

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The news is light tonight. Relief from all the news about a crisis here and a crisis there, of which we hear so much.

Let's begin with a late bit of news that will arouse a cheer on the score of simple humanity. In the State of Washington they have found a girl, a pretty fifteen year old lost in an icy mountain forest for five days. Hope given up, not a chance. She must surely have perished, frozen to death - and all they could expect to locate would be her body.

On Sunday Ruth Aberle was one of a party of youngsters hunting Christmas trees, in the Cascade Mountains. She strayed from the others, and was lost. The search for her was one of the greatest, five hundred men combing the woods. Bloodhounds used to pick up the trail - a helicopter scouting

from the air. Bitterly cold in the mountains, and each day hope grew less - until it vanished.

But tonight's dispatch tells how Ruth has been found okay -- located in a log cabin ten miles east of Kelso, Washington. She's a girl Scout, well trained in woodcraft -- and knew what to do. Finding the cabin, she had sense enough to stay in it though with not a bite to eat. Tonight she says she was - frightened, and awfully hungry.

Ruth is in a hospital and the report is that "her feet are sore and she is suffering from shock -- but otherwise her condition is good." The happiest people in the country are her parents, her mother saying: "This is the answer to all our prayers."

COTTON

News about cotton. Which at one time would have been - news about Dixieland. But these days - - cotton cultivation has spread far and wide. The government held a referendum asking cotton farmers whether or not they approved of rigid crop controls for nineteen-fifty -- limitations of cotton ~~mm~~ growing to enable the government to keep up the parity price.

South Carolina was the first to report, and the weather was bad today -- rain, snow and ice. But the farmers trooped to the polls just the same -- and registered an overwhelming vote in favor of controls. The farmers grumble over the restrictions but they want the price to stay up.

Same story for the other southern states the latest figures showing a majority of more than ninety-two percent in favor of crop control.

CHURCHES

A plan was presented today for a union of all Protestant churches - two plans, in fact. ~~They were~~ suggested by Dr. ~~Dr.~~ Paul Douglass, of the Federal Council of Churches, and placed before a meeting at Greenwich, Connecticut. Dr. Douglass offers two alternatives for unifying twenty million American Protestants.

One - to create a union of Protestant churches along the lines of our own Federal Government, each denomination retaining its identity, and being represented in a central organization.

The other - a merger of the churches, the denominations losing their separate identities. Dr. Douglass thinks that American Protestants don't pay too much attention to denominations any more. So an all-out merger would not be too difficult.

HERO

At Clifton, New Jersey, they^are selecting - the Big Hero. Each year the citizens of the town take a vote to honor the bravest deed ~~done~~ in their community - and this year the neighbors are backing one candidate in particular. ~~about~~
The Big Hero is about two feet tall, and weighs forty-three pounds.

A week ago, at Clifton, a little lad of four, Boyd Richard Philip, was playing in the back yard with a tiny tot named Peggy. The two children wandered off to a (~~place where there was a~~) pond frozen over, with the merest fraction of an inch of ice. Peggy went toddling out on this, broke through, and was about to drown (~~in four feet of water.~~) But the four-year-old at the edge, lunged out with one hand, and grabbed her. Lying down, and hanging onto her hand, he was able to hold Peggy above water, until the cries of the two children were heard - and Peggy's mother came hurrying to the rescue.

So there's the Big Hero who is likely to have a medal pinned on his manly chest.

EISENHOWER

Same old story from General Eisenhower - he's no candidate. Today at Forst Worth, Texas, General Ike was queried about intimations that President Truman expects him to run for the presidency on the Republican ticket in Nineteen Fifty Two. This - based on the recent Eisenhower stand against government hand-outs and orgy of spending. The Eisenhower comment on the Truman belief is as follows: "Talk will not make me a candidate," says General Ike.

At Forst Worth today, he stated that he was only concerned with ideas and principles, and added that he was not interested in what he called "Any possible entrance into any field about which I know nothing."

He was asked - did that mean politics?

He answered with one firm word - "Definitely."

STEEL

Steel prices are going up - a hike announced by U. S. Steel tonight. The giant concern that turns out more than a third of the nation's production is raising the price four dollars per ton. Which immediately raises the likelihood of greater costs in the realms of merchandise that use the all-important metal - automobiles, refrigerators, a list almost endless. The company explains that the price raise is necessitated by an increase of costs - which reminds ^{me} ~~one~~ of the recent union contract signed by the steel industry, the companies to pay steel workers a pension.

There are immediate repercussions in Washington, where Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming called the price increase - "Inflationary, not justified." He proposed a Congressional investigation, ~~and hinted at a search down on grounds of monopoly.~~

BRITAIN

There's one thing about these international affairs nowadays - the statements utterly contrary to the fact. You'd expect that from the Communists. But, in other cases too, you wonder. ~~where do they get that stuff~~ For example - in those perennial arguments between the United States and Britain.

Today in London, a Socialist candidate for Parliament, Claud Morris, declared that the Americans are trying to force the British to let aviation manufacturers over here produce the new British jet airliner, the Comet. He states that if the British refuse, the jet airliners will not be permitted to land in the United States, ~~and worse~~ - that legislation to that effect is now being drafted in Congress.

~~Well, I wouldn't know what goes on in the inner councils of Congress, but~~ The British Socialist ~~goes on to state the following:~~ "A howl of rage", says he, "is now going up in America because of the amazing success of the world's first all-jet airliner, the British Comet."

But who has heard any howl of rage over here? Have you? So far as I know, we Americans, hearing about the exploits of the British jet airliner, have been inclined to give a cheer. The general American reaction, so far as I can see, is one of relief, that this new development in jet aviation is British not Soviet. Yet, in London, people are told of an American "Howl of rage." ~~How do they get that way?~~

ITALY

Another twenty-four hour general strike has fizzled out -- this one in Italy. The unions called a demonstration walkout of a million government employees - but a large majority of civil servants ignored the summons and stayed on the job today. The strike was about twenty-nine percent effective -- following a previous fiasco in a general walkout called on November first. Which would indicate that the general strike is an ineffective weapon in Italy just now.

MRS. MESTA

Something new in the world of diplomacy -
~~and it hasn't anything to do with negotiations, signing
protocol or big power conferences. This innovation in
the realm of statecraft is gay and festive, with drinks
and revelry.~~ It's a matter of - parties.)

So the question is - who, among the
diplomatic emissaries of the world is most famous for
throwing parties? The answer is unanimous - Mrs.
Pearl Mesta, United States ^{the tiny Dutchy of} Minister to Luxembourg.

Mrs. Mesta was known for years as the number one party
giver ⁱⁿ in Washington - and there was some wonder about
how this qualified her for a diplomatic post. So today
we hear how Mrs. Mesta is putting her gifts of
hospitality to good purpose as minister to Luxembourg.

~~She is establishing a series of weekend parties for
American soldiers on leave from duty in Germany.~~

~~This was announced today in Luxembourg.~~

~~Mrs. Mesta's press officer, and the story is told how
it all came about.~~ It seems that there were two G.I.'s
on leave in Luxembourg, where they met another G. I.,

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and got into an argument. How would they be received if they went to the U. S. Legation and said they wanted to see the minister? The two G.I.'s bet the other G.I. a bottle of champagne that Mrs. Nesta would see them and talk to them.

So to the Legation they went, and rang the bell. ~~was~~ nobody answered, - ^{so} they took turns ringing the bell. After about five minutes, the door opened, and they saw a lady, whom one of the soldiers describes as "Oldish, richly dressed, and kind faced." They told her they wanted to see the minister. She said: "I am the minister."

Not at all embarrassed, the three G.I.'s explained the bet they had made. Mrs. Nesta laughed, and invited them to a party she was throwing that night - a party for her diplomatic staff. The G.I.'s showed up for the festivities - and a good time was had by all.

That was the inspiration - Mrs. Nesta thinking how nice it would be to entertain G.I.'s

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regularly. So now she is going to hold open house on the first Saturday of each month for G.I.'s on leave - parties given by the champion-party-giver.

Today Mrs. Mesta said: "They are all welcome - and, unless some business of state interferes, I shall be glad to entertain them personally." Well, I hope no business of state interferes.

BERGMAN

At Rome, Ingrid Bergman makes a formal statement that she intends to marry Roberto Rossellini. Rumors have gone around that they are already married, but this the Swedish film star denies.

There is another report, circulated in Hollywood - that Ingrid Bergman is going to have a baby. On that subject, both she and the Italian film director maintain a stony silence. La Bergman merely insists that she is pressing for a divorce from her doctor husband, and that she intends to marry Rossellini.

MARRIAGE

Here's a news dispatch that could be a problem in short story writing, a test of invention, a try-out for your gift of dopping out an idea for a situation.

In Kansas City, Noah Paddock, a seventy-one year old farmer has married Martha Ballard. They became engaged forty-nine years ago - but something happened. It was on the Twenty-Ninth of September, Nineteen Hundred. - and they were to be married the next day. ~~So~~ That night Martha told Noah that she was going down to the railroad station to check her trunk for their honeymoon. Today, forty-nine years later, Noah says: "But she never came back from the station."

Broken romance - jilted by Martha. But Noah got over it. He married another woman and had a tranquil domestic life - his wife dying in Nineteen-Thirty-Two. More years went by, and then -- Last August, Noah relates, he got a letter from Martha. ^{no} She ~~didn't say she had just finished checking the~~ *le. she* said she wanted to see ~~him~~ ^{me} - to clear up something."

She wanted to tell Noah why she jilted him way back in Nineteen Hundred.

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"After I heard the explanation," says Noah,
"we seemed closer. I started to see her frequently."
— yes, it's a happy ending —
And now they've married.

~~You see the gap in the story.~~ What was it
that Martha told Noah - after ^{those} forty-nine years? What
was ^{her} ~~the~~ explanation, ~~she gave~~ ^{all we know is that} of why she jilted him
back in Nineteen Hundred? [^] The explanation was so good
that, at long length, they now are married - at last.
It's a puzzle that Maupassant might have turned into
one of his great stories. ~~starting in that gap.~~ What's
your solution? No prizes offered for the
correct answer - because I'm guessing
too.

CHRISTMAS

A news dispatch from Cleveland tells how, at a Christmas display in a department store, a small boy climbed on a hobby horse - and decided to stay. His mother tried to persuade him to get off. Nothing doing - Johnny just kept on riding the hobby horse. The store manager tried his persuasion - but it was no go. In desperation, they summoned Santa Claus, and asked him to apply his arts of coaxing and cajoling.

Santa Claus beamed in his benign, jovial fashion, went to the lad, and whispered words into his ear. Whereupon the boy immediately jumped off the horse, took his mother's hand, and they started home.

Later Santa Claus was asked: "What in the world did you promise him?"

Good Kriss Kringle chuckled in his beard and said: "I told him to get off, or I'd kick him in the pants".

Well, it's a cute story. But my ^{radio Ann} secretary

^{St. Peter,} tells me that it is, with somewhat stronger language,

a favorite that her husband likes to tell - an old chestnut ^{with whiskers - like Santa Claus,} But it was in the news today. ^{Also tell}

was a cute story without it

WATER

Here's a way for New York to call off that bathless, shaveless, Friday tomorrow, and end the water shortage with an abundance of rain. The secret is given by Maki-San, seller of incense at a Tokyo temple. Maki-San wrinkled his ancient brow, and said that, if New York wanted water, it was easy - and he gave the formula, as follows:

~~"It is written in column one of the Book Zoku Nihonshoki," said he, "That on the day of the horse in the fourth month, in the second year of the reign of Emperor Monmu, a horse was offered to the Gods of Mizuwake with a prayer for rain." So that's how you do it - offer a horse to the Gods of Mizuwake.~~

However, in case New Yorkers can't find the Gods of Mizuwake, or if they haven't got a horse, there is another way. Maki-San, deep in the knowledge of ~~rain-making, says that~~ New York housewives should climb on high hills, if they can find any in the big town, and turn on the magic in the following way:

"Make great noises by means of drums, gongs, musical

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instruments, or kitchen utensils." Banging away on
pots and pans."

So there you are, ladies - climb the hills
with these pots and pans. *How about it Ladies -
I mean how about it, Nelson?*