



Mrs. Larry White and Mrs. Al Parvin wave a final good-bye to their husbands from a speed boat this morning as the "Cottardo" begins to pull the raft "Triton" into the

sea to start a 7400-mile drift to the Society Islands. They got off to a bad start Saturday when it had to be towed back by the coast guard. This morn-

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ing's trip appeared favorable at presstime. The C. Stagnaro corporation boat is to pull the raft 25 miles or more into the ocean to catch the southbound Japanese current.

Triton Tackles The Sea

By Ron Reeves
Sentinel Staff Writer

The raft, "Triton," carrying its six crew members, was pulled out of the Capitola harbor this morning with little fanfare or hoopla as it began a 7400-mile drift to the Society islands.

The Capitola wharf was quiet and uncrowded by contrast to Saturday morning when the raft made its initial departure. The first attempt was made despite the warnings of seasoned seamen, and the raft had to be towed back later by the coast guard. The crew explained that the small boat which towed them out was unable to get them far enough into the ocean to catch the southbound Japanese current.

This morning Malio Stagnaro of C. Stagnaro corporation, who

had refused to tow the raft out Saturday because of wind and wave conditions, radioed tuna boats outside the bay for a weather report.

"They said if ever there would be a day, today is the day," Stagnaro said.

He called the crew a little before 7, and they started for the wharf for last-minute preparations. The crew had scattered during the evening and it took an hour or more before they could all be rounded up.

At 9:30 Paul Lybrand, at the wheel of the 56-foot "Cottardo," hitched a chain to the Triton and began pulling it to sea. Stagnaro said the Triton will be towed for approximately 10 hours, which will take them 25 miles or more into the ocean.

The crew spent their last minutes at the wharf signing their autographs to a series of pic-

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A radio report received at noon at the Capitola wharf indicated the towing was going smoothly and on schedule. The Cottardo and the Triton at that time were 12 miles into the ocean. No problems had come about during the first leg of the trip.

tures, taking anti-seasick pills and talking with wives and family members.

Despite some problems in tacking on Saturday's jaunt, the crew made no changes in the raft. Doug Otis, main builder of the raft, said they may rig up a larger plywood keel somewhere along the line. The sails are intended only for emergency power. The raft carries no out-

board motors or other propelling equipment.

The first stop is planned at islands off Mexico in about a month. The raft's progress is expected to reach news media by way of a radio which is carried on the craft.

This morning's departure, assuming that the current is caught, is the end of one phase of the raft venture and the beginning of another one. For over a year the crew has worked on the steel raft, building it from the bottom up. It was put together in a backyard in Freedom and then pulled by a house-mover last month and launched in the Santa Cruz small craft harbor.

It was towed to the Capitola harbor and there the final construction was undertaken.

Numerous donations were received to help outfit the raft

and the crewmembers. Many people took advantage of a boat taxi service set up by the crew to go out and take a look at the raft first-hand. The crewmembers were also feted at several parties, which gave the public a chance to meet them and hear of their trip.

The trip is to be thoroughly documented, both on film and in logs which each crewman is planning to keep. They are hoping to put together a movie or a series of television programs and to write books when the venture is completed.

The men making the trip are Doug Otis, Mel Higley, Al Parvin, Dan McGee, Fred Hametner and Larry White. Only White and Parvin are married. Their wives will stay with relatives until the trip is completed, which may be a year away.

Jets Hit Missile Launcher

Saigon, South Viet Nam (AP)—U.S. jets smashed a Soviet-supplied missile launcher in North Viet Nam over the weekend, but five American planes were lost in other raids on the Communist North, a U.S. military spokesman reported today.

Four of the American airmen were presumed captured and two others were killed when three navy planes were lost yesterday 40 miles north of Hanoi, the spokesman said. Two U.S. fliers were listed as missing after two air force jets were lost Saturday on a raid southwest of Hanoi.

Peking broadcasts claimed

Senate Plan Ready On Redistricting

Cubans Rescued