

P.S. - P. + G. Friday, Dec. 31, 1948.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

New Year's Eve in the Adirondacks! At the Lake Placid Olympic Arena, Dick Button, American Olympic Skating Champion -- and grand slam champion of the world - war crowned. As in other years, I played the role of Cardinal, crowning the King and Queen. And then Dick Button did by far the finest skating I've ever seen.

Getting to Lake Placid today, by car, had its moments. You've no doubt heard about the floods here in the East. Two days and nights of torrential rain. When we left Troy this morning the Hudson already was over its banks, flooding the lower sections of Troy. We were turned back from a number of streets that had been taken over

by the river. In fact, the A A A tried to discourage us from driving north. They <sup>said</sup> ~~had~~ reports were coming in every few minutes, telling of roads out, bridges in danger of giving way. As we approached Saratoga we were told we could go no farther. But, we tried another road, and kept going. <sup>TP</sup> Farther north, at Schroon Lake, from the State Police we heard that we were at the end of our ~~km~~ travels. But, we kept driving and eventually by a devious round-about route, we reached Keene in the Adirondacks, only fifteen miles from Lake Placid. There we ~~had heard~~ that only a few minutes before a rock slide had taken out the road <sup>at Cascade,</sup> and that we'd have to spend the night at Keene. However, we kept on, and ~~we~~ when we reached the rock slide men with shovels dug us just enough room for us to get through. ~~And~~

<sup>TP</sup> Finally, upon arrival at the Lake Placid Club, I was told that the Western Union lines between the Adirondacks and New York were out, and that I would have no news for tonight's broadcast. However, always

the optimist, I hoped for the best. The wires did  
reopen, as the news has been trickling in, and here  
are some of tonight's headlines:

The villages of the province the rivers, from  
the England to southern sea - - - - - the story is one  
of streams of the rabbits, working over their banks,  
floods and inundations. This account of the sudden  
and unreasonable warmth of the past few days. It was  
relatively sultry, strange weather for Christmas week.  
The sudden thaw, together with heavy rains, brought  
deluge of water. The snow melted. Ice gave in  
the rivers broke, and sent racing waters down stream.

In New England, four thousand square miles  
are under water. At North Adams, Massachusetts today  
radio stations broadcast the fact that their sending  
 towers were six feet deep in water.

The same sort of story in New York and New  
Jersey. The Hudson flooded. Inundated its banks.  
and in New Jersey - - - - - evacuated.

## WEATHER

The weather report tonight is - storm and blizzard in the eastern part of the country. Which is a welcome report - promising freezing cold and ice.

The villain of the piece is the rivers. From New England to Southern New Jersey the story is one of streams on the rampage, pouring over their banks, floods and inundations. This because of the sudden and unseasonable warmth of the past few days. It was positively sultry, strange weather for Christmas week. The sudden thaw, together with heavy rains, brought a deluge of water. The snows melted. Ice jams in the rivers broke, and sent raging waters down stream.

In New England, four thousand square miles are under water. At North Adams, Massachusetts today radio stations broadcast the fact that their sending towers were six feet deep in water.

The same sort of story in New York and New Jersey. The Hudson flooded. Inundating its banks. And in New Jersey - towns evacuated.

It's a bad picture of the deluge, but the  
cure may be at hand-snow-storms bringing falling  
temperatures. A cold wave promises to freeze and tie  
up those villians, the rivers.

## EARTHQUAKE

An earthquake shook San Francisco this evening following a previous shock along three hundred miles of the coast. Seismologists placed the center of the quake near San Luis Obispo, a hundred-and-eighty miles south of San Francisco. That happened this morning and the quake missed San Francisco. But now comes the news that San Francisco felt a trembler at six nineteen P.M. tonight.

At the same time, Reno still has the shakes -- a dozen minor quavers reported today. But Reno is getting used to it; and Californians took today's minor quakes with casual equanimity -- the day closing with the shock at San Francisco.

CHINA

Out in China, they're interpreting the Generalissimo's New Year's statement as -- a definite offer to resign.

(The Communists have indicated that they will never deal with Chiang and Washington says China will get no more American aid, as long as the Generalissimo remains in power.)

Today Chiang Kai Shek attached conditions to what amounts to an offer to resign. He advocated negotiating peace terms with the Red forces, but only on the condition that the Communists agree to respect the Chinese constitution and guarantee a liberal Democratic regime.)

PALESTINE

( Inrael gives a report of sweeping victories  
in the battle of the Negeb which now has died down.

The Tel Aviv spokesman describes the campaign  
in the southern desert in the following words: "A  
beautifully organized and executed surprise attack,  
which caught the Egyptians unprepared.)



## JUGOSLAVIA

Diplomatic circles regard the new Soviet action as amounting to - economic sanctions against Yugoslavia. Moscow announces that Russian goods exported to the realm of Tito will be only one eighth as much next year ~~as~~ as they were in Nineteen 'Forty-Eighth. This because of the hostile attitude of Yugoslavia toward Soviet Russia. So Moscow ~~responds~~ <sup>responds</sup> with a sort of behind-the IronCurtain boycott.

The drastic action by the Soviets emphasizes the supposition that Red Marshall Tito will have to turn to the West in a big way - to get goods he needs. Which, indeed, was anticipated by the story we had on Wednesday - picturing a busy negotiation of economic agreements between Yugoslavia and Italy.

## HUNGARY

In Red Hungary today, evidence against Cardinal Mindszenty was published -- letters that are said to have been found in an iron casket, buried in the basement of the Cardinal's palace. A number of incriminating papers are mentioned of which today's published letters are an example.

Exhibit A is one written by the American Envoy to Hungary Selden Chapin, a response to a letter the Cardinal had sent to him. The subject of the correspondence was the imperial crown of Hungary -- which in times gone by was used in the coronation of Hungarian Kings. The ancient diadem apparently, had come into the custody of the American occupation forces, and the Cardinal wrote asking the Americans not to send the imperial crown to communist Hungary. He suggested that the historic heirloom might be placed for safekeeping in the Vatican.

To this communication Seldon Chapin replied that the Cardinal's request would be given "due <sup>consideration</sup> ~~regard~~"

All of which is cited by Reds as evidence that

the Primate of Hungary was guilty of treason, and that the American Envoy had given him what the Reds call "full support".

Today in Budapest, Selden Chapin says that his answer to the Cardinal's request about the crown was, in Chapin's words -- "a bare acknowledgement which I did not even bother to report to the State Department".

The Communists intimate that other papers not yet published include a letter which American Army Secretary Royall wrote to Cardinal Spellman of New York. They give mysterious hints about this letter, but no indication of what may be in it.

The Hungarian Reds today hurled insults at American Acting Secretary of State Lovett. They called him a liar -- this in response to Lovett's declaration that the Red Charges against the Primate of Hungary are false. They accuse the Acting Secretary together with other American officials, as "accomplices" of the Cardinal,

The whole thing is headed for a sensational trial before a Communist court in February, with the Reds putting on spectacular propaganda against the Cardinal - and those "American imperialists!"

# EINSTEIN

Albert Einstein has undergone an operation.

The world renowned mathematician, creator of relativity operated on at age sixty-nine. For some time he had suffered with an internal malady which the doctors say was of a non-malignant variety -- and today in the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital they operated on the world's number one authority on relativity. The report -- it was a success.

## METEORS

More about that story of space ships, rockets to circle this globe -- the Earth Satellite Vehicle program that Secretary of Defense Forrestal spoke about yesterday. This has attracted so much attention that the newsmen are keeping on the trail and today found that the scientists are ~~examining~~ considering the problem of -- meteors.

Suppose that fantastic wonder should come about, rockets shot into outer space, becoming satellites, going round and round the world. What would happen if they should run into meteors?

Shooting stars, that is - the small bodies that circulate in outer space, and sometimes run into the atmosphere of the earth, which causes them to burn up at white heat and leave a gleaming trail. Meteors are small, but their speed is great and they could be a peril -- hitting a satellite rocket or a space ship.

The guided missile section of the Navy is interested, and we hear of an alliance ~~is~~ between

gh the Navy and the Astronomers. ~~They are~~ making a joint study of meteors, the speed at which they fly, the paths they follow.

This was made public today in a report to the American astronomical Society, which was told that meteors could now be detected in day-time-- by radio equipment. Shooting stars can be spotted - even in sunshine.

Dr. William Liller, of the Harvard Observatory says that a meteor ~~can be as small as a pinhead, like a tiny bullet. But it~~ travels at a speed of from fifteen ~~mi~~ to forty-five miles ~~ax~~ a second. The methods of detection are so sensitive that they have caught the sound of meteors, ~~which give a whistling noise as they plunge into the atmosphere and the friction turns them white hot.~~ The whistle of a shooting star.

The observations are so extensive that Dr. Killer today told the American Astronomical Society that he and his associates at Harvard have statistics

concerning a hundred and sixty thousand meteors which burst into shooting stars during the past year. To which the best response would seem to be a long whistle; like the whistle of a shooting star.



## RESCUED FLYERS

The rescued fliers arrived in New York today -- seven of them, together with the heroes of the exploit of the north, Pilot Captain Beaudry, and Co-pilot, Lieutenant Blackwell. They all ~~had~~ told their stories and that should have been a thrill. But it wasn't. The remarkable part of it all is the uneventful and even comfortable time they had - marooned for so long on the Greenland icecap.

We know, of course, that all kinds of supplies were dropped to them and today they said that the Air Force had delivered even their christmas cards, dropped by plane. They built igloos, had light and heat and radio, plenty to eat - turkey on Christmas. The only trouble was the monotony and even that was broken when on the last day, a polar bear appeared. Much ~~is~~ excitement? No, they merely yelled at the polar bear, and the big white fellow just ambled away, a timid monster of the Arctic.

Captain Beaudry and Lieutenant Blackwell, say that the only exciting thing about their rescue exploit was the element of hurry and haste - because of the shortness of the Arctic Day so far north. They landed their ski plane all okay, but had only a few minutes of light before taking off again. So they had to rush the castaways aboard, as quickly as possible, just pile them in. Then the jet-assisted take off, the firey thrust of jet driving their big transport plane steeply into the Arctic sky.

*Here are 2 lads who had  
a worse time — here in  
the Adirondacks —*

## SKIERS LOST

We haven't had a story of young people lost in the mountains ~~an~~ for several years that I can recall. But, here's one, tonight, that so far as I know hasn't reached the outside world:

Peter and Dick Andrews, 'ages twenty and eighteen, sons of a New York doctor, left the Lake Placid Club, Tuesday morning, to tackle Marcy, the highest peak in the Adirondacks. Like all other ski enthusiasts they were looking for snow; and you can always find it on Marcy. They took sleeping bags, planned to <sup>spend</sup> ~~stay~~ the night somewhere on the upper third of Mt. Marcy, and then return on Wednesday.

All went well until ~~Wednesday~~ Wednesday morning. Then, instead of starting down, as they had said they would do, the summit looked inviting. So, they struck out for the top. When they got there, snow squalls enveloped the peak and in the storm they became confused. As so often happens

SKIERS LOST - 2

when people are lost, they headed exactly in the opposite direction to the one they had in mind. So, they wound up ~~in~~ spending Wednesday night, lost on Marcy, ~~and~~ By Thursday <sup>they</sup> night had reached wilderness country on the south side. <sup>TT</sup> In the meantime, ~~then~~ their family and friends ~~were~~ were alarmed. Forest Rangers struck out, headed by Chief Ranger Bill Petty. The boys eventually stumbled onto a <sup>lonely</sup> ~~risky~~ farmhouse, twenty miles from Lake Placid in a fairly wild region near St. Hubert's. From there they phoned George Carroll one of the officials of the Lake Placid Club who told them to stay there. George sent a car and blankets. But, on the return journey they were held up by the flood, and all the trouble that ~~we~~ encountered on <sup>our</sup> way north today. However, the two boys are ~~now~~ safe, in a <sup>Saranac</sup> hospital, ~~at Saranac Lake,~~ one with ~~far~~ frost-bitten feet. ~~as~~ But they are coming along okay.

## TRAIN ACCIDENT

It is mighty seldom that a man gets hit by the same train twice -- and lives to tell the tale. That happened today, to seventy-nine year old J. F. Causey of Ogara, Idaho. He was walking on the tracks, when the train hit him the first time. He was knocked to one side, but the crew aboard the train never realized what had happened, and the locomotive and cars continued right along.

The victim crawled back to the tracks and then fainted. ~~xxxxxx~~ He lay there for a couple of hours until the train returned. Recovering consciousness, he tried to get up and wave. This time the engineer saw him, but couldn't stop the train in time -- and J. F. Causey was hit again. Tonight he is in the hospital with several broken ~~xxx~~ bones, but they say he is coming around all right.

And here's hoping the New Year will be a lucky one for you - and you -- and you too, Nelson.

ENDING

Sitting <sup>beside</sup> ~~around~~ me, here ~~on the platform of~~

~~Agora~~ at the Lake Placid Club, are a number of picturesque winter sports <sup>figures,</sup> ~~enthusiasts and experts.~~

Three have just flown across the Atlantic from Scandinavia: Vilhem Hellman and Bengt Jaferholm, members of the Swedish Olympic Ski team, and Peter Huggstedt, from Norway, who at the last Olympics won the jumping championship of the world. And the other Norwegians sitting beside me include, let's see, oh yes, that eminent Norwegian ski jumper, Gene Tunney. ~~But~~ Bob-sled champions such as Godfrey Dewey and Hubert Stevens. Art Devlin, our former National Ski Jumping Champion, and others, captains of ~~gmk~~ college teams, and coaches, including Walter Prager who coached the Olympic ski team.

And then too, Katherine Dewey, the only girl to win the American Womens National Bob Sled championship.

After she won it bobsled racing for women was forbidden as too hazardous.

*I'm surprised -  
aren't you Nelson - I didn't  
think there was anything  
too hazardous for women.*