

Fri, Dec. 15-72

In the flight of Apollo-Seventeen - round and round they go in lunar orbit. Astronauts Gene Cernan, Jack Schmitt and Ron Evans - once again reunited in their command ship America; as they circle on and on - probing the lunar surface with cameras and sophisticated sensing devices; ~~heading into~~ their final series of experiments - before heading home late tomorrow.

So far - a perfect flight. And the best perhaps yet to come - when they get all those moon baubles back here on earth.

WHITE HOUSE

The White House - President Nixon again conferred today with Henry Kissinger; their fourth meeting - in the last two days; and the search for peace in Vietnam - clearly heading the agenda.

As to what went on though - the White House still refusing comment. Adding only that Dr. Kissinger - may discuss the situation publicly some time soon.

WAGES FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

On the domestic front - President Nixon today approved a five-point-one-four per cent pay increase - for more than a million government workers. This a mandated wage hike - originally scheduled to take effect in October; except that it was delayed up to now - as an anti-inflationary move.

At the same time, the President ordering a pay increase of nearly seven per cent - for some two million members of the U.S. armed forces. These - said he - both across-the-board increuses - in effect, keeping pace with the cost of living.

KANSAS CITY

At Kansas City - Harry Truman continues in "very serious condition." Doctors reporting today - his kidney function has become "unsatisfactory and barely adequate." Adding that fluid - "remains in the right lung." But also saying his pulse, respiration, blood pressure and temperature - are still "within normal limits." The former President, as ever - a tough man to keep down.

From the U.S. Food and Drug Administration - an order today for the first time approving the use of methadone in treating heroin addicts. But this - only under the strictest of controls; an attempt to prevent the diversion of methadone - into illicit channels. The new rules, in the words of a government spokesman, spelling out exactly - "what pharmacists can sell methadone, what physicians can prescribe it, and under what conditions."

MINERS

In the counting of ballots for a new United Mine Workers president - Arnold Miller was pulling farther and farther ahead today; to the point where he's now claiming a landslide victory - over the incumbent, Tony Boyle.

This - "one of the historical events in the American labor movement" - said Miller. Adding that it "shows what happens - when union leaders are not responsive to their members."

Indeed, Miller was already making plans - for his new regime. Setting as his main goal - an increase in miners' pensions; ^{all but} ~~except for~~ that of Boyle - Fifty Thousand-a-year - which he intends to cancel forthwith. Miller also pledging to cut union salaries - by twenty per cent; in the process - said he - moving union headquarters - from Washington back into the coal fields "where they belong."

CAREFREE

Two years ago - when he was only ten - little Kevin Steen of Carefree, Arizona, was ~~discovered~~^{found} to have cancer. Doctors saying - he only had about three months to live.

Well, the three months have come and gone - and Kevin is still going strong. The best of all coming this week - ~~is~~^{with Kevin} a personal guest of Navy Admiral John Butts.

~~He~~ flying to the South Pacific - by way of Honolulu and Samoa; and then on to the aircraft carrier Ticonderoga - where he will witness next Tuesday the splashdown of Apollo-Seventeen.

Kevin telling reporters: "I really want to be an astronaut." Adding: "That's my biggest dream." And cancer notwithstanding - he's still hoping to make it. After all - said Kevin - "getting to go on the recovery ship was a pretty big dream, too - and that came true."

MEXICO CITIES

From the Vatican last year - a Papal document entitled "Humane Vitae"; restating the Roman Catholic Church's opposition - to any type of birth control except the rhythm system.

Now the Catholic Bishops of Mexico - issuing what they call a "new pastoral orientation" to the Pontiff's edict. In it, the Mexican churchmen giving their qualified support - to a new government birth control program. Asserting it's up to the individual husband and wife - "to decide upon the means" of birth control. Adding that this should be subject - only "to the respectful criteria of human dignity, life and liberty."

SAN FRANCISCO

A love affair that has lasted, for some, more than forty years - has just been rekindled out in San Francisco. Crooner Bing Crosby presenting a special Christmas show - for six hundred impoverished oldsters; among them - some of his earliest fans.

The highlight of his show, of course - Bing's rendition of "White Christmas." But he also accepted requests - for "some of the old songs." "Sweet Leilani" - "Little Sir Echo" - "In a Little Spanish Town"; and the one they wanted to hear most of all - the one that goes: "Every time it rains it rains - pennies from Heaven."

OXFORD

From the University of Oxford in England - the story of coed Mabel Fitzgerald; as a young girl - completing her studies and passing her final exams with flying colors; except that Oxford in those days - awarded degrees only to men.

Ah, but all things come to him - and her - that wait. The waiting period in this case - lasting eighty years; till this week - a special graduation ceremony at Oxford; with Miss Fitzgerald - at age one hundred - finally getting her conveted M.A. "Better late than never" - said she.

FOOTBALL

The regular college football season has already ended - and the pros will be winding up this weekend. But the bowl games - the pro playoffs - and the Super Bowl - still to come. All of which - brings us to this next.

The National Geographic recalling that back in the early Nineteen-Hundreds ^{rough and ready - Rough Rider} - Teddy Roosevelt once threatened to ban football. The then-President calling it too rough - thereby, forcing the adoption of new safety rules.

But wait - there's more. The soldiers of early Rome - also play^{ed}ing a game much like football - we are told.

They did, that is - till Julius Caesar finally banned it.

Why? ^{said Caesar,} Because it was "too gentle", - ~~said Caesar.~~