

BILL

L.T. - Quirk, Fisher. Fri. Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> 65.

President Johnson today signed into law - the  
First Lady's cherished highway beautification bill.  
Providing three hundred and twenty million dollars in  
federal funds - for a two-year roadside clean-up campaign.  
A campaign to remove billboards and junk yards from along  
our highways - and to replace them with shrubs and trees  
and greenery.

This the President's principal chore - in his  
first full day back at the White House. A few more such  
details - ~~we have~~ <sup>then</sup> and ~~we~~ off to Texas, for at least  
a month.

A moment of high drama today - before the House Un-American Activities Committee, when a used car salesman from Goldsboro, North Carolina - publicly resigned from the Ku Klux Klan. Because - said he - he wanted to "tell the truth" about the secret order.

Forty year old Joseph Dubois - an ex-marine - the first Klansman to talk freely in four days of hearings. Also providing the committee with full financial records of the Goldsboro Chapter of the Klan- as authorized by chapter members.

His decision - taken against the advice of top Klan officials - said Dubois. But essential <sup>he said</sup> - if he were to maintain his ~~ex~~ sense of "loyalty and integrity". Dubois adding that "anyone who takes the fifth amendment - is either a Communist or has something to hide."

*In Hayneville, Alabama, today*

*A twelve man white jury took less than two hours to acquitt Collie LeRoy Wilkins of a charge that he killed Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a white civil rights worker. A crowd of spectators in the Lowndes County Court House sent up a cheer <sup>when</sup> The verdict of acquittal was read to the court. Wilkins was a member of the ~~Ku Klux~~ Klan. He had been tried once before on the murder charge and that time the jury was unable to agree on a verdict.*

## FIRES

*Some six hundred men battled a series of major brush fires today - in and around the city of San Diego.*

*One of the blazes halted only a few hundred feet - from an eighty-seven-million-dollar nuclear power plant, ~~P~~resently under construction - at the Camp Pendleton Marine Base.*

*The fires blamed in part - on a record-breaking heat wave, ~~T~~emperatures topping the hundred mark - for the second straight day. A desert wind with gusts up to seventy miles an hour - adding to the danger.*

*At last report - more than five thousand acres of land- blackened by the fires. More than twenty persons injured - more than twenty buildings destroyed.*

GEMINI

Astronauts Wally Schirra and Tom Stafford -  
got an important medical okay today. <sup>All a part of</sup> ~~the~~ the continuing  
methodical count-down at Cape Kennedy - toward Monday's  
scheduled launch of the Gemini=Six. Both men reported  
in excellent physical condition - ready and rarin' to go.

The ~~xxx~~ weather - something else again. The  
latest forecast for Monday - calling for mostly cloudy skies  
with a ceiling of about two thousand feet. A disappointing  
comedown from the earlier prediction - of a ceiling at  
more than five thousand feet.

Nevertheless, flight preparations <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ still  
proceeding as planned. The weather not perfect - but,  
"we can live with it" - said space officials.

VIET NAM

In Viet Nam - no let-up in the Communist siege - of that American special forces camp at Plei Me.

Despite the steady build-up of men inside the camp - despite ~~repeated~~ repeated American air strikes - the Viet Cong said to be massing their forces, with every indication they may try another suicide attack - in an attempt to over-run the camp. But for now, at any rate, American and Vietnamese losses - described as "light".

In the meantime, South Korea's "Tiger Unit" began moving ashore today at Qui Nhon - about two hundred and seventy miles northeast of Saigon. The ten thousand "Tiger Men" joining five thousand Korean marines - already on duty in South Viet Nam.

Also an announcement today - by <sup>the</sup> South Vietnamese Prime Minister, ~~he~~ To the effect that the bulk of American and Vietnamese troops in Saigon - soon will be transferred to a military barracks at Bien Hoa - about fifteen miles away - to relieve congestion - said he.

MARTINIQUE

~~Renewed~~ <sup>Mare</sup> violence today in the Caribbean.

Hundreds ~~of youth~~ battling police with rocks and Molotov cocktails - on the French ~~owned~~ island of Martinique.

~~The~~ riot ~~that~~ began with the arrest of a suspected murderer - by ~~the~~ French police. ~~And quickly~~ <sup>It all</sup> turned into an island-wide ~~and~~ demonstration -- for independence from France.

Police reinforcements finally dispatched from neighboring Guadeloupe - also French-owned - to help quell the disturbance. By then - at least one rioter dead. Also more than thirty injured - most of them policemen.

ARGENTINA

*Pro-Peronist trade unionists in Argentina -*

*today launched a twenty-four hour general strike, To protest  
a government crackdown on their radical labor movement. -*

*These*

*some two million ~~members~~ strong.*

*Result - a flop. The strike reported partially  
effective in Buenos Aires; - almost nowhere else. The pro-  
Peronists blaming their failure on so-called "communications  
difficulties" with unions in the interior of the country.*



COMET

Welcome news today - for America's amateur astronomers, who were cheated this week - of a glimpse of the comet Ikeya-Saki.

~~As you no doubt recall - the~~ <sup>This</sup> comet's approach to the sun <sup>had been</sup> billed as the ~~greatest~~ space spectacular of the century. <sup>However</sup> ~~Except that~~ clouds, fog, smog and haze over much of the United States - made visual observations from the ~~no~~ ground virtually impossible.

Ah, but today - astronomers at the Smithsonian astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts <sup>now</sup> ~~predicting~~ an even better show still to come. The comet having achieved a brightness - thousands of times that of Venus; ~~With~~ an expanding tail that will be clearly visible to the naked eye - in the darkness just before dawn - some time next week.

REMINDER

A reminder today from President Johnson to friends and relatives of U.S. servicemen in Viet Nam. A reminder to get out those Christmas gifts and greetings -- get them out early to beat the rush.

The post office is tripling its space in San Francisco -- to handle the expected volume -- said the President; to make sure all packages are delivered by Christmas Eve -- if humanly possible.

(That's where you and I come in.) The deadline for packages (sent) by regular mail -- November Tenth. Less than three weeks away. The deadline for air mail -- December first.

SOLO

From Pago Pago in the Samoan islands - news

today of the safe ~~xxx~~ arrival of young Lee Graham. At age

sixteen - believed to be the youngest person ever to sail

solo across the ~~AFxx~~ Pacific. This the second leg of a

projected one-man voyage around the world - in a twenty-

four foot fiberglass boat, <sup>Stu. Sohere's</sup> ~~Hot's off~~ to Lee Graham - a potential

teen-age Magellan .

(Metz)

## BALLOON

An excursion into high adventure today - from a suburb of Minneapolis. Followed by a low-down ending a few minutes later - in the neighboring city of St. Paul.

Here's the story. Sky diver Nick Piantanida taking off from a suburban airport - in a helium-filled balloon, in an attempt to soar to a height of a hundred-and-eighteen thousand feet - for a shot at a record-breaking parachute jump.

Piantanida's jump plan calling for a free fall of more than twenty miles - during which he expected to break the sound barrier. The rip cord to be pulled at four thousand feet - after which he would float gently back to earth.

Unfortunately, the balloon collapsed at just over twenty ~~thousand~~ thousand feet - and Piantanida was forced to leap for his life. The ~~balloon~~ balloon - eventually falling back to its original launch site. For Nick Piantanida - no such luck. He landed - poor guy - in the St. Paul City dump.