

SKAKEL SURVIVORS TELL HEROISM OF SKIPPER, CREWMEN

Twenty-One Lives Lost
When Motorship Foundered
In Caribbean Sea.

San Juan, Puerto Rico, Oct. 2.—(AP)—A captain who went down with his ship, a radio operator who died after reassuring his mates that help was en route, a seaman who bled to death from the attack of a shark—these were among the incidents related today by the 12 survivors of the motorship Ethel Skakel, formerly the Libby of Maine, which sank in 10 minutes during a Caribbean storm.

Twenty men died when the Ethel Skakel foundered or in the subsequent two-day battle for survival against the wind-whipped sea. The survivors, 10 of them in sick bay, arrived here late last night aboard a coast guard cutter after navy destroyers aided by seaplanes had picked them off bits of wreckage.

Carrying Steel Parts
The 1,811-ton wooden ship, laden with steel rails from Los Angeles for San Juan, ran into heavy weather which damaged her steering gear last Thursday morning, the survivors said.

From that moment onward, this is their narrative of cumulative heroism and horror:

While attempting to switch from the electric to hand steering gear, First Mate Harry Christensen and Chief Engineer H. Little were injured and were taken below to their bunks. They never were seen again, for almost immediately the Ethel Skakel settled into the sea as if she had no bottom. The time was 9:10 a. m.

Third Mate Francis Holmes, on watch, had no time to lower even a single lifeboat. Quickly he slashed the lines of one boat in a forlorn hope, but it banged against the bridge housing and fell bottomside up in the raging sea.

Captain Hans Blerd, who narrowly escaped the blow from the lifeboat, stood at the bridge rail. That was the last any of his crew saw of him, for the whole bridge and deck housing were carried away by the storm.

Hurled Into Sea
Those men on deck were hurled into the sea, grasping at any bit of wreckage which offered support. Two reached the capsized lifeboat, but could get no grip on it and were carried away.

Radio Operator Harold Corson, of Pems Grove, N. J., who sent out an SOS in the 10 minutes his radio shack remained in existence, clung to a floating bit of debris and shouted to his half-drowned companions:

"Don't worry. I contacted four merchantmen and the coast guard and they are all coming."

Then Corson, too, dropped from sight in the frothy black waters. For all his cherry message, the men on the wreckage were discouraged. They were 375 miles from San Juan—many hours from the nearest rescuer.

The wreckage and the men on it were scattered by the waves. Some of the men, through the murk of Thursday afternoon, saw a navy plane overhead. It passed on, and they despaired.

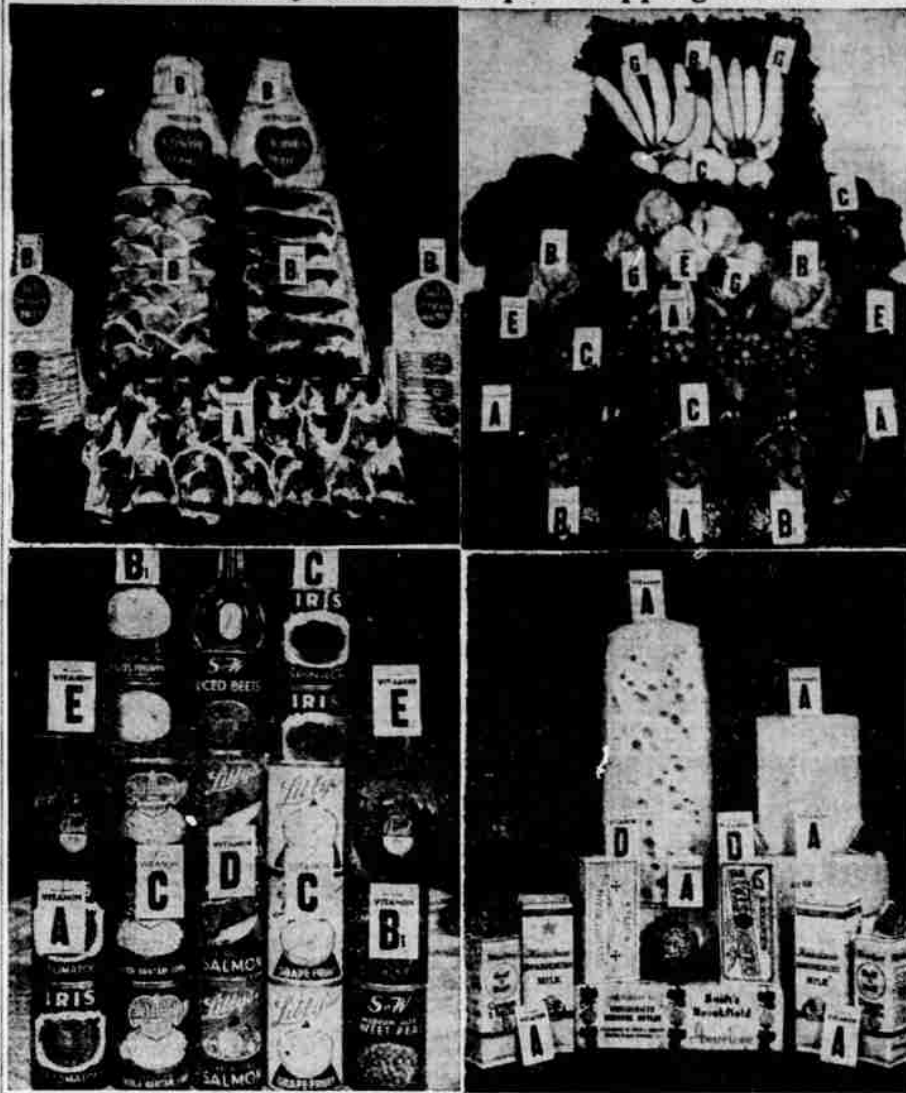
As time dragged on, one man insisted he saw a beautiful shore only a few hundred yards distant, and abandoned his crude raft to swim toward it. The nearest land was 120 miles away.

Another seaman named "Scotty" bled to death after a shark or a carnivorous tropical fish ripped half the flesh off his leg.

Plane Calls Ship
The first rescue was made at 1 a. m. on Saturday by a destroyer called up by the navy plane.

Clinging feebly to their bit of flotsam, Third Mate Holmes and seaman Howard Tanaka, a Hawaiian-born Japanese, saw

Vitamins Keynote of Unique Shopping Service



Vitamin-conscious Medford and Rogue River valley people will be interested in the unique food shopping service just initiated by the Big "Y" Super Market of this city. Based upon information furnished by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Home Economics at Washington, D. C., the Big "Y" has devised this innovation in food selection, making it possible for the housewife to readily plan her balanced vitamin menu.

The subject of vitamins and their effect upon the health of the individual has been a subject of great interest. Science has found that lack of certain vitamins, obtainable through the food used daily has considerable effect upon the health of the individual person. The Big "Y" Market, in introducing the new

the fingers of the destroyers' searchlights raking the water. Sometimes it came close, while their hearts pounded, sometimes it ranged farther away. Finally the light shifted about and caught the two men directly in its beams.

Saturday morning, in daylight, other destroyers picked up eleven more men. One of them died of exhaustion almost immediately.

The search continued until Sunday night, but not another survivor could be found, not even a spar or grating large enough to hold a man.

The 12 survivors were brought here last night, suffering from exposure to sun and storm and some injuries, but all were expected to pull through. Almost all said they expected to go to sea again.

Tank Cars in Use.
Portland, Oct. 2.—(AP)—For the first time in 10 years, yardmen report long lines of empty oil tank cars no longer crowd tracks along N. W. St. Helens road here. The number this week dwindled to 30 as the cars were pressed into service to carry fuel to inland points.

Weather
Northern California: Continued clear with little change in temperature in heat or humidity tonight and Friday; fresh northwesterly winds south of Point Reyes; moderate northerly northward.

Worker Electrocuted
Stapton, Ore., Oct. 2.—(AP)—John Dawes, 40, was electrocuted yesterday while working on a roof at Mill City. He had slipped and instinctively grabbed a high voltage wire. A widow and two children survive.

service locally is offering nothing unusual in the use of vitamins but instead an easy method of selection of necessary vitamins. The fact that throughout the stores the vitamin content of a majority of foods is plainly marked, the vitamin information to be published throughout the entire series of educational advertisements and the material available on the subject of each named vitamin permits each shopper to select the vitamins wanted in the food purchased.

The fact that vitamins occur naturally in foods and are essential for growth and health makes this new service offered by the Big "Y" one of great assistance to food buyers. Interested shoppers will find a tag attached to the price marking on practically all foods on display at the Big "Y" with the vitamin content of the food clearly noted on this tag. The

clear marking makes vitamin selection very easy. Some of the questions that will be answered are: What are Vitamins? What do Vitamins do? Will Vitamins insure health? What foods are richest in Vitamins? What foods are poorest in Vitamins? Does cooking impair Vitamins? Are Vitamins lost when juices cook out of vegetables? How can you be sure of getting enough of such Vitamins as may be destroyed or impaired by heat? Does the body store Vitamins? Do we make our own Vitamins from food?

In this issue the first of the campaign to bring this educational feature concerning Vitamins is released, each week other vital Vitamin information will be given by the Big "Y". Leaflets concerning Vitamins will be given free at the market, located north of Medford on the Pacific highway.

AIMS OF P.T.A. STATED IN PLEA FOR MEMBERSHIP

By Mrs. W. R. Finch

The objects of the P.T.A. are: "To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, church and community; to raise the standards of home life; to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth."

"To bring into closer relation the home and the school that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the training of the child, and to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for every child the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education."

This is annual enrollment week for the P.T.A. Won't you join and help this be another successful year? The goal in Jackson county is a 10 per cent increase in every P.T.A. Not only parents but anyone interested in children is invited to join. We invite you to become a member, take part in our meetings and enjoy helping make a worthwhile organization a greater success than ever.

Use Mail Tribune want ads.

COMMUNITY CHEST CAMPAIGN BACKED BY CITY LEADERS

Chairman Gates Cites Typical Letters and Statements On Oct. 14-18 Drive

The Medford Community Chest, which is to conduct its local campaign between October 14 and 18, is receiving the hearty support of all community leaders, according to C. E. Gates, campaign chairman. Typical of the letters endorsing the work of the local group is one recently received from Frank Hull, secretary of the chamber of commerce.

Mr. Hull said, "After 10 years of contact and observation of the activities of the Community Chest in our county, I can draw but one conclusion, that it is the most fair, most efficient method possible to carry out the fine work that the participating agencies conduct in our community."

Mayfield Praises Work
Asked his opinion, Leonard Mayfield, principal of the Senior high school, replied "The splendid work being done by the Community Chest agencies must not be jeopardized. The helping hand of the agencies concerned will be needed more than ever in this community during the next year. The present method of financing these agencies is fair, and I believe, the most sensible way of doing it."

In a similar vein, Glenn L. Linn, principal of the Junior high school, declared "The Medford Community Chest, in sponsoring its annual drive in October, affords to each and every grateful American in this community an opportunity to show their gratitude, and do their part in aiding the activities of such worthwhile organizations as the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts, and the Jackson County Health association."

Obligation Cited
Emphasizing the need for continuation of local community welfare programs, President Roosevelt, who will open the annual Mobilization for Human Needs on October 5, recently said, "every community in the country has an obligation to scrutinize its services, its facilities for meeting the spiritual, recreational and welfare needs of its own people. Every citizen has an obligation to scrutinize his contribution to the common life he shares with his neighbors. Together citizens and community have an obligation to maintain the wholesome, constructive activities and services which we think of as typically American."

Recruit Workers.
Salem, Oct. 2.—(AP)—Fifteen or 20 Salem workmen will be recruited for work at the Pearl Harbor naval base at Honolulu, the state employment service said today.

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HEATHMAN HOTELS

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WHITE SOX TAKE CUBS IN OPENER

Chicago, Oct. 2.—(AP)—The Chicago White Sox called on Thornton Lee, winner of 22 games during the American league season, to oppose the Cubs today in the second game of the city series. Lee was surpassed in pitching victories this year only by Bob Feller of the Cleveland Indians.

The Sox won the opening game yesterday, 4 to 1, scoring all their runs in the first of the ninth inning before 7,272 spectators.

Paul Erickson was named by Cub Manager Jimmy Wilson to face Lee today.

An effort is being made in China to popularize new seeds and farming methods.

Fancy Bartlett Pears FOR CANNING

We have in Medford Ice & Storage several hundred small boxes of excellent quality Bartlett pears. These boxes weigh between 23 and 25 pounds net, or about half the size of a regular standard wrapped and packed box. They are all large sizes, ideal for canning. These pears have been washed, graded and sized exactly the same as pears going into our standard boxes that we ship to the eastern markets.

For those who would like a few pears for canning purposes we would recommend their purchasing one or more of these small boxes, priced at

\$1.00 Box at Medford Ice & Storage Co.

Each pear should be in suitable condition to can, not like the loose pears you buy in field bags, or culls.

Bartlett in this type of package are very limited here in the district and just a tip to those who like fruit during the winter months—canned Bartletts, as well as canned peaches and other soft fruits, will be quite expensive later, and for economy's sake you should can a few Bartletts and save some money.

For Further Particulars Dial 4171
AMERICAN FRUIT GROWERS, Inc.



HE STACKS UP—It's no easy trick, and Bob Stack admits it—to throw a six-shooter in the air, catch it as it comes down twirling, and fire it—but he manages. Stack's an expert pistol shot who plays movie shootin' roles.

MOCK AIR RAIDS WILL TEST CIVIL DEFENSE SET-UP

Four-Day Exercises October
28 to Nov. 1 Planned—
Medford Control Center.

Salem, Oct. 2.—(AP)—A mythical four-day air raid on western

Oregon from October 28 to November 1 will provide the first test of army and civilian defense against air attack. State Civilian Defense Coordinator Jerrold Owen said today.

Owen, who said western Washington would have similar tests at the same time, said that every army plane now stationed in the west would be used in the mock attack, blanketing the sky with planes.

The exercises will provide tests for observation posts, which will be manned by civil reserves and located in each six square miles throughout the area. At least three planes a day will fly over each observation post.

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To be paid in installments \$9.70
Total including down payment \$10.00

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