

March 20, 1973 Tuesday

SAIGON

*From Saigon - an announcement today that the Viet Cong have agreed to release - no later than Sunday - their last thirty POW's. At the same time the North Vietnamese were pledging to release their last group of prisoners - a hundred-and-six in all - no later than next Wednesday. That to be the scheduled "termination date" for prisoner releases - as specified in the Vietnam cease fire agreement.*

## **DENVER FOLLOW SAIGON**

**Here at home - a steady stream of joyful reunions;**

**Army P F C - Gus Mehrer when he arrived at Denver, where**

**he was met by his entire family, said: "It's so wonderful to**

**be home; it's like a million Christmases and birthdays all**

**wrapped up in one." Private Gus Mehrer adding: "I'll**

**do everything I can for this country - for the rest of my life!"**

SENATE

On Capitol Hill - L Patrick Gray resumed  
the witness stand today; testifying in his own behalf  
before the Senate Judiciary Committee - on his  
nomination to head the F B I. <sup>He</sup> ~~refused~~ <sup>ed</sup>, however,  
to discuss any further - the details of an F B I  
investigation into ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> Watergate ~~bugging~~ incident.

I can only discuss this procedurally -  
I can't give any substance - said Gray. When pressed <sup>he</sup>  
adding: "I have received my orders - from the  
Attorney General and the President, and I have to  
carry them out."

PANAMA CITY

At Panama City <sup>at</sup> another special session  
of the U N Security Council, U S Ambassador John  
Scali <sup>said we,</sup> ~~saying that the U S~~ "no less than others- support  
Panama's just aspirations." Adding that the U S is  
thus fully ready - to work out a new Canal treaty.  
~~Scali~~ stressed, however, that any new pact - must  
leave the defense and operation of the waterway in  
U S hands. Must do so - said he - "for an additional  
specified period time." How long? - <sup>That to be</sup> ~~apparently~~  
subject to negotiation.

## **KATMANDU**

*From Katmandu in Nepal - from Shangri La you might say: comes "a state of the monarchy" message, concerning the first year of the reign of twenty-seven year old King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva.*

*Where his father King Mahendra, ruled with an iron fist young Birendra has apparently survived an internal power struggle mainly by remaining aloof from partisan politics. The young king so far one unifying factor in that Himalayan land of many diverse interests and cultures.*

*King Mirendra has instituted a series of land and economic reforms; and has given good relief and educational improvements - top priority. He also has set up a new austerity program - with regard to the Royal Family.*

*The King's lavish and exotic wedding which I attended two years ago - was it to be a last super spectacle in Shangri La? What will King Berendra's Coronation - be like? Has a new era dawned in Nepal? - in romantic Katmandu?*

## **AL SAMIRAH**

***In the Middle East - a clash today between Iraqi troops and Kuwaiti border guards. This occurring in a long disputed region - at the extreme northeastern tip of Kuwait. The Iraqis at last report apparently seizing and still holding Kuwait's Al Samirah border outpost. Each side - claiming the other started, it.***

MOSCOW

Moscow - Soviet officials today authorized  
the ~~immigration~~<sup>departure</sup> of an additional thirty-five Russian  
Jews. Allowing them to leave Russia - without having  
to pay ~~a~~<sup>the</sup> so-called education tax. The Soviets now having  
granted forty-four such exemptions ~~just~~ in the last  
two days.

## MINNETONKA

*The development of a new style artificial heart - is reported today from Minnetonka, Minnesota. The man who built it Dr. Harold Kletschka - a former open heart surgeon. Dr. Kletschka's new heart - consisting of a miniaturized thirty-watt motor attached to centrifugal rotators; a non-pulsatile pump - which means it has no pulse at all.*

*"In style and design it is said to resemble a soft drink spray dispenser. And, they tell us the new heart has already worked - in test implants with dogs. Humans - next. Dr. Kletschka calling his invention more than an attempt to duplicate nature. He calls it an attempt "to improve on nature."*



## **ST. PETERSBURG**

*Pittsburgh baseball star Roberto Clemente who died on his way to help the earthquake victims of Nicaragua, today was elected overwhelmingly to the baseball Hall of Fame. This by a special vote of the baseball writers of America. Result announced at St. Petersburg, in Florida where the "Grapefruit League" is now in session. The writers waiving their normal five year waiting period - in order to honor a great player, a great humanitarian.*

*Roberto Clemente now in the Hall of Fame.*

ERIE

*Former United Mine Workers President*

*Toni Boyle testified today in the murder trial of William Prater at Erie, Pennsylvania. Boyle denying ~~that~~ he was in any way connected -- with the murder of dissident Union official Jock Yablonski. Boyle adding that union funds allegedly used to finance the murder - were originally allocated solely for "organizing activities."*

## MONEY

*In trading on West European money markets - the U S dollar lost some and then gained some today. It's net worth ending up virtually the same or slightly better than yesterday - in Brussels, Zurich, Paris and so on. Observers noted, however, that trading was again - light and uncertain - with big speculators apparently still biding their time.*

PARIS LONDON

*That* month-long strike by French air

controllers ~~was~~ finally ended today. Air traffic over

the continent slowly returning to normal. Whereupon

*there was*

*^* a one-day wild cat strike by British air controllers -

radar operators and communication workers; part of

British labor's "guerrilla" warfare -- against a

government wage freeze.

## PAINTINGS

*Coming next week to the National Gallery of Art in Washington the world's finest collection of French impressionist and post-impressionist art. Famous works such as - "The Smoker" - "Child With a Whip" - and, "Lady With a Fan." But not from France! They are from The Hermitage in Leningrad; and the Pushkin Museum in Moscow. The Russian collection started by Peter The Great - was greatly expanded by Catherine the Great when she bought up as she said - "every French masterpiece she could get her claws on;" literally, thousands of them - many of which were scouted out by her two friends, Voltaire and Diderot. Indeed, Catherine rounded up so many national art treasures - in France, Italy and England - she was once accused of "a relapse into barbarism."*

*The best of Catherine now bound for the U. S.; the first collection from Russia ever loaned out to the West. In the world of art, in the world of politics - quite a coup.*

## MONMOUTH

*At Monmouth, New Jersey - an obscenity trial involving a well known sex movie - which shall remain here nameless. Witness for the prosecution a psycho-analyst sociologist from New York University. The good doctor saying the film in question - depicts virtually every depravity known to man. Asserting it's pure dirt - without any "redeeming social value."*

*Next question: Could there possibly be any doubt?*

*No - said the doctor. Adding, in fact, he saw the film twice - just to make sure.*

## KNOXVILLE

*This next from Knoxville, Tennessee; where one John Pass and one Mike Compton - were "tipping a few."*

*Suddenly an argument. Both whipping out pistols and blazing away. Both going down with bullet wounds; but - they'll live.*

*Ironically, Bill, all this taking place - at an establishment called "The Friendly Tavern."*

## CARAVELAS

*From Caravelas in Brazil - the story of Odorico Guimaraes Lopes, age sixty-seven; who studied the soccer predictions in the newspapers - and then picked all the under-dogs in Brazil's big sports lottery. Believe it or not - his quote system paying off. Odorico Guimaraes Lopes winning this week - the equivalent of more than two million bucks! According to those who should know, a new world record.*