

B47, Former Ruler of The Skies, Soon To Retire From Airways

By DARRELL GARWOOD
 United Press International
 WASHINGTON (UPI) — The B47 jet bomber, which once held all the speed records and ruled the skies, is rapidly winging its way into oblivion.

More than 1,400 planes has been consigned to outdoor mothballing in a storage area on the Arizona desert near Tucson. The rest of the B47s are scheduled to fly to the same fate as fast as missiles are positioned for the counter-strike purposes the manned bombers now serve.

Men who are still young in the Air Force then will have seen the beginning and end of a whole era in aeronautical history. The B47 was a forerunner in the transition from piston to jet engines. Though heavier than the heaviest World War II bomber, it was once faster than the fastest fighter plane.

Unlike the old but still spirited fire horse that has to be retired to pasture, the B47 has lost none of its power or speed. It has simply been overtaken by events. Its fate, however, is somewhat better than was met by the piston-driven jet-assisted B36 bombers. These planes which once comprised a proud billion-dollar fleet were later broken up for scrap.

Command, has spearheaded a drive to keep the B47s in storage against the possibility that the computer consensus of a fast making them obsolete is not entirely correct. "I think the B47 in the hands of professionals could deliver weapons in the year 2,000. I am not saying you will not get kicked around. There is no easy way to fight a war. But we will deliver the weapons, no matter how much it costs to deliver them."

Questions are sometimes raised as to why the B47s can't find a peacetime use. As in the case of the B36s, they appear to lack the kind of workhorse economy demanded for civilian purposes. Though it can load ten tons of bombs, a B47 has a crew of only three men and at most can accommodate four — one in the "crawway."



FACES RETIREMENT—The B-47 jet bomber, shown here in this Washington 1950 photo, once held all the speed records and ruled the skies. It is now winging its way into oblivion. Less than two years from now, the Air Force expects to retire the last of the B-47s. (UPI)

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Even accepting this low estimate of operating costs, it would figure out at 10 cents a ton mile with a full load if the plane's use for cargo purposes were contemplated. Extensive modifications of the fuselage would be involved.

Fleet Cut
 The Air Force has already announced that its fleet of 100 B47s in Europe will be cut to 80 by July 1, with the rest expected to be brought home sometime in 1965.

The only non-U.S. use so far found for them was in hammering out an agreement to sell TFX fighter-bombers to Australia for \$125 million, with the planes to become available beginning in 1967.

Meanwhile, if they choose, the Australians can have up to 30 B47s to operate as an interim force.

The TFX is scheduled to be roughly 2½ times faster than the B47. With missiles also crowding the picture, yesterday's military airplane appears to have about the same status as yesterday's newspaper.

Shopping Tour Set By Jaycees in GP

GRANTS PASS—Friday night has been set as the date for a Christmas shopping tour sponsored annually by Grants Pass Jaycees for underprivileged children in the community.

As in the past years, the participating youngsters, ranging in age from 5 to 12, will be given four silver dollars each and shepherded in small groups through downtown stores to buy Christmas presents for other members of their families. Two Jaycees will accompany each group.

Money for the project is collected by the Jaycees by contributions from the people of Grants Pass. Names of the youngsters are secured through various community organizations. This year about 70 youngsters will participate in the tour, which is designed to encourage a "spirit of giving" among those who might not otherwise be able to give.

After the shopping tour the youngsters will be taken to the Jaycee clubhouse, where Jaycee wives will wrap their gifts and Santa Claus will give out treats and small presents donated by the merchants of Grants Pass. Chairman of the project is Don Tuckness, Grants Pass.

If the oven gets splattered with fat while the turkey is getting its last minute browning, wipe oven with a sponge dipped first in hot water and then in dry sal soda concentrated. The sal cuts through the grease rapidly.

Teen-Age Interests Move Into White House With New Leader

By HELEN THOMAS
 United Press International
 WASHINGTON (UPI)—Life in the White House now has a teen-age tinge. The new era took over when President and Mrs. Johnson moved into the executive mansion with their two daughters, Lynda Bird, 19, and Lucy Baines, 16, and the little Kennedy charmers, Caroline, 6, and John Jr., 3, who had captivated the nation, moved out.

Although they are Texans all the way, both the Johnson girls were born in Washington and have lived in the glare of official life.

Both have poise and uninhibited natural friendliness. Both are pretty, and both have their father's gregarious nature and their mother's gentleness.

Lives Are Changed
 Their lives were changed radically from the moment of the tragedy on Nov. 22 when President Kennedy was slain. Secret Service agents moved in immediately to protect Lynda Bird, a sophomore at the University of Texas in Austin, and Lucy Baines, a junior at the National Cathedral School for Girls here.

Agents are with them constantly now. In the first several days after their father became President the girls were besieged by photographers. Lynda called her mother in Washington to complain jokingly that she was "running out of good clothes" to wear for the picture taking. Lucy told her mother she had to get to school 10 minutes early to do her posing.

But none of the sudden new popularity has changed the girls. They moved into the White House with their record players, television sets, stuffed dogs, books, records and other

typical teen-age accouterments. Taking the place of the five Kennedy dogs in the White House menagerie were Lucy's beagle puppies, "Him" and "Her." Furthermore, Lucy, who travels with a crowd of young teenagers, has given the White House switchboard a long list of the names of her friends.

Lynda Bird is engaged to Englebert Rosenbach, 23, of Comfort, Tex.

There are reports that Lynda Bird will be a White House bride. But her parents want her to finish college first.

Lynda loves to ride, swim, dance and bowl. But she also is a great reader. She is vivacious and equally at home with grown-ups and teenagers.

Lucy is more the "domestic" type and less devoted to school work than her sister. She is in the young glamor stage, wears her hair long like most teenagers, and her clothes tight. She has a pink and white complexion, has lots of boy friends and is still babied a lot by her mother.

While Lynda Bird is away at the University, Lucy Baines will be keeping the White House lively with her friends. She is tender and affectionate with her parents and manages to get her way. She has a white convertible and has a more feminine style than her sister.

Lucy also is in the stage where she wants her privacy and already is feeling that the secret service is cramping her on dates.

During the last Democratic convention, she was always with her Mother and at times she even showed up at convention hall alone.

It is the Mother's wish that her children look at the job of the Presidency "with all the reverence it is due, to get from it the knowledge their unique vantage point gives them, and to retain the lightheartedness to which every teenager is entitled."

The first lady wishes seem bound to come true. Her daughters both have a deep respect for official life.

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