

Thursday, February 27, 1969 ✓

Good evening everybody.

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*I wish I had a half hour -- or even 15 minutes
-- just to tell you where I have been these past three
days. But, before I even devote a few moments to
that let's do something far more important -- take a
quick look at the news.*

BERLIN -- ROME

Overseas - a triumphal visit to West Berlin.

President Nixon receiving a thunderous welcome that seemed to grow with his every move in the divided city.

Reaching a peak -- when he warned the Russians, in effect: "Hands off." The President telling a crowd of factory workers "all the free people of the world -- are truly Berliners."

In return -- the workers chanting over and over: "Ha-ho-hay! Nixon is O.K.!" To which the President responded: "Ha-ho-hay! Berliners are O.K.!"

And then -- with a final wave -- he shouted in German: "Danke schoen und auf wieder sehen!"

Then on to Rome for more of the same. With the President's car on arrival at Piazza Venezia -- all but overwhelmed by cheering throngs. Forcing helmeted motorcycle police to hoist the President aloft; from whence he continued to salute to the crowds with out stretched arms.

PARIS FOLLOW BERLIN-ROME

Paris next. Where at today's sixth round expanded peace talks a Viet Cong spokesman was accusing the President - of intensifying the U S. "war of aggression against Vietnam. Adding that Mr. Nixon's "kind words of peace" - are only a mask for "dark and evil designs."

This in response to a warning from U. S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge in the face of the enemy's newest offensive.

DA NANG FOLLOW PARIS

Communist gunners scored a direct hit today - on a U. S. Navy ammunition depot at Da Nang setting off a series of spectacular explosions and forcing the evacuation of thousands of Vietnamese.

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Rawalpindi - "the last hurrah" for Mohammed Ayub Kahn. Reports from the Pakastani Capitol - telling today of a dramatic meeting between the President and chief opposition leaders. His voice choking with emotion - the former strongman telling his foes: "I have tried, in my humble capacity to save this country - but I have failed." And then he added: "Now you try."

WALTER REED

Regarding President Eisenhower, the report today that "he has been resting comfortably; doing so well there will be no more bulletins except maybe just one a day.

CAPE KENNEDY

Disappointment at Cape Kennedy, over tomorrow's scheduled launch of Apollo 9. The new target date for blast off - 11:00 a. m. Monday morning, by which time - it is hoped - the astronauts will have recovered from their colds.

CHICAGO

From Chicago - the irrepressible Clare Booth

Luce again speaks her mind; telling a group of women that "the contraceptive revolution" - as she called it - "may yet prove the greatest revolution in mankind's history."

Reason - said Clare Luce - it "challenges the most ancient concept of the very nature of women; it leaves woman herself - in a state of bewilderment about her proper role in society."

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JIDDA

The prodical comes home. Former King Saud Ibn Abdul Azziz of Saudi Arabia - who dies in exile this week - returning in death to the land of his forebearers. The plane that carried him back to Jidda - the personal aircraft of his brother King Faisal; who succeeded him on the throne of Saudi Arabia - who later banished him, now decreeing a period of national mourning.

King Saud at one time, richest man in the world - and absolute ruler - in a kingdom as big as the U.S. east of the Mississippi. His retinue including as many as 100 concubines - his household help numbering up to 10,000. With 24 palaces, in one of which I visited him some 17 years ago. He leaves at least 25 sons and countless daughters; and he was only age 67.

YELLOWSTONE

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During the past three days I've been on an exciting, far too brief trip into an area where three states come together - Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming - most of the time in Wyoming. Yellowstone Park, as you may recall, was our first National Park and still is the largest. In the summer, Art Bazata head of the Yellowstone Park Co., and Jack Anderson, Uncle Sam's superintendent of Yellowstone, tell me they have more than 2 1/2 million visitors.

In the winter, the animals - and birds too - have this vast region of snowy mountains and great forests, and geysers all to themselves. Old Faithful performing just for them. To go there now is like a visit to another planet - a planet uninhabited by people. How did we travel - by oversnow caterpillar track vehicles - some of the time in the same snowmobiles used by Ralph Plaisted's party on their over the ice trip

to the North Pole a year ago - Ski-dooos.

We saw herds of elk, many of them; buffalo, deer, a few coyote, and even the rare trumpeter swan which as you know faced extinction only a few years ago - only 20 or so in all the world. Harold Young, grandson of Brigham Young, who lives in the same snowy world just outside the western entrance to the Park, told us there are now some 400 of these graceful, rare birds.

But my time is running out. More about our winter invasion of Yellowstone on Monday - maybe. Hack Miller, a Utah editor had arranged it all - he and Monte Wight of Idaho Falls. Wish some of you could have been with us. I hope some of you who are listening will arrange it -- between now and May -- or, next

51^{Y4} winter!!

ENDING

Back to Yellowstone for a moment. That exciting thermal region, where Nature puts on one of her greatest shows, will celebrate its 100th anniversary as a National Park three years from now - 1972. The President undoubtedly will come to Wyoming, Idaho and Montana, for this. But, why not see it before then - preferably during the winter? It belongs to you, so why not take a look at one of the wonders of the world at the most thrilling time?