

XB-70

Today, another important day in the history of aviation. I've been spending the day with aviation men who now are wondering whether the spectacular flight of the XB-70, really means the end of that long controversy, all the disputes about the huge amount of money involved-- one and one-half billion dollars. And about the so-called "bugs" that have caused so many changes in the timetable.

Anyway, what they call the "winged missile"-- flew today. Pilot Al White and co-pilot Joe Cotton, taking the huge six-engine jet up over the Mojave Desert. A thundering maiden flight that lasted one hour and five minutes.

What--does it mean" For one thing, important to all who travel by air, it means jet liners of the future capable of flying at over two thousand miles an hour. From coast to coast in ninety minutes, one hour to Europe. A portent of things to come in aviation--the XB-70. In fact

**with today's historic flight the day of flying at mock-three-
that day is here. Around the world in twelve hours. Faster
than our planet goes spinning around the sun.**

... and ... north going on way ... along the east
coast of Greenland. A ... for ... Gene Wall who
took off from the island of Saint Pierre, Canada, bound
for Reykjavik, Iceland. And now Gene Wall is two days
overboard.

The New York aviator could have gone down
most anywhere along his line of flight -- the Labrador
Coast, the North Atlantic -- the hope is that he landed
near ... Greenland's Kulusuk Bay. And that's where

the cabin was -- when he heard the motor of a plane.
He says that if he was so low the pilot must have been in
trouble. But he couldn't see a thing -- in the blackness
of the sky. Then the sound became louder, fainter and
then ... So, was that Gene Wall, above the
Kulusuk Bay -- pulling ... for a

SEARCH

An Eskimo claims that he heard a plane -- last night. Of course, many planes fly across the Arctic, but this is important because there is a massive air and sea search going on way up along the east coast of Greenland. A search for pilot Gene Wall who took off from the island of Saint Pierre, Canada, bound for Reykjavik, Iceland. And now Gene Wall is two days overdue.

The New York aviator could have gone down most anywhere along his line of flight -- the Labrador Coast, the North Atlantic - the hope is that he landed near -- Greenland's Kulusuk Beacon. And that's where the eskimo was -- when he heard the motor of a plane. He says that it was so low the pilot must have been in trouble. But he couldn't see a thing -- in the blackness of the sky. Then the sound became fainter, fainter and then, ceased. So, was that Gene Wall, above the Kulusuk Beacon -- hunting desperately, hoping for a place to make a forced landing?

TROPHY

The awarding of the space trophy today -- is a reminder of an event that held us spell-bound last year. Remember the orbital flight -- of ^{astronaut} ~~MISSOURI~~ Gordon Cooper?

For ~~his~~ a full May day, and more ^{for} -- thirty-four hours --

Gordon Cooper traveled through space in his capsule. Suddenly, at the end -- a crisis. Automatic re-entry system -- breaking down. The astronaut, forced to take the controls -- himself.

Whereupon
he coolly guided his space capsule -- down to a safe landing in the ocean.

"Superlative / ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ skill" -- according to Eugene Zuckert, Secretary of the Air Force, who presided over the ceremony -- at the National Geographic headquarters in Washington.

Astronaut Gordon Cooper, receiving the space trophy -- for *an exciting* ~~his great~~ space flight.

YACHT

In the Atlantic off Newport, Rhode Island -- the old story. The "Sovereign" -- something less than sovereign of the sea. The British challenger, losing for the fourth straight time -- to the American "Constellation." Once more ending the competition for the America's Cup -- which for over a century has been won by an American yacht.

MALTA

The world's newest nation has put an end to -- one hundred and sixty-four years of history. The British took Malta in eighteen hundred, during the Napoleonic Wars, and made that rocky, picturesque island -- a key to their naval power in the Mediterranean. A guardian of the then long sea lifeline to India.

Imperialists like Disraeli would have been shocked at the idea of -- an independent Malta. But the imperial days are gone. And today Prince Philip turned over the government to Borg Olivier, the prime minister of Malta. Malta where St. Paul was shipwrecked. Malta, into whose harbor at Valleta I was chased by German U-boats during World War I when I was on my way -- my cameraman Harry Chase and I -- when we were on our way to join Allenby's Army in Egypt and Palestine.

DE GAULLE

Paris and Washington are both emphasizing how the visit of Charles de Gaulle to Latin America is not intended as a challenge to the United States. In fact, the tall soldier of France says he is helping our policy, because he is helping to strengthen -- the free world. Which -- the entire Atlantic Alliance wants.

Tonight de Gaulle in Caracas received an enthusiastic welcome with immense crowds lining the streets -- shouting greetings in French and Spanish. Ten thousand jammed into the streets around the Pantheon -- with its tom of Simon Bolivar, the "George Washington of South America." They cheered as de Gaulle placed a wreath in honor of -- Venezuela's greatest son.

POLITICS

Barry Goldwater repeats his challenge to Lyndon Johnson -- "let's debate." The Republican candidate, putting it in -- the most vigorous language he has used yet. Telling an audience in Charlotte, North Carolina, that the president "will not face me! -- will not face you!"

So, what will -- the President do about this challenge? He'll pitch his campaign at organized labor -- this week, and head for the Southwest on Friday. As for venturing into a debate with Goldwater? That seems to be the last thing on Lyndon Johnson's mind.

FLOODS

Big Fossil Creek near Fort Worth, Texas -- is far from a fossil at the moment. Tonight it's on the rampage. Big Fossil rising under seventcen inches of rain; a deluge so torrential the dispatch uses the phrase -- "monsoon-like." Like the monsoon rains of India.

Residents of Forth Worth suburbs have evacuated their homes. Getting out ahead of -- the flood waters of the Big Fossil. While nearby at Dallas, the White Creek is over its banks. And Texans are keeping an eye on the Rio Grande.

FIRES

While Texas is having floods, California is in the midst of a long drought. Grass, timber, brush -- dry as tinder, winds strong enough to whip a wild conflagration -- if in fact already there are six forest fires. One near Calistoga, raging across some seven thousand acres, ruining some of California's finest vineyards, and destroying more than forty homes on the outskirts of Calistoga. The town itself might have gone up in smoke -- if a shift of the wind hadn't turned the inferno in a different direction.

SCOTCH

The waterfront at Glasgow, Scotland -- is tied up by a longshoreman's strike. And quite a few Glaswegians -- that's ^{as} what they call the inhabitants of Glasgow -- wish that the walk-out would continue indefinitely. Because the goods piled high on the dock -- might never get aboard ship.

If that sounds like a paradox, consider the goods in question. Fifty thousand cases -- of Scotch whiskey. All the best brands of Scottish firewater earmarked for export. Eventually, of course, ^{to} they float down the Clyde, and disappear, across the Atlantic.

Meanwhile, on the Glasgow dock, [^] a sight to cheer the heart ^{Dick.} of a parched Scot, Fifty thousand cases -- of ^{Scotch.} ~~whiskey~~.

BED

In Mitcham, England, they've just auctioned off -- the gold bed of Ghana. It's only ten years old, and has never been outside Britain.

Constructed from real gold, in the hope that someone would buy it as a curiosity -- it caught the eye of the wife of -- the Ghana minister of the Interior, who bought it for -- three thousand pounds sterling.

All of which touched off a scandal at home -- that forced her husband to resign and forced her -- to leave the bed behind.

In Mitcham, England, an auctioneer has knocked it down, for a thousand pounds. Buyer -- anonymous. Doesn't want anyone to know he's now the owner of -- "the gold bed of Ghana."