

IRELAND

P. J. P. & G. Tuesday, Dec. 21, 1948.

Sure, and its a great day for the Irish today.

For Ireland is free. As free as the ~~flowers~~ and the clouds over ~~the Lake of~~ Kilarney. And should I

be telling you why? It's because President

Sean (pronounced Shawn) O'Kelly was after signing

a bill in the Parliament today. (They call it, the

Republic of Ireland Bill. And what does it do?

Why, it establishes an Independent Ireland, ~~as The~~

~~Ireland free forever from the British crown. The~~

no longer a part of His Britannic Emerald Isle chipped off the Great British Empire Majesty's Great empire.)

The ceremony ~~of the signing~~ was simple, and yet dramatic. (President O'Kelly signed two copies of the bill, one written in ~~Erse~~, that's Irish. And the other in English)- so those across the water could read it. And for President O'Kelly it was a great day, indeed. For hanging over his desk there was a framed copy of the Irish Declaration of Independence of Nineteen Sixteen. That's when there was a rebellion during Easter week, and half of Dublin was burned, to ~~the ground~~, and President Sean was fighting with the rest.

Prime Minister John Costello ^{says that for} ~~witnessed the~~
~~signing. Afterwards he said that a formal~~
~~proclamation would be issued soon, and there would be~~
a day of ^{formal} rejoicing, for all ^{of} South of Ireland, ^{they}
~~But this~~ must wait until the British Parliament
pass ~~a~~ similar law, [^] setting Ireland free. Which ~~the~~
~~they are going to do~~ is exactly what the British
are going to do.

And, they say in Dublin the next move ^{will be to} ~~take~~
take the six provinces of Northern Ireland into the
New Republic.

But Sir Basil Brook, Prime Minister of the
~~Government of Northern Ireland, says~~ ^{that} ~~that those~~
Ulstermen will ^{up not} ~~not~~ give one inch of their territory, --
~~that they'll never be incorporated. That's impossible~~
~~he says~~ To which Prime Minister Costello replies:
"The word impossible does not occur in the
political dictionary of the Irish. ^{That} If it ever was
written there, Ireland would never have secured the
freedom she has today."

~~Love these Irish~~

STALIN

Stalin they say is having a sort of austerity birthday. Although he's sixty-nine today there is no celebrating in Moscow. Schools and banks are open; no ceremonial flags flying - not even pictures of the Soviet leader on display. Only the ~~xxx~~ merest reference in the newspapers. The official Soviet calendar appeared today with one line reading: "eighteen seventy-nine - born Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin". And then a few letters to Stalin from some of his subjects, promising to increase production. These in Izvestia and Pravda.

The Moscovites, we hear, are wondering why no celebration? Russians, especially the Georgians -- and Stalin is a Georgian -- make a great festival of birthdays. All night family parties. Tables loaded with borsch, Zakuski, and vodka. Parties that usually go on and on until everybody is under the table.

The guessing is that Uncle Joe like a lot of other folks doesn't like to be reminded of his birthday

any more. With the years racing by.

A Moscow dispatch says that if Premier Stalin does give a party at the Kremlin tonight, it will be a private family celebration, with his son, Air Force General Vassily Stalin and wife and their four year old daughter.

And how is the man who is more powerful than any Czar? A U P dispatch says he's better than ever. And our Ambassador, General Bedell Smith, confirms this. Ambassador Smith says that when he spent five hours with the Generalissimo a few months ago, he thought Stalin looked in the pink. And, adds Bedell Smith, his mental grasp seems keener, more alert than ever.

GERMANY

The Berlin four power Kommandatura is in business again. But it's a three power Kommandatura; one man short, the Soviet Representative. Today the British, French and Americans held their first meeting since the Russian walkout last July. ~~But they left the doorstring on the latch for the Soviets. They did this in a formal announcement that the four power Administration of Berlin can start again whenever the Russians want to come back.~~

The Kommandatura's first business, ~~today was~~ to allocate two hundred thousand tons of coal to supply Western Berlin with light -- that is light for a whole day during the Christmas Holidays. So the folks in Berlin will see bright lights once again -- celebrate of the festival of Christmas with more light than they have had in years.

CHINA

Back in Washington special emissary to China Paul Hoffman, today announced that our Seventy million dollar construction program for China is off -- for the time at any rate. All because of recent sweeping Communist victories. Paul Hoffman discussed China today with President Truman today. "Nothing but China" he said. Then on leaving the White House, he made his statement: no more construction help for China.

And he went on to describe the situation in the Far East as critical; so critical in fact that it has forced the suspension of the long range construction program we were working on with the Nationalist regime. Railways, roads and air fields, construction of coal mines. Until the situation improves, the only money China will get from us will be less than one million dollars, a sum already ear-marked for engineering projects that are under way.

Meanwhile, from Nanking we hear that (Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek) has made his decision. He (has decided to give the full power to choose between peace and war to his cabinet.) The cabinet headed by Premier Sun Fo. (Yesterday Premier Sun Fo announced that he was willing to make a "just peace" with the Communists) If that happens the Generalissimo says that he will resign as President -- perhaps even go into exile.

The Nanking News dispatch quotes a spokesman close to the new Cabinet as saying that Sun Fo is about to make the attempt to negotiate peace with the Communists. Also that he may ask Russia, or both Russia and the United States, to mediate.

From the other side comes word, that the Reds may not settle for anything less than complete control of China. Their recent military campaign has been such a success that they see no reason to settle with Chiang or the men around him.

WAR LORDS

Early this morning in Tokyo, a yellow robed Buddhist Priest entered Sugamo Prison, where the seven Japanese war lords are under sentence of death. This is taken as a sign that the executions may take place at any hour.

General MacArthur's headquarters announces that the General has received a verbatim copy of that U.S. Supreme Court decision, the decision refusing to review the cases of two of the War lords who had appealed to our highest court.

The executions will take place in secrecy. The only witnesses, the Buddhist Priest, a representative of General MacArthur, and the executioners. ~~They~~ Then when it is all over, a formal announcement will be made.

QUENTIN ROOSEVELT

Tragic news from Hong Kong. A big passenger liner operated by CNAC -- China National Airways -- flew into a mountain, on one of the smaller islands of the Ladronez -- near Hong Kong. Thirty-three aboard -- apparently no survivors. And one of those who went down is believed to have been Quentin Roosevelt, grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt. So far there are no more details.

Quentin Roosevelt made a great record during World War Two, was severely wounded in action, rose to the rank of Captain, and since the war has been an official of Pan American Airways in the Far East. His father gave his life for his country in the invasion of Normandy. General Ted Roosevelt was one of the finest soldiers in American history. The story of what he did in World War Two has never been fully told. Recently the news came out of how he had played a major role in the cross-channel invasion of Europe --

far more important than we ~~just~~ knew at the time.

At that time the story could not be told. ^{By} ~~But~~ some
he was regarded as almost our Number One Hero of World
War Two.

And now ~~his~~ his gallant son Quentin,
according to tonight's story, went down aboard a
China National Airways plane while flying from Shanghai
to Hong Kong.

One of the finest young men I ever knew.

A great son of a great father, and a remarkable
mother, who still lives at Oyster Bay.

LATIN AMERICA

Uncle Sam is worried about unrest in Latin America. Too many people running around shooting off guns and overturning governments by violence. Today a note ~~xx~~ went from Washington to our twenty sister American Republics, asking them about their views and voicing our growing concern over the Latin-American custom of bouncing duly elected governments by military force. Which we think is not only deplorable, but inconsistent with American ideals. And are a threat to all countries in our hemisphere.

Uncle Sam sees Red - abroad at home, everywhere. The note infers that "outside influences" have been involved -- meaning Russia of course. So Washington suggests an All America conference, in the hope of solving ~~xx~~ or at least meeting the problem.

The notes were sent on December Sixteenth. That was when Costa Rica was calling for help, saying she was being invaded from Nicaragua. The notes we

hear were of two kinds; action copies and information copies. Fifteen nations got action copies, delivered by the American Ambassadors. Venezuela, El Salvador, Peru and Paraguay were handed information copies.

They are the ones where there have been recent successful revolts. Argentina, an information copy too. Why one to the Peron regime we are not told.

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And by the way, today we have a dispatch from Nicaragua. It tells how war Minister Somoza is talking back to the four-nation commission that is investigating ~~the~~ charges that Nicaragua invaded Costa Rica. And he has something to say about that Caribbean legion, the fabulous band of soldiers -of-fortune heard we ~~heard~~ of the other night. He says the rascals are fighting for Costa Rica. And he's losing his patience. In fact he soon may have to use his own Army to check them.

From San Jose, the Costa Rican capital, comes the report that several members of the Costa Rican Red Cross have been killed -- on the Nicaraguan Frontier -- all of them prominent members of San Jose Society.

... regulations. He went to Europe and crossed from the American zone of Germany into the Russian zone; all about Berlin. Did it in order to see the woman he loved -- or rather the two women who loved him.

While he was in jail -- so the story goes -- he switched his affections from one girl to the other. And both announced, in the newspapers that they were going to remain faithful to him. It was then that he scaled the barbed wire fence, and went over the hill -- this past weekend.

When the U.S. Army gendarmes caught up with him where was he? Why, in the home of still another

SERGEANT

In Berlin today, American military police arrested Edward Lada, the Ex-G I from Newark, New Jersey, who escaped from a military stockade over the weekend. Lada was first jailed because he violated security regulations. He went to Europe and crossed from the American zone of Germany into the Russian zone; all without permits. Did it in order to see the woman he loved - or rather the two women who loved him.

While he was in jail - so the story goes - he switched his affections from one gal to the other. And both announced, in the newspapers that they were going to remain faithful to him. It was then that he scaled the barbed wire fence, and went "over the hill" -- this past weekend.

When the U.S. Army gendarmes caught up with him where was he? Why, in the home of still another

German fraulein. He went there for a tryst with one of the two who have vied for ~~xx~~ his affections.

Now he's behind the barbed wire again. There today he made a statement -- that he went to Germany in pursuit of peace, happiness and love. And he added that when he gets out from behind that wire he'll settle down right there in battered Berlin - for life.

The U.S. Provost Marshall glumly responds that the happy day may be a long way off. Because when you are in uniform and you climb the wire and go wandering off -- well, even a wandering Romeo may get a sentence of ten years in the clink for that!

RESCUE

The latest news from Greenland. The eleven marooned airmen, up there on the ice cap, will be home for Christmas -- maybe -- perhaps. As a last resort, the Air Force rescue unit will attempt to land a C-47 transport on skis. It will have rockets along -- rockets to help them off the ice.

If that fails, well, then the boys will have to be content with a hot turkey dinner right there in their cozy igloo, the house they've built with blocks of ice. The rescuers are all set to drop a Christmas tree, turkey dinner and plum pudding; and phonograph records with Christmas hymns and carols. A sort of Christmas de-luxe on the Greenland icecap -- if they don't get off with rockets!

PSYCHOLOGY

Here's one about psychology and Christmas.

John Hatley, a student at Arizona State College, is heading for his home in Seattle. And John, majoring in psychology, has come up with quite an idea. In order to make it easier to thumb his way he bought a Santa Claus costume. On his back a sack of Christmas candies and boys -- in case any kind-hearted motorist has his ^{kids} ~~kind~~ along. Question: would you stop ~~if~~ and give Santa a lift if you met him on the highway without his reindeer? *Nelson?*