Nelson Reed Begins European Tour By Over-Arctic Flight To London

Editor's Note: Nelson Reed, well-known retired businessman, is currently on a trip to Europe. Following is his narrative on the first part of his journey, the flight to London.

March 30, 1963

Our departure from Portland was not exactly auspicious. Winds up to 90 miles an hour the night before made us wonder if we were in for another Columbus Day typhoon. Out at the airport in the morning it was raining like squirting a fire hose with a lot of wind. But up we went right on time in one of Pan Am's 707 Boeing jets, headed for London.

Our flight to Seattle, just 30 minutes away, was surprisingly smooth considering the weather and soon we saw the snowcapped Olympics through the rainclouds. Circling over Puget Sound to come in for a landing against the wind, we landed at the Seattle Tacoma Airport in a real slam bang landing. It made us marvel that tires and landing gear could stand the shock of 250,000 lbs. hitting at 150 miles an hour.

We were on the ground for 50 minutes to take on feul for the jets and some for the passengers. Then up we went into more overcast and rainclouds. We always marvel at how the navigator finds his way blindly across thousands of miles, and then we read again about all his electronic aids, the Loran long range finder, the gyro compass, the magnetic compass, and in a pinch the good old sextant. Man thinks he is pretty smart with all such tricks but our geese and ducks have it all built into their not so foolish little heads, perhaps because those heads have never been cluttered up with a lot of often useless information.

Shortly after takeoff the hostess demonstrated how to use a life preserver. We hoped we would not have to try it in the frigid waters of the Arctic, even if we were lucky enough to find any open water. Then we were told about our oxygen masks which would automatically drop over our faces if the plane decompressed. Those we savvied as we had once sniffed oxygen flying over the Andes.

The captain tells us that we shall be flying at 39,000 feet, and that our flying time to London will be 9 hours as we have a 50-mile-an-hour tail wind; that we shall have a smooth ride except for occasional turbulence when we encounter high altitude jet streams. We shall fly over Hudson Bay, Greenland, and come down over Ireland and into London nonstop.

For a while we get glimpses of the Canadian Rockies covered with snow that look like the country around Glacier Park. Then the overcast hides everything below and the sky above is a pale blue. We miss seeing the great plains of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and just as sunset below us are the endless snowfields of the vast Arctic with the black lines of bare ridges snaking through the white expanse. At 5 o'clock Klamath time it is dusk with a faint glow on the horizon for it is now 9 o'clock sun time. We marvel at how steady the big plane is at high altitudes. There is only the low drone of the jets to remind you that you are moving.

At 9:30 Klamath time there is a lovely orange band streaked with black along the Eastern horizon. Above the sky is a marvelous pale blue that shades off into black. Soon it will be daylight and we shall be approaching northern Ireland.

Beneath us the tumbled cloud fields are a lovely blue reflected from the sky above. As the great plane rolls gently the cloud field seems to roll and surge like the seas. Just at 10 p.m. Klamath time the sun peeps over the cloud bank in the east. Below us through the broken clouds we catch glimpses of land with large lakes or estuaries and occasional rivers. We are over northern Ireland. Soon we come out over the open sea and gradually descend to break out of the overcast for a smooth landing at the London airport. It is raining almost as hard as it was in Portland. You almost begin to wonder if it is raining in the Sahara. With very little delay and the most casual examination of our baggage and passports we are through customs and on our way to the hotel where we hope to catch up on some lost sleep though it is 7:30 a.m. London time.

April 1, 1963

Heretofore I had always understood that my ancestors had been run out of England some 200 years ago for refusing to cut the toenails off their hounds which were running the king's deer. But now I realize that the climte did it. There has been nothing but rain and damp cold and you can leave off the P, since we arrived.

A few days here you begin to realize that the English language is two kinds, U.S. and British. Here if you buy a tickets to the Picadilly Circus you won't see any wild animals performing. You will just get a ride on the "underground" subway to you. A circus is a big circle with streets running off in every direction and the only wild things you will see are American tourists trying to figure out where in the heck they are.

Across Picadilly there is a sign that reads: "City of Westminster, Ladies." Make no mistake, it is not a woman's club. It is where you go when you have to go. If you get a "lift" over here nobody picks you up. You just take an elevator. Here there are no barber shops, just men's hair dressers. And are the men's hair dressy. None of your crew cut bristle tops. And the gals! Never have we seen so many "mop top molls." Their eyes peer out at your like small animals out of the bushes.

Having eaten and ridden horses through the Old Man's War we have a deep hatred of all horseflesh. So we passed up the Aintree Races for the theatre. Took in two stage plays, both American and both excellent: "My Fair Lady" and "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," the latter just opened here yesterday. There are a great many theatres here and all of them packed apparently as we found out in trying to buy tickets. Only you don't buy a ticket, you buy a "stall" unless you want to sit in any of the three galleries.

On Saturday afternoon all the stores button up tight at 1 o'clock, while at home we argue about Sunday closing. At least that makes it easier on the tourist pocketbook. However, on Friday I did do a little shopping, window shopping you might call it. All my life I had heard that Purdey of London made the finest shotguns in the world. Guess they do, though I shall never really know for sure. I looked. Asked the clerk to show me a plain, simple field grade double. He said they are all made to order. We just happen to have one a gentleman is going to come after. It was a beautiful little 16 gauge double. I handled it lovingingly and admired it no end. Then I asked the price. "Seven hundred fifty pounds here," the man said, which would be about $2100 time I paid the duty, etc. I was so "spooked" that I pointed to a stuffed bird on the wall and asked what kind of duck that was. "That," said the clerk with rather a hopeless expression, "that, sir, is a goose." I fled before he could tell me the price of it. On the way out I did see a four barrel shotgun that I think would be just right for one of my hunting partners who always shoots everything he has at anything.

Sunday morning I walked through Green Park and Hyde Park and it was cold and raining. The park was full of horseback riders. They would sure scare our cows right off the range. The very dressy grownups were dressed in derby hats, white riding pants, and boots (not cowboy). Some of the ladies even rode sidesaddle. There were lots of little girls riding Shetland ponies or small horses, tight little caps on their heads with pony tails sticking out, tight fitting jackets and jodphurs. I saw no small boys. Guess they were all at home tinkering with their motor scooters. The park was full of dogs having their day "off leash." They were the best behaved dogs I have seen. No fights, just friendly visits with other pups. No chasing of ducks or pigeons which the park was full of. It seemed a pity that they had been brought up without any of their natural instincts getting a workout.

Sunday afternoon we called on Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Stearns and family, Francis and Alan, her husband, and their two children who live in a London suburb where he is working as a biochemist. They were interested in the latest from Klamath and we were fascinated and amused no end hearing them tell of their experiences living in London. Life here is very different for young married people than in the U.S. what with no central heat, and little coal stoves to be "fed" continually all through a very long cold winter. It makes you appreciate what we have at home to hear about it.

One thing that struck us here was the fancy automobile sales rooms. They are only showrooms full of shiny cars and lots of silver trophies. We think each English car must have its own particular road race which it wins for none of them seems to have ever come back empty handed. Where they sell parts and where they fix them we never did see. In three days here we have not seen one American car. They would be a pain in the neck in this traffic. If one got crossways it would block four lanes of traffic. These little English cars skitter around like so many water bugs and you better be looking to your left when you cross the street or you will have had one.

Man Released On $5,000 Bail

PORTLAND (UPI) — Jo Walton Holmes, 44, charged with contributing to the delinquency of two minor girls, has been released on $5,000 bail.

A hearing has been scheduled on motions filed seeking dismissal of the two indictments.

The Clackamas County laborer was also questioned in connection with the December, 1962, kidnap and slaying of Mona Rae Minyard, 6.

Patrol Boat Loses Hatch

PORTLAND (UPI) — A 20-foot Multnomah County Sheriff's patrol boat limped into Washougal, Wash., Friday after running into trouble on the Columbia River.

The outboard boat, carrying two deputies, went out to check on two skin divers swimming in the river but lost a hatch in high waves and heavy wind.

A Coast Guard boat was ordered out for assistance but was not needed.

POLICE FORCE KIDNAPPED — Two police officers and woman telephone operator from the Oxford, Mich., police force talk with police in Detroit after getting free from kidnapper Fredrick Hannah, 24, of Oxford. Patrolmen Richard Lamphier, 21, Wendell Hill, 24, and Mrs. Lenore Westphal were abducted early Saturday from the Oxford police station and driven to Detroit where they were left at a motel while Hannah fled. The trio freed themselves and called Detroit police who are now searching for Hannah. — UPI Telephoto

Police Force Kidnaped By Ex-Con

DETROIT (UPI) — The night police force at Oxford, Mich., two officers and a woman radio operator, was kidnaped early Saturday by a paroled convict brought to the station for a traffic violation.

He left them bound, gagged and unharmed in a Detroit motel.

Police set up roadblocks throughout the state seeking Frederick Hannah, 24, who was on parole for an arson charge. Authorities said he tried to burn down a bar when he was refused a drink.

The policemen were Richard Lamphier, 21, Lake Orion, Mich., and Delbert Hill, 26, Oxford. The radio operator was Mrs. Lenore Westphal, 42, whose husband is a member of the Oxford department which consists of four regular officers and three auxiliary policemen.

Lamphier said he and Hill stopped Hannah for a traffic violation and when they found he had no license took him to the station.

"As we booked him, we searched him and had him empty his pockets," Lamphier said. "First he pulled out his change and keys and then laid them on the desk. Then he pulled a pistol."

Fallout Detection Counters Sent To 20 Oregon Counties

Radiological detection instruments were shipped this week to 20 Oregon counties to stock fallout shelters, State Civil Defense Director Robert W. Sandstrom announced today.

A total of 105 kits were received at Salem from a federal government warehouse at Spokane, Wash., for storage in an equal number of Oregon shelters.

Each kit contains five instruments with a total value of $72.50. Included are three types of geiger counters and two pocket dosimeters.

The first shipment went for shelters in Baker, Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Coos, Deschutes, Douglas, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Linn, Multnomah, Umatilla, Wasco and Washington counties.

More will be available soon for the remainder of 950 approved public shelters in the state.

About 40 shelters with spaces for 15,000 people have already been stocked with food, water containers, medical and sanitation supplies. These survival supplies go directly to county Civil Defense directors from a federal warehouse in Troutdale.

Utilization plans for existing shelters are now being drafted and special training courses will be held to train shelter managers and radiological monitors.

Sandstrom also announced that work has begin on converting basement rooms in the state capitol into Civil Defense headquarters, a communications center, and government Emergency Operating Center.

CHINESE CORK TREE

The Chinese cork tree is a round-headed, wide - spreading tree. Its leaves are compound, with seven to 13 leaflets, aromatic and handsome.

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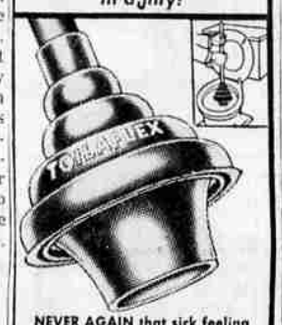

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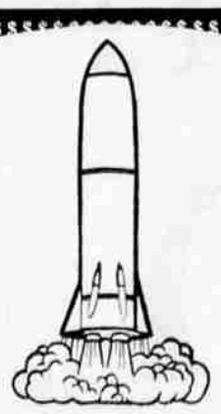

This is a rocket. Color it orange. Then blast off for U. S. National where savings deposited by April 10th earn interest from April 1st.
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