

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON

## WASHINGTON, D. C. PRESIDENT LISTENS

The President did the listening, instead of the talking, when he conferred on farm manpower and food with three prominent farm leaders—Albert S. Goss, master of the National Grange, H. E. Babcock, vice president of the National Council of Farmer Co-operatives, and Ezra T. Nelson, its executive secretary.

The farm spokesmen spent about 30 minutes of the 37-minute conference expounding their views on what caused the food shortage now facing the country and what has to be done to remedy it. The President confined his remarks chiefly to asking questions.

He began by telling his visitors that the food situation was "extremely serious."

"That's why I invited you gentlemen here today—to get your opinions on what has to be done," the President said. "Go ahead and be as frank as you like."

The farm leaders accepted the challenge. They charged the administration with "shortsightedness" in dealing with farm labor deportments and contended that government price policies also had contributed to the farm manpower shortage.

### Local Draft Problem.

"If you want my views, I'll give them to you, Mr. President," spoke up Ezra Nelson. "Two things have to be done and done immediately. First of all, someone in authority here in Washington must tell these local draft boards where to head in."

"They must be told that they have almost as much responsibility to see to it that we have sufficient manpower to produce food for the war effort as they have to provide men for the fighting forces. Food is just as important as munitions in my opinion. We can't fight the war without it, and we can't let our civilians starve."

"A lot of these local draft boards still feel that they must fill their induction quotas," Nelson continued. "The boards have been assigned quotas, but they don't have to meet them, at least not in sections where there is a crying farm labor shortage. You, or someone else should tell them this."

The President pointed out that many young farmers don't want to be deferred.

"This isn't the fault of the draft boards," he said. "The young men themselves are so patriotic that they do not want to remain on the farm while a war is going on."

It was agreed that steps would have to be taken to convince selectees that they could serve their country as well on the farm as in the army. Goss suggested that one "way out" would be to induct farm hands and then "furlough" them back to the farm at prevailing farm wages, instead of army pay. This would require legislation, but the President said it was an idea worth considering.

### Stop Selling Cows.

"The second thing that has to be done is for the government to step in and stop the widespread selling of dairy cows and other stock and farm equipment by farmers who are unable to continue in business at present farm price levels," Nelson continued.

"I'm as much opposed to inflation as you are, Mr. President," he added, "but we have got to make it possible for farmers to operate at a fair profit if we are to lick this threatened food shortage. They have got to be assured fair prices in order to pay wages that will keep their help from migrating to jobs in industry."

The co-operative official contended that farmers had lost two-thirds of their manpower to war industries because of low farm wages.

The President said that he, too, was deeply concerned about this factor, suggested to his callers that they get together with Secretary of Agriculture Wickard and map out a program embracing their recommendations.

"Then come back and see me again," urged the President. "I want to continue these discussions."

### CAPITAL CHAFF

The super-cabinet's careful consideration of how big our armed forces should be was actually a sham battle. FDR has the "old dutch up" over the size of the armed forces and wouldn't take anybody's say-so on this point, except the army's own plan, conceived way back in 1938. . . . The army in 1938 had no idea whether we would have the ships in 1943 to transport troops abroad, but is sticking to its original plan just the same. And FDR is 100 per cent behind it.

John McClintock, assistant co-ordinator of inter-American affairs, is off to the Amazon, to inspect food and health programs for rubber tappers.

When General Marshall turned down the rank of "Field Marshal" he also knocked over a carefully laid plan whereby Admiral King would become "Admiral of the Fleet" . . . To date only three men have won the title "Admiral of the Fleet"—Dewey, Farragut and Porter . . . Tipoff on the proposal to make King Admiral of the Fleet was so he could outrank Admiral Leahy

## First Radiotelephoto From African Front



A gun crew digs in and is on the alert during the battle for Gafsa, in Tunisia. U. S. armored forces under command of Lieut. Gen. George Patton Jr. in two days advanced 30 miles to recapture Gafsa and to go 12 miles beyond. Photo was flown to Algiers and transmitted from that point in seven minutes in the new two-way radio transmission system put to its first practical test by the U. S. army signal corps with the transmission of these radiotelephotos.

## Winds Up in Tree



The idea was to "attack" at dusk, during Third Army maneuvers in Louisiana. But first, this paratrooper had to call for help to get down out of a tree.

## Good News



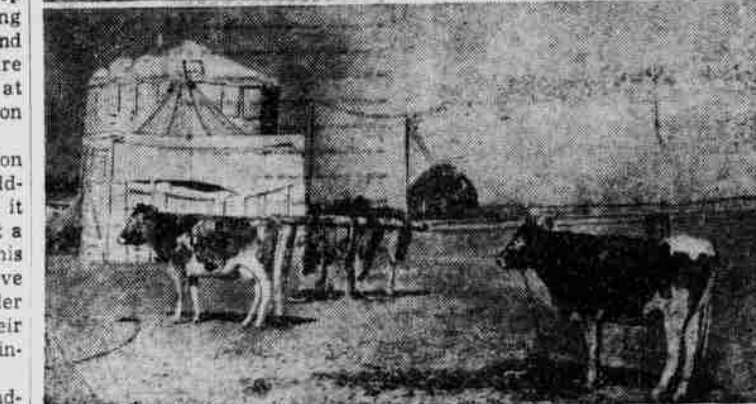
Mrs. Paul D. Brown of Orange, N. J., admires the portrait of her husband, an air corps major. After hearing rumors of his death, Mrs. Brown had cabled for confirmation. The day after, stories were released telling how Major Brown commanded a Flying Fortress which took part in the raid on Vegesack sub plant near Bremen, during which U. S. planes blasted 19 buildings.

## Chicago Cubs' Mascot to Be Goat



It's a goat instead of a bear that Manager Jimmie Wilson of the Chicago Cubs (left) will use for a mascot this spring, as his charges play exhibitions in and about their French Lick, Ind., training camp. Manager Jimmie Dykes of the White Sox (right) will have a similar talisman. The goats' names are "Bunt" and "Homer."

## Caution—Wrecked Plane Being Repaired



Surprised? So were we to learn that the two seemingly peaceful rural scenes depicted above really masked the repair and restoration to service of a wrecked U. S. air force plane. Members of the service group at Greenville, S. C., are taught to rescue, salvage, and air wrecked airplanes in a battle area subject to air and ground attack at any time. At top, plane is covered by a screen which blends it into the disguise and makes it unrecognizable from the air. The "farmhouse" and "silo" in the background actually are engineering installations. Below, a realistic touch is added to the camouflage installations of the service group by these cows.

## Their Majesties Pay Visit to Yanks



Their majesties, the king and queen of England, are shown passing a group of American soldiers who are busy playing cards at the American Red Cross club in Northampton, England. The photo was made during their majesties' visit to the club, and here the king seems anxious to give a bit of advice to the Yanks.

## Even Boys Go for It



Children are learning the principles of nutrition and the art of preparing and serving well balanced meals, at Central school, Long Beach, N. Y. Here a husky lad permits a girl to pin on his apron before going to work at the stove.

# PEAKING OF SPORTS

By Bob McShane

WHEN Bill Cox, head of a New York-Philadelphia syndicate, bought the Phils he took over a job that would make the most experienced of baseball men cringe with sheer terror.

Cox, 34-year-old former NYU and Yale athlete, organized the syndicate that bought the Phils after the National league had foreclosed on them. It is his announced intention to bring a new deal to Philadelphia.

The tables have been turned. When Cox took over the team the Phils constituted the most important of the ivory markets. Under the old management, Philadelphia was the trading block of the circuit.

When Gerry Nugent held the reins of the Phils, other ball clubs looked to him for building program reinforcements. Nugent had few compunctions about selling players. To him they were worth only the cash they would bring in the open market. The Cincinnati Reds, Dodgers, Giants and Cardinals all managed to win pennants with the help of players bought from Nugent.

### The Bargain

The syndicate was reported to have paid \$325,000 for the franchise. Included was a lease on Shibe Park—and very little else. At that time there were about 20 players on the roster—most of whom were not world-famed for their prowess.

Before he stepped out Nugent sold the Phils' best pitcher, Rube Melton, to the Dodgers. Catcher Benny Warren went to the Cubs. Nick Eiten, the Phils' best hitter, went to the Yankees, and the one other good pitcher, Tom Hughes, is in the army.

The history of baseball in Philadelphia is not a gay, frolicsome tale. It is one of the game's oddest stories. It will come as no startling surprise to point out that every baseball league must have a tail-end club each year. But the Phils have taken advantage of the other seven clubs. Year after year they refuse to be budged from that particular, easy-to-remember location. Other clubs may view with alarm, but the Phils ignore them with an indifference verging on boredom.

### Pennant Winner

Only once since 1900 did they win a pennant. Pat Moran led them to glory in 1915. Except for a few isolated and unavoidable seasons the Phils have remained triumphantly in the cellar since that time.

There are many reasons. The Nugents (Gerry and Mrs. Nugent) inherited their holdings from the late William J. Baker, one-time police commissioner in New York city. Their operating methods followed no time-worn pattern. When the income failed to keep pace with expenses they sold a player or two. They managed to keep the books out of the red temporarily, but it was rather rough on the roster.

Former Phillies can be found in all sections of the league, especially pitchers. Gerry seemed to have a weakness for bartering pitchers.

There's Bucky Walters at Cincinnati, Claude Passeau with the Cubs, Rube Melton, Kirby Higbe and Curt Davis with the Dodgers. Then, too, there's Dolph Camilli, Dick Bartell, Benny Warren and quite a few others scattered throughout the league.

This isn't to intimate that Gerry was a chump for a deal. In fact, the Giants are reported to have paid \$105,000 for Bartell. The Cubs anted up \$85,000 for Chuck Klein and at least \$100,000 more went for first baseman Don Hurst and Pitcher Passeau.

### Final Effect

The Dodgers paid \$50,000 for Camilli and \$65,000 for Higbe. It was quite a while ago that Jimmy Wilson was sold by Nugent to the Cardinals. Whatever he cost the Red Birds it was money well spent. He was the man they needed to win four pennants.

The effect of the Nugent management isn't hard to imagine. Fans couldn't stand the punishment. Civic pride can stand only so much. There were times when the Phils might well have closed up shop, selling an occasional player when grocery stores ran low. At least the players wouldn't have been subjected to the unkind remarks of a handful of customers who wandered into the stands in a fit of absentmindedness.

Another unfortunate circumstance was the former scene of operations—the old Baker Bowl. The right field fence was so close the larger lefthanded batters could reach out their bats and touch it. The Phils moved to Shibe Park three years ago but by that time the fans' indifference was miraculous.

Cox isn't going to have an easy time getting players. And he can't hope to rebuild Philadelphia's interest in baseball by maintaining the status quo.

He must give some other club a chance at that last-place position.

# WAR ON ALL FRONTS

A SERIES OF SPECIAL ARTICLES BY THE LEADING WAR CORRESPONDENTS

## America Spreads Her Wings

By Robert McCormick

(WNU Feature—Through special arrangement with Collier's Weekly)

In less than 12 months our army air force has grown from nothing into one of the mightiest fighting outfits the world has ever seen, with bases speckled over the globe like pepper on a fried egg. Every line of it was designed around a central idea that it must have a positive part in destroying enemy resistance. It was patterned for bombing the heart out of the enemy, for subduing enemy aircraft, and for attacking enemy ground and sea forces. These things it would do, not in any one battle or one spot, but in all American battles wherever they might come.

The production of airplanes more than doubled, got up to better than 5,000 a month. The types of combat planes being manufactured were cut to less than a dozen, but each of these had a specialized purpose. Many got their first battle tests in the last 12 months.

### Level Off a Glacier.

These ships appeared at bases in the Caribbean, in Alaska, in Britain, at points all through the Pacific and Africa and the Middle East and India and China. A glacier was leveled off to make an airport in the Far North. An American engineer dropped by parachute into the middle of the Sahara, armed with a pocketful of money, rounded up native labor and built an airfield.

Measure Distance by Hours. Between these isolated spots, grew up an AAF air-transport system that became bigger than all the prewar commercial airlines of the world put together. The air transport command became larger than the entire air corps was before the war, and it flew more miles than all the world's airlines before the war.

It stopped measuring distances in miles. India became 70 hours away, instead of 14,000 air miles; England became 10 hours away, instead of 3,300 miles; Africa 40 hours, instead of 3,900 miles.

Lieutenant General "Hap" Arnold, chief of the AAF, flew back from Australia in 35 hours, compared with the conventional ship-sailing time of 33 days. The air transport command shuttled great people around like suburban commuters. Mrs. Roosevelt flew to London and back. Madame Chiang Kai-shek flew here from China. Harry Hopkins flew hither and thither with loose-jointed freedom, the Harriman mission flew to Russia and back, Wendell Willkie moved all over the globe.

### Climax Comes With Casablanca.

The climax came when the President himself—who hadn't flown on a domestic airline since he took office—broke all the rules by letting the army fly him to Casablanca to confer with Churchill. It wasn't simply a matter of picking the President up and putting him down. The Secret Service had to go first, high-ranking army and navy officers had to be taken along, and extraordinary protection had to be given each one. When Mr. Roosevelt did do away with precedent, he did it in a big way, knocking off 15,488 miles in the air.

The army, and civilians as well, got used to seeing young men in their twenties and early thirties wearing the eagles of a full colonel. The youngest of these officers is Col. Charles M. McCorkle of North Carolina, who was graduated from West Point in June, 1936, and became a colonel on November 16, 1942. He was 27 years old.

### Other Sources Contribute.

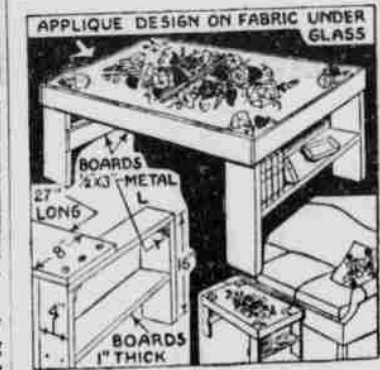
New training schools turned out quantities of at-home pilots, navigators, bombardiers, gunners, ground crews, mechanics, radiomen and all the other specialized personnel necessary to such a gigantic business. Wright Field erected a building big enough to test 40-foot propellers; aircraft engines of more than 2,000 horsepower appeared; swanky hotels were taken over at Miami Beach, Atlantic City and Chicago to house AAF cadets in training; stretches of desolate land in all parts of the country were set aside as bombing ranges; emergency landing strips appeared along American highways.

American parachute troops were flown nonstop 1,500 miles from England to Africa; troop-carrying gliders were developed; General Kenney moved enough supplies and troops into New Guinea to enable the American forces to start a hammering offensive at the Japs—and almost all of both men and material went by air.

AAF officers took over control of large sections of the entire army. Lieut. Gen. Frank Andrews headed up the European theater of operations; Lieut. Gen. George Brett took over Caribbean defense.

## Make a Coffee Table From Odds and Ends

IT ALL started with a bright idea for making a simple, painted coffee table from odds and ends. The sketch at the lower left gives the dimensions and shows the simple construction. Two end sections were made first; the top and sides of these being fastened together with metal angles, as illustrated. A shelf was then nailed



in and a 1/2 by 3-inch board nailed across the back of it. Two boards for the top of the table were then screwed to the end sections.

Then the needle-lady came in. The table was painted putty color and then waxed. She bought a yard of slightly darker tan saten and applied a design of bright blue and red morning glories and green leaves on it with stems and tendrils in green outline stitch. This was placed over the table top and tacked around the edge. A piece of glass was then cut to fit and 1/2 by 3-inch pieces were screwed to the sides flush with the top of glass.

NOTE—Mrs. Spears has prepared a sheet—17 by 22 inches—giving complete dimensions and directions for making this table. Even the girl who is just learning to do small chores with hammer, saw and screw driver can follow these simple, clear directions. To get a copy ask for Design 254, address:

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## SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER



Laboratory tests demonstrate that rubber can be made to stretch from 80 to 1000 percent or to have no stretch at all, as in hard rubber.

A cubical piece of about half an inch of the substance we now know as rubber was selling for three shillings in London art shops in 1770. It was then called rubber because it could erase pencil marks.

The first articles of rubber to be manufactured were clothing and shoes.

American seamen are now equipped with rubber life-saving suits weighing slightly over 14 pounds. This new buoyant suit features a whistle, flashlight, knife and yellow hood and gloves to attract rescuers. Weighted shoes keep the wearer upright in the water.

*Jerry Shaw*

In war or peace

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