

SWITCH

L.T.-Buick, Fisher. Thurs., July 8, 1965

The President today announced a sudden and unexpected change of ~~ix~~ diplomatic assignment - in Saigon. With General Maxwell Taylor - resigning his post as Ambassador to South Viet Nam. His successor to be the man who had the job before him - Henry Cabot Lodge.

Lodge - as you may recall - left Viet Nam in Nineteen Sixty Four. To campaign in behalf of Governor Scranton of Pennsylvania - for the Republican nomination for President.

But now he's on his way back. And he'll be there by Wednesday - along with Defense Secretary Robert McNamara - to get a line on recent developments. The new-old Ambassador - to take up his duties officially - in ~~mid~~ mid-August.

VIET NAM

Meanwhile, American Marines backed by naval and air support -- today launched their first full-scale offensive of the Vietnamese war. About a thousand leathernecks - in an all-out attack against the Communist Viet Cong -- in the area around the big U.S. air base ~~xxxxxxDaang~~⁹ at Da Nang.

Although six cases of heat prostration with the battle raging in temperatures up to a hundred and thirty-three degrees, casualties evidently were not heavy.

Earlier, U.S. paratroopers scored their biggest victory in the war -- in the dreaded zone D area wiping out a company of more than a hundred Viet Cong who made the mistake of abandoning their hit and run tactics -- to come out in the open and fight.

REEDY

White House Press Secretary George Reedy -- today announced that he is taking an extended leave of absence -- from his governmental duties; because of a foot ailment that may require extensive surgery.

Reedy's White House post to be filled while he is away -- by special presidential assistant Bill Moyers. Thirty one years old and a former Deputy Director of the Peace Corps.

An ordained Baptist Minister -- Bill Moyers is considered one of the true "insiders" of the Johnson administration.

ESCAPE

One of Britain's "Great Train Robbers" - pulled off a daring daylight escape today from a London jail.

~~It was~~ Ronald Biggs - in a prison break right out of an old-time movie.

An accomplice throwing a rope ladder - over the prison wall. Biggs and three other inmates - scrambling up the ladder - to the top of a furniture van waiting outside; Then ~~in fact~~ into a fleet of waiting cars - for a clean getaway.

A prison officer held captive atop the van ~~was~~ ^{also} ~~later~~ carried off by the escaping prisoners; To prevent prison guards - from firing after the fleeing men.

Biggs was serving a thirty year sentence - for his part in that Glasgow-to-London mail-train robbery of two years ago; The one that netted a team of bandits - more than seven ~~point three~~ million dollars.

Twelve men have since been arrested - and convicted of having taken part in the crime. Of these - Biggs is the second to escape within the year.

MARS

*From the Mariner Four - far out in space -
increasing signs today that it is coming steadily under the
influence of its target; ~~That~~ mysterious red planet Mars.*

*The Mariner Four said to be slowing down -
under the initial influence of Martian gravity. The slowdown
expected to continue - into Sunday; ~~When~~ the spacecraft
will begin to pick up speed again - as it comes under the
full force of the Mars gravitational field.*

*This ~~is not~~ all -- exactly as planned. ~~With~~
~~the~~ Mariner Four expected to complete its fly-by of Mars
next Wednesday - at a distance of less than six thousand
miles. If so - we'll have the first close-up pictures of
that planet - within the week.*

CRASH

One of America's most daring veteran airmen - was killed today as he lived, in a spectacular air crash. An old old friend of this program, race pilot and stunt man Paul Mantz whose phenomenal feats of flying have chilled movie-goers for more than thirty years and who flew all of our Cinerama planes in the days when we were filming This Is Cinerama, The Seven Wonders of The World, and Search For Paradise. It was from the nose of his souped-up B-25 that Harry Squire and our camera crew made those hair-raising flights down in the Grand Canyon and in Zion Canyon that gave millions in this country and in many other countries a spine-tingling thrill.

All over the world Paul took that B-25 to film live volcanoes, Angel Falls, Victoria Falls, Iguazzu, Mt. Fuji, glaciers, deserts, cities - while we filmed them as no one had ever filmed them or even seen them before. When he joined us Paul already was famous, and his ~~same~~ Cinerama exploits made him known all over the world.

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I had made some low-level flights with him that sent my hair right up on end - one of them over the area where the law of averages finally caught up with Paul -- on his final assignment - working on a picture called "The Flight of the Phoenix", in the desert - near Yuma, Arizona. The script calling for a touch and go landing - in a rag-tag plane, supposedly constructed from the wreckage - of a crash in the desert.

The plane virtually unflyable - but Paul Mantz flew it. With the cameras rolling the plane came down, but its wheels dug suddenly into the sand - it flipped over in the desert- and landed in a crumpled ~~heap~~ heap of wreckage.

Paul Mantz and his lovely wife Terry were a famous couple in the world of aviation, and in the world of motion pictures. Paul was sixty one and still the ace of aces in his field.

JAPAN

Ichiro Kono -- one of Japan's leading politicians departed this world today at age sixty-seven. Ichiro Kono a conservative -- who rivaled Prime Minister Sato in Japanese political influence; as head of one of the major factions -- in the Liberal-Democrat coalition government. Known to many Americans -- as the man who ran the Olympic Games in Tokyo -- last October -- and did it in a spectacular way.

PUFF

At Chattanooga, Tennessee - a couple of Kansas housewives today were declared winners - in the Nineteenth Annual powder Puff Derby.

The pilot - Mrs. Mary Ann Noah, of Mission, Kansas - the mother of four. Her co-pilot -- Mrs. Mary Aikins, of Wichita - the Women's National Aerobatic Champ.

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Their second straight win in the Powder Puff -
24 twenty four hundred mile transcontinental air race -
~~strictly~~ for women only.

MOSCOW

News from the Moscow international film festival. A gloomy Russian film left even the Russians cold. The hit of the festival so far - ~~is~~ a little thing called "Marriage Italian Style". With the Muscovites *Doc* flipping their lids - over the comedy antics of voluptuous Sophia Loren.

TRAIN

From Louisville, Kentucky -- the story today of a man who has just done - what many of us would have liked to have done many times.

He's a truck driver - named Robert Riggs, who found himself caught at a railroad crossing - by a slow-moving freight -- that went back and forth - back and forth. Finally ~~fx~~ fed up - he uncoupled two cars of the train - then drove his truck through the opening.

End of story? Not quite. There was a policeman watching - in wide-eyed amazement. As a result - Riggs' little railroad caper cost him a fine - of exactly one hundred dollars.