

MITCHELL'S HISTORY SHOWS HE'S FIGHTER

'Hell Cat of the Army' Is Not a 'Swivel Chair' Soldier
But a Combatant.

By NEA Service
SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Oct. 2.—All his life Col. Billy Mitchell has been a fighter.

His father, a Civil War veteran and later a Senator from Wisconsin, seemed to instill that spirit in him as soon as he was able to walk.

He always urged Billy to be a soldier—not a "swivel chair" soldier, but a fighting soldier.

And this "hell cat of the Army" has been fighting ever since—not with words alone, for Mitchell made a distinguished record at the front during the Spanish-American and World Wars.

"He's the poorest spectator I ever saw," a friend says of him. Billy just won't watch anything from the sidelines. He insists on being in "the thick of the fight."

Won't Stay Buried

No doubt there were many of his opponents in the Army who thought his demotion early this year from brigadier general and assistant chief of the air service would squelch him. At Ft. Sam Houston at San Antonio—far away from Washington—probably seemed to them an ideal place to "bury" this "hell cat."

But Mitchell waited his time and when the opportunity came again struck telling blows in his long fight to reorganize the military and naval air services.

Mitchell's demeanor now is not that of a martyr or of one whose aim to create sensations so that his name may be broadcast from coast to coast. During his life he has had more than his share of publicity.

He feels that it is his duty to do everything possible to make America supreme in the air. Always a fighter, he does not hesitate now to fight for his convictions, even in the face of possible court-martial and dismissal from the service.

Made War Record

At the outbreak of the World War Mitchell went to Europe as an American observer.

He was the first American officer to fly over the allied lines. At St. Mihiel, where the Americans made their greatest drive of the war, he was in command of the air force—the largest aero concentration in the history of the world. He actively participated in other big drives and never hesitated to do actual combat flying, despite his high command. Decorations from his own and foreign governments were numerous.

In many respects Mitchell reminds one of Roosevelt.

Both were fighters and both loved the outdoor life. Both loved to hunt big game. Mitchell stopping in India.

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on his honeymoon a few years ago to shoot tigers. He killed six of the ferocious animals and his wife two. Mitchell is one of the best pilots in the air service, having set a world's speed record of 222.87 miles an hour at Detroit in 1922.

But he combines hunting and flying, his planes here being equipped so that he can carry bird dogs and guns to isolated sections. A cabinet in his quarters here resembles a young arsenal. It stores twelve shotguns and ten rifles.

Fishing is another sport that appeals to Mitchell. He has fished all over the world, but recently, said his greatest thrill was catching a huge tarpon in Arkansas Pass, Tex.

Often he will go on a long camping trip and no woman is a finer cook—at least when it comes to

Still Found in Schoolhouse

By Times Special
OBLESVILLE, Ind., Oct. 2.—A 10-gallon whiskey still, a copper coil and a kerosene stove were found late Thursday afternoon in the basement of the school building at Eagletown, by Sheriff Charles Gooding. The outfit was confiscated. No arrests have been made.

cooking speckled bass over a camp fire.

While in Washington Mitchell won many prizes at horse shows with his daring riding and thoroughbred jumpers. Billy is a great rider on a fox hunt or at a polo match, and his farm near Middleburg, Va., is stocked with thoroughbreds of his own breeding.

Mitchell is now 45.

A tinge of gray hair is appearing around his temples and the Texas sun has deepened his ruddy tan.

But his erect stature and military bearing clearly indicate that Billy isn't through fighting yet.

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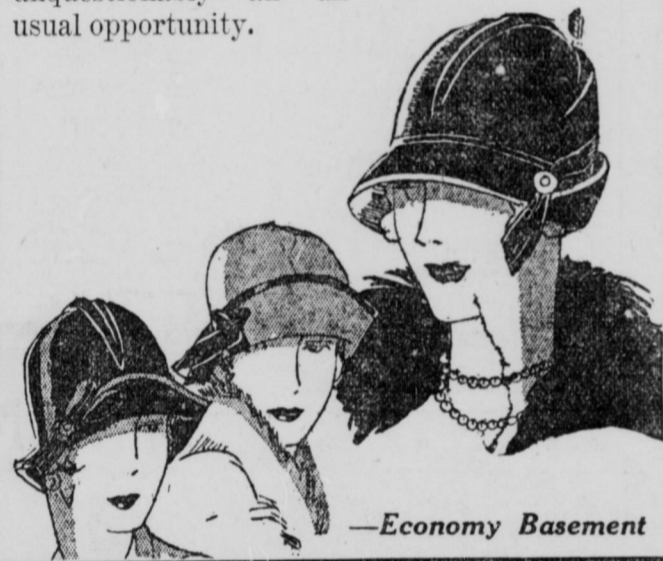
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