

Friday, April 26, 1968
Denver, Colorado

PAHUTE MESA

The biggest underground nuclear blast in free world history - was exploded today near Pahute Mesa, Nevada. "Operation Box-Car" - generating temperatures in the millions of degrees." Carving out of a glazed cavern of liquified rock - an area big enough to hold Hoover Dam - and then some. With a hydrogen detonation - equal to One-point-Two-Million tons of TNT.

The blast shaking those big hotels in nearby Las Vegas. Indeed, it set the earth to trembling in four states - Nevada, California, Utah and Arizona. Even registering as "a substantial earthquake" - on East Coast seismographs: with a shock rating of six-plus on the richter scale.

The Atomic Energy Commission says no radiation leakage. And fully "in accordance with our expectations." So reports the A. E. C.

SAIGON

The City of Saigon - tense and alert today with a threat of a new Viet Cong invasion. National police - reporting a flood of enemy infiltrators. Men, women and children hauling weapons and ammunition into the city on boats, trucks bicycles and on their backs. National Police Chief General Loan saying of the expected attack: "It will come - maybe tomorrow - maybe after tomorrow - but," said he - "it will come." Meanwhile, U.S. B-52's were bombing suspected enemy strongholds barely twenty-five miles from the Capital.

On the political front - South Vietnamese President Thieu says he hopes to visit the United States in a few weeks, "To express Vietnam's gratitude for American help." Also, he adds: "to talk war and peace with President Johnson."

PRICES

The U.S. cost of living - up four-tenths -of-one percent in March. Biggest jump in eight months - according to figures announced today by the Labor Department.

Raising the nation's consumer price index nearly twenty percent over the base period of Nineteen-Fifty-Seven to Fifty-Nine.

This tantamount to an annual rate increase - of better than four percent - a figure last reached during the Korean War, year of Nineteen-Fifty-One.

NEW YORK

From New York comes sad news today - about the passing of an old friend and colleague Levon West, from North Dakota - a noted etcher of the Twenties and Thirties; better known in recent years as Ivan Dmitri - globe girdeling photographer and photographic expert.

As an etcher - West ranked with the best. His early etchings of the West - where he was born - now on display in many of the Nation's greatest museums. Two of them recently purchased by President Johnson to decorate the interior of his personal helicopter. Another famous etching: that of The Spirit of St. Louis - illustrating Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic.

At age Thirty-Five - he switching his talents to the camera as Ivan Dmitri - turning out the first major color picture series - for the Saturday Evening Post. His adventures as a war correspondent later documented in a superb book called - "flight to everywhere." He also "founded photography in fine arts" - which sponsors regular

*photographic exhibits at the Metropolitan and other
museums.*

Levon West - Ivan Dmitri - age Sixty-Eight.

SEA OF GALILEE

Sharp fighting was again reported today in the Middle East - tenth time this week. Jordanian and Israeli troops trading tank, mortar and machine gun fire - in a disputed area south of the Sea of Galilee.

This latest outburst - following a stern warning from Israeli Defense Minister General Moshe Dayan. A warning to Jordan to put a stop to Arab Guerilla raids across the truce line - or else Israel will settle the matter once and for all; on Jordanian territory - said he.

Such Israeli warnings in the past have usually been followed by massive retaliatory raids.

PRAGUE

In Prague - where the Iron Curtain is a bit tattered these days - Czechoslovakia's new government today plunged ahead with promised reform. This despite a threat of economic sanctions from the Soviet Union.

Czech leaders are said to feel that such sanctions would hit the country hard - especially in the first few months. They are also said to be confident though - that freedom from Soviet restraint will permit a badly needed overhaul of the Czech economy; ending ultimately - in a stronger, more prosperous Czechoslovakia.

Meanwhile, Czech airport workers were getting ready today - to exercise one of their new found prerogatives. That is threatening to strike next week against what they call - "poor working conditions of the last ten years."

WILLIAMANTIC

From Williamantic, Connecticut comes the story of a striking telephone operator - who was striking today in more ways than one.

Blond, eighteen-year-old Miss Kathleen Kacoqski - riding a horse down Williamantic's Main Street, giving a pretty fair imitation - of Britain's Lady Godiva. Wearing only a bikini - and carrying a sign that said: "The time for horseplay in the negotiations is over."

When last seen - Miss Kathleen Kacoqski was "headed thataway." And now - "thisaway" - here's Warren:

MARCH

An apostle of self-help for negroes - latest to attack the planned "Poor People's March on Washington." In New York - negro businessman Dr. Thomas Matthew - asserting that the march promises nothing but "pie in the sky."

Dr. Matthew going on to say: "The negro has had enough perspiration - inspiration - and passification - ~~it~~ through the welfare dole; it is time now for the negro to get sophistication - to face reality." His own contribution to the cause - said the Doctor - will be the establishment of a new school of self-help on the streets of Washington. An institution to be called: Said he - "The Nitty Gritty School of Economics."