


GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Korean truce talks were such, today, that an American delegate made reference to an old Chinese custom. Said Admiral Libby: "Singularly enough, we had a very amicable meeting." Then he added: "They were apparently following the old Chinese philosophy of paying their debts at one time, at the New Year." That is, the Reds came forward suddenly with concessions, offered in a clear, definite and friendly way. This, of course, is not the Chinese New Year -- but it all seemed in the traditional spirit of the Chinese way of settling accounts. One point concerned civilian prisoners. Some fifty-five Western diplomats, missionaries, newsmen, are interned by the Reds. So, immediately today, Communist representatives agreed to a U.N. suggestion that these be released when an



armistice is signed. Each side -- to hand over civilians.

Next, the question of Allied prisoners not on those lists handed over by the Reds. These number some fifty thousand, of which about a thousand are Americans. Today the Reds declared, without equivocation, that they would furnish all possible information -- as soon as the Allies come forward with information about forty-four thousand Communist captives. Admiral Libby responded by saying that this would be given quickly.

All of which is accompanied by (reports that the Reds have been trying to indoctrinate American prisoners of war -- with Communism. Trying to overwhelm them -- with argument to prove the correctness of Marxian theory and the doctrine of Stalin.)

Some G.I's may have been taken into Manchuria for this red indoctrination -- which may account for some names missing on the Red lists. There is word of Americans compelled to make pro-communist broadcasts -- and the suggestion is that mail now being received from prisoners of war is being

censored, to keep out statements unfavorable to communism.

The other half of the negotiations present the same old picture -- the talks concerning the supervision of an armistice. Such matters as the construction of red airfields in northern Korea. Here there was no Chinese New Year at all -- same old stalemate, a deadlock.

On the ^{war}~~water~~ front, there was a Chinese New Year -- but in a different way. The ancient custom is -- fireworks. New Year began with the flame and roar of American cannon all along the lines. Today's news dispatch calls it -- "A fire cracker" barrage. The Chinese reds, however, did not regard it as a cheerful celebration. They thought the cannonade must be a prelude to a big offensive. All along the line red messages were picked up, enemy units flashing panicky word that they seemed about to be hit by a

major assault.

In the air, several communist planes attacked ~~the~~ Kimpo Airport and the harbor at Inchon, near Seoul. No particular damage done.

But the red radio put out a report that communist night bombers destroyed twenty - four U. S. planes parked at Kimpo and set fire to military warehouses at Inchon. Nothing to it! says the U. S. Air Force!

EGYPT:

From Suez an account of the biggest battle thus far in the guerilla warfare along the Canal. (The biggest that is -- in terms of shooting, noise and fireworks. It happened) near Ismailia', which is danger sector number one.

Actually, there are two canals out there, the large one, the waterway for ships -- and the sweet water canal. Which brings a supply from the Nile -- fresh water for ordinary use. Along one bank of the Sweet Water Canal, near Ismailia, the British have a line bristling with guns (and other equipment of battle.)

A few minutes past midnight, ushering in the New Year, the Moslems opened fire -- (shooting) across the narrow Sweet Water Canal (at the British on the other side.) They are described as (the largest and best organized guerilla force thus far,) well equipped with automatic weapons, as they crept out of hiding places

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--- and blazing away with one simultaneous fusilade.

But the British troops were on the vigilant lookout, and instantly the Sweet Water Canal flared into a brilliant fantastic scene at night. (The British threw into the sky barrages of rockets for illumination, and everything was as bright as day -- though a great deal stranger. The British replied to the Moslem fire with everything from rifles to mortars. In one place an Egyptian party tried to storm a ^{to} Bridge, but were beaten off by a hail of mortar shells.)

The engagement lasted for three hours. (The British losing not a man. The Egyptians declare they lost only -- one.) Not so much blood shed, but a dazzling pyrotechnical display -- along ^{egyptia} the Sweet Water Canal.

SHIP

Out at sea, several hundred miles from the coast of England -- ~~the~~ skipper ^{Carlson} remains aboard his ship. Last night we heard about the American freighter "Flying Enterprize," a derelict in the great storm on the north Atlantic. Fifty - one passengers and ~~the~~ crew taken off, rescued -- but the skipper ~~was~~ determined to bring his ship to port, or sink with her.

Same story tonight with word that the "Flying Enterprize" has listed so badly that she is over on her side. The Captain is in the radio shack, clinging to a bulkhead -- and keeping in wireless communication with shore.

However The fear is that the -- worst is yet to come. Tugs are on their way to take the derelict intow. But, when the towing begins, there may be a shift of cargo that will cause the "Flying Enterprize" to capsize, turn over altogether. Steamship company officials hope that, even if the vessel should sink, the tugs on the towing job will be able to save the skipper.

CRASH

The news about the Army transport missing in Arizona is -- tragedy unmitigated. Search planes have found the wreckage of the C - Forty-Seven that disappeared on Sunday with Twenty-Eight aboard, including Nineteen West Point cadets. No signs of life -- the plane plunging head on into a cliff, exploded. Fragments strewn far and wide on the side of Lookout Mountain, sixty-five miles northeast of Phoenix.

WEATHER


In Colorado, the New Year began with a roar of tempest and blizzard - among the worst in the history of the state. Cold wave and snowstorm were sweeping east, promising bitter weather all the way to the Atlantic seaboard.

Colorado really had a rough time today -- the violent blizzard bringing huge snowslides in the mountains. Lives lost, when avalanches came pouring down in high passes of the Rockies. At Wolf Creek Pass in Colorado, twenty-two people in automobiles were cut off by snowslides, marooned at an altitude of eleven thousand feet. At last report, four snow plows and four bulldozers were gouging their way through the drifts on an errand of rescue.

Here's more on the weather in the Rockies:- Tonight Leadville, Colorado, is buried under a fifty-four inch snowfall -- with drifts like mountains. Similar depths of snow are reported all along the Continental Divide -- and, in Southeastern Colorado, the entire San Juan basin is virtually isolated from the rest of the world, highways blocked,

communications disrupted. That's in the glorious region around Ouray, Telluride, Silverton and Durango.

In another pass, a snowslide cut through a line of automobiles -- and, on its way down, carried off Mr. and Mrs. H.B. Mohr of California. Their car tumbling over and over in the avalanche. But they were saved, by the snow!



though, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ snow

"Our windows ^were open and snow swept into the car," they relate. So much snow that they were packed in the frosty mass. "We must have rolled over at least six times," they say, "But the snow held us in such a way that we were hardly bruised." ~~mm~~

A classic of the avalanche is reported at Berthoud Pass, there more than five hundred skiers and winter sightseers were marooned. One snowslide caught a party of skiers -- and Mrs. Sonja Easterly of Denver was buried for forty - five minutes.

Three years ago Mrs. Easterly had a similar experience, buried in an avalanche -- and maybe that ^{one} ~~experience~~ helped her know what to do, ^{this time.} As the slide engulfed her, she covered her face with her ~~own~~ hands. Then, deep under the snow she was able to work her hands, and open a space around her face, room ~~for her~~ to breathe ^{of course} There is air in the ~~mm~~ snow, and she was able to last

out those forty-five minutes until rescued.

Her companions were not covered so completely - not under so far. And they got out in a few minutes. Then they tried to find Mrs. Easterly - by thrusting down into the snow with their ski poles. "I could hear them walking on top of the snow," she relates "and seven times the probes hit me! But, they never seemed to hear when I yelled. "Once" she says, "a pole came down right in front of my face, and I grabbed it - and hung on as hard as I could. But it was pulled away." The skier on top must have thought the pole got stuck in ice or something.

And so three-quarters of an hour went by while they kept on searching and probing, until finally they found her - and dug her out. Mrs. Easterly was none the worse for the experience - but she says she'll be extra careful about avalanches hereafter, in order to keep one from taking her to the hereafter!

FAMILY.

Pennsylvania gives us a painful expose of the pathetic story of the "Walking Murphys." They are a hoax -- that family of husband, wife and two children who told of travelling on foot fourteen hundred miles, all the way from flood-stricken Kansas.

Their name is not Murphy -- or anything Irish.

They had simply changed it to Murphy. And,
They perpetrated a similar hoax at Newark, New Jersey,

two years ago. But that time it was fire, not flood.

In Newark, they told how their home in Baltimore had burned down, and they had lost their possessions. So

They had walked all the way to Newark. The story won publicity and sympathy -- and encouraged another and larger deception.

They had been through Kansas, and had seen the floods out there. So now they showed up in Eastern Pennsylvania, as Kansas flood victims -- the "Walking Murphys." Telling how after being washed out of house and home, they had gone trudging, husband, wife and two children -- to Philadelphia, where they had relatives.

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But, after so long a walk, they found the relatives could not help them. So now, they were walking back to Kansas!

The story attracted gifts of money and offers of jobs. Even an eight-room house, in which the "walking Murphys" made themselves at home.

But the story they told of the forty-five day hike - aroused skepticism; and today they admitted the hoax -- giving a full account to Radio Station W.P.A.Z., at Pottstown.

The alleged Murphy said he was Robert Lillibridge of Baltimore, former merchant seaman, and admitted that both he and his wife had police records. He guessed he had the wanderlust, the same itching foot his Father had, never able to resist the call of the open road. Wanderlust -- expressed in the imaginary travels of the "Walking Murphys."

LONE STAR

know

I don't know how Texas will take this -- but here's a story that the Lone Star flag did not originate in Texas at all. That proud symbol of the state that was once an independent nation -- was brought in from Georgia. That is, according to the "Petticoat theory."

This is the conclusion of a Georgia historian, Rear Admiral William Mann of Savannah, whose special study is Texas history. The Admiral presents evidence to show that the Lone Star flag originated at Knoxville, Georgia -- where a band of Georgians gathered for a march to Texas to fight the Mexicans.

Their banner was provided by Miss Johanna Troutmann, who took one of her petticoats, cut it into a flag, and stitched it with stripes and a single star, this she presented to the Georgia volunteers, who went on to serve in Texas -- under the petticoat banner.

Their Lone Star flag was hoisted in Texas on January Eighth, in the year ~~One Hundred~~ Eighteen Thirty Six, in front of the hotel at Velasco.

So, ever since, in a way, ^{Nelson,} Texans have rallied round -- a petticoat.