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NEWS FLASHES.

The night sky of Turin is lit up like a scene from Dante's Inferno when disaster strikes a big rubber factory. All the fire brigades for many miles around fight the blaze as hundreds of tons of motor tyres go up in flames.

Burning rubber is one of the most difficult fires to put out. While factory staff race against time to rescue documents and equipment in the suffocating smoke, firemen battle with the blaze throughout the night. Gradually they gain control, but the total damage is estimated at nearly a third of a million pounds.

Over to France, where alterations now being made to the famous Le Mans motor racing circuit recall another disaster - the terrible crash which marred this year's classic race and cost over 100 lives. To ensure that such a tragedy shall not happen again, stands and pits are being entirely rebuilt. Among other changes, the pit stands are being moved back to allow for a straighter and wider track. This will mean greater safety for drivers and public alike.

From land motoring to ocean motoring. Australian-born writer Ben Carlin and his American wife Elinore reach Melbourne in their amphibious jeep, which they call "Half Safe". They should know, because they've brought her across the Atlantic and halfway round the world! Unlike most ships, she's just as much at home on dry land.

The Carlins look cheerful enough, though Elinore says she's a terrible sailor and is always glad when the wheels touch down. With false starts and delays, including imprisonment in Gibraltar, the trip's taken seven years. The first seven are always the worst - even in a half-ship, half-jeep that called "Half Safe".