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BIRD



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Volume III. No. 19 - Part I T-H-U-R-S-D-A-Y 5 August 1948 - At Sea

AT SEA....EDISTO BREAKS RECORD. On the morning of 2 August the Edisto reached a position a little beyond Dumb Bell Bay, Ellesmere Island. Based on a position ashore determined from observations more accurate than shipboard observations, the latitude of the ship's farthest north position was $82^{\circ} 34'$ N. This sets a new record for the farthest north reached by a ship under its own power. The EASTWIND reached almost this far north. A check of the history of the Peary Expeditions revealed that Peary's farthest north in the ROOSEVELT was 2 miles beyond CAPE SHERIDAN at approximately $82^{\circ} 30'$ N. latitude. This corrects an announcement regarding Peary's farthest north made previously in the press.

FINANCIAL SYNOPSIS.....Stocks rallied sharply in the last hour of trading with gains ranging to more than a point. Trading was moderately active. Indications that better relations between Russia and the Western Nations are developing helped to step up trading securities, according to market experts. Also, the market was bolstered somewhat on the belief that only mild credit controls will be adopted at the special session of Congress. Railroad and steel stocks paced the rise which approximated 750 million dollars in market valuations.

NEW YORK....Weather partly cloudy. High 75 - Low 69.

WASHINGTON.....The accused head of a Soviet spy ring said that the Navy tried to get him fired from the Government during the war, but that he was cleared through intervention by Laughlin Currie, Administrative Assistant to the late President Roosevelt. He said that after this intervention, he was cleared in a letter from the then Secretary of War, Robert P. Patterson. The alleged spy, Russian born Nathan Gregory Silvermaster, refused to tell the House Unamerican Activities Committee whether he is a Communist. But he denied the espionage charges as "False and fantastic" and called his accuser, Elizabeth T. Bentley, "A neurotic liar". In refusing to say whether he is a Communist, Silvermaster said he was standing on his constitutional rights not to give evidence that might incriminate him. He did testify, however, that Navy Intelligence protested his wartime employment by the Board of Economic Warfare. The Navy charged he was a Communist.

LONDON.....The United States, Great Britain and France started intensive conferences here to coordinate their views on their Monday night talk with Premier Joseph Stalin. Despite the super secrecy on the negotiations with Russia over the Berlin crisis, officials indicated some slight optimism prevailed in government quarters. The governments had studied reports from their representatives in Moscow and now were prepared to discuss their next step.

LONDON.....Bill Porter of Northwestern University raced to a new Olympic record of 13.9 seconds as he won the 110 meter high hurdle championship in an American sweep. Clyde Scott of Arkansas finished second and Craig Dixon of UCLA was third. The 1 - 2 - 3 finish marked the fourth time the Yanks have swept the boards in the current Olympics. They did so previously in the shot put, and in men and womens' springboard diving.

WASHINGTON.....A Congressional Committee heard that Nathan Gregory Silvermaster continued working for the government four years after Civil Service reports listed him as a probable member of the Russian Secret Police.

WASHINGTON.....Senate Republicans abandoned efforts to pass the Anti-Poll Tax Bill now, surrendering to a Southern filibuster and to the G.O.P. desire to adjourn the special session quickly. The Republicans decided to hurry action on a limited bill to restrict credit and a modified housing program, and to try for adjournment this weekend.

NEW YORK.....J.J. Moran, President of the American Union of Telephone Workers, CIO, announced that a new contract with no general wage increase had been accepted for twenty five thousand long distance telephone workers in 42 states and the District of Columbia.

BELGRADE.....Andrei Vishinsky, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, made it plain at the Danubian Conference that Russia intends to bar the U. S., Great Britain and France from the future administration of the Danube.

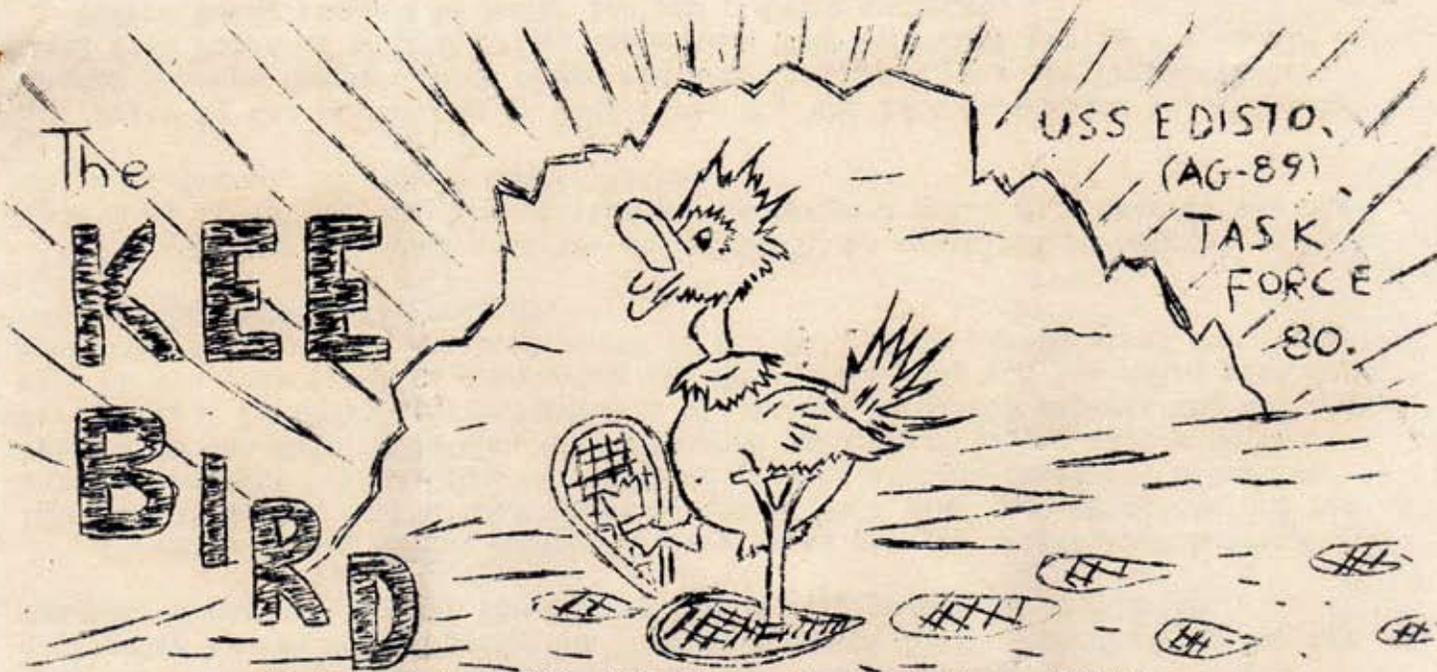
WASHINGTON.....Representative Sol Bloom, New York Democrat, called on President Truman and said he told him the Truman-Barkley ticket absolutely will carry populous New York State over the Dewey-Warren GOP combination.

ATLANTA, GA.....The Dixiecrats counted 24 electoral votes in the bag in their bid to throw the presidential election into the House of Representatives, where the south could have more voting power. Mississippi electors were the latest to pledge their support to the States Rights Ticket of Governor J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina and Governor Fielding Wright of Mississippi.

TOPEKA, KANSAS.....Former Governor Andrew Schoepel won the Republican nomination for Senator in yesterday's primary. He will run against former U. S. Senator George McGill, a Democrat, for the seat being vacated by veteran Senator Arthur Capper. Governor Frank Carlson coasted to the Republican nomination for a second term.

ST. LOUIS.....Democratic and Republican organization candidates were generally the victors in the states primaries. In the race for the gubernatorial nominations, Republican Murray E. Thompson and Democrat Forrest Smith won easily.

ALBANY, N.Y....If elected, Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York, Republican Presidential nominee, reportedly will recommend a complete reorganization of the State Department. Dewey is said to favor an extensive trained diplomatic corps.



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HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE DAILY PRESS

A SUMMARY OF EXPLORATION OF THE NORTHERN AND NORTH WESTERN ARCTIC

The majority of the exploration of Ellesmere Island and all of the exploration of the Prince Patrick Island Area was done by sledge parties. The ice and weather conditions are such that the ships of past years usually had to bow down to the forces of nature. This summary will deal only with the achievements of the shipboard expeditions, since main interest now lies in those waters which are yet to be conquered by ships. The sledge expeditions of such men as Stefansson, Sverdrup, Rasmussen, Peary, and others aided the mariners greatly and should not be minimized in a general history of the region. Also, the achievements of such men as Amundsen and Franklin have not been considered as their voyages of exploration were conducted in areas south of those dealt with here.

The first man to challenge the far northern area was William Baffin. In 1616, while in search of a Northwest Passage he discovered Smith Sound and proceeded up it to reach a farthest north of 77° 45'. Such were the rigors of the region that this record stood for about 240 years.

The only man to get close to him was John Ross, who, on his first voyage in 1818, drove up Smith Sound to 76° 54' north latitude. However, in the year 1852, the British explorer Inglefield in the ship ISABEL reached Cape Alexander, Smith Sound, Greenland, at 78° 28' 21' N. He started the era of advance on the North Pole via the Smith Sound Route - predominantly the American Era in Arctic exploration.

A group of United States citizens sent out the Dr. Elisha Kane expedition, for whom the Kane Basin is named, in 1853. They wintered at Rensselaer Harbor, latitude 78° 37' N.; and, after two very bitter winters, finally had to abandon their ship, the ADVANCE, and travel south to a rescue ship sent after them.

Dr. Isaac I. Hayes, Kane's surgeon on the above mentioned voyage, returned to Etah, Greenland in 1880 aboard the UNITED STATES. His ship was blown out of Smith Sound three times before finally obtaining the harbor. His astronomer froze to death on a sleighing journey so his work isn't too reliable. He made various sledge trips, and on one of these discovered the southern end of Kennedy Channel, which he assumed to be the open Polar Sea. He states, "This part of the channel freezes late and opens early, owing to the exceptionally high tides, and is rarely closed".

The next expedition in these waters was authorized by Congress in 1871. Charles Francis Hall, in the POLARIS, navigated Smith Sound, Kane Basin, Kennedy Channel, Hall Basin and Robeson Channel, reaching the Lincoln Sea at latitude 82° 16' N. This was 250 miles further than any previous expedition had achieved. Winter quarters were established in Thank God Harbor, Greenland, and it was here that Hall died. Since the crew of the POLARIS was an undisciplined lot, and the new Commander, Buddington, was not a leader, no further scientific work was accomplished and the expedition almost ended in tragedy. The POLARIS started for home in the summer of 1872, and was nipped in the ice in Baffin Bay. Most of the stores and a number of people were transferred to an ice floe, and later the ship and floe separated. After 193 days of southward drifting through Davis Strait, the floe was sighted by a whaler which rescued all aboard it. The ship was blown aground on Littleton Island near the entrance to Smith Sound, and after wintering ashore, the crew constructed boats from the ship's timbers and sailed south. They were eventually rescued by a whaler.

The British sent Captain George S. Nares in the ALERT and DISCOVERY to Smith Sound in 1875. The ships proceeded slowly all the way to Discovery Bay, about 80° N, before the DISCOVERY wintered in. They were busy all the way up correcting the inaccurate work of Hayes. The ALERT finally arrived at Floeberg Beach, Ellesmere Island, at 82° 25' N. This was a new record. Sledge parties from this expedition reached a farthest north of 83° 20' N., and explored much of northern Ellesmere Island and Grinnell Land.

In 1881 Lt. (later Maj.Gen.) A. W. Greely, U. S. Army, led an ill-fated party of men in the PROTEUS up to Fort Conger, and field expeditions from there gathered much scientific data. The scheduled relief trips failed to materialize two years in a row, and a number of the party died trying to work their way southward. They were finally rescued at Cape Sabine in the summer of 1884. Negligence of the relief party and lack of interest by the Secretary of War are considered responsible for the disaster to a very promising expedition.

Robert E. Peary (later RADM, U.S.Navy) made several trips north between 1886 and 1898, but most of his explorations at this time were by sledge and his ships never went beyond Etah. In 1905 he arrived at Cape Sheridan, Ellesmere Island, on the ship ROOSEVELT, and attempted unsuccessfully to sledge to the North Pole. In 1908 Peary returned on his second ROOSEVELT expedition, and this time he was successful in conquering the Pole. The ship got two miles past Cape Sheridan, for a record farthest north of 82° 30'. This record stood for forty years; then came Task Force 80.

The Canadians in 1926 sent the ship BEOTHIC to establish an outpost on Bache Peninsula, at 79° 04' N. The station was maintained until 1933 when it was discontinued because of supply difficulties.

Prior to the operations of Task Force 80, the last expedition to seriously attempt passage through Smith Sound and Kennedy Channel was the United States Naval Task Force 68 in 1946. The icebreaker USCG NORTHWIND got as far as 81° 44' N., before being stopped by heavy ice and a dense overcast.

In 1947 the icebreaker U.S.S. EDISTO, attached to Task Force 68 made its way through Norwegian Bay and Eureka Sound to Slidre Bay in waters never before traversed by a ship. Until that time, the whole area above 76° 45' N. latitude between 85° W and 130° W. longitude was untouched by surface vessels.

There is not much history concerning ship expeditions which explored the Northwest section of the Archipelago. The first party to get close to Prince Patrick Island was led by McClure in 1851. He was searching for Sir John Franklin and attempting to find a Northwest Passage by starting at the Bering Sea and sailing east. He worked his way along the northern tip of Banks Island, wintered there for two years was finally forced to abandon his ship and return via a relief ship waiting for him in Winter Harbor. He is given credit for discovering one Northwest Passage even though it was not navigable.

No other ships entered the area until Bernier, sent out by the Canadian Government, sailed west through Melville Sound as far as Banks Island in 1908 and again in 1910. He was stopped both times by heavy ice.

The United States Navy's Task Force 68 was the last expedition to reach these parts, the NORTHWIND going through Melville Sound and a short distance into McClure Strait before being turned back by the ice pack in 1946.

On 2 August 1948 the Edisto, attached to U.S. Naval Task Force 80, set a new record for the farthest north, reaching a point a little beyond Dumb Bell Bay at 82° 34' N. latitude. The EASTWIND, attached to the same Task Force, went almost to this point the same day. As stated earlier in the press, ships (notably Nansen's FRAM) have gone further north, but only by being allowed to become frozen in and drifting helplessly with the Arctic Ocean ice pack.