

## Anniversary of Record Balloon Flight Recalls 'Memorable' Radio Broadcast

By HARMON W. NICHOLS  
United Press Staff Writer

Washington (U.P.)— Tomorrow is the 20th anniversary of the ascension of a balloon more than 13 miles above the Earth.

The big bubble was called Explorer II. Another reporter and I were on hand for an even more dramatic performance by a sister balloon, Explorer I, on July 28, the year before.

Robert M. Yoder, then with the A. P. and now a well-known magazine writer, and I were assigned to cover what was advertised as the first "heaven to Earth broadcast." Capts. Albert W. Stevens, Orvil A. Anderson and Maj. William E. Kepner were to hit for up high on a project sponsored by the U. S. Army Air Corps and the National Geographic Society, with a national network cooperating.

The idea was for an announcer to make contact with the balloon and let the world know how it felt to be 11 miles up in the air—the nearest man had ever come to the stars.

Bob and I sat around in the network outlet in Chicago and chewed on pretzels and nipped into hookers of the free network crick water.

**Contact Attempted**

The engineer and the announcer worked as a team to try to contact the men in the balloon.

"Capt. Stevens, Capt. Anderson, Maj. Kepner, are you there? America is waiting."

America sure was.

Finally the announcer got through.

"Is this Capt. Anderson? Capt. Stevens?"

A voice replied. It never was established which of the cap-

tains had answered.

"Yes, sir!"

The balloon at that point was 11 miles over the Earth.

"Will you say a few words, captain?"

The captain, which ever one, snapped back—"on the coast to coast hookup."

"You're ——— right, I'll say a few words. Here we are over 11 miles up from a safe landing. We just noted a rip in the bottom of the balloon. We are hanging by a thread, and you ask me to say a few words! I'll have a lot more to say if we ever get out of this mess."

**Contact Made**

The air was blue. The engineer fought frantically for the cut off switch, which eventually he found.

Bob looked at me and I looked at Bob.

"How are we gonna handle this one?"

Well, after millions had heard the exchange, we handled it as best we could. Delicately to fit family newspapers.

The crew on Explorer I made it down safely riding the big bag to solid ground like a giant parachute.

On Nov. 11 a year later the

same two captains tried it again and rose more than 13 miles above the Black Hills. Again they talked. Everything was fine that day.

Tomorrow, ceremonies in the cliff-cupped stratosphere near Rapid City, S. D., will commemorate the second flight. Their record 13 miles since has been bettered in height by pilotless rockets, but never by a human crew.

## Longshoreman Cleared In Death of Iredale

Portland (U.P.)— A longshoreman was cleared by the Multnomah county grand jury yesterday in connection with the death of Verne D. Iredale, 26, Vancouver, Wash., during an altercation Monday.

The grand jury determined that David O. Elliott, 39, acted in self defense in striking Iredale, who died of a brain hemorrhage.



**RUSSIAN PARTY TIME**—The annual Russian Embassy party in Washington, D. C., celebrating the anniversary of the October Revolution of 1917, saw hundreds of international figures on hand. Above, Soviet Ambassador and Mme. Georgi Zaroubin (right) greet Israeli Ambassador and Mrs. Abba Eban.

## Reserve Training Site Recommended

Salem (U.P.)— Rep. Walter Norblad said today he received a letter from Sixth Army headquarters indicating that Kellogg park on River road was the most desirable site for a proposed army reserve training center in the Milwaukie, Ore., area.

Norblad said Brig. Gen. Louis J. Humaggi, chief of staff, informed him that Kellogg park was the best of nine proposed sites.

Gen. Humaggi said the Army had directed the North Pacific division engineers at Portland to take steps necessary for transfer of the site to the Army.

Five sites recommended by the city of Milwaukie were rejected as being too far removed from the center of population, Gen. Humaggi said.

Col. Willard Carlock, chief of the Oregon military district command, estimated cost of the training center at \$200,000. He said floor space in the building would be about 15,000 by 20,000 square feet. Plans call for the building to serve Army reservists in part of southeast Portland.

## Smooth Talker Sells Space in Police Lot

Oklahoma City (U.P.)— A smooth talking swindler sold parking space at 50 cents per car to 50 motorists in the police station parking lot.

He vanished before any policeman checked the parking lot directly in front of the police station.

Thursday, November 10, 1953

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—MINE

## West Coast Business, Civic Leaders Meet With Japanese

Yokohama, Japan (U.P.)— Civic and business leaders from 14 American West Coast cities met today with leaders of 33 Japanese cities in the third annual mayors' conference.

Ninety-two American and Japanese attended the opening session held in the flag-draped New Grand hotel. Speakers pledged their determination to build a bridge of peace and trade across the Pacific.

Japanese Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu said he was "delighted" during his visit to the United States in August to see for himself the "friendly relations and amity" existing between America and Japan.

**Future Intertwined**

Prime Minister Ichiro Hatoyama, who did not attend the ceremony, sent a message in which he said he was "firmly convinced that the future of Japan and the United States is intertwined" and that the two nations must understand each other.

"It is both promising and significant," he said, "that the representatives of these two like-minded free nations should get together to discuss concrete measures for the development of mutual trade, commerce and industry, agriculture, city administration and enhancement of friendship and amity."

Mayor Allan Pomeroy of Seattle spoke as head of the U. S. delegation which also included the mayors of Eugene, Ore., Honolulu, Sacramento, Richmond, San Diego, Long Beach

and Hollister, Calif.

Pomeroy pointed out that Japan-U. S. trade was a very important aspect of the conference.

"I do not forget," he said, "that this conference has important commercial objectives. Much benefit to both Japan and the United States has resulted from our previous mutual efforts. Much will come from our present endeavors."

The Seattle mayor pointed out, however, that trade relations are not enough to insure peace between nations.

"There must be something more," he said, "because we cannot forget that the great commercial nations of Great Britain and Germany have not kept the peace (World Wars I and II) although each was the other's largest and best customer."

Pomeroy said that when U. S. delegates to the conference "sit with you at the conference table during these sessions, it will be as mayors and businessmen together—not just as Japanese and Americans—but together, studying common problems, the answer to which can well mean better lives for the citizens of our respective cities."

Milwaukee (U.P.)— An attorney asked to have his case placed at the head of the court calendar and gave as his reason, "I have to catch a train for Washington Park to see the races." Judge Thaddeus J. Pruss replied, "I'll do it because of your disarming frankness."

## Ex-Medford Man Named Weiser Store Manager

Richard A. Wright, a former resident of Medford, has been named manager of the J. C. Penney company store in Weiser, Ida., it was reported here this week.

A graduate of Medford schools he was employed by the Penney store here serving with the Army air corps from 1943 to 1945. In 1947 he was transferred to Astoria as assistant manager there, and later was assistant manager at the Bellingham, Wash., store.

The sultan of Djokjakarta, a Java city of 295,000 people, keeps some 300 dancers and female relatives in quarters to which he alone has access.

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## Sheep Production Contest Blanks Here

Entry blanks for the Oregon Sheep Production contest sponsored by the Oregon Purebred Sheep Breeders association in cooperation with the extension service, are being sent to Jackson county sheep raisers, Earl Jossy, extension agent has announced.

The purpose of the contest is to locate and recognize commercial ewe flocks which are efficient in production of lambs and wool and to encourage greater participation in production practices so raisers may have a greater profit from sheep raising.

## Colombian Party Chief Fined on Libel Charge

Bogota, Colombia (U.P.)— Augustin E. Caceres, opposition Liberal Party leader, was sentenced Wednesday to pay a \$4,000 fine for libel against Roman Catholic Father Romualdo Irigoras.

Caceres, former president of the House of Representatives, wrote an open letter to Father Irigoras, which was read during a news broadcast over a local radio station. The priest sued, alleging that the letter was libelous and offensive.

Jean Nicolet, the French explorer, believed he had found a new gateway to China when he passed through Michigan's Straits of Mackinac in 1633 and stepped from his canoe garbed in flowing Mandarin robes to impress any wealthy orientals in the area.

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