



HOME FOR CHRISTMAS—Pat Dillon, oldest man in the crew of the ill-fated tanker, Pine Ridge, which broke up off Cape Hatteras, N.C., Wednesday, tells reporters he is just "glad to be alive and more than happy I'll be home for Christmas." He was brought to Navy base in Norfolk, Va., Friday on the USS Conway after being pulled off the Pine Ridge by a helicopter from the Valley Forge. (UPI Telephoto)

OF SMITH & MEN

By Jack Smith

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This is the time of year that men who are never going there start dreaming about the South Sea Islands.

Civilization presses harder against the captive spirit in winter than in summer.

The male animal wraps himself in woolens (45 per cent Dacron), crawls into his heated chambers and plugs his life into an electric outlet for the season.

In this hothouse his imagination flowers like the fragrant. While his sunless flesh pales to the color of hallbut he fancies himself as brown and buoyant as a coconut.

In his fantasy he arises gleaming from a lacy surf with a black pearl as big as an 8-ball while a corps de ballet of nubile maids dance a Polynesian can-can on the sands.

The same fellow who panics when he can't find the can opener easily sees himself washed ashore on a pink atoll, the only survivor of a disaster of the sea — building a castle of lotus petals with his bare hands, assisted only by his faithful Fru Fru.

I can't believe that the moon, and all its mysteries, will ever displace the South Seas as the escape object of the man with his foot caught in the machine age.

The oceanic paradise has been slandered by a generation of young Americans who were deposited on its shores in World War II. They tested only the bitter flesh of the fruit.

The southern seas are as full of islands as the sky of stars. I happen to know of one that is still unspoiled. It is moist and green and underfed. All I need is a sturdy boat and a fair wind.

I've been saving up to buy the boat for many years. Generally, however, every time I got a few dollars ahead for the boat — it will be a seagoing ketch — something else came up.

One year, I remember, it was the new car. Then there was the range and the refrigerator, and the house, of course, and the hi-fi set, the clock-radio, the shoes, the book-of-the-month, and gas for the house in winter, the encyclopedia and a number of other things, including objects d'art, the electric drill, the new car and books on navigation.

But the end is in sight. Soon I will be able to put everything into the boat. The only necessities standing in the way now are the automatic sprinkling system, which we have denied ourselves for years, the humidifier (they say a house can be as dry as the Sahara in the winter), the new roof, and the new car. You can't go anyplace any more without a car.

Then we'll be ready to sail, as soon as the boys are through college.

The most difficult part has been getting Fru Fru to plan ahead. I've asked her to go barefooted around the yard to toughen her feet. She is afraid it would make them bigger.

"That's all to the good," I told her. "The bigger they are the better you can swim." "I don't want to swim," she said. "I get water in my nose."

I suppose she doesn't believe in the whole scheme.

But I can shut my eyes and see my island right now. It's as real and beautiful as color TV.

I bet it will seem even realer after we get the humidifier.

Adventists Elect Officers For 1961

Eagle Point — Sixty-four church offices were filled for 1961 earlier this month when the Eagle Point Seventh-day Adventist church held its annual election.

Named head elder for the new year was Dr. Harold Reith, Associate elders will be Dr. David Morgan and Herschel Harper.

Church members elected Delmer V. Logan, Shady Cove, head deacon and Mrs. Vida Estelle, Medford, head deaconess.

The new Sabbath school superintendent for 1961 will be Robert Burns, Trail. Youth leader for the church will be Mrs. Lee Williams, Eagle Point. Church treasurer will be Mrs. Dorothy Swan, Eagle Point.

All church offices are filled by election with the exception of that of the pastor, who is assigned to his church by the Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists with headquarters in Portland.

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