

ARLINGTON

Memorial Day, Nineteen-Sixty-Nine - a day for parades, speeches, family get-togethers, fun and frolic. Also, said to say, speeding cars - screeching tires - sudden death. But most of all - a day for remembering. And nowhere were the memories more poignant - than at Arlington National Cemetery; where Vice President Spiro Agnew today presided - over the traditional wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The sacrifices of our brave fighting men abroad - a debt that must be paid here at home - said the Vice President. Asserting that "freedom's cause is first served - by fulfilling the promise of freedom, equality and opportunity for every citizen."

And then - a brief reference to the Vietnam war. Spiro Agnew observing that "all the agonies of past history - have been perpetrated by those who feared and fled and failed. Sooner or later - there is nowhere to retreat" - he went on. Adding that "a challenge conquered sooner - for all its sacrifices - proves far less costly."

VIETNAM

On the other side of the globe - a daring jungle rescue today. With a U.S. helicopter - swooping low over hostile territory northwest of Saigon; picking up an American G.I. - who was captured by the Communists nine month ago. This in the same general area - where another G. I. prisoner-of-war escaped and was reached only last month.

Meanwhile, that cease-fire in honor of Buddha's birthday - coming to an end tonight. First reports indicating - perhaps surprisingly - that it was, in truth, a cease-fire in more than name only. Allied officials calling Communist action during the brief truce - "mild harrassment, at best." A good sign - one can hope.

INDIANAPOLIS

Winner of this year's Indianapolis Five Hundred - dapper, daring Mario Andretti - as you may have heard by now. The slender, five-six speedster scoring an easy victory - at a record average speed of over 156 miles an hour. In the process - giving car owner Andy Granatelli a long-sought Speedway win; one that had just barely eluded him - each of the past two years.

Incidentally, the winning car - actually Andretti's back-up car. Pressed into service last week - when he smashed up his original car in time trials. Back-up or no though - in this race - on this day - the perfect machine - with a perfect driver.

PARIS

Overseas again - Paris - the French Presidential campaign is officially over. With all seven candidates - making final radio and television appeals tonight. Battling down to the wire - to see who will succeed Charles DeGaulle.

More than likely though - Sunday's election will be only the beginning; with the main event - still to come. Last-minute polls showing Georges Pompidou and Alain Pöhrer - far ahead of all their rivals. But neither likely to gain a majority - which would then mean a run-off in two weeks.

BUENOS AIRES

The whole of Argentina and especially its capital, Buenos Aires - all but paralyzed today. The result of a twenty-four-hour general strike - called by students and workers. Most serious challenge yet - to the military regime of President Juan Carlos Onganía.

Along with the strike - a number of sniper shootings in the city of Cordoba. However, a massive show of Army strength there - apparently heading off a repeat of yesterday's riots - when five were killed, fifty-nine injured.

NORTHEAST LAND

Explorers in the news today - two in number. First - Thor Heyerdahl - who is attempting to float across the Atlantic. The famed Norwegian running into "every rough seas" - north of the Canary Islands. Raising again grave concern - about the reliability of his reed raft - the "Ra". However, Thor Heyerdahl reporting by radio: "All very well - everybody healthy." Adding that Ra - "after fourteen days in salt water" - is still "very stable and buoyant."

Second explorer making headlines - Britain's Wally Herbert; head of a trans-Arctic expedition - attempting to travel over-land by dog sled - from Point Barrow, Alaska - across the North Pole - all the way to Spitzbergen, Norway. A journey that has already taken sixteen months - and now appears just about at an end. The party arriving today - at an island just north of Northeast-Land; which is itself the outermost of five major islands - in the Spitzbergen Archipelago.

SPINACH

Just in time for the growing season - a new book called "The World in Your Garden." Including a special section on perhaps the most misunderstood of all food plants - namely, the spinach.

Did you know - the spinach is currently under study by atomic scientists? It's true. They're trying to duplicate its mysterious processes of photosynthesis - the conversion of light, water and chemicals into food. Hoping someday to turn jungle weeds, for example - into tasty table greens.

By the way - we are also told that the spinach tops nearly all vegetables - in total nutritive value. Containing more iron and more vitamin A - than any other popular food plant; along with substantial quantities of vitamin C and calcium - essential to growth and strength.

You see, kids - Popeye wouldn't lie.

PITTSBURGH

Here's one - you may have missed. From Pittsburgh - the story of Cub Scout leader Len Forman; organizer of an annual - Father's Day father-and-son picnic. Choosing as this year's site - a commercial mountain retreat complete with beer, bands and busty go-go girls. In a bulletin announcing the event - asserting: "After all - it's Dad's Day."

Only trouble - the Moms were agin it - admittedly, some of the Dads, too. End result - goodbye go-go; and Len Forman's plans for a super-colossal picnic - back to just so-so.