

PAHUTE MESA, NEVADA

March 26, 1970

Stuart Novins

One of the biggest underground nuclear explosions of all time - was detonated today beneath the sands of Pahute Mesa, Nevada. A blast with the force of a million tons of TNT - more than fifty times as powerful as the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima. The energy thus unleashed some four thousand feet deep - bulging the earth skyward, at ground level, a distance of fifteen feet - raising a tremendous cloud of dust; at the same time - sending shock waves clear across the Western United States. Indeed, the blast measuring six-point-one on the Richter scale - at Cal Tech, more than three hundred miles away.

The exact nature and purpose of this latest test - not disclosed. However, the device in question is said to be the warhead for a semi-orbital anti-missile missile-system. In any event, it was powerful enough to trigger a series of aftershocks - natural earthquakes which it released prematurely. Scientists predicting that these small quakes - might continue to rock the area, including nearby Las Vegas, perhaps for weeks.

SANTO DOMINGO

Liet. Colonel Donald Crowley, the air attache at the U. S. Embassy in Santo Domingo has been released by his kidnappers. He is well, unharmed and has gone to the Mexican Embassy in Santo Domingo as part of the agreement that set him free. He will remain in the Mexican Embassy as a hostage until those prisoners who were freed as ransom for Crowley's liberation, actually arrive by special charter plane in Mexico.

Crowley, held by armed kidnappers for fifty-eight hours under threats of execution, now free and safe.

SUGGESTED INTRO TO THOMAS TAPE

And now - let's return again to the "Land of Lost Horizon" - via tape; as Lowell Thomas tells tonight - the story of fabulous Father Moran of Nepal. Lowell...

was a man of great energy and great character. More than this priest's fame has spread around the world. I have just been visiting him, at his home school a few miles from Kathmandu, near the city of Patan.

Father Marshall Moran - first was assigned to India. Then during the chaos that went with the palace revolution, he did what few westerners had been able to do - he got to Kathmandu, and has been here ever since.

He organized a school for King Mahendra, with the understanding that he and all men of the school faculty would omit all religion teaching from their instruction. The school had been such a success that everybody seemed to love this inspired Jesuit. In his flouting white rickety, on his motorcycle, he's one of the sights of Kathmandu. Two years after he came - in 1954 - he became

FATHER MORAN

*L.S. Page -
uncredited*

During the Coronation ceremonies here in Kathmandu - fourteen years ago next to Boris Lissanevitch, the white Russian, the outstanding Westerner in the country was a Jesuit priest of vast energy and great charm. Since then this priest's fame has spread around the world. I have just been visiting him, at his boys school a few miles from Kathmandu, near the city of Pattan.

Father Marshall Moran - first was assigned to India. Then during the chaos that went with the palace revolution, he did what few westerners had been able to do - he got to Kathmandu, and has been here ever since.

He organized a school for King Mahendra, with the understanding that he and all men of the schools faculty would omit all religion teaching from their instruction. The school has been such a success that everybody knows and seems to love this inspired Jesuit. In his flowing white robes, on his motorcycle, he's one of the sights of Kathmandu.

Five years after he came - in 1956 - he became

a Nepal citizen, the first Westerner ever to do it.

For one thing, Father Moran - is a radio ham, and the one-half-million hams around the world all try to reach him by short wave, because he is here in Shangri-La.

Oh yes, and a special group of hams, the captains of the giant oil tankers. got together and bought him the latest equipment - so, if you want to talk to Shangri-La, just spin your dial and get Father Moran in Kathmandu!

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE

Thank you, Lowell. Back to the news...

today is reported some three hundred and fifty prisoners
of war -- Communist sick and wounded -- to be returned
home as a "humanitarian gesture." However, enemy
negotiators -- all but ignored the offer. Instead, they called
the whole prisoner of war issue a "farce," completely
irrelevant. They also accused the U.S. -- of selling Axis
against Axis throughout the war.

PARIS

At the peace table in Paris - South Vietnam offered today to repatriate some three hundred and forty prisoners of war.... Communist sick and wounded - to be returned home as a "humanitarian gesture." However, enemy negotiators - all but ignored the offer. Instead, they called the whole prisoner of war issue - a "farce," completely irrelevant. They also accused the U.S. - of setting Asia against Asia throughout Indochina.

toward "a peaceful and prosperous life" for all the Vietnamese.

LONG CHENG

In the air war over Laos - U.S. fighter-bombers were said to be flying "Round-the-clock" missions today - giving air support to Royal Laotian troops - who are attempting to stem a Communist advance toward Long Cheng.

Meanwhile, South Vietnam's President Thieu - was traveling today to the Mekong Delta. There, signing a long-sought land-reform bill - aimed at giving every peasant his own piece of land. Thieu calling this a first step - toward "a peaceful and prosperous life" for all the Vietnamese.

BERLIN

For the first time in eleven years - a meeting of Big Four ambassadors today in the divided city of Berlin. A meeting aimed at easing tension there. This initial parley lasting three-and-a-half hours for "clarification of views" - They will meet again later next month.

BEIRUT

In Beirut - a third straight day of fighting today - between Arab guerillas and native Lebanese; with a band of Arab gunmen attacking a Lebanese security patrol - as it passed through a Palestinian refugee camp. The new clash leaving at least one dead - several injured.

ATLANTA

A final item - from Atlanta; where nine major airlines disclosed today - they have finally called off their Hundred-Thousand-Dollar war against fog at the Atlanta Airport.

As to why the cancellation - a spokesman explains:

One - the Atlanta Airport - once the fourth foggiest in the nation - has enjoyed remarkably clear weather ever since the experiment began and two - when it did fog up - the anti-fogging plane they had hoped to use just couldn't get off the ground.

This is Stuart Novin sitting in for Lowell Thomas.

Good night.

*... to be one of those trapped in
a plane in an airfield for six hours or
more yesterday.*