

# Mike Todd's Seaborne Press Junket Almost Runs Afoul Reef Of Nautical Red-Tape

Mike Todd's sea safari for the press yesterday to witness first of three final days' shooting on "Around the World In 80 Days"—five miles off Balboa—was a near-fiasco.

After 25 pressmen boarded the good ship Canim at the Balboa Bay Club at 10:40 a.m., expecting

to sail a few minutes later for a rendezvous with the S.S. Henrietta, on which were David Niven, Cantinflas, Jack Oakie, Andy Devine and other cast members of producer's Todd-AO film, insurance restrictions held up party's departure until 2:20 p.m., when another vessel was found to put out to sea.

Seems the Canim's insurance papers stipulate the owner, George Gaudin, must be aboard before craft can slip its moorings, even with a registered skipper aboard, and Gaudin was in L.A.

Actually, half the Fourth Estaters were hoping he wouldn't show, since the prospect of a stiff wind outside the channel didn't seem attractive. When the Sea Lady, less luxurious but speedy, hove into view as a substitute, they quickly tossed down their remaining Dramamine.

The Henrietta, purchased by Todd from Scripps Institute of Oceanography, for his picture, was to take film's Phileas Fogg (Niven) on the last ocean leg on his trip from NY to Liverpool. Sequence was to have ship, refitted by producer, from designs by William Cameron Menzies, at a cost of \$35,000, burned. Yesterday, due to the delays, it wasn't, but will be today. Following tomorrow's windup of sequence, restaged with a real ship after sequence shot last November on a sound stage appeared too artificial, Todd will re-sell craft, which was refitted for "Days" with paddle wheels, superstructure, bowsprit and smokestack. Entire sequence, including scrapped footage, is estimated to cost around \$250,000.

Sole excitement yesterday consisted of Les Raymaster, stand-in for Niven, falling overboard when he returned to the Henrietta from luncheon on the adjacent camera barge.

Possibility exists, according to Todd, that he may do a 90-minute spec for NBC-TV, using documentary footage lensed during making of "Days."

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