

AMERICANA

CALIFORNIA

A SPORTS note in the Hollywood column of the Los Angeles *Times* puts an extra polish on the glamorous ladies of the cinema capital:

The glamor girls certainly showed up at the races the other day. You couldn't spit without hitting one.

A LAW of nature is discovered by Dr. O. W. Huff, dentist of Palm City, and conveyed to the masses through the *San Ysidro Border Press*:

A reliable set of bowels is worth more to the average man than brains.

A MODEST fellow, stimulated by California sunshine, applies for a job through the want-ad department of the Los Angeles *Times*:

PRIVATE SECRETARY EXTRAORDINAIRE

Gentleman of unusual accomplishments from New York, here permanently. Expert stenographer, personal secretary, office and business manager.

Secretarial experience with President and Mrs. Roosevelt; similar previous contacts with Wilson, Taft, Theodore Roosevelt. Well-known writer, author, lecturer, public speaker. Long executive experience in advertising, sales, public relations.

Six-footer of splendid address and personality; pleasant disposition, highly cultured, college educated, well read, social graces, widely traveled. Also good chef and mixer; drives own large car; broadly talented and interesting companion and capable escort. Temporary or permanent engagement. Reasonable salary. Box L-73, *Times*.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AN innovation in the arts of oratory is launched by a distinguished political leader at a Washington meeting, as reported in the spotlessly proletarian columns of the *New Masses*:

The congress did not fully utilize the possibilities for dramatizing and humanizing social issues through other techniques than the ordinary platform speech. Rockwell Kent's imitation of Hitler's hysterical radio voice followed by his quiet, dignified quotation from the Declaration of Independence did more to bring home the contrast between the spirit of fascism and democracy than many orations.

FLORIDA

How a great state has enlisted the elements and the birds in the interests of shoe styles is told in full by the Philadelphia *Evening Ledger*:

Waves roll up a little bit higher on the Florida beaches these days so they can see Mrs. Benjamin Bullock's

pumps with round box toes, low heels and turnover tongues.

Seagulls hop across the lagoons more often so they may glimpse Mrs. H. Birchard Taylor's step-in pumps with brown vamps, white simulated platforms and stitched pleats running all over the entire pedestrian's dream.

The Southern sun smiles especially with pleasure at the pumps of black suede with cut-out vamps like Spanish lace, that are worn by Mrs. Thomas S. Gates.

GEORGIA

LEGISLATIVE problems of a great Southern province are discussed by Speaker Harris of the Georgia House of Representatives, and duly recorded by the benighted Atlanta *Constitution*:

"I am going to say this," Harris said, "and I measure my words carefully:

"Members ought to let liquor alone on the floor of this house. I have been patient, but the time is short and if members come on this floor drinking I am going to call names and read the rules and let the house take such action as it sees fit. The time has come when we must be sober-minded, sober and vote our honest convictions."

ILLINOIS

POLITICAL skulduggery in the altogether in Joliet, as summarized on the front page of the New York *Post*:

High school morals are under investigation in Joliet, Ill., as a result of finding football star dead in car with nude body of girl. School authorities charge it's all politics.

MISSISSIPPI

LOCAL theologians, as chronicled by the Greenville *Leader*, present a dramatic commentary on rewards and punishments in the hereafter:

A Hell and Heaven Party was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Levi McCrainey Thursday evening, for the benefit of Disney Chapel AME Church. Those going to Heaven were served peaches and cake, while those going to Hell played checkers, cards and danced; they were served hot spaghetti. An enjoyable evening was spent by all.

MISSOURI

THE august legislature of a great state devotes itself once more to the well-being of its beloved citizens, according to the AP out of Jefferson City:

The present trend in feminine shoe styles came to the official attention of the Missouri legislature today. A bill signed by 32 representatives was introduced in the house to make it illegal to sell shoes which are open at the toe or heel at any time except between June 1 and September 1.

NEW YORK

HORRIBLE case of infant perversity is reported to the Child Psychology Board of the communist *Daily Worker*:

Dear Psychology Board:

I have a problem which I am sure other parents have and I don't know what to do about it. I have a daughter of 9 who is ashamed of her parents who

are Communists. She does not wish to be seen on the picket line, won't wear a Lincoln Battalion button or other buttons, doesn't want her friends to see me read the *Daily Worker*, etc. She says she wishes she were like other children whose parents are "regular people" as she calls them.

Answer: . . . Your problem is an unusual one . . . your little girl is acting in a natural way. Her desire to be like her friends and to have the same sort of family is normal. . . . At nine there is no real loss if she is not a communist. This is something she must grow up into slowly.

FROM far-off Shanghai and from the pen of Comrade H. S. Tei comes a spirited complaint against the backwardness of the USA, in a letter distributed by the communist *New Masses* to shame subscribers into parting with their shekels:

We are hardly believing that in such a rich country as USA where millions and billions of dollars are spent in films and dances, people cannot sustain such a progressive magazine as *New Masses*, which is now in lack of such a little sum of money as only \$30,000 — ! Yet the fact is fact. Our paper *The News Digest* announced it and called for "Help *New Masses*!" O, dear comrades, how sorry we are . . .

OHIO

AMERICAN youth matches its English cousins and the mother country loses another point of superiority, as chronicled by the Associated Press out of Cleveland:

Mrs. Franklin, who has been a college dean of women for 27 years, is here for the twenty-third annual convention of the National Association of Deans of Women.

"Cocktail drinking has become general in colleges in cities," she observed. "More students are drinking than formerly, but in smaller quantities than the campus drinkers of former years. I am convinced that our students are learning to drink as they do in England."

VIRGINIA

NEW cultural activity is indulged by Southern blue-bloods, according to the *Lynchburg News*:

Members of the Rotary Club performed the Big Apple yesterday as a climax to a questionnaire program in which they fared not so well. Led on by William Jones, who was imported to "call" the dance, the members put on a brisk five-minute Big Apple with leading roles being taken by M. K. Duerson, business manager of the *Lynchburg News*; Dr. Theodore Jack, president of Randolph-Macon Woman's College; Colonel William King, John A. Faulkner, president of Craddock-Terry Company; C. W. Gooch, James Noell, Jr., Dr. S. H. Rosenthal, Dabney Lancaster of Sweet Briar College, and Douglas Robertson.

WEST VIRGINIA

A REVISED diagnosis in the *Braxton Central* of Sutton vindicates the medical profession:

CORRECTION: In the account of the illness of Bill Squires, which appeared in this column last week, the phrase reading, "and has failed to re-

spond favorably to treatment," should have read, "and has responded favorably to treatment."

WISCONSIN

THE monthly prize for candor goes to the advertisement in the Rice Lake *Chronotype*:

AUCTIONEERS

We are capable of selling your personal property, pure bred cattle, and real estate. Don't let our competitors tell you we are no good. Prove it for yourself. 23 years on the block. Send post card for dates.

IN OTHER UTOPIAS

ENGLAND

UNDERSTANDABLE error on the part of a lively English matron, as heralded by the sedate London *Evening Standard*:

It was alleged that when police officers visited Mrs. Hopkins's house to arrest a man wanted for burglary, she pushed the two out on to the pavement and screamed abuse at them. She aimed a kick at Detective-Sergeant Lawrence and bit Police Captain Titheridge's left thumb to the bone.

Mrs. Hopkins, pleading not guilty, said she thought she was biting her husband.

(THE MERCURY will pay \$1 for items accepted for Americana. Those found unsuitable cannot be returned.)

GERMANY

THE progress of *Kultur* under Hitler is revealed in a press release by the Nazi tourist bureau:

Berlin is to have humorous monuments. "Why does not the capital city of the Reich possess some worthy commemoration of a humorous local type," remarked Dr. Johann Meinshausen, the well-known educationalist, recently to Dr. Julius Lippert, Mayor of Berlin. "Why not?" said the Mayor and forthwith began to arrange a competition for the best design.

RUSSIA

THE Gertrude Stein influence asserts itself in a surrealist dispatch from Walter Duranty in Moscow to the New York *Times*:

But what he said about the purge they had here, last year and the year before — this Communist party purge, not what happened to other people, to people who were not in the party but found themselves purged by that purge — what Mr. Zhdanoff said would make the mad hatter's tea party in "Alice in Wonderland" look like a Boston sewing bee.

It was utterly fantastic, and — if we are speaking of Boston — they had a crazy madness there, or somewhere in Massachusetts — about witches and Cotton Mather, and Titus Oates in England — what they called a great Catholic plot. Not to mention, of course, Guy Fawkes. . . .



THE STATE OF THE UNION

BY ALBERT JAY NOCK

Liberalism Has Sold Out

IN Brussels five years ago I was talking with a friend, a Belgian engineer, about Hitler's regime in Germany, which was then just getting well under way. My friend was very much a man of the people, not too well educated, not at all well read. As soon as I mentioned the new regime, he said, "Oh, that's only Statism. We went through that years ago. It is the same thing as in Italy and Russia. You are getting it in your country, too."

I thought at once what a fine thing — what a saving thing — it is for any country to have such an experienced people that practically the first man you pick up on the street can cut straight through a web of humbugging names and forms woven around a political regime, and show you at once what it actually is. Naziism meant nothing to my Belgian friend, because it is only a trade-name, and ought not to mean anything to anybody. Words like fascism, Marxism, totalitarianism, New Dealism, dictatorship, which seem to mean so much to Americans, would slide off my

Belgian friend like water off a duck's back, nor would he think he was doing anything especially clever in letting them slide. If asked, he would probably say that anybody ought to be clever enough to know they are merely different trade-names for the same product.

I wish our people were clever enough for that. It is not fair to expect that they should be, nor is it fair to draw an invidious comparison between the average of them and the average of people like my Belgian friend. The Belgians have had 2000 years of political experience, so it is natural to suppose that by this time the average of them would be born knowing enough about Statism to be able to recognize it at sight, under any disguise it might put on. Such long experience enables a people to *understand* political history, which is a very different thing from *knowing* political history. Americans have had almost no experience, and however much history they may know, very few of them understand any of it.