

L.T.-OLDS, FISHER. THURSDAY, OCT. 24, 1963

(Richard C. Hottelet)

GOOD EVENING:

In politics, east went west today and west came east - but somehow the twain seemed to move a bit closer together. Senator Barry Goldwater - in Hartford, Connecticut, for a ~~quote~~ "non-political speaking engagement", told reporters that a man would be a damn liar if he said he would not accept the presidential nomination. However, he maintained he was not officially working for it.

Out in Los Angeles, Governor Nelson Rockefeller said he had made up his mind - but would not say how. He promised the announcement early next month. And he threw another challenge at Mr. Goldwater to debate the issues.

## OPERATION BIG LIFT

The United States Air Force today turned in the record of an unprecedented performance today - one which will leave its mark on world strategy. It completed Operation Big Lift - the transport of the entire manpower of the Second Armored Division to Germany - in less than the seventy-two hours allotted. The Division will move into the field for maneuvers against the U.S. Third Armored Division next week. By coincidence, Soviet and East German Communist forces are holding maneuvers of their own just across the Iron Curtain.

## BRITAIN

Britain's Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home wasn't on hand to hear it, but Parliament closed today with a political blast at the Conservative Party and its new leader. As legislators assembled for the closing ceremonies, Labor Leader Harold Wilson taunted the Conservative Government for being unable to present its new leader in the House of Commons. Wilson also accused the new Prime Minister of stupefying arrogance for postponing the date of the next parliamentary session until November twelfth, which gives Sir Alec time to run for a seat in the House of Commons in a special election on November Seventh. The Prime Minister was expected to watch the proceedings from a public gallery, but he was busy preparing for his quick campaign trip to Scotland.

## QUADRUPLETS

A milestone in a young couple's life -- quadruplets last night for Mr. and Mrs. Martin Becker of New York. Says father -- "I kept thinking -- three weddings, four college educations. What am I going to do?" Said his ninety pound, four foot ten inch school teacher wife - she wants more children to keep the three girls and one boy company.

## MOROCCO

Conflicting reports from that border war between Algeria and Morocco, each side claiming today that the other has been pushed back. But whatever the situation along the frontier, Algeria's President Ahmed Ben Bella says he has received one bit of pleasant news. He says the Berber rebels, those in rebellion against him earlier this month, agreed to join forces with his government to fight the Moroccans. The Berber fighters are scheduled to be on the battlefront by tomorrow.

Now word from Dick Noel.

INTRO. TO L.T.

Tonight we have Lowell Thomas' last report from  
Australia, a look at modern ramifications of an ancient industry.  
Lowell.....



DARWIN V

HELLO DICK, GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Before I mention anything else I'd like to salute Art Linkletter. Whoever dreamed that I would cross Art's trail here in northern Australia where for one thing he's been trying to introduce the growing of rice on a large scale in addition to taking over a huge cattle station. Here's to you, Art.

By the way, are you interested in pearls? I wonder who isn't. For a hundred years or so the quest for pearls made this north-northwest coast of Australia one of the most exciting parts of the world. Why in one day a lucky owner of a pearling lugger could make a fortune. One big pearl with the right lustre, might bring as much as fifty or sixty thousand dollars. The waters where they were found -- they extend for some two thousand miles along the coast of this fascinating continent, with Thursday Island at one end to the East, and

Broome at the other end far to the West.

There are thousands of graves of unlucky pearl divers at Broome. For most of the pearl diving was done in the day before there were any decompression chambers, and if a diver went too deep and came up with the bends, it was just too bad, and there were always other men waiting to step into his suit and go down.

If a lugger came in with a dead man or two on board, why they gave him or them a big funeral and then the pals - they all got drunk and the game went on.

The divers, most of them Japanese and Malays, were only allowed ashore for a distance of a hundred yards beyond the high tide mark. In that narrow strip they lived in their shacks and quite a life it was.

This went on until World War Two. By then cultured pearls were coming on in a big way on the market, and they began to play havoc with pearling. Then for a few more years



there was a lesser boom in pearl shell, for knife handles, clock and watch faces, and for instruments and so on - and buttons. Then synthetics spoiled all that. And Broome? It's nearly a ghost town now.

However, the growing of cultured pearls here on the north Australian coast seems to be booming. That's a scientific operation. They grow them on wooden platforms that they lower into the waters off this coast - done with much less labor and almost no danger. Except for the danger of getting shot. Greeks are in it now, and in recent months Japanese raiders, at night, have been trying to put them out of business. The number one Greek in this new pearl world went to Japan and learned how it was done. Apparently he did it secretly. Also, he married a Japanese. And lately he has installed flood lights so that he can spot marauders who try to wreck his pearl beds. They are at a place called Kure, eighty miles from Broome.

So there's still excitement along the Australian  
pearl coast.

As is true in nearly every region where men live  
lawless lives, women are involved. Ah, but that's another  
story.

Solong,