

Wednesday, February 7, 1973

OWENSBORO

First, from W B R K, Voice of the Berkshires, a salute to CBS Radio Station W O M I at Owensboro, Kentucky - today celebrating its Thirty-Fifth anniversary on the air.

WASHINGTON

Now for Henry Kissinger - the start of another "incredible journey." Dr. Kissinger taking off today for Hanoi and then Peking - by way of Bangkok and Vientiane. This time to try to nail down the peace - in all of southeast Asia.

Dr. Kissinger's departure - following last minute consultations with President Nixon. He issued no statement nor did the President. The White House saying only that Dr. Kissinger will be "expressing the President's view - under his instructions."

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Apart from that - only one thing is certain: the fact that Dr. Kissinger - really has his work cut out for him; as evidenced by reports today - from the battle area itself.

In Vietnam - the greatest number of ceasefire violations all week; while those charged with policing the war's end - were still bogged down in petty bickering and administrative red tape. In Cambodia - Communist forces were launching a massive attack - on a strategic Mekong River base. In Laos - the fighting continued virtually unabated.

After two decades of open war - the grudges of old passing away slowly if, indeed, at all.

JAKARTA-KUALA LUMPUR

For Vice-President Agnew - a farewell today to Jakarta. Before he left though, the Vice President assuring Indonesian leaders - "that the U.S. will continue its presence and vital interest" in Southeast Asia. The Vice President also stressing, as he put it - "the importance of the actions taken by the southeast nations themselves - in promoting stability, progress, and peace."

Next stop - Kuala Lumpur, capitol of Malaysia, for formal talks beginning tomorrow - with Malay prime minister, Tun Abdul Razak. And then - on to the Philippines.

WALTER REED

At Walter Reed Army Hospital - a surprise visitor today. President Nixon paying a call - at the bedside of gravely ill Senator Stennis of Mississippi. Later reporting the patient in excellent spirits - with "a handshake of steel."

The President also telling reporters - he had praised Senator Stennis for his long public service. "He has done so much to help this country" - said the President - "and now the country is trying to help him " with its prayers. The President adding: "I think he's going to make it."

The President further offering a word of advise - for any of us who visit hospital patients. Said he: "Tell them how much they are missed and needed! That gives people an extra will to live;" and "that's what you need" - said he - "when you get close to the border point."

BELFAST

A general strike by tens of thousands of Protestant workers - today all but crippled Northern Ireland; in the process - triggering new bombings, shootings, arson, and rock fights. The violence claiming at least one life - that of an alleged Protestant gunman. All this - following the first internment of Protestants as suspected terrorists.

SYDNEY

The climate around the almost endless coast of Australia for the most part is pleasant enough. At times though - it can be a problem. With the result that Australian workers have been known to strike - when it gets too hot, too cold, or, too wet. And today at Sydney, there they were striking.

Thousands of men and women walking off their jobs - because of a record heat wave currently sweeping new South Wales. Daytime temperatures soaring to a hundred plus - and not much cooler at night. High humidity - also contributing to scores of cases of heat collapse.

In the surrounding country-side - even worse. The heat wave accompanied by a draught - which has already caused millions and millions of dollars in crop damage.

In the land "Down Under" - a long long hot summer.

DHAULAGIRI

According to mountain men, the most challenging peak in all the Himalayas - is beautiful, deadly Dhaulagiri. Its twenty-six thousand, seven hundred and ninety-five feet - consisting mainly of huge walls of ice - like Nanga Parbat in the Western Himalayas. Swept daily by heavy snows and high winds, a wild realm of sudden avalanches.

Dhaulagiri has resisted conquest the longest of all the major Himalayan peaks; remaining inviolate 'til Nineteen Sixty - when a Swiss team finally reached the top. So far no Americans have ever made it. The last U.S. attempt, the Nineteen-Sixty-Nine - ending in seven deaths.

But hope springs eternal; and a group of U.S. mountaineers - are now getting ready for another attack. The new ascent to be led by Doctor James Morrissey - one of those who survived the last attempt. Two of his comrades on that early try - will also be going along.

As if to make it even harder - they plan to take a

DHAULAGIRI - 2

*new and untried route; one that the first man ever to reach
the top had previously abandoned as "endlessly long and
incredibly difficult."*

*Next question: Why? People are always asking this of
mountain-climbers. And the usual, the Lee Malory answer:
"Because it's there." But Jim Morrissey - altered the
script just a bit today.*

*"Dhaulagiri is a mountain that can be and ought to be
climbed" -said he - "we propose to climb it."*

LAUSANNE

Lausanne, Switzerland - one of the world's most popular and most prolific novelists - has suddenly packed it in. It's Georges Simenon - author of one-hundred-and-forty-seven books. Seventy-four of them deal with the adventures of "Inspector Maigret;" who ranks with Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot - as one of the great fictional detectives of all time. And his latest work - the forthcoming "Maigret and Monsier Charles" - just completed a few days ago.

Simenon announcing today, however - this will be his "last" book. The Belgian author - who will soon be seventy - saying his typewriter will now "disappear;" giving as the main reason - recurrent attacks of dizziness. He says: "As I can only write when I am completely fit - I have decided to retire."

More than that though - Simenon is also changing his whole lifestyle. Selling his elegant chateau high above

LAUSANNE - 2

Lausanne, disposing of most of his belongings, moving into a two room apartment in town. "I have realized that for fifty-five years - I have been living within the skin of my characters" - said he. Adding: "Now, suddenly, I want to live my own life - in two rooms - and feel delivered, happy and serene." After all Bill, who wants more than two rooms and a shower?

CHATHAM

As you no doubt know - Britain's Prince Charles is currently serving in His Majesty's Navy. The young heir to the British throne - a junior lieutenant assigned to the frigate *Manin Minerva*, now docked at Chatham, England - and soon to embark on a world cruise. Thereby - hangs a tale.

Our spies at Court report that Prince Charles - has been sending out discrete letters to some of his closest "friends." Each letter said to contain a rough itinerary of the *Minerva's* route - complete with likely stopovers. Also, noting that the Caribbean, for example, is a pleasant vacation retreat; and wouldn't it be nice if a girl just happens to be spending some time there - purely by coincident; i. e. when the *Minerva* arrives in port?

All this - is strictly unofficial, of course. For the record, Charles merely describing the cruise as, quote, "all work - but, as he put it - a bit of play as well, I hope," says the Prince. And so long until tomorrow.