

L.T. - DELCO. WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29, 1958.  
(Given by Walter Cronkite, L.T. in So. Pacific)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

In Nova Scotia the almost incredible occurred today. Last Thursday, a violent explosion at Springhill, Nova Scotia, shattered the deepest coal mine in North America. Leaving sixty-nine men trapped underground - in a depth of thirteen thousand feet. All hope for them abandoned - after six days.

But the rescue work went on - and, then, today, a crew drove a six inch pipe through a pile of rubble. Into - a subterranean chamber. Whereupon - a feeble call for help was heard. Through the pipe came a weak voice, saying: "There are twelve of us in here. Come and get us." Rescuers hope to reach them in the next few hours.

## TEST BAN

The Russian delegation showed up at Geneva today - and so it looks as if the talks will go on - on how to permanently ban the testing of nuclear devices, on how to stop the nations from filling the air with radioactive poisons.

There was fear the Russians might not show up - that fear increased by their announcement they would not stop their own series of tests in accord with the Anglo-American pleas for a one-year test suspension - while the Geneva talks went on.

The United States rushed to complete its current series of tests in the Nevada desert before the ban went into effect on Friday midnight. But now, says Washington, if the Russians are going to go on testing past that deadline - so are we.

## NOBEL PRIZE

The drama of Boris Pasternak - is as deeply moving as anything in his prize-winning novel, "Doctor Zhivago".

The story, as it now turns out, is this:

Immediately after he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature on Friday, Pasternak sent a telegram to the Swedish Academy, accepting. The telegram - in affecting words:

~~The sixty-seven year old Russian writer saying he was~~

"immensely thankful, touched, proud, astonished, abashed."

But then followed savage attacks on Pasternak inside Soviet Russia. Because the Nobel Prize, in fact, honored a book - banned in Soviet Russia. The novel, "Doctor Zhivago" - expressing criticism of the Communist bureaucracy. Today, the assault continued - viciously. The Moscow Radio calling Pasternak - a "mangy sheep" and "worse than a pig." Typical - Communist ~~criticism~~ *Courtesies* criticism.

So, in the face of that sort of thing, ~~what did~~  
~~Pasternak do?~~ He sent another telegram - reversing himself, and rejecting the Nobel Prize. Explaining - that he had never

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imagined it would stir such ugly bitterness in Soviet Russia. In Stockholm, the Swedish Academy says - Pasternak may reject the prize money of forty-one thousand dollars. But - what about the three Soviet scientists awarded the Nobel Prize for - Physics? They will not only accept - but they'll go to Stockholm to receive the honor. Their decision - announced at an official news conference in Moscow.

VATICAN

Pope John the Twenty-Third has been hailed as a -  
"pastoral" Pope. Devoted - more to church affairs than  
international problems. But the new head of the Roman  
Catholic Church takes immediate thought - of the world  
crisis.

In the first broadcast address of his pontifical  
reign, he made an appeal to the nations, today. Saying -  
the peoples of this earth are pleading for peace, not  
atomic war.

INTRO. TO RECORDING

Tonight, Lowell Thomas, from the South Pacific, tells us more about that experiment without precedent. Probing a solar eclipse with space rockets.

(Recording: 2:34)

L.T.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The other night I told about the firing of the first great rocket ever shot into Outer Space, with a mission to study the heavens. In particular to send back a radio report on the Sun, a report that later on is sure to have much meaning for all of us. The occasion, a Total Eclipse, something scientists are always ready to journey to the ends of the Earth to study. We are here, just off Danger Island, with one of the most elaborate expeditions ever sent out.

The U.S.S. Point Defiance, a new type post-war vessel that is just about everything but a submarine, left Seal Beach, California, with six great rockets already in firing position, on her flight deck. However without their instrument - filled nose-cones in place! And, without the electrical connections necessary to set them off and send them roaring into Space. They did not want

to take the risk of arming them until the last moment, that is until the afternoon before this total exlipse. Only then was each 22-foot rocket armed and made ready. This was done by three experts from the Cooper Development Corporation, near L.A., where the rockets were assembled. Messrs. Bruce Cox, Jack Guinn and Merwin Potts coming all this way just to work for a couple of hours.

In a previous report you heard the count-down and explosion of the first rocket ever sent into Outer Space to give us a report on the Sun. Funds for this were provided by Uncle Sam only because of Sputnik. The eclipse began about 7:30 A.M. and lasted about two and a half hours - from when we could first see the Moon start to blot out the face of the Sun. The period of Totality - when only light from the corona was visible, this lasted 4 minutes and 5 seconds. Day turned almost to night. Stars visible. A perfect eclipse. An awe-inspiring scene.



A wonder that has amazed Man - always. For instance, thousands of years ago in China, they had court astronomers, one of whose assignments was to predict eclipses. Just when Man first discovered how to predict them we don't know. But to early Man it was important - in connection with religious rites - with offerings to the gods. Astronomers in ancient China were executed if they made an error in predicting a solar eclipse.

Our rocket astronomers had gotten the first rocket off at 8:38, with a terrific explosion and burst of flame. To follow it at all you had to jerk your head up fast. Much of its flight at a speed of nearly a mile and a half a second. At 8:48 the siren started again. (SIREN SOUND) One minute before totality off sped No. 2, Tondelayo, on her flight into Outer Space. At 8:52 Mar Mary, named for the Captain's wife. Ten minutes after totality Sadie Thompson with a firey swish was on her way. And Sadie

out flew them all, farther than 150 miles.

Then came trouble. At 9:08 the count-down and the siren announcing the departure of Bloody Mary.

(SIREN SOUND). Some joker, maybe one of the helicopter mechanics had painted in smaller letters on one of Bloody Mary's tail fins the words: MISS FIRE. The siren kept blowing and blowing and blowing. (MORE SIREN) And while it went on blowing and the air was tense, a slender young man darted to the flight deck and mounted to the cone of the rocket, while we held our breath. As he climbed the structure against which the Space Rocket leaned, Dr. Lindsay stood below in the ship's Well, where young Don Brousseau could see him. Dr. Lindsay held up The Key to Paradise so Don would know the control panel was locked and none of his colleagues could accidentally fire the rocket. But maybe now it would suddenly fire itself!

Trouble Shooter Don found that a thing called a

"shorting plug" had failed to close the relay in "the starting circuit" because it has been jarred loose by the explosions, the firing of the first four. After all this was the deck of a ship; and this was something never tried before, except on land.

Pretty tricky business going up to the nose-cone of a rocket that a few moments before was supposed to take off for Outer Space! Meanwhile the scientists, below, were all set to fire No. 6, the one named "TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER." When Don clambered down from the nose of BLOODY MARY, and crouched behind the heavy armorplate near us, with The Key To Paradise they unlocked the panel and started the count-down on No. 6. But "TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER" was reluctant to depart. So Don had to dash to the flight deck again; finding the same trouble, adjusting it, and then they fired it.

By then the eclipse was over. Five out of six of

the rockets had taken off for Outer Space. They held BLOODY MARY over until the next day, to use her for another sort of project. The rocket astronomers were having great luck. Just by chance they had an unexpected sensational success with this one, something I'll tell about later - if I can understand it myself.

Anyhow, the era of rocket astronomy had successfully opened. Our scientists have taken another giant stride forward, a stride perhaps comparable to Gallileo's invention of the telescope, or the first use of photography in astronomy, a hundred years ago. Those of us present had witnessed a sight that will be discussed for centuries, probably for thousands of years - if Man is wise enough to use his scientific knowledge for peaceful purposes - as these scientists here at Danger Island are doing. More about this, some human interest sidelights, in my next.

So long.

## ROBBERS

It's an old story - the insolence of rogues. And London, today, contributes another example.

News - about two bank robbers, expert safe blowers.

Who stashed away - a supply of explosive, gelignite with detonators. So where do you suppose they kept it? In a safe deposit box in a bank. ~~Which certainly was - hiding the safe-blowing stuff, where nobody would look for it.~~

The two bank robbers were picked up by the police - and, while in jail, ~~were~~ worried <sup>THAT</sup> The bank people might open that safe deposit box - and, carelessly, ~~might~~ blow up the whole place.

So they told the police about it - who went to the bank, and found the gelignite and the detonators. Marveling - at the insolence of rogues.