



Cat Survives Tornado

Strange stories about the freak happenings that were a by-product of the Charles City tornado are still coming in. The latest concerns a Persian cat owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Bentz, which always slept on the back porch of their home. After the tornado both the porch and cat had disappeared.

The next day a neighbor, Dewey Mehe, drove to Prairie du Chien, Wis., where he has a cabin to see if there was any storm damage there. En route, he heard strange noises under the hood of his pick-up truck until he pulled into a service station to investigate.

Under the hood was the Bentz cat, apparently unharmed by either the storm or the long ride under the hood.

Commission Representation

Political Notes: The Iowa Highway Commission will be well represented on the state's delegation to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. John Hanson, Manning, former congressman and now a member of the Highway Commission, is on the at-large delegation as is Mrs. Ramona Barry, of Danbury, wife of Highway Commissioner Robert Barry. Hanson held off seeking a place on the delegation until he was convinced that there was no conflict with the federal Hatch Act, which forbids federal employees from participating in partisan political activity. Highway Commissioners are not federal employees.

Friends of Lt. Gov. Robert Fulton, Waterloo, were delighted to see him win election as Democratic National Committeeman. He served in both the Iowa House and Senate before being elected twice as lieutenant governor. His friends suspect that he did not seek political office this year at least partly because it would have meant a head-on confrontation in the primary with close political friends. His place on the national committee will give him a strong voice in party affairs. However, his term does not start until after the national convention.

Demo Caucus Error

The biggest error in planning the Democratic State presidential convention was the concept that both the 2nd and 3rd District delegates could caucus in the ballroom of a downtown hotel. Either delegation could pretty well fill the room. When the two caucuses tried to get started the 3rd District, with Edward J. Gallagher Jr., Waterloo, district committeeman, presiding, had a big edge. They were in possession of that end of the room that had the platform and the microphone. The 2nd District delegation left and finally got their caucus started in another room just vacated by members of the Iowa Bar Association.

Firm Buys Viking Pump

(Courier News Bureau) CEDAR FALLS — Viking Pump Co. of Cedar Falls has been acquired by Houdaille Industries Inc. of Buffalo, New York, Robert C. Wyth, chairman of Viking and Gerald C. Saltarelli, chairman and president of Houdaille Industries announced Monday.

The boards of directors of both companies have approved in principal Houdaille's acquisition of Viking in exchange for 350,000 Houdaille common shares, prior to a proposed 2-for-1 stock split announced by Houdaille May 23.

Stocks Traded Houdaille is traded on the New York, Detroit, and Midwest stock exchanges. Viking stock is traded over-the-counter.

Upon completion of the transaction, Houdaille common shares will be distributed to the Viking stockholders on the basis of approximately 1.22 shares (current shares prior to the split) of Houdaille for each share of Viking.

The acquisition is subject to approval by Viking's stockholders and compliance with applicable laws and other conventional requirements, Wyth said.

Founded in 1911, Viking is a leading manufacturer of low pressure, positive displacement

rotary transfer pumps for the petro chemical, petroleum, asphalt, synthetics, chemicals, paint, liquefied gases, food products, missile fuels, and the broad spectrum of other industries throughout the United States and more than 50 foreign countries.

Viking's plant facilities total 260,000 square feet. George F. Newman will continue as president of Viking and the company will continue to operate with its present management, personnel and policies under Houdaille's policy of decentralization with coordinated control, Wyth said.

Houdaille is a national diversified company operating in three principal areas — machine tools and industrial products, construction materials and contracting, and automotive parts.

Earnings

Sales in 1967 of \$183,369,800 and net earnings of \$11,272,516 were the highest in history. Houdaille reported earnings per share for the first quarter 1968 increased 28 per cent over the same period in 1967.

The acquisition of Viking Pump represents the entry of Houdaille into a new industrial products field. Viking reported for their fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1967, sales of \$9,834,805 and earnings after taxes of \$926,317.

Yanks Trek Through Mucky Paddyfields

Peace Talks Begin; It's Just Another Day for GI

By GEORGE MCARTHUR
Associated Press Writer.

CAI LAY, Vietnam (AP) — The day peace talks started in Paris, Capt. Mike Peck led 100 Americans on a daylong trek through the mucky paddyfields and steaming nipa palms of the Mekong Delta.

It was a frustrating search along the sluggish Bao Ba River for an enemy hideout that was never found. The sun was blistering and the company ran out of fresh water, drinking stinking canal water made worse tasting by bitter purification tablets. There was no time to eat. The men were beat when they came back to their bunkered

"We talk about the peace talks sometimes but the war still goes on. It's the war we think about mostly."

camp at sundown. They gulped down a hot meal and dropped off to sleep on dirty blankets, still grimy from the delta's mud.

No Mention

"It was just another day, a typical dry-hole," the husky, 27-year-old company commander recalled. "Nobody even mentioned the peace talks. I don't think my 'hoodlums' gave it a thought."

Peck's "hoodlums"—he some-

times also calls them "my merry mob"—are almost all draftees, many of them teen-agers. A sergeant of 24 considers him self a father-figure.

For them, the diplomatic convolutions of Paris are remote and unreal—as most of the world becomes unreal to an infantryman whose life depends on his rifle and immediate buddies.

Since the Americans and North Vietnamese began talking

in Paris, the company has been on the march daily, seeking guerrillas who slip along canals and through villages they have known since childhood. At night the Americans put out ambushes and roaming, six-man "killer patrols."

With constant movement a part of his life, an infantryman in Vietnam has few benchmarks to judge time. Ask him what he has done since the peace talks started May 13 and he will re-

ply, "How long ago was that?" "Everything sort of blends in out here," says Peck, who is from Milford, Ohio, speaks French and English, served an exchange tour with the French army's paratroops and is on his second tour in Vietnam.

Boots in Canal

He spoke from beside a low dike separating a paddy from an adjoining stand of banana and coconut trees, his battered boots dunked in a canal to cool his feet.

Waving his arms at the coconuts in the nearby nipa patch, he yelled at a platoon leader, "Hey, Snoopy. Send some of

your hoodlums in there in mob strength and snake out some coconuts."

With a pile of coconuts collected, Peck's men made lunch, opening C-ration cans, splitting the coconuts with Army knives and savoring some fresh pineapples the South Vietnamese interpreter had found.

War Thoughts

"You know," said Pfc. Dwight Shuey, a 20-year-old from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., "we're not as bad as we sound. We do try to follow things. We talk about the peace talks sometimes but the

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USHERED IN — As an usher holds an umbrella over his head to protect him from rain, U.S. delegation leader Averell Harriman steps out of his car in front of the Paris International Conference Center Monday to attend the fifth session of the Vietnam Peace Talks.

Accusations Traded By U. S., N. Vietnam

PARIS (AP) — U.S. Ambassador W. Averell Harriman charged Monday that North Vietnam has sent more than 200,000 troops to fight in South Vietnam in the last four years and most of these have "become casualties of the combat or fallen prey to disease or other mishaps."

Harriman made this assertion in pressing Ambassador Xuan Thuy to admit that Northern troops have been fighting in the South, a contention which North Vietnam has implicitly denied.

A U.S. spokesman said later that Thuy seemed to come close to acknowledging that Northern troops are in the South. Thuy declared that once the United States had attacked Vietnam "any Vietnamese had the right to fight and to do that on any part of the territory of his dear country."

This is virtually the same lan-

guage as Thuy has used before but the U.S. side was interested now in his emphasis on "any Vietnamese" having the right to fight "on any part of the territory."

The United States had long contended that the Northern buildup in the South began in late 1964. Harriman said "well over 200,000 North Vietnamese have been dispatched into the South since autumn 1964."

The U.S. government estimates, he continued, that as of last month there were "well over 70,000" of the Northerners in their own army units in the South and "well over 15,000" others in Viet Cong units.

More On the Way

"Even more are on the way," Harriman said. "In recent months the total North Vietnamese presence has increased to approximately 70 per cent of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong combat forces, and shows signs of continuing to increase rather than decrease."

Thuy charged that the talks had failed so far to achieve any results because the United States has refused to take up "the main aim of these conversations," the end of the bombing of North Vietnam.

Harriman accused Hanoi of giving out distorted figures on American and allied losses in the war.

"We hope that you are not deceiving yourselves," Harriman told Thuy.

Meet Friday

Monday's session, the fifth in two weeks of meetings, lasted for 4 hours and 10 minutes. The

next meeting was set for Friday.

U.S. deputy chief negotiator Cyrus R. Vance arranged to leave for Washington to report to President Johnson.

Thuy made a 5400-word statement and concluded with this question:

"When does the United States cease unconditionally their bombardments and all other acts of war on the entire territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in order to permit discussions to go on to other problems of interest to the two sides?"

U.S. Rejects

Harriman replied that the United States rejects "the suggestion now being urged by you that the only reason for our meetings is to give the hour and date of the cessation of bombing."

If that was the only purpose of the Paris conversations, Harriman said, they would not be necessary. The fact is, Harriman argued, that Hanoi made clear in its messages arranging for the meeting that it was "prepared to enter into discussions which could lead up to a cessation of the bombing."

A spokesman for North Vietnam said in releasing Thuy's statement his delegation heard no new ideas from the United States although he understood Harriman was to offer some.

Obstinate

"We must recall what we have already said, that the United States remains obstinate and perfidious," he declared.

On North Vietnam's demand

Rains Make Soggy Mess Of Shantytown

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new downpour of rain turned the Poor People's shantytown into a muddy mess Monday but the leaders of "Resurrection City" went ahead with plans to march on government offices to press their demands.

A steady rain made the 15-acre campsite as soggy as it had been last Friday, when some residents were evacuated out of ankle-deep mud. The Rev. Andrew Young, an official of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said there were no plans for evacuation Monday.

Moreover, Young told a news conference, the Poor People's Campaign might have to remain in Washington as long as 18 months because of what he called "the slow pace" at which Congress is moving.

Meanwhile, racial dissension in the camp broke to the surface.

A leader of a Mexican-American contingent, Reyes Tijerina of Los Angeles, Calif., told reporters that the people he represents and others in the white minority feel that they are not being given a voice in the campaign strategy.

RECOVER BODY

DAVENPORT (AP) — The body of Stephen F. Whittington, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Farrel Whittington of Davenport, was recovered from Credit Island Harbor here Sunday afternoon after the boat in which he was riding overturned.

Enemy Introduces New Gun; Fierce Weekend Fighting

SAIGON (AP) — The enemy command stepped up the pace of battle over the weekend and for the first time introduced Soviet long-range antiaircraft guns to its befeared up air defenses just north of the demilitarized zone. A U.S. spokesman said 16 of the guns were spotted and air strikes destroyed or damaged them all.

Allied forces reported killing more than 1,000 enemy troops in a weekend of savage fighting from the outskirts of Saigon to the demilitarized zone.

In keeping with Hanoi's proclaimed "fight and talk" policy, the Communist command's push came as North Vietnamese and American negotiators prepared for their fifth meeting Monday in the Paris cease-fire talks.

U.S. Casualties

American casualties were reported as 54 killed and 192 wounded in the series of battles. South Vietnamese losses were termed light.

Sharp fighting continued on three sides of Saigon Monday. The Viet Cong was believed moving 500 to 1,000 troops toward the capital.

The heaviest fighting over the weekend came in the northern sector, where North Vietnamese

troops renewed their pressure on the U.S. Marine headquarters at Dong Ha, and in the central highlands, where a massive campaign may be shaping up.

Setbacks

U.S. spokesman said superior allied firepower led to enemy defeats in most of the clashes, but American troops appeared to have been set back in at least two places.

About 800 North Vietnamese overran a section of the perimeter and four bunkers at a U.S. 4th Infantry Division patrol and artillery base 11 miles west of Dak To in the central highlands. In more than seven hours of fighting, 14 U.S. infantrymen were killed and 56 wounded. U.S. fighter-bombers joined the battle and the enemy retreated in thick fog.

About 400 Viet Cong troops attacking with grenades, mortars and small arms killed five infantrymen of a U.S. 25th Division unit in night defensive positions on the northwestern outskirts of Saigon, six miles from the center of the city. The enemy withdrew early today.

As in the first two weeks of May, heavy fighting raged again around Dong Ha, head-

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BE PREPARED—Well-equipped U.S. Marine heads into battle near Dong Ha in South Vietnam. The toilet seat is a gift from home from his father and is now his constant companion

on patrols. He carries the seat along with ammunition, several canteens, a shovel, bedding and food.

School Segregation Ruling by Supreme Court

'Freedom of Choice' Plan Upset

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court upset Monday the "freedom of choice" attendance plans of three southern school systems.

A unanimous decision said "if there are reasonably available other ways, such for illustration as zoning, promising speedier and more effective conversion to a unitary, non-racial school system, 'freedom of choice'

must be held unacceptable." The decision further charged the lower federal courts with retaining jurisdiction in school segregation cases "so that the goal of a desegregated, non-racially operated school system is rapidly and finally achieved."

Board's Burden

The ruling disapproved the plans of New Kent County, Va.,

Jackson, Tenn., and Gould, Ark., school districts. Justice William J. Brennan Jr. spoke for the court.

Recalling that it has been more than a decade since the Supreme Court declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional, Brennan said that in areas where there was segregation "the burden on a school board today is to come forward

with a plan that promises realistically to work and promises realistically to work now."

He added: "There is no universal answer to complex problems of desegregation; there is obviously no one plan that will do the job in every case. The matter must be assessed in the light of the circumstances present and the options available in each instance."

Where federal district courts find school boards acting in good faith and determine that a proposed plan has real prospects for dismantling segregated school systems "at the earliest practicable date," then the plan may be said to be acceptable, Brennan continued.

Moreover, he said for the See COURT
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