

# The Mount Airy News.

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## American World Fliers Are Only 16 Days Off Schedule

Are Expected to Complete Flight Around Globe About August 25—Have Covered More Than 18,000 Miles in Little Over 100 Days, With 230 Hours Flying Time.

Washington, July 15.—The American world fliers with their arrival at Paris Monday are just 16 days behind the schedule which was approved for the trip by the war department, although they have covered 18,000 miles in little more than 100 days with 230 hours flying time.

Under the original schedule they would be due in Washington August 10 but, although they may clip two or three days off their flying time on the remaining hops, it is not expected that they will arrive here much before August 25.

They are due next to hop to London, a distance of 225 miles, and then enter upon the sixth and final division with the following hops by miles:

Hull, England, 155 miles; Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, 370 miles; Thorshavn, Faroe Islands, 275 miles; Hornafjord, Iceland, 330 miles; Angmagalik, Greenland, 500 miles; Ivigtut, Labrador, 572 miles; Cartwright Harbor, Labrador, 40 miles; Hawkes Bay, New Foundland, 290 miles; Pictou Harbor, Nova Scotia, 420 miles; Boston, 520 miles; Mitchell Field, N. Y., 175 miles, and Washington, 220 miles.

The fliers left Santa Monica, Calif., March 17, and made their first hop of 379 miles the same day to Sacramento. Leaving there March 18 they jumped 550 miles to Seattle, arriving March 20 after stops at Eugene, Ore., and Vancouver, Wash. Leaving Seattle April 6 they jumped 650 miles to Prince Rupert, British Columbia, arriving the same day. Leaving April 10 they arrived at Sitka, Alaska, 300 miles distant the same day, and left April 13 for Seward, 610 miles distant arriving the same day. They then left April 15 and arrived at Chignik, 450 miles distant, the same day. Leaving Chignik April 19 they jumped 400 miles to Dutch Harbor, arriving the same day. Then they left May 3 for Atka Island, 350 miles distant, arriving the same day. Leaving May 9 they flew 530 miles to Attu Island, arriving the same day, and then left May 16 for Paramashiro, Japan 878 miles distant, arriving May 17. Leaving May 19 they hopped 500 miles to Yotorofu, arriving the same day and May 22 left for Minato, Japan, 354 miles distant, arriving the same day.

Leaving Minato May 22 they continued to Kasumigaura, 350 miles, arriving the same day. On June 1 they proceeded 350 miles to Kushimoto and the next day went to Kagoshima another 350 miles. Leaving Kagoshima their last stop in Japan, they jumped 610 miles to Shanghai June 4, and then on June 7 flew 555 miles to Amoy. From there they proceeded to Hong Kong, 300 miles June 8, and then on June 10 to Haiphong, French Indo-China, a distance of 500 miles.

Leaving Haiphong June 11, they made Tourane, 800 miles away, the same day, and then on June 16 proceeded to Saigon, 530 miles. Their route then led them to Bangkok, Siam 675 miles, which they made on June 18. From there they went to Rangoon, Burma, 450 miles, on June 20. Leaving Rangoon June 25 they flew to Akyab, 445 miles the same day and thence on June 26 to Calcutta, 490 miles.

From Calcutta, the aviators hopped to Allahabad, 475 miles, July 1, and thence to Umballa, India, 500 miles, on July 2. Leaving Umballa the same day they made a short jump to Multan and the next day, July 3, proceeded to Karachi, their last stop in India, 475 miles, arriving before midnight.

Leaving Karachi July 7, they made Charbar, Persia, 330 miles, the same day and proceeded immediately to Bender, Abbas, Persia, a distance of 330 miles, arriving July 8. From Bender Abbas they left July 8 for Bushire, 400 miles, and then for Bagdad, Mesopotamia, 475 miles, arriving late in the day of July 8. From Bagdad they went on July 9 to Aleppo, Syria, 480 miles. On July 10 they flew from Aleppo to Constantinople, approximately 600 miles.

Leaving Constantinople July 12 they arrived the same day in Bucharest Rumania, 300 miles, and the next day proceeded to Vienna, with a brief stop at Budapest, a total distance of 950 miles. Monday they left Vienna and arrived at Paris by way of Strasbourg, a distance of 650 miles.

## POOR LOT OF TOBACCO RAISED IN BRIGHT BELT

"The Poorest Crop I've Ever Seen," Is Way One Tobaccoist Views Crop

Rocky Mount, July 15.—With the continued heavy rains, the tobacco crop of this section has been unusually hard hit, and according to local tobacco men who have traveled over the section will be only about from 60 to 75 per cent of normal.

"The poorest crop I've ever seen," was the way one tobaccoist expressed himself when asked about the outlook. He declared that unless there was an ideal season for the next two weeks at least the crop would undergo still greater losses as the farmers cannot get it in their barns fast enough for the rate it is ripening. To begin with, it is pointed out, the acreage was decreased about ten per cent this year, and the losses caused by the adverse weather will bring the crop's reduction down to a low record figure, it is believed.

Hastened to maturity by the rains, the crop is one of the earliest known in some time and curing is now going on on a widespread scale. It is declared that farmers cannot get the leaf in their barns fast enough and that an unusually hot period now would play even greater havoc with the crop. "What we need now is some cloudiness and intermittent showers," said one tobacco man.

The short crop is likewise expected to be poor tobacco. The crop will be light and thin for the most part with little volume, but the color is declared to be very satisfactory. Tobacco men who have made inspection trips throughout the territory declare that the crop has literally gone to pieces during the last two weeks as it looked pretty good until this recent period with its incessant rains.

## OVER 1,000,000 FORDS SOLD IN 6 MONTHS

Exceeds Same Period in 1923 By 133,095—Big Average Gain Per Month

Sales reports from the 34 American branches of the Ford Motor company show that over a million Ford cars and trucks were sold at retail during the first six months of 1924. The actual figure is 1,036,978, which exceeds the total retail sales for the same period in 1923 by 133,095 an average gain of 22,182 per month.

A comparison between Ford sales in 1924 and 1923 not only indicates a remarkable increase in the country's buying power but also shows that this growth continues month by month. In every instance the monthly sales in 1924 have shown a substantial increase over the corresponding month in 1923. In June they reached 170,747, which was approximately 10,000 ahead of June sales in the preceding year.

These figures are for retail sales in the United States alone and do not take into consideration the sales made by foreign Ford branches and associated companies, the majority of which assemble cars from American made parts.

Perhaps the most encouraging sign of the times lies in the fact that these sales have been spread evenly throughout the country and indicate a general prosperity that is not confined to any particular section.

## Babe Ruth Now Leads

Chicago, July 19.—Babe Ruth, who in 1921 gave the baseball world something to talk about when he slammed out 59 homers, today has a right to stick his chest out just a bit further. The Bambino has crashed into the battle for leadership of the American league with an average of .384, leaving "Bib" Falk, of the White Sox, the leader a week ago, in second place, with .369.

Ruth, in his climb to the top gathered 17 hits in his last nine games, four of which were homers. This gives him a total of 108 hits thus far this season and a string of 26 home runs, the high mark of the major leagues. The figures are based on games including those of Wednesday.

## Things of Interest to Women

### Mrs. Coolidge in Simple White

Washington, July 12.—Still suffering and sorrowing over the death of their youngest son, the President and Mrs. Coolidge were aboard the Mayflower tonight, sailing southward into Chesapeake Bay.

They will cruise in the bay over Sunday, returning to Washington Monday morning.

In the party were the President's father, Colonel John C. Coolidge, of Plymouth, Vermont, John Coolidge, the President's son, Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Stearns, of Boston and Mrs. Arthur Capper, of Kansas.

The black mourning costume which Mrs. Coolidge wore immediately following her son's death was changed today to simple white. The President wore a black mourning band.

### As To Mrs. Davis

Mrs. John W. Davis, wife of the Democratic presidential nominee, is described as a woman of beauty and a social favorite. The feminine portion of Washington society says that she is every inch a First Lady of the Land. While her husband was ambassador to the court of St. James Mrs. Davis was a decided social success in London. In Washington she was one of the most popular of the official hostesses while Mr. Davis was solicitor-general.

When interviewed by reporters just after her husband had received the presidential nomination, Mrs. Davis said that she was both proud and glad. "How do I feel?" she is reported to have guessed. "Well I guess the best way to express it is to say that I feel just like you would if it was your husband who was nominated. Of course, I am delighted and proud."

Putting it that way, every married woman, no doubt, knows just what Mrs. Davis' feelings are.

### Mrs. Palmer Back From Convention

Mrs. Palmer Jerman, of Raleigh, President of the State Federation of Woman's clubs has returned from New York where she was a delegate to the Democratic national convention. Coming from Los Angeles, where she attended the biennial of the General Federation of Woman's clubs, to New York, Mrs. Jerman has had about 7 weeks of convention, until sitting in a convention had got to be almost normal with her.

The two conventions, however, were broken by a trip through the Canadian Rockies and to Lake Louise, which Mrs. Jerman declared to be too beautiful for words to describe, so that she came through the second convention without being absolutely worn out.

Mrs. Jerman said that she had nothing to add to the news of the convention, that she thought the whole country knew about as much about it as those who attended it did. She is much pleased with the Democratic ticket and declared both nominees to be men of the highest type that the whole country might be proud to support.

## Mr. Davis Goes to Church on Sunday

Locust Valley, N. Y., July 13.—John W. Davis, Democratic nominee for President, told correspondents today that Senator Walsh, of Montana, who dined with him last night, was very sanguine as to the prospects of carrying middle and northwestern states despite the candidacy of Senator La Follette. Mr. Davis said he expected to make an extensive speaking tour of the west which Senator Walsh is understood to have urged.

The nominee spent a restful Sunday at his country home here, paying little attention to politics. He arose at 7:30 o'clock and took a half hour horseback ride to the Piping Rock Country club, returning to attend the morning service at St. John's Episcopal church, near his home.

Mr. Davis, attired in a blue serge suit and stiff straw hat and carrying a walking stick, drove to the little church shortly before 11 o'clock, accompanied by his wife.

Mrs. Davis is a member of the church and Mr. Davis attends the services frequently when in Locust Valley. His parents were Presbyterians.

After the service the nominee paused a few minutes at the church door to greet friends and neighbors then drove back to his home.

## MAJOR McLEARY WAS MURDERED

Mortimer King of Canton, Confesses to Slaying of Missing Officer

Asheville, July 16.—Major Samuel H. McLeary, missing army officer, was killed by Mortimer H. King, of near Canton, and a companion whose identity is still unrevealed by authorities, on the afternoon of July 2, according to a sworn confession made at Canton this afternoon by King, to federal and local authorities.

King a cotton mill operative, who is said to have been employed with Harrell at one time at Lockhart, S. C., yesterday led officers to the spot about 150 feet from the Raleigh-Columbia highway to what he said were the remains of the missing army officer. Two bullet holes were found in the skull, one on each side, near the temples. The officer, who was slain on July 2, was identified by scraps of clothing, and his shoes which were intact.

A coroner's jury impaneled shortly after the discovery of the remains, returned a verdict that the army officer came to his death of gunshot wounds inflicted by King and by "other parties unknown to the jury."

The motive for the killing, according to King's confession, was robbery. After the major had taken King and his companion into his car and offered to give them a lift up the road they compelled him to stop, at the point of a pistol, forced him to get out of the car, shot him to death and carried his body into the brush at the roadside.

### Stripped Body of Valuables

Stripping the body of valuables, they returned to the car and drove it to Asheville, thence toward Canton, where King lives, according to the confession. After an unsuccessful attempt to cross Crab Tree mountain near Canton they returned to the Thickety section and ditched the car unintentionally. Then, unable to extricate it, they hid McLeary's belongings, stripped off the license tags from the car, and fled, King going to his home near Canton.

Today's confession was obtained only after King had been once arrested and questioned, and then released. This afternoon, however, he was again taken into custody and a search was made of his house. At this time a shirt was found resembling those found in the belongings of Major McLeary, and checking up showed that the maker's label and laundry marks coincided.

Confronted with this evidence, King broke down and said:

"Well, men, I'll tell the truth. That is his shirt. We did it."

King is a deserter from both the United States army and the marine corps, according to his confession.

### Rifled Bags

After deserting the automobile in the Thickety district on the night of July 3 the men rifled the bags belonging to Major McLeary, removing from them several articles of attire, including puttees, breeches and shirts, and buried them in the mountains, according to King. Why more thorough disposal was not made of the remainder of the luggage, including papers and army orders belonging to the slain man, was not made clear in King's confession.

King's liking for the shirts belonging to his victim was his down fall, according to developments, for up to the time that the shirt was found in his possession and identified, King had maintained his calm and had once ward off questioners. He admitted having taken the shirt from the bags found in the automobile and "for some reason" took it home.

Although the confession was made this afternoon, authorities kept all news of it secret, until late tonight in order, they said, that their next movement in the apprehension of King's companion in the killing might proceed without the possibility of premature reports frightening him into flight.

### Wide Search Made

Major McLeary was first reported missing when, after stopping in Raleigh on July 2 and telegraphing that money be sent to him at Columbia, S. C., he failed to arrive at the South Carolina city and claim his check. An immediate check-up was begun of the movement of the major who apparently dropped out of sight with no clue as to his fate. Army officials took up the inquiry. The governors of Texas, North and South Carolina and other high officials instigated search proceedings, and highways throughout both North and South Carolina were ordered combed.

## Man Ready For Niagara Trip Inside a Giant Rubber Ball

"Bobby" Leach, 65, Who Successfully Made Previous Attempt, to Attempt Feat Again Shortly—Wife and Authorities Are His Only Obstacles Now.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., July 19.—Secretly guarded in some ramshackle barn or other remote place near here is the immense rubber ball that is to bounce 65-year-old "Bobby" Leach of this city to fame or to death when he attempts his second trip over Niagara Falls, which is scheduled for July 28 or August 5.

Though several here tried and failed, Leach is one of the only two persons who have ever gone over the falls and have lived to tell the tale. The other was Mrs. Anna E. Taylor, who accomplished the feat in a steel barrel in 1905. She died a few years ago.

"Aw, I can do it," scoffed Leach on the eve of his second perilous undertaking. "I made it the last time in a steel tube. It'll be a leadpipe cinch to do it now in my rubber football. She'll ride the big plunge like a bubble, and I won't even get a jar."

The rubber ball on which "Bobby" bets his life against \$50,000 for motion picture rights is shaped exactly like a Rugby football. It measures seven feet four inches from end to end and has a width of four feet at the center. It is made of the stuff that balloon tires are composed of, according to "Bobby", and cost him \$3,400. Its weight, sans passenger, is 284 pounds.

### Just Large Enough

In the interior is a compact, oblong space, just large enough to accommodate a man of Leach's diminutive proportions. It is here that he will repose, on a hammock suspended at each end and by swivel fixtures, so that gravity will keep him right side up no matter which way the ball turns in its mad flight. Air compartments are at each end of the ball. Just like its smaller brother and sister footballs, the opening is laced up from the outside.

"Everything's all set," gleefully confided "Bobby" today. "But a'help me, I've had a devil of a time. Now, there's the authorities, they'll try to stop me. I've outsmarted them every time before and I'll do it again. Then that airplane company where I engaged a pilot to tote me out and drop me into the rapids above the Horseshoe Falls. You'd think, they was being asked to a party to a murder plot."

"Well, we drew up my 'death warrant.' I signed my own name 'Bobby' Leach," and they signed 'John Doe,' from China. And I hand 'em \$1,000 in cold cash when I get sewed up in my rubber ball. And that's that."

"Now, here's the way it's going to work. At the head end of the ball is a big ring, by which it will be attached to the bottom of the airplane by a rope. A cutter, operated from the pilot's seat by a lever, will release the ball at the right place. I'll tell them to drop me in the rapids near the Toronto power house. Then for the ride. There'll be enough air inside the ball to keep me alive for an hour. But if I am not picked up below the falls within 12 minutes, I'll never be."

### Another Obstacle

There is another obstacle beside the duly appointed authorities that stands between "Bobby" and his plans. That is his family—"The old girl" and "the little girl" as he calls them.

"He won't have a home any more," threatens Mrs. Bobby. "If he hadn't already done it once I wouldn't say anything. Let some one else do something he hasn't done, and let him do that." The "little girl" is "Bobby's" 15-year-old daughter, Pearl.

"Bobby" Leach is noted for one other thing. He is the only man in the world who has traveled from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario via the Niagara river. Though he is in perfect health despite his 65 years, no life insurance company can be found that will gamble a policy on him. They all know his habits too well.

"Money, you know, that long green stuff, that's why I went over the falls the first time and that's why I'm going again, says "Bobby."

"And did you cash in at the box office the first time?" asked one.

"Did I?" retorted Bobby. He put both thumbs under his suspenders and awayed back and forth on his heels. Finally he said:

"Well now, that first time was 13

years ago and you don't see me working yet, do you?"

### First Trip in 1911

Leach made his first successful trip over the falls on July 25, 1911. Though he escaped with his life, his jaw was broken and both kneecaps crushed. He was in the hospital for 23 weeks following his adventure.

The last man who attempted to ride the falls was Charles Stephens, an Englishman. He went over in a wooden barrel on August 15, 1920. Both barrel and occupant were dashed to pieces on the rocks.

"I warned the man he'd never get away with it," said "Bobby" today. "But now take my rubber ball, there's absolutely no danger at all."

Besides going over the falls on one previous occasion "Bobby" has three other daredevil stunts to his credit: A parachute descent from a balloon at an altitude of 12,000 feet, or over two miles; a dive from the steel arch bridge into the river below the falls, a distance of 208 feet, the highest dive in the world and a shoot through the rapids, he being the only man to do this and come out alive.

"There is only one thing I haven't done," commented the aged daredevil, "I haven't gone up the falls yet."

## URGES CONTINUED LIMING OF SOILS

Expert Says Do Not Think You Can Stop Liming—He Explains That

Do not get the idea that you can safely stop using lime. This advice comes from A. W. Blair, associate soil chemist at the New Jersey College of Agriculture, New Brunswick. In the explanation of this he says:

"There are a few plants that do fairly well on an acid soil, but if you are engaged in general farming or trucking, where the supply of farm manure is limited, you will be abundantly rewarded for the judicious use of lime in some form. For the average soil, unless known to be highly acid, one or two tons of pulverized limestone per acre or the equivalent in another form, once in a four or five year rotation, will usually be sufficient."

"One who spends all of his days on the farm, and observes carefully the effect of fertilizers and lime on such crops as clover, alfalfa, and other soil-building legumes, is in a better position to measure the effect of lime on such crops than the one who makes an occasional visit to a farm or to some experimental plots. He knows full well that commercial fertilizers cannot take the place of lime."

The soil gradually becomes acid not because of the fertilizers but basic materials must be added at intervals to replace certain substances that are constantly being lost through drainage waters and the removal of crops.

"When mineral fertilizers have been used continually without lime or manure, it is practically impossible to get clover and alfalfa to grow, but add lime to this same land and volunteer clover comes in even to the partial exclusion of timothy and other grasses. This fact has been demonstrated many times on the soil fertility plots at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station."

## Two Brothers, Farmers, Are Killed by Officer

Sylvania, Ga., July 15.—Joe and Herman Basmore, brothers, and prominent Screven county farmers, were shot and killed early last night on a road about four miles from here by County Policeman J. V. Dolan, who stopped the automobile in which they were riding, with two of their children to search it for whiskey.

The policeman, who brought the bodies to a local undertaking establishment and then reported the affair to county authorities, asserted that the Basmore drew revolvers on him and a brother officer as they approached to explore the contents of the automobile. He said he fired, killing them instantly, when it became apparent that they intended to shoot. Neither of the children were injured.