

Wed. Mar. 28-'73.

ALBUQUERQUE

First, a salute to K-G-G-M - Albuquerque, New Mexico - today celebrating its forty-fifth anniversary on the air. Now the news...

CRIME

For the first time in seventeen years - the tide turns. Attorney General Richard Kleindienst reporting tonight - a three per cent drop in the nation's crime rate over the past year. The volume of serious crime actually decreasing - in no less than ninety-four major cities. In Washington alone - a cutback of nearly twenty-seven per cent.

The Atty. Gen.

~~Kleindienst~~ adding: "This is a day that we have been looking forward to for many years - an important milestone in the fight to reduce crime." And it "is directly attributable" - said he - "to the strong efforts of law enforcement officers throughout the nation."

CLARK

Overseas - the light at the end of that tunnel in Vietnam - was taking on a new brilliance. The final phase of Operation Homecoming - including today the repatriation of ten prisoners from Laos; followed by forty more - from North Vietnam.

The first group arriving at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines - to a reception described as "quiet and low-keyed." Some had clearly had it "pretty Rough" - we are told. Among them - CIA agent Gary Brace of Detroit; who had several broken teeth - and will need dental work before returning to the U.S.

But the second group of returnees ^{- they were} getting a tumultuous greeting from Clark ^{Air Base} pilots, many of whom they had flown with ^{only} ~~just a few~~ months before. The wives and families of Clark servicemen - also displaying welcoming banners and cheering each of the men as they came down the ramp.

Air Force Colonel Joseph Kittinger Junior of

Orlando, Florida - ^{speaking} ~~servicing as spokesman~~ for the freed

group said:-
~~MEM~~
X

"Because of the will of God", ~~said he~~ "because
of the integrity of our President, the determination of the
American public and the resoluteness of our services -
we have returned." The Colonel adding: "We are proud
to be Americans, ^{!"} - ~~and back."~~

MEKONG DELTA FOLLOW CLARK

~~A related item:~~ The Viet Cong disclos^{ed}~~ing~~ today -
the existence of ^{one more} ~~still another~~ American prisoner. His
name - listed as Robert Wheme; ~~he~~ said to have been born
in Virginia ^{to} in Nineteen-Forty-One; and ~~he will~~ be released
- we hear - at Vinh Binh in the Mekong Delta.

SAIGON FOLLOW MEKONG DELTA

Meanwhile, the U.S. was fast completing today - its mass exodus from Vietnam. Nineteen jet transports filled with eighteen hundred GI's - taking off from Saigon on the first leg of their long journey home.

At the same time - a final meeting of the four-party Joint Military Commission on Vietnam. General Gilbert Woodward, who represented the U.S. - wishing both Vietnams "long life, peace, reconciliation and reconstruction."

Elsewhere in Saigon - South Vietnam's President Thieu was dedicating three massive war memorials. One for the South Vietnamese - one for the Americans - and one for all the others who fought in Vietnam.

Along the way, Thieu saying: "Many times in this century - the U.S. has sent her sons across the oceans to help oppose aggression; but nowhere was their valiant participation - so long and so trying as in Vietnam." Thieu adding: "The Vietnamese people - shall never forget."

PENTAGON

Here at home again -
The Pentagon announced ~~today~~^S that four returned POW's
- have now been nominated for promotion to flag rank.

These including Air Force Colonels John Flynn and David

Winn - ~~soon~~ to become ^{one star} ~~brigadier~~ generals; and Navy

Captains Jeremiah Denton and James Stockdale - soon to

become rear admirals.

The Pentagon adding that the nominations of Colonels
Flynn and Winn - were actually made some time back;
but the news withheld - pending their release. A spokesman
explaining why - saying: "To flag an individual in that
way - while ~~he was~~ a captive - might not be in his best
interests."

JOBS

Quietly but steadily, the Nixon Administration has been urging business and industry - to "hire the vet;" a campaign now paying off - in positive results.

The U.S. Labor Department reporting ^{says} ~~today~~ that Vietnam veterans have been finding jobs at an ever-increasing pace. Indeed, the latest figures showing an unemployment rate for young veterans - for the first time in three years - lower than that for non-veterans. A full per cent lower - which means tens of thousands of new jobs.

WHITE HOUSE

President Nixon sent to Congress today - his plan for consolidating all Federal drug enforcement powers under one super-agency. This to replace what he called - the present fragmentation of "bureaucratic" responsibility.

The President going on to say: "This Administration has declared all-out global war - on the drug menace."

Adding: "There is evidence of significant progress on a number of fronts - but much more must be done." In the same vein, urging speedy adoption of his earlier proposals - for tougher penalties for drug pushers.

SENATE

James McCord involved in Watergate testified today before a special Senate investigating committee . Presumably "telling all" - about the Watergate conspiracy.

A second Watergate defendant - E. Howard Hunt - today was granted total immunity from any additional prosecution. This an attempt to get him to "come clean" before a Federal grand jury - or else risk a contempt charge.

CHICAGO

At Chicago - the Illinois State Medical Society presented today - its annual Humanitarian of the Year Award to Dr. Eugene Blathazar of Aurora, Illinois.

This for founding a free clinic for indigent patients; paying its upkeep - a Thousand a month - out of his own pocket. Refusing to accept any donations - from charitable organizations. Refusing to accept any reimbursement - as provided under medicaid or medicare. And he's always on call - twenty-four hours a day.

Dr. Eugene Blathazar of Aurora, Illinois - Humanitarian of the Year.

TRIPOLI

From the government of Libya at Tripoli - a denial today that two of its fighters last week attacked a U.S. Air Force transport. The Libyan denial - promptly rejected. The U.S. State Department - demanding instead a fuller explanation. Observing that Libya's initial reply - was "unsatisfactory both in form and substance."

ERFURT

In the Erfurt area of East Germany - a running gun battle between three Russian Army deserters - and Russian and East German border guards. Travelers arriving in the West - later saying the dead included two Russian MP's, one East German and at least one of the deserters.

The other two, at last report - still at large.

Observers saying they might be trying to make it to the West

- but not likely. ~~Why?~~ Because ~~the~~ border defenses at Erfurt ^{are} said to be ~~simply too strong.~~ ^{too tough.}

GUECHO

1/2
The first dog, as far as we know, ever to wear contact lenses - an airedale named Stan. He was struck by a car about a year ago ~~= you may recall =~~ near his home in Guecho, Spain. Stan suffering head injuries - which affected his vision. A doctor at nearby Bilbao - finally fitting him out with contacts to restore normal vision.

For all his hardships though - Stan apparently failed to profit by the experience. Again wandering into the street today ~~and~~ there he was struck by a car and killed instantly. ^{They say, Bill,} He could see, all right - but he just didn't look.

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SAN FRANCISCO

Harry Harrington, age thirty-seven, of San Francisco
- one of only six persons ever to leap from the Golden
Gate Bridge - and live to tell about it. The injuries he
suffered in his two hundred and forty-six-foot fall -
putting him in a hospital for three months. ~~He was~~ Also
he has had ~~forced to undergo~~ two years of psychiatric treatment - but
~~was~~ finally ^{pronounced} well enough this week to return ^{and survey} to the scene of
his earlier folly.

One of the first questions he was asked: What does
a leaper think about during the four seconds it takes him
to reach the water? Harry Harrington saying he thought to
himself: "Gee, this is a long way down." And - s-l-u-t-m