

ASTRONAUT

L.T.-OLDS. FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1963

(Richard C. Hottelet, substituting;
L.T. in New Guinea)

The world's first family - is converging on Hawaii

tonight. I suppose that title belongs to - L. Gordon Cooper, Mrs. Cooper, and their two daughters. For the next few days - they'll certainly be the most - photographed family in the world.

Mrs. Cooper, with Cam and Jan - is on her way to Honolulu by jet. Her husband, moving from the opposite direction - by aircraft carrier.

But tomorrow, he too will take to the air - on the last leg of his trip from splashdown in the Pacific to dry land. Then, a family reunion - and, inevitably, a new conference. Monday is a day off. On Tuesday - a visit to the President at the White House.

The medical reports on the astronaut - continue to be routine. Not a thing - wrong with him. The dizzy spell when he emerged from his space capsule - was anticipated. The seven pounds he lost - also part of the schedule. As for his dry throat - he downed four glasses of pineapple juice, and six of milk - ~~that~~ that was due to a day and a half on oxygen.

FLIGHT FOLLOW ASTRONAUT

The first job of the space technicians - is to examine the space capsule. Their most pressing assignment - to find out why the automatic system conked out. Why the astronaut had to fire the retro-rockets - by hand.

Cooper's orbital ride is still called - "a textbook flight." But one scientist comments - "In the last five hours, we used up every page in the book."

their release.

The U.N. helicopter forced down by Communist guns - landed seventeen miles from Seoul, north of the Han River. American Captains Ben Stutts and Carl Volts were on a routine flight along the boundary markers - when the North Koreans peppered their craft with bullets. They spiraled down to an emergency landing - on Red soil. And presumably are captives of the North Koreans - tonight.

The U.N. command at Pannunjom - is demanding their release.

INTRODUCTION TO TAPE

The latest report from Lowell Thomas features a mountaineer, a mountain range - and some people of Twentieth Century who live in a Caveman culture.

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HARRER

Hello Everybody:

I wonder if you remember Heinrich Harrer? Lowell Jr. and I unexpectedly found Harrer in Tibet, shortly after the second World War. Harrer had fled there. He had crossed the Himalayas from a prison camp in India with a companion, Peter Aufschnaiter. Harrer, one of the world's top mountaineers. I've just run into Henry again and he has been telling me of his latest achievements. The loftiest mountains on this planet between the Andes and the Himalayas are on the Equator on the vast island of New Guinea. Some of those mountains are actually crowned with glaciers - snow-capped all year round, even on the Equator. For twenty-five years British and Dutch and New Zealand and Australian expeditions had failed to climb the highest of these mountains. But, the indomitable Heinrich Harrer has now

scaled nearly all of the giants of Central New Guinea - all of them between fourteen and sixteen thousand feet in altitude, and only one of them had ever been scaled before. Harrer tells me that he has named many of these mountains for explorers of the past and some of them for people of New Guinea. On one of the peaks Harrer and his party found an American airplane of World War Two, that had crashed up there at about fourteen thousand feet. With it seven bodies - American airmen. He sent the information out to our people and the American Graves Commission assigned an American, Phil Temple, to lead another expedition to go up there and bring back the remains. And, they did it with great difficulty because seventeen years had gone by since that crash, and the American expedition had trouble with the Stone Age tribesmen who live in these mountains, primitive people who are about the same stage of development that our European ancestors were thirty thousand or maybe sixty thousand years ago.

Many of you will recall that Heinrich Harrer wrote a best-seller entitled MY SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET. And, he'll have another thrilling tale to tell you soon about his mountaineering exploits, here in New Guinea. And when I get back I'll have a New Guinea tale to tell, too.

And, so long until tomorrow.

FOLLOW L.T.

We'll be listening - Lowell. After all, there's quite a story in just getting to that strange island - off the northern coast of Australia.

PRESIDENT

The President of the United States, and the man who has accused him of "military dictatorship" - will meet tomorrow. President Kennedy and Alabama's Governor Wallace - both at Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Observing the thirtieth anniversary - of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

What about - Birmingham? We're told by Pierre Salinger, that the President and the Governor have no plans to discuss - integration in the Alabama steel city. Their meeting at TVA - strictly ceremonial.

BIRMINGHAM FOLLOW PRESIDENT

As for Birmingham itself - it's in the grip of another bombing scare. ~~XXXXX~~ Anonymous telephone calls - warning that the homes of integration leaders will be blown up.

Remembering the violence last weekend - Martin Luther King and his colleagues have raised a corps of volunteers to police the area. Sentries who will keep - a nightlong vigil. Give the alarm - if they spot suspicious characters.

The next two days - could be crucial. Can any more bombings - be prevented? Will the integration agreement - stick? If the answers are "yes" - Birmingham's worst period may be over.

EMPLOYMENT

Today's report from the Labor Department is optimistic - and pessimistic. Optimistic - because the number of jobs increased by almost one million during April. Pessimistic - because next month there will be three million more job-seekers across America.

However, the pessimism is tempered - by this thought. The labor market always becomes saturated in June - when teen-agers begin their summer vacation. This category of the unemployed, dropping just as sharply - come September.

AFRICA

Here's a follow-up - to the Cooper space flight.

You may recall that our astronaut sent his felicitations to the conference in Addis Ababa - as he passed over Ethiopia. Gordon Cooper, saying by radio - "I want to wish success to your leaders there." Then adding - "Good luck to all of you in Africa."

Maybe the African leaders were inspired - by that message from outer space. At any rate, they've just published a charter - for an Organization of African States.

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SO LONG UNCLE MONDAY

VOLCANO

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The latest eruption of Genung Agung on the island of Bali - is just as violent as the one in March. But there are no casualties this time - for an obvious reason. The population fled two months ago - leaving ^{BEHIND} almost two thousand dead, ~~behind. And they~~ haven't returned.

So no one was caught by surprise - when the volcano blew its top yesterday. The rivers of lava are flowing tonight - over ruined fields. Ashes are falling like rain - on villages already derelict. The dense black smoke lethal as always - but unable to find any victims.

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