

National

Luxury liner called a death trap

Andrea Doria spooks divers

United Press International
MONTAUK, N.Y. — The leader of the team that explored the Andrea Doria says now that the treasure from his expedition is safe in a tank guarded by sharks, he'll never return to the eerie luxury liner one diver called a "death trap."

Several of the divers said they were spooked during their deep-sea search. They said they sensed a spirit in the murky interior of the ship, pitch black and webbed with discarded fish nets that threatened to entangle their air lines.

A rusty black safe, pulled from the depths of the Atlantic Ocean by divers who returned from a month-long expedition Wednesday, is being kept at the New York Aquarium at Coney Island in a salt water tank filled with sharks. The tank is to be opened on live television at the end of a documentary.

Expedition leaders hoped the salt water would preserve from further deterioration the \$4 million in cash and jewels the safe is believed to hold.

Although divers failed to recover a second safe, Peter Gimbel, 53, the expedition leader and department store heir, said he was not going back to the theoretically unsinkable liner that had become almost an obsession with him.

"No, sir, I have no plan ever to return to the ship," said Gimbel, speaking with reporters through an intercom in the decompression chamber where he and four other divers were adjusting to sea level atmospheric pressure.

Elga Andersen, Gimbel's wife, said the divers described "a presence" when they discovered the safe.

"It was almost as if the ship was saying: 'You're not going to get my safe,'" she said.

Anderson said the adventure marks the "last chapter in the book" of the mystery surrounding the liner that collided with the ship Stockholm in heavy fog off Nantucket, Mass., July 25, 1956, killing 50 people.

"She (the Andrea Doria) did not make it easy," Gimbel said. The exploration was conducted at a depth of 230 feet.

Don Hollis, a diver who spent 17 days in the murky innards of the Doria, called the liner "a deep and magnificent wreck."

"You have visions of well-dressed men and women as you swim through the first class cocktail lounge — but the ship is a junkyard now."

"It's like a death trap," he said, "because you can get tangled in lines totally invisible in the water."

He described swimming

through the watery ruins of the ship's marble chapel, imagining the elegant passengers aboard in the moments before the collision.

"It was a very eerie feeling," the Oakland, Calif., diver said.

The discovery of massive damage to the liner's hull astonished shipwreck experts who speculated the liner sank because one of its watertight compartment doors had been carelessly left open.

Some of the divers, who spent between 13 days and 30 days at extreme depths, were reported to be suffering from possible respiratory ailments, but they were said to be in generally good condition.

U.S. Customs officials required Gimbel's representatives to post a \$2 million bond to cover the safe and other items recovered from the Andrea Doria, including dishes, a glass door and religious objects from the ship's chapel.

Would-be assassin jailed, awaits psychiatric tests

United Press International
BALTIMORE — A man armed with five guns and possibly under the influence of a powerful hallucinogenic drug, who told Secret Service agents he was en route to "kill President Reagan," was jailed Thursday awaiting psychiatric tests.

Isom Joseph Dean Jr., 24, was arrested Wednesday in Towson, Md. — less than an hour's drive from the White House — after his sister reported he was driving her car without permission.

He was charged with threatening to assassinate the president and held without bond.

Ben Frazier, Dean's attorney, said in a pretrial report his client had taken PCP, a powerful hallucinogenic drug, and had been drinking hours before he was arrested.

U.S. Magistrate Paul Rosen-

berg ordered that Dean be sent to a federal detention facility in Springfield Mo., for a 60-day examination that will include psychiatric tests.

Dean's sister, Linda Cioppello of Baltimore, said her brother had undergone psychiatric treatment "four or five years ago." Dean's attorney said Dean had been treated for conditions resulting from the use of PCP and LSD.

Police who stopped him on a routine complaint found three scope-equipped rifles, an M-18 semi-automatic rifle, a loaded .22-caliber Smith & Wesson revolver, and a pair of high-powered binoculars in the car.

Dean, who lives in Sparks, Md., told Baltimore County Police he was on his way to Washington, D.C. to "kill President Reagan and a couple of police officers."

In an affidavit, Secret Service

agents said Dean told them he intended to kill the president and "planned to sit around and wait until the opportunity presented itself because the president always has to come out."

Police stopped Dean earlier in the day when his car was stuck in mud at a private residence but nothing was found when the vehicle was searched.

He threatened Reagan when he was stopped after police got a complaint from his half-sister that he was driving her car without permission.

Police spokesman E. Jay Miller quoted Dean as telling arresting officers: "You're lucky. If I hadn't had to stop for gas in Towson, you would not have gotten me. I would have killed the president."

Miller said, "He certainly had the weaponry to do it, and from talking to him we felt he had the potential to do it."

IRS to rule on high interest rates

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Financial firms monitored reports from Washington Thursday to see if investment incentives that have brought in a flood of money by offering high interest rates would be ruled taxable by the Internal Revenue Service.

The IRS scheduled a news conference to take a stand on promotions offering up to 50 percent interest to depositors investing in special "repurchase agreements" under which their funds would be rolled over into new "allsaver" certificates on Oct. 1.

Last weekend, the IRS expressed doubts about the legality of the promotional programs and said the promised high returns may nullify the tax-free provisions of the certificates.

Administration officials were quoted by The New York Times Thursday saying the IRS would not grant tax-free status to the bonus interest packages. The Times said the IRS would stand by the position outlined Saturday by denying tax-exempt status to savings packages that require the funds to go into the certificates.

An IRS spokesman had no immediate comment on the newspaper report.

Meanwhile, banks, credit unions and savings and loan institutions were not letting the IRS' early warning signal get in their way.

New York's Chase Manhattan Bank inaugurated a revised plan Wednesday designed to safeguard the all-savers tax exemption.

Chase originally advertised an extraordinarily high-interest

bonus for people who signed up early for certificates.

But it withdrew its offer of 40 percent interest after the IRS' weekend warning.

Chase said it will offer a repurchase agreement with a rate of about 17 percent on money invested until Sept. 30. The new plan eliminated the IRS objection to a requirement making conversion to all-savers certificates mandatory.

"There will be no obligation on the part of the consumer to re-deposit the proceeds into a Chase tax-saver certificate or any other Chase account," a spokesman said.

Many other financial institutions kept advertising their original deals despite the IRS warning. Customers who read the fine print in the ads — when it was included — find the exceptionally high "interest" is effective only until Oct.

1, when the depositor is expected to convert the money into the new tax-exempt certificates at their regular rates.

The U.S. League of Savings Associations, with other trade groups, had accused the IRS of misinterpreting the law, confusing the public and jeopardizing the future of the new certificates questioning the promotional campaigns.

The certificate, authorized by Congress to help savings and loan institutions survive in a period of tight money, allows individual savers to exclude the first \$1,000 in interest from taxes. Couples filing joint tax returns can exclude the first \$2,000 in interest, even if all certificates are in the name of one spouse.



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Motorists' militia formed to protest parking tickets

United Press International
NEW YORK — Massachusetts motorists, who feel they were wrongfully issued \$70,000 in New York City parking tickets, are trying to solve their problem in a revolutionary way — with muskets, militiamen and a cannon.

Twelve of them, supported by cannon fire and 25 militiamen with muskets, marched with life and drums Wednesday to City Hall and declared the tickets were issued by a wayward computer.

"We didn't pay King George and we won't pay you," they said in proclamation to Mayor Edward Koch after they fired their miniature cannon.

The gun was fired illegally, but the protesters were not arrested or given summonses.

The event was arranged by WBZ radio station disc jockey Dave Maynard, who stumbled onto the apparent computer snafu during his early morning radio show in Boston while talking on the telephone with a listener.

The listener, John Restuccia, said he last traveled to New York on a bus in 1965. He said he was wrongfully issued \$26,590 in parking tickets from 1975-1978 on a license plate he turned in "seven to eight years ago."

The Newton, Mass., fireman said he first thought someone was playing a joke, but a letter from a law firm demanding he make good on the tickets frightened him.

Restuccia said he heard the tickets were issued as a result of a computer error in the city's Parking Violations Bureau. He said he told the bureau that and has not heard from them since.

New York Transportation officials did not meet with the contingent from Massachusetts.

Later Deputy Commissioner Lester Shafran, head of the PVB, issued a statement that said "when dealing with 500,000 outstanding parking summonses issued to Massachusetts motorists, mistakes will occur."

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