

L.T. OLDS - FEBRUARY 20, 1963

Good Evening Everybody :

Now, girls, which of you is a "cool" pickle"? The National Pickle Packers Association is trying to find out. Trying to find a "cool pickle" to preside as Queen of Pickle Week in Chicago, at the end of May.

The trouble is that the picklers are meeting some sales resistance. The gals, not calling over one another in a race for the title. Still, the hosts of Pickle Week are sure they'll find a Queen. A "cool pickle" - blonde, brunette, or redhead - who will represent the National Pickle Packers Association.

GLENN

Let's go back - exactly one year. Date -
February twentieth, nineteen sixty-two. Time -
nine forty-five a.m. Place - Cape Canaveral.
Occasion - the first attempt to orbit an astronaut.
Hero of the occasion - Marine Colonel John Glenn.

The Glenn flight, of course - a resounding
success. The space capsule, making three trips
around the earth, before coming down in the Atlantic.
The most spectacular achievement of our space program.
The toast of America, one year ago tonight -
astronaut John Glenn.

EVEREST

Far away in Nepal, in the Himalayas - twenty Americans are off on a two hundred mile hike. The members of our Everest expedition - bound for their base camp. Among them - three doctors, a psychologist, and a glaciologist. The expedition, not only attacking the tallest peak on our planet. But also adding their bit to the science of mountains.

The dispatch says that they moved out today in great spirits. Their native porters and sherpa guides, singing age-old songs of the Himalayas. The Americans, chiming in with "Clementine" and "Dixie".

Chances of conquering Everest? "Excellent" says leader Norman Dyhrenfurth of Santa Monica, California. Adding, that if they climb Everest - they'll try their skill on the nearby peaks of Lhotse and Nuptse. Three Himalayan giants on their schedule. This American expedition - the most ambitious in the history of mountaineering.

BETANCOURT

The President of Venezuela finally got to see Washington today. President Betancourt, escorted by President Kennedy on a parade through the city. Bands blaring, flags waving - thousands of Washingtonians cheering.

As for international relations, the key word was Cuba. Betancourt, telling the Overseas Press Club that Venezuela is being infiltrated by subversives trained in Cuba. And that the democracies should clamp down on all traffic into and out of Castro's island.

The President of Venezuela also had some criticism for past American diplomacy in Latin America. But that's in the past. And he's hopeful that the Alliance for progress will prevent any more Castros.

Then came the final conference at the White House. And the joint communique calling for closer ties between the United States and Venezuela. A common effort on behalf of democracy in the Western Hemisphere.

CUBA

There are enough Soviet ships en-route to Cuba to remove half the Russian troops on the island. So reported by American officials in Washington with regard to the vessels that appear to be empty. Evidently assigned by Khrushchev to the task of bringing some five thousand Russians back to Russia.

Oddly, there's some apprehension about the situation - when they're gone. The Soviet Commanders have kept Castro in line. Refusing to let the bearded dictator fire on our reconnaissance planes. But who will keep Castro's finger off the trigger when his Russian masters are no longer in Cuba?

VIET NAM

That battle in South Viet Nam sounds like a replay of World War Two. The enemy, entrenched in foxholes. American planes, thundering down to bomb and strafe the area. Infantry moving forward quickly to mop up the survivors.

Well, the planes actually are of World War Two vintage. Most of them - B-26 bombers. The type that softened targets from Germany to Japan. Still usable in the Vietnamese jungle war. Hitting the Red Guerrillas with bombs, napalm, and rockets. Allowing the helicopters to move in with airborne infantry.

The victory complete. The bombardment, so terrific the Reds couldn't stand it. They threw away their rifles and fled into the jungle. The survivors did. The rest either killed or captured.

WEATHER

Here's an indication of the weather - in Europe. The Baltic Sea may freeze over for the first time in this century. The ice, already six inches thick in Oslo Fjord. And the ice is gradually pushing from the shoreline - toward the center of the Baltic. Tomorrow it may be possible to walk from Sweden across to Poland.

Around Naples - devastating landslides. In the French Alps - avalanches. In Spain - floods. Vienna - every other bathtub is filled with an emergency water supply. And the swan population of West Germany is being decimated by hungry foxes.

NEW ENGLAND

The American weather story features New England. The storm, blowing north through Florida and the middle Atlantic States. Dropping a foot of snow from Connecticut to Maine. Dozens of towns isolated by drifts five feet deep. Power lines down, cellars flooded - several fatalities from cold. Commercial flights, cut by eighty-five percent at Logan International Airport in Boston.

SHIP

That was a poignant sight - in the Florida Straits today. A life jacket, bobbing up and down - displaying the stencilled words "Sulpher Queen". The first clue to the fate of the missing tanker. The Marine Sulpher Queen, disappearing on February third - while carrying an explosive cargo of sulphur from Beaumont, Texas, to Norfolk, Virginia.

One guess - that she blew up. This, apparently confirmed by that derelict life jacket in the Florida Straits.

HIJACK

I suppose that no pirate voyage ever came to a more placid conclusion than the one that has just ended in Santana Harbor, Brazil. The hijacked Venezuela freighter, easing into port - under the expert control of a Brazillian pilot. A detachment of Brazilian Marines climbing aboard. Taking over command of the vessel. The Reds - entirely subdued as they left the ship.

CANCER

The words "hydrated electrons" may signify a breakthrough in the search for a cure for cancer. This fact, discovered independently at the Argonne National Laboratory in Lemont, Illinois and the Mount Vernon Hospital in Northwood, England. Doctor Edwin Hart of Argonne, and Doctor Jack Boag of Mount Vernon both discovering "hydrated electrons". The sub-atomic particles that they believe are the cause of cancer cells.

WHITE HOUSE

The New Frontier in the White House appears to be receding toward the previous administration. That is, with regard to news coverage of dinners and parties at the executive mansion.

When the Eisenhowers lived there, a pool of newsmen were allowed to observe the arrival of guests, and the receiving line. The Kennedys opened the White House so that newsmen mingled with the guests. But the word is that Mrs. Kennedy got tired of her guests being interviewed. And the First Lady has been annoyed by pads and pencils among the teacups and cocktail glasses.

Hence today's announcement. Social functions at the White House, to be covered henceforth as they were in the days of Ike and Mamie.

RIZZUTO

I suppose that Phil Rizzuto is thankful tonight about one thing. The timing of his accident. The fact that he didn't get his fingers crushed when he was playing baseball. The injury, not quite so devastating for a prosperous businessman.

Painful enough anyhow. Four fingers fractured when he got his hand caught in the snow-blower. The worst error ever committed by Phil Rizzuto, who was one of the surest fielders in baseball when he played shortstop for the Yankees.

BINGO

In Beaminster, England, Mrs. Iris Banbury says - "I have decided that my husband and children are more important than bingo". To which the judge replies - "Madam, your decision was a long time coming".

Mrs. Banbury, an avid fan of the squares-and-numbers game. First, she used up all the spare bobs around the house. Then the bank account. Finally - the coins in her electric meter.

If her husband couldn't do a nything about it - the com any could. Today she told the court - she's cured. That bingo playing housewife - of Beaminster, England.