

## Fordney Reviews His Recent Flight

Largest Assembly of Year Hears Him Speak

(Continued from page 1)

In August, 1933, Major Fordney was ordered to report immediately as technical advisor to Lieutenant Commander T. G. W. Settle. On November 20, when Commander Settle continued his flight into the stratosphere (he considers his second take-off as a continuation of the first attempt, which ended so abruptly), he took Major Fordney, who had never before made a balloon ascension, along as scientific observer.

The Major next explained the method used by the military service in solving all problems, whether in war or peace. It is known as "The Five Paragraph Field Order," and was followed in planning this flight. This scheme consists of the following points: 1, Mission, or statement of problem; 2, Information about enemy which in this case consisted of knowledge about conditions to be expected in the stratosphere; 3, An estimate of the situation; 4, Plan of attack; and 5, The giving of the necessary orders to execute the plan.

Interior of Gondola Is Described. To keep the explorers alive and to make them fairly comfortable, was another problem that required a solution. Wishing to carry the maximum amount of oxygen in the minimum amount of space, several fifty liter Dewar flasks containing liquid oxygen, were set on the shelf. The use of liquid oxygen is important because upon vaporization it occupies eight times its original volume. Also in case a leak should develop in the shell, the officers could throw the liquid air on the deck and build up a pressure inside the gondola that would save their lives. A carbon dioxide and a water vapor absorber were also taken along. To provide air circulation and a fairly warm temperature within the gondola, the outside bottom half of the ball was painted black, and the outside upper half was polished.

The instruments and other scientific apparatus that were taken on this high altitude flight operated perfectly. However, the complete results obtained from most of these instruments have not yet been made known. One set of apparatus was for determining the color of the sky. This setup consisted of a color chart, lit by an incandescent light. To improve the accuracy of this comparison, independent observations were made by the two occupants of the sphere. Although the officers differed slightly in their selection of the color corresponding to that of the sky, Major Fordney said that the sky's color is close to a marine blue.

The most important apparatus taken on the flight was, of course, the instruments for measuring the intensity of the cosmic ray at various altitudes. This was the major purpose of the ascension and was in charge of Dr. Arthur H. Compton, well-known physicist.

"Takeoff" on November 20 After moving the balloon to the Goodyear plant at Akron, the big bag was inflated and held in readiness for a quick start on its flight into the upper regions. On November 20, the surface weather conditions were splendid, but with the use of small balloons it was found that a high wind velocity existed at the higher altitudes. However, not wishing to wait any longer for better weather conditions, Commander Settle gave the order to prepare for the take-off.

Once the balloon got up in the air, Commander Settle cruised about until nearly 11:40 a. m. Chicago time, so that they would not reach their peak too soon. By merely dumping the service ballast through the air lock, the balloon made its ascension. At this stage of the trip, the explorers first noticed the vertical oscillations of the balloon, which were caused by the momentum of this 7000 pound mass.

Balloon Drifts 112½ m. p. h. During this flight it was very important to know the position of the balloon. This was done by a method known as "piloting." On the bottom of the gondola was a window with a set of cross hairs set in it. In this process of piloting, Commander Settle placed the back of his head against a shelf and observed the time elapsed during the passage of two points on the earth. In this way the

## OTHER CAMPUSES

Fraternities at De Pauw University are starting a new system whereby every freshman sees every house and every house sees every freshman.

A bird egg collection was recently added to the University of Colorado museum. It is one of the best and most complete in the west.

Heat will be turned off in nearly all the buildings on the main campus at the University of Minnesota on Sunday and holidays when no classes are scheduled and it is estimated that \$5,000 will be saved through this action.

Colgate college is located in Hamilton, N. Y., while Hamilton college is located in Colgate, N. Y. (Just to get you mixed up).

A group of students in an eastern university, after waiting for five minutes for a tardy professor, walked out. The maestro was quite indignant over the action. "You could easily see I was here," he reprimanded, "for my hat was on my desk." Next day, upon arriving at his classroom, a strange sight greeted him. . . It was empty save for a hat on every desk.

An instructor in the sociology department of Wisconsin passes out cigarettes during examinations to make the students more natural because he says the course itself is such an inhuman one.

There are no stags, either male or female, at University of Utah co-ed dances. When a dance is held each girl hands in a list of four names in preferential order. A council attempts to date them up in the order named, but if that fails the girls are paired off according to alphabetical arrangement or by classes.

Students belonging to Gamma Kappa Delta, Ventura Junior College, are exempt from all final examinations.

The University of Maine offers a course in ice cream making. The school is located in the heart of a dairy country where ice cream is one of the important products.

Coe College sophomores do not believe that a co-ed's appearance is enhanced by use of lipstick and nail polish, they admitted in a recent survey.

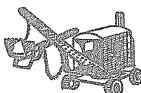
A professor at Wisconsin State College recommends the old institution of cramming because it represents concentration of the highest order. He also asserts that modern psychologists believe knowledge gained more rapidly will be retained longer and more fully.

A psychology professor, after a speed and direction of the balloon's course was kept track of. At an altitude of 30,000 feet, it was found that the balloon was traveling at a speed of 112½ miles per hour toward the Atlantic Ocean.

At 3:00 p. m. Chicago time, the balloon started its descent from its record height of over 58,000 feet above the earth. At this time the sun had set behind the haze and mists that existed at about the altitude of 35,000 feet. This haze kept much of the radiant energy of the sun from reaching the balloon, so the temperature of the gas dropped, and the balloon fell to a level where the weight of the air displaced could support the ship. By that time the sun had sank farther and still less of its radiant energy reached the balloon. In this manner the balloon reached an altitude of 26,500 feet. Then the hatches were opened, and the disposal ballast was rapidly heaved overboard.

"The Marines Land First" As the balloon came quite close to earth, Commander Settle crawled on top of the gondola. Soon he gave a command, and Major Fordney heaved on the line that opened the rip panel. A few seconds later the gondola gently struck the ground, and rolled over in such a manner that the floor was no longer horizontal. In trying to right it, he rushed to the high end near an open port hole. The landing of the balloon caused the gondola to roll in the reverse direction. Thus Major Fordney was thrown through the port hole, and true to the code of the U. S. Marines, he landed first.

## THE STEAM SHOVEL



We understand that VINNIE QUAYLE'S short wave set, which he operated in the library, gets about every short wave station under the sun except K-9 stations.

The fact that Connie Lisciani changed from a civil to a mech. course leads one to think that maybe the mech. course is a haven for disappointed civils. . .

J. W. BARD announces special rates at his Lincoln Park Hotel for the current social season for Armour Students. His motto: Be at Home When Away From Home. (Ed. Note: Not an ad.)

Oh, Clarence Rumor has it that CLARENCE CLARKSON is in demand (Radio-loud seeks his services) after his pleasing voice was heard over the microphone system last Wednesday. It is believed that he will broadcast cooking recipes . . . the famous Miss Joyce Cooking Innovations.

thorough investigation at Colgate, announced that chewing gum improves a student's pep about eight per cent.

The newest thing in college subversion was uncovered recently when Duke and Virginia recently protested the eligibility of a piccolo player in the band of the University of North Carolina. It is charged that the offending musician accepted pay at a seaside resort last summer.

## Fraternity Notes

### PHI KAPPA SIGMA

A tri-chapter initiation consisting of the three Chicagoland chapters, namely, Northwestern, University of Chicago, and Armour Institute, was held on Monday evening, February 19, in the Interfraternity Club at the Palmer House. Among the speakers were "Arch" Jackson, the president of the executive board and Louis W. Biogler, the president of the Armour chapter.

The initiation was followed by a dinner and the usual after dinner speeches.

The Armour chapter takes pleasure in announcing the initiation of the following men:

Charles R. Ford '36.  
Frank A. Hefner Jr. '37.  
Edwin J. Skoppstrom '37.  
Harold E. Stehman '37.  
Richard P. Thunder '37.

### BETA PSI

Beta chapter of Beta Psi wishes to announce the formal initiation last Sunday of the following men:

H. R. Cannon F.P.E. '35.  
F. H. Denio E.E. '37.  
C. L. DuSall F.P.E. '36.  
J. K. Morrison F.P.E. '35.  
G. J. Svebia F.P.E. '37.

Following the initiating ceremonies a banquet was held. Several alumni were present for both the initiation and the banquet.

A considerable number of couples turned out Saturday night for the dance held at the house. Brother Bristol received the congratulations of those present on his coming of age.

Six footers among the men students at the University of Maryland are rejoicing over the installation of a number of extra-length beds in the men's dormitories.

## Major Fordney Is Interviewed

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quate work at the time and only had twenty more hours of work for my master's degree, too. My professor of Thermodynamics, with whom I'd taken a seminar, was a retired naval commander, and I asked him for advice on which branch of the service to enter. He told me to join the marines because the marines were probably the most active of any of the units and that the marines also had the most varied activities. So I joined the marines!

"Maybe you never heard of them, but there's a couple of companies of marines that actually ride horses—they call them the 'horsemarines'."

I saw duty with the 44th Mounted for a spell in San Domingo."

In the interim between being shown a color replica of the stratosphere sky and a detailed explanation of just what makes the balloon come down when the sun goes down, we "popped" another question which must have resembled the requests of little kids for tall tales from the heroes of the local fire engine company.

"Did you ever have any narrow squeaks—any especially thrilling experiences—or something? Serving for three or four years, you must have had something happen to you."

Major Fordney smiled. "Can't say as I did have any hair raising experience. No. I guess there's absolutely nothing I can tell you along that line."

"Do you mean to say you can't even tell us of one single incident, Major? Why, we've always read that marines lead such reckless lives and all that."

"Yes," the major laughed, "I've read that too."

"What do you think of these 'Raw War' pictures, Major?"

"Well," said the major thoughtfully, "Anyone that's ever been to war doesn't ever want to see another one of course. But, on the other hand, if there ever were a war, I'd want my children to be prepared so that they'd have a little better chance to get out alive than a lot of fellows I have known. I have four children. And they're symmetrically spaced with regard to sex. The two older ones, thirteen and eleven, are girls, and the two younger, seven and three, are boys. The older boy is all set on being a marine, too." (Major Fordney married the equivalent of the "boss' daughter" when he married Miss Nancy Fuller, the daughter of his commanding officer, in 1930.)

"Say, Major, would you mind telling us why Commander Settle didn't take up another balloonist like himself?"

"Surely, Commander Settle said, 'One balloonist is enough.' And one was enough. Commander Settle is the foremost balloonist in the world, you know, and has taken a first, second, and a third in the Gordon Bennett balloon races. He is versatile when it comes to aircraft—there isn't anything from a dirigible to a glider that he can't fly. The outstanding quality that Settle wanted was the ability to follow orders to the letter—and not to lose one's head—because in a space as small as the gondola, if one of us becomes excited, well. . . I wouldn't be talking to you now."

"Just one more thing before we go, Major. Don't you think you can scare us up even one breath-taking episode that ever happened to you as a marine that we could put in the paper? Just one!"

The major's smile broadened, "No, I just can't. The only thing I can do is promise, though, that if anything 'hair raising' happens to me between today and tomorrow, I'll let you know about it."

And so we left the Administration Building, took a look at the High Sky Ride to the left, and laughed.



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