

SHIP *L.T.P. Q. Mon. Dec. 15 - '52.*

At the Italian port of Leghorn - a desperate battle of rescue is being waged. On a reef, only a hundred yards off shore, a broken half of a ship is aground - with thirty-seven American sailors clinging to the wreck. Only one hundred yards away ~~is~~ from safety -- the shore, the rescue parties, crowds of spectators. But - the peril is desperate.

The S.S. "Grommet Reefer" was anchored, with a cargo of Christmas turkeys for American troops in Germany.

When -- a violent Mediterranean storm blew.

The American freighter dragged anchor, and was blown across a narrow strip of water -- and onto a reef. There, the vessel pounded, and broke in two, the bow drifting off and sinking. The stern, impaled on a reef, stuck there. Every man of the crew - having sought refuge in the stern,

The wind was blowing ~~SW~~ over sixty miles an hour, not a chance of a boat getting across. So, today they shot ^{over} a breeches buoy across - and, for

a while, the contraption worked. They took three men off.

But then, in the fury of the wind, the cables of the breeches buoy were snarled. Which halted the rescue.

Later word told of a scene at night - search-lights glaring. U.S. and Italian sailors trying to get the rescue mechanism going again. While, on the shore, crowds watching a thriller, not of the ocean deep - but right in the harbor of a famous port.

Follow Ship

The latest - a second breeches bouy was thrown from shore to the wreck. But that failed - when the line snapped. The rescue parties awaiting daylight before making further efforts.

EISENHOWER

Word from Eisenhower headquarters, is that the meeting with MacArthur may come tomorrow. Today, the President-elect held a series of conferences -- busy after his return from Korea. ^{now he} ~~he~~ is to confer with General ~~Gen~~ Douglas MacArthur -- on that plan which MacArthur says he has for ending the Korean war. Probably -- tomorrow.

KOREA

(In Korea, the mutinous island of Pongam is reported - under control. This, after the bloodiest of all outbreaks among Red prisoners. Eighty-two killed - one-hundred-and-twenty wounded.)

Thirty-six hundred Red civilians and internees - in a frenzied outbreak. Many of them - from notorious Koje Island, removed after the mutinies there. They swarmed with a ~~ms~~ crazy fury against American and South Korean soldiers - and a huge ^h ~~now~~ was about to break out of the compound, *when*. The soldiers opened fire. -- many Reds shot down before the mutiny was quelled.

State Department

President Truman's loyalty board says there is a "reasonable doubt" as to the loyalty of John Carter Vincent. Which is followed by immediate action- the State Department suspending the diplomat.

John Carter Vincent has been under fire for some time, accused by Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin. Last February, the loyalty board of the state department cleared him - completely. But now the Presidential board reverses that- on evidence that John Carter Vincent had a record of praising the Chinese communists. Also - that he had numerous associations with communists and red sympathizers.

At the ~~time~~ same time, the loyalty board clears John Patton Davis - likewise ~~accused~~ accused by Senator McCarthy.

RADIO*TV

The Congressional report on radio and television declares - against government censorship. The committee, after extended investigation, finds that some "offensive and suggestive" material is broadcast and televised. But says the industry is cleaning up its programs and - making substantial progress. So radio and T V should be given - a further chance on their own.

The investigators condemn - the salacious and obscene. Also - declare there is "entirely too much emphasis upon crime programs." Most of these, it is noted, ^f feature the angle - "crime does not pay." Nevertheless, the congressional committee feels that the gangster-gunman emphasis is bad for children. So the suggestion is - that crime programs be banned by the industry between four P.M. and eight P.M. when children are most likely to be listening.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Today was the big day - at least it should have been, according to the Constitution. The electoral ~~xxx~~ college cast its vote, and that would have been a banner headline - if the original scheme of the founding fathers had worked out.

Their idea was for the states to choose electors. These, then, to use their own judgement and pick the best President they could think of. It was not foreseen that political parties would arise, ~~(our two-party system - in which Republican and Democratic electors, are pledged to ~~xxx~~ party candidates. So the real choice is on Election Day - and, December Fifteenth, those electors just go through the motions.~~

~~Therefore,~~ It's hardly news, today, that they cast four hundred and forty-two electoral votes for Dwight Eisenhower, eighty-nine for Adlai Stevenson. ~~More formality, but these were interesting angles as the electors met, each group in its own state capital.~~

At Springfield, Illinois, twenty-seven Republicans gathered in the office of the governor. Which was ironical - the ^(governor)~~governor~~ being that same Adlai Stevenson, who was defeated. He wasn't there, as those electors cast ballots with G O P cheers. Governor Stevenson is on his way back from Washington, where he attended the Gridiron Club Dinner Saturday night.

There was irony in Oklahoma, too - where State electors began by taking a loyalty oath. This - in accordance with a law passed recently. They had hardly taken the oath, when the news came. A bulletin from Washington - stating that the Supreme Court had found the loyalty oath - unconstitutional. The high tribunal decided that the whole thing was framed in terms much too broad, and tossed it out. But the news didn't arrive in time, in Oklahoma - to keep the electors from taking the unconstitutional oath.

In Missouri, the Republican electors were a bit subdued - although they started out ~~with~~ with the

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biggest hoopla of all. In their excessive jubilation, they staged a "steak and champagne party", Saturday night - and tried something really picturesque. They threw the celebration in a great cave near Stanton, Missouri - far in the depths of a subterranean cavern. But, right in the middle of the "steak and champagne festivities, the lights of the cave blew out, blew a fuse. So there they were, in pitch black darkness - deep in the bowels of the earth. The lights never did get switched on - and the electors had to stumble their way out, lighting matches, not so comfortable - picking your steps out of an inky cavern, by the light of flickering matches.

In the few states the Democrats won, the meeting of the electors was cheerless - especially in Kentucky. They carried that state by a slim seven hundred votes - which was bad enough. Then, when the Democratic electors gathered in the chamber of the state Senate at Frankfurt, they found - no heat, and it was cold in Kentucky today.

They got there early, and the legal time for the balloting was noon, so they sat around shivering - until the Kentucky Secretary of State had mercy on them. In spite of the law, he called for the balloting an hour or two in advance. Explaining: "We would have frozen by noon."

It was also cold in Florida, the thermometer below freezing - in the 'twenties. But Florida went for the G O P, and the Republicans, today, were jubilant - even about the cold. State committee chairman Harold Alexander laughed: "They said it would be a cold day in Florida before we elected a Republican President again." Well, it was a cold day in Florida - Democratic prediction correct.

DOCUMENTS

Washington had a stately ceremony today, when those treasured documents were placed in their new shrine—the declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights.

President Truman was there, and warned against the communist enemy of the liberties they set forth. Also - against the danger that we, ourselves, might suppress those liberties in the name of ~~the~~ fighting Communism.

Simultaneously, this is the occasion for a ~~RM~~ publication of progress during the past five years. The American-Jewish committee issues a report called - "The people take the lead" picturing the recent advancement of civil rights in this country.

The ceremony in Washington featured a pageant of the forty-eight states. The principal actor - Governor Albert Carvel of Delaware, that state having been the first one to ratify the Constitution, (He called the roll of the original thirteen, in the order of ratification. Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey

and Georgia.

Last on the list - Rhode Island. That smallest of the states was the stubborn one, refusing to ratify until two-and-a-half years after the document was adopted. But then, Rhode Island was always a bit of a maverick.

~~As the name of each state was called, its flag was carried along the aisle - continuing with those later ones in the order of their admission to the union.~~

President Truman said the historic documents are now guarded - even from the ravages of time. The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights - will be intact and legible for a thousand years.

They're in glass cases, air tight -- protection against dust and moisture. The cases are filled with helium - instead of air. The oxygen of the atmosphere is an active chemical, causing changes. But helium is inert. Inactive - changeless.

Well, there are not many documents older than a thousand years - although some of the parchment and velum of the early Middle Ages does survive. As for the writings of antiquity, the miracle is in Egypt. Ancient Egyptian writings, on papyrus - preserved under the dry sand of the desert for thousands of years.

Our own historic national documents are on paper, comparatively perishable - but the resources of science have been enlisted to keep them intact. There - in that shrine in Washington.

PARIS

Over in Paris, they had a wild traffic snarl today - and any traveler will tell you that Parisian traffic can be one bewildering, terrifying maze of automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles, horse cabs, and what not. Today, it was enough to terrify the wild beasts into submission.

They were having a circus, with a menagerie performing - when the tent collapsed. The big top came down, knocked over the animal cage, and everything went haywire. *3 seals, two hyenas, 4 bears, 4 wolves* Two lions, ~~three tigers, four bears,~~ ~~two hyenas, four wolves, and three seals~~ escaped - and went dashing out along the boulevard.

You can imagine the uproar - what happened to the traffic on a busy street. Everything ~~is~~ flying in all directions. The circus people were ~~fixing~~ afraid they'd have to stage a wild animal hunt and shoot the menagerie. But - not at all. When the wild animals got to the traffic snarl, they were ~~fixing~~ frightened out of their ~~fixing~~ senses. They crouched against curbstones, cowering, trying to hide. All

they wanted was a chance to get back to their cages for protection. So there was a quick easy round-up.

The only exception was an old lion. He went ambling majestically into the subway, going down the subway stairs. ^{There Nelson,} ~~Then~~ the animal trainers caught up with him, and led him back to the circus. *The majestic old lion,*