

L.T.-OLDS. MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1962

(L.T. on South Sea Islands, Antarctica, Asia, Europe trip. Bc. given by Doug Edwards of CBS.)

GOOD EVENING :

President Kennedy appeared on nationwide radio and television tonight and told the American people he thinks it's "going to be some time before it's possible to come to any real understanding with Soviet Premier Khrushchev." In an unusual interview, summing up his first two years in office, the President said that, if this country had to make a choice, the policies of Premier Khrushchev are definitely preferable to those of the Chinese Communists.

He also said there could be a long period of peace between the United States and Russia if it were not for Soviet efforts to communize the world, and the war policies of the Red Chinese. The Chief Executive, in his interview with CBS White House news correspondent George Herman and representatives

of ABC and NBC, covered a broad range of subjects, but the emphasis showed his preoccupation with the international situation. He thought it was more important than ever that leaders in both the East and the West, understand each other clearly without the danger of a miscalculation which might plunge the world into a nuclear conflict. He also wrote off for the foreseeable future any real chance of an international inspection system for disarmament or a nuclear test ban. For the time being, he said, the aerial camera "is actually going to be our best inspector."

The President also expressed doubt that the United States would get its money's worth from the controversial Skybolt missile, despite British protests that the program should be continued.

THOMAS MITCHELL

Famed actor Thomas Mitchell died today in Beverley Hills, California, at the age of seventy, after a lengthy illness. A veteran of scores of motion pictures and TV performances, Mitchell perhaps will be best remembered for his role as Scarlett O'Hara's father in "Gone With The Wind."

INTRO. TO L.T.

Lowell Thomas is still in the Antarctic, and I want to ask him a question. Lowell, why haven't you told us anything about that fabulous bird, the Penguin?

PENGUIN

Hello Everybody:

Why have I said nothing about the Penguin, that most amusing of all birds? Because I didn't get acquainted with them until today. Once you do meet them, you are reluctant to come away, for they are Nature's number one clowns. I have just come from a penguin rookery, a colony of three or four thousand, at Cape Royds, where Sir Ernest Shackleton made his headquarters on the Antarctic coast. Here we visited the wooden huts once occupied by Scott and Shackleton; all much as they were when the British explorers were here fifty years ago. Blankets on the bunks, food on the stoves, supplies on the shelves, note books, magazines and newspapers on the tables; even their Antarctic clothing. You are asked not to take anything away, not even move it. Actually, it was only recently dug out

of the snow.

To get back to the penguins -- we found a British scientist and his assistant staying here in the Shackleton hut, making a study of the Adelie penguin, the most numerous variety. There are seventeen different kinds of penguin in the Antarctic; the Adelie being the one you usually see in pictures, formal white shirt front and all that, not over two feet tall; weighs only about ten pounds. The largest is the Emperor, eight or nine times the size of the Adelie, but not so numerous.

This is the breeding season and while we were there they were either on their nests, or off in search of mates - - waddling about, paying little attention to us, except to scold us if we stepped too close to a nest.

At a nearby New Zealand base, there are fifty-seven scientists and maintenance people, who

depend on the U.S. Navy for their supplies. As at our bases, the young scientists study biology, geology, meteorology, the physics of the upper atmosphere, seismology, the aurora, and the behaviour of penguins. They have taken penguin to other parts of the Antarctic, to points several thousands of miles away, banded them and released them. Whereupon the penguin found their way home through the sea. Although they don't fly, they are expert swimmers, and it's exciting to see them leap from the sea onto the ice, and then amble away with that amusing penguin waddle.

So far as I know, the penguin has only two enemies. The sea around the Antarctic is rich with plankton on which small crustaceans feed. These in turn are devoured by fish and squid, and they in turn provide the diet for the penguin and for the Antarctic seal. But the sea leopard eats the penguin. Then, there is the killer whale, with its tremendous dorsal fin and head

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shaped like a large dolphin's. Not only are the penguin the quarry of the killer whale, but this demon of the Antarctic also goes after the sea leopard, and will tackle a man if given half a chance. Want a buy a penguin, Dick?

So long.

FOLLOW L.T.

Lowell, the Penguin may, on occasion, be ready to tackle a man, but I can tell you that I don't think Dick Noel will ever be willing to tackle a penguin.

So long, Lowell, and we'll be hearing from you again soon.

CUBA

An attempt appeared underway today to win freedom for more than eleven thousand Cuban invasion prisoners by Christmas. A State Department spokesman said he expects chief American negotiator James Donovan to return to Havana shortly to resume negotiations. Also, an American freighter sailed today from Baltimore to Port Everglades, Florida, where American Red Cross officials said it would stand by to pick up food and medicine that may be delivered to Havana in an exchange agreement. The mother of one of the prisoners said in Miami tonight - "All I hear sounds good."

Now, Dick, can you tell us something that "sounds good?"

MAIL

With Christmas coming on, Dick, and with your last name of Noel becoming more timely with each passing day, I can report tonight that Postmaster General Edward Day is urging the American public to send the last of its Christmas mail within the next few days to make sure of delivery before December 25th.

Day also said he has received another fan letter about the very popular Christmas stamp which the Post Office Department put on sale this year. The letter was in the form of a poem from a lady in Houston, Texas, who expressed her approval this way: "Candles -- wreath -- in red and green -- you brighten up the postal scene. A dove of peace from up above -- Dear Christmas Stamp -- you're licked with love."

Good night -- I'll be back tomorrow.