

L.T.-OLDS. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1962

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

GOOD EVENING:

The government today revived some hope that the "Relay" communications satellite, which was given up for dead after being launched earlier this month, may now get into working order after all. The Space Agency says that it ran a test on the weak-voiced satellite and there're indications that its voltage has recovered somewhat. The agency said more tests are being conducted.

KHRUSHCHEV

Soviet Premier Khrushchev today sent West German Chancellor Adenauer a stinging letter. He accused Adenauer of trying to start a world war over the Cuban crisis and warned that, if such a conflict should break out, West Germany would be "snuffed out like a candle" in the first few hours of fighting.

He also accused the Chancellor of trying to torpedo every effort by the United States and Russia toward a settlement of cold war issues, particularly those concerning Berlin.

JAKE THE BARBER

Republican National Chairman Miller today demanded assurances from President Kennedy that a campaign contribution played no part in the Christmas pardon of John -- Jake the Barber -- Factor. Miller's demand came after a check of house records showed that Factor and his wife gave political contributions to three Democratic groups in Nineteen Sixty -- allegedly amounting to twenty-two thousand dollars.

INTRO. TO L.T.

When you want to contact Lowell Thomas these days,
you have to go south of the Equator. Lowell, just what part of
the Equatorial South are you in right now?

AUSTRALIA

I am still in Australia, Doug. Hello everybody. As you can imagine, the people of this continent are much interested in the so-called population explosion about which we hear so much. And so would we, if we lived on a continent inhabited by less than eleven million people, and with teeming Asia only a few hours away by air. The Australians wonder how long they will be able to keep their continent to themselves.

In total area, Australia is about three million square miles. While much of this is in the temperate zone, approximately one million square miles of it is north of the Tropic of Capricorn. This includes a large part of Queensland; the Northern Territory, of which Darwin is the capital; and, western Australia. The exciting news now is that this is the richest part of the continent; and,

it's inhabited by only three hundred and fifty thousand people. The rest of them - - ten million, two hundred and fifty thousand Australians - - reside below the Tropic of Capricorn, in the Temperate Zone. The empire of Capricornia - Capricorn - Australia's new frontier - is "perilessly empty".

Through one part of this region runs the Kimberly Mountains, several hundred miles inland from the coast; with a rainfall of some sixty inches. Part of it, called the Ord River country, may some day produce much of the world's cotton. Also, Capricornia has vast mineral wealth; including some of the largest iron ore deposits in the world, and the largest boxite deposits.

Ever since my first visit to Australia, I have been interested in Capricornia, because it is not only the home of the aborigine, who are so primitive, but it also is the home of by far the

largest ranch in the world - or "cattle station",
I should say - Victoria Downs, it's called. Which
covers twelve thousand square miles - larger than all
of Belgium. As for the King Ranch in Texas, you could
almost lose it in one of these Capricornia cattle
stations, a number of which cover from five thousand
to seven thousand square miles, and where a thousand
square miles is an average size.

Can you imagine what your thoughts would be
if you were the owner of one of these, and if you
were watching the population explosion in nearby
Indonesia? As an Australian remarked to me - "Why,
from our northern coast you can row a canoe across
to Indonesia". In fact, one Australian did it not
long ago. And thereby hangs a tale that I'll tell
you tomorrow night.

So long.

FOLLOW L.T.

Australia really has a problem -- as you say, Lowell. But at least it's a variation on a theme, we've been hearing recently. No population explosion -- Down Under. In fact, there aren't enough Aussies to go around.

Nearly a thousand relatives of Cuban invasion prisoners held a reunion with the freed captives in Miami today in scenes of emotion and joy. At the same time, a spokesman for the American Red Cross - Roy Johnson - said that organization is making arrangements to ship more ransom goods to Cuba, and possibly provide transportation for as many as four thousand prisoners' relatives if they get permission to leave the island.

In Palm Beach, the President and Mrs. Kennedy today received six rather grave-faced representatives of the Cuban Bay of Pigs invaders. It was announced afterwards that the President himself will fly to Miami on Saturday to meet with the brigade of prisoners in the Orange Bowl stadium. Earlier in the day, Mr. Kennedy had a long meeting with Defense Secretary McNamara and the joint Chiefs-of-Staff -- considering the huge military budget for Nineteen Sixty-Four. Also, the day included an ocean cruise.

Next Tuesday, the chief executive will toss the coin that will decide the opening kick-off at the annual Orange Bowl

football game in Miami -- the crimson tide of Alabama versus Oklahoma. And may the best team win.

Here's a winner, Dick Noel, speaking for a winner.

SCIENTISTS

Well, Dick, with the Space Age very much here, and round-trip all-expenses-paid excursions to the Moon a possibility for the not too distant future, the field of science has become a very important one, indeed. So it is interesting to note that the National Science Foundation reported today that the average annual salary for more than one hundred and ten thousand American scientists during the past year was ten thousand dollars. And that's about one thousand dollars more than it was last year. However, some selected groups of scientists earned salaries higher than the average, ranging from eleven thousand to fourteen thousand dollars. But considering the salaries of some of our more famous home-run hitters, I think it's reasonable to assume that it'll be some time yet before science takes the place of baseball.

Good night, I'll be back tomorrow.