

CROCODILE

L. Thomas - 6<sup>45</sup> PM 10/13/58  
(Given by Walter Crouchite (mom))

Science has made a new discovery - investigating crocodile tears. Why does the crocodile weep? Which - he certainly does. The old legend being - that the ferocious reptile sheds hypocritical tears for a victim he's devouring.

Well, now we have the scientific answer - from Doctor Knute Schmidt-Nielsen, of Duke University, and Professor Ragnar Fänge of Lund University, Sweden. Who find - that crocodile tears are a way of eliminating salt. ~~axspaxialix~~ A special gland in the crocodile's head performs the job - and the salt solution is channelled out through the crocodile's eyes. As in the case, - of human tears.

So crocodile tears do not mean - hypocrisy. They're just an excess of salt, without the pepper.

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## ROCKET

The Air Force, today cleared up a point of confusion in the news about the moon rocket. Which scored a triumph - in getting to a distance of seventy-nine thousand miles from this earth. Then coming back - to burn up in the atmosphere.

In early<sup>an</sup> report, the statement was - that the speeding Pioneer had escaped from the earth's gravitation. But how could that be - since it was gravity that caused the Pioneer to come falling back?

Today, Major General Donald Yates, Commander of the Air Force Missile Test Center at Cape Canaveral said - it was a case of "inaccurate" wording. The announcement in question - technically incorrect. The General pointing out - that you wouldn't expect a moon rocket ever to get out of the earth's gravitational field. Because the moon, itself is a satellite - held by the earth's gravitational force.

~~Meanwhile, the Army announces that its own moon rocket will be controlled from the ground - in greater degree~~

## ATOMIC

Early this morning, there was a blast of flame over the Nevada desert. Another atomic explosion - in the series which The Atomic Energy Commission is now conducting. The blast - a big one. Visible in San Francisco - five hundred miles away.

Out there at Yucca Flat, they're trying to complete the series - before October thirty-first, when an international suspension of nuclear testing - goes into effect.

## **ATLANTA**

In Atlanta, Georgia, the police today rounded up - race agitators. Searching for fanatics - who dynamited an Atlanta Jewish temple, yesterday. One theory is that this outrage was part of a general movement - responsible for a whole series of blasts in various parts of the South.

However, one suspect in Atlanta is - a Negro who police were told drove into a gas station, asking the way to the synagogue, which was bombed - soon afterward.

## SOUTH AFRICA

At Pretoria, South Africa, a huge trial - was discontinued, suddenly, today. The mass treason trial - of ninety-one defendants, charged with "conspiracy." They were arrested a couple of years ago - for opposing South African racial segregation laws. The ninety-one including - whites, Negroes and Asians.

The ~~case~~ trial began August first, dragging along - turning into little more than a tedious debate on legal points. No agreement reached on these - and, today, the prosecution withdrew the indictment. The case - called off - the accused immediately set free.

POPE

Today, one million people passed by the bier of Pope Pius the Twelfth. Huge throngs - crowding into the vast basilica of Saint Peter's, for the funeral ~~and~~ ceremonies.

Then the body of the Pontiff was lowered into the crypt below the cathedral. The coffin - placed in ~~a niche~~. ~~This is only~~ a temporary tomb. A year from now, a final resting place will be selected - for Pope Pius the Twelfth.

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## LEBANON

Violence flared up in Lebanon, today - after a quiet weekend. Two bombs - exploding in the streets of Beirut. An effort, apparently - to enforce a strike, ordered by the faction called the Christian Phalange.

The worst incident - was the murder of a nephew of former Premier Sami Es-Solh. But that could hardly have been the doing of the Phalange - which supported the former premier. The assassination - a mystery.

Later in the day - news came of "an agreement in principle" for a new compromise government. Which seems to promise - a settlement of some sort or other.

## FORMOSA

The United States will use persuasion - on Chiang Kai Shek. Trying to overcome - the strong opposition of the Generalissimo. He's been rejecting all suggestion - that the Nationalist military forces on the off-shore islands might be reduced. Chiang - against any sort of agreement with the Chinese Reds. Word in Washington now is that, if the Communists extend their cease-fire indefinitely, the Nationalists may accept the American view - however reluctant they may be.



INTRODUCTION TO RECORDING

Tonight we've another report from Lowell Thomas,  
as he journeys to remote islands in the South Pacific.

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NOTE: The tape is 2:12.

L.T.

When our DC-7 - Empress of the Skies - sped down the runway at Honolulu airport, Whiskey Johnny was still waving. Standing there wishing she could be flying with us. Wishing she could come along on the 3000 mile journey by plane and ship to her islands - that she longs to see.

Who is Whiskey Johnny? Why, she is one of the most beautiful and talented of all the lovely young women in the South Seas. That takes in a lot of territory - millions and millions of square miles of water and islands.

Her name really isn't Whiskey Johnny. She's half Polynesian and half American. She was born on a coral atoll, some 500 miles south of the Equator - on Puka Puka, in the Cook Islands. Danger Island is its other name - the island that is our goal, 350 miles northeast of Samoa.

Johnny's father was one of the new legendary figures of the South Seas. Robert Jean Frisbie, a novelist, author of Island of Desire, and other great tales. He had led a

tragic - and sometimes glorious life, drifting from island to island. He married a Polynesian beauty of Puka Puka. Their daughter they named Florence Frisbie. But the novelist, who had his own problems, one of them alcohol - always called her Whiskey Johnny.

When her father died she sailed west to the Society Islands and within a short time was famous as the loveliest and most talented of all Tahitian dancers. Dances that are faster and wilder than the hulu. She also inherited her father's talent and started writing books. Her publisher, Doubleday, in New York.

She came to see us, to tell us about Puka Puka, Manger Island - her island, and to give us a letter to her people in the Puka Pukan language. I have it in my pocket. She was accompanied by husband, a young American from the state of Washington. The belle of Puka Puka is now married to a broad shouldered young giant from Walla Walla - of all places. Her name now Mrs. Carl Hebenstreit.