

L.T.-OLDS. FRIDAY, FEB. 19, 1960.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

For the first events of the winter olympics here at Squaw Valley, we had a glorious sunny day. Over-cast part of the time. But on the whole it couldn't have been better, both for the skating and ski events. Sweden andxx Canada winning the first two gold medals. Sixteen Jernberg, a slender 31 year old ex-lumberjack, won the grueling 30 kilometer cross-country race. Over the McKinney Creek course. Made it in one hour, 51 minutes and 3 seconds. Rolf Ramgard of Sweden, 2nd, Nikolai Anikin of Russia, and Gennedi Vaganov also of Russia, 3rd and 4th. Not exactly a photo finish. But it was close for that distance, 30 kilometers. The russians were about a minute behind the handsome Swede, who is regarded by his fellow team mates as a man of great endurance and iron will.

How did we do in that one? Andrew Miller of Crested Butte, Colorado, came in 27th. 12 mins. behind Jernberg. The defending champion, a Finn, Veikoo Hakulinen, finished 6th, three minutes behind the winner.

In the figure skating for pairs, the gold medal went to Robert Paul and Barbara Wagner of Canada. Silver medal to the German pair, Marika Kilius and Hans Baumler. Third to a husband and wife - Americans; Nancy and Ronald Ludington of Roxbury, Mass., who lost out by an eye-lash to the Germans. This is the event that combines ball room dancing and ice skating, one of the most dazzling of all olympic events. A great show for the spectators.

Just before the skating the American and Russians couples collided on the ice. All four went sprawling. Someone might have been hurt. But they brushed each other off and coasted to the sidelines. In the big event

the Russians had hard luck. Lubila Belousouva and
Oleg Protopopov didn't do so well.

CHESSMAN

THE LAST MINUTE REPRIEVE OF CARYL CHESSMAN -- WAS PARTLY DUE TO PUBLIC OPINION. ESPECIALLY TO THE FLOOD OF PROTESTS -- FROM ABROAD. GOVERNOR BROWN, ACTING AFTER A TELEGRAM -- FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE TELEGRAM, POINTING OUT THAT IF CHESSMAN WENT TO THE GAS CHAMBER -- PRESIDENT EISENHOWER MIGHT GET A HOSTILE RECEPTION IN LATIN AMERICA.

BUT GOVERNOR BROWN HAD A SECOND MOTIVE -- FOR ORDERING A STAY OF EXECUTION. THE GOVERNOR'S DOUBTS ABOUT -- CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. GOVERNOR BROWN, ++ OPPOSED TO THE DEATH SENTENCE, ~~HE~~ SAYS HE'LL CALL A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE -- TO DECIDE ABOUT IT.

CARYL CHESSMAN? HE BELIEVES -- HE ^{has} ESCAPED THE GAS CHAMBER FOR GOOD. HIS LAWYERS, PREDICTING -- THE CHESSMAN CASE ^{will} MEAN THE END OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN CALIFORNIA.

REPRIEVE FOLLOW CHESSMAN

FOUR OTHER CONVICTS ARE BENEFITING FROM THE CHESSMAN REPRIEVE.
FOUR MEN IN SAN QUENTIN'S DEATH ROW. GOVERNOR BROWN, ^{also} ORDERING A STAY
OF EXECUTION -- FOR THEM, ~~THE~~

ALL OF WHICH COULD HAVE A BEARING ON THE FINCH CASE. DOCTOR
BERNARD FINCH AND CAROL TREGOFF ON TRIAL FOR THEIR LIVES -- IN LOS
ANGELES, ACCUSED OF MURDERING -- THE DOCTOR'S WIFE. THE PROSECUTION,
ASKING FOR -- THE DEATH PENALTY. WHICH WOULD BE RULED OUT -- IF CALIFORNIA
SHOULD DECIDE AGAINST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

PRINCE

Tonight Britain and the commonwealth are still celebrating. Hailing the arrival of - their new prince. Queen Elizabeth's second son - and second in line to the throne. The first child born to a reigning British sovereign - in a hundred and three years. Royal mother and royal son - both doing well. The nation and the commonwealth delighted.

KHRUSHCHEV

In Indonesia, the first sign that Premier Sukarno is irritated with - Khrushchev. The Soviet leader, terming "old fashioned" - Indonesian plans for a stadium to house the Asian games in Nineteen Sixty-Two. The reason for Sukarno's irritation? The stadium is one of his pet projects.

CUBA

THE UNITED STATES APOLOGIZES -- TO CUBA. WASHINGTON ADMITTING
THAT ROBERT FROST OF EUGENE, OREGON, FLEW HIS PLANE FROM MIAMI. HIS
APPARENT PURPOSE -- TO FIRE CUBAN SUGAR FIELDS. HIS PLANE -- EXPLODING
IN THE AIR -- CRASHING. FROST -- KILLED. CASTRO -- PROTESTING. RECEIVING --
A FORMAL APOLOGY.

ROCKET

Discoverer Number ten went into the air today - at California's Vandenberg Air Force base. But, that was all. The rocket, seven stories high - destined for outer space, veered off course in a few seconds, looking as if it might turn around and come back. The safety officer, destroying it - at seventeen thousand feet. Bits and pieces of the discoverer - falling over the base.

SYMINGTON

A democratic candidate for President, repeats the charge - that President Eisenhower has "misled" the American people on the subject of national defense.

Senator Symington, insisting - the administration is telling Congress, one thing about our missile strength, and telling the public something else. "Misleading" says Symington.

Squam Valley.

re: Grotchen
Feaser.

Feb. 19th
1960.

SQUAW SQUACKS

Francis Wheale of Warren, Ohio, writes me:- "This morning on Dave Garraway's program they gave out a terrible report about Squaw Valley conditions, and advised everybody to stay away." Then he adds: - "I sent him a telegram asking him who was telling truth, Dave Garraway or Lowell Thomas."

I don't want to argue with Dave Garraway, who is an honorable man; but, let me tell you about two of my friends who had no trouble getting here: "Jill Killmont," a young girl who was well on her way to international fame as a skier, had to drop out of competition because she is now half paralyzed, and in a wheel chair. She's here in her wheel chair. No trouble at all for her to get to Squaw Valley.

Remember Gretchen Fraser, first American ever to win a gold medal as an olympic skier? As a result of accidents involving horses and an automobile, she is

in a cast, or brace, from her waist to her neck. Gretchen, piloting her own plane, flew here yesterday from the Pacific Northwest. I didn't urge her to go skiing. But she, and her ex-olympian husband, Don, were skiing with us today, on Squaw, the biggest mountain in this region.

I agree with Dave Garraway, or whoever gave the Squaw Valley report on his show, up to a point: If you don't like mountains in winter; or if you are allergic to snow, better stay away from here. But, if you don't mind some of the small inconveniences that go with winter travel in a region like the High Sierras; if you like mountains in the winter when they are more spectacular than at any other time; and if you like thrilling, even hair-raising sports events, don't miss the the winter olympics. Take the next train, plane or car heading in this direction. It's an experience of a lifetime. Now Dick. -

ANTARCTIC

A dispatch from the Antarctic gives a clearer picture - of what it's like around the Amundsen Sea. The dispatch, filed by Bob Miller of United Press International - who flew over the area in a helicopter. Here's his report.

Visibility - almost unlimited. Crevasses hundreds of feet deep. The coast of the Amundsen Sea - indented with hundreds of bays. Rolling hills - stretching south towards the Pole.

The American expedition - busy filling in blank spots on the map. The map of - the Antarctic continent. And s - l - u - t - m.

lit discusses
bad press
with John
Gibbons.
Feb. 19, 1960.

SQUAW VALLEY BAD PRESS - WHY?

On my way up Squaw Peak this morning, on one ride up the lift my companion was John Gibbons, who is out here covering the Olympics for the Chicago Sun-Times. I asked him if he had figured out why? These winter games have had so much adverse publicity. At Olympic Village and Squaw Valley Lodge you can buy newspapers from all over the country - New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento and Reno of course! Even Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. In all of them you see headlines such as: - "Monumental confusion," "storm mars ceremonies," "Raging blizzard sweeps down on Squaw," and so on.

But to those of us spend any time in the mountains; to those of us who think winter is the best season of all, most of what has been said and written about Squaw Valley and the winter olympics just isn't so. Reporter John Gibbons from Chicago happens to be a winter sports fan. We've skied off and on together for twenty

years, from Stowe, Vermont to Sun Valley, Aspen, Alta and now Squaw. His explanation of the cockeyed stories that have gone out from here is, that almost all of the newsmen who are here - sent here by their editors - are allergic to winter. They don't like snow and cold. They deplore every minute of it. And either consciously or sub-consciously they are mad at all of us who do enjoy it, they seem to resent the fact that some of us have so much fun in these snowy mountains, while they head for the nearest bar.

Yesterday at the opening ceremony, I was asked to appear on CBS-TV along with Avery Brundage, and Walt Disney. In his opening remarks, just before introducing the President of the international Olympic Committee, Walter Kronkhite told you he was broadcasting from a raging blizzard. When Art Linkletter put me on right after Walt Disney, I said I hesitated to correct my

colleague, Walter Kronkhite, but that to those of us who spend any time in the mountains, in winter, this was no blizzard. It was a mere snow flurry. Whereupon, a moment later Walter replied - said to you on the air:- "Maybe Lowell is right." Or," he added, "maybe it depends on from which side of the Mason-Dixon line you come."

So what is the truth about Squaw Valley? Here it is: That small snow storm we had yesterday was heaven sent. It made it all look just the way a high Sierra valley should look in February. The sun came out a few minutes after my remark that it was a mere flurry. Had it been a blizzard, well, the sun wouldn't have come out like that to blaze down in all it's glory on the opening olympic ceremony. As for traffic problems, Ah, yes, whenever large numbers of people head for the same place in the winter, many of them coming from non-

snowy regions, traffic snarls are inevitable.

But, the fact remains, that in all the history of the winter olympic games, these, so far have been handled better than ever. And all but a small minority of the thousands who are here, are having the time of their lives.