

Strategic Air Command Poised For Day It Hopes Never Comes

Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.—The Strategic Air Command, founded on the theory that the best defense is a good offense, is poised for the day it hopes will never come.

Even as you read this, SAC planes could, if necessary, deliver hundreds of nuclear weapons to already-plotted targets anywhere in the world. The crews by winging their way within minutes after receiving the signal they hope never comes—the signal that the enemy had attacked.

They know that the atomic and hydrogen bombs in their bomb bays are so destructive they could obliterate every key factory, city and military position of the enemy.

Moved To Nebraska

SAC moved its global headquarters to Nebraska 10 years ago, a decade dedicated to perfecting the Free World's No. 1 striking force, a force so powerful that no one would dare attack America or its allies.

It was a small force with a handful of men and propeller-driven aircraft when it moved here in 1948. Today, its bases ring the world. Virtually all its planes are jets, with missiles being "phased in" rapidly.

The Strategic Air Command is now capable of launching one-third of its bombers—the "alert force"—on a few moments' notice. The remainder of its 3,000 B-47's and B-52's, and one wing of out-moded B-36's, would be right behind in keeping with SAC's determination to hatch all its nuclear eggs at once.

Planes Kept Ready

Bomber crews on alert pull shifts around the clock, sleeping and eating near their planes. Ground crews keep the planes ready to zoom skyward.

The fliers live in their flight suits, waiting for the squawk of a siren peculiar to all SAC bases—the siren that sends them on daily practice alerts but some day could mean the real thing.

The alert force is strengthened further by SAC's dispersal program.

By keeping a number of its aircraft scattered at bases around the country and around the world, the alert

force has more runways from which to take off, making it possible to put more planes in the air simultaneously.

Governing the dispersal and alert concepts is the fact that there would be a dangerously short, period of time during which SAC could get its bombers bound for Russia.

B-52 Longest Range

The goal of the dispersal program is to have not more than one B-47 medium bomber wing and not more than one B-52 heavy bomber squadron at each base.

The B-52 is SAC's longest-range craft. It is capable of penetrating deep into Russia and returning to the U.S. faster and with less in-flight refueling than the B-47.

The '47 however, is more maneuverable than the giant '52 and is capable of great distance flights by taking on fuel aloft from KC-135 and KC-97 tankers.

But what happens if there is an error in the United States air defense setup—and SAC sends the alerted third of its jet bombers on their predetermined courses by mistake?

The planners have thought of that, too.

Gen. Thomas S. Power, commanding the split-second force from his war room deep in a Missouri river bluff here, can deploy his bombers around the Soviet Union.

Positive Control

But the command to drop the bombs can come only from the President of the United States. Without that order, SAC pilots have a "positive control" program under which they turn back at a pre-determined point.

SAC's greatest expansion these days is in the missile field. It has been assigned the mission of operating the nation's intercontinental ballistic missile for more than a year and its missile organization has mushroomed.

But the incorporation of the missile into the powerful striking force will not cancel the need for the manned bomber. As far into the future as SAC planners can see, manned bombers and un-manned missiles will complement each other to maintain the most flexible operation possible.

Power envisions his force as an "unmatched combination of the most advanced weapons systems"—missiles and bombers.

"Eventually, in keeping pace with the growing Soviet threat, SAC will have to be made up of conventional bombers, missiles, and aircraft both manned and unmanned," he said.

He did not elaborate on the "aircraft both manned and unmanned," but SAC is testing the B-58—a light bomber capable of flying twice the speed of sound. And it has coming off the drawing board the B-7 Valkyrie—an even faster bomber which would be able to slip into Russia at altitudes of more than 70,000 feet.

Ironically, though, by the time the B-70 is in use it probably will be outmoded by newer craft on the drawing boards.

Oil Electrifies Alaska as Firms Continue Drilling

Anchorage, Alaska—(UPI)—Statehood isn't the only thing causing excitement these days in Alaska. The black magic of oil also has electrified the territory that will soon become the 49th state.

Many Alaskans are convinced statehood and oil will make beautiful music together. Already they're talking of the day when Fairbanks and Anchorage will become the "Tulsa and Houston of the North."

A flurry of leasing for oil exploration so far has put more than \$5 million in the treasury at Juneau, at least a third of Alaska's nest egg when it officially begins its career as a state early next year.

Potentialities Indicated

As of now, no one is certain just how much oil lies waiting beneath the territory's primitive surface. But the fact that more than 20 oil companies plan to spend \$225 million to \$300 million exploring in the next 10 years would indicate Alaska's oil po-

potentialities are better than fair.

More than 40 million acres already have been leased in the hunt for black gold and competition is keen for more.

The best showing to date has been made by the Richfield and Standard of California companies, drilling together on the Kenai Peninsula which juts southwestward from Anchorage into the Gulf of Alaska. Richfield brought in the first well last year and later acknowledged it was a dandy, capable of producing 900 barrels a day.

Fierce Scramble

The scramble for leases, which become negotiable instruments once secured has become necessary to hold a drawing at Fairbanks on the opening of several million more acres to oil exploration in the Alaska interior.

Although Alaska hasn't yet reached the oil shipping stage, some of the luckier and more visionary citizens have made small fortunes by selling leases on lands which have yet to produce a drop of oil.

As an indication of the expense of oil exploration, the combined Richfield-Standard effort will cost up to \$30 million by the time they've finished poking into the Kenai.

But the cost of drilling is peanuts compared with what Alaska and the oil companies will receive if their hopes are justified. Geological surveys show Alaska has at least nine potential oil basins of major capacity. And with the scent of oil already heavy in the Arctic air, it's a cinch none of these potentials will be overlooked.

AGE NO BARRIER

Netley, England—(UPI)—Neither rain, nor sleet, nor age stays postman Fred Hine from completing his appointed rounds. Hine covered his usual eight-mile route Monday on his 80th birthday.

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SPECIAL CARD—Rogue valley residents with out-of-state friends are asked to use the special Christmas card shown here for inviting their friends to visit Jackson county during the Oregon Centennial, according to Ernie Hood, County Centennial coordinator. Such cards may be picked up by calling the Centennial headquarters in Medford or by picking them up at the office. The Centennial office is located south of Medford behind the new city park near the Armory. The cards may be picked up at the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce and the Ashland Chamber of Commerce offices.

'Gift of the Magi' Said To Be Undistinguished Contribution To Video

By WILLIAM EWALD

New York—(UPI)—"Gift of the Magi," a one hour special offered by CBS-TV Tuesday night, was, to put it kindly, a rather undistinguished contribution to television entertainment.



I could put it less kindly and say it was tedious, but I won't—partly because 'tis the season to be jolly, but mostly because it wouldn't be completely true. What saved it from complete humdrumness was its Richard Adler score which was far more serviceable than that of most TV musicals.

Songs Sweetly Mediocre

One number—"It's Much Too Nice To Be Cut"—bordered on the charming in a phony folk way. Several other songs—"The Name's The Same," "Christmas In Your Heart," "A Better Word Than Love"—were sweetly mediocre, which in TV is rather good.

The play itself was another matter. If O. Henry's original story on which the musical was based had any merit at all—matter open to contention—it lay in its simple unembellished telling of a love story.

Office Party Added

The TV version padded the bones of "Gift of the Magi," with a clutter of extra characters and such added business as an office party, a surf-fragette venture and a bar-

Court Records

MUNICIPAL COURT

Richard Newman Thompson, Camp White, drunk in public, \$15.
Nelson Maine Northrup, Camp White, drunk in public, \$10.
Marion Douglas Kapsabelis, transient, vagrancy, \$10.
Kenneth Donley, transient, drunk in public, \$10.
Emil Herdt, Camp White, drunk in public, \$10.
Marie Kay Garner, failure to stop, \$5.
Lamar Archie Wilkinson, disobeyed stop sign, \$5.
Stanley Richard Murrey, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Ruth Lorraine Sexton, disobeyed stop sign, \$5.
Hugh Downing Remington, disobeyed stop sign, \$5.

DISTRICT COURT

Dale R. Hibbs, defective light, \$10.
Jack R. Gault, unnecessary noise, \$15.
Walter Doherty, no motor vehicle license, \$5.
John F. Zimmerlee, overload, \$30; overload, \$123.
Eibert Hall, failure to dim lights, \$7.50.
Leonard R. Meyer, failure to stop, \$10.
Hilton L. Sanderson, violation of basic rule, \$15.

CIRCUIT COURT

Bruce Arnold Lindgren vs. June Walker Lindgren, divorce decree.
Mary Lou Lowden vs. Ivan Andrew Lowden, divorce decree.
Consiglia Maria Edwards vs. William Douglas Edwards, divorce decree.
Carole Ann Govereau vs. Lawrence George Govereau, divorce decree.
Harriet Ruth Speare vs. Walter Richard Speare Jr., divorce decree.

ONE POINT LANDING

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.—(UPI)—Civilian pilot David Elliott made a one-point landing on one wheel-Tuesday after circling an airfield for nearly two hours with a loose landing gear. Elliott and a passenger were unharmed and the plane was only slightly damaged.

SPEEDY SPEED FINED

Lymington, England—(UPI)—Truck driver Albert Speed was fined \$5.60 Tuesday for speeding.

Master's Whip Brings Divorce

Detroit—(UPI)—A woman was granted a divorce Tuesday when she charged her husband beat her with a cat-o-nine tails.

Mrs. Laura Pajewski, 30, said her husband, Casimir, an automobile technical writer, made the whip of leather throngs in a basement workshop and kept the lash hanging in the kitchen between the pots and pans as a lesson in psychology.

She said her husband is working on his master's degree in psychology.

Army Engineers Announce Contracts

Portland—(UPI)—The award of two contracts totaling more than \$200,000 was announced today by Army Engineers.

General Construction Company of Portland won a contract for \$192,150 for 900,000 cubic yards of dredging in the Columbia river in the vicinity of Government Island. Completion date for this work, part of the 27-foot channel project from Vancouver, Wash., to The Dalles, Ore., is next April 30th.

Raytheon Manufacturing Company of Waltham, Mass.,

was awarded a contract for \$ 0,185 for furnishing a radar set for the Corps of Engineers' seagoing Hopper Dredge Harding.

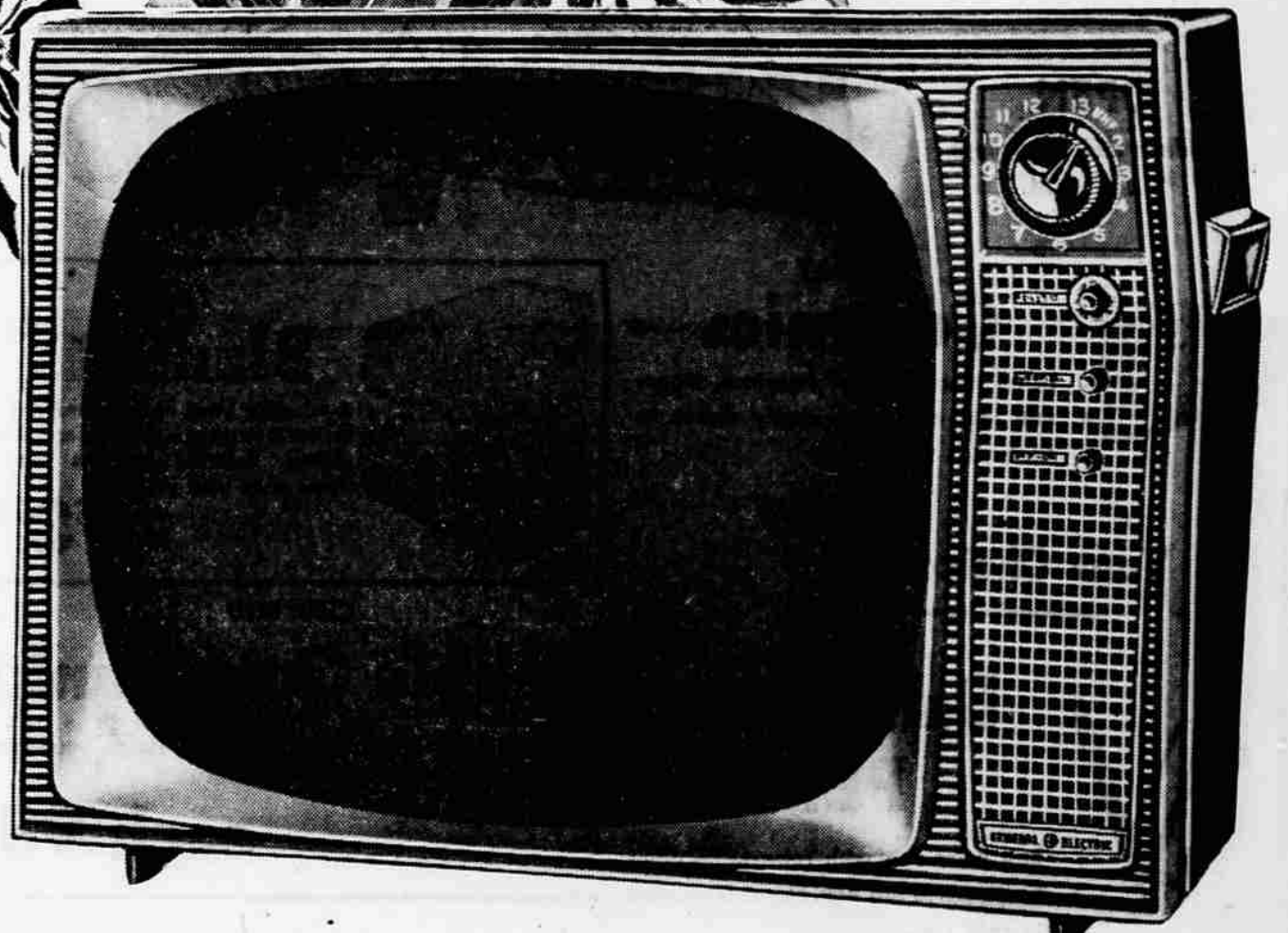
REDUCED IN GRADE

Karachi, Pakistan—(UPI)—Haji Moosa, a millionaire, today was suddenly only a half-millionaire. After customs officials discovered hidden gold and currency worth more than a million rupees at his plush home, he was fined the rupee equivalent of a half million dollars.



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