

A list of just everyday articles cellophaned for looks or other reasons reads like a page of Carl Van Vechten: golf balls, evening bags, emery boards, electric heating pads, men's pajamas, cranberries, sink stoppers, electric razors, lamp shades, hat stands, Mickey Mouse, dress shirts,

rice, nail polish, tacks, cocktail shakers, noodles and books.

Europe has, however, two exclusives. France makes her motion picture film of cellophane. And Germany in 1939 began to make sausage casings out of cellophane instead of natural animal matter.

## BOY IN A COAL CAR

By GLENN WARD DRESBACH

OUT of the smoke-blue field of timothy  
 I came to the railroad track with its hard brightness  
 Diminishing on the upward grade and ending  
 In smoky hazes to the west. A freight  
 Passed, heading west, and head and shoulders above  
 The edge of a coal car, I saw him watching me.  
 He was young and bareheaded, his hair like ripe wheat blowing,  
 And I saw white teeth flash in a smile. He waved.  
 He was on his way. . . . Two hundred years ago  
 A head like that might have been at the prow of a ship,  
 Tingling with spray and the sea wind, facing the world.  
 One hundred years ago a head like that  
 Might have faced the west from the seat of a covered wagon.  
 And twenty-two years ago such a head might have lifted  
 Out of a trench and shouted, "Come on, you fellows!  
 Do you want to live forever?"

The freight rolled by  
 In a cloud of dust and I thought of the whirled dust blowing  
 Into his face and his hair like ripened wheat. . . .  
 Only the dust we had trampled and wheels had ground  
 Blowing into his face as he turned to the west!  
 Perhaps he could see through it. He was on his way.  
 Just motion is better than standing still with a weight  
 Sagging the shoulders. His head was against the sky.  
 I waved to him — and the freight had thundered by.

# THE WAR HORSE RETURNS

BY MAJOR ROBERT GINSBURGH

THE tattoo call that the amateur strategists sounded for the horse at the end of the first World War has not been followed by taps. Instead there has come a reveille, announcing a new day for the cavalry charger and for his heavier ally, the artillery draft horse. More than six million horses, it is estimated, served in the World War armies in various roles. And an order for four thousand cavalry and two thousand artillery horses was reported from St. Louis on the day after President Roosevelt signed the neutrality bill lifting the embargo.

The call for horses has come out of the very campaign which demonstrated the machine at its deadliest. To those who did not look behind headlines, the German conquest of Poland appeared merely as a smashing victory for the mechanized engines of war, the plane, the tank and the combat car. To the professional soldier who must delve into the details of military operations it becomes equally evident that without the horse the brilliant

strategy of the *Blitzkrieg* would not have sufficed to conquer the Polish army. The horse played the traditional role of supporting and exploiting the initial successes of the flying mechanized columns, and clinched success for the campaign. Germany moved into Poland with more than 200,000 horses. Every infantry regiment had more than 500 of them. Of the 240 divisions available to the Third Reich when the *Blitzkrieg* hit France and the Low Countries, more than 200 used animals for draft and transportation. Cavalry statistics on the Western conquests are unavailable, but Nazi propaganda photos, including pictures of the Paris occupation, showed the presence of horses in large numbers.

In invading Poland on the ground, the army first sent infantry divisions; and at this writing a German infantry division calls for more than 3800 animals. Behind the combat cars rode the horse cavalry to consolidate and hold the captured terrain. Then came more infantry, afoot or on truck, sup-