

Part In Cold War Drama Played By Klamath Basin

By TOM STIMMEL

An essential part of the cold war is played right here in Klamath Falls.

It isn't an abstract, theoretical part either: it's the business part—as businesslike as 28 rockets fired at an enemy bomber from the belly of a supersonic jet plane.

We do the whole thing here. We can spot an unknown aircraft miles at sea, compute its position within 200 feet, and send our own men scrambling after it four or five minutes after it first was spotted.

By "our," I mean the Air Force men who have come to Klamath Falls. For these are the functions of Kingsley Field and its potent little electronic satellite, the Keno radar station.

Just what these Air Force installations do, and just how adept they are at doing it, was demonstrated to the chamber of commerce board of directors Tuesday. It was the first of what is to become a series of tours for the public.

The Air Defense Command, of which our installations are a part, has four specific functions. Col. Jack Williams, Kingsley Field base commander, said these were detection, identification, interception and destruction. We can do all these things from here.

First stop on the chamber tour was the radar station on Haymaker Mountain above—far above—Keno. The ride aloft in a GI bus, grinding up an \$825,000 highway to the sky, seemed remote indeed from the troubled world we appeared to be leaving. Even on that hazy afternoon, Lt. Shasta and Mr. McLaughlin never shot out more dramatically. Charley Bane of Bend-Portland Truck Service eagerly pointed out the path taken when one of his trucks, assisted by two D-8 Cats, hauled the first load of steel up the mountain.

Charley must have hauled a lot of steel. The Keno radar station is not one building manned by one or two men. It is a complex little city with facilities for dozens of men. It has three radar domes, a vast operations building, power plant, barracks and chow hall.

Maj. James Thompson, commander of the 27th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, took us into one radar dome.

The dome, a fiber weather covering for the giant radar scanner inside, is kept in place by air pressure. The pressure is that of sea level. To enter it from an altitude of more than a mile, we first stepped into something of a pressure chamber. Then we could climb up and stare into the scanner that looked like a giant telescope.

Beneath the domes—two of the three scan the horizon and one scans vertical distances—are battery after battery of electronic equipment. Here are genuine electronic brains, some of them under constant temperatures maintained by air conditioning.

What it all means is evident in the operations room, something like a theater with a radar scope at every seat. The "screen" is a huge transparent plotting board where positions of unknown aircraft are marked from behind by men who have learned to write backwards.

Signals from the radar domes reach far out to sea, overlapping with those from the Yreka station and stations at Red Bluff, Coos Bay and other Pacific Coast points. They pick up anything metal that flies. The electronic computers gulp down these facts, compensate for distance, altitude and even weather, and feed the data into tireless scopes in the operations room. Here men plot locations and check them against flight plans and other information. If the object is unknown, the alarm goes out immediately.

Peering into radar scopes is tedious work. Men work at them 45 minutes, then take a 15-minute break. Their efficiency drops after 45 minutes and studies have shown that after two hours of constant scanning, a human being is worthless. There might just as well be no scanner in front of the scope at all.

An alarm from the radar operations room here goes to "Jonathan," the airman on duty in the Kingsley Field operations room. He sounds the scramble horn and pilots dash out of the ready room toward planes virtually ready to take off. Their dash to the planes is a race with the ground crew.

It should take less than five minutes from the first blast of the raucous, incessant scramble horn until interceptors are in the air.

The 32nd Fighter - Interceptor Squadron, the business end of Kingsley command, usually does it in three-and-a-half to four minutes, and for that habit has won the nickname "Perfection" squadron. There was a scramble while we were on the base and we were surprised to see how something with such urgency could be done with such efficiency.

Lt. Bill Gregory showed us the ready room, the briefing room, pilots' equipment including parachutes that open automatically at 14,000 feet, and a film describing Aid Defense Command operations. The film was taken at Hamilton Air Force Base near San Francisco but the procedure and the precision are the same here.

Lieutenant Gregory also showed us a film of his radar screen during a scramble. The technique is to "fly the dot" by radar. All interceptors flying is by radar, in fact, from the time a pilot leaves the ground until he meets his target and then is "recovered" by the radar scanners at Keno who sent him out in the first place.

It's a little disillusioning to realize that a supersonic jet pilot makes his entire flight with his nose stuck in a radar hood (the looks at nothing else). The days of World War I and even World War II are over. But radar doesn't make mistakes, and flight at maybe 600 miles an hour to meet an enemy approaching at 500 miles an hour leaves no room for mistakes.

The scramble was made in the good "old" F-28 jets, but we got a close look at the new F-101 on base. Most of the questions about it were answered "Classified," but we did learn that it weighs something like 25 tons and has two seats instead of one. The second seat is for a radar observer, who follows instructions from Keno, or wherever, and directs the pilot until the plane radar takes over about 30 miles from the target.

Eventually the squadron will convert fully to F-101s. That first plane was scheduled for its first trip aloft Wednesday. And there will be many more.

The F-101 requires afterburners in this altitude and that means even more noise than we've heard so far. The noise should be a confident, and vigorous reminder that the men at desks in a darkened room at Keno and the men racing out of the ready room at Kingsley Field are "Ever Alert." That's the motto of the 32nd "Perfection" Squadron.



THIS IS one of three radar domes atop Haymaker Mountain above Keno housing giant telescope-like radar scanners that reach far out to sea. The entire dome above the walkway is supported only by air pressure.

Star's Home Said Castle

WILTON, Conn. (AP) — Actor Raymond Massey's home is a castle, the town prosecutor rules Thursday.

Because of that ancient principle of English Common Law, Prosecutor Julian Gregory decided that Massey didn't commit breach of the peace when he ejected his gardener from his home here May 11.

The gardener, 50-year-old Michael Hoshko, said he quit his job and went into the Massey home to collect his pay.

Then Hoshko told police, Massey called him a name, threatened to kill him and roughed him up. Hoshko filed a complaint against the 63-year-old actor.

Massey's wife, Dorothy, gave a different story. She said Hoshko created a disturbance in the home and Massey asked him to leave. He refused and made a threatening gesture, she said.

Then, said Mrs. Massey, her husband pushed Hoshko out the door.

Freak Accident Injures KF Man

A spinning piece of heavy wire about half to three quarters of an inch long thrown from a rotary lawn mower he was operating, pierced the right side of Roger Keller, 29, tearing a gaping hole in his right side beneath the rib cage.

The metal continued to a spot near the liver, and surgery was necessary at Klamath Valley Hospital to remove the metal and close the wound. The accident happened late Tuesday near his trailer home.



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Area Pupils Get Degrees

Fourteen students from Klamath Falls, three from Lakeview and one each from Merrill, Malin and Dunsmuir received degrees from Southern Oregon College at Ashland during the school's third annual commencement exercises at Lithia Park Sunday, May 31.

Klamath Falls students receiving bachelor of science degrees in education were Marian Barker, Ruth Marie Graham, Lois Marie Hartley, John Heyden, Freeda Gigg Kemnitzer, Dalia Kissis, Rose Anna Lee, Eugenia McCoy, Rosemary Perry, June Valeria Potter, Bernice Etta Sharpe and Sylvia Alice Clark Tomlin. Douglas Dwaine Barker received a bachelor of science degree in general studies and Erwin Brower received a master of science degree in education.

Bachelor of educational science degrees went to Ruth Fuller Brickley, Melba Ruth Snow and Vera May Zevely of Lakeview and to Elizabeth McVay Meek of Merrill, Beverly Martin Parker of Malin and Rosemary Ring Dabovich of Dunsmuir.

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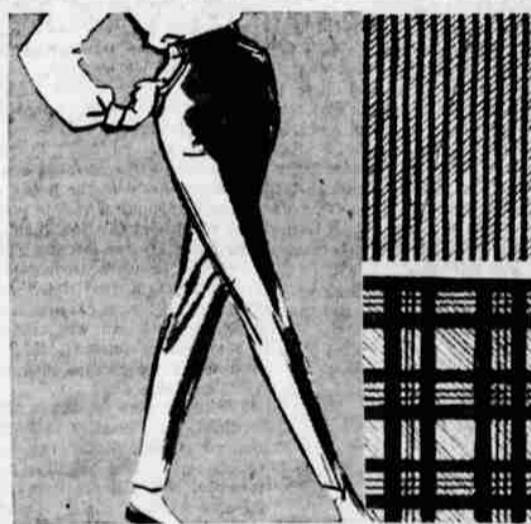
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