

Thurs. Dec. 1 - '49

The mystery of the personality of John L. Lewis is a greater puzzle than ever tonight - after the way that mine union chief ended the coal strike today. He called it off a mere few hours after the walkout had begun. The miners are ordered back to the coal pits on Monday, to work on a schedule of three days a week - the schedule on which they were working before.

But why the strike - so quickly cancelled? Did Lewis change his mind suddenly about tying up the coal industry - at Christmas time? Or what?

The deadline for a walk-out was last midnight. When a previous truce expired;- and on each of three days, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Lewis gathered the policy committee of the United Mine Workers, apparently to continue the truce. But on each day, nothing happened - the mere silence causing the walkout last night.

Then, what happened today? Once again, the committee met, and it took just twenty minutes for Lewis to call off the strike. If the idea was to bewilder the

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the public, it's a success.

Maybe Lewis likes the adjective that newsmen are applying to him - unpredictable. If so, he certainly has earned the compliment.

## FLOODS

The weather continues to harass the Pacific northwest - with floods threatening to isolate Vancouver. One storm followed by another storm, and the latest news pictures a flooding of rivers across wide areas in British Columbia. ~~▲▲~~ Bridges collapsing, thousands of acres of rich farmlands inundated - and Vancouver may be cut off by the swirl of the waters.

Far down the line, the coast of southern California - a fog so heavy that a steamship ran aground today on Santa Rosa island. The ship leaking badly, but there seems little danger of any loss of life.



## ITALY

The general strike in Italy was a fiasco today. The Communist dominated unions called out four million workers, as a protest against the killing of two Reds in south Italian disturbances. The strike was about twenty-five per cent effective, a million workers quitting their jobs for the day. The idea was to tie up the country for twenty-four hours; and a number of factories were tied up. But in most places activities were normal.

On Broadway they'd call it - a flop. But the Italians have their own word for it - fiasco.



## YUGOSLAVIA

The big Yugoslav trial began today, with eleven defendants accused of doing spy work for Stalin. Actually, they are former White Russians, and are also said to have collaborated with the Nazis during the war. But, according to the story, they made their peace with Moscow by establishing contacts with Soviet espionage and agreeing to work as secret agents against the regime of Red Marshall Tito. Eleven are on trial - after one committed suicide. This anti-Stalin Red trial is held in competition with anti-Tito Red trials in the realms of the faithful satellites - and brings the Tito-Stalin feud to a new climax.

## NEW ZEALAND

At Wellington, New Zealand today, the Labor Party had a meeting, and it was no cheerful get-together - not after yesterday's election. A noisy quarrel broke out between right wing and left wing - each blaming the other for the defeat at the polls. The right wingers charged that the voters turned against the Labor ~~XXXXXX~~ Government because of strikes fomented by the left wingers.

But most political observers explain that the New Zealand public just became tired of Labor Government Socialism, with its endless regulations and irksome restrictions.

( Conservative leader Sydney ~~de~~ Holland, prime-minister-elect, campaigned on a program of free enterprise, but says the new regime will not make any revolutionary changes. They'll cut taxes and cancel no end of bureaucratic restrictions - but they will not abolish welfare benefits, social security, and the national health program. This is pretty much the same as the stand taken by the Conservative Party in Great Britain.

## CHINA

In China, the word from Chengtu is that plans are being made to evacuate unessential people. Which is a telling sign of how hard things are going for the Chinese Nationalists. Having fled from their capital of Chungking only a couple of days ago and taken refuge at Chengtu, far to the west, they are not sure how long they can stay in that place. Late reports place the Chinese Red Army only <sup>one</sup>/hundred and sixteen miles away. But where ~~will~~ will they go from Chengtu? The only answer is -- a flight further to the West. But that eventually would take them to Turkistan, which is Soviet Russian territory.



## TIBET

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Here's the dispatch, ~~sent by the Associated~~ *Press,*  
~~and N.Y. Times correspondents,~~  
*Press* from Moscow: "The Soviet Weekly, New Times, says  
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that American radio commentator Lowell Thomas was sent  
to Tibet by the U. S. Government to try to tear that  
country away from China and turn it into an Anglo-  
American colony."

The New Times, has a high position in Red foreign affairs, and the Moscow dispatch goes on to quote that publication as saying: "Thomas was given a very important role by the U. S. Government, when he made his recent visit to the High Lama of Tibet." *W* So there we have it — ~~you're really~~ accused by Moscow of being a deep dark conspirator<sup>s</sup> sent by the government in Washington to

One drift of international thinking was shown at the U N tonight, when the Chinese delegation gave warning that Mao Tse-Tung would not become a second Marshall Tito. The Chinese Reds would not emulate the Yugoslavs, and turn into rebellious puppets. Which, of course, was an indication of what the Chinese think about the mentality of the West - and the temptation to believe that a Communist China will not remain a mere satellite of Moscow. The Chinese delegation to the U.N. stated that the leaders of the Chinese Reds are one hundred percent Stalinist -- and, furthermore, that Soviet Russia would never permit another Tito to rise.

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arrange a secret American plot.

Well, do I have to say that this is an utter falsehood - that when I left for Tibet I had no preliminary consultation whatever with the Government in Washington?

Why, I even forgot one thing I might have done as ordinary politeness. I might have asked President Truman

if he wanted to send some kind of gift to ~~officials of~~ the Dalai Lama. ~~--- according to ancient oriental custom. traveller is expected to do if he is so fortunate as to be allowed to enter Tibet.~~ But here's the part of it so exceedingly

transparent. We had the origins of that Tibetan trip on the air, as they developed. The whole thing was about as private as a gold fish bowl.

Last summer, when my sponsors, Proctor and Gamble, gave me a vacation, my first vacation in nineteen years, I said on this program I didn't know what to do with myself - and would try to figure out something special. I thought of a trip to Tibet, the Forbidden City of Lhasa - because I had dreamed of it for many long years. It's a classic with every traveler. The journey that only a few have been permitted to make.

I was utterly surprised when I succeeded - in

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getting permission, an invitation, from the Dalai Lama's government. So surprised, I was afraid it might all be cancelled - if I talked about it, if there was any publicity. So, on this program, I merely said I was going to some special destination, and I didn't feel I should mention where - until ~~we were~~ <sup>we were</sup> actually on ~~my~~ <sup>our</sup> way, ~~ready to cross the Himalayas,~~ <sup>ready to cross the Himalayas,</sup> The secret, referred to repeatedly on this program, was kept until our caravan into Tibet was ~~on its way~~ <sup>about to leave Bengal.</sup> Then, W.R. who was ~~for me that night,~~ <sup>for me that night,</sup> Ed Murrow, broadcasting ~~in my place~~ <sup>in my place</sup> disclosed our real destination to the radio audience.

Actually, my son and I had no information about why we were invited to Lhasa. Right now we are writing the story for Collier's magazine - how we didn't know ~~definitely, until we got there.~~ <sup>How when we got to the Forbidden City</sup> ~~we found the Dalai Lama's~~ government interested in having the American public know ~~more about Tibet - - and also how they told us~~ <sup>more about Tibet - - and also how they told us</sup> of the Communist danger that ~~faces Tibet. threatens~~ <sup>their country.</sup> ~~How serious that danger,~~ <sup>how right the Tibetans were,</sup> - is made ~~clearer~~ <sup>clearer</sup> by this latest Moscow fabrication, saying that we were sent to Lhasa by the United States Government in a conspiracy to seize Tibet. <sup>Kremlin is</sup> It looks as if the ~~conspiracy~~

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reaching around wildly,  
cooking up excuses for a Chinese Red invasion, ~~and were~~

Trying to make our trip to Lhasa, ~~as~~ another pretext, - ~~by~~

<sup>our Tibetan journey</sup>  
interpreting ~~it~~ as an American plot, ~~it~~ shows

how reckless the Reds in Moscow  
are - how little regard they have  
for the truth.



## MISSING

Over in Germany, there's an umbrella manufacturer who has identified - Prince Otto Wilhelm Von Hohenzollern. He thinks he recognizes the New Orleans version of the youngest son of the late Kaiser Wilhelm, German emperor in the First World War. The umbrella manufacturer thinks the prince may be his own son, who disappeared in the war.

The headlines in the affair began two weeks ago, when a wedding was announced -- Virginia Kirk of New Orleans marrying that alleged illustrious member of the royal House of Prussia. But disillusion followed promptly - when the Hohenzollern family branded the prince as an imposter, a fraud, ~~and he~~ <sup>Whereupon the Hohenzollern prince</sup> promptly disappeared -- hasn't been seen since. ~~The newspapers~~ <sup>newspapers</sup> ~~at~~ New Orleans are inclined to think that his royal highness is really a burglar from Washington, D. C. who is wanted in the national capital for theft and house-breaking.

However, a news account with pictures made its way to Germany, to the old town of Bamberg, and there it

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was seen by the manufacturer of umbrellas. He said it was a picture of his son; and, his family confirms the impression - the son having been a soldier in the German Army, reported killed in action when the Americans invaded Normandy. They think he must have been made a prisoner-of-war, and must have been taken to the United States. Also, he must be suffering from amnesia, loss of memory - otherwise the son of the umbrella manufacturer of Bamberg would not marry a lady at New Orleans by passing himself off as Prince Otto Wilhelm Von Hohenzollern, son of the Kaiser of World War One. So says the Bamberg umbrella man.

## CHRISTMAS STAR

During the past couple of nights, quite a few people have been out at the hours between midnight and dawn, looking at a star. It shines with a brilliant gleam in the southeastern sky - and, in a way, we can call it a fraction of the "Star of Bethlehem."

Actually, it's two planets, Mars and Saturn, which right now are so close together in the heavens that their orbs have merged, and they seem to be one star. That's the way they will be for the next couple of days. Which is something to see, but it's not what you might call the Star of Bethlehem complete.

Back in the year Sixteen Hundred and Four, the great astronomer Keppler, ~~was~~ watching the skies, ~~and~~ ~~he~~ spied a merging of planets. Mars and <sup>(Saturn)</sup>~~Neptune~~, as is the case tonight - but also a third planet, Jupiter. Much rarer, and much more brilliant. Keppler made calculations of the motions of the three planets, and figured that they would come together every eight hundred years. Which indicated that it happened about the beginning of the Christian era, about the time of the



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birth of the Savior, Mars, ~~Neptune~~ <sup>Saturn</sup> and Jupiter ~~will~~  
merged in the sky - to make one great gleaming star. So  
maybe that was the Star of Bethlehem which attracted the  
shepherds on the night of good cheer and drew the Wise  
Men from the East.

The merging of the three planets won't occur  
again until about the year Twenty-Four Hundred - and  
tonight, with Mars and ~~Neptune~~ <sup>Saturn</sup> only, we have what might  
be called, two-thirds of the **S**tar of Bethlehem.

## FISHING VESSEL

At Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, they're talking about an exploit in the rage of the tempest and the lashing sea. An American fishing boat wrecked - but all hands got ashore, including the ships cat.

The hero - sailor Robert Roy, who certainly showed the old salt of the sea, when the craft was driven onto the rocks of Nova Scotia. The crew of seven lowered a boat - but the boat was swept away by the wind and waves. They lowered another - also blown away before anybody could get aboard. But sailor Robert Roy took an improvised raft, and went after the drifting boat. He found it beached on an island nearby, and went rowing back through the gale. The crew rigged up a crude kind of breeches buoy, and Rob Roy took the lead in stringing that to the shore.

So all seven were saved - and, when Rob Roy went ashore, he had the ship's cat perched on his shoulder.

## RAILROAD

In Iowa, they've solved the mystery of - the slow freight. On the Northwestern Railroad, it was noted that it took a freight-car two hours to travel two miles. So how come?

The sleuthing was done by a conservation officer, Louis Lemke, who hid in ambush, at a point along the railroad outside the town of Anamosa. <sup>There</sup> ~~and~~ he waited and watched.

Pretty soon along came a locomotive and a string of box cars, rattling at a lively speed. But then the train slowed down, and from the open doors of box cars the trainmen proceeded to shoot rabbits and quail. It's good hunting out there in Iowa - and, from a box car, you could do things with a shotgun, Then jump off and retrieve the game.

The conservation officer flagged down the train, investigated, and found nine rabbits and three quail. The secret of - the slow freight.

And now Nelson would you like  
4 to pull a rabbit out of a hat?