

The Man About Town

By William P. Frank

THE mountain climbing president of Faith Theological Seminary of Wilmington is home at 1205 Delaware Avenue, after a honeymoon in the West that was interrupted by front page adventures.

He is the Rev. Dr. Allan A. MacRae who, with a ranger, rescued three fliers from a ledge deep in the recesses of the Grand Canyon—a feat that held its place on page one of the leading newspapers of the nation for about a week.

The men had jumped from a plane which developed trouble, and miraculously landed on the plateau, although it was 10 o'clock at night.

When daylight came they found they were unhurt and discovered a stream of water. For four days without food they sought means of escape from the barren ledge. At the end of that time they were sighted by planes and food, medicine, and needed supplies were dropped to them.

Dr. and Mrs. MacRae—he is a seasoned climber, but this was her first experience—after arriving at the Grand Canyon, started the trip of walking from the north to the south rim.

The trail goes down to the bottom of the gorge, across the river, over the only bridge in a distance of 100 miles, and up the opposite side to the other rim—some 20 miles.

The MacRaes had planned to take the trip leisurely and meant to spend four days on the journey. They were joined by another couple.

On the second day of the trip the friend had occasion to phone a ranger, Ed Laws, who asked if he could speak with Dr. MacRae.

Dr. MacRae was then asked to assist in the rescue of three fliers, who had parachuted from a plane when trouble developed, and had been stranded on a small plateau of the canyon for more than a week. Dr. MacRae and his party returned to the ranger's camp and the others remained there while Dr. MacRae and Mr. Laws started to the rescue.

"It was not a perilous descent," Dr. MacRae said yesterday. "But we had to find a trail which we could use and which would lead the stranded men back to safety. I have wandered many times within the canyon walls and explored remote sections which perhaps few other people have seen. It is a hobby of mine.

"I suggested a certain trail which I thought would be the most expedient.

"We camped overnight on a 20-foot ledge, part way down the 5,000-

foot climb to the men who had landed on the plateau about 600 feet above the swollen, rushing Colorado. Early the following morning we broke camp and again started on the trail. A little after 9 o'clock we reached the aviators, who were in pretty good shape, although they had been imprisoned on the ledge more than a week."

Soon after Dr. MacRae and Ranger Laws reached the fliers the entire party started on the trek back up the steep side of the gorge, but the aviators were able to make the trip unaided and were taken to the air field at Kingman, Ariz.

Dr. MacRae rejoined his wife, but his vacation time did not permit a continuance of their trip, and they came home.

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AMONG THOSE who should be placed on the list as never likely to be missed is the man who lives in the country and comes to work on a sultry day and boasts:

"Hot last night? Cool out my way! Never slept better! Had to use a light woolen blanket!"

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ELMER SMITH

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