

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE MACEDONIAN CALL — ACTS, 15: 36 — 16: 15; ROMANS 15:18-21

GOLDEN TEXT — "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations. Matthew 28:19.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING  
Time — A. D. 50.

Place — Paul separated from Barnabas and set out for his missionary journey in Antioch of Syria; Cilicia is the province in Asia Minor directly west and north of Syria. Derbe and Lystra are cities of Lycaonia; the road leading to Antioch of Pisidia. Phrygia was a province in the central part of western Asia Minor, Troas a city of Mysia, on the western shore of Asia Minor, opposite Macedonia. Macedonia occupied the northern part of the Greek peninsula. Philippi was located in the northeastern part of Macedonia, about ten miles from the coast.

"And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia. Phrygia denotes vaguely the western part of the central region, mostly tableland, of the peninsula of Asia Minor (see Acts 2:10; 18:23). The cities of Iconium and Colosse were in Phrygia. Galatia was a Roman province including Lycania, Isauria, the southeastern region of Phrygia, and a part of Pisidia. The area included in this name has been a matter of great discussion and cannot be gone into in our lesson. "Having been forbidden of the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia." As Asia in the New Testament always means not the continent of Asia, but what we call Asia Minor, including the old districts of Mysia, Lydia and Caria, with its capital of Ephesus.

"And when they were come over against Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia." Mysia was the northern part of Proconular Asia. Paul intended to turn away from Mysia and go northward into Bithynia. "And the Spirit of Jesus suffered them not." "And passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas." No work was done in Mysia; Paul passed along its southern border without any preaching ministry, and thus came to the seacoast city made famous by Homer, once known as Troy. Many a time in history has supernatural restraint and constraint changed the course of the servants of God. Livingstone assayed to go into China, which God suffered him not, but sent him to Africa to be its missionary general, statesman, explorer.

"And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: There was a man of Macedonia standing." Macedonia was the territory located in the northern end of the Greek peninsula, extending from the Adriatic Sea on the west to the Aegean Sea on the east. That this man from Macedonia was ascertained by the words which he spoke, which revealed his nationality. "Beseeching him, and saying, Come over into Macedonia and help us." Just how the Macedonians had heard of the gospel of Christ and exactly how God revealed to Paul their longing to hear the message of grace, we do not know, but this at least is clear that when God had shut every door which Paul had attempted to enter, he opened a door which Paul had never dreamed of being opened to him.

"And when he had seen the vision, straightway we sought to go forth to Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel unto them." Here should be carefully noted the plural pronoun "we." Certainly the author of the book of Acts, who was Luke, the physician, means by us

ing this pronoun that he himself here at Troas joined the missionary company, and accompanied Paul and Silas and Timothy as they went over into Europe.

Setting sail therefore from Troas, we made a straight course to Samothrace." This was an island off the coast of Thrace, colonized by men of Samos. "And the day following to Neapolis." This was a seaport town where, apparently, the apostles had no reason for tarrying.

"And from thence to Philippi, which is a city of Macedonia, the first of the district, a Roman colony, and we were in this city tarrying certain days." Philippi, a city of Macedonia, located in a plain, surrounded by mountains, refounded by Philip the Second of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great, from which it derived its name. The plain of Philippi witnessed the death struggle of the Roman Republic, when Brutus and Cassius were defeated by Octavian and Antony in 42 B.C., soon after which the city was made a Roman colony by Augustus.

"And on the sabbath day we went forth without the gate by a river side, where we supposed there was a place of prayer." Wherever ten learned, reputable Jews lived within the confines of any one city, a synagogue was built and services could be regularly conducted. The fact that there was no synagogue in Philippi, is an indication of the scarcity of Jews living in that city. However, it was allowed, when synagogues were not possible for the Jewish people to get together for the prayer in what were called proseuchai which means, literally, a place of prayer.

"And we sat down, and spake unto the women that were come together. And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira." Thyatira was a wealthy city in the northern part of Lydia in the province of Asia on the river Lycus. And more about the trade guilds of Thyatira is known than about those of any other Asian city of that time. And Thyatira like the Lydian land in general, was famous for its dyeing. Lydia sold the purple dyed garments from Thyatira in Philippi; and she had no doubt a regular connection with the firm in her native city, whose agent she was. "One that worshipped God." She was not a woman of Jewish descent but an Asiatic, who had been drawn to the Jewish faith in a longing to know the only true God, whom the Jews alone worshipped. "Heard us: whose heart the Lord opened to give heed unto the things which were spoken by Paul." The opened heart of one woman in a great city is a foothold for God, and if it be but yielded wholly to him, from that vantage ground, from that base of operations, he can proceed to wonderful victories.

"And when she was baptized and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us." The word here translated constrained is used only once elsewhere in the New Testament (Luke 21: 29) and in the same sense as here. The word expresses urgency, but not compulsion. This has been called the first instance of the hospitality which was afterwards so characteristic of the early church, and enforced by the words of St. Peter, St. Paul and St. John alike.

"For I will not dare to speak of any things save those which Christ has wrought through me, for the obedience of the Gentiles, by word and by

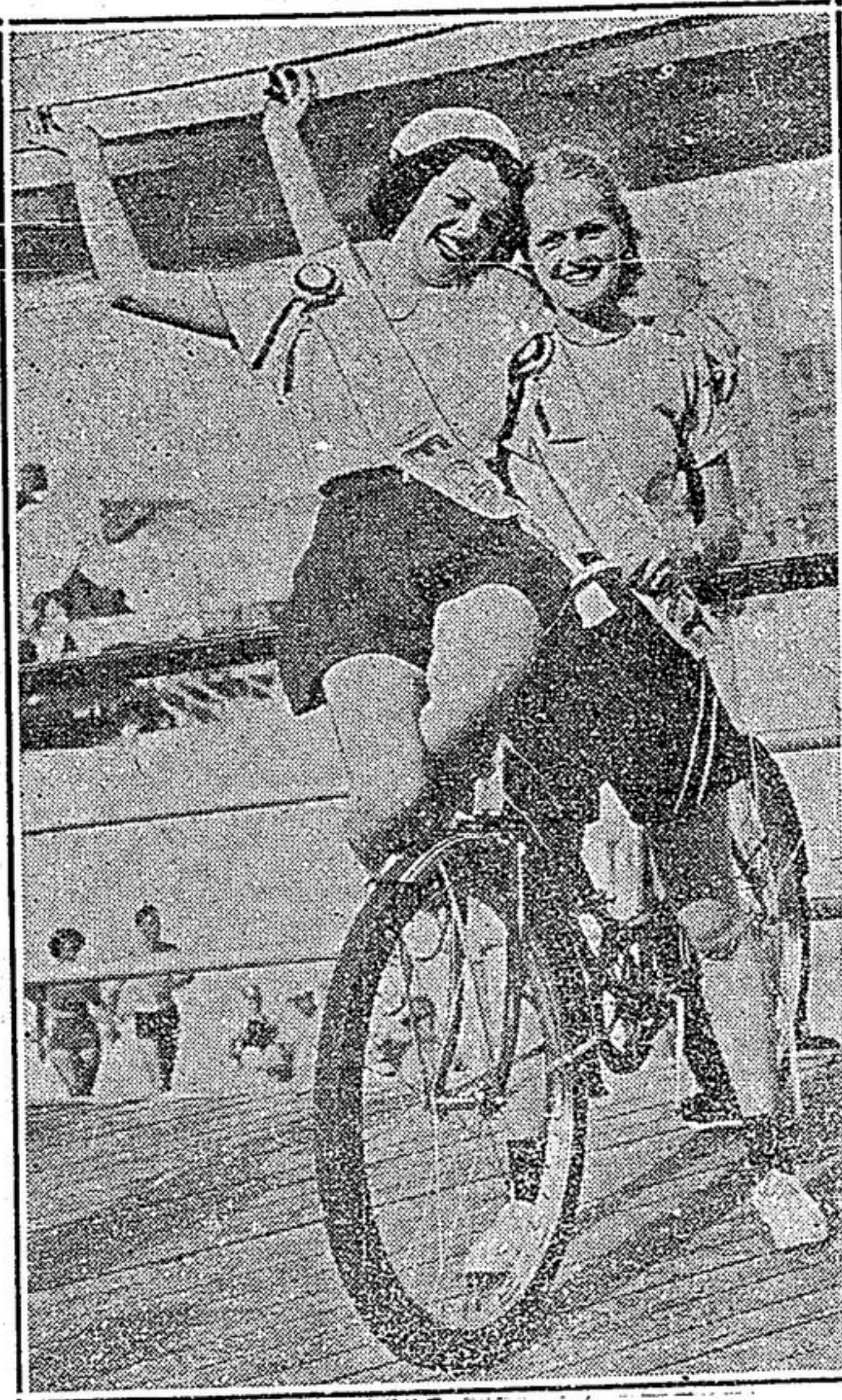
deed." The Epistle to the Romans was written by Paul to the greatest city of the world, to a people whom he had never seen, about seven years after his visit to Philippi. St. Paul here recognizes the Lord Jesus Christ as the personal and present worker.

"In the power of signs and wonders. There can be no doubt that Paul in this passage assumes that he possesses the apostolic power of working miracles. — "In the power of the Holy Spirit." This demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit consisted of partly in the miracles which he enabled the first preachers of the gospel to perform, and partly in the influence in which he attended to the truth to the hearts and consciences of those that believe (Gal. 3:2-5; Heb. 2:4). "So that from Jerusalem and round about even unto Illyricum." Illyricum was an extensive district lying along the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea near Macedonia. "I have fully preached the gospel of Christ." This verse means that he had carried the gospel message in every direction

not that he had preached the full gospel.

"Yes, making it my aim so to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, that I might not build upon another man's foundation; 21, but, as it is written, They shall see, to whom no tidings of him came, and they who have not heard shall understand." The quotation here is from Isa 52:15. (See also 1 Cor. 3:10). In the first place Paul knew that the unevangelized area of the Roman world was so vast that it was a waste of time to devote his energies to a field already occupied by another witness for Christ; in the second place, Paul well knew that he was the outstanding apostle for the Christian church of his day, and to go into a place where another Christian worker was engaged in preaching would have been to disturb whatever work his fellow-laborer had established; in the third place, Paul did everything he could to avoid other Christian workers being jealous of him. He certainly was not jealous himself of any one.

## Kentuckians Are Noted Judges of Women



Jean Mergerle (left), Miss Blue Grass, and Charlotte Hiteman, Miss Kentucky, the choices of the state where men are good judges of horses, women and liquor, snapped at Atlantic City, N.J., after taking part in bicycle race of beauties who will compete for title of Miss America.

## Future War Strategy

### Guns and Cannon Dropped From Planes by Parachutes

MOSCOW.—The Soviet Army Air Corps today set a world record for the unit transport of men and munitions by airplane when by parachutes it dropped 1,200 soldiers, 150 machine-guns and 18 cannon in the rear of the

"enemy" during manoeuvres in the Volga region.

The men and guns were dropped in a strategic position behind the "enemy" troops in eight minutes, an announcement said. Presumably this force, quickly appearing from the skies, would be able to make a highly-effective surprise attack on the "enemy."

Defenses against the sudden foray included anti-tank traps, masked trenches, barbed-wire entanglements and machine-gun nests.

While the "blues" and "reds" fought it out, their general staffs remained under ground in "electrical caverns."

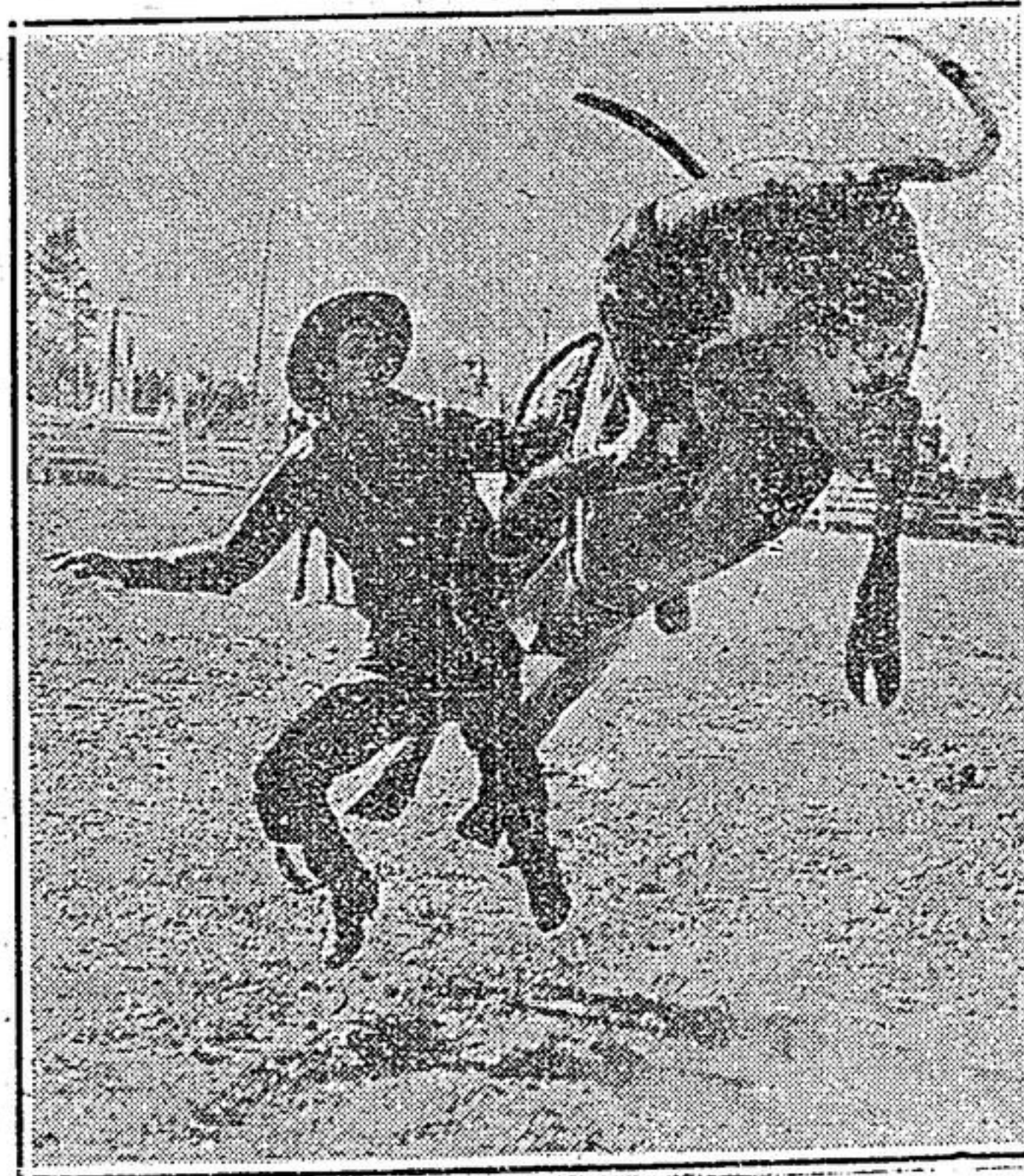
"Blues" scouted the "red" defenses, cavalry and tanks forcing the "enemy" back to a new line along the Volga.

## Keynote of Flight



Mrs. Beryl Markham, Englishwoman who flew the Atlantic, receives the key to the City of New York from Mayor Fiorella H. La Guardia during official greeting on the steps of the City Hall.

## Range Buck an' Wing



Pat Owens, Kennewich, Wash., cowboy engages in a range adagio dance while on his way to earth from the back of a lunging Brahma steer he tried to take for a ride during the rodeo at Ellensburg, Wash. He got a wrong steer.

## Noted British Women at Power Conference



Miss Caroline Haslett (left), Director of British Electrical Association for Women, Mrs. Gertrude Ruth Zinni de Ferranti, widow of Britain's Edison, pictured as they attended Third World Power Conference in Washington, D.C.

## Male, Female?

To discover if the subject is predominantly masculine or feminine, a new game in Boston calls for the leader to ask each guest to (1) light a match, (2) drink out of a glass, (3) look across the room, and (4) look at his or her nails.

One of dominant masculinity will scratch the match toward him, look into the glass while drinking, stare directly when told to look across the room and cup his hand to look at the fingernails.

One dominantly feminine, on the other hand, will scratch the match away from herself, look over the rim of the glass while drinking, let the glance wander when ordered to look at something and raise the whole hand to inspect the fingernails.

## Popular Song Life About Six Weeks

NEW YORK.—The average life of a popular song nowadays is about six weeks. Gene Buck said last week and it's got him worried. Buck is president of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. "I'm greatly disturbed over the future of any music written to-day," Buck said. "In the old days it took three or four years for an American song to sink into the hearts of the American people. To-day with more than 600 broadcast stations the popularity of any song, no matter how splendid it is, is not more than six weeks."

## Host To The World

London next year will act as host to the whole world, and already it is apparent that the Coronation will tax her hospitality to the limit. From this, if the figures reflect the its. The crowning of King Edward the Eighth will assuredly be the most splendid spectacle of this century, and promises London the most lavish season in her history.

We must make ready to receive worthily the foreign rulers and potentates and our kinsmen from overseas. The sober streets, under the guidance of famous architects, will put on fresh raiment. The lengthened Coronation route will see the most resplendent State progress that any British Sovereign ever made. At night the towers and tall buildings of London will glimmer white against the sky, the capital sending a glow into the clouds that will be seen from distant countries.

But amid the merriment and rejoicing the profound inward meaning of the event must not be forgotten.

A new King dedicates himself to the service of his people scattered about the globe, and the Crown which he assumes is the supreme, and today the only, symbol which holds together the mightiest of Empires.

That fact should be recognized by the presence of troops from overseas and by finding a part for the Empire's representatives in the age-old ritual of the Abbey. The Coronation must show afresh to the world the singlehearted loyalty and common destiny of the Empire.

## Telephone Calls

The number of telephone conversations in the United States for 1934 the last year for which comparable figures are available, was 24,250,000,000, an increase of 10,000,000,000 telegrams was 160,000,000.

Japan used the telephone and telegraph to a greater extent than any European country during that year, and holds second place with 4,051,000,000 telephone conversations and 54,571,000 telegrams. Next comes Canada, with 2,298,508,000 telephone conversations and 9,857,000 telegrams.

Germany leads the countries of Europe, with 8,288,596,000 telephone conversations and 17,233,000 telegrams. The system serving Great Britain and Northern Ireland ranks next in number of telephone conversations and next come Sweden, France, Spain, Denmark, and Austria in the order named. In number of telegrams, Great Britain and Northern Ireland have a commanding lead over any European country, with France second, Spain third and Germany fourth.

In compiling these figures, telephone conversations represent completed local and toll or long distance messages, and telegrams include internal messages and outward international messages.

The National Institute for the Blind in Great Britain has finished two monumental tasks, the first Greek New Testament and the first revised edition of the Bible in Braille.

Under the mud of an old crater in New Zealand the bones of a moa, believed to have been trapped while feeding ages ago, have been found and have enabled scientists to reconstruct the skeleton of this extinct wingless bird.

## Celebrate Victory



The jubilant New York Yankees celebrating in the club house at League Park, Cleveland, O. following their victory over the Indians, which clinched the American League pennant for them.

## Why The Salmon Run



Crowds gathered to watch the start of annual Ben Paris Salmon Derby at Dunamish Waterway, Seattle, Wash., in which 350 entries angled for prizes.