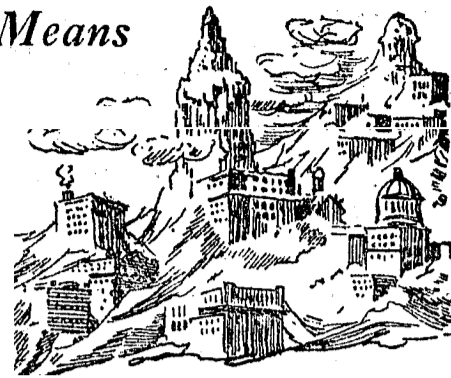
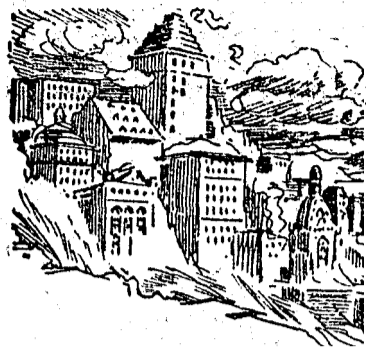


What Is Your New York Altitude Record?

Some Leading Citizens Here Give Theirs, by No Means
All Having Scaled Mount **Woolworth**

By WARD MOREHOUSE

Illustration by Albert Levering



WHAT is your altitude record in Manhattan? Have you ascended as high as you can go without making use of balloon or airplane? If so, you have gone up 792 feet, which is the height of the **Woolworth Building**.

Peak Woolworth, as you know, stands alone among the lofty summits of Manhattan Island. If you have conquered it you have achieved the ultimate in Manhattan altitudes. But, of course, there is always the possibility that the orange drink people or the Schulte cigar stores will come along and plant in our island's fertile soil a skyscraper seed that will send some gleaming structure towering to a height of more than fifty-one stories and more than 792 feet.

While Mount **Woolworth** is an objective of the sight-seeing hordes that pour in relentlessly upon us, it is, as was to have been expected, a brick and masonry peak yet unsealed by many who live here day in and day out throughout the year. To the millions separated by land and water from Manhattan's more or less acknowledged wonders, Mount **Woolworth** is a thing familiar, but to many within subway distances it is a thing as seemingly remote and inaccessible as it might be were it tucked away in the Himalayas.

But although the crest of Peak Woolworth has remained beyond the reach of many of those who should by every right be familiar with its every cliff and crag, a check-up on the altitude records of a number of New Yorkers revealed that they have mastered many of the lofty but still lesser eminences: Mount Equitable, for instance. This peak that rises from the foothills of Broadway is a peak that has been conquered by many of the home folk who, for lack of ambition or inclination or what not, have never attempted an assault upon loftier **Woolworth**.

This is true of our celebrities as it is of lesser folk. Take the case of Benny Leonard. Somebody took Benny to lunch one day at the Bankers Club, and that's right up near the roof of Equitable. Benny conquered the heights of Mount Singer long before he did Freddie Welsh, and he knows just what sort of view you get of his native town from the crest of the Metropolitan Tower and of his native town's water front from the summit of Mount Whitehall. But not yet has it been the lot of the lightweight champion to breathe the fine free air that you find about **Woolworth's** 792-foot peak. But the **Woolworth Building**, like the welterweight championship, is something that Benny Leonard is thinking about.

District Attorney Joab A. Banton has scaled both the Metropolitan Life and the Equitable, only to have the **Woolworth** ascent yet before him. Equitable's 486 feet is the record of Augustus Thomas. Babe Ruth, rather ponderous for a good mountain climber, has done quite a big lot



The New York Alpine Club about to start on a conquest of Mount **Woolworth**, not a difficult climb if one uses the express elevator

of scaling among the Manhattan ranges, but can't recall just what his altitude record is. He does know positively, however, that the **Woolworth** ascent is something he cannot be credited with. Lee Shubert has never reached the **Woolworth** peak.

To list some of the New Yorkers who have patriotically and resolutely mastered **Woolworth** and about all the other peaks in sight, the names of Governor Smith, Mayor Hylan, Bernard Baruch, George Gordon Battle, Frank D. Waterman, Dr. John A. Harriss, Special Deputy Police Commissioner in charge of traffic, and others might be mentioned.

Here are some "quotes" from various New Yorkers interrogated on the subject of their altitude records:

Irvin S. Cobb: "Yes. I've been to the top of the **Woolworth Building**, but have not yet been up in Liberty."

Al Woods: "Thirty stories or so is my limit, but I seldom ride higher than that little elevator in the Eltinge Theater takes me. Have you been hauled up in that? The Eltinge Theater, you know, is in West Forty-second Street, between Seventh and

Eighth avenues, and at this theater there is now playin—

Augustus Thomas: "I haven't any record to speak of. Never ascended the **Woolworth**, but did reach the top of the Equitable."

Bishop Manning: "I have been to the top of the **Woolworth Tower** and also of the **Singer Building**, the **Equitable Building** and the **Metropolitan Life Insurance Building**. In common with a great number of others in New York, I am now looking forward to the time when we shall be able to look over this city from the top of the great central tower of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, which will rise 500 feet from its foundation on the commanding site where this great **building** is soon to stand."

George Gordon Battle: "I've been up in most all the **buildings**—to the tops of the **Woolworth**, **Equitable** and others and to the torch of the Statue of Liberty. I've never yet mastered the **Singer Building**, however."

United States Attorney Hayward: "My office is almost beneath the **Woolworth Tower**, but I've never reached the top of the **Woolworth** and probably never will. I've had no desire at all to go up. The highest I've climbed on Manhattan has been to the **Bankers Club**, in the **Equitable Building**, and went there only for lunch."

Dr. John A. Harriss: "I've been to the

top of the **Woolworth Building** at least ten times. I went the first time just after the tower was thrown open for inspection. I've taken many friends to the top, as I think it one of the real adventures of New York. I'm pretty high up every day, as my office on Fifth Avenue is fifteen stories from the ground. The top of the **Municipal Building** and the torch balcony of the Statue of Liberty are also familiar to me."

Frank D. Waterman, the fountain pen man: "Going up to the top of the **Woolworth Building** is one of my favorite sports. My office is right in the shadow of it, and whenever we have a country relative or a good customer in town the first thing we do is to take him up in the **Singer** or **Woolworth tower**. I've ascended thirty times easily—maybe more."

Babe Ruth: "I don't know—I can't remember, but I'm sure mine isn't any **Woolworth Building** record. I've never been up that high."

District Attorney Banton: "My high mark has been the **Bankers' Club**, right up at the top of the **Equitable Building**. That's my best. I have no particular desire to get to the top of the **Woolworth Tower**, but still I may do it some day. I live on the fourteenth story of a hotel, which seems to me is pretty well up."

Bernard M. Baruch: "I've been up in all the tall **buildings**—to the top of the **Woolworth Building** once or twice. I made it a point to look down at the city from all the new structures. Think it's something every one should do."

General Robert Lee Bullard: "I went to the peak of the **Woolworth Tower** twice, about three years ago."

William A. Brady: "I've tried to climb about all the **buildings** I ever heard of. I got to the top of the **Woolworth Building** a long, long time ago, conquered the peaks of most of the other high ones around town and have gone to other countries for more altitudes. Jim Corbett and I breathed the air from the top of the Eiffel Tower."

Governor Alfred E. Smith: "I will not go further than to say that while I was Sheriff of the County of New York I viewed the city from the **Woolworth Tower**."

Henry H. Curran: "New York, like London and Paris, ought to stop at the sixth story. If somebody would come along with a great knife and slice all our **buildings** off at that height it would be the best thing that ever happened to the people. I'm the happiest when I'm on the first floor. New York should be a horizontal city—not vertical."

Thomas A. Curry, speaking for David Belasco: "Mr. Belasco has never been to the top of the **Woolworth Building**. I think his record is eight stories. He once reached the eighth floor of the **Woolworth**. His hotel apartment is four stories up and his studio in the Belasco would be about the height of four stories in any ordinary office **building**. He's not given much to great altitudes."

Frances W. Rokus, assistant secretary to Mayor Hylan: "The Mayor has been to the top of the **Woolworth Building**."

Benny Leonard: "I've never been up very high, but I like to keep my opponents low. I've never ascended the **Woolworth Building**. The top of the **Equitable**, about forty stories up, I think, is as far as I ever got. But, then, I'm pretty young, you know."