

VIET NAM L.T.-Buick, Fisher. *Tues. Aug. 23-66*

A viet Cong mine ripped through an American ~~freighter~~ freighter in the long Tao River today - killing seven American seamen and blocking one of ~~Six~~ Saigon's two shipping channels to the open sea. The ship was loaded with nearly two thousand tons of war supplies, including trucks, heavy equipment and some ammunition.

The explosion occurred in the narrow river channel about twenty-two miles southeast of Saigon. The Viet Cong apparently planted the mine from a sampan, then detonated it while hiding in the tall elephant grass along the shore.

They also attacked a second, and much larger freighter with machine guns and mortars - then shot up two minesweepers and a Navy landing barge ~~which was~~ carrying the freighter's crewmen to safety.

In Saigon, American officials confirmed that Air Force jets last Friday bombed a group of boats and barges in which thirty Vietnamese civilians were killed

and another thirty wounded. They said the attack had the approval of Both American and South Vietnamese officials because the boats were in a forbidden area.

AUSTRALIA

The leader of Australia's opposition labor party today called the commitment of Australian troops to the Vietnamese war "the worst mistake Australia ~~has~~ has ever made in foreign affairs". In a house speech, Arthur Calwell said that "the people who used to hang on to Mother England's apron strings, are now sw^ging along with Uncle Sam's coat-tails." He also pledged that if the Labor Party wins the general election in November, Australian troops will be withdrawn from Viet Nam without consultation with the United States.

DRAFT

Defense Secretary McNamara says the government is lowering its draft standards so that thousands of young men - turned down for military service for physical or mental reasons - can be enrolled for the "war against poverty."

The announcement apparently means that the American military establishment will become a major arm of the anti-poverty program. McNamara says forty-thousand men who are currently being rejected for military duty, will be accepted for service during the next ten months. *and*

The number will be increased to one-hundred thousand each fiscal year thereafter.

And her top officer of West Germany's armed forces has resigned his post. ^{Inspector} General Heinz Trettner quit ~~as Inspector General~~ today in a dispute ~~xx~~ over allowing trade unions to seek members inside military garrisons. Only yesterday, General Werner Panitzki resigned as Air Force inspector. These and other top officers have been ~~ex~~ demanding more authority in dealing with defense problems.

SYRIA

The Syrian Chief of Staff - General Ahmed Sweidani - vowed today that Syria is determined to go ahead with what he called "a war of liberation" - to regain Palestine as Syrian territory. He said the recent dogfights between Israeli and Syrian planes over the sea of Galilee, were "forerunners to future battles."

KENNEDY

Senator Robert Kennedy - who ^{has been} making noises like a possible presidential candidate - will be campaigning for Democratic congressional candidates from Maine to California, during the next two months. More than one hundred election contenders have asked him to make appearances in their behalf -- including those in California, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, West Virginia, Maine, Montana and Oregon. ^{Furthermore, a} Gallup Poll - taken over the past weekend - indicates that Democrats favor Kennedy for President over Johnson by a margin of forty to thirty-eight percent. Independents questioned in the poll, also favor Kennedy.

ALASKA

The voters of Alaska are going to the polls today in the state's primary election. ~~Incumbent~~ ~~Democratic~~ ~~inc~~

Governor William Eagan's bid for ~~reelection~~ the Democratic nomination is opposed by Wendell Kay an Anchorage attorney. On the basis of a record number of requests for absentee ballots, ^{we hear} there is high interest in the election. Today's voter turn out ~~is~~ difficult ~~to~~ estimate because in Alaska voters don't register until they sho^w up at the polls to cast their ballots. — some of course in extremely remote areas.

CICERO

Officials of the town of Cicero - ~~xxx~~ suburb of Chicago - have appealed to ~~the~~ Illinois Governor Otto Kerner to call out the National Guard to protect civil rights marchers who plan a massive demonstration in all-white Cicero this Sunday.

In reply, the Governor has scheduled a meeting for tomorrow - to determine whether the guard should be mobilized. Town officials say Doctor Martin Luther King's plans to march into Cicero are "suicidal," but, King says the protest against housing discrimination will be staged anyway.

FLOODS

Flash floods - set off by heavy rains - have isolated one town and forced the evacuation of more than five hundred families in usually bone-dry ~~part of~~^{areas of} Texas and New Mexico. Dell City, Texas, was reported surrounded by water - ~~and~~^{with} the muddy Pecos ~~River~~^{ing} surged over its banks near Carlsbad, New Mexico, leaving five men stranded on an oil rig north of the city. And the flood waters have drowned more than five hundred exotic birds on display at Hobbs, New Mexico.

BUSHMAN

The first great lover of the silent screen - Francis X. Bushman - died today at his home in Pacific Palisades, California, ~~at the~~ age of eighty-three. His death came when he accidentally fell and struck his head against a cupboard, while pouring himself a cup of coffee. Recently, he was on four television shows - and was planning soon to begin work on a new film.

Throughout his career, Bushman starred in four-hundred-twenty-four movies - more than any other actor. And his death comes on the fortieth anniversary of the death of another silent screen lover - Rudolph Valentino.

MEDICAL

President Johnson has directed Welfare Secretary John Gardner to begin a major study on the steadily rising cost of medical care -- which has increased by nearly three and a half percent in the past six months. On ~~emerg~~ emerging from the White House, Gardner told newsmen he wasn't sure as to what the government could do about doctor's fees if anything - but that a "hard, ~~quack~~ quick look at all medical expenses" was in order.

HOBBO

The "Pennsylvania Kid" today was crowned King of the Hoboes at the National Hobo Convention in Britt, Iowa. An estimated fifteen thousand persons crowded the streets ~~of~~ for Hobo Day activities, which included the selection of a hobo queen. And the winner - her name is Boxcar Myrtle, and she presented ~~at~~ the local library with a copy of her new book MYRTLE KNOWS THE ANSWERS. Warren, would you like to know Myrtle?

BALLOONIST

Tracy Barnes ~~is~~ ^s ~~planning~~ to resume his trans-continental balloon trip tomorrow night when he ascends from Tarentum, Pennsylvania. The twenty-seven year old balloonist - who hails from Baker, South Carolina - came down in the Allegheny River ten days ago when he ran low on ^{the} fuel ~~which is~~ used to raise the air temperature in his balloon. He began his cross-country flight from San Diego, California, last April - ~~but he~~ ^{says} "there's no telling where I'll come down - the ~~to~~ winds get pretty rough up there."