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Bronx Battles Balky Bittern

NEW YORK (AP)—Brooklyn police have learned to take the bitter with the better. But a balky bittern is something else again. The Liberty avenue police station became a place of confusion Wednesday when two patrolmen lugged in a squawking bird with a 4-foot wing span.

"What's that?" asked desk Sgt. Robert Winter. Patrolman Andy Nappi looked at fellow patrolman Barnett Cohen and replied: "We think it's a cross between a stork and a vulture."

"A vagrant stork-vulture," said Cohen. "He was loitering at Atlantic and Hopkinson avenues, and causing a crowd to gather." They all scrutinized the creature. It had orange circles under its eyes, green legs, a sharp beak, and with three toes on each foot. "Don't put him in a cell," said Winter. "They've just been cleaned. Tie him to a chair in the back room."

The belligerent bittern, also known as a swamp scavenger, flew into such a rage that he finally had to be put into a cell before he was taken away by a representative of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

How the bittern got embroiled in Brooklyn traffic will probably remain a mystery.

"DENNIS THE MENACE"



"HE'S PART GREAT DAME, PART IRISH SET-UP, AN' DAD SAYS HE'S GOT A LITTA PUDDLE IN HIM, TOO."

Split Second Decisions Harass Missile Director

VANDENBERG AFB (UPI)—The man whose split-second decision may keep a wild missile from smashing down on a populated area says at least half the men he trains for this job never make the grade.

"You have two to six seconds to decide whether to let the missile go or destroy it in flight," said Col. Laicus A. Perry, 43, missile flight safety officer.

"There's a lot of pressure and some people just can't take it." What does it take to make a missile flight safety officer?

"Temperament is the main thing," said the engineer from Gresham, S. C. "And it takes lots of engineering training and exper-

ience. A man spends six months to a year training for the job before we give him responsibility for destroying a million-dollar missile and then he may not make it."

Perry chews cigars, while sitting amid several million dollars worth of electronic equipment that is perched on a low hill overlooking missile launch pads five or six miles away.

Surprisingly, he doesn't look at the missiles, although radar antennas are aimed with powerful binoculars. Instead, he alternately sits at a control panel or paces around a room full of electronic devices checking instrument readings and tapes spewed from computers.

"You can't tell whether a missile is good just by looking at it," he said. "The only reliable information is from the instruments." The few seconds in which Perry says he can puff a cigar down to a nub go like this:

A missile is launched and starts arcing out over the ocean. It contains instruments which have started radioing information to his center even before firing. Fifty to 60 different coded signals strike the antennas at Perry's installation, shoot through miles of electronic wire and thousands of tubes and appear on various "read out" instruments. At the same time, trackers are giving verbal reports on the missile's progress.

Perry's eyes squint over the information and his brain becomes a living extension of the computers. If it looks as if it's going off course, Perry hits two toggle switches located about two inches apart on the control panel. One switch arms the destructive package in the missile, the other detonates it.

Perry, who goes fishing to relax, says the chances of a missile going wild and falling on a nearby town before it can be destroyed are practically nonexistent. In the first place, missiles are fired over the ocean in an imaginary corridor four miles wide. Tracking stations maintain a second by second watch from several angles. If the missile starts to veer off course, Perry makes his decision on whether to "bust it" or let it go if it won't fall on a populated area.

Pilfering Wife Breaks Ring

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (AP)—A fake \$5 bill sneaked out of the trousers of a sleeping husband by his wife proved to be a pivotal clue in helping the Secret Service break up a \$10,000 counterfeit ring.

Asst. U.S. Atty. W. Francis Murrell said Wednesday the four-month-old investigation took a climactic turn when Mrs. Dallas S. Barr fished the \$5 from the pocket of her cab-driver husband.

He said Mrs. Barr bought some dry goods and handed the merchant the \$5 bill, unaware that it had one blank side.

Mrs. Barr hastily and blushing retrieved the bill and left the store. The merchant called police. Secret Service agents raided Barr's home last weekend and found the \$5 bill and printing plates.

Arrested were Barr, 28, and Melvin E. Rhodes, 33; Norman S. Bennett, 35, a former convict; George G. Holmes, 37; and William James Lindquist, 26. Agents said Mrs. Barr was not involved.

Garry Stigall, Secret Service agent-in-charge, said the five men spread \$10,000 in fake bills throughout the Middle West in the last few weeks. Barr was described by Stigall as the ring leader.

DROWNS AT CONFERENCE

SAN JUAN, P.R. (UPI)—Forest Ladd, a member of the Tennessee delegation to the 31st governors conference here, drowned Wednesday night in the pool of his hotel. Ladd, 43, had gone for a swim after the conference adjourned Wednesday afternoon, and authorities said he may have hit his head on the bottom of the pool.

Reports Claim Communists Directing Iraq Operations

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Highly reliable reports from Iraq say some Communist leaders there are getting directives from Moscow and others from Peiping. And the two Communist capitals often contradict each other.

The Russians appear to favor a go-slow policy in Iraq. They want the Communist party to look respectable. They know they cannot take Iraq quickly this way, but they hope this policy will strengthen their position in the area as a whole.

The Red Chinese favor a tough line. They want an all-out campaign to take over Iraq and make it a Communist state. They preach chaos, disorder, and an unremitting war on the "reactionary" elements.

The Soviet line apparently is prevailing at least for the moment. A statement from the Iraqi Communist party's Politburo has condemned terrorist activities, which it blamed on "ill-advised individual leadership."

Several months ago Moscow warned the Iraqi Reds against a premature grab for power, which the Kremlin called "adventurism" and "opportunism." The Russians apparently felt a premature takeover would stiffen resistance to communism all over the Middle East.

They advised respectability in Iraq. This meant cooperation with Kassem, perhaps participation in his Cabinet, and ultimate creation of a Popular Front government.

To achieve this the Iraqi Reds will have to cease being trouble-makers and a general public nuisance. They will have to curb terrorism and impose tighter discipline on the Communist-dominated Popular Resistance Force and other Communist-front organizations.

Followers of the Soviet line seem to be on top in the re-politburo at the moment in the re-Red China's followers still hope to prevail.

ties. It was a kind of disorganized brawl exactly what the Red Chinese ordered. Such troubles undermine law and order, shake army discipline generally, and breed a chaos that could lead to a Communist take-over. Kassem's charge that similar "Kirkuks" were planned simultaneously for other Iraqi cities lent substance to the theory that Red China's followers still hope to prevail.

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Grocer Forgets Ancient Motto, Customers Right

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—"Look," patiently explained grocer Sam Re to customers who tried to tell him Wednesday his roof was on fire. "there's no fire. The roofers are working up there."

When six more passers-by rushed in to tell him there really was a blaze, Re went outside and looked.

It took 15 firemen and six pieces of equipment to extinguish the fire but damage was slight. The roofers had left.

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