

FAIRBANKS

Wed. Aug. 16 - '67.

Today In the wake of rain, rain and more rain) --

~~bitter harvest today for Fairbanks, Alaska,~~ ~~Friday~~ Floodwaters

from the raging Chena River ^{were} swirling up to eight feet

deep through ~~the~~ ^{of} Fairbanks, Alaska --

completely paralyzing Alaska's second biggest ~~community~~ ^{city.} This incredible flood

claiming at least three lives ^{and} forcing ~~some thirteen thousand~~ thousand to flee their homes.

~~and causing~~ ^{now} Damage estimated at more than a hundred and fifty million.

At last report - the floodwaters ^{were starting} to drop, slowly.

But Fairbanks is still not out of danger. Other streams ^{are} reported rising, - ~~and the forecast calls for occasional light rain. Just what they needed.~~

A further warning from Fairbanks Mayor Red

Boucher -- that the city's biggest problems may be yet to come. Said he: "Winter comes early in this country. --

we pass up fall; which means "we have only about six

weeks before freeze - to clean up."

To those of us who know Fairbanks it seems incredible that this Alaskan city should be overwhelmed by a flood of this magnitude.

RED CHINA

Latest from Red China - ^{now it's a report} ~~report today~~ of civil

war in southwestern Yunan Province. Telling of pitched battles - between rival factions of the Red liberation army. With casualties - said to be heavy, and tens of thousands of refugees from the fighting - now supposedly streaming toward the safety of nearby Burma.

All this - according to wall posters in the great South China city of Canton, ~~Scene itself of similar fighting in recent weeks, - said to have left thousands hundreds dead.~~

HONG KONG FOLLOW RED CHINA

All this Turmoil in Red China ^{is} also having its effect in the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong. Colonial officials admitting today - that supplies from Red China are dwindling fast; causing serious food shortages - as well as spiraling prices.

It being "Anybody's guess" how long ~~the situation will~~ ^{this will continue} ~~last~~, say the British. ^{So they are} ~~in the meantime~~ advising Hong Kong's four million residents - to ~~to~~ tighten their belts ~~and~~ and wait it out.

VIETNAM

There was
~~on the war front,~~ a sudden flare-up of ground
fighting today in Vietnam, ~~with the biggest~~ ^{one} engagement
north of Chu Lai - near the South China seacoast, ~~where~~
a force of U S paratroopers - supported by helicopter
gunships - have reportedly trapped some fifteen hundred
enemy troops.

To the south - another outbreak of terrorist
activity, ~~in~~ Saigon - where a small boy hurled a grenade
at a passing ~~an~~ truck --wounding six American civilian
construction workers. Also in the village of Hoa Lu --
where an attack on the local chief's residence left at
least five dead.

WASHINGTON FOLLOW VIETNAM

Here at home - another boost today for U S

bombing tactics in Vietnam -- from General Earle ☞

Weaver - chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who told a Senate subcommittee that bombing of the north is, quote "an integral and indispensable part of our over-all strategy in Southeast Asia." Adding, what's more, that the "air campaign against North Vietnam is achieving its objectives - and is saving American and allied lives in South Vietnam."

What about charges that certain "valuable targets" are off-limits to American bombers? True enough - said General Wheeler. Citing the vital port of Haiphong - as a specific case in point. But the main reason - said he: Because an attack on Haiphong - would "provide the greatest opportunity for incidents" involving foreign ships; incidents that could well "lead to further expansion - of the roles of the Communist nations in the war."

WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW WASHINGTON

Meanwhile, at the White House - an attempt today by President Johnson to put current South Vietnamese political bickering - in its proper perspective.

The President noting there are eleven candidates - running for President of South Vietnam. Further ~~xxx~~ asserting: "They are free to attack the government - and some have done so; they are free to take their case to the people - and most have done so." While in North Vietnam - said LBJ - "there are no ~~any~~ candidates - no elections - and no attacks on the government."

In short - said the President "an effort is being made - with our strong endorsement - to conduct an open election in a nation under fire." And in this - he added - there are striking similarities today in Vietnam - to "the tough, confused struggle to build a new nation on this continent two centuries ago."

CONGRESS FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

Earlier, the President launched an all-out effort today - to save his model cities program. Sending a special message to the Senate - urging complete restoration of House cuts amounting to some four hundred million dollars

The problems of America's big cities - cannot be satisfied with "business as usual" - said the President.

Adding that "these problems demand the best that an enlightened nation can plan - and the most that an affluent nation can afford."

At the same time - on the floor of the Senate - majority Leader Mike Mansfield ^{also} was ~~also~~ urging adoption of the model cities program, along with thirteen other key measures in the administration's master plan for a great society.

"Together" said Mike Mansfield - "they are a kind of Magna Charta for urban America; and, for seven out of ten Americans - who live there."

DETROIT

From Detroit - the story today of a remarkable young man; nineteen year old Gilbert Pries - blind since birth - who has just achieved his greatest triumph over his affliction.

Young Gil - ~~is~~ ^{at} his home town of Los Angeles, despite his blindness - winning high school honors in oratory, debating, Latin, ~~oratory~~ ^{also} and foreign language contests. And ~~then, he's~~ ^{then, he's} an amateur radio bug; - an eagle scout; - an expert swimmer, a fine fencer. ~~And determined~~ ^{TP} - In time ~~to~~ ^{he hopes} to become a Catholic priest. The

[^] Only trouble - he ~~was~~ ^{been} turned down by ~~an~~ nine different orders - because of his blindness. One of the rejections going so far as to say - it was "morally wrong" for his parents to encourage him to become a priest.

Still - Gil refused ⁵ to give up ^{on this. Finally -} ~~his~~ number ten - ~~as a winner all the way.~~ The Passionist Fathers of Detroit ^{are} accepting the youth on a one-year trial - which

^{has} he passed with flying colors. ^{So} ~~And there~~ in Detroit he will
take his first vows Saturday - ^{thus realizing} ~~en route to~~ his life's ambition.

Gilbert Pries - as far as known - the first blind
person in this country - ever ~~to be~~ accepted for study ^{for} ~~toward~~
the priesthood.

ARCTIC OCEAN

Next up - the story of Operation Discovery,
disclosed for the first time today - by the U S Coast Guard.

What is it? An attempt by the Coast Guard

Icebreaker Edisto - to complete the first circumnavigation
of the Arctic Icecap. The Edisto setting out from Thule,
Greenland last week - passing Trondheim, Norway, early
this week, ^{and} now hoping to complete its historic voyage back
to Thule ^{some} eight thousand miles, in all ^{complete this} around
the end of ~~the~~ September, ~~Providing of course~~ - it can
^{cope with} some extremely heavy ice conditions.

The voyage undertaken with a dual purpose - says
the Coast Guard. First - to collect oceanographic
~~infor~~ information; which will then be circulated throughout
the world - via data centers in Washington and Moscow.
And second - to help determine the ~~best~~ best design for
future icebreakers.

If successful - another milestone in the history
of exploration. Taking its place beside the globe-circling

*voyages of Magellan and Drake -- and, more recently,
the undersea voyage of the U S Nuclear Sub Triton.*

BOSTON FOLLOW ARCTIC OCEAN

~~All of which brings us up to a story today from~~

~~Boston, about a brave man who has already been there,~~

~~and back~~ ^{Now} a story from Boston,

about ^{Admiral} Donald ~~B~~ MacMillan - last survivor of
that fabled Peary expedition ^{to} the North Pole. ^{At age} ~~93~~

^{Adm. "Mac"}
ninety-three - winner of the five thousand dollar Washburn
award and gold medal. ^{So} ~~by~~ ^{by} vote ^{of} the trustees - of the
Boston Museum of Science.

Admiral MacMillan praised for ^{his many} ~~making~~ "invaluable"

contributions to ~~our~~ scientific knowledge" - through his

polar expeditions. Also credited with serving humanity -

"by improving health and living conditions among the eskimos."

~~So here is to Admiral "Mac" - one of~~
~~formal presentation set for next week and to~~

the foremost of Arctic explorers!
~~couldn't happen to a greater guy.~~

And here is to everybody everywhere
- including you, Warren, and s-l-u-t-m.