

L.I. - P. & G. - Mon. Aug. 28 1950

The Start of a New Year!
(our 20th.)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Yes, this is Lowell Thomas, ~~back from the~~
~~North, and~~ substituting tonight for Griffing Bancroft
who has so ably handled the news during these past
weeks. I am sitting here alongside Nelson Case, ^{bee stung} and
~~Engineer~~ ~~—~~
~~Although he doesn't quite look the same. From his~~
~~face I see he has been having an argument with the~~
~~bees on his farm. Nelson, through your half closed~~
~~eyes and mine that are sunburned from the ultra~~
~~violet rays of an Alaskan ice field, let's take a~~
~~look at the news.~~

MACARTHUR (insert)

In Chicago tonight the convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, prevented from hearing the MacArthur ~~and~~ declaration, took a vote of highest confidence in the Supreme Commander at Tokyo -- striking at the White House.

MACARTHUR

The MacArthur uproar is flaring in Washington - with Republican charges that the supreme commander in Tokyo is being gagged. Today President Truman admitted that he, personally, gave the order banning ^{that} message sent by General Douglas MacArthur to the Veterans of Foreign Wars -- ^{his} declaration on Formosa.

However, various publications in this country had the MacArthur statement and today printed it. The gist of it is that our Pacific defense line is a string of islands from Japan on down through the Philippines, and Formosa is right in the middle - a menacing air base against us, if it fell to the Reds. So the United States must see to it - that Formosa does not get into the hands of the Communists.

ent → But what's the Truman view? Today the President outlined the American position in a letter to Warren Austin, American chief delegate to the U. N. -- in which he said that we are protecting Formosa as a part of our action in defending the South Korean Republic - which we are doing under a mandate from the

United Nations. He declared that a Chinese Communist invasion of the island would only spread the flames of war - and we are ^{simply} "neutralizing" Formosa. ^{That} We have no designs on the island; and the President added that the United States would like to have the U. N. take up the question.

In Congress today, the Republicans attacked the White House action - and, along with that, the G.O.P. issued a long denunciation of the administration policy in the Far East. The Republican high command makes the formal charge that the war in Korea is the result of administration blundering - and presents this as a major campaign issue for the Congressional elections in November.

FOLLOW MACARTHUR

Tonight at the U N the President of the Security Council summoned a meeting for tomorrow - to take up the explosive question of Formosa. The Council President is, of course, Soviet Chief delegate Jacob Malik - who has been obstructing and raising an uproar for weeks. So now he is expected to demand that the United States withdraw the Seventh Fleet from the waters around the island, thus backing up the claim of the Chinese Communist government - that the United States has "invaded" Chinese territory.

BULLETIN

The latest just in. South Korean troops have driven the Reds back into the hills, after Communist forces drove to within three hundred yards of the center of Pohang.

SUBSTITUTE KOREA

~~The latest~~ ^{word} from Korea ^{today told} tells of a new enemy breakthrough - in front of Pohang, ^{at the} eastern end of the line, along the coast. The Reds launched a drive during the night, and were able to penetrate free Korean defenses ~~to~~ the west of the town. Late reports tell of Communist shells falling on the outskirts of Pohang.

However, United Press correspondent, Robert Bennyhoff, cables that the Reds failed to make a complete breakthrough - and, at this hour, it is not clear what the situation may be. American war planes were busy throughout the night, aided by the light of a brilliant moon - ^{with} ~~and~~ U. S. Warships, cruisers and destroyers, ^{ing} poured shells into Red positions along the coast.

This latest from the Pohang sector followed the repulse of a Red drive earlier -- from the north. But, checked in that direction, the Communists tried it again from the west - and it remains to be seen how near they are to ~~the~~ Pohang, an important place in one corner of the territory held by the Americans and South Koreans.

HIMALAYAS

All these human disturbances are dwarfed and made insignificant by the news from the lofty heights of Asia -- where a stupendous cataclysm of nature is occurring.

~~For days, there have been reports of~~ earthquakes in

Assam and Tibet -- in the Himalayas. Thousands of lives

lost, immense damage. Today brings news of six new violent shocks, and scientists are saying that on the Roof of the World the face of the earth is being changed.

The central character in the stupendous melodrama of natural forces is a river -- called, down in India, the Brahmaputra. But up in lofty Tibet through which it flows for more than a thousand miles, it is called the Tsang-Po.


One of the greatest of rivers, the Brahmaputra by this cataclysm has been hurled from its course, and sent off into a new channel. The movement of the

Himalayas, the mightiest of mountains -- has caused

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that tremendous stream - the Tsang-Po -- Brahmaputra
to return to an ancient river bed, through which it
poured thousands of years ago.

The Tibetan sky at night is pictured as having
a glow of scarlet, a glare of red fire. Perhaps a
whole new series of volcanoes in eruption -- and
the river waters have turned a



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sulphury green, like something out of the Inferno. Scientists declare that giant Himalayan peaks, which have been quiet for thousands of years, are bursting forth into volcanic ^{is} fury.

Well, all this comes to me with a shock of memory. I've just returned from the icefields and glaciers of Alaska, but this time last summer I was in Tibet. The news from the Roof-of-the-World has been featuring Communist aggression against the Shangri-La realm of monks and monasteries. ^{all of which} ~~But that~~ seems an affair of crawling ants, compared with the ^{is} convulsion of the Himalayas. Last year, just about this time, Lowell Junior and I were in a yak skin boat on the Brahmaputra - and we told about it in a recorded broadcast on this program. At the time, as we listened to the weird song of Tibetan boatmen, we had in mind the fact that this river, as big as the Mississippi, ^{is} ~~was~~ the highest great stream in the world - flowing across the lofty Tibetan plateau at an altitude of twelve ^{to} thirteen thousand feet. We knew, likewise, that not far

down stream from where we were navigating, the Brahmaputra began a prodigious plunge that took it for a dive to sea level and the Bay of Bengal. We were not so far from the famous gorges of the Brahmaputra - and that, apparently is where the volcanic eruptions and the earthquakes have thrown the river out of its course. Imagine the gigantic floods that are the result of all this!

The news, in telling of the loss of life in Tibet and next door Assam, states that a famous British explorer is missing - F. Kingdon-Ward who has spent most of his life in that region. With his wife, ~~my friend~~ Kingdon Ward was in those Himalayan heights when the catastrophe came. He might be a victim. I've known him for a long time as the world's foremost authority on the Himalayas. Tonight Kingdon Ward would be one to tell us about the geology of those

highest of mountains, those comparatively new mountains in geologic time, which are still in process of ~~ris~~ rising and changing.

On the Roof-of-the-World, the face of the earth is being changed perhaps in the same region where we were floating down the Tsang Po in Yak skin boats just a year and two days ago today. ^{Just} A year ago today we arrived in Lhasa on the Kyi Chu, one of the larger tributaries of the Brahmaaputra.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I am just back from one of the critical sectors of this globe - critical with a view to the future. Back from Alaska - that northern land of key importance, should there come a war between the United States and Soviet Russia.

When the conflict in Korea broke out, the natural impulse of any newsman was - try to get to the scene of the fighting. So plenty were on their way. But the first war news from Korea made me think of - Alaska. My own first away from home experiences in life were ⁱⁿ ~~up~~ ~~our~~ ~~that~~ northern ^{territory.} ~~way to Alaska.~~ I had gone on a journey in search of adventure. ~~Then~~ ~~remember~~ ~~how~~ ~~surprised~~ ~~we~~ ~~were~~ When the Korean Reds lashed out with masses of Russian tanks and guns, for a swift armored blitzkreig? The thought ~~must have~~ occurred to many of us - suppose the Soviets were to show up with the same sort of blitzkreig armor across from Alaska, at that narrow strait where ~~you can look across from where we are to where they are.~~ ~~and where~~ in winter you can cross from Asia to North America over a few miles of ice.

That idea hit me hard. I had been around over much of Alaska those years ago, and could only wonder - suppose a Red armored force, like the one moving fast in Korea, were to drive down through Alaska, heading for the great western plains of Canada where they might establish air bases within easy bombing range of all our great industrial centers?

I knew that our own defense leaders were much concerned about Arctic war. Also, the word was that the Soviets had been making an intensive study of military operations in the Arctic. In addition to all of which was the question of atomic bombing across the Pole, with our first line of defense the Far North - our own Alaska.

So I went to Alaska, for a look - and for a visit with our armed forces there. On this I will have more to report, some evening this week. But tonight the news wires are overloaded with vital and interesting material. My own observations - concerning Alaska - will have to wait.

DYNAMITE

Returning to the radio job today, I read the news wire with that old sense of anticipation ^{- wondering} would ^{any of} those bang-up stories come along? Those episodes in the ordinary pageant of life - thrill, romance, ^{and the} comic? Sure enough, there they were - the human race ^{is still} up to its usual tricks.

~~Near Butztown, Pennsylvania, things were certainly in a butz - when a big trailer, loaded with dynamite, had a collision with another truck. On the highway, the trailer went speeding along, loaded with six hundred cases of sudden death and destruction. The mix-up came in making a turn, when the trailer hit the rear of the other truck.~~

~~That threw the dynamite vehicle out of control, and it went off the road, and up a ten foot embankment. But it didn't go over the top. Instead, the trailer stalled, and then fell back onto the highway - right on top of the other truck. Down crashed the six hundred cases of dynamite, smashing the other~~

FALSE TEETH

Here's one for any dentist who may be listening in - bet it won't be cheered by the lovers of romance. In Paris - the story of the false teeth that caused love to be blighted.

In a Parisian courtroom today, testimony was given by Madame Charlotte - suing her dentist for eighty-five dollars, which seems little enough - considering what happened. Madame Charlotte told how she was engaged to be married, and her fiance was gazing into her eyes. So to get a better look into those heavenly orbs, he tilted back her head. Whereupon, her false teeth fell out. The lovelorn suitor made a grab, and caught them, as they fell. That saved the bridgework from being shattered on the floor. It was the romance that was shattered. So Madame Charlotte, heartbroken, went to court, claiming that, when a dentist provides you with false teeth, he should fix them so that they won't fall out while your fiance is gazing into your eyes.

But here's the court decision, and all you

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dentists will cheer. "Madame!" ruled the Parisian magistrate, "if you had made more frequent visits to your dentist to check on the state of your teeth, this unfortunate incident would never have happened to you."

Moral:- See your dentist. Have your false teeth checked ~~regularly~~ if not twice a year, at least do it before the boy friend gazes into your eyes.

ROMANCE

On the Island of Crete, a civil war is threatening ^{now} - and all because of ^{that} romance, ^{you have been hearing about} Crete is famous for legends of old -King Minos and that ferocious bull, the Minotaur, of which the poets of ancient Greece told in many a legend. Today, the story is about the kidnapping of a bride. - ^{The latest is that they are married.} And her family is vowing a murderous vendetta.

She's nineteen years old, and her name is ^{- not Talullah -} Tassoula - her father ^a a member of the Parliament in Athens. The bridegroom, who stole her, is a wealthy citizen of Crete -- who might not seem to be a bad catch. But Tassoula's father is a member of the Liberal Party, which advocates a republic, while the abductor belongs to the Royalist faction, supporting the king -- and politics can be fierce in Greece. The Liberal politician said he'd rather ~~let~~ see his daughter dead than married to a Royalist - and so Tassoula was kidnapped.

^{You have read or heard how}

^a The couple fled to the mountains, to escape

the vengeance of the bride's family; and today's news

^{on the story}

^x tell, how they were married - in a mountain cave. The

ceremony climaxed when the bridegroom placed on Tassoul's head - a wreath of laurel. Memories of ancient Greece, when the height of glory was ^{the} laurel crown.

After the marriage in the cave, Tassoula was interviewed by a newspaper reporter, and said she loved her abductor, and hoped her father would approve of the marriage. But, no - he's breathing fire, and has the support of the Republican faction. The Royalists are backing the marriage in the cave - and hostilities appear to be imminent.

Now, maybe you think the Greeks would never go to war because of a kidnapped bride. But you just ask Homer, and he'll tell you about Helen of Troy.

And what, pray, are you going to tell us about, Nelson Euripides case?

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