

L.T. - P&G. TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1953

(Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

(All that ^{Coronation} ~~glorious~~ festivity in Britain today turns out to be something unique - the like of which has never been known before. I can think of few moments in history to approach it - for sheer drama. The glowing pageant of royalty, with all the splendors of centuries past -- combined with an historic exploit, the achievement of one of mankind's most difficult and perilous ambitions, the conquest of ^{Mount Everest} ~~what~~ ~~explorers and geographers call The Third Pole.~~

Imagine Ferdinand and Isabella celebrating some sort of magnificent jubilee, when in walks a sea captain with a party of sailors. Christopher Columbus - announcing the discovery of America!)

That didn't happen. It couldn't have happened.

But it's a way of illustrating the dramatic angle in the news today.

The conquest of Mt. Everest, the winning of the ultimate pinnacle of the world's highest mountain, ranks with the greatest exploits of exploration. Recalling - Admiral Peary's dash to the North Pole. Amundsen - attaining the South Pole. ~~In fact~~, the French mountaineer, Maurice Herzog, writing in the New York Times ^{only} last Sunday ^{again} called Mt. Everest the "third pole."

The first one - the farthest north. The second pole - the southernmost point of this earth. After that, what? ~~have you seen~~ There still remained to be conquered - the highest point on this globe, the third pole. But now, at last, success - the Third Pole conquered - as part of the ~~same~~ celebration of the crowning of a young Queen. It sounds like something out of ~~the~~ chivalry of old. The knight who went adventuring in homage to his lady would have applauded the

mountaineers of that expedition in the far off Himalayas.

As one very British broadcaster put it ^{Today} as he described the scene ~~following~~ the passing of the Queen's coach: "In this supersonic, atom-splitting, Everest-conquering age"! So you can see what ~~vast~~ ^{the} importance the British are putting on this final successful effort to reach the summit of the earth, after twenty-two years of desperate effort by mountaineers, the loss of many lives, and eleven expeditions.

I wonder what the Russians are saying about the conquest of Everest? As you perhaps have heard, they were getting ready to make the attempt.

C. V.
Whitney
from
London.
QE II
Coronation.
June 27
1953.

Introduction to Mrs. Whitney

At Marineland in Florida, aboard a yacht, two
ago, Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney told me that
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Jr. and I, were interested together in a project --
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come ~~in~~ on the air from London. She said she would
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Introduction to Mrs. Whitney

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CORONATION FOLLOW-UP

From Mrs. W. watching the procession - on
The scene - Westminster Abbey, ~~where~~ a new Queen

was crowned today. ^{To} The Archbishop of Canterbury ~~presiding~~
~~dignified and stately~~ in his canonical robes. The first thing
the Archbishop did was to present Elizabeth to the crowd.
Asking them whether they would accept her as their monarch.
Four times the Queen moved forward to face her subjects - in
each corner of the Abbey. (Each time the Archbishop of
Canterbury cried out the traditional formula: "Sirs, I here
present unto you Queen Elizabeth, your undoubted Queen; ^{To}
~~wherefore all you who are come this day to do her homage and~~
~~which all~~
~~service, are you willing to do the same?"~~ Everyone present
X responded with the cry, "God Save Queen Elizabeth!")

The Queen took the oath, swearing to maintain the
laws of God and man, and to be just and merciful to her
subjects. Then came an ancient part of the rite - the
Archbishop anointing her with holy oil.

After the anointing, the Queen was handed the
symbols of majesty - the spurs, the sword, the royal robes,

the orb, the ~~sceptre~~, the rod. Each of these symbolizing some part of ^{her}~~the Queen's~~ authority.

Then the great moment - the ~~ceremonial~~ crowning. The Archbishop of Canterbury placing the ornate and bejeweled crown of St. Edward upon the head of the Queen.

And so Elizabeth officially became the Queen.

And immediately afterwards her subjects gathered around to kiss her hand, and vow loyalty to her. Among them - the Duke of Edinburgh, who knelt before his wife, placed her hands between his (and said: "I, Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, do become your liege man of life and limb," and so on.) And then the Duke rose, kissed her on the cheek, and backed away.

After the ceremony the Queen, ^{upon}~~retired to change from~~ ^{leaving}~~her robes, then left~~ the Abbey, ^{faced}~~to~~ a tremendous ovation.

Returning to Buckingham Palace amid the delirious cheering of those vast crowds that lined the whole route.

EVEREST

While all ^{this was happening in} ~~these festivities were going on in~~

London - there in far off Asia, was that expedition descending the Queen of the Himalayas they had just vanquished. There are still no details of the supreme dash to the summit, made by the New Zealander, E.P. Hillary and the veteran Sherpa guide, Tensing. All we have so far is a brief dispatch carried by a native runner.

Of all the previous attempts on Everest the most dramatic was the one in Nineteen Twenty-Four. When two climbers vanished. We still don't know ~~if~~ but what they reached the summit. They never returned.

I happened to know about it, particularly, because I was in England, and wanted to go along. But it was to be - all British. So, I could only help them raise funds.

The two who made the final dash that time were the veteran George Leigh Mallory and young Andrew Irvine. Another climber, Odell, was the last to see Mallory and Irvine.

"They were arranging a signal to us," said Captain John Noel, who was waiting at a lower camp. "We communicated between camps, over a space of miles, by signals. I saw Odell place six blankets in the form of a cross. The signal of - death. We all ~~looked~~ saw this through our telescope. We all tried to make it different, but it was plainly a cross on the white snow.

Then when Odell returned, he told them that Mallory and Irvine, heading ~~on~~ for the final pinnacle, had disappeared in the mist. But then - a spectacular turn of tragic drama -- "a sudden clearing of the atmosphere," said Odell, "and the entire summit of Everest was unveiled. Suddenly," he goes on, "I noticed, high up in the almost perpendicular wilderness - a moving black speck. Then I saw another speck move up to join the first. It was none other than Mallory and Irvine, within six hundred feet of the summit." That was Odell's guess. "The wind was tearing around me. Then the mist swept up, again, and the whole

fascinating vision vanished."

And that was the last ever seen of Mallory and Irvine. They never returned. Did they reach the summit? Will Hillary and Tensing, conquerors of Everest, be able to tell us? Have they found the bodies of Mallory and Irvine? That's doubtful, considering the snows and the cyclonic winds.

All expeditions, until recently, tried it - from the north, the Tibetan side. But, with the Communists in Tibet, no more attempts could be made from there. On ~~my~~ our trip to Lhasa, several years ago, Lowell, Jr. and I were among the last of travelers from the free world - to visit Tibet, and see the Himalayas - from that side. Our memories are still imprinted with the picture of those enormous ranges of snow-clad mountains, rising from the lofty plateau of Tibet.

The seizure of Tibet by the Chinese Reds compelled recent expeditions to assail Everest from the more difficult side - Nepal; the way the mountain was finally conquered. Cho-mo-lung-ma -- Goddess-Mother-of-the-World.

Today I had a wire from Norman Dyhrenfurth, the only American ever to climb high on Everest - a Swiss expedition. They failed - after nearly reaching the top. His telegram reads: "Fully appreciating the magnitude of this achievement, I wish I had some way of expressing my congratulations to all of them! especially to my friend, Tensing, who - deserves this conquest of Everest more than any man alive."

(Tensing, the Sherpa tribesman who accompanied Hillary, the New Zealander - on the final dash, has been on more Everest ~~exped~~ expeditions than any man alive - eight in all. Tensing, who had caught the ambition of the white man, to stand on the topmost pinnacle of this earth. Sturdy men, those Sherpas! Men of the same breed that carried me on their shoulders for twenty days: They Tibetans, of vast endurance.

Tonight, while all Britain sings, "God Save the Queen," they are also acclaiming Hillary, the New Zealander, and Tensing the mountain man of the high Himalayas!)

INTRODUCTION TO ENGERT

When I found that I was not going to be able to get to London I asked an old and distinguished friend, a well-known American diplomat, if he would represent me. After World War One, I wanted to get into Afghanistan, one of the so-called forbidden countries. In this I was helped by Cornelius Van H. Engert, who then was our diplomatic envoy at the Court of the Shah of Persia. Later he became Minister and Ambassador to various countries. Mr. Engert is in London and tomorrow night will give us his comments on the Coronation.

TEXAS LADY

By now most of you have heard so much of the Coronation today, and seen so many of the pictures - that you have Coronation coming out of your ears? In that case you may be ready for a lighter note. I know ~~that~~^{it} has been true of a number of people I have met; for they have all asked me -- "What happened to the dame from Texas, who sent that cablegram to the Queen? Did she stay at the house you had rented - and that you offered to her? And are we going to hear her on your program?" The answer is "yes! - she took me up on the house - preferring that to a room at Kensington Palace. And, you are going to hear her right now!