

Officials Investigate Miner's Account of Finding Crash Victims

Phoenix, Ariz. — Arizona law enforcement officials and the FBI today investigated a river adventurer's claim he found parts of bodies—enough to fill 10 or 12 burlap sacks—in the Grand Canyon where two airliners crashed after colliding in flight June 30, 1956.

Robert H. Billingsley, 39, an Ajo, Ariz., miner, said yesterday in a copyrighted interview with radio station KOY here that he located human remains during a 200-mile trip he made down the Colorado river last week. He said he brought back several items to prove his story, including a TWA spoon, a wedding band and engagement ring from a mummified hand and \$3.61 in charred coins.

Billingsley said he found the human remains when he stopped to examine the wreckage of the United and TWA airliners which

collided over the scenic canyon, killing all 128 persons aboard both planes.

Francis Crosby, FBI agent in charge for Arizona, said he planned to ask the river adventurer if he saw any documents in the wreckage. Crosby indicated that there might have been some important papers lost in the crash.

Billingsley is subject to a \$300 government fine and six months imprisonment for poking around the crash area which had been restricted from the public.

Skeptical of Story

John McLaughlin, superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park, said the human remains could have been uncovered by erosion in recent months. However, he was skeptical of Billingsley's story.

The sheriff's office also cast a shadow of doubt on the adventurer's account. Deputies planned to ask Billingsley why he waited until yesterday to announce his findings when he returned from the trip last week.

Military Services Ordered To Slash Civilian Workers

Washington — An order to the military services to slash civilian employment was the latest piece of "bad news" handed out by Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson in his final days as a Cabinet officer.

Wilson ordered the services Tuesday to halt civilian hiring immediately and work out plans for reduced civilian employment.

The military services presently hire 1,160,914 civilians around the world. They were given until the end of this month to come up with a reduced figure.

Plans To Move Regiment

In another move, the Defense Department announced plans to pull the 9th Marine Regiment out of Japan and send it to Okinawa. This was not a manpower cut, however, but a step in announced plans to get all U.S. ground forces out of Japan promptly. The regiment numbers 5,000 to 7,000 men.

Wilson told how he had to cut spending by \$2,200,000,000 to keep up a \$38 billion spending ceiling for the 12 months ending next June 30.

Here is what has been done so far:

—Wilson has ordered a 100,000-man cut in the armed forces by next Jan. 1. That will save about \$200 million in the 12 months ending next July 1 and will drop the forces at least to 2,700,000 men compared with 3,500,000 when Wilson took office in January, 1953.

To Mothball 60 Ships

The Navy will lay up 60 ships including the battleship Iowa, two submarines and 24 destroyers during the next five months.

The Air Force has slowed down aircraft production at plants across the country.

The Navaho intercontinental missile program has been stopped.

Wilson has ordered a \$500 million reduction in maintenance and operation expenditures for the 12 months ending next June 30. The manpower cuts and civilian hiring orders will help reach that goal.

Swimming Classes Have Attendance Rise

The YMCA swimming classes and free swim periods for the month of July had more than 4,078 participants, according to Y officials. The number was more than for the month of June.

Largest total attendance of any group during the month was in the "tiny tot" swim classes, boys and girls ages 6 through 8. A total of 135 children participated.

Larger than average attendance also was reported in the other boys and girls swim classes and the free swim periods. Attendance at the women's and men's classes was about average, officials said.

Oregon Traffic Takes 30 Lives During July

Salem — Oregon traffic claimed 30 lives during July, the Department of Motor Vehicle's traffic safety division reported today.

The tentative toll showed the state's death count so far this year to 229—three more than for the same period in 1956.

Safety officials said the July figure was "lower than we had anticipated, especially after 46 people were killed in June accidents."

July usually accounts for a higher number of deaths due to increased vacation travel.

State Phytosanitary Certificates Issued

Salem — More phytosanitary certificates have been issued in the last three months than in any like period he can recall, Fred Bock, Salem district nursery inspector for the State Department of Agriculture, said today.

Which means—in plain English—that nurserymen are shipping more nursery stock to foreign lands. Bock handles inspections in Marion, Polk, Linn, Lane, Benton and Lincoln counties.



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