

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

BY now rescue should be at hand for the passengers on that train marooned in Donner Pass. Late word today was that many aboard the snowbound streamliner in the Sierra Nevada are ill, suffering from what are called - "some kind of gas fumes." This was reported by an Army rescue team, which was able to reach the train by means of a "snow weasel," a species of tractor for traveling in deep snow. I wonder if my friend Wiggi Hasher from the Sugar Bowl was driving that weasel. ~~Yxyxyxyxy~~ They say the gas causing the trouble appears to be "butane", which is used in an emergency heating system. The regular mechanism for warmth is out - the emergency butane heating used in some cars. The Army rescue team brought oxygen and other medical supplies - which are badly needed. Some of the passengers who are ill are said to be children, and six adults have had heart attacks. A

doctor, probably Dr. Nelson, from Truckee, traveled by dogsled and tractor, and has reached the streamliner. Many of my friends from Truckee have been in the rescue parties.

Earlier in the day, another caterpillar type vehicle, a "snow-cat", got through the towering snowdrifts, and removed four passengers, taking them to a ski lodge in Donner Pass. There the four passengers, exhausted, were put to bed.

Today two rescue trains, with Merle Jennings in charge, ~~churni~~ churning through the snow, were driving their way to the stalled train - one from the east, the other from the west. That's an old story to Jennings. He's been battling Donner Pass snows for forty years. This railroad effort at rescue ran into trouble today, when an avalanche roared down on a rotary snow plow, and swept the engine away, and two men with it - two lives lost. That snow plow was almost within sight of the streamliner. This afternoon the division superintendent of the Southern Pacific, Merle Jennings, stated that a rescue train would reach the marooned passengers in a

few hours. The latest:- a rotary locomotive is now within a couple of miles of the streamliner. Rotary from both directions are converging - battling the drifts. Also the Coast Guard is ready to use helicopters tomorrow.

The streamliner, bound from Chicago to San Francisco, was caught by the blizzard on Sunday, trapped in fourteen feet of snow banked up on all sides of the train. The place, Donner Pass, not far from the scene of a stark horror that gave the pass its name. That was in Eighteen Forty-six when the "Donner party," of eighty-one persons was caught by a blizzard, and only forty-five survived. This time it's a luxury streamliner, the City of San Francisco, with more than two hundred passengers aboard - trapped by a blizzard that blew at a hundred miles an hour, with an immense fall of snow. Today the wind had died down, but it was still snowing heavily - in Donner Pass - at the rate of an inch or more an hour - with another storm on its way from Alaska.

Truckee and the entire Donner Pass region is the storm center of the West tonight - record snow in a High Sierra region famous for its tremendous snows.

GLIDER

In California, today, evidence was revealed - of glory in a tragedy. They developed film found in the wreckage of the glider in which the Swedish flyer, Karl Ovgard, lost his life. Nearly a month ago, he took off to ride - the "Sierra Wave." That's the strong updraft of wind ^(which) ~~there~~ sweeps high over the mountains; and Karl Ovgard hoped the "Sierra Wave" would carry him high enough to break the altitude record for gliders. ^{It did.} That's the ~~disclosure~~ disclosure today - of glory in the tragedy.

The film record made during the flight shows an altimeter reading of thirty-two thousand five hundred feet. Which is three thousand feet above the record that Ovgard set out to break. Then, at the topmost mark for gliders, something went wrong. The plane without power ^{was} caught in some whirlwind or thundercloud above the Sierra Nevada - we'll never find out. All that can be known is - that Ovgard ~~glider~~ crashed in the mountains, losing his life, after winning success.

ORKNEY HURRICANE

From Kirkwall, Orkney Islands comes word to-night of a cataclysmic gale. The tiny Orkney Islands off the north coast of Scotland, across the Pentland Firth, were the scene of the wildest tempest ever recorded in Britain. That's what the dispatch says. At one period in the gale the winds hurtled across the bleak, treeless islands around Scapa Flor at more than ninety miles per hour.

The Kirkwall Weather Station recorded winds up to gantastic speeds -- a hundred and thirty miles an hour.

The Orkadians are used to wild weather. Their shores bear the full brunt of endless Atlantic gales, which sweep in past the Old-Man-of-Hoy, with huge breakers banging away at the rocky cliffs and skerries. Even in calm weather, the short trip from Caithness in Scotland to Scapa is perilous. As the Romans discovered, the Pentland Firth boils with whirlpools, and roosts, as the locals call them.

In today's hurricane that narrow channel presented an awesome spectacle -- no boats dared put out and the islands were marooned, - completely cut off. In living memory, so they say, nothing like today's storm. Reports tell of heavy damage to the white stone crofter's cottages -- their thatched rooves literally blown away. The huge breakers, even sweeping high on the isles and carrying off herds of sheep. Damage of over a million dollars, in this freak no'easter that swept the bleak Orkneys.

PARIS

The author of the new Russian Disarmament Proposals is -- Joseph Stalin. This was disclosed in Paris today by the U.N. Delegate from Byelorussia, who gave full credit to Uncle Joe himself.

The debate on Stalin's plan was in its third day and now seems likely to pass into the Disarmament Commission -- without endorsement, as originally suggested by the Big Three.

KOREA

In the truce tents at Panmunjom today the

Reds formally charged the Allies with bombing a prisoner
of war hospital near Pyongyang in North Korea.

The Communists said that ten U.N. prisoners were killed, ^{and} some sixty others wounded following the attack by a single U.N. plane. However, Fifth Air Force Headquarters promptly denied the charge, stating that it had no planes in the area.

Meanwhile, in Tokyo, General Matthew Ridgeway's headquarters announces a full-dress inquiry. Headquarters is now checking with bomber fleets based on Japan and Okinawa, as well as the Navy's carrier pilots.

Following today's truce talks - Rear Admiral Libby's report ^{ed: -} ~~was more adamant than usual.~~ "Absolutely no progress". ^{! That} ~~was~~ ^{So} ~~how he put it.~~ ^{and} there seems little chance of settlement in sight.

(^{In} ~~On~~ the fighting ^{zone} ~~front~~, the Communists stepped up patrolling on the Eastern Front, an area which has been relatively quiet, lately.)

In Washington, a British-American agreement was signed today, a diplomatic agreement; - but it's in the realm of scientific fantasy. The British grant us the use of the Turk and Caicos Islands in the West Indies - for the testing of guided missiles.

Geographically, this is impressive - all a part of a British-American project based on the Bahamas, an oceanic range for guided missiles. The Bahamas extend from off the Florida coast far to the ~~on~~ south, and the terminus of the guided range will be those Turk and Caicos Islands, which are just north of Santo Domingo and Haiti. It's one huge sweep of the sea, and along the chain of islands there'll be stations for checking the guided missiles throughout their flight.

(Today's agreement specifies that the missiles will not contain explosive war charges, and will carry only technical instruments to measure their performance. Also - means for destroying anyone in flight, if necessary. Meaning, they will have some sort of explosive that can be ~~used to destroy~~

touched off to demolish them completely - if something should go wrong, or if there might be danger of the secret weapons getting into the hands of the wrong people.)

So now the documents have been signed - for a guided missile range, along a vast ^{arc}~~arm~~ of the ocean, with a string of islands for observation stations.

WASHINGTON

Higher pay for the Armed Services. In Washington today the House passed its first major bill of the new session. This will give the military a ten per cent overall increase in pay, and ~~now goes for~~ ~~Senate approval~~. The House vote was overwhelming, two hundred and sixty-nine to eighty-nine, far more than the two-thirds majority required. ^{It now goes to} The Senate ~~is~~ ^{which is} expected to follow suit - despite warnings from the economists that the cost to the taxpayer will be more than eight hundred million dollars a year. ^{It} Under the new measure, privates will get a boost of seven-dollars-and-fifty cents a month, (and ^a ~~generals fifteen times as~~ ~~much.~~ ^{will receive} A Major General ~~for instance receiving~~ a raise of almost fourteen hundred ~~dollars~~ a year.

The new rates ^{to} ~~will~~ become effective the first day of the month ^{--- after} ~~that~~ the bill is signed by the President.)

COSTELLO

The New York trial of Frank Costello ends in a deadlock - a ~~stuck~~^{hung} jury. Today, after nearly eleven hours of deliberation, the jury failed to agree. So there'll be a new trial - at a future date.

Costello, the alleged slot machine king, was on trial for contempt of Congress - as a result of his refusal to answer questions in that big television show the Senate Crime Committee staged. (The jury was called upon to decide whether or not Costello was justified - on the grounds that the whole thing was a television extravaganza, that he was in no condition to testify, and that he might have incriminated himself. The word is that the deadlock was caused by one juror - who stuck it out for acquittal, while the other eleven wanted to bring in a verdict of guilty.)

Next Friday, defense and prosecution will argue the date for a new trial.

POLITICS

At the White House - a conference between Senator Kefauver and President Truman. No doubt they talked politics - the Tennessee Senator being the only Democrat who is being boomed for the Democratic nomination, in the face of the fact that the President remains mum and silent about his own intentions.

But they might have had a conversation about the phoney weather, for all we know. Upon emerging from the White House, Kefauver refused to say a single word about his interview with the President. He hardly opened his mouth enough to say - "no comment."

So let's go on to Taft, about whom we can make at least this revelation - that he entered the Illinois primary today. Nominating petitions were filed - assuring a battle between the Ohio Senator and Harold Stassen. General Eisenhower, apparently, will not be put into the Illinois primary fight - his

backers deciding against it. They don't like the prospect - not with Senator Taft having the support of the Republican organization, as he has.

GENERAL

This next item of news may bring pain and sorrow to any G.I's who happen to be listening in. Imagine - a Lieutenant General arrested, taken to court, and fined a hundred dollars!

It happened in Louisiana, at a town called Opelousas. Sounds as if it might be right next door to Lallapalousa. Anyway, Lieutenant General R.W. Harper, Commander of Air Training at Fort Scott, Illinois, went down to Louisiana - to hunt ducks. The shooting was mighty good near Opelousas. ^{Well, a} ~~The~~ game warden came along and saw the Lieutenant General with more than the legal quota. A G.I. in such circumstance, would soon find himself facing the judge. Same thing for the Lieutenant General - found guilty. Fine - one hundred dollars.

It was even worse for Colonel W.D. Haas, commander of the Louisiana Civil Air Patrol - who was along with the General. He banged away at the ducks with such a good aim that it cost him - two hundred and ten dollars.

Nelson, By now, ^{any} ~~you~~ G.I's ^{(who are listening must be in tears, don't you think?!} ~~must be weeping.~~

FRANKLIN

Today, the Poor Richard Club of Philadelphia presented its gold medal of achievement - to General Douglas MacArthur, hailing him for his great record in war and in the administration of conquered Japan. Poor Richard, of course, means Benjamin Franklin, and the award was to be made on Franklin's birthday - Thursday. But General MacArthur will be in Washington, Thursday, to attend Winston Churchill's appearance before Congress. So the ceremony was advanced a couple of days.

Well, anytime is a good time to meditate on one of the great figures in American history -- certainly the most entertaining. Benjamin Franklin, statesman, humorist, philosopher, ladies man, and scientist who made the famous electrical experiment - by flying a kite.