

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

## MOMENTS IN HISTORY

### FIRST AT THE POLE

Just thirty years ago two Americans stood at the top of the world — the first ones ever to reach the North Pole. Today one of these men is still alive . . . still recalls the great adventure

by Lowell Thomas



Reproduction of  
newspaper illustration  
used with this article

The year was 1909. The Trinity Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in the community of Richardson is making plans to build a new church building. Robert E. Peary and his African-American companion, Matthew A. Henson, are the first to reach the North Pole. Orville Wright sets a new flight duration record of one hour, one minute, and 40 seconds, and French aviator, Henri Fabre, took off from water astride an aircraft that looked alarmingly fragile. The Hamilton Beach Manufacturing Company sells its first electric egg beater for home use. Belgian-American chemist Leo Bakeland announced the discovery of the world's first artificial plastic called Bakelite. And for the first time, a wireless telegraph press message soared on the airwaves from New York to Chicago. Such transmissions are soon expected to transform the world into a place where communication is almost instantaneous. Pleasure-driving for women got a big boost when four women completed a two month journey across the United States from New York to San Francisco. In Washington, Congress passes a resolution for the 16th amendment authorizing the imposition of income taxes. More next week...