

Eleven-Year-Old Thai Lad Taking Round-World Trip

NEW YORK (UPI)—A bright-eyed lad from Bangkok, Thailand, arrived here Wednesday night on an unprecedented air age odyssey—a pleasure trip around the world alone at the age of 11.

Veteran airlines officials were a little non-plussed when handsome Chula (Robert) Na Ranong appeared unescorted at the Newark Airport with a chunky book of airlines tickets, his Thai passport, and his baggage check clutched in his hands.

But Robert was all business. He had reached the halfway mark in his trip without mishap, and he had learned all the ropes that manipulated his magic carpet from enchanted city to enchanted city that are only the

stuff of most children's dreams. "Is this New York?" he asked. "Where's the Empire State Building?"

Tours Manhattan

An hour later he was in Manhattan seeing the shimmering sky-high lights of the world's tallest skyscraper in the company of friends. The excitement of a rough, weather-delayed flight from Washington gradually subsided and Robert was happy and at home. You could tell by the satisfied way he chomped his chewing gum.

"My children know nothing about fear; they have been taught to look for solution rather than dropping tears," wrote his mother, Dr. Lydia Na Ranong, in letters preparing her friends from Manila to Cairo for Robert's arrival. "He is a very independent little gentleman who has been making trips by himself since he was six."

Gas Blast Kills Five

AUBURN, N.Y. (UPI)—A gas-line explosion killed five persons Wednesday night at a downtown service station where firemen were checking reports of a gas leak.

Three victims were firemen. Two firemen received minor injuries and a hospital reported at least one other person was injured.

Pays Half-Fare

The American-educated Dr. Na Ranong, daughter of Manchu Princess Der Ling of China, decided to give Robert a trip around the world during his spring school holiday because he is the only one of her three children who has not been sent abroad to school. Her duties as a faculty member of two Bangkok universities and as a journalist kept her at home.

"Mother thought it was a good idea to give me a trip while I still can pay half-fare," said Robert. "I will be 12 years old in June, and then I would have to pay the full adult fare."

The cinder block station was torn apart by the blast from an underground fuel storage tank and windows were shattered throughout the area.

A movie theater next door escaped damage because of its reinforced concrete walls, a fire official told United Press International. A usual week-night audience of 300 to 400 persons was in the theater, but there was no panic.

The explosion also ruptured the natural gas feeder line running to the station. It was permitted to burn until firemen could dig through the rubble and find the cutoff valve.

A woman near the blast scene had a heart attack and was taken to a hospital.

The fire official said escaping gas fumes could have been ignited by any of a number of machines in the station.

The dead were identified as station owner Walter Ockenfels; fire Lt. Alfred Murphy, firemen John F. Searing, 27, and Anthony T. Contrera, and station employe John Bell, all of Auburn.

Berry Men To Be Paid

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government is going to pay about 10 million dollars to cranberry growers who were unable to sell uncontaminated berries after last fall's cancer scare.

Cranberry growers had asked 15 to 20 million dollars from the government for 1959 crop losses and possible losses in the 1960 crop. They claimed there was no need for such a scare.

Emergency government loans already had been offered to growers who suffered losses because they were unable to sell their berries.



YOUR GRANDMOTHER may have used something like this crank operated Hayes sewing machine with which Tina Gow is struggling here. The machine is on display at the William B. Ide Adobe State Monument near Red Bluff which will be dedicated during the weekend of April 30-May 1. Ide was the first and only president of the Bear Flag Republic which gave the state its official emblem.

Pornography Beneficial In Teaching 'Life Facts'

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—A husband and wife team of controversial psychologists say pornographic literature should be used to instruct children about sex.

Drs. Eberhard and Phyllis Kronhausen Wednesday said in an address at the annual meeting of the Los Angeles Health Education and V.D. Council that the suppression of pornography is actually harmful.

"In our clinical experience there has never been a case where damage was done through the reading of pornography," said Kronhausen.

"On the other hand, the suppression of pornography does more harm in the suppression of the normal sex drive."

His wife added she has talked to children who told her their only knowledge of sex came from reading so-called pornographic literature.

"I believe most adults are sexually ignorant," she said.

"Yet they would oppose their children reading literature that informs them of what they as parents do not or cannot tell them about sex—which is here to stay."

The Kronhausens, authors of the controversial recent book "Pornography and the Law," said they believed there was an attempt by a small minority to impose "private censorship."

The private censor—the individual such as a parent who prevents his child from reading certain books—usually has little or no idea of what or why he is censoring, believes Kronhausen.

Such a private censor is an intellectual snob, said Kronhausen.

"He wants to read anything and everything and then tell you that if your read it you will be harmed," he said.

"But so far I've never seen a censor harmed."

Television May Be Harmful To Unstable Children

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A Seattle, Wash., educator says there is evidence that the emotionally unstable child may be influenced by crime, passion and violence he sees in movies and on television.

Dr. Chester Babcock, executive director of Seattle public school instruction, said Wednesday there was no conclusive evidence that TV and comic books affect a normal child's behavior.

But, he remarked, to argue that television does not influence the viewer to some extent is to "indulge in the wildest kind of contradiction."

Movie Strike Continuing

HOLLYWOOD (UPI)—The movie industry and its actors provided a real-life suspense story today when will the actors' strike end?

The predicted settlement of the strike in its 24th day Wednesday came to naught when negotiators postponed their scheduled meeting.

The two groups scheduled a meeting for today at which it was hoped the curtain would come down on the dispute.

Two days of meeting by special negotiating teams Monday and Tuesday were expected to have resulted in a compromise agreement that has only to be formally adopted by the 14,000-member Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and the seven struck major motion picture studios.

The tentative agreement was said to include a formula for sharing of profits of movies sold to television, one of the key issues of the strike which started March 7.

He said: "If it doesn't influence then the nation's advertisers are pouring millions down the rat-hole. Our businessmen are too smart for that."

Babcock was the windup speaker on the mass media forum at the White House Conference on Children and Youth. Related workshops discussed the effects of radio and TV, newspapers, paperbacks and movies on youth.

Television was one of the most controversial issues.

Dr. Francis R. Horwich of the Ding Dong School TV program insisted television could not be blamed for "all the unfortunate things happening to children in the United States."

Most Potent Communication

She said TV was the most potent form of communication and that it was the combined responsibility of the home, school, church and community to oversee proper use of TV.

She called for a study by the TV industry of its commercials, which she said were used to "exploit" children to sell products. She and the other speakers

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Pupil's Thesis To Be Published

PRINCETON, N. J. (AP)—A Princeton University student's senior thesis will be published as a novel next year.

Charles Scribner's Sons of New York announced Tuesday they would issue "The Golden Axe," a story of family life in a small Maine town by Lauren R. Stevens, 21, of Philadelphia.

Stevens, who plans to study English in graduate school, has won two undergraduate short story prizes.

QUEEN HAS FLU

LONDON (UPI)—Queen Mother Elizabeth has the flu and has cancelled all her engagements. Buckingham Palace announced Tuesday.

ROCK 'N ROLL Dance & Show
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