

# 5 Americans Released From Pathet Lao Jails

Vientiane, Laos (UPI)—Five Americans were flown to freedom today from pro-Communist jails where they got so hungry they sometimes ate weeds.

The Americans arrived here in a Soviet Ilyushin transport plane from the Plain of Jars after their release by pro-Communist forces which captured them more than a year ago during the Laotian civil war.

One of the men, NBC news cameraman Grant Wolfkill, said during a brief stop in Bangkok on his way to New York that he was treated like a "wild animal" during the first part of his 15 months in captivity.

Wolfkill, who lost 60 pounds during the ordeal, said that Laotian rebels had marched him 200 miles with a leash around his neck and had imprisoned him in wooden stocks like those used in American colonial days. The prisoners were denied medical care, he said, and got so hungry they sometimes ate weeds.

**Names of Prisoners**

Those released in addition to Wolfkill, Shelton Washburn, Army Maj. Lawrence R. Bailey, 36, Laurel, Md.; Sgt. Orville R. Ballenger, of Spring Lake, N.C.; John Shore Jr., 30, Galloway, Tenn.; and John B. McMorrow, 21, Brooklyn, N.Y.

All were freed under the terms of the agreement ending the Laotian war that was signed in Geneva last July 21.

Bailey, who spent almost 17 months in the hands of the Pathet Lao, said his captors did not beat or torture him. But he said he was made to stand during hours of interrogation and he sometimes fell to the floor from exhaustion.

**Confined in Stocks**

Wolfkill, a cameraman for the National Broadcasting Co., told of being confined in the stocks. He did not say whether the other captives received similar treatment.

The prisoners were allowed to talk only briefly with the newsmen during a brief stop-over here. Wolfkill left by commercial airliner for New York while the others were

flown to Clark Field in the Philippines aboard an Air Force DC6 transport.

Bailey had been held the longest. He was captured on March 23, 1961, when an Air Force C47 carrying him and seven others was shot down. He said he did not know what happened to the others.

"I'm not sure but I think they are dead. I never heard

## New Policy Is Given For Social Security Funds

Disabled people receiving social security benefits can now receive payments for up to 12 months after they return to work, according to Edward B. Jacobson, district manager of the Medford Social Security office.

The law works this way. If a person returns to work, even though his condition has not improved, he must report his work to the Social Security administration. His checks will not be stopped. After he has worked nine months the Social Security administration will review the situation to see whether the beneficiary has regained his ability to work. If he is found able to engage in substantial work, and therefore is no longer disabled within the meaning of the law, he will still be paid his benefits for three more months, or a total of 12 months in all. Then the social security checks will be stopped. This means a disability beneficiary can receive benefits up to 12 months after he returns to work.

Jacobson stated, "The 12-month trial work period gives financial support to the disabled beneficiary when he returns to work. He knows he can count on his social security benefits while he finds out if he can work."

For more information about disability insurance benefits or any other aspect of Social Security, contact your Social Security office at 1005 East Main st., the Mall Building, Medford.

anything about the others the whole time I was in prison," he said.

The major said the Communists never tried to change his political thinking. He said he spent most of his captivity in a hotel room in Samneua City where he was given a "bed to sleep on and clothes to wear but not much else."

Wolfkill joked with newsmen he had known before he was captured by the Laotian rebel forces along with Shore and McMorrow when their helicopter went down in Communist-held territory. Shore and McMorrow were civilian helicopter pilots.

Wolfkill said he was not certain the helicopter actually was shot down. He said the rear rotor failed and "we made a hasty descent from 3,500 feet we don't know yet what caused the failure."

He said none of the three men were injured in the forced landing.

He said they ran into a hail of machine gun fire when they landed but "it was a miracle none of us were injured." He said the craft was immediately surrounded by Pathet Lao guerillas.

Wolfkill said the Communists took them first to the village of La Thong, then moved them to Nong Het, both in Xieng Khouang province, which was the Pathet Lao stronghold.

## Stocks Close Higher With Electronics, Chemicals, Oils Up

New York (UPI)—Stocks closed higher today paced by electronics, chemicals, oils and aerospace issues.

Among the chemicals, Eastman Kodak added more than 1 on a dividend boost. United Carbon, trading ex-dividend, rose over 2 on higher earnings, and Allied American Potash, and Union Carbide both performed well.

IBM led the electronics higher with gain of about 3 followed by jumps of at least 2 in Lintell, and Perkin-Elmer, and gains of 1 or more in Texas Instruments and RCA.

Among the aircrafts, Boeing, Douglas and McDonnell rose 1 or better. At least a half dozen oils rose 1 or more while in the autos, Chrysler and General Motors added at least 1 apiece.

**DOW JONES AVERAGES**

New York (UPI)—Dow Jones final stock averages: 30 industrial 810.02, up 3.31; 20 railroads 121.44, up 0.19; 15 utilities 119.17, up 0.28, and 65 stocks 210.34, up 0.83. Sales today were about 4.3 million shares compared with 4.18 million shares Thursday.

## Sewage Disposal Construction Set

Jacksonville — The U.S. Public Health service has approved a federal grant of \$16,470 in connection with a sewage disposal system to be constructed here next year, it was announced today.

Senators Maurice Neuberger and Wayne Morse notified the Mail Tribune of the grant in telegrams this morning.

The money represents approximately 35 per cent of the cost of the sewer system's stabilization pond.

Construction of the sewage system here is expected to get under way next spring. City councilmen chose to wait until that time so that the six months of work necessary to complete the installation could be done in dry weather.

Jacksonville voters have authorized bonded indebtedness of up to \$250,000 to finance the project.

## Prisoner Willing To Talk on Hijack

Boston (UPI)—The spotlight in the search for the bandits who hijacked a U.S. mail truck and escaped with \$1,551,277 swung to Rhode Island today.

State police at Scituate, R. I., said they had a man in custody who claimed he knows who staged the robbery and is willing to tell authorities.

The man is an ex-convict who said he knows Bobby Wilcoxon and Albert Nussbaum, two bank robbers whose names have been linked with the biggest cash robbery in the nation's history.

## Social Problems Court Suggested

Portland (UPI)—The Legislative Interim Committee on Social Problems today recommended a new state conciliation court system to be paid for by a \$10 fee charged for each divorce complaint filed.

# Trade Group Cautions Against Lumber Restrictions on Canada

Washington (UPI)—A private free trade group has cautioned the government against imposing import restrictions on Canada in its efforts to aid the ailing Pacific Northwest lumber industry.

The group, the committee for a national trade policy, said in a "background paper" prepared this week that import restrictions would not solve the industry's problems and could hurt the economies of both countries.

The United States and Canada will open negotiations on the North American lumber trade during the week of Aug. 27 in Ottawa.

Many spokesmen for the ailing Northwest lumber industry have called for restrictions against what they term "excessive" Canadian lumber exports to the United States. The demand has been echoed by many Northwest congressmen.

The committee said that lumber import restrictions by the United States could hamper Canada's effort to adjust the Canadian economy to the changing facts of international economic life.

"If the Canadians are successful in achieving a new equilibrium," it said, "both countries will benefit."

If Canadian lumber sales in the United States are cut, it said, U.S. trade with Canada would probably suffer. It said that in the past three years the United States sold

## University Report Used In Study Of Progress Alliance

Eugene — President Kennedy's Alliance for Progress in Latin America needs greater emphasis on the mobilization of human resources, according to a study prepared for the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on Latin America.

The study was prepared by Raymond F. Mikesell, professor of economics at the University of Oregon and associate director of the university's Institute of International Studies and Overseas Administration.

He prepared the report on observations of the first six months of operation of the Alliance for Progress at the request of the subcommittee to Latin America. During the visit he served as a consultant to the subcommittee.

"Our money alone will not achieve development and political stability in Latin America," Mikesell reported. "We must give greater attention to the staffing of our missions, to the coordination of the country level of the various sources of external assistance, and to mobilizing non-governmental sources of personnel, including people from American and European universities, from labor unions, and from private business."

"This job can only be done by capable and dedicated people, and not simply by writing checks."

While Mikesell's report is critical of various aspects of the Alliance for Progress, he said the program has not been a failure. "If social and economic reforms are to take place in an orderly manner and under constitutional and democratic procedures, they are going to take time."

## Students Graduated From Eugene School

Six valley people were graduated at the end of the summer session by the University of Oregon, Eugene. They were Raymond L. Proctor, master of arts; Willis Alvin Coffeen, master of education; Charles Scott Phillips, master of music; and Donald A. Walker, bachelor of science, all from Medford; and Evelyn J. Winningham, master of education and Alan J. McBeth, bachelor of science, Jacksonville.

Commencement was held by the university on Aug. 11. This was the first summer exercise held by the school, and Dr. J. Douglas Brown, dean of the faculty at Princeton university, delivered the key address.

## Highway Commission Issues Revised Map

Salem (UPI)—For the first time since 1924, the Oregon State Highway Commission has issued a completely revised state highway map.

Previous editions have been revisions of former maps.

## Foreign Briefs

**DE GAULLE PLANS SPEECHES IN GERMANY**

Bonn (UPI)—French President Charles de Gaulle plans to make at least two speeches in Germany during his state visit here next month, according to an official announcement.

De Gaulle will speak German to workers in the Thyssen Steel Works in Duisburg Sept. 6, and to members of a youth group in Ludwigsburg, near Stuttgart, Sept. 9.

**JAPAN TO GET TITLE TO U.S. DESTROYERS**

Tokyo (UPI)—The United States will turn over 18 former U. S. Navy destroyers to the Japanese self-defense force Aug. 28, the Japan Times said today.

The ships, which were leased under a 1952 Japanese-U.S. ship loan agreement, currently are in the possession of the new Japanese navy. The Times said the United States will relinquish title to the World War II ships.

**FIERCE POLAR RAT FOUND**

Wellingborough, England (UPI)—A three-foot, 25-pound white polar rat said to be so fierce it could easily kill a dog was found Thursday night near the fairgrounds cage from which it escaped earlier in the day.

Police, who said the rodent had inch-long teeth, had broadcast warnings to the public to beware of the animal. It was found by its owner crouched wet and hungry near its cage.

**GAITSKELL IN ITALY FOR VACATION**

Portofino, Italy (UPI)—British Labor Party Leader Hugh Gaitskell arrived here for a vacation Thursday, accompanied by his wife and children.

**TURKEY WARNS IRAQ ON ATTACKS**

Ankara, Turkey (UPI)—Turkey has warned Iraq that further Iraqi air attacks on Turkish border positions could lead to retaliation.

The Turkish government issued the warning in a protest note handed to Iraqi Ambassador Talip Mastak Thursday after attacks by two Iraqi jets on positions along the frontier.

# Trade Group Cautions Against Lumber Restrictions on Canada

Canada an average of \$3.7 billion worth of goods a year, and bought in return only about \$3 million worth.

Less than two months ago, Canada instituted an austerity program because of balance of payments problems.

Canadian exports of softwood lumber to the United States have been growing steadily in the past 10 years. Last year, they totaled more than \$250 million and accounted for 13.1 per cent of U.S. softwood consumption.

The trade committee denied, however, that Canadian lumber was the cause of the U.S. lumber industry's trouble. It blamed primarily "the changing patterns of lumber economics."

It said the U.S. lumber industry had over-expanded during and directly after World War II, and that many of the mills which have closed down succumbed to competition as much as from larger U.S. mills as from Canada.

It also said many of the smaller mills, with no diversification of product and small sales forces were unable to weather a two-year industry depression coupled

with increased competition from substitute building materials.

The committee agreed with industry claims that certain U.S. laws have hurt the U.S. industry. It specifically supported the industry demand for revision of the Jones Act, a 1920 law that forces Western lumbermen to use high-cost, less efficient U.S. vessels when shipping lumber to

the east coast by sea.

It also noted lumber industry claims that while the Canadian government has a determined policy to aid its lumber industry and expand exports, present U.S. government policies actually tend to restrict the industry.

"If there is any merit to these claims, the deficiencies in U.S. policy should be corrected," it said.

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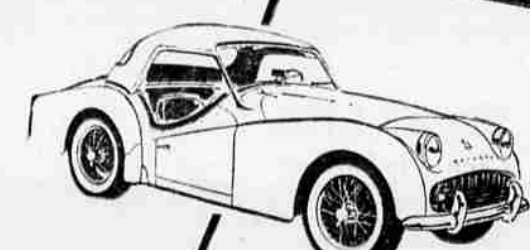
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