

# Portland Press Herald

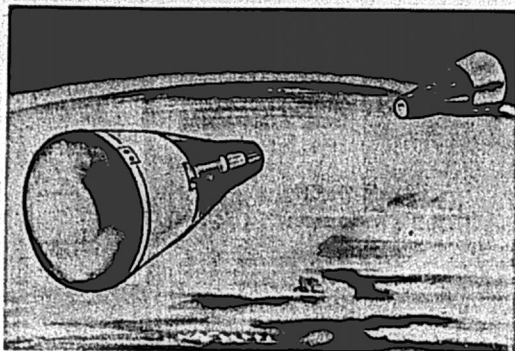
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★ 52 Pages

## Astronauts Hold First Space Reunion



Success In Space, Joy On The Ground

Gemini 6 and Gemini 7 inch toward each other Wednesday in sketch at left depicting nose-to-nose maneuvering. The two flew within six to 10 feet of each other during the rendezvous. At right, space

officials at mission control, Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, Tex., break out cigars to celebrate the success. Surrounded by small American flags "hoisted" when it became apparent the mission was

"A-O-K," are, left to right, Flight Director Christopher C. Kraft, Astronaut L. Gordon Cooper and Dr. Robert R. Gilruth, director of the center. Gemini 6 was launched Wednesday after two earlier failures.

## GT 6 & 7 Fly Within 6 Feet Of Each Other Hunters To Splash Today, Bearded Ones Saturday

MANNED SPACE CENTER, Houston, Tex. (AP) — Four excited U.S. astronauts scored America's greatest space success Wednesday. Flawlessly jockeying their two spacecraft into a historic rendezvous only a few feet apart. "It's great, really outstanding," exclaimed Gemini 7 pilot James A. Lovell Jr., as he and his command pilot, Frank Borman, met and flew with the space-bumming crew of Gemini 6. The two cheerful crews, who chatted freely between spacecraft, maneuvered to within six to 10 feet of each other, then they darted around the world on a five-hour formation flight 143 miles high. They took movies while performing a few space acrobatics. Gemini 6 pilots Walter M. Schirra Jr. and Thomas P. Stafford liked the 15-mile visit so much, they requested and got permission to extend the formation flight an extra gliding trip. Schirra and Stafford masterfully acted as hunters tracking their prey in closing lanes. Gemini 7 during a six-hour space chase. At the dramatic moment of meeting, Gemini 7 had a 4-million-mile path through space in 11 days; Gemini 6, more than 105,000. The tiny spacecraft nudged so near that Schirra could see the

11-day beard growth of the Gemini 7 crew. "You're up close," Schirra told Lovell early in the flight. "I can see your lips moving," Lovell replied. "I'm chewing gum," said Schirra. 42, a Navy captain and oldest of the nation's active astronauts. "Oh, okay," Lovell said. "Can you see Frank's beard, Wally?" "I can see yours better than I can," came the reply. When they darted around the world nose to nose, side by side More space pictures, stories on Pages 2 and 53

## U.N. Experts Feel Decisive Moves Likely Over Viet Nam

By WILLIAM R. FRYE U.N. Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. — United Nations diplomats are specializing on a series of explosive moves they believe may be on the immediate Viet Nam horizon. These moves include: 1. A MAJOR AMERICAN peace bid—including a Christmas halt in the bombing and a possible appeal to the United Nations by President Johnson.

ments on which the judgement is based: DESPITE PERSISTENT DENIALS, reports repeat that Johnson will come to the U.N. or send it a direct message, before its scheduled Christmas recess. Washington will feel under pressure to make some response to Hanoi's offer of a 13-hour Christmas truce on the ground. Washington could be subjected to both domestic and foreign criticism, it is believed, if no effort is made to prolong the truce. No solid indications, however, have been received from Hanoi, Peking or Moscow that a peace move will succeed.

THE GROUND, it is believed, has been prepared for such a break by recent exhortations of Red China in the Moscow press and by the downgrading Dec. 9 of Alexander N. Shelepin — a man closely associated. U.N. people say with the post-Khrushchev policy of seeking reconciliation with Peking. Shelepin lost his government posts in a Kremlin reshuffle which also replaced President Anastas I. Mikoyan with Nikolai V. Podgorny.

High American officials are understood to have assured that Johnson is resisting pressure to bomb Hanoi and Halabong. However, bombing and/or mining of Halabong harbor is considered virtually inevitable if the ground fighting increases greatly in scope and intensity. Before committing a large

American expeditionary force, many here believe Johnson will with a formal authorization from Congress — that is, a declaration of war or its equivalent. They look for him to request early in the new session, which begins next month. MUCH SERIOUS THOUGHT is being given to cautioning the impact of such moves on Soviet-American relations. A major Viet Nam escalation has sharpened to the tone and context of Soviet comment on American policy. However, some highly placed U.N. people believe the principal impact of a Viet Nam escalation will be on Soviet-Chinese relations. Rather than back China in a possible conflict with the United States, it is expected Moscow will break relations with Peking.

Some U.N. people believe Moscow's decision to break with China has already been taken, and that only the timing of an announcement remains to be

## The Paperhanger Had Her Numbers

LEWISTON (AP) — The Lewiston operator started receiving one call after another Wednesday from the same woman, the New England Tel. & Tel. Co. reported.

The woman kept asking for the numbers of different subscribers, until the operator began to recognize her voice. Finally the caller apologized. "Operator, I hate to keep calling you," she said, "but they just repaged my numbers and covered up all my numbers."

## U.S. Jet Pilots Blast Haiphong Power Plant

BAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP) — U.S. jet pilots expanded their war against Communist North Viet Nam Wednesday, bombing a power plant supplying the so-called immune Haiphong industrial complex.

A steam-run generating station at Dong Bi, 11 miles northeast of Haiphong, was the target, and a spokesman said bullseye hits, plus secondary explosions that followed, left it a pile of rubble. Ho Chi Minh's Red regime protested to the three-nation control commission that industrial establishments were attacked. Without specifying the damage, it said three children were killed. Quoting the protest, Radio Hanoi said the attack smashed President Johnson's "peace and negotiation hoax."

## Space Doctor, Wife, Pilot Found Dead In Wreckage

ASPEN Colo. (AP) — A search party found the bodies of the nation's director of space medicine, his wife and pilot Wednesday in the wreckage of their two-engine plane high on a snow-covered mountain.

That meant the pilot was about 1,000 feet short of clearing rugged 12,000-foot Independence Pass. In the plane were Dr. W. Randolph Lovelace II, 37, his wife, Mary, 33, and the pilot, Milton Brown, 37, all of Albuquerque. Herwick said that because of darkness it would be impossible to bring the bodies down until Thursday. It took several hours for the party, with 12 snow-traveling motorized vehicles, to reach the crash site, spotted earlier in the day by a helicopter pilot. Herwick said it was a steep 2 1/2-mile above timberline, at about 11,000 feet.

The stiffest ground fight of the United States lost three planes. The power plant raid undid an announcement that 91 Americans were killed in combat last week. That is second only to the record 240 who fell Nov. 11-24, the week of the 1st Drang Valley battle. The American total edged past the 1,300 mark. The stiffest ground fight of the

## Official Calls On State To Assume Responsibility For Public High Schools

AUGUSTA (AP) — The Augusta treasurer and tax collector proposed Wednesday that the state assume full responsibility for all public high schools and add to municipal tax revenue in several ways.

The Legislative Research hearing which received the suggestions was one of several held during the day on tax problems, county government, state employees' pay and other matters.

Deane S. Stevens of Augusta suggested to one subcommittee: —Reimbursement by the state to the municipalities for property tax exemptions granted to nonprofit groups, such as benevolent organizations, and individuals, such as veterans; —Repeal of the personal property tax on boats and substitution of a uniform excise tax; —Substitution of an adult head tax for the present \$3 poll tax on males; and —A monthly tax on trailers as a substitute for present yearly excise taxes.

### News, Features On The Inside

**The Weather**  
Cloudy, colder today and Friday.  
Full moon on Dec. 18.

THE AFL-CIO closes its 10th anniversary convention, pledging unqualified support for U.S. policy in Viet Nam. Page 41.

THE FLIGHT OF GEMINI 6 is a triumph for the 400-man launch team, which broke its back getting astronauts Schirra and Stafford into orbit. Back Page.

THE UNITED STATES WARNS Atlantic allies that Communism is stockpiling nuclear weapons and will be a threat to both Europe and America. Back Page.

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Home For Christmas  
Alfred J. Grady, home from Viet Nam duty aboard the USS Independence, has a reunion with his son, Joseph, and wife, Sandra.

## Lots Of Work, Long Days Mark Life Aboard Carrier, Says Westbrook Sailor

By WILLIAM A. LANGLEY Staff Reporter

A Portland sailor Wednesday night described his seven months aboard the Aircraft Carrier USS Independence off the coast of Viet Nam as "a lot of work, and long, long days."

The much-decorated warship was split into two shifts. Each trick worked 12 hours every day completing air strikes and supporting ground troops against the Viet Cong. THE INDEPENDENCE was the first fleet attack carrier to engage in combat operations off Viet Nam. He said the 80,000-lon carrier's planes flew more than

## Reapportionment Plan For Senate Outlined

AUGUSTA (AP) — A legislative interim committee Wednesday a State Senate reapportionment plan it said would retain county-line divisions in Maine and meet the standards set by the U. S. Supreme Court.

Sen. Peter Bernard, D-Westfield, the chairman, said the plan will be proposed to the legislative special session Jan. 17. The plan is this: Each county would be entitled to one senator for each 2.7 per cent of the state's population — or major fraction of that percentage — living within its borders. The major fraction provision would assure that every county would have at least one senator.

By two-thirds vote, the legislature could divide the counties into senatorial districts, each district to include 2.7 per cent of the state population or major fraction of that percentage. If the legislature did not make that division, senators would be elected countywide, as at present.

Bernard said reports that this plan would double the size of the Senate are wrong, and that the maximum number of senators would be 44. Even that many is mathematically unlikely, he said. Speakers at hearings throughout the state stressed a desire to have at least one senator in each county, he said, rather than having senatorial districts cross county lines. This plan would accomplish that, he said, while at the same time meeting a U. S. Supreme Court standard of approximately equal representation for all voters.

Bernard said the Court's standard is that no plan will be acceptable if less than 45 per cent of the voters could elect a majority of the Senate. Under this plan, he said, no less than 47.8 per cent could elect a majority.

Using the 1960 census, the plan would divide the state into 34 counties instead of the present 34. Cumberland would have seven instead of four, and Ardenook, Penobscot and York would each have one.

Grady said 1,000 letters of commendation for "exceptionally meritorious service" during her Far Eastern tour of duty. He said 1,000 letters of commendation were processed aboard the ship for Air Medals.

Prayer For Today  
"You art God, and beside Thee there is none else. Thy winds are the breath of Thy hands, and Thou shalt feed them up and put them away as garments; but Thou remainest forever. Teach us to hold the steady faith that Thy death all things well and that, finally, men shall know Thy truth and be at peace. We are trusting in Thee, O God, our Creator, would not desert Thy love and compassion. Having shown us Thyself in Thy Son, Jesus, as we trust in Him, we pray in His name. Amen."

### SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

### "Two Rode Together"

starting James Stewart  
Richard Widmark  
Shirley Jones  
9:00 P.M.  
Channel 13