

L.T. OLDS - TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1963

(KGMB - HONOLULU)

Good Evening Everybody:

I wonder if there is anything happening where you are ? I've just been checking the U.P.I. wire out here in the mid-Pacific, and so far as news is concerned I seem to be in the middle of, not an ocean, but a desert

I wonder how many of you celebrated the arrival of the New Year with firecrackers, skyrockets and roman candles? If there is any place on earth where they ring out the old and ring in the new with more pyrotechnics and noise than here in Honolulu, I wonder where it is. I suppose it all starts with the Hawaiians who have a Chinese background, because the Chinese as we

know, invented gunpowder and fireworks, and celebrate with firecrackers all year round. And, when it comes to doing it as a show, the Japanese put on the most spectacular organized fireworks to be seen anywhere on earth.

The noise began here in Honolulu, yesterday around noon, and kept increasing, right up until mid-night, at which time the sporadic racket reached a climax that made me think of the battle front in World War One, when an army suddenly let go with everything it had.

My wife and I were lucky enough to have a grand stand seat - the balcony of a 17 story Hilton Hawaiian Village apartment where we not only could look up and down Waikiki but where we could see over the entire city. For as far as the eye could see into the night, rockets and other

fireworks were going off. All disorganized, but in a way all the more spectacular because of that.

New Year's Eve in Honolulu, preceded by that most explosive of all entertainers Hilo Hattie, is something to remember.

Fire Hazard?! A local U.P.I. dispatch has just been handed to me which states that the Honolulu firemen had 100 calls between sunset and dawn. Evidently they are crack firemen, for only one \$36,000 home went up. And near Diamond Head fireworks were said to have been responsible for a blaze that gutted the second story of a church. But, considering the way rockets were going off in every direction, and the way fire crackers were exploding under cars along the streets, the damage was small indeed.

SEA LIFE PARK

The boom here on these islands in mid-Pacific may have leveled off, but it's still a boom. Honolulu with its new skyscrapers; Henry Kaiser's big development at Koko Head; a new university about to be launched; and, Hawaii is going to have a park unlike any other in the world. It will be more than an oceanarium or seaquarium. Following the success of Marineland in Florida, others like it appeared. But, Hawaii is getting what is called a "Sea Life Park". Not only a place where the public can go and have an interesting exciting time, but also a research institute to explore the undersea world. For, as you have heard, the wealth of the oceans has hardly been tapped. Taylor Pryor tells me the sea life park will have its formal opening New Year's Eve 1963. Already they are training a porpoise of a type about which we know nothing, called the spinning porpoise. It comes up out of the sea in a spin, a bit like a Polaris Missile.

There will be an electronic porpoise theatre to demonstrate how intelligent the porpoise is and how he communicates by Echo.

The one they are now training is a problem because it refuses to eat; may be lonely. They are keeping it alive by intravenous feeding and boats are at sea today searching for a mate. Another spinning porpoise.

BERLIN

Here's a dispatch that has more meaning for me than it would have had. Not many days ago I was in West Berlin. Major Tom Tyree who had accompanied General Lucius Clay on a much publicized visit to the wall that runs through the heart of Berlin, took me for a tour of the wall. So I can appreciate what it means to get through it. This dispatch tells about a young woman swimming from East Berlin and making it, to safety, the first to do it in 1963. Whereupon some minutes later communist boarder guards open fire on West Berlin police who returned the fire. Apparently, no casualties.

EDDIE CONNELLAN

When I get home from this jaunt I suppose I will have traveled some 50,000 miles - nearly all by air. As you know the airplane has done things to the planet on which we live, and to its inhabitants. People are in motion as never before. Unless there is a longer one in Siberia I believe the longest single air route in the world is one over which a picturesque Australian operates his planes -- Eddie Connellan. He has one route that is five thousand six hundred miles long.

Like Eddie Rickenbacker, Eddie Connellan was an aviator in World War One. After the war he flew around in one of the small war surplus planes that could be picked up. As he explored the skies above Australia he would come down and land wherever he happened to see a fire. A fire meant people around

it, and food.

On one occasion when he came down, in the group around the camp fire he encountered a member of the Prime Minister's cabinet - the Minister of the Interior, I believe, who said to him "What this country needs is an airline!"

Whereupon young Eddie Connellan launched one. At first he did all of the flying himself, playing the role of both pilot and engineer. For more than ten years he covered the vast interior of Australia, all alone. Now he has a fleet of planes, and his seventeen year old son is a licensed pilot and looks as though he had the stuff to take over - - whenever - in the land of the emu and the kangaroo.

You have all heard of the flying doctor service in Australia. Eddie Connellan organized this for^a vast section of this one of the most thinly populated and exciting of all continents, where they

are now finding great under-ground reserves of oil
and gas, to add to Australia's wealth in sheep and
cattle, gold and opals. It's all yours, Dick.