

L.T.-THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1962

(L.T. at South Sea Islands, then Antarctica and Europe. Bc. given by Doug Edwards of CBS.)

GOOD EVENING:

An explosion ripped through the world's largest coal mine near Carmichaels, Pennsylvania, today. A report from the scene quotes mine officials as saying as many as thirty-five men are trapped by the blast which occurred in the U.S. Steel Corporation's Robena Number Three mine. Special equipment was rushed to the scene by federal and state officials as the rescue operation got underway at the mine, which is located about forty miles from Pittsburgh.

CUBA

The Pentagon announces that forty-two Soviet jet bombers have been sighted aboard three Russian ships heading eastward from Cuba. The word in Washington is -- that the Russians have told American diplomats that this is ALL of the medium range jets the Soviets have sent to Castro. If this is indeed so, this would mean that Premier Khrushchev is acting well ahead of his promised deadline for the planes' removal. On November twentieth, President Kennedy said that the Soviet leader had said he would get all the planes out of Cuba within thirty days.

OVERFLIGHTS

General Gerhart, the Commander-in-Chief of the North American Defense Command, says that because of heavy air operations during the Cuban crisis a few American planes flying at high altitudes were listed for a time as "unknown aircraft." This statement was in answer to what the General called the rumors and stories about alleged Soviet flights over the southeastern United States. And he re-emphasized that no Russian aircraft of any type have flown over any part of the continental United States during or since the Cuban crisis.

INTRO. TO L.T.

Lowell Thomas is up in the air tonight -- with a lot of water down below. What's new, Lowell?

FIGS

Hello Everybody:

In going hither and yon, it's natural to wonder where other people are going, and why. Today, flying south across French Polynesia, bound for Samoa, Fiji, and New Zealand, aboard a TEAL - Tasman Empire Airways Electra, an American - probably in his forties - asked if I was on another film expedition.

Strange how some of us make a living. This chap, John Cartwright, from Fresno, California, is on his way to Western Australia to introduce something new to the economy of the Continent Down Under. He's going to start a fig plantation. Why leave California and go halfway across the world for that? It's quite a story.

At present he says the best figs in the world are grown in the San Joaquin Valley, outside

the city of Fresno. Planted by the Spaniards one hundred years ago. He says these Fresno-Merced figs bring an annual gross of about thirty million dollars, ninety-five per cent of them processed for shipping, because fresh table figs do not travel well. Other figs are grown in Greece, Turkey and Syria - but all inferior. Now the Californian Fig-growers are in trouble - all because the State of California is booming. Residential Fresno growing out into the fig orchard region. Land values, including taxes, jumping. The fig plantation people facing ruin.

After a study of climate and soil charts they concluded that the best place in the world for those who care a fig for figs, should be Western Australia.

Did Australia jump at the opportunity to stimulate the national economy by encouraging this? Not at all! They said the Californians could bring in

six little shoots. --It takes ten years for a fig tree to produce, so from six shoots you'd hardly get enough fig leaves to outfit Adam and Eve. Then finally, Australia agreed to a test, on six hundred and forty acres. It will take ten years to find out how it's going to turn out. You really have to be an optimist if you want a fig plantation. Almost as much of an optimist as I would be if I started for the South Pole wearing a fig leaf.

FOLLOW L.T.

Well, Lowell, that costume might be appropriate --
except for one thing. The Antarctic is a bit chillier, than
the Garden of Eden was supposed to have been. Remember -- Adam
and Eve never heard of fur parkas.

ENGLAND

Distressing news from Britain. A death-dealing smog tightened its grip on London's eight million people tonight, killing at the rate of at least one person every hour and crowding hospitals with patients gasping from respiratory ailments. The four-day death toll rose to at least sixty-seven in the worst smog London has had in ten years. Here at home, a wintry storm has dumped traffic-snarling snows from Lake Michigan eastward to the Appalachian Mountains. The icy blast is sending a spearhead into Dixie and threatens to slug the heavily populated Eastern seaboard with a heavy snowstorm.

TITO

President Tito of Yugoslavia and Premier Khrushchev had what was described as a frank and friendly exchange of opinion at the Kremlin today. The Tass News Agency ~~said~~ said the two leaders discussed the international situation, particularly issues pertaining to the further development of fraternal Soviet-Yugoslav relations. The foremost topic of the talks is believed to be the two countries' ideological dispute with Communist China.

As a sidelight, the New York Daily News today carried a dispatch from Moscow about the Khrushchev-Tito meeting. It carried this headline: "The Marxist Brothers -- at the opera."

And now some American-type 'show-business' from Dick Noel.

SANTA CLAUS

Well, Dick, there's a Californian in Los Angeles in the news tonight who is looking forward to his first normal Christmas in eighteen years. For that length of time this fella couldn't stand the sight of Santa Claus. When he was five years old -- as the story goes -- he was in a department store to see Santa, when he slipped and knocked himself out, cutting his head. When he came to, a crowd was staring, and there, among them, was that sweet old gentleman whose business is toys, and who somehow was associated with the accident.

A psychiatrist announces he's dug this phobia out of the fellow -- the patient will have his first normal Merry Christmas since he was five.

Goodnight everybody -- back tomorrow.