

SEA WATER L.J.-P.+G. Thure. Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>. '52.

Here's a dispatch that may be the most important in many a day. In Boston, an announcement that scientists <sup>have</sup> ~~have~~ devised a practical way to take the salt out of sea water, turning it into fresh water! The statement comes from Professor Edwin Gilliland, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and an official of Ionics, Incorporated. He states that the new method is not just a laboratory technique, but can be put to work right now. <sup>Los Angeles will be</sup> ~~very glad to hear about this!~~ <sup>glad to hear about this!</sup> ~~glad to hear about this!~~

The ~~new~~ method is the creation of a scientific team headed by Dr. Walter Juda, Vice-President of Ionics - and is based on a new type of scientific membrane<sup>s</sup> ~~s~~ plastic material. Through this the salt water is passed - the membranes having an electrical action on minerals. By <sup>(an application of</sup> ~~an application of~~ positive and negative charges, the particles of salt are separated - leaving pure water.

In that way, sea water can be turned into fresh water, at a cost of six cents per thousand gallons. By the cheapest

previous method, the cost has been seventy-five cents per thousand gallons. Which is prohibitive, much too expensive to be used in irrigation. That, of course, would be the most important purpose of all - using the ocean for irrigation.

Something to stir the imagination - when you think of the vast arid lands this country <sup>has,</sup> in states like Texas and California, bordering the ocean - yet often short of water. Mankind has long been beguiled by the dream - of making the desert bloom like a rose. Which could mean - fresh water out of sea water, for practical irrigation.

## OLYMPICS

The U.S. came into its own again today - in the Winter Olympics. Dick Button was dazzling. Four times the world's champion at figure-skating, he whirled his way to ~~another~~ another Olympic title today. Once, in a complicated maneuver, he stumbled on the ice, but even that didn't matter. His precision and grace all through the figure-skating event, won the unanimous verdict of the judges. So Dick Button wins the fourth gold medal for the American team in the Winter Olympics - two of the others having been captured by the incomparable Andrea Mead Lawrence, the wizard of skiing.

Today, moreover, the other American figure-skaters did almost as well as dazzling Dick Button. Austria came in second, but third and fourth places were captured by Jimmy Grogan of Colorado Springs, and Allen Jenkins of Akron, Ohio.

All of which won fifteen points for the Americans - who now have second place. Norway is first - with a hundred and one. The U.S.A. - seventy-one and a half. Austria third - with fifty-six. The Americans are likely to pick up more points tomorrow, in figure-skating for pairs and in a four-man bob sled event.

**LISBON**

( The Lisbon Conference today decided on an international army of fifty divisions by the end of this year. That would mean - about a million and a half soldiers.)

The proposal, prepared by a board of experts, was okayed by the Nato Military Committee. Swift FOR general Eisenhower's international army - action recommended to meet any threat of sudden Soviet aggression. Fifty divisions, by the end of this year. That's the verdict - at least on paper.

## LISBON

The Lisbon Conference today decided on an international army of fifty divisions by the end of this year. That would mean - about a million and a half soldiers.

The proposal, prepared by a board of experts, was okayed by the NATO Military Committee. Swift action recommended for General Eisenhower's International Army - to meet any threat of sudden Soviet aggression. Fifty divisions, by the end of this year. That's the verdict - at least on paper.

## KOREA

In the Korea truce talks, the deadlock was tighter than ever today - with U.N. representatives giving the reason for refusing to accept Soviet Russia as a neutral in the supervision of an armistice. Our delegation stated: "The Supervisory Commission should be drawn from nations not in proximity to Korea, and without a record of past participation in the Korean question." The Soviets would hardly seem to be neutral - in addition to which Red Siberia is next door to Korea, and the Soviets were parties in the original division of that country into two zones, Communist and free.

In the war - flash, bulletin and and surprise!

In an air battle today, the U.S. jet planes were not outnumbered. Our Sabrejets shot down two Red M.I.G's - in an aerial engagement in which they outnumbered the Reds. Twenty <sup>one</sup> Sabrejets versus twenty M.I.G's.

~~It~~ But that was because of clever maneuvering. The battle began with the American planes outnumbered, as usual. There were eighty enemy Jets, but the Sabres were able to get

in between, and isolate twenty of the Migs from the main force.

So, in that way, they managed to win a numerical superiority -

for once. And - shot down two M.I.G's.

ADD KOREA

( Bitter rioting broke out tonight in the ill-famed U N prisoner of war camp on Koje Island. First word from the stockade is of one American soldier and sixty-nine Korean prisoners dead, ) twenty-three Americans and one hundred and forty-two Korean internees injured in "severe fighting." It seems that ( fifteen hundred Koreans attacked security guards with steel picks, spiked wooden clubs, barbed wire flails, blackjacks and knives. ~~THEY~~ when guards entered the camp to ask the prisoners whether they would rather be released in South Korea. or returned to the Communist zone. ) The trouble started of course, by the Reds in the camp. Communist leaders who, in words of the official bulletin "attempted by ~~the~~ violence to disrupt the orderly screening of internees."



## AIRFIELDS

Senate investigators are asking about fancy wages paid in the construction of an Arctic air base. Workers got forty dollars a day, for forty-two days of idleness - while they waited on a ship. The word is that more than three million dollars were paid out in wages before any work whatever was done. From the Army engineers, the explanation is that they<sup>are</sup> building a secret base up in the polar regions, and you have to pay well to get anybody to work there - in just about the worst weather in the world. The construction people were kept waiting on a ship, while an icebreaker cleared a path for the vessel to sail through.

*— A Burma-Ledo Road Fable —*

Today General Lewis Pick, Chief of Army Engineers,

explained that, there should have been, normally, a small stretch of water open along the coast line. But the elements played a trick, and the strip of water turned out to be - an ice pack seven feet thick. Which delayed everything - and piled up a huge total of wages - while the Arctic air base construction was delayed.

## HAVANA

From Havana, a blood and thunder story of <sup>the wildest</sup> ~~suburban~~ kind. Today, there was a wholesale shooting affray on El Prado - that sumptuous crowded avenue, Havana's main stem. ~~There~~ An attempt to assassinate a Cuban Congressman - and a gunfight all over the place, sent hundreds of passersby to cover. Motorists jumped from their automobiles to get out of the line of fire, and throngs of pedestrians ducked. Cuban politics can be explosive, and this time - the story is a hair-raising thriller.

The intended victim of assassination was Congressman Rolando Masferrer, leader of the Socialist Revolutionary Party. Which is one of three revolutionary outfits in Cuba. All three had been outlawed, but Masferrer, having been elected Congressman - has legal immunity. There's a feud between the revolutionary groups, and the other two had ~~been~~ been gunning for Masferrer. A year ago, the Congressman and his bodyguards fought off an assassination attempt in the Gardens of the National Capitol, where the Cuban Congress meets. Shortly

afterward, (~~gunmen~~ <sup>gunmen</sup>) shot up the editorial offices of ~~the~~ a newspaper run by Masferrer. The political editor of the paper was killed, but the Congressman escaped.

Today, Masferrer was in an automobile on El Prado, outside the fashionable Gasino Espanol. With him - a police sergeant. That was when the gang of assassins closed in, and the shooting began. Masferrer and the policeman fired back - the Congressman whipping out with a submachine gun, which he had in his car. It seems that legislators go well armed in Cuba. He blazed away with the machine gun, until it was empty, and then drew a forty-five calibre pistol, and fired with that.

Meanwhile, the would-be assassins were banging away with their own guns - with pandemonium along El Prado.

The battle ended when two of the assailants were killed, the others taking flight. The Congressman was seen, gun in hand, chasing one. Forces of policemen searched the whole neighborhood for other members of the terrorist gang -

and, finally, things became normal on El Prado, that fashionable  
avenue in Havana.

## IBN SAUD

Here's a dispatch from Washington today, from Jim Lucas, Washington correspondent of the Scripps-Howard newspapers. His report begins as follows: "President Truman has sent an American physician to Saudi Arabia aboard his private plane, to treat the ailing seventy-one year old King, Ibn Saud." And then Jim Lucas goes on to say: "The presidential plane, the Independence, left Washington on Tuesday, under command of President Truman's ~~personal~~ personal pilot, Colonel Francis Williams, and picked up Dr. Stinchfield of New York."

Evidently, this was all hush-hush. But, all the press associations have the story today, and the question is being asked - what's wrong with the sovereign of Saudi Arabia? There is no direct intimation. But, surely an inference can be drawn from the fact that Dr. Stinchfield is an orthopedic surgeon - one of the most famous - something of a wizard, when it comes to anything that has to do with human bones. It so happens that I can speak from experience, because he

helped me in a time of emergency.

And that goes back to the trip we made to Tibet, the return journey from Lhasa, the accident just after having crossed a lofty Himalayan pass. My injury was rather complicated - eight fractures of the hip. Among the Tibetans, there are no surgeons, only doctors with herbs, incantations, and their prayers to Buddha. After being carried across the Tibetan plateau and over the mountains for weeks, I was in need of real expert assistance. Finally, after flying to New York, I was given an answer to the question - who could fix me up? The answer was the same that someone seems to have given to the King of Arabia - Dr. Frank Stinchfield.

Today's dispatch from Washington says that this same surgeon has been flown to Arabia, presumably to operate on the ~~the~~ richest man in the world, King Ibn Saud. The inference is obvious - <sup>the</sup> that/sovereign of Arabian oil must have sustained some bone injury to need that kind of specialist. All the more likely, considering the age and the size of that formidable

sovereign of the desert. He not only is a giant in stature, but he is along in years, in his seventies. Bones, as we know, grow more brittle with advanced age, fractures more likely. So, the likely guess is that the Arabian potentate sustained a fall of some kind, for a complicated injury.

All of which may be of the largest consequence to the world. Arabian oil, unlike British Iranian oil, has been a smooth-run industry, thanks to Ibn Saud and the law and order he has imposed on the wild Arabian desert, which traditionally has always been a land of tribal wars and barbaric anarchy. So who knows what might happen on the death of Ibn Saud, especially with Soviet Communism active in the Middle East. We hear that the desert Monarch is likely to have a competent successor - whenever that hour comes. There are many stalwart sons among his nearly one hundred children. The Crown Prince has the reputation of being an able man. And he is likely to keep things running in an orderly way. But who knows - ~~it~~ between the lawlessness of the desert and intrigues of

Communism, what might happen. All of which provides interesting background for the story of the eminent American surgeon who has flown in the President's own plane to the bedside of the far off King of Araby.



ELIZABETH TAYLOR

In London, they have bobby soxers. But London is also famous for bobbies. Which can confuse things, in the story of today's London wedding. Movie Actress Elizabeth Taylor, espousing British Actor Michael Wilding, amid paeans of publicity.

She's nineteen, and he's thirty-nine. He's old enough to be her father, which doesn't keep him from being young enough to be her husband. There was a mix-up, at first, because Elizabeth Taylor forgot to take along to ~~England~~ England the divorce papers - severing her previous marriage with Nicky Hilton, heir to a hotel fortune. But all was cleared up, for what they intended it to be - a quiet wedding. <sup>P</sup> But it was an uproar - because of the bobby soxers. So many and so hysterical - they had to call out the bobbies! As the couple emerged from the church, they were stormed by the bobby soxers, who grew so violent - the bride became nervous. "Hold me tighter!" she called to her bridegroom. But the plea was answered by - a bobby. The bobby pushed aside the bobby soxers,

picked up the young actress, and carried her to an automobile.

Rescued from the bobby soxers by a bobby! - I hope I'm getting it all straight.

The couple went to Claridge's, <sup>one of</sup> London's <sup>most</sup> famous hotels -

and, there, another crowd gathered, more bobby soxers. They were milling around, when - out of the hotel, came King Peter of Yugoslavia. The exiled monarch saw the crowd, and took a bow. But he was completely ignored - ~~by~~ by the bobby soxers.

What's an exiled King, beside a movie queen? <sup>P</sup> Between the

bobby soxers and the bobbies - <sup>well, Nelson</sup> I'd have given a bob to see that!