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Notes on People

Leak Stops 'Solo' Balloon Flight

It was a short odyssey, and a surprising one, for Robert Sparks, 39 years old, Pottersville, N.J., who wanted to make the first solo balloon flight across the Atlantic and lifted off from the New Seabury Country Club on Cape Cod at 1:05 A.M. yesterday. But he soon had company. His crew chief, G. Hadden Wood, 44, of Greenwich, Conn., intentionally hung on to a trailing nylon rope when the balloon lifted off and—passing over the heads of 3,000 startled spectators—began his journey dangling 12 feet below the gondola. An hour later, Mr. Sparks hauled his crew chief aboard with a winch.

By yesterday afternoon, the 95-foot red, white and blue balloon, named Odyssey, had developed a slow leak. By 6:30 P.M., when the pair touched down southeast of Nantucket, they had traveled less than 200 miles. Mr. Sparks was picked up immediately by a Coast Guard helicopter, but Mr. Wood remained in the gondola. The balloon, which was cut loose, quickly soared to about 7,000 feet.

A Coast Guard cutter arrived at the downed craft about 11 P.M. and picked up Mr. Wood, who was described as being in good condition. The gondola will be towed ashore, according to the Coast Guard.

Before the lift-off, the stowaway had put aboard extra oxygen and a parachute, a thermal suit and a survival suit identical to those of Mr. Sparks.

As the result of a two-hour visit in 1972 from E. Howard Hunt Jr., who was later convicted of conspiracy in the Watergate break-in, "I was for several months privy to details about Watergate that were not publicly known," William F. Buckley Jr. says in his new book, "Execution Eve:—And Other Contemporary Ballads," to be published next month by G. P. Putman's Sons.

Mr. Buckley, a conservative editor, columnist and television host who is the godfather of Mr. Hunt's three older children, said Mr. Hunt visited Mr. Buckley at his New York apartment on Dec. 18, 1972, 10 days after Mr. Hunt's wife, Dorothy, was killed in a plane crash in Chicago. Mr. Buckley said Mrs. Hunt's will named him as alternate executor of her estate, although he had not seen the Hunts "for several years."

Mr. Hunt "told me the story of Watergate—as far as he knew it," Mr. Buckley said. "He had no knowledge of any complicity by the President," the author added. This, Mr. Buckley noted, was before the White House began to worry that Mr. Hunt was threatening "blackmail."

Citing the incident to explain "certain blurs" in what he wrote in early 1973, Mr. Buckley said he had been "greatly encumbered" at the time by confidential information that he could neither act on nor write about until it was "teased out of reluctant witnesses"—or given to the Justice Department by bargaining co-conspirators.

In Switzerland, a spokes-



Associated Press
Robert Sparks drops balloon from balloon for trip from Cape Cod.

man for Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton was busy discounting reports that they would remarry in Israel or anywhere else. The couple, whose reconciliation was announced Wednesday in New York, "plan to live together," according to Maurice Solowicz, their legal adviser in Geneva, but any talk of remarriage is "premature."

As several dozen American and European journalists and photographers flew to Geneva to look for Miss Taylor and Mr. Burton, the couple conferred yesterday with Israeli producers of the film "Abakarov," in which Mr. Burton is starring. "They are expected to travel together to Israel the middle of next week to look at locations," Mr. Solowicz reported.

Anna Freud, the psychoanalyst and daughter of Sigmund Freud, has been named to the staff of Philadelphia's Hahnemann Medical College as visiting professor of child psychiatry, but a spokesman for the college said there were no plans for her to come to the United States. The designation of the 80-year-old Dr. Freud is in recognition of Hahnemann's three-year-old program of residency exchange with Dr. Freud's Hempstead Child-Therapy Clinic in London.

Gloria Hurd, who is 29 inches tall and known around the carnival circuit as Tiny Tina, gave birth to an 18.5-inch son Wednesday in Cleveland. The five-pound baby, apparently normal, was delivered by Caesarean section. Miss Hurd, who is 23 years old, normally weighs 43

pounds. When she entered the hospital "she was all baby," her mother said, "as wide as she was tall."

The almost legendarily shy Jean Arthur turned up as guest of honor at a party in Malibu, Calif., this week. Emerging from her Carmel retreat and reportedly relaxed and cheerful, the 67-year-old actress met old Hollywood and Broadway friends at the home of Jerome Lawrence, co-author with Robert E. Lee of "First Monday in October," the new play in which she and Melvyn Douglas are to open on Oct. 17 at the Cleveland Playhouse. Miss Arthur has begun working with Mr. Lawrence, who will direct the play.

Miss Arthur's last Broadway appearance (and her first since "Peter Pan" in 1950) was in 1967 in "The Freaking Out of Stephanie Blake"—the title turned out to be almost prophetically autobiographical for the ailing actress—which survived for three previews. Amid the pop culture and youth explosion of the nineteen-sixties, Miss Arthur was cast as "a turned-on spinster." In the new play, described as "a sort of 'Ms. Smith Goes to Washington,'" she will portray the first woman Justice of the Supreme Court. Depending on the play's reception during its projected six weeks in Cleveland, "First Monday in October" may move on to Washington's Kennedy Center and then to New York.

Neil A. Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, will head a new medical-engineering institute to develop an improved pump for heart-lung machines. The former astronaut, who commanded the Apollo 11 spacecraft that landed on the moon on July 20, 1969, is now a professor of aeronautical engineering at the University of Cincinnati. The university has organized the institute in conjunction with Purdue University and the Cincinnati Jewish Hospital.

Laurie Johnston