobby?

In every walk of life these days you're apt to meet stamp collectors, candid camera fans and miniature railroad builders. The garage mechanic who tunes up your motor probably tinkers with short-wave radio between the evening meal and bedtime. A United States Supreme court justice may surreptitiously read detective stories when nobody's looking, and your doctor might collect rare old books.

"Cream on Your Porridge."

It's reached a stage where the curious thing to look for is not people who have hobbies, but those who don't. Someone has called it a way to "put cream on your porridge," which means that a not-too-serious hobby will add zest to the most humdrum life. Nor need your work-a-day job be humdrum; Henry Ford, one of America's busiest industrial magnates, devotes his spare time to building the famous Greenfield village at Dearborn, Mich. Albert Einstein, the scientist, relaxes by sawing away at his violin. Andre Kostelanetz, the orchestra leader, is an expert wood carver.

Pick up the paper almost any day and you'll find an item about your next door neighbor's hobby. In Chicago one evening last year, M. J. Smit, a retired gas company superintendent, was visiting a friend's home. The friend remarked that he was going to build a model of the Italian liner, Rex. That set Mr. Smit thinking and a few days later he started building his own steamship, a three-foot model of the gigantic Normandie.

Mr. Smit, who is sixty-eight years old, suddenly discovered a new meaning in life. "I found I'd been missing something," he says. "It's great fun making model steamships and I'm going to keep doing it that rest of my life."

Ace in the Hole.

A few blocks away Arthur Laed-erach, an electrical engineer, goes down to his whitewashed basement each evening and works at the hobby of years' standing—marquetry. This is the science of making landscapes, still life pictures and abstract designs with veneer woods, inlaid to give the proper appear-

ing, internationally known harpist who began her rise to fame with a second-hand harp. When she retires from the concert stage, many years hence, she'll have something more tangible than memories, because she spends her spare time collecting old, rare, curious and historic harps.

Some hobbies can make you feel like a kid again, which isn't a bad idea. Several years ago some youthful minded father bought his youngster an electric toy train for Christmas and had so much fun with it himself that he bought another. That hobby, model railroading, has grown overnight until now many a hard-headed business man spends his evenings playing with a miniature train.

It isn't child's play, however. The serious model railroader builds his own "rolling stock" to exact scale size and has from 200 to 1,000 feet of track on which to run it. Today you can buy disassembled miniature railroad parts and build your own system, consisting of engines, Pullmans, coaches and innumerable types of freight cars. Train hobbyists prefer freights because of the variety they offer.

Or, You Might Try—

There's a humorous side to hobbying, too. Out in Halfway, Ore., Walter W. Evans collects—of all things—official positions! Evans is vice president and cashier of the First National bank, city treasurer, high school clerk, secretary-treasurer of the telephone company, key banker for his county banking association, public education committee-man for the same organization, and president of the Northwest Oregon Bankers association. Recently he decided to run for justice of the peace.

Then, in Akron, Ohio, we find Walter Thompson, a gasoline station attendant who in the past two years has dissuaded 10 persons from suicide. That, says Thompson, is his hobby. His station is located at the end of a bridge. At nearby Cleveland a strange fellow who jumped through the trees at Brookside park, clad in a tiger skin breech clout, turned out to be nothing more than a Tarzan hobbyist. But police warned him to practice elsewhere.

Maybe the suicide stopper and the amateur Tarzan aren't true hobbyists, but to discover how important this business has become, you need only look at one of the exhibitions staged by people who have found a happy pastime and are willing to tell the world about it.

Famous People, Quaint Hobbies.

Famous people sometimes have unique hobbies. Jane Pickens, the songstress, weaves rugs and makes bobbin lace because it gives her time to think. Chester Morris, the movie star, is an amateur magician and Dr. Frank Black, musical director for a broadcasting network, plays with chemistry during his spare time. Right now he is experimenting with liquid rubber to use in making sculpture molds.

Perhaps you already have a hobby. If not, take a little sage advice from the experts before developing one.

The best way, they say, is to fall into something you really enjoy. Don't deliberately look for a hobby; simply drift into a stimulating avocation that brings you real enjoyment.

Another thing, don't be too strict about your hobby, because if you tie yourself up with a lot of restrictions the whole thing will suddenly become very irksome. If you're not careful, your hobby is apt to take too much time at first. You may get so enthusiastic that life becomes one continual mental tussle between your hobby and your better self. But eventually you'll emerge from this stage with a balanced viewpoint, having learned to live with this new companion.

You'll discover that moderation in all things is an excellent idea, but what's more important, you'll not be alone with a pair of twiddling thumbs the next rainy afternoon!

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Storm Wrecks Home; Blows Deed 50 Miles

MARBLE HILL, MO.—A storm wrecked the farm home of G. C. Key, in Hahn, Mo., carrying away a deed to the property. Two weeks later Key got the deed back through the mail. A farmer of Brazeau had found it. Brazeau is 50 miles from Hahn.

SON THOUGHT DEAD TURNS UP AT HOME

Greets Mother, 'Hello, Mom,' She Moans and Faints.

MASONTOWN, PA.—The identity of a youth buried in a little cemetery near here became a mystery with the return of fifteen-year-old Donald Fiore from a two-year hitchhiking trip.

For Donald's parents buried there a year ago the body of a lad they believed was their son, missing since February, 1936. The body was that of a boy shot accidentally while playing postoffice—a kissing game—in a darkened room of an Olive Hill, Ky., home.

On a little steel marker above the grave, tended carefully and covered with flowers by a grieving mother, was a card inscribed, "Donald Fiore, died April 26, 1937."

"I Buried You a Year Ago."

When Donald, a tall, handsome lad with a friendly smile, came home, he completed the last 17 miles of the journey home afoot, and he stopped first to visit Father Francis Kolb. As he walked into the home the priest looked up from his desk, incredulous.

"Why, I buried you a year ago, didn't I?" he exclaimed.

Then Donald heard for the first time of his supposed death.

Donald's stepfather, Raymond Fiore, operates a tailoring shop. As Donald walked into the store, the father hurried to the front, expecting a customer. He stared unbelievably at the husky youth.

"Hello, pop," Donald smiled.

The father called Mrs. Fiore.

"Hello, mom," Donald greeted her.

She moaned and fainted.

Now that her son is home, Mrs. Fiore will not forget the grave with its flowers. She said a tombstone already ordered, will bear the name "Donald."

Injured Dog Wanders Off; Found in Plane Search

DES MOINES.—An automobile accident which befell Butch, a kindly faced Springer spaniel, resulted in an airplane search, a plane-ambulance ride, and hospitalization for the dog the other day.

Butch, owned by Robert Siman, flight instructor of the Des Moines flying service, took off for parts unknown after being hit by a car.

After a futile search by car, Siman took off in a plane. Flying at 500 feet he finally spotted the dog in a ravine west of Fort Des Moines army post.

Siman landed in a field nearby, picked up the injured dog, returned to the airport with Butch in the plane, and took the dog to a veterinarian by automobile.

The dog suffered only minor internal injuries.

Snake Turns Hitchhiker

For Trip to Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES.—A hitchhiking gopher snake climbed aboard an automobile in a suburban canyon and let his tail hang down only after the car was parked at Third and Broadway in downtown Los Angeles.

Five hundred persons thronged the sidewalk and blocked the street watching Frank Pittman rip up the floorboards of his car and pull out the snake. A spectator took the snake home.

Bird Sets Roof Afire

With Lighted Cigarette

NEWARK, N. J.—A sparrow that fluttered about with a lighted cigarette in its beak was blamed by a fireman for a fire that damaged a roof.

The officer reported the fire as "apparently caused by a bird carrying a lighted cigarette to its nest under the eaves."

The Silver Didn't Rot

LOOMIS, NEB.—Eight years ago Charles E. Ericson lost his billfold while cultivating corn. Recently Earl Thorell, present occupant of the same farm, found the billfold in the same field while burning weeds. The paper money in it had rotted, but two silver dollars remained.



Old Bill Morris of the Blue Ridge mountain district in North Carolina tends this ancient frontier fire as his hobby. The flame was started by his ancestors 148 years ago and has been kept alive ever since.