

Thursday, March 8, 1973

## WOUNDED KNEE

*At Wounded Knee, South Dakota militant Indians were busily barricading trenches today around a Catholic church; getting ready to meet come what may - following the expiration of a government deadline at six tonight, local time - Eight Eastern time. The Indians are under orders to leave peacefully - or else. Answering back they won't leave so it'll have to be "or else." And what will that be.*

*As the zero hour approached though - there was a general feeling that perhaps there is still time to work out a compromise. Indian leader Russell Means saying: To tell you the truth - I am not really expecting an attack by the Federals." At least - said he - "not until they get sufficient men."*

## HONOLULU

*Operation homecoming, phase two - was all but completed today . The final fifty-six from the second group of freed POW's taking off from Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines. Same as before, stopping briefly in Honolulu. Same as before, tremendous joy - at returning once again to U.S. soil.*

*Navy Captain Robert Fuller telling a roaring crowd: "Our humble thanks to you and all the American people - who have made this great day possible." Air Force Colonel Norman Gaddis saying: "We return without any bitterness or delusion - because we have been allowed to return with dignity and honor." Navy Commander Richard Stratton saying "We never lost our faith - in our God, in our country, in our fellow Americans." Adding: "We ask you now to stay united with us - until we bring the last prisoner home and identify the last missing in action."*

**HANOI**

*From the White House and simultaneously from Hanoi a joint communique - word of plans for a Paris meeting - between U.S. and North Vietnamese officials. The time - set for a week from today. The purpose - we are told - to determine "the manner in which the U.S. - will contribute to healing the wounds of war and to post war economic reconstruction in North Vietnam."*

WHITE HOUSE

*President Nixon sent to Congress today - another installment of his written State of the Union report. This one - a special message dealing with community development. The President again urging more than two billion in revenue sharing grants - to cities and towns across the nation; with allocation of the new funds to replace seven existing programs*

*The President stressing that such a move - would permit cities to set their own priorities; for "clearly - said he "no single, rigid scheme imposed by the Federal government - is capable of meeting the changing and varied needs of this diverse and dynamic nation."*

*The President adding: "Too often in the past - we have fallen into the trap of letting Washington make final decisions for St. Louis, Detroit, Miami, and other cities."*

*"Sometimes" he continued - "the decisions were right - and programs have succeeded; but too often they were wrong - and we are still paying the price."*

*The President further pledging that not a single city -*

would end up with any less Federal money than it got before.

Our sole purpose said he - "to eliminate waste, confusion and duplication; to promote community betterment more efficiently" - and make it "fully effective."

## CAPITOL HILL

*On Capitol Hill - the Senate Judiciary Committee continued its hearings today - on the nomination of L. Patrick Gray to head the F B I. Gray himself testifying for a fifth straight day. Among other things, saying he did not believe that White House advisor John Dean - was in any way involved in the Watergate bugging incident; whereupon - he was finally excused.*

*The committee is far from done though. Chairman James Eastland of Mississippi - saying the panel expects to hear from six more witnesses. Then a closed session - to follow. Which means that Gray's appointment could remain in doubt for some weeks.*

ZIEGLER

*A related item: The White House taking a cue today  
- from the American Civil Liberties Union. Press Secretary  
Ron Ziegler criticizing the Senate Judiciary Committee for  
releasing quote "raw, unevaluated information" from FBI  
files.*

## **BENODET**

*Thanks to a tip supplied by U. S. narcotics agents - French police have scored their biggest drug haul in history; and the biggest drug haul ever made in Europe. In a raid on a ship docked at Benodet, France - seizing more than a ton of hashish.*

*The ship in question - a Panamanian freighter called The Sport. Enroute from Lisbon to Rotterdam - when it was forced to put into port for repairs. The Hashish was found packed in more than two thousand plastic packets - hidden in ship's water supply.*

*Officials so far have been unable to make any arrests. The ship's crew taking flight in advance of the police raids. A police source saying most likely - "they have already crossed the border into Belgium or Holland."*



## NATIONAL SKI PATROL

*Frank Elkins, for many many years a sports reporter for the New York Times and now for The Long Island Press, phoned me an hour ago to remind me that today is an important anniversary for some three or four or five or six million Americans. In March Nineteen Thirty-Eight, at Stowe, Vermont, on Mt. Mansfield they were staging the National Alpine Ski Races.*

*For this occasion an ex-Yale athlete by the name of C Minot Dole, along with Roland Palmedo, Craig Burt, Ab Colman and several others, organized a patrol to look after any of the racers who were injured. They even had a doctor on hand, Hans Kraus an Austrian mountaineer since famous for his rehabilitation work. They did this so efficiently that Roger Langley at the time President of the National Ski Association, urged Minnie Dole to put together a national organization; which he did, superbly. And now there are some twenty-seven thousand members of The National Ski Patrol, well trained volunteers, all competent skiers, who*

patrol the hundreds of ski areas in this country.

It began just thirty-five years ago today. A volunteer, non-profit organization depending for its financial support on all of us who ski. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

## GEORGETWON

*High in the Rockies at Georgetown, Colorado - an hour from Denver - the dedication of the new Eisenhower Memorial Tunnel. There is now a subterranean super highway running more than a mile and a half under the Continental Divide. Colorado's Governor Love was on hand to perform the honors. The idea for this new tunnel was suggested around the turn of the century. Even test borings were made, and the project was on again off again for years. Its actual construction - once begun took the better part of a decade.*

*Total cost coming to a hundred and ten million, three times the original estimate; in part, because of accidents, fires, explosions, strikes, and even a woman who defied superstition and insisted on working underground. At last complete the tunnel bi-passes lofty Loveland Pass, where cars often were jammed up for hours - at the height of the season - or blocked by heavy snow in Winter. I for one will miss those February and March trips over Loveland*

**GEORGETOWN - 2**

*on my way to Arapahoe, Vail and Aspen!*

**Officials saying traffic has grown so much in recent years that the new tunnel already is insufficient. Bill, another tunnel just like it is needed.**

OKLAHOMA CITY

From Oklahoma City - the story of one  
Larry Johnson, age nineteen; convicted of distributing  
Marijuana - sentenced to three years in jail; about  
to be led away - when his lawyer intervened; telling  
the judge - his client wanted to be married first;  
whereupon, a sudden change of heart.

Your Honor - said Larry Johnson - "I have  
changed my mind - I don't want to be married."

And with that - he glanced ~~nervously~~ nervously at  
three women sitting nearby. The reason becoming

apparent - when the court asked which of the <sup>three</sup> women  
<sup>sitting there</sup> was the prospective bride. - ~~not one, but~~ all three

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