

SUBJECT FILE

Clippings

1932

Earhart, Amelia: visit

June 21

Los Henry Hears Papers

Subject Files

31-1hh-sub-b118-f06

Amelia Putnam Gets Gold Medal From President

Executive Presents National Geographic Society's Award to U. S. Airwoman

Dignitaries Cheer Her

Flyer and Husband Guests at Dinner in White House

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

WASHINGTON, June 21.—The National Geographic Society's highest honor—the gold medal for notable geographic attainment—was presented tonight to Mrs. Amelia Earhart Putnam, first woman to fly across the Atlantic alone, by President Hoover at Constitution Hall before an assemblage of high dignitaries and aviation enthusiasts.

"Mrs. Putnam has made all mankind her debtor by her demonstration of new possibilities of the human spirit and the human will in overcoming the barriers of space and the restrictions of nature upon the radius of human activity," the President said. "The nation is proud that an American woman should be the first woman in history to fly an airplane alone across the Atlantic Ocean."

Mrs. Putnam's reply was modest. Standing as slim and graceful as a reed, she said:

"I thank you sincerely. I fear my exploit was not worthy of so great an honor."

Putnams White House Guests

Before the ceremony Mrs. Putnam and her husband, George Palmer Putnam, New York publisher, had been guests at a small formal dinner at the White House.

There were only twelve guests, Mr. and Mrs. Putnam, Dr. Gilbert H. Grosvenor, president of the National Geographic Society, and Mrs. Grosvenor; Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Joslin, Clarence M. Young, Mr. and Mrs. William P. McCracken jr., Mr. and Mrs. Warren D. Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. Mark L. Requa, of California; Colonel and Mrs. U. S. Grant 3d, Mrs. Stark McMullin, Mrs. Hoover's house guest; Miss Doris Goss, Captain Charles Russell Train and Mrs. Train, and Colonel Campbell B. Hedges.

The presentation at Constitution Hall was at 8 p. m. The resplendent gowns of the women, the full dress uniforms of White House aids and other members of the military, and the Marine Band gave a touch of color.

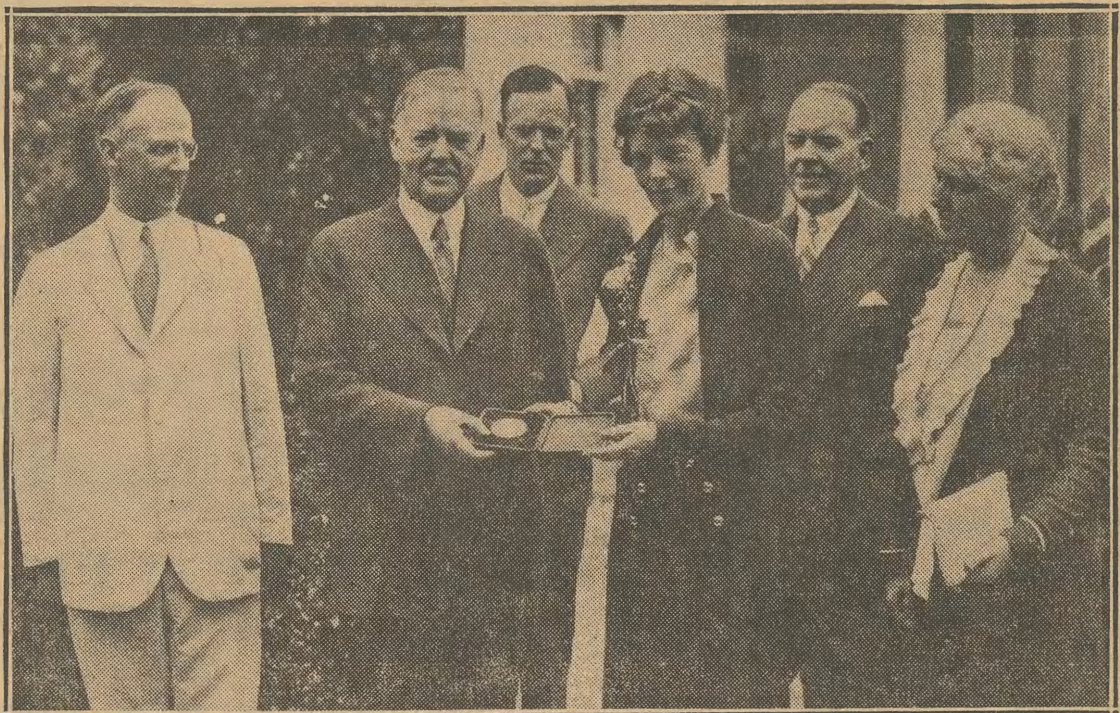
The President's Address

President Hoover's remarks follow:

It is a great pleasure to come here and share in your honoring of Mrs. Amelia Earhart Putnam. She has shown a splendid courage and skill in flying alone across the Atlantic Ocean. She has often before demonstrated her ability to accomplish the most difficult tasks that she set herself to do.

She has been modest and good-humored. All these things combine to place her in spirit with the great pioneering women to whom every generation of Americans has looked up with admiration for their firmness of will, their strength of character and their cheerful spirit of comradeship in the work of the world.

Honored by the President for Her Trans-Atlantic Flight



MRS. Amelia Earhart Putnam and Mr. Hoover pictured yesterday at the White House as they inspected the National Geographic Society medal he presented to her formally at Constitution Hall in the evening. Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, president of the society; George Palmer Putnam, John O. La Gorce, vice-president of the society, and Mrs. Hoover complete the group

Herald Tribune photo—Aeme

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 1932

man spirit and the human will in overcoming the barriers of space and the restrictions of nature on the radius of human activity.

The nation is proud that an American woman should be the first woman in history to fly an airplane alone across the Atlantic Ocean. As their spokesman, I take pride and pleasure in conferring this rarely bestowed medal of the National Geographic Society upon Mrs. Amelia Earhart Putnam.

First Woman So Honored

The medal bore on one side the geographic society's seal, and on the reverse, the inscription, "Awarded by the National Geographic Society to Amelia Earhart, first woman to achieve a solo trans-Atlantic flight, May 20-21, 1932."

Mrs. Putnam was the first woman to receive the society's highest honor. Twelve men have been given the award since Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary received it in 1906 for his discovery of the North Pole. Mrs. Putnam's name is now enrolled among those of Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, for his flight to the South Pole; Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh; for his solo flight to Paris; Captain Raoul Amundson, Sir Ernest Shackleton and Roy Chapman Andrews for their explorations; Dr. Hugo Eckner, for his first Graf Zeppelin flight from Germany to the United States, and Colonel Charles W. Goethals, for his work on the Panama Canal.

Tribute by Dr. Grosvenor

High tribute was paid to Mrs. Putnam by Dr. Grosvenor, who said, in part:

"Following Mrs. Putnam's first trans-Atlantic flight four years ago she addressed our society. During that crossing, though she was then a skillful pilot, she made no plea to take the controls. She placed success ahead of personal fame. Her restraint then, her self discipline, training, long observation and thorough preparation for the feat she has just accomplished remove it from the category of happy accident, and stamp it as one of the enduring achievements of aviation."

Mrs. Putnam insisted that her flight had added nothing to aviation, and said she believed that "the appreciation of the deed is out of all proportion to the deed itself."

"I'm often asked if I was afraid at any time during the flight," she said. "The answer is that there was no time to be afraid. I was just too busy—and too interested in the problem at hand. Flying a plane for five hours and more, in storm, fog and darkness, is enough to keep a pilot quite occupied. And then, with me there was the added complication of having my altimeter fail, so that after two hours out of Harbour Grace I never knew my exact height above sea level. A weld in the exhaust manifold began to burn through before midnight, which might have resulted seriously."

"Even if this trouble had been serious I could not have returned. The field at Harbour Grace is unlighted and difficult at best. To have turned back and attempted a landing in the dark would have meant an inevitable crack-up, with the added possibility of fire from my heavy gasoline load. Further difficulty during the night was the formation of ice on the plane when I tried to climb out of the bad weather."

Need of Weather Data

"Therefore, at the end of ten hours of flying instead of turning slightly south as prearranged, I allowed for the drift which I had estimated. With the altimeter gone and the trouble with the exhaust it seemed sensible to at least check over the first land available, the south tip of Ireland. I didn't want to miss that. As a matter of fact, I did hit about the middle of Ireland and must have been quite exactly on my course. Thunderstorms hanging low over the hills of the south caused me to turn north where I saw better weather. I followed a railroad to Londonderry and there I came down in a convenient pasture, thirteen and a half hours of flying time after my departure from Harbour Grace. The flight showed me the importance of instrument flying—the desirability of a pilot being able to guide his craft without seeing outside his cockpit."

"Also I think the flight again showed the fallibility of our present weather-predicting facilities. With the data at hand the Weather Bureau does admirably. But there just isn't enough information available. Perhaps in the future some sort of an anchored weather observation station will be devised for recording weather in mid-Atlantic."

"I believe regular transatlantic air service is inevitably coming. How soon, depends on many factors, perhaps chief of which is airplane design."

"I shall be happy if my small exploit has drawn attention to the fact that women are flying too."

Received by President

Mrs. Putnam, accompanied by her husband and the latter's son by a former marriage, arrived from New York by air at the Washington airport just before 11 a. m. and was received by the President at 12:30. There followed a busy day in which the party visited the Senate and House.

Mrs. Putnam's arrival at the Capitol put an end temporarily to the Senate's proceedings. Greeted by Vice-President Curtis, she was detained in his office for a moment while Senator Hiram Bingham, Republican, of Connecticut, announced her to the Senate and briefly but warmly extolled her Atlantic flight. Rising with cheers and hand-clappings, the entire membership of the Senate welcomed her into the chamber in front of the dais while the gallery audience rose and added its demonstration.

Smilingly, Mrs. Putnam faced the assemblage, and then, standing beside Senator Bingham, was introduced in order to the Senators, who trooped down the aisles to form an impromptu reception line. She exchanged only a word and a hand-clasp with each one, though the greeting was prolonged noticeably when Senator Hattie W. Caraway, of Arkansas, came along, near the end of the procession.

It is significant that she found the first outlet for her energies in social settlement work and that through all her succession of triumphs in aviation, her transcontinental and transoceanic flights, she has continued active in this warmly human labor. Her success has not been won by the selfish pursuit of a purely personal ambition, but as part of a career generously animated by a wish to help others to share in the rich opportunities of life, and by a wish also to enlarge those opportunities by expanding the powers of women, as well as men, to their ever-widening limits.

Mrs. Putnam has made all mankind her debtor by her demonstration of new possibilities of the hu-

Amelia Earhart Feted at White

Notable Gathering Sees Aviatrix Get Award of National Geographic Body

By JEAN ELIOT

As a pleasant prelude to the ceremonies at which the National Geographic Society bestowed its special gold medal upon Amelia Earhart, the President and Mrs. Hoover entertained at dinner last evening at the White House in compliment to the gallant lady whose solo flight across the Atlantic has won her a distinction never before bestowed upon a woman.

Miss Earhart's husband, "Publisher Putnam"—as Time would phrase it—shared honors with her. Indeed, it was as "Mr. and Mrs. George P. Putnam" that their names headed the White House list.

This dinner was "small and early," with but 22 in the company and with the hour set for 7:15 o'clock in order that the President and Mrs. Hoover and their guests might go on to Constitution Hall for the colorful exercises at which President Hoover bestowed the Geographic Society's medal upon Miss Earhart.

Guests at the dinner beside Mr. and Mrs. Putnam were Dr. and Mrs. Gilbert Grosvenor, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Joslin, Col. Clarence M. Young, Mr. and Mrs. William P. MacCracken, jr., Mr. and Mrs. Warren Delano Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. Mark L. Requa, of California, White House guests for a few days; Col. and Mrs. U. S. Grant 3d, Mrs. Stark McMullin, Miss Doris Goss, Capt. and Mrs. Charles Russell Train and Col. Campbell B. Hodges.

The table decorations were of pink roses, pink larkspur, baby's breath and maidenhair fern.

Notable Gathering Sees Presentation

A notable audience, diplomats and statesmen, officers of the Army and Navy and civilians, witnessed the colorful presentation ceremonies at Constitution Hall. President Hoover presented the medal—America's highest award for geographic attainment—in behalf of the world-wide membership of the National Geographic Society. Dr. Grosvenor, president of the society, presided.

Mann, Mr. and Mrs. William P. MacCracken, jr., Capt. and Mrs. Ralph Walker McDowell, Mrs. Raymond S. Patton, and Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Wetmore.

Also Mr. and Mrs. Albert H. Bumstead, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin L. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Gillette, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph A. Graves, Mr. and Mrs. Melville Bell Grosvenor, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Hildebrand, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Hutchinson, Charles Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert A. Poole, Mrs. William J. Showalter, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Simpich and Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Owen Williams.

For this luncheon the Geographic Society's reception room was decorated with enlargements of notable photographs of the society's long series of explorations and photographic surveys in remote places of the world.

This collection includes photographs taken on Admiral Byrd's expeditions to the Arctic and the Antarctic and from the Citroen-Haardt expedition's travels across the "roof of the world," and along trails blazed by Marco Polo. The vast pre-Columbian "apartment" dwellings on Pueblo Bonito, N. M., are included, with photographs from the society's quarter-million collection, their subjects ranging from Corsica and Greece to Japan, China, Mexico and Brazil. Strange native costumes, off ships, primitive industries and beauties of landscape and architecture are depicted.

House Prior to Presentation of Medal

American Paper for the American People—WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 1932.

Telephone, District 5275

Miss Earhart made a wise and witty little speech. The Marine Band played and the exercises were broadcast. The platform was decorated with the American flag and the flag of the National Geographic Society.

Many noted women in the audience heard the speakers emphasize Mrs. Putnam's achievement as a symbol of women's accomplishments in science.

Mrs. Russell William Magna, president general of the D. A. R., had come from her home in Holyoke, Mass., to attend the ceremonies and entertained guests in the president general's box. With her were Mrs. John M. Beavers, Mrs. Stanley Forman Reed, Mrs. William Lewis Dunne and Mrs. Frank M. Dick, all national officers.

On the platform were seated President and Mrs. Hoover and their dinner party; Chief Justice and Mrs. Hughes, the Minister of the Irish Free State and Mrs. MacWhite, Senator and Mrs. George H. Moses, officers of the Geographic Society and other notables.

Glimpsed in the audience were the Ambassador of Italy, the Ambassador of France, the Ambassador of Belgium and Mme. May, the Ambassador of Turkey, the Ambassador of Germany and many of the group of Ministers; the Secretary of State and Mrs. Stimson, the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Mills, the Attorney General and Mrs. Mitchell, the Postmaster General and Mrs. Brown, the Secretary of Commerce and Mrs. Lamont, Justice and Mrs. Stone, Senator and Mrs. Hiram Johnson, Senator and Mrs. Porter H. Dale, Senator and Mrs. Davis Aiken Reed, Senator and Mrs. Henry Wilder Keyes, Senator Frederick Hale and a large group from the House.

Others present, to name but a few at random, were the Bishop of Washington and Mrs. Freeman, Solicitor General and Mrs. Thomas D. Thacher, Commissioner and Mrs. Luther Reichelderfer, Admiral and Mrs. William V. Pratt, Admiral and Mrs. R. E. Coontz, Rear Admiral and Mrs. Mark L. Bristol, Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Ben H. Fuller and Mr. and Mrs. French Strother.

Geographic Society Gives Luncheon

Following Miss Earhart's call upon President Hoover in the morning, she was entertained at luncheon by the trustees of the National Geographic Society in the organization's beautiful new building.

Also a guest on this occasion was George Palmer Putnam, the famous flier's husband.

Present at the luncheon were Dr. and Mrs. Gilbert Grosvenor, Dr. and Mrs. John Oliver LaGorce, John Joy Edson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Fleming, Dr. J. Howard Gore, Judge John Barton Payne, Dr. George Otis Smith, Miss Louise Coburn Smith, the Rev. W. Coleman Nevils, S. J., Admiral and Mrs. William V. Pratt, Dr. Cloyd Heck Marvin, Surgeon General and Mrs. Hugh Cumming, Mrs. John Greely, Miss Rose Greely, Dr. and Mrs. William M.

Guard of Honor Given Luncheon By Press Ladies

The luncheon given by the Women's National Press Club at the Willard yesterday in compliment to the seven distinguished members of the Society of Women Geographers, who accompanied Miss Earhart to Washington as a guard of honor, brought to a brilliant close the activities of the club season.

Club members and numerous distinguished guests heard high tribute paid to Miss Earhart for her notable achievement, her gallant spirit and her bubbling humor by Harriet Chalmers Adams, president of the Society of Woman Geographers, and the visiting members of the group of which Miss Earhart is a member.

The first medal ever struck off by the organization will be bestowed upon Miss Earhart at a later date. After failure of attempts—due to fog—to drop it upon the returning flier's ship from the air, its citation was bestowed upon her in New York by a committee of women geographers including Blair Niles, Delia Akeley and Marjorie Trumbull.

They told in amusing fashion of their adventures and of Mr. Putnam's remark, when he heard that his wife was receiving another medal, that after each one was bestowed he had to devote 20 minutes to "deflating America." Other guests of honor were Gertrude Matthews Shelby, Grace E. Barstow Murphy, Gertrude Emerson and Lucille Sinclair Douglass, all women with brilliant achievements to their credit.

Guests of club members for the luncheon included Mrs. Edward Everett Gann, Mrs. William N. Doak, Mrs. Porter H. Dale, Mrs. Edward Costigan, Representative Florence P. Kahn, Miss Mathilde Eiker, Mrs. Catherine Filene Dodd, Mrs. Lowell Mellett, Mrs. Mina Adams, Miss Harlean James, Princess Cantacuzene, Mrs. Samuel A. Kimberly, Miss Florence Worthington, Mrs. Harold Krogh, Mrs. E. T. Cronin, Miss Vera Bloom and Miss Eleanor Addison Gittings.

Mrs. Harriet Chalmers Adams, president of the Society of Woman Geographers, and Mrs. Caroline Benedict Carroll, of the executive council, entertained members of the society at tea yesterday afternoon at the Washington Club in honor of the seven visiting members.

Among the local members present were Mrs. Gilbert H. Grosvenor, Mrs. Anne Archbold, Mrs. Alice Tisdale Hobart, Dr. Helen M. Strong, Mrs. Robert Whitney Imbrie, Mrs. Constance Lathrop, Mrs. Sophia Sauderman, Mrs. Charles Hendley, Miss Mary Maxwell, Mrs. Hamilton Bryan, Mrs. William B. Mann and Dr. Laura Martin.

SOCIETY

President and Mrs. Hoover Entertain at
Dinner for Amelia Earhart Putnam—

Post Luncheon Given Geographers.

6/22/32
PRESIDENT AND MRS. HOOVER

entertained a small company at dinner last evening in honor of Amelia Earhart (Mrs. George P. Putnam), first woman to make a solo flight across the Atlantic. The other guests were Mr. Putnam, Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, president of the National Geographic Society; Mrs. Grosvenor, Col. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant 3d, Col. and Mrs. William P. MacCracken, jr., Col. Clarence Young, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Aeronautics; Mr. and Mrs. Warren Delano Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore G. Joslin, Mr. and Mrs. Mark L. Requa, Mrs. Stark McMullin, Miss Doris Goss, Capt. and Mrs. Charles Russell Train, the former the President's former naval aid, and Col. Campbell B. Hodges, military aid to the President.

The dinner was set early, 6:45, and the table had low decorations of pink roses, pink larkspur, baby's breath and maidenhair fern.

Mrs. Hoover accompanied the President to Constitution Hall after the dinner, where he presented to Miss Earhart the special gold medal awarded her by the National Geographic Society, the first time the society has paid such an honor to a woman.

Mrs. Hoover wore last night one of a number of cotton evening gowns of her collection. It was of printed dimity made simply and of simple pattern, in shades of blue and pale gray. Miss Earhart wore a Paris model of "ice blue" light weight crepe made on very simple lines, molded close to the figure and quite long, the only trimming being a black silk flower on the left shoulder. She wore also a diamond pendant.

Women Geographers Entertained by Club.

Mrs. Edward Everett Gann was the ~~pink~~ guest yesterday at the luncheon of the Women's National Press Club in the presidential suite at the Willard, when the members entertained the seven members of the Society of Women Geographers who came as an escort to Amelia Earhart Putnam from New York, flying in a plane immediately following the one which brought her from the metropolis. Miss Harriet Chalmers Adams, president of the society, met the party at the landing field and also was a guest at the luncheon. Other guests were Mrs. Doak, wife of the Secretary of Labor; Mrs. Porter H. Dale, wife of the senator from Vermont; Representative Florence P. Kahn, Princess Cantacuzene (nee Grant), Mrs. Edward P. Costigan, Miss S. A. Kimberly, Miss Florence Worthington, Mrs. Harold Krogh, Miss Matilde Elker, and Miss Harlean James.

The guests of honor were Mrs. Marjorie Trumbull, who has done outstanding work in the archeological field, confining her endeavors in particular to Central America and Mexico; Mrs. Blair Niles, author of the book, "Condemned to Devil's Island"; Mrs. Delia Akeley, African explorer; Miss Gertrude Emerson, who is on the staff of Asia Magazine; Miss Lucille Sinclair Douglass, geographical artist and lecturer; Mrs. G. E. D. Murphy, vice president of the Society of Women Geographers, and Mrs. Gertrude Mathews Shelby, author of the delightful "Gullah Tales" and lecturer of note on Negro folklore. The president of the club, Miss Martha Strayer, being absent in Europe, Miss Katherine Lewis, first vice president, presided.