WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD

by Norman Blair

THE UNITED STATES

It is nothing new to have Russian papers proclaiming that the United States is a nation of "war-mongers." But when, right in the Nation's Capital, the Washington Post published a strong attack against "Warmongering" it caused many Americans to stop and think seriously for a bit.

"It would be hard to convince a foreigner reading the latest wave of publicity exploits by the air force that the United States is not hellbent for war," says The Post. "First came the round-the-world flight of the B-50 and attendant interpretations of this country's ability to bomb any spot in the world. Then the story that the B-50 had flown 9,600 miles non-stop, carrying a bomb load 5,000 miles. Then the force "finding" that Russia has no adequate defense against the B-36. Finally, there comes what appears to be an inspired leak to the effect that some 70 strategic targets in Russia have been marked as possible bombing objectives; and that the air force has assured the Joint Chiefs of Staff that each of these cities could be attacked from bases on this continent."

The Post goes on to say that military strategists would not be doing their duty if they did not have plans made for hitting back at Russia—or any other potential enemy—in case of war. But, "by the same token, such plans ought to be a highly guarded secret, and to allow a description of them to be leaked into print is an utterly inexcusable piece of provocation. Even the blustering of the Russians has never approached this."

The Washington paper goes on to say that such exhibitionism is nothing but "military huckstering" and that "the effect, to anyone not cognizant with the facts, is to indict us as a nation of warmongers where the military has run wild."

The Washington Post then asks, very pertinently, "What must be the reaction to such stories in Europe, where the very essence of our efforts is to counteract fear of war. How much more dangerous must be the reaction in Russia, if the Russians are actually the victims of an insecurity complex!"

"It is not time to put an end to this juvenile swaggering which has no relation to legitimate defense preparations?" this thought-provoking editorial concludes. "One of the first duties of the incoming Secretary of Defense ought to be to muzzle the irresponsible zealots before they talk us into war."

CHINA

The shelling of four British naval vessels on the Yangtse River—involving more than 40 fatalities and roughly, 100 British casualties—sent a shudder through a world which realized only too well what such action might involve.

But British diplomatic forces in the Far East have been doing everything possible to minimize the international implications of this shelling. The British Ambassador denied have sent a protest to Chinese Communist headquarters. The furthest the British have gone is to place the blame on local Chinese artillery commanders who have not received proper instructions from the top command.

The British Embassy particularly made it clear that it intended to remain in Nanking even if the Reds entered that city by force. On an unofficial level it was freely stated that the British intended to remain and do what business would be possible with the Communists.

But the problems posed in continuing such a policy are plain to be seen. And although settlement of the shelling incident is — at this writing — far from being final, it is felt in the East that the position of other western nations represented at Nanking has been seriously jeopardized.

It is clear that the shelling has raised an important international problem. And unless Britain and the other western powers are prepared to suffer an extremely serious loss of prestige throughout the eastern world, this unfortunate incident is bound to complicate greatly any future relations with the rulers of China—the Chinese Communists.

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

The British Commonwealth conference, meeting in London, was up against—right from the beginning—a highly puzzling task. How could the eight government leaders involved devise some formula whereby India can become a republic, and still remain within the commonwealth? was the question which faced them.

One proposal was that while the Crown would remain as the visible bond of commonwealth unity, the King would become King—not of each separate Dominion, as at present—but of the whole commonwealth itself.

In that case, while "monarchial" dominions having Governor Generals—like Canada and Australia—could still pledge allegiance to the King, a republican government such as India's would arrange for its elected president merely to maintain friendly recognition of His Majesty as evidence of the Republic's commonwealth membership.

As for the British view—although Prime Minister Attlee had talked privately with each commonwealth leader, official circles in London were avoiding any pretense of trying to "high pressure" the conference, or to present to it any cut and dried solutions of the problem.

What has been actually happening at the conference is that eight of the chief men of the British Commonwealth have been sitting around a table to see if they can agree to a bold and historic REDEFINITION of that commonwealth.

And, as they conferred, these men had continually to keep in mind public opinion back home. In Australia, for instance, there is vigorous support for retaining present commonwealth forms without change. In South Africa there is a strong British section not which is adamant against any weakening of the commonwealth ties now existing. And in this country to quote William H. Stringer writing in The Christian Science Monitor, "there is a nationalist minority in Quebec which would like to see Canada proclaiming itself a republic like India."

Whether or not a successful solution can be found to the far-reaching problems involved, remains for the future to disclose.

Hogs the Show—This fat hog created a sensation at the Berlin premiere of the American movie, "State Fair." The premiere was taken in stride, but hungry Berliners came from miles around to feast their eyes on the 500 pounds of pork on the hoof.

SPORTS &

by A Sixbit Critic

It's too early to say anything definite as yet; but right now it looks very much as though among those present when the boys tee off for the Seagram Gold Cup next month will be one Sammy Snead. Which will be good news to a lot of golf kibitzers, such as the writer, who have become slightly tired of following the professional divot-diggers around because they are just too good.

* * *

Not that Slammin' Sam isn't considerable of a golfer as well. From the tee right on to the green he can make shots that none of them can excel—and that blessed few can come close to equalling, but when he gets up to where that tin is staring him right in the face, Sammy can blow those easy-looking four and five foot putts even as you and I. This creates an intense fellow-feeling among us dubs in the gallery—and is one of the reasons why, every time he starts, Snead has a tremendous crowd pulling for him, even though, in recent years, he has been so frequently in the position of the lady in the old song who wailed, "Why am I so often the bridesmaid, never the blushing bride?"

* * *

Snead is no stranger to Seagram Cup competition. In fact he's copped that ornate mug on three separate occasions, which is more than any other golfer can say—although Leo Diegel took top place in the Canadian Open four times, but that was before the Gold Cup became the symbol of top Canadian golfing honors.

* * *

All Snead's wins strangely enough, have been on Toronto courses: at Mississagua in 1938; at Scarboro in 1940, and at Lambton the following summer. As this year's open is again scheduled for what is modestly self-described as the "Queen City" maybe this will be Slammin' Sam's turn.

* * *

And it couldn't happen to a guy, although we personally sometimes wonder how long it will be before a Canadian will once again take the Canadian Open Champion. It's about twenty years since such a thing last occurred; and if we were in the insurance business, collecting annual premiums on your life, the worst we could hope for you is that you should live long enough for it to happen again.

We cannot keep up this terrible suspense any longer; and cannot keep our public on tenter-hooks, whatever they are, waiting for us to divulge the name of the Kentucky Derby winner. So here goes; and all the handbooks had better be prepared for a terrific rush of customers wanting to wager on something else.

* * *

Well, they've been saying he was nothing but a sprinter; also hinting that his heart had a small slice of chicken it it, which would cause him to curl up and say "Take it" whenever some other steed rushed up and looked him square in the eye.

* * *

Well, they've said that about a whole lot of horses—and athletes—before this, and quite frequently such predictions have proved to be far off the mark. And we have an idea that when the strains of "My Old Kentucky Home" have died down, and the world's most ballyhooed turf event has been run, any horse that heads OLYMPIA to the wire will know that he's been to the races.

* * *

He didn't act like any chicken-heart in the Wood Memorial the other Saturday when — coming through the stretch and on the kind of track OLYMPIA isn't supposed to favor — PALESTINIAN charged down and passed the favorite.

* * *

That's when any trace of what is called a "cold strain" comes out in a thoroughbred, and nine out of ten of the many thousands present figured that OLYMPIA had "had it." But before Eddie Arcaro had time to pour leather into him, OLYMPIA came on again like a good game horse—and in a driving finish, out-gamed his rival by a neck.

* * *

So, fellow sufferers, although we hate to do it to a steed which never wronged us, so far as we can recall, OLYMPIA is our own feed-box special for the Dubby. Now, sometime between now and post-time, just watch the poor beast bow a tendon or come down with a nightful attack of the screaming meemies. "Follow the Sixbit Critic and get an entree to all the best-bread lines" has long been a turf axiom, and we leave no stone unturned in our efforts to protect our unique reputation.

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ISSUE 19 — 1949

Washout

A youthful reporter turned up at the office after being sent to write up a fashionable wedding.

"Well," snapped the news editor, "where's your copy?"

"Oh! there wasn't anything to write about," said the young man, "You see, the bridegroom didn't turn up."

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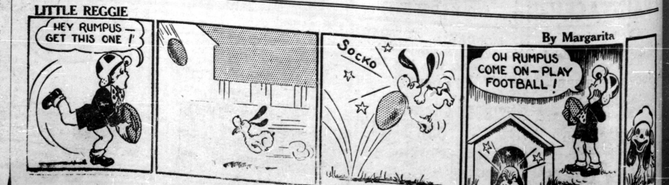

By Margarita

SHORT STORY

Dancing Shoes

By CHARLES DORIAN

While a vast throng of theatre-goers passed through the exits of the Orpheum, the beautiful blonde girl left quietly by the stage door on the arm of her most ardent admirer, the owner of the theatre and a string of others.

At the curb stood Max Berber's limousine, and just ahead of it, a Four maudlin "Collegians" were singing a singsong, obstructed the way to Berber's car, but made no, while the lady stepped in. She suddenly threw of them gave Berber the bum's rush, while the gentleman ensconced in beside Paula Green, tap dancer extraordinary.

Max sputtered and fumed while the three kidded him. A letter was slipped into his clenching fist and the keys were frisked from him. The taxi jumped forward, and in a moment was followed by the limousine carrying the dancer and the members of the notorious Scarfang in evening clothes and top hats still simulating drunken collegians, singing to drown out the cries of the distressed dancer.

At the Holland Tunnel the singing ceased and one of the gang spoke to the girl:

"This is something new in kidnaping, sister. We're all jolly good fellows, members of a theatrical group (to the general public). But you get us wrong. We'd rub you as quick as any Broadway mug if you failed for a minute to join the spirit of our little game. Your boy has just read our demands in a note left with him."

"I'll pay You," chatted the kidnapper. "Pleasure contract. I must dance every night."

The car sped along for thirty miles and turned into a narrow road. The plates were switched and another fifty miles sped by. They stopped at a railroad village and

"This is something new in kidnaps, mister," said one of the gang.

pushed the car on a side street. They changed their toppers for peak caps and entered the railroad station.

"Oh, you're the troupe from the show house," grinned the operator. "Though there was two girls in the party."

"One of us a female impersonator, Max," laughed the spokesman. The operator laughed too, and began stamping the tickets. "Trains not for thirty minutes yet," he reported.

"O.K. brother, we'll put on a show while we're waiting." He turned over to Paula. "Smile," sister—SMILE," he hissed, and out of the "Come on, Sally Rand, give the gentleman your best imitation of a dance."

Paula was ready to faint but entered into the game by dancing a whirling tap number that had the operator's eyes popping. Some singing followed and a bottle was passed "Now, another dance," ordered the master of ceremonies.

"Just a slow one," pleaded Paula, "I'm very tired."

"Oh, all right," yawned the fellow. She made a long slow stride straight to the operator and whispered. 'Listen!' Then she performed a painfully punctuated dance with more body undulations than footwork.

The bottle passed around again and the operator went to his key, took an order, sent one, and in a few minutes the train was in. They boarded it.

Sargo was a small city. A taxi was ready waiting for them and whisked them out into the country where they got out in front of a big house.

Every shadow exuded a police officer. Eight of them had pinioned the four "collegians" before the door opened, and two more seized the servant.

Paula promptly fainted. Two officers carried her to safety.

"This house has been under suspicion for a long time," said an officer to Paula. "When that operator's message mentioned 'Sargo' we posted a squad at the house. Here's the car now which followed their taxi from the depot."

Oh, yes, Paula's dad had been a station agent and had taught her to tap dance the Morse code.

HOW TO FIX IT

By Tom Gregory

High Steppers—Circus aerialists Betty and Benny Fox do a sky dance 168 feet above Chicago's Michigan Avenue on an 18-inch pedestal which projects 12 feet out from a hotel roof. They did it to herald the opening of their circus.

Good Neighbor — Josephine Bonilla is a real asset to the good neighbor policy. She was chosen queen of the Miami Good Neighbor Program. Josephine is well qualified for her hands-across-the-border title, since she's from Havana, Cuba.

Strictly Honest

The theatrical producer was giving an audition to a man with a new act.

Producing a puppy from his pocket, the man placed it on the piano, whereupon the puppy calmly proceeded to play part of one of the operas.

"Wonderful!" exclaimed the producer. "I'll give you $500 a week for that."

"But that's not all," said the man, producing from another pocket a parrot, which perched on the piano, sang an aria from the opera to the puppy's accompaniment.

Almost speechless by now, the producer managed to bring out an offer of $1000 a week for that."

"Er—er," said the man, nervously, "before you decide. I must tell you this act's a bit of a cheat. You see, the parrot can't sing. The puppy's a ventriloquist."

Mistakes Other Folks Have Made

When our baby had measles, we listened to friends' advice on how to care for him, instead of taking him to a doctor. As a result he got too hot, took a bad cold, and the measles settled in his throat. The only way we could tell he was crying was by his mouth's being open and tears on his cheeks. Hereafter I'll take my children to competent doctors.—Mrs. M.K.

I set down a can of lye, while doing my family wash, and my two-year-old daughter ate some of it. We rushed her to the hospital. After two weeks of treatment, we were able to carry her home. We had a large medical bill and untold anxiety because of my carelessness.—Mrs. A.H.

I left my fine Jersey heifer in the same pasture with the horses, instead of keeping her to herself just before calving. A colt kicked her, causing her to lose her calf. I shall not make this mistake again!—T. K.

Killing our best laying hens with anti-freeze was my biggest mistake. Last spring when I drained my car, I left the pan under the car and the chickens drank the solution. The next morning some of the hens were too sick to fly off the roost, some were dying, and the rest were dead—C. W. H.

I repaired my five-room house inside, instead of first putting a good roof on it. A few days after ceiling and papering the inside and screening the porches, a spark of fire from the kitchen flue landed on the bad roof, and I lost my entire house—E. B. M.

Relying too much on old or faulty farm equipment can prove very costly. Last fall I neglected to replace worn harness for my wagon. The harness gave way while I was riding a loaded wagon, causing the team to run away and throw me in front of two wheels. As a result I suffered three mouths with a broken leg and badly cut foot, and still cannot walk.—T.T.W.

People who insist on drinking before driving are putting the quart before the hearse.

Odd Communities In Finland

Finland is a country of waterways, but its largest stretch of water is the great Lake Ladoga. Here, on some forty islands and islets, 2,000 monks who have been outlawed from Soviet Russia are working out a successful communal life regardless of the troubled world.

From the forest lands of the islands the brothers secure adequate lumber and make resin and turpentine. Some work as bakers, others as carpenters and joiners. There are tailor monks for robes and vestments, cobbler monks, blacksmith monks. There is even a co-op store run by these Russian brethren in Lutheran Finland.

As soon as visitors arrive by steamer at the largest island—area 24 square miles—the blackrobed brothers in their tall cylinder hats are there on the quay to act as porters. They run their own hotel and a restaurant. And since they know that their visitors appreciate entertainment they even stage a church service lasting nineteen hours!

Another of Finland's strange communities is Mariehamn, the capital of lost ships. Commercial sailing ships of any size are no longer being built, but Mariehamn is continually buying up the surviving veterans, reconditioning them and putting them into use.

The Mariehamn fleet has but one owner, who operates his business on amazingly simple lines. He is a one-man company, doing everything himself in his own home. Having no office salaries or rents to pay, his sailing is sheer profit, and as he pays scrap prices for his ships, he can still count upon the vessels to be worth their weight in scrap whenever he decides to get rid of them.

Looked Ahead

Jake was a worthless and improvident fellow. One day he said to the local grocer: "I got to have a sack of flour! I'm all out and my family is starvin'."

"All right Jake," said the grocer. "If you need a sack of flour and have no money to buy it with we'll give you a sack. But, see here, Jake, there's a circus coming to town in a few days and if I give you a sack of flour, are you sure you won't sell it and take your family to the circus?"

"Oh, no," said Jake. "I got the circus money saved up already."

THE FARM FRONT

by John Russell

South of the border a number of newspapers have been "rapping" the use of DDT for spraying in dairy barns—some of them even going so far as to say that the DDT is responsible for the "virus "X" disease of man and the "X" disease of animals."

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Now—following a meeting of the principal government agencies concerned with the use of insecticides—the United States Department of Agriculture has come out with an official statement. It says, "There is no evidence that the use of DDT in accordance with the recommendations of the various federal agencies has ever caused human sickness due to the DDT itself."

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"However," the statement goes on, "minor toxic symptoms may be produced by coal-oil and various solvents used in DDT and in practically all other insecticide mixtures"

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"Totally without foundation" is the way the statement deals with the published reports that DDT is responsible for the diseases mentioned in my first paragraph. Both these diseases had been reported and recognized before DDT was ever used.

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Our own Ottawa Department of Agriculture has something to say on the subject. To protect farmers from buying insecticides that are either worthless or highly dangerous, all such preparations sold in Canada come under the provisions of the Pest Control Products Act. No pesticide is allowed on the market until it has been analyzed and approved by technical officials of the Department. And if such preparations are used IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE LABEL, they will be effective for the purpose for which they are recommended and will have no detrimental effects. (The capitals are mine, as I believe that most of the trouble with DDT has been because people DIDN'T follow the directions properly).

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Officials of our Department of Agriculture say that spraying dairy barns with DDT—particularly with oil solutions—should be done when cattle are NOT in the stalls; and that special care should be taken to make sure that milk and cream cans and milking machines are not touched by the spray.

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This is because DDT in oil solutions can be absorbed through the skin of animals, and will be found both in the milk and in the animal fat. However, there has been little or no difficulty in spraying cattle themselves with DDT, when wettable powders are used in water. The water spray won't penetrate the skin, and the residue is not absorbed by the tissues.

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BUT EVEN WITH WATER SPRAY THE UTMOST CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO SEE THAT MILKING UTENSILS DO NOT COME IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE SPRAY.

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There are still some farmers who believe that chemical fertilizers are ruining our soils; but if you are one of them, I have to tell you that the facts seem to be against your belief. No experiments have ever shown that chemical fertilizers are in any way detrimental to soil.

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Over in England there's been a test going for almost a century —95 years to be exact—using manure on one patch of wheat, and chemical fertilizers on a similar patch. The plot receiving 1,392 pounds of complete fertilizer each year has yielded the plot treated with an annual application of 15.7 tons of manure. During the past five years the yield was 44 bushels per acre against 36. So would seem that this patch of soil hadn't been poisoned or harmed after receiving chemical fertilizer annually for 95 years—which is quite a stretch of time.

From what I hear more and more farmers in southern and central Ontario are getting interested in sunflower growing — although just how many of them are going so far as to put in a real crop I really cannot say at the moment.

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But from Buenos Aires comes word that is rather interesting. This report says that, compared with 1948, the area sown to sunflower this year has increased by 25 per cent—to a record figure of almost four and a half million acres.

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This is because Argentine farmers have found that their sunower crop is much more profitable than corn. Besides that, maturing wheat crops that were killed by heavy frosts have been replaced by sunflowers.

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And, in case you don't already know it, lots of folks think that sunflower seeds—or at least the insides of them—are better eating than peanuts. I have a friend — he came from Russia years ago—who always has a handful or so in his pocket. Puts one edgewise between his teeth—cracks open the hull, sucks out the "innards," and reaches for another. Try it sometime.

Where Chinese Reds Shelled British Sloop—The cross in the Yangtze River marks the spot where HMS Amethyst, a British sloop, was driven aground by Chinese Communist shelling. The location is Rose Island, 80 miles east of Nanking (1). Help, in the form of warships, is racing to the scene from Shanghai (2). Communists hold the north bank of the river (shade area), with the Nationalists in control of the south bank.

ARCHIE

by Montana