



BACK IN THE SADDLE — President Johnson demonstrates his riding ability at his ranch at Johnson City, Tex. He takes "Lady B," a Tennessee walking horse, for a little jaunt on his spread. —UPI Telephoto

Historic Meeting Planned Between Pope, Patriarch

VATICAN CITY (UPI) — An Eastern Orthodox prelate called on Pope Paul VI Saturday to discuss prospects for the Pope's expected meeting with Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras in the Holy Land.

The pontiff was closeted with London's Orthodox Archbishop Athenagoras for more than half an hour. Their meeting was the first official contact between

the Vatican and the Orthodox leadership in over 500 years.

A Vatican source said their conversation was "very cordial." He added that Pope Paul's contact with the archbishop makes it virtually certain that he will meet the patriarch in Palestine.

At a New Year's audience for the diplomatic corps an hour before his meeting with the Orthodox churchman, the pontiff suggested that the diplomats do everything they can to emphasize that his trip to the Holy Land will be a "purely religious act."

"We are sure you will want to use your influence, within your means and those of your governments, to prevent interpretations of it (the pilgrimage) which would falsify its true perspective," he said.

There has been some reaction against the trip in the Arab world because of its possible political implications. The Pope said today his trip will be "absolutely foreign to any consideration of a temporal or political nature."

Pope Paul will be in the Holy Land Jan. 4-6. If he talks with Patriarch Athenagoras there, it would be the first time the leaders of the Eastern and Western churches have met since the churches split in 1054.

Deaths Set New Mark

CHICAGO (UPI) — Traffic deaths on the nation's streets and highways soared to a record high during the first 11 months of the year, the National Safety Council said Saturday.

The safety council said 39,290 persons died in traffic accidents through November. The fatality rate was 3.4 deaths for every 100 million vehicle miles.

The November toll of 4,670 also set a record, jumping 11 per cent from last year and eclipsing the previous peak in November 1955.

Redmond Fire

REDMOND (UPI) — Fire heavily damaged the pro shop and bar lounge at the Redmond Golf Club Thursday night. Damage was estimated at \$30,000.

New York, Moscow Air Link Seems Near

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Russians are ready to begin direct air service between New York and Moscow next summer, provided the United States agrees.

Najeeb E. Halaby, administrator of the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA), said Friday he expected President Johnson and the State Department to decide within a month whether to sign an agreement establishing such a service.

Halaby, just back from a trip to Moscow where he discussed technical and operational problems involved, said, "The Russians are ready to sign now. They say they can start proving flights this spring and will be ready to start service by summer."

Idlewild Airport and use U. S. navigational aids.

The FAA chief said he told Aeroflot officials their planes must satisfy New York noise abatement standards and be equipped to fly safely within the American air traffic control system. He said the Soviet Union is behind this country in development of the latest electronic navigation aids.

Halaby said that if an agreement is signed, it probably would call for two flights a week in the summer by both Aeroflot and Pan American World Airways, with the schedule reduced to one flight a week by each airline in the winter months.

The Russians are planning to use their giant prop-jet TU114, the world's biggest commercial airliner with a capacity of 224 passengers and a gross takeoff weight of 350,000 pounds. This compares with the long-range version of the U. S. Boeing 707 which carries 187 passengers and grosses 314,000 pounds for a transoceanic flight. The TU114, which is not a pure jet like the 707, is much slower and shorter-ranged.

"They're even willing to change the props on the 114, which are pointed and create considerable noise," Halaby added. "I asked Aeroflot's top official why they were so eager and his reply was: 'To make profits.'"

Johnson At Home

JOHNSON CITY, Tex. (UPI) — President Johnson, looking perhaps more at home in the saddle than in his rocking chair at the White House, demonstrated his riding ability Friday for newsmen by riding a Tennessee walking horse on a brisk but short trip.

Press Secretary Pierre Salinger, a little less tall in the saddle, accompanied him on a smaller red-and-white paint named "Pete."

Johnson rode, then posed for photographers atop the sleek, black horse "Lady B." He demonstrated her gait by parading beside a road.

After the exhibition, a newsman asked Johnson if the horse was in fact a Tennessee walking horse.

"Didn't you see her walking?" Johnson asked. He started off again and called back, "now, watch her walk — watch her gait."

700,000 Visit Kennedy Grave

WASHINGTON (UPI) — More than 700,000 persons have visited the grave of President Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery since his burial Nov. 25.

Cemetery custodians expected the weekend and New Year's Day to bring a continued large procession of visitors to the site on a slope overlooking the Potomac River.

City Seeks To Ease Firm Loss

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (UPI) — Federal and local officials met Saturday to put the finishing touches on a retraining program for about 1,000 of the 6,000 persons left jobless when Studebaker closed its automobile plant here.

The session took place as efforts continued to woo new industry to this northern Indiana community.

Studebaker officials confirmed Friday night that they were negotiating to turn the firm's defense production contracts over to Litton Industries of Beverly Hills, Calif.

Officers of both firms refused to discuss details of the negotiations, but it was believed that Litton would operate here if it took over Studebaker's contracts to produce trucks for the Army and other defense agencies.

Local civic leaders Friday asked President Johnson to consider South Bend as a location for a major space research center which could mean another 2,000 jobs.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture also announced it had eased the income requirements for persons eligible to receive surplus government foodstuffs.

Marriage Ends After 57 Days

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Actress Marie McDonald Friday filed suit for divorce from her sixth husband, film producer Donald F. Taylor, of annulment of his 57-day-old marriage.

Miss McDonald, 40, contended that Taylor harassed her, hit her with a belt and threw a flat iron at her in the three days before the couple separated last Sunday.

Castro Plans Major Policy Speech This Week, Close Ties Seen Between Cuba And Red China

LONDON (UPI) — A Red Chinese report from Havana monitored here Saturday said that Cuba's Premier Fidel Castro plans to make a major political speech on Jan. 2, the fifth anniversary of the Cuban revolutionary takeover.

The report, carried by the official Hsinhua news agency, was seen by experts here as an indication that Peking apparently was anticipating a major policy pronouncement by the Cuban leader.

The announcement coincided with a Peking report that the Cuban ambassador in Red China had been hosting members of the Sino-Cuban friendship association with visits to the "growth of the Sino-Cuban fraternal friendship."

Red China's determined campaign for closer ties with Cuba's Castro was spotlighted earlier last week by a series of significant remarks by Premier Chou En-lai, who is currently touring Africa.

Experts said they appeared clearly designed to encourage Castro's revolutionary policies in Latin America and to boost his fading prestige in the Latin continent.

In Algiers a few days ago the Red Chinese premier went out of his way to stress the revolutionary character of Castro's policies. He said it was Castro's determination to "fight to the death" which stopped the late President John F. Kennedy from invading the island.

This was an obvious indirect hit at Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev who claims it was his decision to withdraw Soviet missiles which saved Cuba from destruction. Peking accused him of "cowardice" for having done so.

The Chinese strategy apparently is designed to weaken Soviet influence over Castro whom Khrushchev has been seeking to win over and commit to his brand of communism that preaches so-called peaceful co-existence.

Castro, while formally committed at present to the Kremlin line, has been reported wavering in his loyalty. He depends for economic survival on Russian aid which currently runs at an estimated \$1.5 billion a day.

Inclined Toward Peking

But politically and ideologically the Cuban leader was believed inclined toward Peking's hard line which encourages armed revolutions against the so-called imperialists everywhere.

As a fiery revolutionary, Castro has sought to build up prestige throughout Latin America. Apparently he has seen himself in the role of leader of a sweeping Latin American "liberation" campaign against United States influence.

State Highway Contracts Total \$107.6 Million In 1963

SALEM (UPI) — The State Highway Department awarded \$107.6 million in contracts during 1963—\$31 million more than were awarded in 1962, Highway Engineer Forrest Cooper said Saturday.

In all, 168 contracts were awarded, compared with 195 the year before, Cooper said.

He estimated the department would let \$61 million in contracts during 1964.

Of the \$107.6 million contracted during the year, \$16.7 million was for bond projects, \$3.2 million for construction on the county road system, \$2.4 million was in cooperation with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in connection with the relocation of U. S. 30 near the John Day Dam, \$80.1 million was in connection with federal aid participating projects, and \$3.9 million was for state-financed construction.

Contracts awarded in 1963 included 158 miles of grading, 184 miles of rock base construction, 86 miles of oiled wearing surface, 130 miles of asphaltic concrete pavement, 4 miles of Portland cement pavement, and 89 bridges and structures.

About 50 miles of interstate highway was completed or opened to traffic during the year. At yearend, 116 miles were under construction to freeway standards. This leaves 290 miles to be put under construction to complete the interstate highway system in Oregon before the target date of 1972.

The highway department and U. S. Corps of Engineers are relocating the Columbia River Highway between Rufus and Boardman to skirt waters to be impounded behind John Day Dam. The 28-mile stretch between Rufus and Arlington is all on new location high on a hill. East from Arlington to Boardman much of the Columbia River Highway will be salvaged and become a part of the final four-lane divided interstate freeway.

Whiskey Creek Claims Girl, 2

SANDY (UPI) — Deborah Schenberger, 2, Sandy, drowned in Whiskey Creek near here Friday.

The girl, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Schenberger, wandered away from her home and her body was found a few minutes later partly submerged in the creek.

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