

L.T.-OLDS. WEDNESDAY. DEC. 27. 1961.  
(L.T. in Alaska)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Let's skip the weather tonight; except to say that it's still way, way below zero up here in Alaska. Coldest in memory. In the Midwest with four inches of slick powder snow on a hard packed base; thermometer below zero; highways are reported dangerous all the way from Oklahoma to the Dakotas. Abandoned cars everywhere.

## KENNEDY

An important day on President Kennedy's calendar.

For one thing, he finally had his physical check-up. The diagnosis - he is in better shape than he was last summer. His back, improving, although more special exercises are prescribed.

After his check-up, the President met with Secretary of the Treasury Dillon - and other top advisors. Hammering into final shape both the budget and the state of the union message, to present to Congress in a few days.

## AMBASSADOR

In Washington, it is being emphasized that they did not demand - the recall of the Soviet Ambassador. There have been rumors of official American displeasure with that Mikhail Menshikow. "Smiling Mike" - tried the hard sell of Soviet propaganda. Even writing - to members of Congress. Apparently he managed to stay just within the diplomatic boundaries.

So, it's simply a case of another assignment in Moscow - for "Smiling Mike" Menshikow.



## KUWAIT

The Foreign office in London is maintaining a diplomatic silence - on the movement of British troops in the Middle East. "Diplomatic" - in both senses of the word. London, not wanting to stir things up by making bellicose pronouncements. Also, not wanting to alert a possible enemy - to the size, disposition, and intentions of her Majesty's forces.

All we know is that British ships planes and infantry are prepared to answer the call - if Kuwait asks for help; if Iraq again threatens to invade - the sheikdom at the head of the Persian Gulf;<sup>the</sup> fabulous sheikdom that covers a priceless underground ocean of oil.



## RIOT

THAT RIOT IN CALABRIA, ITALY, WAS CAUSED BY A  
TRAIN WRECK. (THE CONNECTION ISN'T OBVIOUS - BUT IT'S  
LOGICAL ENOUGH.) THE CATASTROPHE, ~~HAPPENED~~ BECAUSE THE  
ENGINEER WAS TRAVELING - ALMOST TWICE AS FAST AS HE  
SHOULD HAVE BEEN. HE HIT A CURVE IN THE MOUNTAINS  
AT TOP SPEED - AND THE REAR COACH JOLTED LOOSE.  
HURDLING OFF THE TRACKS ~~AND~~ A HUNDRED FEET DOWN INTO  
A RAVINE. THE TOLL - SEVENTY DEAD.

WHEN WORD GOT AROUND IN CALABRIA THAT THE  
ENGINEER IS <sup>merely</sup> BEING CHARGED WITH MANSLAUGHTER - THE  
RIOT BEGAN. ANGRY CROWDS, ATTACKING RAILROAD INSTALLATION  
ALL THROUGH THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE OF ITALY. THREE  
STATIONS - LEFT IN A SHAMBLES. A FOURTH - A HEAP  
OF SMOKING CINDERS, TONIGHT. DOZENS OF WINDOWS  
SMASHED ON MOVING TRAINS. TODAY, MANY ENGINEERS REFUSED  
TO MAKE THEIR USUAL STOPS, EXCEPT UNDER PROTECTION BY  
THE CALABRIAN CARABINIERI. THE PEOPLE OF CALABRIA, MOURNING  
THE VICTIMS OF THE TRAIN WRECK, <sup>taking it out on</sup> AND ~~MOVING~~ THE RAILROAD.

## MCKINLEY

We have been spending Christmas with Mount McKinley just outside the window - across Cook Inlet, some miles inland. The winter air so clear, it seems only a short distance away. Dr. Rodman Wilson, making the rounds of his after-christmas patients, stopped by long enough to talk about North America's highest mountain, which he himself climbed; and helped with a thrilling rescue.

Mc Kinley is particularly formidable because it's a lofty Arctic mountain. Some say - as hard to climb as Everest - although McKinley is 20,000 and Everest 29,000. Quite a number of lives have been lost by climbers on McKinley, the last two were local flyers, the summer of Nineteen-sixty. When trying to rescue John Day and three others from Seattle, the two airmen crashed into one of the icy walls. Rodman Wilson, and a group of five local veteran climbers also happened to be on the mountain. Day and his three companions were on one rope. They all fell. Doctor Wilson and party went to a rescue that took five

days, but all four were saved, two by helicopter which made the highest landing ever made by helicopter up to then - Seventeen thousand feet.

Some of you will recall that old Doc Cook, of North Pole renown - or notoriety - claimed he was the first to climb McKinley - in Nineteen hundred and six. Later an expedition proved to most mountaineers, explorers and geographers that the Doc had only gone about half way up McKinley. Actually, the first to conquer it were some Alaskan sourdoughs, in Nineteen-ten - still regarded an almost incredible feat. They had no experience as climbers but they actually dragged a tall spruce pole to the crest of the north summit, and set it up there, where it remained for years. Alas, there is no written record of this epic ascent.

Since then there have been various expeditions, attempting to conquer this monarch of the Arctic. Professor Herschel Parker, Belmore Brown, and Merle Leroy,



in Nineteen Twelve - to prove that Doc Cook was a faker. Archdeacon Stuck and Harry Karstens in Nineteen thirteen, the so called first official ascent of the south peak. Erling Strom and party in the Twenties; Brad Washborn and so on. Doctor Wilson says some eighty have now reached the summit.

Last summer, a crack Italian alpine group, made it by the most difficult route, the south fage, which had never been scaled before. They were led by Riccardo Cassin, one of the world's top mountaineers. Also an expedition, led by a Swiss veteran of a Mount Everest; also a group of young Canadians who got into trouble and were badly frozen.

Climbing McKinley should be - a bit easier, because expeditions now land by plane or helicopter on a glacier at an altitude of around Eight thousand feet, which saves a long, touch trek, by trail to the mountain.

## ROBBERY

Paris is notorious - for daring robberies. And one today is all of that.

Two men walked into a jewel store - on the fashionable Rue Saint Honore. One with a gun - forced the manager and his assistant into a back room. The second - quickly rifled the window; scooping up dozens of diamonds and pearls. Dropping them into a small bag. When the two robbers turned to leave, a customer opened the door just as they reached it. He stood in their way, and asked - where he could find the manager. The thief with the bag of jewels in his hand, replied politely - "he'll be back this afternoon, you can see him then."

The customer turned - and left the shop, with the robbers who at the curb nonchalantly bid him adieu, and with three million francs in loot they roared away into the hectic traffic of Paris, on a motor scooter. And now Dick Noel - in an Oldsmobile, of course.

## BARROW

The weekly Pt. Barrow news reports that the famous Arctic coast village of Barrow, our farthest north habitation on the continent of North America, now has a jail cell equipped for Lady Lawbreakers, complete with female guard.

In the past women have been excused from jail sentences in Barrow because there were no facilities to handle them. But now comes the warning: - "no speeding with your dog team! Slow down or you'll find yourself in the igloo 'cooler'".

Question: with the mercury fifty below at Fairbanks, how cool could cooler be five hundred miles farther north, at Pt. Barrow on the Polar Sea?