NEWSBRIEFS:

ARRIVAL OF JEEP, HALF SAFE:

World voyagers arrive in Melbourne in a very different type of craft --- the amphibious jeep Half Safe in which writer Ben Carlin and his American wife Elinore have travelled half way round the globe. They crossed the Atlantic in that. Unlike practically every other ship that's crossed the oceans the Half Safe is just as much at home on dry land. Elinore says she's a terrible sailor and she's always glad to set foot on terra firma. West Australian born Ben is at home anywhere. With false starts stops and repairs, imprisonment in Gibralter, the Carlins have taken 7 years to get to Australia. The first seven years are always the worst - even in a half-ship, half-jeep that's called Half Safe.

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Christmas folks is just around the corner and when Santa's on the way Adelaide celebrates with its annual procession. Toyland and fairland characters make up the 30 magnificent floats. Even Gulliver is here this year and though he's going to a Magic Cave instead of Lilliput, he'll feel right at home with the Seven Dwarfs. Dad's the one who'll be feeling Grumpy. It's a monster parade nearly a mile long - and with something for the kiddies to marvel at a very yard of it. Humpty Dumpty never quite has that fall --- can't afford it these days with eggs the price they are. Mother Goose is another fairytale favourite that really comes to life in Adelaide's main streets an tens of thousands of parents and children watch. They need no Pied Piper to call them to this show. And, of course, there's the grand finale with Santa himself riding in triumph. A rare treat for the youngesters - and a timely reminder to Mum and Dad that Christmas is coming - but fast.