

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON V  
GOD LEADS A PEOPLE — Exodus 13:17 — 15:21

Printed Text — Exodus 13:17-22; 14:10-15  
Golden Text — "The Lord will guide thee continually." Isaiah 58:11.

## THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Place — The Israelites gathered together, as they went out of Egypt, at Succoth, which is to be identified with the city of Pithom in the north-east of this great country. Various events in this lesson occurred between the city of Succoth and some part of the Red Sea, which is not today easily identifiable.

Time — B.C. 1498.

"And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not by the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near." If the Israelites had come from Egypt straight up into Palestine all through Gaza, they could have been in the center of the Promised Land within a week. This is the way almost all of the great military campaigns for the invasion of Palestine from the south have advanced. The march is difficult, at certain seasons of the year it is blistering hot, and many miles would be through an arid desert, but, nevertheless, such a march is possible. Napoleon himself led his troops up this way in his futile attempt to reach Constantinople. "For God said, lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt." "But God led the people about, by the way of the wilderness by the Red Sea." The Red Sea is about 1350 miles long, with an extreme breadth of 205 miles, the deepest portion measuring 1200 fathoms. It is located between Egypt and Arabia, stretching from Suez to the Strait of Babel-Mandeb. Why this body of water has been called the Red Sea for the last two thousand years, no one seems to know. The name has been explained by the corals within its waters, by the color of the Edoimite and Arabian mountains bordering its coast, or by the glow of the sky reflected in it.

God's ways are so often not our ways: ours seem to be capable of the quicker results and less suffering. But God's ways often appear so much longer than necessary, and involve so much hardship and disappointment, yet God always knows best. We see two evident reasons why in the good providence of God the near way was not chosen. First, the escaped slaves could not bear the sudden danger and fierce struggle in the near way (because of the powerful Philistine people against whom they would immediately have to fight and for which they certainly were not prepared).

"And the children of Israel went up armed out of the land of Egypt." Literally they went up equipped (See Joshua 1:14; 4:12).

"And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him; for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you." This was according to the explicit order of Joseph just before his death (Gen. 50:25, 26; see Acts 7:16). Faith in the Promised Land must also have kept burning in the hearts of some Israelites from one generation to another, or the bones of Joseph would have been forgotten. Would that all of us, in dying, could leave such legacies of one kind or another that those who follow us, especially our own children, might therefrom de-

rive strength for continually walking in the favour of the Lord, living the faith-life!

"And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness." The exact position of Succoth is not known, but scholars are coming to believe that it was very near to or actually identical with the city of Pithom in lower Egypt, on the banks of the canal connecting the Nile River with the Red Sea.

Etham was on the east of the Isthmus of Suez, although its exact location has not been determined.

"And Jehovah went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them the way, and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; that they also might go by day and night." "The pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night, departed not from the people." We are not to regard this miraculous phenomenon as consisting of two different pillars that appeared alternately, one of cloud, and the other of fire. There was but one pillar of both cloud and fire (14:24); for even when burning in the dark, it is still called the pillar of cloud (14:19) or the cloud (Num. 9:21), so that it was a cloud with a dark side and a bright one, causing darkness and also lighting the night. Consequently, we have to imagine the cloud as the covering of the fire, so that by day it appeared as a dark cloud in contrast to a light of the sun, but by night as a fiery splendour. When this cloud had gone before the army of Israel, it assumed the form of a column; but when it stood still above the tabernacle, or came down upon it, it most probably took the form of a round globe of cloud, and, when it separated the Israelites from the Egyptians at the Red Sea, we have to imagine it spread out like a bank of cloud, forming, as it were, a dividing wall. In this cloud, Jehovah, or the angel of God, was really present with the people of Israel, so that he spoke to Moses and gave him his commandments out of the cloud." — C. F. Keil. (See for further references to this remarkable phenomenon, 16:10; 19:9; 24:16; 34:5; 40:34-38; Lev. 16:2, 13; Num. 9:15, 22; 1 Kings 8:19; Neh. 9:19; and Psalm 78:14).

"And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes and, behold, the Egyptians were marching after them; and they were sore afraid; and the children of Israel cried out unto Jehovah." From every human standpoint it was inevitable that Israel should be afraid. The Egyptian army, whatever its number, was composed of trained soldiers, well armed and used to war; the 600,000 Israelite men above twenty years of age, were, in the main, unarmed, ignorant of warfare, and trained very imperfectly. Surrounded on three sides by water, and desert, and ground too rough for foot marching, with the Egyptian army completing this circle of obstacles utterly incapable of being overcome, Israel forgetting that God himself was omnipotent, and that they were in this very place by the command of God, turned against their leader in bitter complaint. The leader of any expedition is the one that always receives the brunt of criticism. If there is failure, he is severely blamed for it. If there is hardship, he is held responsible for it.

"And they said unto Moses, because they were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt

## Montrealers At Canada House



The High Commissioner for Canada, Hon. Vincent Massey, and his wife, received members of the Dominion's Coronation delegations and visitors at Canada House. Our picture shows, left, Sarah Fisher and Vera Guilaroff, outstanding Montreal musical artists with one of the guests.

thus with us, to bring us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we spake unto thee in Egypt, saying, let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it were better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness." Here is an utter lack of faith. There is no turning to God, but a shameful expression of helplessness, and that so soon after God had powerfully manifested his own ability to deliver from every power that was now threatening them.

"We, too, have our Pi-bahiroths, when we seem absolutely shut-in, and helpless against the circumstances which are surrounding us. Yet, it is when the people of God are brought into the greatest straits and difficulties that they are favoured with the finest displays of God's character and acting, and, for this reason, he oftentimes leads them into a trying position, in order that he may the more markedly show himself. He could have conducted Israel through the Red Sea and far beyond the reach of Pharaoh's hosts before ever the latter had started from Egypt; but that would not have so fully glorified his own name, or so entirely confounded the enemy, upon whom he designed to get him honour. If we could only look upon a difficult crisis as an occasion of bringing out, on our behalf, the sufficiency of divine grace, it would enable us to preserve the balance of our souls, and to glorify God, even in the deepest waters.

"And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of Jehovah, which he will work for you to-day; for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to-day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. Jehovah will fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." Nothing can be conceived nobler and finer than a servant of God, standing out in absolute faith and confidence against the unbelief and fear of a vast multitude of people, here over two million of them, his own brethren. One thing the children of Israel were not to do — to fear. Two things they were commanded to do — to stand still, and to see what the Lord would do for them. What else could they do but stand still? There was no power in Israel that could have ever overcome the circumstances arrayed against the Israelites that day. If they were to be saved God must do it. The Lord not only places himself between us and our circumstances. By doing the former, he gives peace of conscience; by doing the latter he gives peace of heart.

"And Jehovah said unto Moses, wherefore criest thou unto me? but speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward." What a command — to go forward, when immediately in front of them was a great body of water! When the circumstances seem the most difficult and the time most unripe, then it is that God often commands his people to advance. May it not be in these very days, when the church of Christ seems to be growing weaker and weaker, and its influence more and more circumscribed and its leadership less and less able, when there seem to be no great prophets in the land, when the people of God are indifferent — that this is the time for a real advance led by the Spirit of God?

## Hitler's Name Is Worth \$5,637

VIENNA.—The half-effaced signature of Adolf Hitler on a sketch of the church in his native Austrian village which turned up here raised the value of the drawing to 30,000 Austrian shillings (about \$5,637). The sketch, which dates from the German Chancellor's house-painting days when he turned out such pictures to augment his meagre income, was discovered by a young Viennese while searching through family papers.

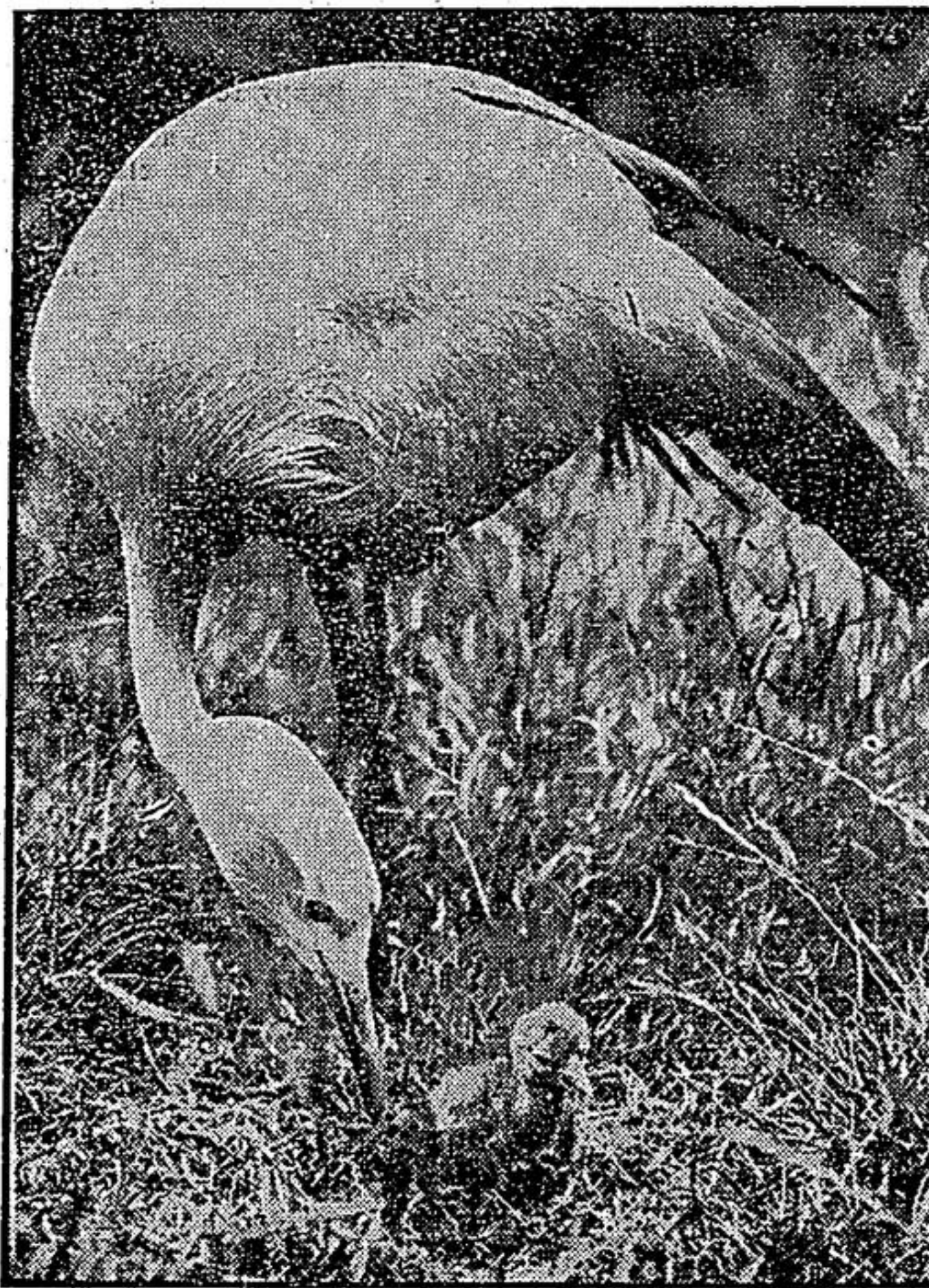
## Cat More Than Farm Pet

J. Seneca Jones, secretary of the Minnesota Farm Bureau, says there are 200,000 farms in the state of Minnesota and nearly all of them have cats as household pets or as protectors of grain and crops against rats, mice, and other rodents.

The cat is regarded by many farmers as a conservationist.

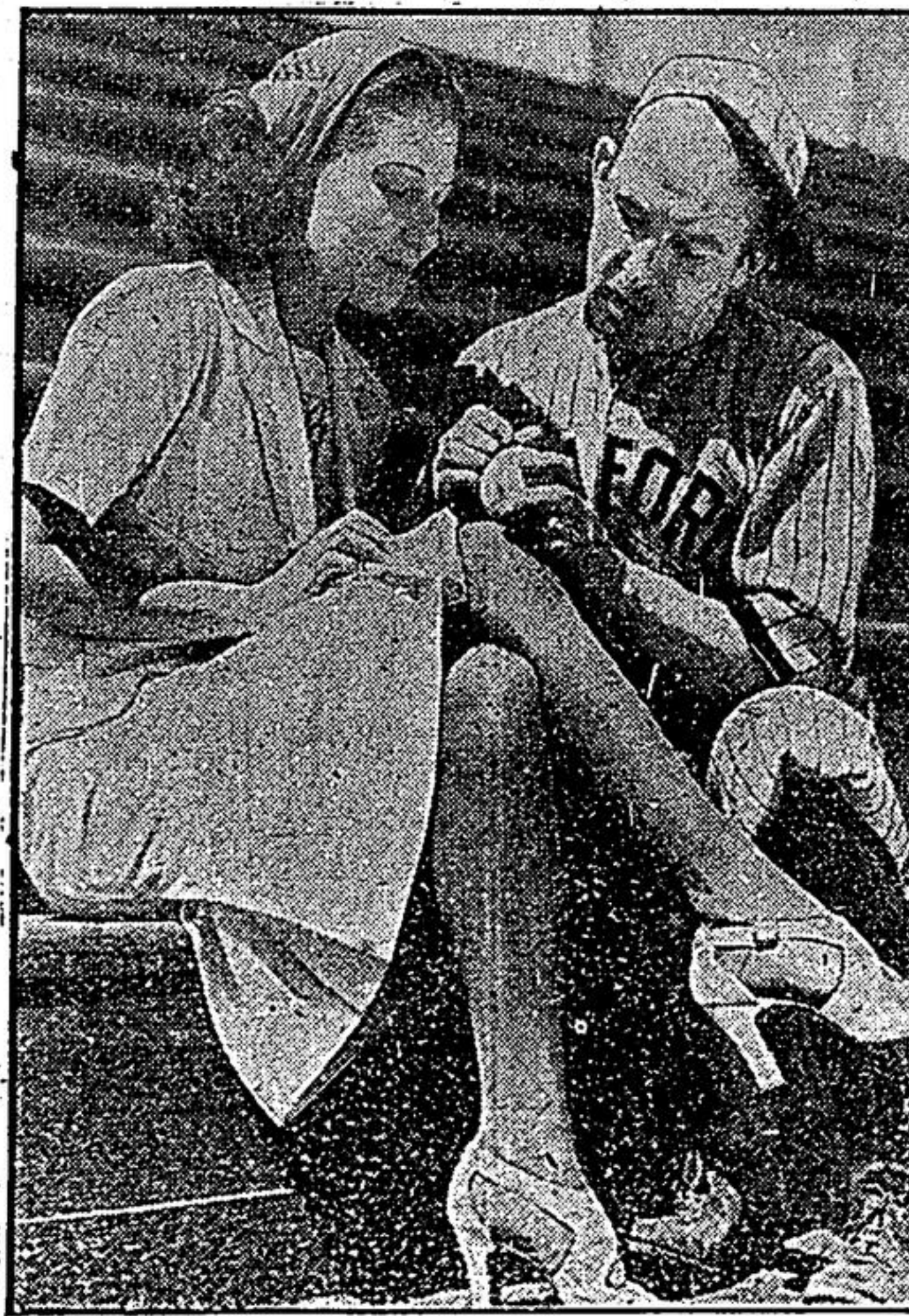
"In politics, you have to be diplomatic and tactful, you have to get along with people you disagree with, but you don't have to sell your soul to anybody or anything." — Charles P. Taft.

## Crane Treasures Reward For Her Efforts



Mrs. Stanley Crane keeps a careful eye on her youngster, the first to be hatched in the London Zoo, to make sure that nobody robs her of the reward of her careful efforts.

## This Has All The Signs Of Real Courtesy



Vince Barnett, one of the comedians, obliges an obliging young lady, Patricia Crocker, by autographing a baseball for her during practice for game with Leading Men in Los Angeles.

## Movie Star Dust Radio

By VIRGINIA DALE

At last Shirley Temple's parents have given in and will permit her to speak over the radio. She will stay up until eight-thirty the night that "Wee Willie Winkle" opens in Hollywood, address a country-wide audience and then go home to bed without seeing the picture.

This is more of a victory for Shirley than it is for radio executives. All their money did not interest Mr. and Mrs. Temple, who try to hold Shirley's working hours down to a minimum. But Shirley heard talk on the studio lot about this player and that one going on the radio and she began to wonder why she couldn't do it. She begged and begged. Finally Mrs. Temple just had to let her do it.

When Carole Lombard insisted that her new contract with Paramount include a clause giving her permission to make one picture a year for any other company she choose all the little companies scurried around looking for stories that might interest her. One picture with a star like Lombard, they figure, would put them in the big money. And now Carole has gone and broken their hearts. She has signed a contract with Selznick to make one picture a year for him for five years.

RKO has a grand surprise all ready for Irene Dunne. They have found a dizzy, hilarious character for her to play in a perfectly-mad comedy — the kind she loves. It is the role of a rich, giddy girl who wants to be a detective and who goes around detecting whether anyone wants her to or not. "The Mad Miss Minton" is the name, and here's hoping it is half as good as everyone expects it to be.

There are a lot of people on the M-G-M lot who think that Greta Garbo is just about the grandest person alive and one of them is Charles Boyer. When their current picture, "Countess Waleska" was about half finished, he went to the director a little worried. He had discovered that his part was much longer than hers. Breezily the director told him not to give it another thought. Miss Garbo knew all about that before the picture was started and insisted that no changes be made. "The picture must be good," she said. "Not all Garbo."

Wearily of waiting around the Warner Brothers' studio watching song and dance stars overworked while there was rarely a part for her, Josephine Hutchinson asked for a release from her contract and got it. Immediately Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer signed her for one of the most thrilling roles of the year. She will play the lead in "He Who Gets Slapped," with Spencer Tracy and Robert Taylor in the cast.

Meanwhile, the same studio that is making Miss Hutchinson so happy, is making Joan Crawford unhappy. She suspects that the story-finding department forgets her for months at a stretch and just pick out any old story that is left over as a vehicle for her. Rumor has it that she would like to break away and go to work for Sam Goldwyn. Maybe she will. And you know what grand pictures he makes.

After all, the Bennett sisters, Joan and Constance, won't play the picture star and the double in the popular novel, "Stand In." Joan Blondell has been borrowed from Warner Brothers and will play both parts. Constance was not keen about playing the vicious, calculating star and Joan is intent on going to the Summer Stock theatre at Dennis-on-Cape Cod to do some stage acting. Incidentally, Joan is said to be the best rumba dancer in all Hollywood. Wouldn't you love it if she would dance in a film? If enough fans wrote and asked her to, she probably would. Stars love to get letters that offer suggestions.

ODDS AND ENDS.—After all, Fred Allen won't make a picture this summer. He did not like the story the studio cooked up for him. It would have to be good to top his last few radio programs of the season. Everyone is wondering if Warner O'Keefe can keep the pace Allen set. . . . Dance directors and scene designers who think up those colossal numbers for musical pictures are a little annoyed because Jeanette MacDonald outdid them in staging her own wedding . . .

"Not gold, not foreign exchange holdings, but work and work alone, is the true monetary basis."

## Big Bidding For Treasured Book

LONDON, Eng.—Spectacular bidding for treasured books, in which Americans participated prominently, yielded £46,000 in a recent auction at Sotherby's. The sale lasted little more than an hour.

The highest price, £13,500, was paid for the Duke of Bedford's "Book of Hours," by Giraud Bidan of Paris. Philip Rosenbach, an American collector, bought a Gutenberg Bible, with 381 leaves missing for £8,000 as well as a rare copy of Audubon's "Birds in America" for £2,400 and a Boccaccio for £1,800.

Gabriel Wells of New York led the bidding for a first folio Shakespeare, for which finally he paid £5,600. The collection sold consisted of 34 lots and the Bible, most of which came from the 100-year-old library of the Earl of Lincoln situated at Clumber.

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b 5.30 p.m.	d 2.45 p.m.
e 10.15 p.m.	c 3.50 p.m.
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