



# Hepcats and Bookworms



By Joseph Wechsberg  
Tomorrow Correspondent

"The surest way to kill unfounded prejudices and suspicion between peoples is through knowledge on the part of each concerning the other," Sumner Welles concludes in his new book "An Intelligent American's Guide to the Peace" (The Dryden Press).

Welles' "The Time for Decision" is still high up on the best-seller lists and his new book will undoubtedly get there. Welles thinks that what Americans need most today is information and understanding, because it was lack of information that caused our failure to make a lasting (or at least better) peace in 1919 . . . To which all Americans overseas will nod consent.

Welles then gives a factual description of all countries in a few pages, a sort of rich-man's-World-Almanac . . . Here a few suggestions for readers who want to know more about the American home front: John Dos Passos' "State of the Nation," a thorough survey; Dixon Wecter's "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," giving the dope on many misunderstandings between civilians and veterans; and "An American Program," by Wendell Willkie . . .

Mysteries and comics are leading all sales . . . But mysteries have never been better written than now . . . Carlton Brown's "Brainstorm" (Farrar & Rinehart) is the psychological novel of the "The Lost Weekend" type, this time the story of a young man, his psychosis and confinement in an insane asylum, and final release.

Record-Random: "Sweet and Lovely," a new version of the 1931 Bing Crosby hit. Still good old Crosby . . . A new Woodie Guthrie Album containing "Pretty Boy," "When the Yanks Go Marching In," "Talking Sailor," "Coolee Dam" . . . Bach's famous "Coffee Cantata" in an excellent Musicraft version . . . Jose Iturbi playing "Boogie Woogie Etude" of Morton Gould

(a truly brilliant piece) and "Blues" . . . and Andre Kostelanetz playing the inevitable two "Ave-Marias," by both Bach-Gounod and Schubert.

Now that so many American artists have visited the United Kingdom, the Royal Air Force Orchestra, composed of leading instrumentalists in the British armed forces and directed by Wing Commander Rudolph O'Donnell will give a return visit and appear in many American cities . . .

Noel Coward gave us the movie story of a destroyer ("In Which We Serve") and Warner's came through with the epic of a Flying Fortress, and now the Army gives you the story of an anonymous aircraft-carrier in a one-hour picture called "The Fighting Lady"—only one third of it being actual fighting, the rest showing waiting and more waiting. The combat shots are the best that have appeared on the screen so far . . . There is a new mystery series made, the "Whistler" pictures, with Richard Dix as a hard-working sleuth.

Life-in-Hollywood—as-Usual—department: herewith a few items from the "Hollywood Reporter," a daily trade-paper in the movie capital which is read there by more people than the Bible: ". . . Fox studio has the lowest accident rate and the highest birth-rate of any studio in town. There must be a tie-up here somewhere . . . Red Skelton in that super-swoon uniform he was wearing on his leave. Strictly not G.I. . . Nelson Eddy tasting a cigarette for the first time in years. "They taste funny." . . .

When you come home, you'll probably still see the new Billy Rose revue "The Seven Lively Arts," which cost \$1,350,000, had an advance ticket sale of \$550,000, boasts as script writers Ben Hecht and Moss Hart, for the music department Cole Porter, and Norman Bel Geddes for sets. Not to mention the most beautiful girls Rose could find in a many-month-search. And that is something.