

Sights of New York

by L. L. STEVENSON

Ran into several Radio City yaras. The first concerns the president and vice president of a large firm that occupies considerable space in the building. As they were passing along one of the upper floors, they ran into one of those tours that make regular trips through Rockefeller Center. Curious to know what the college graduate guide had to say about their surroundings, they tagged the sight-seers. All went well until the guide made a check up and discovered that his party had grown. Calling a halt, he motioned for silence and announced that there would be no further progress "until the two chiselers leave us." Whereupon, the president and vice president, their faces very red, slunk away as quickly and as quietly as they could.

The second tale has to do with a highly paid woman executive who not infrequently spends her evenings at her desk. Recently, she failed to notice the lapse of time with the result that when she finally did leave, she came down in an elevator with a group of scrubwomen who, having completed their night's work, were on their way to their homes. The woman who stood next to the executive wore a coat and dress quite similar to hers, though it obviously was a cheap copy. She stood behind that particular scrubwoman when she registered out and as she picked up the pen to write her own name, the night superintendent remarked, "Oh, that's all right—two of you."

Last is the N. B. C. executive who as he was passing through a hall, noticed one of the numerous studio "ushers" standing in an obscure corner with his face toward the wall. On his return, some time later, he saw the young man still in the same place and the same position. So he went up to him and inquired the reason. "I'm sorry, sir, but I'm being punished," was the reply.

Conductor William B. Hobson, retired recently by the New York Central because he had reached the age limit, served that one railroad 54 years. Forty-seven of those years he was on the Twentieth Century running between New York and Chicago. He figures that he has traveled 2,000,000 miles on that train and has "carried" every person of importance in the country, including every governor, from David Hill to Herbert Lehman. Of all, he holds Theodore Roosevelt to have been the greatest. His acquaintance with Franklin D. Roosevelt began when the President was a schoolboy. And every week for a half century, he brought down a basket of fresh eggs from upstate.

Kate Smith—not the radio singer—is fifty-three years old but doesn't look more than thirty-five. Smiling, happy, she regards life as a great adventure. When she was nine years old, both her arms were burned off. Refusing to acknowledge even such a terrific handicap, she set about doing what other little girls did. She learned to sew in school and when the teacher didn't thread her needle fast enough, she threaded it herself. For years, she taught herself to do various things and succeeded well. Then she received training at the Institute for Crippled and Disabled. When she wants to do anything, she practices until she masters it. She's shy while trying something new but after that doesn't care.

For hands, she has substituted her feet and teeth. She combs her hair and makes up her face with her feet. She makes all her clothes and can operate both a sewing machine and typewriter. She can sign her name with a fountain pen and is remarkably good in folding and inserting letters.

She is an excellent swimmer and an expert pistol shot. She has been married twice but divorced both husbands and now makes her own living. Her baby died in infancy but she cared for it herself and for some time earned her living by caring for babies in a Chicago institution.

When nothing else offers, she travels with a sideshow. That's a last resort, since she doesn't look on herself as a freak. She doesn't look on herself as unfortunate or handicapped, either. Life has given her much, she holds. I like Kate Smith.
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Double Plow Invented
Wrightstown, Wis.—A new type of plow invented here by John Nelesen has two shares, one set higher and ahead of the other. The higher and foremost share is set to turn the surface ground, stubble or sod while the lower share to the rear digs deeper to turn a furrow.

\$20.50 Buys 13 Autos
Boston.—Thirteen automobiles seized by the Boston police went on the auction block and added a grand total of \$20.50 to the city coffers. Two of them went in a bargain package for \$1.

Brick Brings Back 56-Year Memories
Newburyport, Mass.—Fifty-six years ago John J. Quill and three other youths inscribed their names on a brick before it was put in the oven. Today Quill has the brick, which recently was unearthed in front of his home by FERA workers.

ALASKA PROJECT IS ATTRACTING MANY Applications Being Received Daily From the States.

Basin, Wyo.—Colonists on the widely publicized Matanuska project in Alaska now are for the most part well satisfied with their lot, despite rumors to the contrary, Don Irwin, agricultural director, wrote A. W. Koons of Basin, a friend.

Despite wide publicity given some complaints, there are many now in the United States who are eager to take their places. Irwin, former resident of Basin and at one time a member of the Wyoming legislature, revealed that he was receiving dozens of letters in every mail from persons asking to be allowed to take the places of colonists leaving the project.

"Despite the stories being circulated to one here on the ground it would appear that things have gone very well," Irwin wrote. "True, we could have made better progress had the actual construction work been started earlier in the season, as it might well have been. Since it has started, however, it is going forward with a rush."

At the time of writing, Irwin said, 600 men from transient camps in the United States, 200 carpenters and laborers from the towns along the Alaska railroad and 175 colonists were hurrying to complete the houses and get people and live stock under cover before winter set in.

"To date we have either completed or have under construction 107 houses, with 63 yet to build," Irwin said. "I think it safe to say that 25 per cent of the remaining homes will be under construction in the next two days."

"The colonists are working hard, are considerate and expect to stay and make this their home. They are well clothed, well fed, are being supplied with nice homes, furniture, good stoves, sewing machines, power washers and good radios. It isn't pioneering as we think of it."

IMPREGNABLE FORT TO HOLD U. S. GOLD

Vault Will Be Built of Steel and Concrete.

Washington.—The government awarded the contract for construction of its monetary fortress at Fort Knox, Ky., to the Great Lakes Construction company of Chicago. The gold fort will cost \$468,274.

The vault is to be built on specifications prepared by the Treasury department. These were designed to make the storehouse as impregnable as the skill of man could devise.

The vault also will be suspended in the middle of a square building with floors, roofs, and walls two feet thick. The walls and roofs are to be faced with granite.

Use Steel and Concrete.
The vault also will be two feet thick and of unusual construction. Steel coils are to be laced into one another within the walls with steel rods running through the coils to hold them together. The coils will be imbedded in concrete.

Thus, according to the designers, even though much of the concrete is removed, the steel coils will remain as a barrier against the passage of even a man's hand.

The vault will be 40 by 64 feet and extend through nearly two stories of the completed building. The space allowing for corridors would be sufficient to house \$19,000,000,000 in gold.

Sits Far From Coast.

Under present plans the vault will hold all the gold of the country now in the East. There are at present \$9,500,000,000 in gold in the country, the bulk of which is in the East. Fort Knox was selected as the site of the storehouse because it is behind the natural barriers of the Rockies and the Appalachians—2,100 miles from the Pacific coast and 650 miles from the Atlantic coast.

The vault is to be open to continual inspection on all four sides and top and bottom. There is to be an 18-inch space under the floor and above the

ceiling. These spaces are to be brilliantly lighted and equipped with mirrors so that guards will be able to see every inch of the vault.

The building is to be protected by a series of sensitive microphones, paraps and machine gun turrets.

Preliminary work on the site was begun last June when seven laborers spaded into a field of daisies. They dug into bed rock for the structure's foundation.

ALL-TIME HIGH SET FOR U. S. PRISONERS

Record Roll Attributed to Liquor Tax Evasion.

Washington.—The increase in prison terms for violations of the liquor tax law, narcotics traffic, counterfeiting and motor vehicle thefts—and the anti-crime offensive of the Department of Justice—brought the federal prison population to an all-time high this year.

On July 1 the prisons had the highest total ever recorded at the close of a fiscal year. On July 19 the total had climbed slightly to 15,612, according to figures of Sanford Bates, director of the federal bureau of prisons, after which there was a slight seasonal decline.

Federal prisons, reformatories and camps received from the courts during the fiscal year 1935 a total of 11,000 prisoners, as compared with 8,775 in 1933 and 8,007 in 1934.

Liquor law violations are now sending to federal prisons virtually as many offenders as they did during the peak of prohibition enforcement. For the fiscal year 1935 there were 4,405 commitments. The treasury drive against violations of the internal revenue laws is the chief reason for the sharp upward movement.

The treasury offensive against counterfeiters, conducted with little publicity by its secret service, has also contributed to the current expansion in the federal prison population. During the depression years, counterfeiters have been active on a wide front.

The court commitments reflect the

increase in their activity. In 1930, only 240 persons were convicted of counterfeiting and forgery of government obligations. In 1933, the number was 867; in 1935, the number was 1,354.

Narcotic offenses sent to Federal prisons 1,623 persons during the fiscal year 1935, as compared with 1,321 in 1934, and violation of the motor Vehicle Theft Act 1,071 persons in 1935. Commitments for other offenses in 1935 include the following: Homicide, 16; immigration act, 335; interstate commerce act, 344; Mann act, 110, and postal law, 830, with several hundred unclassified. These include kidnaping, now a federal offense.

Playful Goats Get Goat of Everybody

Tacoma, Wash.—Eight goats got everybody's goat and the owner of the goats got Judge Frank A. McGill's goat.

The real goats got in an acrobatic mood and climbed all over the automobiles of the city employees parked near a city dump.

In police court, the owner of the athletic goats, Joe Ross, was ordered to remove them from the city limits in accordance with a city law which prohibits keeping more than two goats.

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