

Tragic Interlude

Just as the big city of New York was preparing to give a joyful welcome yesterday to the first American astronaut who had orbited the earth, a jet liner crashed after taking off from Idlewild airport, killing all 95 persons aboard. There is of course no logical connection between these two events, but their juxtaposition is startling nevertheless.

It has happened often in the past, this coupling of triumph and tragedy. The moralists have warned us of it in the truism that in the midst of life we are in death. That this celebration for the hero of the greatest free world achievement in the space age should be accompanied by such a reminder of the uncertainties with which air conquest is beset is something which—in earlier times and in connection with different achievements—would be attributed to the direct intervention of the gods, to remind vaunting man of his mortality.

The Greeks wrote plays about it; and the ancient Egyptians sought to appease the avenging deities on such occasions by bringing in a skeleton at their feasts. We don't know that this gesture ever proved effective in averting calamities, but it eased their conscience and brought the most vainglorious of their pharaohs down momentarily to earth.

There is no need, of course, to embrace such superstitious fancies in this day and age. Yesterday's air tragedy was appalling enough without trying to read any grimmer meaning into it than the circumstances warrant. Doubtless such accidents will become fewer as aviation science advances; it has already achieved remarkable progress in safety devices as well as in speed and efficiency. But there is no armour against fate, and the old haunting fear of the incertitude of life will remain, whether we fly, walk, or creep on crutches—with daily examples to remind us, and to shock us into awareness when we become too busy to be reminded otherwise, that "the glories of our blood and state are shadows, not substantial things."

Presidential Problem

One of the drawbacks of the United States constitution is that it makes no provision for the transfer of presidential power. This has worried the American Bar Association, which has raised the question on several occasions and is again seeking to have a replacement procedure written into the law.

As of now, President Kennedy and Vice-President Johnson have a personal agreement on procedure, just as former President Eisenhower and Vice-President Nixon had. If the President feels that he is unable to continue to carry out his duties he tells the Vice-President, who then assumes them. If he is so disabled as to be unable to communicate, the Vice-President will consult "appropriate" people and, upon their advice, take over. The President will decide when to resume his role.

This procedure has numerous flaws. Since there is no legal provision, would a Vice-President's actions as acting President be legal? Most experts think not. What if the President were mentally incapacitated and demanded return of his office? Who are the "appropriate" persons? The Vice-President would consult before taking over? Congress had never faced up to this problem, although it has been asked to many times. The reason prob-

ably is that the subject is so delicate and difficult.

The Bar Association proposes creation by law—and probably it would need constitutional amendment—of a presidential inability commission. This would be composed of the Chief Justice of the United States, the majority and minority leaders of the houses of Congress and the United States surgeon general. It would be empowered to start proceedings to transfer power temporarily when a president asked it or when it became apparent that he was unable to continue to carry out his duties.

Some such plan has been favored by most students of the problem; and that it is needed, and needed soon, is evident. World conditions are too difficult to risk having a vacuum of presidential power. It is a problem in which United States' allies also have a stake, though of course it does not lie with them to suggest any course of action so far as Washington is concerned.

Tobacco For Britain

The greatly expanded production of tobacco in this province, to which reference was made by Agriculture Minister MacRae in our Progress Edition of Wednesday, offers hope that eventually we may get in on the profitable British market in this farm commodity. At any rate, according to Mr. W.M. Miner, Canada's assistant agricultural secretary in London, writing in the current issue of Foreign Trade magazine, tobacco consumption trends and the tobacco trade pattern in Britain both point to bright sales opportunities for Canada.

The outcome of Britain's approach to the Common Market is, the writer concedes, an important but unknown factor. In addition, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland will strive vigorously to retain its share of the market and to expand it. In the past, slightly lower prices and improved quality and grading have aided its selling campaigns, supported by favorable leaf quality and price.

The Canadian industry, suggests Mr. Miner, should therefore give personal attention to the important British market to maintain its current exports and to capitalize on future expansion. At present, Britain takes 75 per cent of Canadian tobacco exports—about 30 million pounds of dry leaf in 1960.

Despite Britain's importance to Canada as a buyer of tobacco leaf, only 8 per cent of its 1960 requirements were obtained from Canada. More important suppliers were the United States, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and India. Canadian tobaccos sold in Britain consist mainly of flue-cured bright leaf and burley leaf.

We are only at the beginning of this phase of agriculture here, with an estimated 300-acre crop, representing almost four times the production of a year ago when private growers produced the crop commercially in this province for the first time. It was from such small beginnings, it will be recalled, that our seed potato industry was built up in years gone by. Tobacco growing presents different problems, but the industry now seems to be emerging from the experimental stage, with good prospects of success in this new island activity.

EDITORIAL NOTES

After 15 years of tracking down flying saucer reports, the U.S. air force says that none of the more than 7,000 objects claimed to have been sighted were "extraterrestrial vehicles under intelligent controls." In other words, so far as thorough checks can determine, our atmosphere has not been invaded by men from Mars.

A number of girl students from the United States stopped off at Halifax recently on their way to Europe and were surprised to learn that Nova Scotia is a Province of Canada, rather than a separate country. They were disappointed not to see Eskimos, amazed that Haligonians possessed automobiles, and miffed because they could not practice speaking French. "Perhaps," suggests a Toronto exchange, "the girls are not at fault. We are constantly being told that Canada has forgotten the Maritimes. Our best-known export is Eskimo art. We complain that we have no indigenous automobile. We are supposed to be a bilingual country. Can we blame the citizens of the United States for believing what they hear?"



ON A BICYCLE BUILT FOR TWO

HISTORIC DOCUMENTS

Britain's Parliamentary Archives

BBC Weekly Summary

The Victoria Tower of Britain's Houses of Parliament in Westminster is undergoing extensive reconstruction to provide storage space for some of the most valuable documents in the world and in a recent BBC broadcast Christopher Jones described the work being done.

"The Victoria Tower which houses Parliamentary records is nearly four hundred feet high—from the great archway of the Sovereign's entrance at street level to the top of the flag pole" he said, "and almost everything inside the Tower between these two extremes is being ripped out to provide storage space for what must be some of the most precious documents in the world. So far, the four top floors have been demolished, and seven new floors built in their place. This involved putting in massive steel girders, and at one stage the roof—weighing nearly 280 tons—had to be lifted up and replaced on new supports."

"One of the most important innovations is the installation of lifts to replace the wrought-iron spiral staircase put in by Sir Charles Barry, when he built the Tower in the last century. It was originally intended to take all the staircase away, but it was found to be so solidly made that it would have had to be destroyed in order to get it out of the building, and so it is one of the finest pieces of metalwork of its kind, it was decided to leave part of it where it stands."

**AIR CONDITIONING**  
Perhaps the most important innovation is the installation of air conditioning to keep the precious documents at exactly the right humidity and temperature. There is also a fire alarm system which is so sensitive that even the smoke of a cigarette would set it off.

"All this to preserve and protect a million and a half documents which contain between them an almost complete Parliamentary history of this country. The earliest documents date back to 1497, and the latest are from 1961. They include copies of 80,000 Acts of Parliament, many of them on rolls of parchment. Some of these rolls are a quarter of a mile long, and pretty well inevitably, I suppose, these are Acts of Parliament dealing with taxation."

The shortest documents are only three or four inches long, and some of the parchment rolls have been amended by Parliamentary draftsmen by the simple process of stitching a new piece of vellum over the original text. Among these rolls are the original Bill of Rights and the Habeas Corpus Act, and here you can find a letter written from a Puritan soldier to his brother describing life in Cromwell's army in 1643; plans and documents dealing with canals and railways, going back to 1787; reports from Samuel Pepys

and Christopher Wren; letters from Charles I to arrest the Five Members, and Cromwell's dismissal of the Rump Parliament.

"I was shown a journal of the House of Commons which had had half a page torn out of it, and by the tear a clerk had written: 'King James in Council rest out with his own hand this protestation.' Apparently James I had objected when Parliament had tried to discuss relations with Spain. And there's the original Act of Attainder against Catharine Howard signed by Henry VIII himself."

"And so on through the centuries of British Parliamentary history, right down to the most recent Royal Commission read by the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords giving the Queen's assent to a long list of Acts of Parliament, a massive document with a scarlet seal on it which is read with great ceremony."

U.S. Emotional Binge

By Joseph MacSweeney Canadian Press Staff Writer

It was not only the scientific success of John Glenn's orbital flight that sent the United States into an emotional binge. Glenn's attractive personality had something to do with it.

Americans would have been wildly delighted in any case with Glenn's pioneering space flight. But they were given a bonus—they got not just a hero, but the image of a hero.

Not only did Glenn come through his space ordeal with cool courage. He then met the highest dignitaries of the country with poise, cracked jokes with President Kennedy, spoke of his wife as the "rock" of his family and—above all—spoke with obvious sincerity of his deep patriotism.

Newspaper writers have been digging all the way back to 1927 for a parallel in the wild acclaim that greeted Charles Lindbergh's epic solo flight across the Atlantic.

**FELL SHORT**  
The propaganda potential of Glenn is a prime topic of the day but Kennedy and other high government officials are reported cautious about sending him abroad. Perhaps they feel that, after all, his exploit fell short of those of the Soviet Union's spacemen Gagarin and Titov.

Observers feel that even if Glenn does not leave his own country he is doing a needed job of morale—building at home. The frenzied reaction to his flight was itself a measure of how much Americans were hurt by Russia's earlier advances in space exploration.

This was sometimes demonstrated in an odd, inverted kind of way. In New York, for instance, it was easily possible to come across people—and not just simple people—who refused to believe Russia had conducted orbital flights. It was all a propaganda stunt, they declared stoutly in the face of all evidence.

After the Russians released pictures, the question was "why didn't they show these at the time, as we will do?" Kennedy's messages of congratulations to Premier Khrushchev didn't convince the sceptics.

When Glenn's flight was repeatedly postponed, the wisdom of total publicity exposure was sometimes questioned. It is really the weather that is causing delay? Some doubters wanted to know. Is there danger to the astronaut cranking under the strain? Will this be the worst disaster of them all?

Glenn's soaring success was taken not just as a victory for United States science but for the American way of life.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files

**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO** (Mar. 2, 1937)  
James H. McKenna was re-elected president of the Benevolent Irish Society at the 112th annual meeting of the Order last night. Edward Smith was re-elected patron of the organization. Mr. McKenna gave an outline of the play "Bridget O'Rourke" directed by Dr. T.E.E. Robins, which is expected to be one of the most outstanding plays sponsored by the Society.

**TEN YEARS AGO** (Mar. 2, 1952)  
Two men who for over half a century played a prominent part in protecting the citizens of Summerside from fire, Ex-chief W. B. MacNeill and deputy Claude Kenny were honored at the annual banquet of the Summerside firemen held at Robson's Restaurant. Mayor Weige made the presentation of beautiful table lamp to each of the men, in recognition of their long and faithful service.

**REJECTS SOLIDS**  
J. E. V. writes: My 17 month old son has 16 teeth, which he refuses to use. When I try to get him off baby food, he either gags or spits out the solid food. My doctor says the child is lazy which doesn't help solve this problem that has me at my wits' end. Have you any helpful hints?

**REPLY**  
Hunger is the best appetizer. Offer this boy solid foods and nothing else when he spits it out or gags. He'll get hungry.

**EFFECT OF HEPATITIS**  
R. G. writes: Could the effects of an attack of hepatitis last 1 1/2 years? I haven't felt well since I had the disease.

**REPLY**  
This is unlikely, especially if the liver tests are normal.

**OUR YESTERDAYS**  
From the Guardian Files

**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO** (Mar. 2, 1937)  
James H. McKenna was re-elected president of the Benevolent Irish Society at the 112th annual meeting of the Order last night. Edward Smith was re-elected patron of the organization. Mr. McKenna gave an outline of the play "Bridget O'Rourke" directed by Dr. T.E.E. Robins, which is expected to be one of the most outstanding plays sponsored by the Society.

**TEN YEARS AGO** (Mar. 2, 1952)  
Two men who for over half a century played a prominent part in protecting the citizens of Summerside from fire, Ex-chief W. B. MacNeill and deputy Claude Kenny were honored at the annual banquet of the Summerside firemen held at Robson's Restaurant. Mayor Weige made the presentation of beautiful table lamp to each of the men, in recognition of their long and faithful service.

**REPLY**  
Hunger is the best appetizer. Offer this boy solid foods and nothing else when he spits it out or gags. He'll get hungry.

**EFFECT OF HEPATITIS**  
R. G. writes: Could the effects of an attack of hepatitis last 1 1/2 years? I haven't felt well since I had the disease.

**REPLY**  
This is unlikely, especially if the liver tests are normal.

**OUR YESTERDAYS**  
From the Guardian Files

**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO** (Mar. 2, 1937)  
James H. McKenna was re-elected president of the Benevolent Irish Society at the 112th annual meeting of the Order last night. Edward Smith was re-elected patron of the organization. Mr. McKenna gave an outline of the play "Bridget O'Rourke" directed by Dr. T.E.E. Robins, which is expected to be one of the most outstanding plays sponsored by the Society.

**TEN YEARS AGO** (Mar. 2, 1952)  
Two men who for over half a century played a prominent part in protecting the citizens of Summerside from fire, Ex-chief W. B. MacNeill and deputy Claude Kenny were honored at the annual banquet of the Summerside firemen held at Robson's Restaurant. Mayor Weige made the presentation of beautiful table lamp to each of the men, in recognition of their long and faithful service.

Gov't Discovers Method To Get Strontium 90

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen THE GOVERNMENT has a new method to remove 98 per cent of radioactive strontium (Sr. 90) from milk. It could be put into operation if radiation levels from atomic bombs should reach high levels. The technique would add another 10 cents to the cost of processing a quart of milk.

Cows, when eating contaminated food, absorb only five per cent of the radioactive strontium. Only one-fifth of this is excreted in milk. If we behave like cows, we might absorb only five per cent of the Sr 90 in the milk. In addition, much of this would be eliminated through the secretions of the body. The rest replaces calcium in bone and teeth. It doesn't seem to bother the experimental cows to feed on radioactive plants and perhaps it won't both us too much.

I have confidence we can lick this problem but we are not sure what might happen to children who drink milk contaminated with extremely large amounts of radioactive fallout. They may become more susceptible to leukemia or certain cancers but it is doubtful whether the threat to life and the potential disability are as great as that posed by the modern automobile.

Sr 90 remains active 30 to 40 years and may affect the bones because of its electron radiation. This is the reason it can cause bone cancer or leukemia. It does not emit gamma radiation and is not a genetic hazard since bone structures are not near the reproductive organs.

Fallout contains iodine 131 which is absorbed and becomes concentrated in the body. This element in much higher concentrations also could increase the incidence of thyroid cancer and leukemia.

There is considerable natural background radiation in the United States from rocks and soil, radioactive chemicals in the body, and cosmic rays from outer space. These give higher levels than does the maximum radiation from fallout. All radiation contaminates the air. This is not good but there is no sense in becoming panicky.

(Dr. Van Dellen will answer questions on medical topics if stamped, self-addressed envelope accompanies request.)

**PEACHES AND CREAM?**  
B. C. writes: What foods are good for the complexion and what foods are bad for the complexion?

**REPLY**  
One man's meat is another man's poison. This is an individual problem because certain foods cause blemishes in some but not others. Outside of a balanced diet, no particular food will improve the complexion. The condition of the skin depends upon many factors, including exposure to the sun and wind, cleanliness, and heredity.

**REJECTS SOLIDS**  
J. E. V. writes: My 17 month old son has 16 teeth, which he refuses to use. When I try to get him off baby food, he either gags or spits out the solid food. My doctor says the child is lazy which doesn't help solve this problem that has me at my wits' end. Have you any helpful hints?

**REPLY**  
Hunger is the best appetizer. Offer this boy solid foods and nothing else when he spits it out or gags. He'll get hungry.

**EFFECT OF HEPATITIS**  
R. G. writes: Could the effects of an attack of hepatitis last 1 1/2 years? I haven't felt well since I had the disease.

**REPLY**  
This is unlikely, especially if the liver tests are normal.

**OUR YESTERDAYS**  
From the Guardian Files

**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO** (Mar. 2, 1937)  
James H. McKenna was re-elected president of the Benevolent Irish Society at the 112th annual meeting of the Order last night. Edward Smith was re-elected patron of the organization. Mr. McKenna gave an outline of the play "Bridget O'Rourke" directed by Dr. T.E.E. Robins, which is expected to be one of the most outstanding plays sponsored by the Society.

**TEN YEARS AGO** (Mar. 2, 1952)  
Two men who for over half a century played a prominent part in protecting the citizens of Summerside from fire, Ex-chief W. B. MacNeill and deputy Claude Kenny were honored at the annual banquet of the Summerside firemen held at Robson's Restaurant. Mayor Weige made the presentation of beautiful table lamp to each of the men, in recognition of their long and faithful service.

**REPLY**  
Hunger is the best appetizer. Offer this boy solid foods and nothing else when he spits it out or gags. He'll get hungry.

**EFFECT OF HEPATITIS**  
R. G. writes: Could the effects of an attack of hepatitis last 1 1/2 years? I haven't felt well since I had the disease.

**REPLY**  
This is unlikely, especially if the liver tests are normal.

**OUR YESTERDAYS**  
From the Guardian Files

**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO** (Mar. 2, 1937)  
James H. McKenna was re-elected president of the Benevolent Irish Society at the 112th annual meeting of the Order last night. Edward Smith was re-elected patron of the organization. Mr. McKenna gave an outline of the play "Bridget O'Rourke" directed by Dr. T.E.E. Robins, which is expected to be one of the most outstanding plays sponsored by the Society.

**TEN YEARS AGO** (Mar. 2, 1952)  
Two men who for over half a century played a prominent part in protecting the citizens of Summerside from fire, Ex-chief W. B. MacNeill and deputy Claude Kenny were honored at the annual banquet of the Summerside firemen held at Robson's Restaurant. Mayor Weige made the presentation of beautiful table lamp to each of the men, in recognition of their long and faithful service.

**REPLY**  
Hunger is the best appetizer. Offer this boy solid foods and nothing else when he spits it out or gags. He'll get hungry.

**EFFECT OF HEPATITIS**  
R. G. writes: Could the effects of an attack of hepatitis last 1 1/2 years? I haven't felt well since I had the disease.

**REPLY**  
This is unlikely, especially if the liver tests are normal.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Dressing and a smooth paint job may take years off a woman's age, but she cannot fool a set of stairs. — Brandon Sun.

Some people born with a silver spoon in their mouths find it harder to stir for themselves when they grow up. — Hamilton Spectator.

According to the Sunday Express, a notice in an Irish butcher shop reads: "Why do people buy our sausage? Because they know no better." — Calgary Herald.

Some girls not only remove their natural eyebrows and paint artificial ones higher but they also paint their lips to stimulate a smile, making them appear as if they had just experienced a pleasant surprise. — Sudbury Star.

There are something like 500 public libraries in Ontario and altogether in Canada there are 1,190 provincial, municipal and association libraries circulating 50,000,000 books and periodicals. This is something less than three books a year to every adult in the population. — Peterborough Examiner.

Representatives in the French National Assembly are not sufficiently adept to cope with their new electronic voting machines. M. Ripert, deputy from Bouches-du-Rhône, learned that because of his ineptitude with gadgets, he had voted "no" to an amendment that he himself had proposed. — Paris Jour.

Washington says that the aircraft—launching catapults on the world's first nuclear aircraft carrier, U.S.S. Enterprise, are so powerful they could hurl a Cadillac sedan 9,000 feet into the air. However, they are not believed capable of throwing a compact car into orbit. — Edmonton Journal.

Taxation Too Painless

Montreal Gazette

The steps that governments take to make taxation as painless as possible defeat, in some ways, the meaning of democracy. If the people are to know what they want, they ought also to be aware of what it is costing them.

One employer in the United States gave his employees their full earnings one week, with a note attached that they were to give him back, before the end of the week, the amount that should have been deducted at source. It was an admirable attempt to make people tax-conscious, but it may be doubted whether it was quite legal.

Another way of achieving something of the same result, and within the law, has been suggested by Mr. Arthur G. Sullivan, president of the Canadian Construction Association.

"It might be well for industry," he suggests, "to label this deduction on the employee's voucher 'Your Cost of Government,' with the hope that people would learn that government has only one source of revenue to meet the demands from its citizens for increased benefits, that is, taxes."

This might well be a very useful idea.

History In Germany

New York Times

Hitler's Germany was geared, as Susanne Charlotte Englemann wrote some years ago, to a "Nazi indoctrination (that) covered the entire life of the German individual from the cradle to the grave."

When the Nazi power was destroyed and the armies of occupation came in there was no longer any Nazi indoctrination in the schools. But this did not mean that German education automatically assumed democratic traditions, which were shaky even before Hitler.

The two Germanys, East and West, differ in their interpretations of the Hitler regime—and both interpretations are deficient.

East Germany, as is indicated in a report just published by Prof. Mark M. Krug, has to swallow the Communist view of life and history. Its high school history textbooks lie about the pre-war treaty between Stalin and Hitler, mention the infamous scoundrels who were tried and convicted at Nuremberg as though they were victims of cruel injustice, and belittle Russia's partners in the second World War.

**TEXTBOOKS FAIL**  
The West German history textbooks also fail to give the whole history or even a true history.

They minimize the fact that German fliers killed thousands of civilians in Rotterdam, Coventry and London before the Allied bombers began to come over Germany. Some of them even blame Churchill for prolonging the war by refusing "to make peace."

**AFTER THE WAR**  
Many West Germans have shown since the war that they have repudiated Hitler not because he failed but because he was a vile criminal. But somebody has dangerously blundered when the distortions Professor Krug describes are allowed to remain in the supposedly democratic schools of West Germany.

We can expect little, of course, from the Communist-dominated schools of East Germany. They dance to the tunes played by Communist propaganda everywhere. But we should expect something better from the teaching of history in West Germany. In fact, we have been expecting it, with increasing impatience, for a long time.

Advertisement for General Motors Acadia car. Features a large image of the car and text: "top PERFORMANCE ACADIAN", "Your choice of peppy 120 hp 6 cylinder or thrifty 90 hp 4 cylinder EconoFlame engine!", "GENERAL MOTORS new family-size car", "WILLIS MOTORS LIMITED", "Phone 892-1243".