

## Lenten Guideposts

### Her Faith Conquered His Fear

By GEORGE SMITH  
Jet Test-Pilot

"Okay for take-off, George," came the dispatcher's voice over my earphones. I stretched out my left hand toward the plane's throttle, and saw that it was trembling. "You're afraid, George Smith," I whispered.

And then I seemed to hear another voice, a woman's voice, saying softly, "Courage is knowing the worst."

I know the worst, all right. I'd learned it the last time I'd flown an airplane. Nearly a year before.

It was a drizzly Saturday morning in February, 1955. As test-pilot for North American Aviation I sat at the controls of a needle-nosed F100-A Super Sabre.

"They cleared me for take-off and the powerful new engine thrust me into the sky.

OUT OVER THE OCEAN it was raining. I climbed up and up through the gray cloudbank till at 7,000 feet I burst into the sun. I kept climbing, 10,000 feet, 20,000 feet. In the climb the sleek new plane was approaching Mach 1, the speed of sound — 35,000 feet.

Then it happened. The plane suddenly began to nose over. This happens occasionally as a plane crosses the sound barrier; when the pilot pulls the control-stick toward him, the nose lifts again. I took hold of the stick and pulled. The stick would not budge.

The nose of the plane was now heading down in a gradual dive. I grabbed the stick with both hands and strained at it. It was from solid steel, and I stepped, gaining speed each second: 30,000 feet, 25,000 feet, 18,000 feet, 8,000 feet. It was eight seconds from the water.

"I'm going straight in!" I yelled into my radio.

I KNEW, all jet pilots know, that no one had ever bailed out of a plane going faster than sound — and lived. But you built out anyway. First get rid of the canopy! I jerked up the airbrake of the seat and the roof of the cockpit blew away.

The world exploded in the loudest noise I'd ever heard. It was like a cannon going off beside me, except that the noise never stopped. It was the outside rushing past at nearly 800 mph — a sound no one had ever lived to describe.

I don't remember squeezing the seat-rotation trigger, but when the plane hit the water five seconds later I was not in it.

I don't remember anything, in fact, of the six days after, when I came exploded beside me. Flight engineers and doctors have told me what happened. As I shot out of the diving plane, I slowed down so fast that I slid an instant I weighed 40 times normal.

MY BLOOD VESSELS burst, my eyeballs strained at their roots, my internal organs tore loose. The wind snatched off my helmet and mask, my shoes and socks, my watch, even the ring on my finger. I tore my lips and nose and rubbed down my throat. Then my parachute opened and I floated down to the sea.

I did not sink because the wind that had blasted down my throat had inflated my stomach like a rubber ball. It was a matter of the water by a fishing boat and sped to a waiting ambulance.

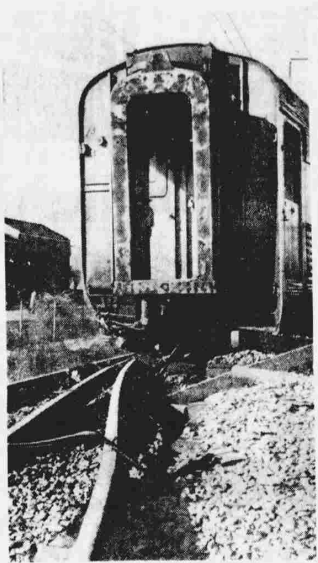
Doctors labored around the clock to keep me alive.

As I gradually became conscious, I was aware of only one pain. Then, as memory returned, I was gripped by something far worse, fear.

I lay there in that high hospital bed and felt fear settle down like the white sheet over me. I wasn't afraid I would die, I was afraid I might live.

AND THEN NURSE COLE walked into my room. Her face had the good-humored confidence of a woman whose tranquil life has never known the slightest upset.

When she took this job as special nurse, doctors decided that I would live. Mrs. Cole did not. The idea of my dying even amused her slightly. "Live through such a leap as that, and then die in bed!" She could hardly keep from smiling. Her



Twisted Rails, Broken Ties After Derailment

## Baltimore Mishap Derailment Hurts Score Of Riders

BALTIMORE (AP) — A Washington-to-New York passenger train, traveling an estimated 70 to 80 miles an hour, derailed about 10 miles east of Baltimore today. A score or more persons were taken to hospitals, but none was reported killed.

Six of the 25 or so taken to Johns Hopkins and city hospitals were reported seriously injured. Two heart attack cases also were hospitalized.

A Baltimore County policeman said the rails apparently spread, dropping the speeding train, the Potomac, onto the ties.

The engine and the first seven cars rumbled and rolled up the track between the rails for several hundred yards. The last three cars broke off and stopped. None of the cars overturned.

TIES, ROCK SCATTERED  
Ties and rock ballast were tossed high and scattered down the right-of-way, blocking three of the four main line tracks.

One passenger, Henry G. Gardner of Philadelphia, said he was in the car next to the dining car. He said an attendant, the only other person in the car, yelled, "Hold your seat, something's going to happen."

The car started rocking and swaying and bumping, Gardner said. "Then stuff began flying out of the pantry of the dining car ahead, going all over the place."

He was tossed to the floor of the car but said he suffered only a very minor leg bruise.

Gov. David L. Lawrence of Pennsylvania, acting as chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has called the selection of Los Angeles stopped because, he says, Easterners would miss telecasts of any night sessions. He has plugged Philadelphia.

Jack J. Arvey, national committee chairman for Illinois, has backed Chicago.

Julia Niziolok, who lives in the middle county of Middle River, where the wreck occurred, said she was inside her home when the train derailed.

She said the house shook and "there was a lot of noise." She ran out and helped some of the injured out of the cars.

BOONE'S RIFLE SHORT  
LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Daniel Boone's famed Kentucky long rifle is a short rifle now. Children swinging from the barrel of the muzzle loader on the park statue broken off a two-foot section. It will be replaced.

More Weather Data on page 4-A

—SCHOOL PLAN ANGRYS CITIZENS—  
S.C. Towns Would Secede

Special To The News — ANGERED over a school desegregation plan, four South Carolina communities have threatened to secede from Fairfield County, a new neighboring Richland County.

AND THEN NURSE COLE walked into my room. Her face had the good-humored confidence of a woman whose tranquil life has never known the slightest upset.

## Two Cities Vying For GOP Site

WASHINGTON (AP) — Choice of a site for the 1960 Republican national convention appeared today to have narrowed down to Chicago or Philadelphia.

That is the speculation of some national committee officials, who say a late July or early August convention is a good bet. Some other sources, while agreeing Chicago and Philadelphia now hold the lead, say the choice is still open. No decision is expected before April.

Meanwhile, Democratic committee officials predict the full committee at its meeting here Feb. 27 will resist Chicago or Philadelphia protests and uphold a site committee's selection of Los Angeles for the Democratic convention. The Democrats have fixed July 11 as their convention starting date.

## 4 P. M. Parade Offensive? No, Old Boy; It's Culture

LONDON (AP) — Beautiful Diane Durbury sang three naughty songs for 300 men at a London cultural center last night — and wore a mask to keep it all impersonal.

She was the only woman in the Royal Festival Hall's small concert room. What made it all so cultural was that the songs were all 16th and 17th century stuff.

The mask was black and tiny and hardly big enough to hide a big blush on Diane's pretty face. But she said there was nothing vulgar about the evening.

The entertainment was described by its organizers as "a gentleman's night—an entertaining mix of ribald and amorous music and verse."

Music conductor Antony Hopkins, one of the organizers, said: "It was lovely and interesting stuff from the 16th and 17th centuries."

One tune was entitled "A Virgin's Last Resolve." "An Old Man Who Wed A Young Girl."

A third was about a young man and a miss in the woods on a windy day.

Diane is 32, the mother of two children and wife of a British Broadcasting Corp. television executive.

## Our Weather

Cloudy and cool tonight, cloudy and not so cold tonight with occasional rain likely. Rain continuing on Friday.

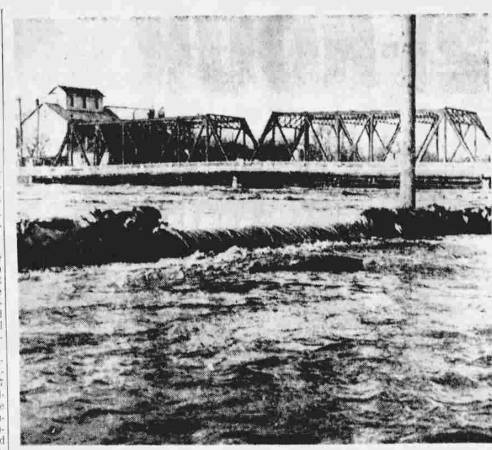
Low tomorrow morning 37  
High today 45  
Low yesterday 42  
High tomorrow 52  
Sunrise today 7:12 a.m.; sunset 6:03 p.m.

More Weather Data on page 4-A

## What's Inside

- Business 11A-11B
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# Food Crisis Declared For Central Indiana



Wabash River Gushes Through Break In Flood Wall At Peru, Ind.

## Conditions Over Ohio Improving

By ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Thirteen northern and central Indiana counties, where hundreds of families have been forced from their homes by mid-winter floods, were in a state of emergency today.

But on a brighter side of the flood picture, conditions appeared easing in northern Ohio where receding rivers and streams subsided.

Dry weather and rising temperatures were in prospect for the flood-stricken region.

President Eisenhower has been asked by Gov. Harold W. Handley of Indiana to designate as disaster areas the 13 counties he declared a state of emergency.

Flood waters from the surging Wabash River, hitting hardest at Peru, a city of 15,000 in northern Indiana, already have forced hundreds of families from their homes. Other hundreds of downstream communities are threatened.

LEVEL DROPS  
Soon after the floodwalls gave way, the river began to drop slowly from its peak of 23.65 feet, a foot and a half over the floodwalls.

City officials were not sure whether the drop occurred because the crest had passed or because water was spreading out into the lowlands.

"We can only wait and hope," said a worker.

No casualties were reported and the evacuation process went off smoothly, including one young boy with a broken leg.

Demolition experts studied the damage done to the jam, but the engineer, R. D. Walker, said he's never seen explosives take out a jam that size.

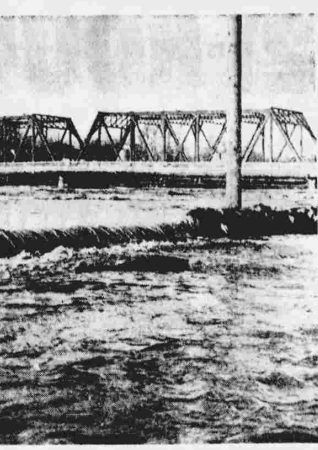
The major trouble spots in Ohio were Fremont and Newark, but many other Ohio cities, hit by overflows for the second time in three weeks, were busy mopping up.

In Ohio, the flooding Sandusky River dropped back toward its banks after the ice jam caused the stream to back up, pouring nearly two feet of water into a classroom or within hearing of pupils or school board members.

Rota teachers at Sacramento Junior College.

Then, the Albuquerque Journal learned from ARDC officials that the "installation" was an unusual World War II weapon which will be scrapped within the next few months.

Everywhere the answer was the same: "We can't talk about it" or "We don't know anything about it."



## 3 Police Held In Shakedown

NEW YORK (AP) — Three policemen including a deputy inspector were arrested in Brooklyn today in what was tabbed a scheme to shake down bookmakers. One notorious gambler claimed he had made numerous payoffs to officers.

All three arrested had been put on the Brooklyn narcotics squad to prevent any revival of daytime bookmaking operations such as the 20 million dollar a year empire once headed by Harry Gross.

Those arrested were: Deputy inspector Dominic M. Sella, 57, a member of the police force since 1927.

Plainclothes Patrolman Joseph Weiner, 42, a 16-year veteran on the force.

Plainclothes Patrolman Norman Connelly, 37, also with 10 years police service.

All three denied any attempt to shake down gamblers or receiving any payoff but acknowledged tapping a phone in a Brooklyn apartment where an alleged bookmaker was operating.

One of the charges against the three officers was illegal wiretapping.

Evening Prayer  
Our Father in Heaven we thank Thee that even when we are lost in trespasses and sins, Christ died for us to help us to overcome our temptations, For Thou knowest our weaknesses: For Jesus sake. Amen.

SELF DEFENSE  
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — State Sen. Albert S. Rota introduced a bill yesterday that would impose fines of up to \$500 for insulting or abusing a teacher in a classroom or within hearing of pupils or school board members.

Red Faces In The Pentagon

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. — An Air Force tyquist reportedly was operating the "benches" of the Atomic Energy Commission, said the PAA.

So, people did.

MERRY-GO-ROUND  
They checked the AEC, then the Dept. of Defense, the Army, Santa Base Housekeeping Service, the Air Research and Development Command, the Forest Service, the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

They didn't know it. Everywhere the answer was the same: "We can't talk about it" or "We don't know anything about it."

They checked with the Fed

Embarrassed Air Force officials admitted one was a tyquist's mistake. The money, all \$2,283,000, was to go to a special Santa activity and not to the beacon annex.

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