

Friday, June 22, 1973

U S S TICONDEROGA

So back from space - they came! As no doubt you've heard by now. The three skylab astronauts proving that man can live and work in space over an extended period; then return safely.

They also brought back with them - a whole host of new records. Longest time in space - twenty-eight days, fifty minutes. Most revolutions of the earth - eleven-and-a-half million. Largest and heaviest space ship ever flown - more than a hundred feet long - weighing more than a hundred tons. First repair work outside an orbiting space craft - freeing a stuck solar wing. First to throw darts in space - first to run around the inside of a space ship, first to perform gymnastics and acrobatics - and so on and so on - the list almost endless.

Best of all though - the return home; with a near perfect splashdown - in the South Pacific. Mission commander Pete

Conrad reporting: "Everyone's in super shape." Along with Paul Weitz and Dr. Joe Kerwin - later boarding the U S S Ticonderoga without assistance.

While back at Houston - Sky Lab director Kenneth Kleinknecht was saying: "We have demonstrated that man - whether he be on the ground or in the air - is the most flexible, adaptive, non-specialized machine in existence today."

WHITE HOUSE

At the Nixon-Brezhnev summit, more signing. Today two new U.S. and Russian protocols to make it easier for U.S. firms to do business with the Soviet Union. This coming at a meeting - that Chairman Brezhnev held - with more than fifty of the biggest U.S. capitalists, at Blair House where he is staying.

Brezhnev later crossing the street to the White House where quite a ceremony awaited the signing of still another agreement. The Soviet leader and President Nixon pledging the two countries to avoid henceforth - military confrontations that could lead to nuclear war. In the words of Chairman Brezhnev - a "truly historic" document.

Messers Nixon and Brezhnev - now flying to San Clemente - where they will wind up their talks which they hope will result in a new era in East-West relations.

UNITED NATIONS

The recent applications of the two Germanys for U N membership were both approved unanimously today by the U N Security Council. There was speedy action to clear the way for quick presentation of their applications to the General Assebmly which is expected to make final approval one of its first moves when it re-convenes for its next session, September Eighteenth.

THE HAGUE

In a verdict rendered at the international court of justice in the Hague - France was found guilty as charged today; guilty of polluting the earth's environment - with radio active fall-out. This by means of its continuing nuclear testing in the South Pacific. The court further urging France to cease and desist. All of which is well and good perhaps, but Paris quickly issued a statement of its own telling the court of justice it has no jurisdiction over this.

BONN

Meanwhile at Bonn - France's President

Pompidou was meeting today with West Germany's Chancellor

Willy Brandt. This in a way a response to the Nixon-

Brezhnev summit; with Pompidou said to be seeking greater

European unity - when dealing with the two super powers.

All this will have much to do with forthcoming trade talks

between the U. S. and the Common Market nations.

MARTHA

Outspoken Martha Mitchell - again put in a telephone call to her U P I reporter friend saying her husband, John Mitchell, is "a hurt person" - because of his implication in the Watergate scandal.

Martha Mitchell however saying the former Attorney General would still "go to jail for Richard Nixon." "I don't know why," she continued - "but maybe because he had so much faith in Nixon - even after this."

INDIANAPOLIS

Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona - has also been known to speak his mind on occasion. The latest example - a Republican Fund Raising Dinner at Indianapolis; the subject - again Watergate.

Barry Goldwater saying: "The press never goes after these things when it concerns a Democrat - just a Republican. Adding: "If a Democrat does it - that's cute."

Barry Goldwater also saying: "As cover-ups go" Senator Kennedy's Chappaquiddick incident was far worse. If I had run that girl off the bridge - said he - "you wouldn't have heard the end of it."

VATICAN

In ceremonies marking the tenth anniversary of his election - Pope Paul today addressed visiting Cardinals and Vatican prelates; saying the Roman Catholic church must overcome "division, misunderstanding and mutual suspicions" between its liberal and conservative wings; must do so - said he - if it is ever to live up to the challenge - of a trouble time.

The Pope referring to his anniversary, saying: "We would have preferred the occasion - be passed over in silence. He then quoted from the Book of Psalms - "Not to us, oh Lord, not to us - but to your name give glory."

GARDNERVILLE

From Gardnerville, Nevada the story of sixteen year old Chip Hyden; an all-around boy in every way - in school sports, scouting, and so on - then the discovery that he was suffering from lymphosarcoma - a rare form of cancer.

That was last August. Since then - Chip has been hospitalized five times. His condition slowly growing worse to the point where he's now in a wheel chair. Yet he has just won a coveted Eagle Scout badge.

His parents saying: "He's never complained; never asked, 'why me, Dad?'"

His doctor adding that he has been looking death squarely in the eye - and accepted the inevitable.

Do the rest of us have problems? How about sixteen year old Chip out in Nevada?

WESTWEGO

Another demonstration of courage - is reported from Westwego, Louisiana. Mrs. Verinta Parks, age thirty, was out walking with her husband - along the banks of the rain swollen Mississippi. Suddenly - she slipped and fell in. Lawrence Parks - age forty-four - leaping right in after her. Despite the fact that he couldn't swim he somehow managing to shove his wife back to shore - saving her life; but he was swept away.

TAHLEQUAH

At Tahlequah, Oklahoma, ^{for} ~~this week~~

the National Parachute championships, ~~One of the~~
^{top} ~~best of the young~~ competitors - nineteen year old

Paul Thacker of Raeford, North Carolina, ~~the~~ son of
Gene Thacker - National Director of the U S Parachute
Association.

Young Paul competing in the national
championships for the second straight year. Completing
one practice jump - and then attempting another when
something went wrong. His main shoot failing to open
fully. His reserve shoot - getting caught in the
trailing lines. While his father watched horror stricken
-- Paul Thacker falling more than a mile to his death.

CAPETOWN

At Western Cape High School in Capetown, South Africa - a new addition to the curriculum this term; a course called youth preparedness; designed to teach young boys and girls - "what to do in an emergency." And now - the final exam.

Unbeknownst either to students or faculty - Western Cape's Headmaster rigging up a string of smoke bombs; setting them off - as if ^{to} ~~be~~ simulate a tremendous explosion and fire. Two young boys - responding as hoped; smothering the smoke bombs with their school blazers.

Before the hoax was discovered though - it must have seemed to some like the end of the world. At any rate - a number of students went out windows; two - spraining their ankles. While a young girl thinking the end had come saying what ^{she} ~~was~~ thought were her last words, Bill, addressed to a handsome instructor. Throwing her arms around his neck - telling him she had secretly loved him madly - for years. And now wanted to die in his arms!

WIMBLEDON

Over at Wimbledon, England of course, they were asking today - "tennis, anyone?" The reply a resounding "no." Sixty-eight members of the Association of Tennis Professionals withdrawing. This to protest the banning of Yugoslavian tennis star Nikki Pilic for refusing play with the Yugoslavian Davis Cup team.

Of the remaining entrees only three of the sixteen who were due to play; Ilie Nastase of Communist Romania - Jan Kodez of Communist Czechoslovakia; and Alex Metreveli of Russia; all of whom had been told to play - or else.

And so long until Monday!