

CONVICT

C.I. - P. G. Friday, Oct. 28, 1949.

A manhunt in Delaware - and a strange episode. Six heavily armed convicts hiding in the woods - and two of them sent a message into Wilmington that they would surrender if the real reason for their escape were made public.

The message went ~~in~~ to a newspaper, which sent a veteran police reporter, John J. Kerrigan, to meet the fugitives in a secret hideout they named.

They told him that they had broken out of prison because of bad conditions -- bad food, bad discipline. One convict said he could have bought a loaded pistol from a guard for one hundred dollars.

~~Well, their story, <sup>has been</sup> made public - but at last reports there had been no surrender.~~

The latest, the two convicts who made the offer to surrender have kept their word. They have just given up to the Delaware State Police.

DENFELD

At the Pentagon Building in Washington today, a crowd of two hundred and fifty sailors and Waves jammed into the office of the Chief of Naval Operations. Which was most unusual - because enlisted men and women do not usually go pushing into the sanctum of the highest commanding officer of the Navy. But they were there, conveying sympathy and loyalty of the rank and file to Admiral Denfeld, who was ousted yesterday from his post. The Admiral addressed them, and told them - "Nobody can stop the Navy from coming out on top."

The sailors looked grim, while some of the Waves were sobbing. Then <sup>he</sup> ~~the Admiral~~ spoke words of bitterness.

~~He said: "It's perfectly all right, if they want me out."~~

~~But~~ <sup>and</sup> he noted that his dismissal was not ordered until, in

the Admiral's own words - "Congress went home." ~~Their justification~~

~~A reflection of the fact, by the way, that the ousted Chief of Naval Operations has some mighty strong support in Congress.~~

Later on Admiral Denfeld left his office, and went to another office in the Pentagon Building, that of Secretary

of the Navy Matthews. His mission <sup>there</sup> was to be informed that he was being removed from his post, ordered to other duties.

(It was Secretary Matthews who asked President Truman for permission to replace Denfeld. And today he was asked - why had the dismissal been announced before the Admiral had been told about it? The Secretary replied that he had not informed the Admiral yesterday, because he had only received an answer from President Truman today. It was the President yesterday who gave out the news - that he had agreed to the ouster. Anyway, Denfeld heard about it first from an aide, who had seen the news on a press wire.) ~~There~~

There was a thirty minute conference between Matthews and Denfeld today, and when it was over, the Secretary said that everything had been friendly and pleasant. He ~~said~~ <sup>(declared)</sup> that Admiral Denfeld, being transferred to other duty, could select any other post that he pleased. He said he told the Admiral that he could - write his own ticket. To which Denfeld replied that he wanted time to think it over. When he left the meeting,

he had a grim look on his face, and told the reporters that he hadn't made up his mind <sup>(about</sup> ~~on the subject~~ of taking over new duties. There are reports that he will resign in protest.

In congressional circles, meanwhile, indignation was boiling - with a blast from Congressman Vinson of Georgia, Chairman of the Armed Services Committee of the House. He declares that the Truman Administration gave pledges that, during the congressional inquiry into charges made by naval officers, Navy witnesses would be free to speak frankly - without being punished. He says that this pledge has been violated, and that Admiral Denfeld has had to "walk the plank," because of testimony he gave. Chairman Vinson said bluntly that this issue will come up in Congress at the next session.

The Congressional complaints are answered by Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson, who ~~admits that he, himself, guaranteed there would be no reprisals against naval officers who testified at the inquiry. But he~~ denies that the dismissal of Denfeld is a reprisal. He says the pledge did not

mean that there would be no changes in the set-up of the naval command. To which Johnson added that he will replace any officer who, in his words, "lacks the qualifications."

The Washington report is that there will be a full scale shake-up in the command of the Navy, the Denfeld ouster being only the first move in a general housecleaning.

## CRASH

There is no explanation whatever for the tragic air disaster in the Azores today. A great liner of Air France, bound for New York with forty-eight persons aboard, radioed that the airport was in sight, and the plane would come in immediately for a landing. Then silence - and no sign of the airliner.

A little later, people of a village at the base of a thirty-six hundred foot peak, reported that they had heard the motors of a plane - then, an explosion. An air search was immediately made, and the wreckage was spotted on the slopes of a cloud-covered mountain - and the first report was that some passengers were alive. But that turned out to be a false hope. When ground parties reached the scene, it was found that all ~~lives~~ had been lost.

One of the <sup>victims</sup> ~~victims~~ is the boxer Marcel Cerdan, who was on his way to the United States to fight Jake LaMotta for the middleweight championship. He perished with all the others, of whom thirteen were Americans, business and professional men.



He says that ~~at the White House~~ the Roosevelts missed the ~~real~~ real meaning of Madame Chiang Kai-shek's gesture of cutting the John L. Lewis throat. He explains that the lady from China was only trying to be a polite guest. In the words of Lewis: "She merely tried to reply in a way most pleasing to her American hosts."

Now, John, they really wouldn't want to do that to you - not at the White House -- or would they?



## ALASKA

The mournful news from Alaska last night now becomes a wail of anguish. We heard how the gold rush at Fishwheel was turning into disillusion - so listen to this dispatch that came through today. It states that one of the nuggets, the finding of which started the boom, turns out to be - brass. This is announced by a geologist, Richard Ragle, of the University of Alaska, who has examined some of the nuggets.

Last night the suspicion was expressed by old-time prospectors, that the whole thing was a hoax, a fake perpetrated by parties who would profit from a boom. It ~~is~~ was told how certain individuals at Fishwheel were meeting ~~their~~ plane-loads of incoming gold seekers, and showing them nuggets they said they had found - thereby whipping up the gold fever to a frenzy.

Today the geologist at the University of Alaska says that a couple of the nuggets sent to him for examination, showed signs of being, what he calls - "pocket worn." That is, they were smoothed down from being carried in a poke for several

months. Which fits in with the idea of somebody using the same bits of gold over and over - displaying them, and making propaganda. But the worst comes in the statement from the geologist, that one of the nuggets is made of - brass. That's the cruelest blow of all! You'd think that a rogue mean enough to fake a stampede for treasure, would at least use actual gold - not brass!

(A sad story, brother sourdoughs. But, even after the disclosure today, some of the gold seekers were still not convinced - up there at Fishwheel on the Yukon, which has become a boom town with miles of tents along the river. Some of the more foolish are still searching along the ~~bank~~ banks of the Yukon, dreaming dreams of gold.)

There is just one bright spot in this dark picture - news from Anchorage. That Alaskan town, ~~which is quite a~~ <sup>is a long way</sup> distance from Fishwheel, ~~is the nearest point to what could be~~ <sup>point</sup> called civilization. ~~Anchorage has a few thousand~~ <sup>some</sup> ~~people~~ <sup>5 or 6</sup> ~~quite a metropolis,~~ ~~although it's a bit on the rough side, and we hear that~~

~~Anchorage has derived considerable benefit from the gold boom~~  
~~at Fishwheel.~~ Today the chief-of-police in Anchorage said that,  
usually, he has to throw from ten to twenty persons into jail  
every day - but not one during the past few days, not a single  
crime committed. He explains that all the law-breakers of  
Anchorage have gone to Fishwheel for the boom.

~~There's gold in them them hills, or there's~~  
~~suckers in them them treasure hunters.~~

PRECEDE RECORDING

At the C.B.S. news room, they've been having a laugh at one angle of those broadcasts we made in Tibet. Playing through the recordings, they've noted what a large and pervasive interest we displayed - on the subject of food, ~~dinner-time,~~ the grub. They say that <sup>yours truly</sup> ~~Lowell, Junior,~~ who flew bombers in the Air Force during the War, was echoing the old Army war-cry -- when do we eat? And <sup>I guess my Dad</sup> ~~I must admit that I, myself,~~ had that same topic in mind a large part of the time. During a hard day of caravan travel, at altitudes of <sup>fourteen,</sup> ~~fifteen~~ thousand feet and over, you sure can work up an appetite.

Well, our dinner at times included Tibetan yak butter and tea, and a stew of yak - local fare added to what we took along - quite an assortment. But this ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ confession of good appetite might as well be documented by one of the broadcast recordings we made over there on the roof-of-the-world. <sup>Pop</sup> ~~I~~ certainly must have had the appetite of <sup>a yak</sup> ~~that~~ that day, when, at a Tibetan village a few weeks ago, <sup>he</sup> I had the following to say: We are back in Tibet for a moment now.

FOLLOW RECORDING

So that's the complicated way we dined in Tibet.

But <sup>my Dad</sup> I lost a lot of weight before <sup>we</sup> I got back - thanks to that ~~episode~~ <sup>episode</sup> ~~accident~~ on the way <sup>out,</sup> ~~back~~ and the ordeal along the trail through the Himalayas. Which, by the way, is the subject of a joke in the current issue of the New Yorker. That sophisticated magazine quotes the New York Herald Tribune as saying: "Bearers <sup>(carried)</sup> ~~carrying~~ his litter in teams of four, chanting 'Oh Lord Buddha, lighten our load!' Mr. Thomas said he lost fifteen pounds during the experience."

To which quotation the New Yorker remarks: "You can't say Buddha isn't right on the ball."

Just as Nelson Case always is.