

Out Of The Air Force And Down To The Sea . . .

By ARTHUR J. DOMMEN
United Press International

SAIGON, Viet Nam (UPI)—A retired U.S. Air Force officer has no regrets for his defection to the sea.

"When I find a place I like I settle down for a while," said Carl Powell aboard his 34-foot yaw "Bella Kaze" as he dropped anchor in Saigon harbor after a 2,500-mile voyage from Japan.

Powell, 42, who forsook the wild blue yonder for the lure of the sea, is off on a world cruise which will take him south to Singapore, westward to Ceylon, across the Atlantic and into the Caribbean.

His companions are his Japanese wife, Masumi, a dog named "Mr. Butch" and occasional adventurers and international hitchhikers they encounter in their leisurely wanderings. A rat they named "Mickey" who stowed away while in drydock in Hong Kong was lost at sea when the rodent scampered out on the boom sheet, a

reckless action which Powell attributed to seasickness.

The Bella Kaze, flying the Stars and Stripes from her mizzen mast, has attracted attention in this famed river port.

But Powell, no publicity seeker merely tucks away the numerous newspaper stories that have been written about him in his cluttered cabin. Later on they may be useful, especially with suspicious customs officials who don't speak English and who might think the Bella Kaze is running guns.

Lounging in his cabin, Powell said the Bella Kaze had encountered most of the normal hazards of a long sea voyage. The worst was the tearing loose of a copper bottom plate while sailing off the Chinese coast. And in the South China Sea, a storm split his mizzen mast, forcing him into an obscure Vietnamese port for repairs by fishermen.

Powell insists he has "few complaints." But what about his wife Masumi?

"I'm just going along for the ride," she said.

'MARAUDERS' IN THE MOVIES

HOLLYWOOD (UPI)—"The Marauders," the much-lauded war novel by Charlton Ogburn Jr., has been acquired by Milton Sperrling for filming at Warner Brothers. The story is a dramatic account of the Burma jungle adventures of Merrill's Marauders under the leadership of 39-year-old Brig. Gen. Frank D. Merrill.

Can You Carve A Gargoyle?

WASHINGTON (UPI) — If you have a talent for gargoyles, the Washington Cathedral would like to hear from you.

The long-a-building Episcopal church needs models of about 30 or so fanciful gargoyles, chimerae, grotesques or what-have-you for the gutter system atop the gothic structure. And Dean Francis B. Sayre Jr. invites imaginative sculptors to create them.

Dean Sayre carefully noted that the gargoyle project is not a contest and no prizes are to be offered. The only satisfaction, should your model be picked, would be that your work would be carved into the stone fabric of the cathedral "to remain there through the ages."

Gargoyles are ornamental water spouts that throw water from the roof gutters high up on the cathedral walls. In medieval days they were put on cathedrals to represent evil spirits and to remind passersby of the threats of the Devil and the safety of the church.

Dean Sayre noted that today's "demons" — anxieties, psychoses and corrupting ideologies — offer endless opportunities for creative fancifulness in carving.

Photographs of any work to be submitted should be sent to the Clerk of the Works, Washington Cathedral, Washington 16, D.C.

Princess In Exile Is Very Popular

ROME (UPI)—Who do you think is rated the most beautiful girl in Italy?

Gina Lollobrigida? Sophia Loren?

You're way off.

She is Princess Maria Gabriella, the tall, 19-year-old blonde daughter of King Umberto of Italy, who was permanently exiled after World War II when Italy became a republic.

A recent letter poll by an Italian magazine put Maria Gabriella in the top spot as Italy's "piu bella" (prettiest).

Her name has been linked with top-royalty suitors from around the world. They include the Shah of Iran, whose former wife, Princess Soraya lives in Rome, and Prince Don Juan of Bourbon, the likeliest choice to become King of Spain if that country ever returns to the monarchy.

Maria Gabriella's sister, Maria Pia, is married to Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia.

Despite the fact that Maria Gabriella seldom is in Italy and generally lives with her father, King Umberto, in Portugal, she constantly fills the pages of Italian magazines.

When it was reported, and later denied, that she might become engaged to the Shah of Iran there was a flurry of apprehension.

The shah is a Moslem and a divorcee. Bachelor Don Juan is of the same religion, Roman Catholic, as Maria Gabriella, and a more popular choice.

The pretty princess also has been seen several times in the company of Count Giovanni Volpi di Misurata.

Maria Gabriella became good friends with Don Juan because both their families lived as exiles in Lisbon. Don Juan is the nephew of the last king of Spain.

Recently, the Italian princess has been spending much of her time in Switzerland, attending a translating school in Geneva.

Despite the general feeling against King Umberto, Italians are proud of his daughter — proud enough to make her their "piu bella."

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