'Birthday' Celebration in Baltimore Recalls an Important Chapter in the History of American Transportation

Gov. Herbert R. O'Conor, governor of Maryland, surrounded by a bevy of Baltimore beauties dressed in the costumes of a century ago, cuts the 100th birthday cake of the Old Bay Line.

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

BALTIMORE, MD., was recently the scene of a birthday celebration which had more than local significance because it recalled the early days of an important chapter in the history of American transportation. For it marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of the oldest steamboat line in the United States—the Baltimore Steam Packet company, better known as the Old Bay Line because of its century of activity in the Chesapeake bay.

It was just 100 years ago that the Georgia, the original flagship of the company, started on her maiden voyage from Baltimore to Norfolk and the line has operated almost continuously since that time. So, on the anniversary of the Georgia's first trip, Gov. Herbert R. O'Conor of Maryland, accompanied by Baltimore city officials and the mayors and city managers of three neighboring cities in Virginia—Norfolk, Newport News and Portsmouth—were driven down to the Baltimore waterfront.

There they were greeted by men and women, dressed in the costumes of a hundred years ago. Among them was an actor, wearing a high silk hat and a black frock coat and playing the part of Cap'n Jim Coffee, skipper of

A broadside advertisement of 1858, showing how the steamboats were linked with the Southern railroads. (Photo courtesy Legh R. Powell Jr., president, Baltimore Steam Packet company.)

the Georgia in 1840, who welcomed the chief executive of Maryland aboard the President Warfield, flagship of the Old Bay Line's steamers today. Then to the music of a band playing old-time melodies the party "sailed away down Chesapeake bay" on a birthday cruise.

This celebration was a dramatic reminder of the fact that steam-driven vehicles, on both land and water, once co-operated in speeding the restless race of Americans on the way to their destinations. The Old Bay Line was founded at a time when railroads had passed the experimental stage and were rapidly becoming an important factor in American transportation. Marylanders who wished to visit friends or relatives in Virginia or the Carolinas could take a boat from Baltimore to Portsmouth and then continue their journey over the old Portsmouth and Weldon railroad southward.

Steamboat's Early History.

As a background for the significance of the anniversary which was celebrated in Baltimore it is necessary to go back to the beginning of the Nineteenth century in America. Whether James Rumsey, John Fitch, Samuel Morey, Henry Miller Shreve or Robert Fulton was the "inventor" of the steamboat is still a matter of dispute among the historians. But the fact remains that Fulton's successful voyage on the Clermont up the Hudson in August, 1807, gave the first real impetus to this form of transportation.

The next year a regular line of steamers between Albany and New York was established; within the next year John Stevens had made the first coast-wise steamboat voyage in America when he took his Phoenix from New York to Delaware Bay; within the next five years a line was running on the Delaware, a steamboat had been built at Pittsburgh for service on the Ohio and another, bearing the picturesque name of Walk-in-the-Water, had been built near Buffalo to ply between that city and Detroit.

In 1819 an American ship, the Savannah, became the first steam craft to cross the Atlantic, but this new form of water travel was a long time in coming into its own on the high seas. The Americans still clung to their fast-sailing packets and clipper ships.

Steam Navigation Expands.

However, when the English sent the Great Western and the Sirius across the Atlantic to America in 1838, the Americans began to wake up. The result was the rapid expansion of steam navigation during the forties and fifties with the Baltimore Steam Packet company as one of the pioneers along the Atlantic coast.

In 1845 the Old Bay Line was operating three steamboats—the Georgia, the Jewess and the Herald. It continued to add ships during the next decade and to enjoy great prosperity. Then came the outbreak of the War Between the States in which this line played an interesting and unusual role, its boats operating, as they did, between ports in hostile territory.

Those ports were chiefly Confederate ones. Norfolk was, of course, pro-Southern, as was Baltimore, in sentiment, even though Maryland remained in the Union. The Old Bay Line was operating the Louisiana and the Adelaide on regular runs between these two points when the war started and the Union forces seized the latter boat at Fortress Monroe, forcing Cap'n Cannon to disembark his passengers and the mail. Later the Adelaide was used as a transport attached to the joint Atlantic blockading squadron and, as such, she took part in the bombardment of Forts Hatteras and Clark on August 28 and 29, 1861.

Some time before that the Federals captured Norfolk and notified the company that it could not sail its vessels farther south than Old Point Comfort. However, it maintained a daily service with the Louisiana and the Georgeanna, the line's first iron-clad vessel, between Baltimore and Old Point throughout the war.

The Union navy yard at Portsmouth, being close to territory held by the Confederates, was in constant danger of being captured so the Federal government decided to give it up. All of the vessels in this important naval depot were burned or scuttled. One of them was destined to have a thrilling history. She was the Merrimac which was sunk. Later she was raised by the Confederates, rebuilt as an ironclad, renamed the Virginia and sent out to attack the Northern ships in Hampton Roads.

Historic Naval Battle.

The result was the engagement between the Monitor and the Virginia (or Merrimac) on March 9, 1862, which changed the course

Capt. James Cannon, master of the Old Bay Line steamboats from 1848 to 1865. (Courtesy Old Bay Line).

of naval history. Among the shipping which was at Old Point Comfort on that day and which saw that engagement was a new boat which the Old Bay Line had recently purchased, the Thomas A. Morgan, an iron sidewheeler, 192 feet long, which had been used as an official mail boat between Fortress Monroe and Yorktown.

Later, when the Union forces evacuated Norfolk and Portsmouth, one of the Old Bay Line's ships, the William Selden, was captured and burned by the Confederates. Other losses suffered during the war seriously handicapped the line's operations but it managed to survive.

It resumed its regular runs and ordered new boats, such as the Thomas Kelso and the Eolus. Incidentally, the first time the name "Old Bay Line" was applied to this company was just after the close of the war, on July 24, 1865, when an advertisement in the Baltimore Sun stated that "the old established Bay Line is operating daily the steamers Louisiana, Georgeanna, Adelaide and Thomas Kelso from Baltimore to Norfolk with connection at Fort Monroe for James River landings and Richmond." By 1870 the company was again prosperous and had placed in service its first screw steamer, the Transit, which was used only for freight.

Since that time, the Old Bay, like the steamboat lines in other parts of the country, has played an important part in building up sparsely settled regions and fostering the economic and social development there. But to this line belongs the distinction of 100 years of continued operation and service, a notable accomplishment in any enterprise in a nation which itself is only 184 years old.

G-Men on Trail Of 5th Column

General Intelligence Unit Is Operating Against Subversive Forces.

WASHINGTON.—The Federal Bureau of Investigation is operating against subversive forces in the United States under near-wartime authority granted by President Roosevelt.

The Chief Executive followed up his proclamation of a national emergency last fall with an order designating the FBI as the clearing house for information concerning espionage, sabotage, subversive activities, and violations of the neutrality laws.

G-men ordinarily are constrained in their investigations to actual violations of federal law, but the additional authority permits them to place under surveillance persons suspected of subversive activity.

J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the bureau, has established a general intelligence division within the FBI to direct its far-flung activities to preserve the national defense against foreign agents.

Special Inquiries Made.

He pointed out that the FBI has conducted special investigations of persons reported as being active in any subversive activity or in movements detrimental to the internal security.

In that connection, he added, the FBI has established a general index, arranged alphabetically and geographically, so that in the event of "any greater emergency" in the United States, federal agents will be able to locate immediately persons who may need to be the subject of further investigation.

Without the presidential authority, the FBI could not have extended its jurisdiction to maintain surveillance over persons suspected of subversive activities.

Hoover made this clear in a departmental memorandum in 1924, after he had been asked by another bureau to investigate alleged subversive activities of suspected persons.

"In this connection," he wrote, "it is, of course, to be remembered that the activities of communists and other ultra-radicals have not up to the present time constituted a violation of the federal statutes, and, consequently, the department of justice, theoretically, has no right to investigate such activities, as there has been no violation of federal laws."

List Has 2,500 Names.

Although there have been charges that Hoover is establishing a national police, the file of subversive forces contains only about 2,500 names.

During a single year, G-men touched approximately 60,000 persons in their investigations. This group comprises only .00004 of one per cent of the population.

FBI investigations, during the same year, resulted in 5,162 convictions—or one conviction for every 12 persons investigated. Considering the fact that G-men must investigate groundless suspicions and malicious charges along with bona fide complaints, Attorney General Robert H. Jackson did not feel that "the bureau has been throwing its net very far from the mark."

Opera Tenor Fails to Win This Blond's Heart

PUEBLO, COLO.—They say that John Carter, dark, handsome and romantic Metropolitan opera tenor, sets women's hearts aflutter. But he failed with one Pueblo blonde.

"Oh come," said Carter in his most persuasive manner as he tried to get the blonde to sit on a grand piano and pose with him for a picture. "Don't you want to talk to me? Won't you take my hand? Won't you have your picture taken?"

"No, I won't!" said the young lady. "Leave me alone. Boo-hoo-hoo."

So Carter posed with an unprotesting harp.

And the three-year-old blonde nestled in her mother's arms.

Ole Man River Keeps Tentacles on Trumpeter

NEW ORLEANS.—Old Man River has Tony Catalano in his grip.

Tony, who has directed dance bands on the Mississippi river excursion boats every season since 1908, has turned down offer after offer to play his trumpet in "name" bands.

"There's just something about the river—" is his only comment every time Catalano turns down a proposal that he leave his excursion boat and go with some traveling band.

Every Year Mrs. Adam Takes a 42-Mile Hike

TUJUNGA, CALIF.—Once every year Mrs. George Adam, 66 years old, walks from her home here to Los Angeles Exposition park to see the flowers. The round trip is about 42 miles and she does it in one day. What delights Mrs. Adam is that 20 years ago doctors considered her seriously crippled with arthritis and other ailments. "I fooled 'em," she says.

Lights of New York

by L. L. STEVENSON

America: One of this department's most efficient and valued scouts dropped into Henry Rocano's sporting goods store up at Danbury, Conn., and in the course of a friendly conversation casually inquired if he'd had any demand for rifles or shotguns on the part of customers who wished to be ready in case any German parachute troops landed in their vicinity. Rocano replied that an aged and quite wealthy woman who lives in the neighborhood had bought a rifle and a large supply of ammunition because of the possibility that Nazis might land in Connecticut. He didn't want to give her name because it might embarrass her but added that if any Nazis did pick her property for a descent, they would meet with a warm reception. Somehow the vision of a grayheaded woman on guard gives one a warm and comforting feeling about America.

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Fame: Nineteen-year-old Carol Bruce, who until the debut of the new musical comedy hit, "Louisiana Purchase," was merely another struggling young singer, now finds herself the center of attention of velvet-voiced venders who besiege her with wares and suggestions as to how she should dress and make up in a befitting manner for her new importance. Here are some samples of advice she has received from those who would part her from her money:

Don't be prosaic. Try a panther lap robe for afternoon motoring, a laprobe of silver foxes for evening.

This is the season for whopping big jewels. Six bracelets on a wrist, a pin as big as a powder puff, an emerald necklace with a clasp the size of a doorknob.

For afternoon wear, one pink, one blue glove.

And so on and on and on.

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Street Scene: An old man with a long white beard peacefully slumbering on a Central Park West bench . . . A ragged colored man going along slowly and stopping to swiftly retrieve a cigar butt of considerable length . . . Ragamuffins scaling the park rocks like young goats . . . A pretty nursemaid pushing a perambulator with her eyes apparently demurely on the sidewalk . . . Yet taking notice of a big truck driver who is waiting for the light to change . . . An enormously fat woman with one of those tin-cup size hats perched jauntily over her left ear . . . Boys and girls on bicycles zig-zagging through the traffic . . . A vender of ice cream stopping to ring his bell . . . and the sleeper jumping to his feet and scuttling away muttering.

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Ethics: Now that golfers are out in full force, a New Yorker who spent several months in the Florida winter belt recalled an incident at one of the stylish clubs where the caddies are all colored. While playing with his daughter one afternoon, he knocked the ball into the rough. As he approached it, he noticed that the caddy was teeing it up. Somewhat sharply, he ordered him not to do that as it was against the rules. The caddy looked at him amazed and replied, "Well, mister, I've been a caddy for this club two or three years and some of the members like to have their ball set up and some don't but mostly they do." And that, the New Yorker holds, is a tip-off on honesty.

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Advice: Sometime ago, in this space a cure for tired feet was mentioned. J. A. Baror of Harrisville, Mich., holds that I should have advised that when drying the feet, they shouldn't be sawed with the towel but dried by standing on it else there might be "needle corns" which feel like a red-hot needle being driven into the sole of the foot. As for "needle corns," he says to draw about three inches of cold water, not ice water, into the tub and soak the feet for 20 minutes. Then stand on the bath mat or towel. He doesn't know how long it takes for a cure but declares that his method finally brings results.

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Panhandling: Noted a panhandler at work. His clothes indicated that he had slept in a park all night and his step was unsteady. But seemingly he was a shrewd judge of human nature as almost every man he tackled, instead of shaking his head, dug into his pocket. After plying his trade vigorously for possibly a half hour, the moocher walked away rapidly and, screened from the view of his customers, counted his take. Evidently satisfied, he lighted a cigar butt and strode away rapidly in the general direction of the nearest filling station.

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End Piece: The other afternoon at a bridge club, a gentleman who wished to open a fresh pack of cigarettes drew from his pocket a small pair of scissors and carefully cut the cellophane wrapper instead of vainly scratching. He always carried scissors, he explained, and that led May to remark that after all, he might be a merchant tailor.

(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

Glass Eye Explodes

SALEM, ORE.—Naomi Merrick's glass eye exploded, inflicting severe cuts in the interior of the eye socket.

The accident was attributed to expansion caused by heat. Her injury is not serious.

Bizarre, Gypsy-Like Prints For Play Clothes for Summer

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

WE WANT color! We want color! That's the idea when it comes to the spectacular prints for play clothes now making beaches, tennis courts, golf grounds and all places of outdoor sports a scene of mad, riotous, eye-thrilling color this summer. So when you buy play clothes don't stint on color whatever you do. Especially in the matter of gay cotton prints go as gypsy-like as you please in choosing bizarre effects.

It is a foregone conclusion that you will be wearing slacks during the active hours of a summer day. The latest thing is to top your well-tailored slacks with a blouse made of cotton or linen print that fairly dazzles the eye with the daring of its coloring and patterning. Just such is the blouse that dramatizes the slacks costume to the left in the illustration. It is of a vividly colorful cotton print that typically expresses the mood that prints for play clothes are in this summer.

A new vogue has sprung up this season, one that is taking the young set by storm. It's the skirt that is made of print just as gypsylike in color and motif as you can find. And be assured you will have no difficulty in getting these prints bold in color and daring in patterning. The prints mostly talked about and featured for sportswear and casual dress take their cue from the gay cottons of native South Sea Islanders, and from the garish picturesque cottons that make a gypsy camp look like one vast kaleidoscope.

However, do not for a moment think that these fascinating cotton prints keep within the confines of beaches and playgrounds, country highways and byways. Fact is for a party frock you will be doing the fashion-wise thing if you dine and dance in a gypsy print skirt full at the waistline and swirling a many-yard-round floor-length hemline. Wear with this the daintiest, most appealingly feminine lace-trimmed, finely tucked sheer white batiste blouse you can find in the shops and behold—your most beloved party frock!

Note how the fashion-wise maiden centered in the picture carries out the idea of a gay print skirt topped with a contrast blouse. If you feel the urge for a two-piece that enters into the spirit of a joyous summer afternoon, here is the answer. In this instance a soft-throated blouse of dull-surfaced black silk crepe tops off a flared short skirt of pink and black print. The natural waistline is finished with a sash of the print which ties at the front, while a touch of the same fabric relieves the neckline. Her gay chapeau of pink straw braid has a rose and a veiling trim.

Informality in dress is the keynote sounded throughout vacation plots, more so than ever this summer. However, it is a formality that is utterly sophisticated with a view to achieving the picturesque. Famous as a winter resort but equally as popular with summer vacationists Sun Valley is becoming a mecca for fun-loving fashionables. Here one sees outing apparel that is the "last word" in chic and charm. A noteworthy example of the style that flourishes out in this rugged Idaho country is the perfectly charming costume to the right in the group pictured. An exceptionally handsome rayon print in steel-head gray (takes its name from the steel-head trout that abound in the area) and challenger white fashions the graceful trousers. The blouse is in chartreuse. It has an attached hood lined with the gray and white print which again emphasizes the outstanding importance of hoods throughout the entire program of fashion this summer.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Use Beading

You will need a bodkin this season for the reason that beading, regular old-fashioned beading like our grandmothers bought by the yards and yards is in style again and only a bodkin can lend first aid in threading wee baby ribbon in and out of lengths and lengths of beading. But it's worth it, this tedious task of running ribbons in and out as shown in the picture. The dress pictured is of exquisitely eyelet embroidered sheer.

Long Silk Coats In Navy or Black

You will find one of the new fashionable long softly tailored silk coats either navy or black a most happy possession. They are ever so stylish this summer worn with lingerie collars and cuffs.

Neat White Prints With Single Color

You can tell they are new the moment you see them. It's this season's prints that have a white ground with a colored, rather demure little figure, also vice versa the prints that have backgrounds in lovely colors with the conventional modest patterning either in white or a contrasting color.

Prints with gray grounds are especially good this season, most often with white figures or polka dots but even more effective when motifs in soft green or yellow are printed on the gray. Mint green for a background with neat designs in white or light beige tells the new print message and as browns with white or ivory or henna tones there is no limit to this color trend in prints. It is the neat patterned prints of this character that designers are making up into redingote and bolero suits as well as the jacket suits that have pleated skirts and long torso lines.

Fishnet Ensemble Popular on Beach

Fish-net, the good old-fashioned kind, is a favorite fabric for many of this season's beach and playtime accessories. One smart set shown by a Hollywood designer consists of a knotted turban of net and an enormous net handbag shaped like a reticule and lined with oiled silk. The bag is especially good for the beach, for its oiled silk lining makes it possible to carry even a wet bathing suit, towel or cap in it. There's a buttoned pocket on one side for makeup, money and other incidentals.