

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

WANDA LEE, of Boston, writes about a Hong Kong matron who engaged a new houseboy, though she gravely suspected he just had sneaked over from the Communist mainland. "I'll try you," she said dubiously, "but that pet cat of yours will have to go. There will be no Peeping toms around my house!"



Lou Calhern, late Broadway and Hollywood star, often reassured young actors. "The best of us have blundered. Don't let a mistake throw you. In one of my own first appearances, my single line came when the star made his entrance. I was supposed to say, 'He looks like a Greek god.' Want to know how it came out opening night? 'He looks like a Greek — god!'"

Ray Washburne, of Williamstown, Mass., tells of a pair of cement mixers who eloped three years ago. Now they have a little sidewalk running around the house.

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Whale Washes Up On Lincoln Beach

Depoe Bay—UPI—A whale washed up on Lincoln Beach about three miles north of here Sunday night and drew several hundred Labor Day spectators.

The 20-foot long mammal was identified as a blue nose whale.

weakened by preventive arrests and executions of the better known terrorists.

Quite largely for this reason, the initial aggression on July 15 did not produce the expected results. The northern provinces did not immediately fall to the invaders. Phou Saly, in fact, had been just about cleaned up again when the renewed invasion occurred. The guerrillas in the other provinces, although they could not be stamped out, also failed to spread their influence and cause general panic. Just before getting the news of the second invasion of Laos, the commander of the Lao army, the tough and brave Gen. Rathikoune, told me:

"The army is stretched to the utmost, but I am sure we can win this war if no more units come in from North Viet Nam. Everything depends on that."

When the General said this, the second invasion of Laos had already occurred, although his lack of communications had kept the grim news from him. With the Lao army already "stretched to the utmost," the design of the second invasion is obviously to stretch the limited military resources of Laos beyond the snapping point. It is easy to see, moreover, how this design can succeed.

TWENTY-FIVE hundred men with heavy weapons may not seem like a great many men. But this small number is a serious threat to the government's limited local forces with few heavy weapons and sharply restricted possibilities of reinforcement. Thus the invaders may perhaps take Samneua province at least, for example. If Samneua falls, the effect all over the country will be terrible and instantaneous. Fence sitters will flock to the guerrilla centers. As another example, the guerrilla forces in neighboring Luang Prabang province, strengthened by new recruits, now having Samneua as a rear base area, may perhaps gain enough power to threaten the King's city of Luang Prabang.

In short this can be a very bad business indeed. Although the new invasion of Laos has taken place in remote mountains and all but impenetrable jungles, it is still aggression, as naked, as flagrant as a Soviet-East German attack on Western Germany.

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KILLED BY ACCIDENT

New York—UPI—A 22-year-old woman sitting on her doorstep was killed Monday by a policeman's bullet fired at a fleeing car theft suspect. The death was ruled accidental. Police said Miss Delight Crawford was killed by Patrolman James O'Connell as he chased down Irving Moore, 30. O'Connell had seen Moore tinkering with the ignition of a truck, apparently in an attempt to steal it. O'Connell captured Moore after a scuffle, but was unaware of Miss Crawford's death until after he returned to the police station.

Still standing and carefully preserved at Danvers, Mass., is the home of Rebecca Nurse, who was executed for witchcraft in the 17th century.

Ex-Convict Uses Gun To Get Police

Los Angeles—UPI—A 44-year-old ex-convict walked into a liquor store with a gun and announced, "this is not a hold-up, call police," officers reported today.

James Macklin, paroled from San Quentin prison, told police two ex-convicts kidnaped him, held him prisoner for 12 hours and beat and burned him with cigarettes to force him into the robbery. He said the men wanted him to rob the store so he could repay a \$75 debt he owed them.

"They drove me here, forced the gun into my hands and made me come in here to hold up the store," said Macklin. "I just couldn't go through with it. I don't like that San Quentin jailhouse and I don't

Pilot Rock Man Held for Assault

Pilot Rock, Ore.—UPI—One man was being held in the Umatilla county jail in Pendleton today and another was reported in satisfactory condition in a Pendleton hospital after a shooting here Monday night.

Anthony Gordon Johnson, 35, Pilot Rock, was booked on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon in connection with the shooting.

Adolph Sandreth, 34, a Pilot Rock millworker, who was wounded, was in the hospital. Officers said Sandreth was wounded during an argument at the home of Johnson's former wife here.

AMPUTATION TOO MUCH

Los Angeles—UPI—A 69-year-old man who had one leg amputated after an auto accident apparently committed suicide Monday when told he faced the loss of his other leg. Ira Wiggs swallowed poison at a rest home where he had been a patient since the accident last Dec. 10, police said. Doctors said he was told recently his remaining leg had failed to heal properly and probably would be amputated.

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Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

DANGER GRAVE AND URGENT

Vientiane, Laos—The danger created by the renewed Communist aggression against Laos is certainly grave and may be very urgent too.

This renewed aggression took the form of an invasion of Laos by not more than 2,500 troops from Communist North Viet Nam. In a normal country it would be outrageous but hardly dangerous. Laos, however, is far from being a normal country.

Laos's small army of 25,000 men, almost devoid of heavy weapons of any sort, with no reliable or rapid communications system, is not a normal national army, even though it is generally a tough and courageous army. Laos's terrain, mountainous, jungle-clad, and almost wholly without roads, is not a normal national landscape. Laos's population, almost 50 per cent composed of tribal peoples doubtfully attached to Laos, is not a normal national population.

All of these abnormalities are very heavy initial handicaps in a war like this strange war in Laos—a war against local Communist dissidents fighting in the jungle as guerrilla units, with the strong support of invading Communist units from North Viet Nam. The first important thing to note about this war is that the invasion from North Viet Nam is the key factor. Until the first border crossings occurred on July 15, the Lao government and army were making good progress in unifying the country and liquidating all Communist influence.

THE first border crossings in July had immediate effects. They created an acute military problem in the two northern provinces, Phong Saly and Samneua. The first effect, therefore, was to drive the Lao army to strip all the other provinces, in order to reinforce the two invaded provinces.

Meanwhile, of course, the remaining Communist undergrounds in the rest of the country went over into open rebellion as guerrillas. The second effect of the invasion in the North was to leave the Lao army with insufficient resources in the rest of the country to stamp out the suddenly created centers of guerrilla activity. Thus something like six fairly important areas of Communist guerrilla power came into being, including an important area in Luang Prabang province, on the approaches to the royal capital.

The first invasion might have done the job, in fact, if the Laos government had not intercepted a general order from the Communist Executive Committee for Laos, signed by the military member Col. Sing Rapo. This order, intercepted in May, gave the detailed program of the present aggression. As a result the government moved preventatively.

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