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Merry-Go-Round The World

EDWARD HAGOPIAN AND WILLIAM SAROYAN

This is a sincere story of sincere people who don't know they are funny – an ex-used car salesman, JUAN CARLOS DE LA CRUZ, and his voluptuous wife, JUANITA, who have convinced the population of three-hundred-seventy thousand people of the Republic of San Corredor in South America to accept them as President and Senora Vice-President of the republic, based upon the promise to share the wealth and drive the bandits out of the national treasury.

From the balcony of the presidential palace of the capital, Cielito or Little Heaven, President JUAN, Senora Vice-President JUANITA bejeweled standing beside him, tells the multitude of the progress that San Corredor has made since he launched his first Two-and-a-Half-Year Plan.

The “rascals” have been driven out of office. The San Corredor peanut is being exported to every country in the world, excepting of course their traditional enemies northwest of the border, and countries who objected when he nationalized the peanut oil refineries, plantations, and peanut presses.

He triumphantly announces that the national crop has been sold out for the next three years in advance and that San Corridor Peanut Butter is a household word throughout the world. His own personal staff of chemical researchers is working night and day on other possible usages for peanuts, husks, and oils.

For the first time in decades, San Corredor currency, the pezado, is backed by gold instead of by peanuts. (Cheers)

On the world money market, the pezado is gaining in value. (Cheers)

Today, San Corredor is invited to accept foreign aid by two of the great world powers, but the government shall follow its policy of “let's wait and see.” (Cheers)

At the end of the speech, there is a humble display of fireworks, and cries of: “Viva JUAN and JUANITA”

At the ball celebrating their first two-and-a-half years in office, JUANITA, ravishingly dressed, dances with one diplomat after another. She is discretely

propositioned while waltzing with a bearded colossus, who might be a Russian. Next, she tangos with a silver-haired gentleman who brings up the question of neighborly “togetherness.” From a distance, JUAN, surrounded by assorted diplomats, exchanges knowing glances with her.

On a tour of the provinces, JUANITA helps lay a cornerstone of the JUANITA DE LA CRUZ Kindergarten and Old Patriot’s Home in a small village of peanut-pickers. JUAN beams as the cameras click away.

Next, they examine a new peanut-mashing machine for making peanut butter when an aid steps up and whispers something into JUAN’s ear, JUAN goes pale. He excuses himself and dashes off with his party to the waiting limousines.

In his car, he and JUANITA are told the shocking news that the value of the pozado has tumbled on the foreign exchange to almost nothing. Rumor has it in international banking circles that the San Corredor national treasury is empty.

As the two black limousines race through the sleeping countryside, among the sleeping people, towards the capital, the radio announces that the students of San Corredor have stormed the Treasury building and have discovered that the vaults contain only two New York phone books.

JUAN and JUANITA, His Excellency the Foreign Minister, and the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces listen anxiously to each communiqué giving the latest details of the government crisis.

Dramatically the radio announcer describes the scene of the “rioting” students and the police trying to suppress the riot. The students’ chanting: “JUAN and JUANITA to the gallows!” comes over the speaker.

A San Corredor army unit moves in to disperse the rioters. JUAN and JUANITA stare nervously at General SPIRO sitting next to the chauffeur, who turns and smiles reassuringly, saying that his loyal troops can be relied upon to suppress the revolt. Foreign Minister SCHULTZ, sitting beside JUANITA, nods confidently.

They speed steadily toward the capital. Suddenly, a voice breaks through to announce that now the Army is behind the revolution and that he, the owner of

the voice, Colonel AVAKIAN, has taken over command of the deteriorating situation by arresting the cabinet and all members of the San Corredor Assembly.

Colonel AVAKIAN further announces that JUAN and JUANITA DE LA CRUZ have flown into exile and absconded with the national treasury. As spokesman for the military junta, he asks the nation to remain calm during this period of crisis until a new constitution is drafted and free elections are held next year. Meanwhile there will be a dusk to dawn curfew.

“That double-crosser,” shouts General SPIRO. “The minute our back is turned he decides to promote himself! I’ll have him shot for this!”

“I’m afraid they entertain the same thoughts about us, and they have guns! We’d better make a run for it,” says Foreign Minister SCHULTZ.

The chauffer brings the car to a skidding stop.

“No, no, not into the woods, PIERRE. To the Plaza del Republic!” shouts JUAN. “I can handle this situation!”

“Your Excellency,” suggests SCHULTZ, “perhaps we should make a strategic withdrawal to the airfield while there is still time. We can attend to other matters later after we cross a friendly frontier.”

“No, to the plaza!” shouts JUAN. “I’ll have that mob eating out of my hand in no time at all!”

Suddenly the sound of gunfire is heard. The dull thud of bullets bouncing off the rear end of the limousine sends everybody to the floor, including PIERRE, who steers from a crouching position. Then, remembering that his car is bulletproof, JUAN turns and shakes his fist at the pursuing car.

“How’s that for loyalty?” he shouts, “my own bodyguards! Like I’ve always said, never trust a man in a uniform!”

After a wild ride, JUAN’s powerful limousine outdistances the pursuers.

The car coasts to a silent stop near the airfield. The desperate passengers hurry on tiptoe to the main hangar where the presidential plane is sheltered, fueled and ready when needed in an emergency.

Inside, they see a squad of soldiers boldly examining the plane. To make sure that the plane won’t be commandeered, the lieutenant in charge of the squad

plunges his bayonet into the tires, each of which makes a mournful sound that corresponds to the expressions on JUAN and JUANITA's faces.

They tiptoe back to the car and roar off down the highway. As they go, SCHULTZ suggested that they take refuge in the sanctuary of a friendly embassy, like that of Red China.

JUANITA refuses saying that they should make a run for it. If they reach the harbor, perhaps they can escape in their yacht.

"The navy may still be loyal," JUAN says, staring coldly at General SPIRO.

They paddle in a small dingy through the heavy darkness to the presidential yacht, only to find it surrounded by small boats, while looters are carrying off its furnishings.

The group retreats toward the shore, and suddenly comes upon the dim form of another vessel.

"This way, sir, over here!" a voice calls out.

In the darkness a ladder is lowered down, and with the aid of the crew, they are quietly taken aboard.

On deck, however, they discover they have boarded the yacht of the finance minister, FRANKLIN DIEGO. Welcoming JUAN and JUANITA, the captain says, "This is an unexpected pleasure, your Excellency, but where is Senor DIEGO?"

"Never mind that crook," shouts JUAN, "haul up the anchor and let's get out of here!"

"Yes, your Excellency," the captain replies feebly.

Silently the CALLIOPE slips out of the harbor and into the open sea.

Now, Anchored off the coast of Cannes, the beautiful white yacht CALLIOPE glistens in the bright sunlight.

JUAN, in shorts, and JUANITA, in bikini, are lounging on deck chairs, with their fishing poles against the railing.

With Foreign Minister SCHULTZ and General SPIRO, they discuss plans for a counter-revolution against the new regime, which calls itself "the heroes of the 29th of February," and is called by the world press, "Los mostachos."

From time to time JUAN casts an anxious eye at his fishing pole.

“When I get my hands on that thieving finance minister,” he says, “I’ll teach him to run off with my gold – our gold.” He tosses his cigar over the railing, and consoles himself, saying: “Well, at least I got this yacht!”

“Yes, but we got the short end of the stick!” JUANITA scoffs.

“Perhaps los mostachos have caught him?” General SPIRO asks.

“Not that fox,” says SCHULTZ, “He’s too cunning.”

Suddenly, JUAN leaps toward his fishing rod and starts reeling furiously, shouting like a schoolboy, “A fish, a fish, I’ve got a fish!”

Back in CIELITO, with a strong light blinding him, finance minister DIEGO sweats while being questioned by the mustached police.

“Again, where is the gold, Senor DIEGO?”

“On my mother’s grave I swear, I don’t know,” DIEGO cries.

“In that case, we shall have to start all over again.”

“I swear on my father’s grave, my grandfather’s grave, I don’t know what happened to it. Why don’t you ask JUAN DE LA CRUZ? He knows where the gold is. I don’t.”

In the executive offices of MOSEBY, MOSEBY, MOESBY & MOE, the English ship builders, a report is being read by Sir MOSEBY in which it is stated that a luxurious secondhand yacht, christened the CALLIOPE, was ordered by the Finance Minister of the Republic of San Corredor, at a cost of 313,000 pounds. Minister DIEGO stated that the vessel was to be given to Senor JUAN DE LA CRUZ and his wife, JUANITA, as a gift from the people of San Corredor.

“Gentlemen,” whispers Sir MOSEBY, “the Republic of San Corredor owes the firm of MOSEBY, MOSEBY, MOSEBY & MOE three hundred thousand pounds. The note for the final payment fell due the day before yesterday. Kindly collect the balance.”

The solicitor of the firm stares up from studying the contract and reports that the new government cannot be held responsible for a debt contracted privately by the former finance minister. As far as the courts are concerned, the vessel was built for senor DIEGO, and he alone is liable.

“In that event,” says Sir MOSEBY, “the vessel must be seized in lieu of payment.”

“Repossessed?” the solicitor asks.

“Repossessed,” Sir MOSEBY replies.

In the casinos of Cannes and Monte Carlo, JUAN quickly goes through the money he has stashed away in Switzerland, losing at baccarat and chemin de fer.

As JUAN’s fortunes recede, his entourage abandons him. Only JUANITA, Foreign Minister SCHULTZ, General SPIRO, and his chauffeur PIERRE remain loyal.

Soon the casinos politely refuse him credit and JUAN decides to sell the masterpieces that hang on the walls of the yacht, only to discover they are copies.

In a desperate attempt to recover his losses, he begins to pawn JUANITA’s jewels. When he has gone through all of them, excepting a large diamond pendant which JUANITA refuses to give him, JUAN searches the yacht for something else to sell.

Back in the dungeon in Cielito, Finance minister DIEGO is finally “persuaded.” He confesses that the gold is concealed under the foredeck of his yacht, the CALLIOPE.

The military of junta of Los mostachos orders Admiral LORENZA to take his “one gunboat navy” to capture the CALLIOPE and bring her back to San Corredor. He is instructed to take all measures, short of sinking the vessel. He is not told of the fortune hidden under the deck.

The ancient gunboat, the BARACUDA, steams off to the Mediterranean in pursuit of the CALLIOPE.

Aboard the CALLIOPE, JUAN paces the foredeck nervously, and finally stands over the area where the gold is hidden. SCHULTZ and SPIRO are trailing behind him.

“If only we could find DIEGO,” JUAN muses, “perhaps we could strike a bargain with him to split the loot, before I have him shot. But where is the crook? That’s the question.”

In desperation, JUAN comes up with an idea: He will sell the CALIOPE. He asks SCHULTZ and SPIRO for another loan until he sells the yacht only to learn that they are too without funds, except for JUAN’s personal I.O.U.s.

When JUANITA learns of JUAN’s plan, she becomes furious. JUAN tells her frankly that either she must sell her diamond pendant or he must sell the yacht. They have to eat, and the crew is ready to quit.

“But that’s mutiny,” she shouts back.

JUAN agrees, but tells her he has not paid them for weeks, and everyone is getting tired of eating fresh-caught sardines. If she will pawn her diamond, he is sure his luck will change and that he will win back all that he has lost. He can feel it in his bones.

JUANITA refuses.

General SPIRO hints that perhaps he can auction off some of the ship’s furnishings to stock the galley with food, and to give JUAN a small stake. Foreign minister SCHULTZ is against this plan, because it will impair international prestige.

JUANITA suddenly says that she has a plan that will solve their financial problem and give them all a vacation at the same time.

Instead of selling the CALLIOPE, why not sell their services by sponsoring an exclusive “around the world” tour with the ex-president and Senora Vice-president of San Corredor as hosts.

Everyone is inspired by that plan, and ads are placed in all the leading European newspapers for the world tour.

Thousands of letters and telegrams are soon received from all kinds of people. Hundreds of tourists stream into Cannes to make reservations. A small riot breaks out in the office of the agency that is handling the tour.

From the offices of MOSEBY, etc., HORACE ASHFORD, a determined solicitor, is sent to Paris to get a court order to seize that CALLIOPE before it can leave French territorial waters.

At the dock in Cannes, final provisions are being taken aboard for the start of the world cruise, while JUAN and JUANITA happily watch from the bridge, now and then waving at their paying guests.

At the Palais de Justice in Paris, HORACE ASHFORD runs into French judicial red-tape, and is sent from one bureaucrat to another trying to get his court order to seize the CALLIOPE.

At last, with the seizure order in his hand, he races in a taxi to the airport. He manages to get a flight to Cannes.

He arrives at the wharf in Cannes with two gendarmes at his heels in time to see the ship casting off. He orders the police to do something. They blow their whistles. After a few blows, they give up.

ASHFORD then demands that they stop the ship before it leaves French territorial waters, but the gendarmes argue that they cannot swim after the vessel.

“We blew our whistles, but if they refuse to turn around, well . . .”

Standing on the pier, the solicitor watches the yacht recede into the horizon, as its passengers wave goodbye.

Among the passengers is an aging American matinee idol who has given up his career for the bottle. He takes a long pull from his flask, and smiling as if he has finally licked his problem, he flips the flask into the sea – this around-the-world tour will either kill or cure him. He is immediately recognized as AARON FLAG, the fading prince of the swashbuckling era, by Mrs. HATCH, a plump middle-aged mother with her high breasted daughter, DIANA.

Mrs. HATCH and DIANA are thereafter his constant companions. The mother eagerly seeks FLAGG's attention and he hungrily eyes the youthful DIANA.

A young French street-walker, posing as a recent widow, takes advantage of her unique position to ply her trade. JUAN quickly reveals his thoughts on her slithering hips.

A pint-sized Texan in his sixties, ALAMO BARTLEY, wearing a Stetson, cowboy boots, and a large zircon ring on his little finger, boasts loudly of cattle, oil, and his ranch back home. The big wind blowing from Texas is eagerly picked up by a confidence team, two men and a woman, who believe he is an eccentric millionaire.

Throughout the tour they prepare their "mark" for the final sting, but in the end the "chump" out-cons them.

An elderly English woman, lady FINCH, gads about the passengers telling them how traveling keeps her young, and how this is her thirteenth trip around the world. Her constant companion whom she talks about is a small Pug dog that looks like a Siamese cat. She is an eccentric vegetarian, who has brought along her own food supply of biscuits, nuts, and canned soy meal bread, which is killing the dog.

There is a scholarly-looking passenger who came aboard with a large knapsack full of books, and who is so engrossed in his reading that he doesn't have time to see anything. When persuaded by his fellow passengers he goes along carrying his latest book.

A tight-lipped German in his late fifties stares silently at the sea from the stern of the ship. This mysterious stranger arrogantly avoids contact with the other passengers.

Two American college freshmen are making their own "Kinsey report" by making a bee-line to the nearest cathouse whenever the ship drops anchor.

As the CALLIOPE cruises toward Naples, Admiral LORENZO of the pursuing gunboat, BARRACUDA, sights the yacht through his long spyglass, and wanting more speed, he orders the stokers to put on more coal.

In Rome, HORACE ASHFORD runs up the courthouse steps with his briefcase to get another order to seize the CALLIOPE.

The tourists take in the ruins of Pompeii, Vesuvius, and roam throughout Naples searching for souvenirs.

Offshore, the gunboat BARRACUDA has dropped anchor and waits patiently for the CALLIOPE.

In Rome, with the seizure order in hand, ASHFORD runs into a transportation strike.

He hires an old Alfa-Romeo from a young American beatnik couple, and together they race off to Naples. With “one foot in the carburetor” he barrels down the highway scorching the pavement.

On the outskirts of Naples, he piles into a slow-moving wagon loaded with watermelons. He abandons the wrecked car, and nursing the knot on his head, he buys a donkey and climbs up on it with valise to resume his race to the harbor.

By prodding and cajoling the stubborn beast, he finally comes to a taxi stand, where he catches an old cab, which bucks and prances as it goes down the highway.

As the yacht prepares to cast off from Naples, a small group of sinister looking men charge up the gangplank. A short figure carrying a large suitcase leads them as they scamper aboard.

JUAN explains that the tour is booked solid and that he does not have any accommodations for the short man with the large valise.

During a private conference with JUAN, the man called LUIGI persuades him to “make” accommodations. Since nothing else is available, LUIGI is given a deck chair on the sun deck. Throughout the trip LUIGI is never seen without his heavy suitcase.

The CALLIOPE starts pulling away from the pier, just as ASHFORD, followed by a half dozen Italian Carabinieri, dashes down to prevent its sailing. They run into the gang of Sicilians who are waving goodbye to LUIGI. Frightened by the Italian police bearing down on them, they scatter some jump into the water and the others manage to escape with a few cops at their heels.

ASHFORD seizes a dangling towline, hoping to stop the ship. He is helped by a lot of kids having fun, and there is a well-matched tug-of-war for a moment, but suddenly the kids get bored, and ASHFORD is pulled off the pier and into the drink.

Half-drowned but still clutching his briefcase, he is hauled aboard the CALLIOPE.

“I’m seizing this ship in the name of my clients for non-payment,” announces ASHFORD as he opens his briefcase and fishes out a soggy sheaf of documents which he thrusts under the captain’s nose.

“Now, sir, here is an Italian court order giving me possession of this vessel. So please, be good enough to return the vessel to its berth, and I will make arrangements to take it to England.”

“I don’t think you are in a position to seize the CALLIOPE,” says JUANITA, handing him a towel. “In a few minutes we will be outside of the judicial authority of the Italian government.”

Lowered into a small fishing boat, ASHFORD cries out that the British Admiralty will hear about this.

“Haul up the hook,” orders Admiral LORENZO from the bridge of his gunboat, the BARACUDA. He smiles sardonically as he watches the CALLIOPE approach.

On the command “full steam ahead,” the craft moves a few feet, lurches to a stop, and swings crazily, churning up the sea as it tugs against the jammed anchor chain.

LORENZO curses at his crew as they struggle hopelessly with the fouled winch, which refuses to budge. He orders the signal man to flag the captain

of the yacht to halt. But the CALLIOPE glides by with its merry passengers shouting and waving at the tossing ship. The Admiral shouts to a gun crew to fire a salvo across the bow of the yacht. As they bring the gun into position, the ship pitches wildly and they fire in the opposite direction, surprising the fisherman in the small boat.

From the bridge of the CALLIOPE, the captain comments on the excellent marksmanship of the Italian Navy.

By telephone, HORACE ASHFORD explains to the London office that he is on his way to Athens where he expects to seize the CALLIOPE.

As the CALLIOPE enters the harbor of Athens, ASHFORD races wildly over the mountains of Greece on a Vespa and finally arrives in Athens. He runs to the offices of the naval magistrate to get another seizure of the yacht.

Meanwhile the tourists are climbing over the ruins of the Acropolis.

Only two passengers remain aboard the CALLIOPE. The German marches stiffly around the deck while suspicious LUIGI looks on, seated next to his suitcase.

The BARRACUDA drops anchor in the harbor, while the Admiral LORENZO scans the piers for the CALLIOPE.

Feeling lucky, JUAN decides to pay a visit to the Athens racetrack, where he drops a small bundle. JUANITA become furious and decides that from now on, she will hold onto the purse strings.

The happy tourists return to the vessel loaded with souvenirs, rolls of exposed film, and pleasant memories of the city's historical offerings.

ASHFORD confidently clutches his briefcase as he boards a Greek Naval helicopter. This time he has them!

The helicopter hovers over a gleaming white yacht, as ASHFORD and two Greek officers are lowered onto the deck. Chuckling at his own cunning, he demands to see JUAN, while the startled passengers crowd around him. When the owner of the yacht, SOCRATES CHRISTOPOLOS, the Greek shipping magnate confronts him, ASHFORD suddenly realizes he is on the wrong yacht. He slowly returns his writ to his briefcase and offers his apologies to the indignant shipping magnate.

Admiral LORENZO watches patiently as the CALLIOPE approaches. This time the gun boat is prepared for action. He signals the bugler to sound the attack. The gun crew stands by with its loaded deck-gun. Through his megaphone he orders the CALLIOPE to stop her engines.

Since the wind is blowing in the wrong direction, his command is not heard aboard the CALLIOPE. Angrily, the Admiral orders the crew to fire a salvo across the bow of the yacht. The gun crew protests, saying that they want to hit the vessel, and at this range, they can't miss. LORENZO shouts that he does not want to sink the yacht, He wants to stop it. An argument ensues. He curses, and orders them to put one across her bow. The crew cranks the gun around, re-sights it, and fires a salvo. A gusher of water sprouts a hundred yards behind the stern of the CALLIOPE.

"Not the stern," shouts LORENZO, "The bow! The bow! Can't you tell the difference between the stern and the bow, you idiots?"

The captain of the CALLIOPE trains his binoculars on the BARRACUDA, and remarks about the Italian navy now holding maneuvers in Greek waters.

"They should be more careful where they place their targets," he says.

Another salvo is fired, which goes even wider of the mark. Soon the CALLIOPE outdistances the BARRACUDA, and Admiral LORENZO swings his craft around and gives chase.

From the bridge of the yacht, JUANITA focuses her high-powered binoculars on the distant gunboat. She recognizes the gunboat's colors, and as she hands the glasses to JUAN, she asks the captain why he thought the ship was Italian.

“Why?” He asks, “Is it Greek?”

JUAN hands over the glasses saying that he had better take another look. The captain’s jaw drops when he discovers his error.

“It’s one of ours!” He says, swallowing hard.

“It’s the *only* ship in our navy,” JUAN says, “It’s our gunboat, and she’s trailing us.”

“Well, we’ll soon outdistance her,” the captain says confidently.

“Even my navy has turned against me,” JUAN laments. “At least, they could have remained loyal ... why, I know every man in that crew... and they betrayed me! Now, I know how Caesar felt.”

A gusher of water shoots up far behind the stern of the yacht. As more gushers splash wide of the target, panic breaks among the CALLIOPE passengers. JUAN reassures them with a story that it is an expedition of scientists prospecting for offshore oil.

Aboard the BARRACUDA, LORENZO shouts for more steam. The engineer angrily cries back that if he throws another shovelful of coal in the boilers, it will rain rivets all over the Mediterranean.

“Can’t you throw on just a few more lumps? We’re losing her!” LORENZO shouts into the speaking tube.

“Not another lump or she’ll go pffft!” yells the engineer.

From the bridge of the CALLIOPE, JUAN passes the binoculars to his wife saying that he is seeing spots before his eyes. JUANITA scans the horizon and reports that she can still see the BARRACUDA. Soon it will be dark and perhaps they can give them the slip.

JUAN cuts off the lights and explains to the passengers they are having trouble with the electrical system.

At dawn, they decide to make an unscheduled stop at Haifa, ostensibly to make minor repairs.

The tourists scramble ashore for a day of sightseeing. Only the German refuses to go ashore, and LUGI, who naps in his deckchair with his feet planted on his suitcase.

On the BARRACUDA, LORENZO sweeps the horizon with his spyglass.

“Well, they can’t escape us forever,” he confides to his mate. “Their schedule calls for a stop at Port Said and a trip to the Pyramids. We’ll catch up before they enter the canal.”

This information he has obtained from the advertisement of the world tour.

Back in Athens, ASHFORD calls London to say that he is flying to Cairo and will seize the vessel before it leaves the canal.

At a late hour, the CALLIOPE embarks from Haifa for Port Said. The next morning excitement breaks out from the stern of the yacht. The German has disappeared from his perch and there is no sign of him on board. Rumor has it that he jumped overboard, but the favored money is on the rumor that LUIGI got rid of him to get his cabin.

The mystery is solved when the radio reports that the Israeli government has just announced the arrest of a second notorious Nazi war criminal.

In Cairo, ASHFORD is running from one office to another where he encounters the traditional delays of petty bureaucrats who look upon his request with the suspicion that he is trying to cause an international incident that will compromise Egypt’s official policy of neutrality.

The CALLIOPE slips into Port Said unobserved by the BARRACUDA. A troupe of Egyptian officers board the vessel in search of Israeli spies. After a short delay, the yacht is cleared.

A caravan of camels, Arabian guides, and souvenir hawkers follow the tourists to the Pyramids and the Sphinx.

While the others climb over the Pyramids, our book-loving tourist seeks out a shady corner and settles down with a new novel.

Admiral LORENZO decides on a change of strategy. He sends his first mate, JOSE, with an ultimatum for JUAN to surrender the vessel peaceably or suffer the consequences.

JOSE paddles alongside the CALLIOPE waving a white flag and is taken aboard.

He stammers with embarrassment as JUAN and JUANITA welcome him, ignoring the fact that he has joined the mustachos.

JUANITA pours him a drink and compliments him on his handsome moustache. At first, JOSE refuses the drink then accepts it for old times' sake, recalling their past friendship. He tosses down his drink and briskly repeats the ultimatum sent by Admiral LORENZO.

“When I return to San Corredor, LORENZO’s head will be shaved off at his shoulders,” JUAN says vengefully.

JOSE humbly acknowledges the reply and leaves.

As the CALLIOPE starts through the canal, the BARRACUDA falls into line and follows.

In CAIRO, ASHFORD is still running from one department to another to obtain his writ. Just as he is ready to give up the idea, he comes up with an ingenious plan. He calls London to explain his difficulty with the Egyptian authorities, and reassures them that he has a foolproof plan to capture the vessel before it leaves the Red Sea.

In a smoke-filled coffee house, ASHFORD pays an advance to Arabian conspirator, telling him that he will receive the remainder of the money after he has accomplished his mission.

In a small airfield outside of Cairo, ASHFORD climbs aboard an old World War I biplane with a turbaned Arabian at the controls.

After a hair-raising take off, they are airborne.

Just as the BARRACUDA is on the point of leaving the canal, chasing the CALLIOPE, she is boarded by canal authorities with a seizure-order, at the request of Mr. HORACE ASHFORD, solicitor for the British firm of MOSEBY etc., Admiral LORENZO indignantly tries to explain that this vessel is a gunboat of the San Corredor Navy and *not* the CALLIOPE. After a short delay, the gunboat is permitted to leave, but this time the yacht has again outdistanced her.

Aboard the CALLIOPE, ASHFORD's white-robed conspirator, ABDULLAH, is discovered as a stowaway. He pleads that he is a penniless pilgrim on his way to Mecca, and begs not to be put ashore until they are near Jidda, which is just a few miles away from the holy city.

After a bouncing landing in the capital of Saudi Arabia, ASHFORD races off to the palace to see the king. Unable to see his majesty, he is received by the Grand VIZIER who listens patiently to his problem. A shrewd diplomat, the VIZIER tells him that he must consider the problem as delicate because San Corredor imports oil from Saudi Arabia. When ASHFORD reminds him that it is only a drop in the bucket compared to what Britain imports, the VIZIER wisely nods saying that every drop counts.

After cooling his heels for a few days, the Grand VIZIER comes through and Horace ASHFORD is off again in the old biplane.

Aboard the CALLIOPE, a group of tourists insist on visiting the holy city. JUAN protests that he has a schedule to keep but the demand soon grows and a vote is taken to visit Mecca. ABDULLAH offers to be their guide.

As ASHFORD wings his way towards Jidda, the plane runs into a sandstorm, and is disabled. Fortunately, they crash land near a desert oasis, where they hire two camels to continue their journey. Trekking across the scorching sands, they arrive in Mecca to learn that the tourists had left the day before. ASHFORD,

still holding out the hope that ABDULLAH has delayed the sailing, races to Jidda.

Later on, ASHFORD dispatches a radiogram from an airliner while en route to Bombay, explaining the Arabian fiasco.

Aboard the BARRACUDA, Admiral LORENZO communicates with his rebel government explaining that he has lost the CALLIOPE somewhere in the Arabian Sea, so he is proceeding on to Colombo, Ceylon, where they are scheduled to stop after a tour through Bombay.

This time, they won't get away from him, he reports.

As they speed southward, he learns that the crew is complaining about their steady diet of peanut butter, hard-tack, and fish caught from the ocean.

While the tourists are slumming around Bombay, JUANITA suggests that since they have lost the gunboat, she and JUAN should go on a small safari and shoot a tiger.

ASHFORD runs into trouble with the Indian government, which refuses to give him a seizure-order, since there is the other side of the question to consider. Suppose the debt is paid when the order is issued? This would embarrass the Indian government, so they politely refuse.

ASHFORD decides to grasp the bull by its horns and seize the vessel unlawfully by securing the aid of three Indian actors to impersonate the police. He marches aboard the yacht with a forged writ and demands to take position of the vessel.

JUANITA, noticing the uneasiness of the Indian officers, whispers to JUAN that they are phonies. While the passengers sleep, ASHFORD and his imposters are quietly subdued and shanghaied out of Bombay.

On the southern tip of India, they are set adrift in a small row boat.

In Colombo, Admiral LORENZO and his crew fill the gunboat with fresh fruit in exchange for peanuts while waiting for the CALLIOPE to arrive.

When the yacht is sighted, the gunboat quietly slips out of the harbor and lies in wait for its prey.

Scrambling ashore with their cameras, our tourists take over the town for a few hours.

The sawed-off Texan, ALAMO BARTLEY, accompanied by a female member of the con team is still searching for a “good cup of American coffee” in a land where tea is King. The two confidence men keep their eyes on the “mark” while they speculate on his bank account.

The two young college students dash to the nearest bordello, which turns out to be a Christian Science Reading Room.

Aaron FLAGG, the matinee idol, accompanies the youthful DIANA with her mother in tow.

Lady FINCH visits her favorite tea-room with her select group of ladies, while in a corner the book-lover starts on a new novel.

Leaving Colombo for Bangkok, the CALLIOPE sails toward the waiting gunboat. Admiral LORENZO stands behind his gun crew as they wait for the yacht to cross her bow. When the CALLIOPE comes within range, LORENZO personally sights the crosshairs of the gun and gives the order to fire. The firing cord is pulled. Nothing happens. LORENZO again angrily shouts the command to fire. Again, nothing happens. In desperation, he yanks the cord so violently that it breaks. He curses the war surplus ammunition, and orders the crew to reload the piece and throw the dud over the side. The gun crew panics and refuses to open the breech. Bellowing epithets at their cowardice, he leaps down from the sighting chair and seizes the handle to open the breech. Suddenly he freezes at the thought that it really might go off. He smiles weakly, gently pats the barrel, saying that perhaps it would be more prudent to wait.

The CALLIOPE sails out of range.

On another airliner, ASHFORD flies to Bangkok, confident that this time he will succeed.

In the Gulf of Siam, Lady FINCH convinces her fellow tourists that they should see Angkor Wat, the jewel of the jungle in the Kingdom of Cambodia. Buried for centuries, the recent discovery of Angkor is considered greater than anything left to us by Greece and Rome. A photographer's paradise, Angkor Wat is comparable to the pyramids of Egypt and ranks as one of the great "wonders of the world."

(To date, it has never been photographed by a movie company.)

Cancelling their visit to Bangkok, JUAN and JUANITA decide to join the tourists to see Angkor Wat.

In Bangkok, ASHFORD quickly obtains his writ. He calls London and jubilantly tells them that he has succeeded. When asked if he has taken possession, he explains that he is waiting for the vessel to dock.

Followed by two large police, he waits for the CALLIOPE to arrive. When she is overdue, ASHFORD begins to worry. Questioning the captain of a freighter that just docked, he learns that the yacht was anchored at another port in Cambodia. He charts a seaplane, flies southward and after a long search, he locates the yacht which has set sail, but not toward Bangkok.

They circle the CALLIOPE a few times then continue on to Saigon, Indochina.

Fear and apprehension ride the deck of the BARRACUDA. The gun crew refuses to go near the jammed gun. LORENZO calls for volunteers but no one steps forward to remove the dud. He paces the deck, muttering about the need for more vigorous training and the maintenance of discipline.

He realizes that he has to be careful. Being volatile Latins they might toss him overboard and quietly sail home.

Since the only threat the gunboat has is its gun, it can only follow the CALLIOPE along the coast of Indochina in the South China Sea.

Suddenly, LORENZO comes up with the answer. He will flood the barrel of the gun with sea water and dampen the charge. Again he asks for volunteers,

but again no one steps forward. Disgusted, he decides to pour the water himself. The whole ship volunteers to pass him the buckets.

Filling the muzzle, he waits for the water to soak in before he opens the breech. The crew stands around waiting for him to unload the projectile. He nervously eyes the handle of the breech, then, gently patting the barrel, he decides to let it soak overnight.

Off the coast of Indochina, ASHFORD engages the services of a gang of smugglers to capture the CALLIOPE.

A convoy of Chinese junks sets out to commandeer the unsuspecting vessel.

Sailing through the night, Admiral LORENZO sleeps fitfully in his cabin when an explosion shatters the silence, tossing him from his bunk. He jumps into a life jacket and cries that they are being attacked.

The frightened crew struggles to lower the lifeboats while he orders them to man their stations.

JOSE, the first mate, pointing to the smoking gun, orders the nervous crew back aboard the vessel. He unlocks the breech, tosses the casing down, and orders the crew to clean the gun.

On the bow of the CALLIOPE, lady FINCH relates an encounter with some oriental pirates on her first voyage around the world. Of course, that was years ago when bandits and pirates were still sailing these waters, but today adventure and romance have disappeared in this part of the world.

While she prattles on, one lady notices a column of dark smoke rising from a distant junk. A stir of excitement draws the attention of the captain to the smoking decoy.

As they approach the smoking junk for the rescue, they are suddenly surrounded by the flotilla of junks. Instantly, JUAN sizes up the situation as the smugglers start climbing aboard. While the crew tries to beat them back with the help of the tourists, ASHFORD, standing on the deck of one of the junks, calls to JUAN and JUANITA to surrender.

Fighting with pillows, deck chairs, and umbrellas, they manage to hold off the marauders momentarily, when suddenly the gunboat opens fire on the flotilla.

Beating a hasty retreat, the smugglers leap from the sides of the yacht into the waiting junks and quickly sail off.

As the approaching gunboat continues firing, JUANITA shouts to the captain to get under way before they are captured by the BARRACUDA.

Blinded by its own smoke, the decoy sails crazily across the bow of the BARRACUDA, thus preventing the gunboat from pursuing the yacht.

From Saigon, ASHFORD, after, paying off the smugglers with disgust, calls London and explains that he is running short of funds, and asks them to cable another advance to Hong Kong.

On an old Ford tri-motor, ASHFORD wings his way to Hong Kong. Below, the CALLIOPE sails at full speed while the gunboat vainly tries to catch up.

In Hong Kong, the British administration gives ASHFORD his seizure order with minimum delay. Jubilantly, he calls London telling them he is waiting for the vessel to arrive, and this time there will be no escaping, he reassures his clients.

The CALLIOPE docks in Hong Kong. ASHFORD stands on the pier with a dozen policemen waiting for the gangway to be lowered. On deck, ASHFORD hands the seizure order to the captain telling him that he must inform his passengers that their tour has ended in Hong Kong. The captain immediately notifies JUAN and JUANITA, who try to reach an agreement with ASHFORD to permit them to complete the voyage. He refuses, and says that either the vessel must return to Britain empty or the balance of the mortgage must be paid. JUAN, standing over the concealed gold, shrugs hopelessly, saying that he doesn't have much money.

ALAMO BARTLEY, having heard the conversation, boldly steps forward and asks JUAN how much remains on the mortgage.

"About three hundred thousand pounds," sighs JUANITA.

“How much money is that in Texas green backs, ma’am?” drawls ALAMO. ASHFORD makes a quick calculation saying that it comes to about a million dollars.

“Sir, ma’am, ah hope y’all don’t think it presumptuous of me if ah offers to buy up that there mortgage,” says ALAMO as he takes out his checkbook. “Now, sir, who do ah make out that little sum to?” he asks, as he starts scratching in his checkbook, while ASHFORD spells out the names.

JUANITA kisses ALAMO, as he stammers self-consciously, “Shucks, ma’m, ah didn’t want that critter to spoil our trip ‘round the world.”

ASHFORD calls London informing them that he has just been paid the balance of the mortgage by a Texas oil millionaire.

While the tourists are amusing themselves by losing money in the casinos of near Macao, JUAN decides to set up his own gambling tables on board.

JUANITA visits the Republic of China’s Embassy to make certain that they can still sail to Shanghai. She is courteously reassured that she and her husband will always be welcomed to Red China, since they were the only country in the western hemisphere to recognize them and China does not forget her friends.

Still waiting patiently outside the harbor, the BARRACUDA bobs like a cork on the rough sea. Admiral LORENZO orders the pharmacist mate to pass out the Dramamine pills. Violently ill himself, the mate reaches for the wrong bottle and passes out the sleeping pills, putting the whole ship to sleep.

The CALLIOPE sails out of Hong Kong en route to Shanghai, while LORENZO and his crew are snoring peacefully aboard the BARRACUDA.

Still in Hong Kong, ASHFORD prepares to leave for London, when he receives a call from MOSEBY. They have checked with Texas and discovered that “The Lone Star Bank” doesn’t exist.

Foiled again, ASHFORD rushes off to the airport and catches the first plane to Tokyo.

Passing through the Formosan Straight, the CALLIOPE is trapped in an artillery duel between Communist and Nationalist naval vessels. The exchange sends up gushers of water in all directions around the boat, with neither side causing any damage except to the ocean.

Admiral LORENZO slowly awakens to find his crew snoring all about the ship, he violently shakes the bugler and orders him to sound the reveille. To those who refuse to open their eyes, he rudely plants a well-placed kick on their cabooses.

The crew finally stirs about the vessel while LORENZO focuses his spyglass on the empty pier.

“The CALLIOPE has escaped again,” he bellows to JOSE, “but we’ll be waiting for her off Shanghai.”

JOSE reminds them that they should stay out of hostile waters since the new government has withdrawn recognition from Communist China. LORENZO agrees and decides to sail on to Tokyo, to ambush the CALLIOPE there.

In Shanghai, JUAN and JUANITA get a rousing welcome by red flag-waving children and are received by Chinese dignitaries.

A dispute breaks out among the passengers. One camp wants to make the tour of Shanghai, but the other, frightened by repercussions, refuses.

Lady FINCH leads the group who believe that they have a right to see for themselves, even though they do not agree with the political system.

The opposite camp wants to visit Formosa, and refuses to go ashore. The tour of Shanghai is reduced to twenty-four hours, which disappoints Lady FINCH and her group.

(If it is possible to receive permission to shoot scenes in Shanghai, it would have great commercial value for the film.)

In Tokyo harbor, ASHFORD, accompanied by a small contingent of Japanese police, watches the CALLIOPE pulling up to the pier.

In the presence of JUAN and JUANITA, ALAMO BARTLEY, confronted with the rubber check, smiles and reaches into his pocket. He pulls out another checkbook and offers a new check on a different bank.

ASHFORD refuses indignantly, and says the ALAMO should be arrested for forgery. However, he does not want to create an international incident involving the ex-president of San Corredor as a party to a swindle.

He will just take possession of the CALLIOPE.

ALAMO meekly apologizes to JUAN and JUANITA, saying that he only wanted to save the tour from this “mortgage jumper.” They understand and thank him, but now they are afraid that the tour is finished.

Suddenly, JUANITA has an idea – since the vessel must be returned to England in any case, perhaps she can persuade ASHFORD to continue the tour, in order not to disappoint the passengers.

ASHFORD is suspicious, fearing that they are up to some chicanery. Besides, it also involves his clients with legal obligation if anything should happen to the passengers. And once they got into international waters, his writ would be worthless.

When they give him a statement in which they agree to take full responsibility, and promise to return the vessel to its owners in England, he finally consents. After a delightful tour of Tokyo, the happy but weary sightseers board the CALLIOPE for a restful voyage across the Pacific.

In the distance, the BARRACUDA cruises unobtrusively, while Admiral LORENZO watches the CALLIOPE through his spyglass as she approaches.

This time, he will meet the yacht head on in an attempt to outmaneuver her and bring about the gunboat so that a boarding party can seize the vessel.

As the two ships head toward each other, the captain of the CALLIOPE nervously watches the gunboat bearing down on them. He sends out a long blast from the ship’s whistle, but the BARRACUDA does not heed the warning. In desperation, the captain orders his helmsmen to turn full right rudder while he continues blasting on the whistle.

Aboard the gunboat, the crew panics as they sight the bow of the CALLIOPE and feels to the stern of the ship. Without waiting for LORENZO's orders, the helmsman turns the BARRACUDA in the opposite direction.

The maneuver fails, and the ships sail away from each other.

When the gunboat finally turns about, she is once again trailing the stern of the speeding CALLIOPE.

Cursing his cowardly crew, LORENZO orders hard-tack rations for two days.

On the bridge of the yacht, they breathe easier as they watch the gunboat off in the distance.

Sailing across the Pacific, the passengers relax and enjoy themselves. JUAN has set up his roulette wheel and gaming table in the salon.

Soon most of the passengers are attracted to the gambling salon, and even LUIGI, who has shied away from his fellow passengers, eases toward the tables. Seated with his large valise next to him, he bets small amounts, and from time to time he changes a large bill, but he never seems to win or lose. He becomes a familiar figure at the tables.

Even ASHFORD is bitten by the gambling bug. After winning small amounts the first evening, he begins placing larger bets, and when he loses he tries to recoup his losses by still heavier betting. Soon he is borrowing money from JUAN, and gambles like a madman, until one evening JUAN calls him into his office and shows him a stack of I.O.U.s, which total over a half million pounds.

"Considering that I owe you 300,000 pounds for the yacht," says JUAN, "and you owe me 560,000 pounds, I suggest that you pay the balance and settle with MOSEBY, etc."

When AHSFORD realizes his folly, he staggers out dumbfounded. In the darkness, he leans unsteadily on the railing of the ship, staring into the water. Just as he starts to climb over the railing, JUANITA grasps his arm and pulls him back, saying it is stupid to commit suicide.

Then, she opens her purse, removes a bundle of checks and I.O.U.s, and slowly flips them into the sea.

“Gamblers are such fools,” she says as she turns away from the blubbing Englishman.

In the bar, ALAMO BARTLEY is drinking with the two confidence men and their female accomplice who were not around when he was exposed by ASHFORD.

They show ALAMO a coded radiogram sent by a confederate stating that he has just discovered a new diamond field in the French Cameroons which is greater than anything in South Africa. In order to buy the property before news gets out, he will need 450,000 dollars.

They invite ALAMO to join the partnership. If he will come in for one third they will accept his check for 150,000 dollars.

Posing as a cautious businessman, ALAMO wants to sleep on the proposition before he gives them the check.

In his cabin, AARON FLAGG, the aging actor, is preparing the champagne and soft music atmosphere for the teenaged DIANA.

As her mother snores peacefully, DIANA creeps out of the cabin to join FLAGG.

In his bed, the book-worm starts on a new novel.

The young prostitute leads another customer to her stateroom from the promenade deck.

In the main salon, the gamblers are betting feverishly, while others mark their cards, each working his own system. LUIGI, sitting by his large valise, places a small wager. As the croupier gathers in his chips, LUIGI smiles sardonically, as he changes another large bill.

The wind begins to rise gently rolling the ship. The first drops of rain start to fall on the deck, the gradually the wind increases in intensity, and soon the full force of the Pacific typhoon hits the CALLIOPE.

As FLAGG pours the last of the champagne into DIANA's glass, he stares hungrily at her bosom. He edges closer and gently kisses her hand. She smiles invitingly, as he continues up her arm. He is about to embrace her when the ship rolls violently, and sends the champagne bucket crashing to the floor. FLAGG tries to continue, but spell is broken by another roll which tosses him off the sofa. He crawls back to the sofa only to have it slide away from him to the other side of the cabin. Steadying himself momentarily, he pounces on the sofa as Diana is pitched to the floor. Desperately, he attempts to resume his courtship, but suddenly he becomes seasick and staggers out of the cabin.

At the gambling tables, the gamblers bravely try to continue while the chips slide onto the wrong numbers.

The book-worm calmly turns a page and continues, unaware of the storm that is lashing the decks outside.

The half-stripped prostitute, kneeling beside her unconscious client, nurses a large bump on his forehead with a damp towel.

On deck, the crew lashes down the rigging as the waves pound the CALLIOPE unmercifully.

Aboard the gunboat, LORENZO stumbles along the bridge, groaning and holding his stomach, while the sea tosses the floundering craft around like a matchbox.

Except for JOSE, the whole crew is violently seasick. He bravely manages to hold the vessel on course and to keep the mountainous waves from capsizing her.

At dawn the storm abates. Aboard the CALLIOPE, the radio operator intercepts an S.O.S. from a ship in distress. He dashes up to the bridge with the message. Quickly the captain alters his course and speeds toward the vessel. Through his binoculars, the captain recognizes the floundering gunboat, and calls JUAN.

As they approach the unmanned vessel, JUAN wonders if they are running into an ambush. They contact the gunboat by radio, saying that they are willing to come to her aid if she is really in distress. The gunboat reports that she is taking on water and is in danger of sinking. They agree to truce in order to come to her assistance.

Admiral LORENZO must run up the white flag before JUAN permits the lifeboats to be lowered.

The rescue crew boards the BARRACUDA with tools and equipment. After a battle of suspense, they patch up the leaking seams and start pumping water out.

As the rescue crew returns to the CALLIOPE, JUAN and LORENZO glare menacingly at each other from the bridges of their ships.

LORENZO stares grimly at the yacht getting slowly underway, and as soon as she is out of range, he orders the white flag hauled down and resumes the chase.

Throughout the voyage, JUAN keeps himself informed of the political situation in San Corredor by shortwave radio.

Los mustachos are having their troubles. The economy of the country is virtually bankrupt, the bottom has fallen out of the peanut market, and unemployment has hit the plantations, farms, and factories.

The government printing presses are working overtime as inflation sweeps the country. The army has suppressed a strike among the peanut pickers of the United Peanut Company.

“So they thought it was easy to govern.” JUAN says dryly, “well, we won’t be around to save them. They can stew in their own juice.”

On deck, the crew is making small repairs to the damages that were left by the typhoon. While strolling along the promenade deck, JUANITA’s heel gets caught between two loose boards under which the gold is hidden. She calls to the purser to have the boards nailed down and resumes her promenade.

The CALLIOPE, after losing the gunboat off Hawaii, reaches Panama. The tourists file off the yacht for a day of rubbernecking. To everyone's surprise, even LUIGI decides to join the passengers, carrying his ever-present suitcase down the gangplank.

The following morning as the CALLIOPE gets ready to sail, a squad of Panamanian police come aboard to investigate the counterfeit money that has been passed by some of its passengers. The police inspector orders everyone on deck for questioning, and they discover that most of them are in possession of counterfeit dollars.

Suddenly, JUANITA notices LUIGI's absence. After a search they realize he has flown the coop.

It immediately dawns on JUAN that LUIGI was not really gambling, but quietly passing phony bills. He runs to the ship's safe to withdraw money for examination.

When all of the counterfeit money is finally collected, the mass of worthless paper runs into thousands of dollars. This leaves most of the passengers broke except for traveler's checks and some loose change.

JUAN and JUANITA are thunderstruck when they realize that their cruise has ended in financial catastrophe. They have just enough money to finish the tour and when the vessel is returned to its owners, they will be penniless.

The police inspector tells them he will do everything possible to apprehend LUIGI, but does not have much hope since he has probably fled from Panama.

In an expensive hotel suite overlooking Panama Bay, LUIGI, flashily dressed, sings a merry tune as he transfers the money from his old suitcase into a pair of handsome leather bags.

After a fruitless search of the city, the inspector tells JUAN that LUIGI has evaded their dragnet, but he reassures JUAN that he will leave no stone unturned until he catches up with that crook.

The CALLIOPE slowly enters the Panama Canal with its victimized passengers.

The gunboat trails her from lock to lock as she enters the Lake Gatun in the middle of the canal.

From the bow of the yacht, JUANITA notices a small man in a white suit with two leather bags at his side, standing on a distant oil tanker.

As she rushes toward the bridge to get her binoculars, JUANITA trips and goes sprawling over the loose deck boards. Angrily brushing herself off, she dashes up to the bridge and focuses her glasses on the distant figure.

“What’s all the excitement about?” asks JUAN.

“I think it LUIGI,” shouts JUANITA, “if he’d only turn around!”

“Where?” asks JUAN, picking up his own glasses.

“On that tanker! The little guy in the white suit with the two bags. It must be him!”

They keep watching the figure, who refuses to turn in their direction. JUAN orders the captain to move closer.

The figure picks up his bags and walks to the opposite railing facing the CALLIOPE. He pulls up short when he sees the yacht, and then ducks behind a lifeboat.

“It’s him! It’s LUIGI! He saw us!” cries JUANITA. JUAN and JUANITA get into the lifeboat and are rowed over to the tanker.

LUIGI, realizing that he has been seen, slips into a lifejacket, jumps over the opposite side with his two bags slung over his shoulder, and attempts to swim away.

Admiral LORENZO watches the excitement from the side of the BARRACUDA, JUAN and JUANITA climb aboard the tanker. While they explain their story to the captain, LUIGI is paddling furiously toward the gunboat, towing his two bags behind him.

A sailor shouts that a man has fallen overboard.

“He jumped! He’s swimming toward the gunboat,” cries JUAN, “we have to catch him before he gets there.”

They scramble down into the waiting lifeboat and row off after LUIGI.

As LUIGI approaches the gunboat, LORENZO throws him a line, he grasps it with his two waterlogged bags hanging from his shoulder. The crew starts to pull him up just as the lifeboat arrives. LUIGI’s feet dangle precariously out of reach of JUAN’s outstretched arms, while LORENZO roars with laughter.

As the crew prepares to grab LUIGI, the tied bags begin to slip from his shoulder. In a vain attempt to hold onto the rope and the bags at the same time, he suddenly lets go and drops into the water splashing everyone in the lifeboat.

Half-drowned, he is pulled into the lifeboat, while above, LORENZO, outraged, growls and sputters.

In the crowded salon of the CALLIOPE, LUIGI looks on hopelessly as JUAN opens the dripping bags and displays the wet packets of money. As the victims gather around the table, LUIGI tiptoes out on deck but is collared by Lady FINCH’s umbrella handle before he can make another leap for freedom.

For punishment, JUANITA puts him to work, pressing the bills with an electric iron, while JUAN returns the money to the victims.

The CALLIOPE sails into the Caribbean Sea with the gunboat in hot pursuit. Once in international waters, the BARRACUDA opens fire, but the yacht soon gets out of range.

In the radio shack, JUAN and JUANITA listen to the “VOICE of San CORREDO” a clandestine group of JUAN’s followers who struggle against the mostachos.

The VOICE reports on the deteriorating political situation of the county which only the restoration of the JUAN DE LA CRUZ regime can save from disaster. It calls for all patriotic San Corredorians to go out on a general strike against the mostachos. The VOICE signs off with “Viva JUAN and JUANITA” and ends with the national anthem.

JUAN and JUANITA, bursting with optimism, stroll along the promenade deck, when JUAN trips over the loose board which covers the concealed gold. He curses loudly as he picks himself off the deck.

“Haven’t they fixed that board yet? JUAN asks.

“Well, they have, but it wasn’t a very good job,” says JUANITA.

“I’d do it better myself, all it needs is a couple of nails,” says JUAN as he goes to fetch the tools.

While JUANITA holds a flashlight, JUAN hammers in a nail only to have it bend on the first blow. Pulling it out, he drives another one that bends too. After a few more attempts he decides that he had better look under the boards. He tries to pry them up without success.

JUANITA is about to throw the bent nails overboard when she notices their gleaming tips. She stares incredulously at the nails and immediately it hits her! She trembles with excitement.

“Look, JUAN! Look at these nails!”

“They’re just bent,” he says casually. “Damned cheap nails if you ask me.”
No, JUAN, look at the tips!”

“So, they’re brass tipped, but they’re still cheap nails,” JUAN repeats.

“It’s not brass, it’s gold!” she says trying to smother her excitement. “DIEGO must have hidden the gold under the deck! That’s why you couldn’t drive in the nails.”

Frantically, they both claw at the boards and succeed in prying one up just enough for JUANITA to reach under it and pull out a small gold ingot.

JUAN jubilantly announces that this will solve all their financial problems. He embraces JUANITA who adds that it will solve their political problems as well.

In SAN Corredor, Colonel AVAKIAN, the “Big mostacho,” personally instructs the pilot and crew of antiquated bomber loaded with concussion bombs, which is being prepared to take off.

“You must stop the CALLIOPE,” Colonel AVAKIAN says, “but not sink her. The future of San Corredor depends on the success of your mission, because

the National Treasure is on board. If the CALLIOPE sinks, we will sink with her.”

Aboard the CALLIOPE, the crew is preparing to remove the deck flooring as the curious passengers look on.

In the distance, the bomber, skimming over the waves, buzzes over the yacht startling everyone. Lady FINCH waves her umbrella up at the crazy acrobats who have frightened little Winston, her pug.

The bomber returns and drops a message on the deck ordering the captain to stop the vessel or they will attack. JUAN tears up the message saying that he will not be bluffed, and orders the nervous crew to proceed with their work.

The plane roars over the yacht and drops another message giving a last warning. It sweeps so low that it almost hits the radio antenna causing panic among the passengers. JUAN tells the captain to order the tourists below decks and follow a zigzag course.

Meanwhile, the crew has uncovered the first row of gold ingots. JUANITA helps JUAN to pick them up and to place them in a wooden box.

The bomber returns dropping a stick of “screaming meemies,” which explodes wide of the mark but the concussion rocks the vessel.

“They can’t scare me!” shouts JUAN. “They’re bluffing. We’ve got the gold, and they know it!”

JUANITA stares up at the circling plane, which makes another pass and drops another string that sends gushers of water over the ship.

“They’re getting too close for comfort,” says JUANITA apprehensively, “I don’t think they’re bluffing.”

ALAMO BARTLEY scampers out on deck with a loaded shotgun, saying that he is going to “shoot down those varmints.” JUAN tells him that he does not see how a shotgun can have much effect, but he can try.

“Unless they leave us alone, let’s threaten to throw the gold overboard,” says JUANITA

“You’re right! That will get them off our backs,” answers JUAN as he goes to the radio shack.

Aboard the bomber, they receive the message. The pilot thinks they are bluffing. However, he decides to fly over the vessel to make sure that they have the treasure. The gold is piled near the railing while the plane swoops low over the CALLIOPE. Concealed behind a lifeboat, ALAMO waits for the plane to pass. As the bomber zooms by, he fires both barrels.

“Got ‘em!” he shouts jubilantly.

In the cockpit of the bomber the pilot asks if anyone saw the gold.

“We were flying too fast to see anything,” says the bombardier. “Take it a little slower this time.”

The pilot cuts his speed and drops lower as he approaches the yacht.

Still crouched behind the lifeboat, ALAMO fires off another blast.

“Got ‘em again!” he roars, but the plane continues flying.

The BARRACUDA gains steadily on the CALLIOPE as Admiral LORENZO watches the bomber continue its attack.

Aboard the bomber they have seen gold ingots. The copilot thinks he heard some shots as he flew by. Suddenly the navigator spots some damages on the wing. The pilot decides to teach those double-crossers a lesson, and makes another run over the vessel as he climbs out of range.

The bombs rain around the ship, tossing it violently from beam to beam as water cascades over the decks with the frightened passengers and crew running for cover. Lady FINCH indignantly waves her umbrella, demanding that they “cease this foolishness immediately.”

The pilot sneers down at the panic-ridden ship saying that that will teach them a lesson. The plane suddenly shudders as flames and smoke shoot out of

one of the engines. They start banking crazily on one wing while the pilot fights to regain control, the bomber glides to its fatal plunge into the sea.

The passengers rush to the bow, cheering wildly as they watch the crew, parachuting into the sea. ALAMO chuckles appreciatively as he kisses the barrel of his shotgun.

JUAN refuses to go to the rescue of the struggling plane crew saying that the traitors should be left to drown. Lady FINCH protests that it's not "cricket" to let them die. JUANITA agrees and persuades him to go to their aid.

While the crew of the CALLIOPE lowers a lifeboat to go to the rescue, the BARRACUDA bears down on the unsuspecting yacht.

Admiral LORENZO, having issued rifles to his crew, orders them to get ready to board the yacht as they pull alongside of the halted vessel.

Panic breaks out among the passengers as hook lines are thrown aboard the CALLIOPE securing her to the gunboat.

In the radio shack of the BARRACUDA, the operator listens intently to his earphones. He listens incredulously to the report as beads of perspiration form on his face. Tearing off his earphones, he rushes to the bridge. On the way he encounters JOSE, the first mate, and tells him the incredible news.

On the bridge, LORENZO watches his men as they prepare to board the CALLIOPE. He cackles derisively at JUAN and JUANITA saying that he finally caught up with them.

As JOSE enters the bridge, he hears LORENZO order his men to board the yacht. Calmly, he takes his pistol and belts LORENZO from behind, dropping him to the deck.

JOSE, picking up the megaphone, shouts to the crew to put down their weapons saying that he is now in command.

Then, addressing JUAN and JUANITA, he shouts:

“The students have overthrown Los mostachos, and Colonel AVAKIAN has been chased out of the country. The people of San Corredor are calling for your return. Long live the revolution! Viva JUAN and JUANITA!”

Lead by the BARRACUDA, the CALLIOPE sails for San Corredor. On board, JUAN and JUANITA invite the passengers to San Corredor as their personal guests before they return to their respective countries.

In the harbor of CIELTO, thousands of cheering citizens await the arrival of the CALLIOPE; the yacht slowly enters the bay as ships, tugboats, and small craft blow their whistles to welcome JUAN and JUANITA.

When the CALLIOPE finally docks, the enthusiastic students swarm aboard sweeping JUAN and JUANITA on their shoulders, and they carry them off to the presidential palace.

THE END