

Ward Says Commies Gave Him 'Hellish Treatment'

ABOARD LAKELAND VICTORY, OFF TIENSHIN, Dec. 13 (AP)—Consul General Angus Ward and his 19-member party boarded this evacuation ship yesterday and declared he had suffered "hellish treatment" at the hands of Chinese Communists.

The U. S. official, who was caught at his consulate by the fall of Mukden to Chinese Reds more than a year ago, declared his final freedom made him feel just as one would "after St. Peter lets you in."

Freedom
It was the first time in 13 months Ward had been able to move without an armed escort. And 28 days of that time he was in a Chinese Communist jail, in solitary confinement, in Mukden. On 24 of those days he was kept in unheated, or underheated quarters in freezing temperatures.

He lost 25 pounds.

Winchell, Berle Gag Backfires

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 13 (AP)—Walter Winchell, the columnist, and Milton Berle, the comedian, pulled a quote gag unquote on the radio Sunday.

Winchell sounded like he was about to give a hot tip on a race horse.

Said he: "And now for a tip on a horse that can't lose..."

Then Berle, his voice disguised, came in on Winchell's program: "This is ABC, the American Broadcasting company."

The telephone switchboard at the studio lit up and in a matter of minutes they had to call in a special operator to help out with the calls. People were calling from as far away as Austin, Tex., and San Francisco.

Three hundred persons phoned a Cleveland, Ohio, station for Winchell's tip.

Mixup
Some listeners thought the program had been cut off; others were not sure and wanted to know what happened.

Radio station WQAM, where Winchell did his broadcast, refused to discuss the incident. Neither would Winchell nor Berle. Later they could not be reached.

Said one radio man: "It was just a gag that wasn't funny."

Ocean Floor Slime May Tell Story

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Green slime from the ocean floor is being sampled to see what went into the rocks on dry land. A scientific survey of the Pacific continental shelf is being carried out by the California Academy of Science in cooperation with the navy.

The green mud will be analyzed by experts trying to see how sedimentary rocks like limestone were formed ages ago. Samples from 420 feet down to 12,000 were taken.

His jail menu was six slices of bread daily... and hot water. "That's not a very strengthening or fattening diet," he quipped.

For all members of the party, including Mrs. Ward, several women and some children, it was the first time they had not been under Red surveillance since November 20, 1948. On that date the Reds closed the consulate and clamped such secrecy on their movements and fate that even the U. S. state department knew virtually nothing about them.

Phoney Charges
Even their final departure, under Red deportation orders on phoney charges, was delayed by red tape.

For some time yesterday only Ward was permitted to board the ship.

Before they would permit the other 19 to come up the gangway, the Communists demanded the consul general sign a statement that they boarded "safely and without molestation."

Ward balked: He said he wouldn't sign until all members of his party were brought onto the ship. But they were held on the tug on which they had been brought from Tientsin.

Finally, "Ward signed and all 19 came aboard."

Paul Sexton of the Lakeland also was forced to sign a statement for the Reds. In it he "assumed full responsibility" for the entire group and their belongings.

False
Ward declared flatly that his indictment and conviction—basis for Red expulsion of his group—was a travesty. He was charged with beating a Chinese employe. Four aides were convicted of similar charges.

A Red radio broadcast said all five confessed.

Ward didn't even know on what charge he was jailed until "a poor English translation" of an indictment was read in court.

"No one ever got a confession out of me," Ward declared.

"No Chinese employe was beaten, despite the fact the prosecution produced 15 'eyewitnesses.'"

"If I'd hit him three times (in the left eye, as charged) he'd have had a black eye."

Horse Play In Traffic

HELENA, Mont., (AP)—A horse became a four-legged traffic jam west of Helena. Running back and forth across the highway, he had motorists half crazy.

Highway Patrolman Clifford Small took after the horse and it led him a lively chase for 30 minutes before it took a quick detour up Colorado gulch. With a horse laugh, no doubt.

The Greeks made window panes of thin slices of translucent marble about 450 B. C.

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STUDY IN "HANG-DOG" EXPRESSIONS—With eight of her nine pups hanging on the line to dry, and the other lounging in the tub, "Mischievous," a Boxer belonging to Art Frask in Chicago, relaxes after a hard day over the scrub board.

LONG DISTANCE SHOPPING

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mail order houses seem to do a big business in the Pribilof Islands, Alaska. The U. S. fish and wildlife service says:

850 pounds of mail were received there one day and that 400 pounds were in catalogs.

It Pays to Use the Want-Ads!

More than three-quarters of American farm families have radios and sewing machines.

The peanut, a member of the pea family, is a native of Brazil.

Now It's Frozen Christmas Trees

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Like a frozen tree this Christmas? See sculptor Tommy Sherblom. He's taking orders.

Sherblom, who chisels ice instead of stone, hangs ornaments and electric lights on a tree then freezes it within a block of ice. He trims the ice to the exact shape of the tree, plugs in the lights, and behold—a sparkling crystal decoration. Such trees last six to 10 hours.

Blind Spiders Stump Science

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—The Jenolan Caves in New South Wales, Australia, for long visited by tourists, now promise to yield something new to science—tiny blind spiders, which seem to live on nothing. Other insect life is very rare amidst the stalactites and stalagmites of these mile-long and 200-foot-deep caves. The spiders built tiny webs, perfectly formed. What for? Science has yet to supply the answer.

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