



## WORK PUSHED ON NEW LINE TO GEORGETOWN

A lineman puts a splice in the new transmission line being run from the Charlottetown generating plant of the Maritime Electric Company to Georgetown. The new line has been designated No. 4. Transmission line and is being constructed at a cost of \$350,000. It's 33 1/2 miles long, has 610 poles and three switching stations costing \$15,000, \$20,000 and \$22,000. It is about half completed and it will go into service by the middle of September. (See story page 2)

## Alice-in-Wonderland Quality Seen In Briefing By Johnson

WASHINGTON (CP)—Senator Wayne Morse said Tuesday there is an "Alice-in-Wonderland quality about the briefings being given by President Johnson in U.S. Congressional leaders this week on the Viet Nam situation.

The Oregon Democrat, who attended the first briefing Monday night, criticized it as "an Alice-in-Wonderland exhibition of how the unpleasant can be evaded and the failures ignored."

After Tuesday's briefing, for a group from the House of Representatives, Carl Albert of Oklahoma, the Democratic majority leader in the House, said there is "reason for cautious optimism" about U.S. chances in Viet Nam.

Morse, speaking in the Senate, said "it is a remarkable thing to be able to go up to the White House periodically and hear how things are improving, when each visit is occasioned by a new step the United States has had to take in order to stabilize a deteriorating situation.

**STATEMENT SAID FAIR**

Senate Republican Leader Everett Dirksen of Illinois said President Johnson's contention that Congress generally supports his Viet Nam policies is a "fair statement of facts."

Speaker John McCormack of the House of Representatives agreed with him.

Morse, saying the president is trying to make the course in Viet Nam palatable to Congress

through the briefing process, criticized Gen. Maxwell Taylor, retiring ambassador to Saigon, and Defense Secretary Robert McNamara.

"The Taylor concept of fighting 'insurgencies' has totally failed in Viet Nam, under his guidance and direction," Morse said.

"Thanks to General Taylor Secretary McNamara, the Communists have proved to the world that the United States cannot cope with insurgency on its own terms, but can only fight it by turning a guerrilla war into a conventional one fought by American forces.

"Of course, nothing of that kind was admitted at the White House yesterday."

(Continued on page 3, col. 1)

## 53 CIVILIANS LEFT DEAD

# Missile Silo Fire Cause Mystery As Probe Begins

SEARCY, Ark. (AP)—U.S. Air Force investigators swarmed through the scorched launch tube of a Titan II missile complex Tuesday to try to find the cause of an explosion and fire that killed 53 civilians in the "gun barrel" of the mightiest U.S. ballistic missile.

The tragedy was the worst in the history of the Titan II system, which includes 54 complexes in the United States that have been fully operational since December, 1963.

"We cannot make any supposition whatsoever as to the cause of the explosion or fire," said Capt. Douglas Wood, public information officer for Little Rock Air Force base, which commands the Titan II silos ring central Arkansas.

Wood said the air force doesn't know, at this point, what fed the fire.

ping all but two of the 55 civilian workers inside the silo.

"These things are not supposed to happen," Wood said. "We have many, many safety measures. But the fact that it did happen contradicts these safety factors. We're trying to find out what happened."

President Johnson ordered the investigation.

Wood said most of the victims apparently suffocated.

"The fire probably burned less than an hour," he said. "But up to 12 hours later smoke was still billowing in the silo."

The silo is covered at ground level by a 750-ton door, which moves laterally on rails. The door was closed. The increasing amount of smoke forced air out of the silo and oxygen that remained was consumed by the fire.

Two of the civilians escaped by fleeing through underground tunnel that connects the launch tube, an access room and the control centre—the three chambers of every Titan II complex.

One of the survivors, 18-year-old Gary Wayne Lay of Clinton, said he saw the fire flash into the tube. Smoke billowed after it.

The power failed and, with the huge door above closed, the tube was filled with darkness. Lay said he groped his way around the launch tube until he found the door to the tunnel leading to the access room.

"It was horrible," he said from a hospital bed. "I could hear high screaming and crying. Somebody was yelling 'help me! God, help me!' I couldn't see him in the dark."

Hubert A. Saunders, 59, of Conway, the other survivor, was working above the door to the tunnel when the smoke burst around him. He dropped down and ran into the tunnel, he said.

Lay suffered burns of the head, arms and legs. He was listed in satisfactory condition here. Saunders suffered smoke inhalation and also was listed in satisfactory condition.

The four air force crew members who regularly man the Titan II complex remained in their control centre, the chamber farthest from the launch tube, and were not harmed.

## INSIDE TODAY

Classified	12, 13
Births	13
Deaths	3
Comics	11
Sports	10
Finance markets	14
Women's	7
Editorials	4
Summerside	3
Kings, Queens, City	5
Prince County	2

# Cuban Seaman Admits 5 Slayings Aboard Ship

## N.S. Village Threatened As Fire Changes Course

By THE CANADIAN PRESS  
A forest fire raging through prime timber on Nova Scotia's south shore changed direction Tuesday and for the second consecutive day threatened 250 people in the village of Charleston.

Described by forestry officials as one of the worst in years, the fire had burned more than 2,000 acres since it broke out near a new power transmission line Sunday. It had a 10-mile circumference Tuesday.

Another major fire in Nova Scotia, at Dalhousie West near Bridgetown in the Annapolis Valley, was still out of control Tuesday but several light afternoon showers helped 125 men hold their own with the flames. It has burned more than 400 acres since Sunday.

Meanwhile, Lands and Forests Minister Haliburton said it was hoped a Canso water bomber from Ontario would be made available to help battle the fires in Nova Scotia. "It's the only plane we can get in the whole of Canada," Mr. Haliburton said. Smaller water bombers owned by the province were unable to handle the unpredictable winds.

The south shore fire was driven north by south winds Tuesday morning, then in mid-afternoon the wind shifted to the west and drove the fire east. About 100 men, many of them on the fireline for two days, had to shift equipment from one bank to the other.

A new satellite tracking station near Charleston was within three-quarters of a mile of the flames Monday but was not considered in immediate danger Tuesday.

There had been no rain in the area but humidity remained high.

Heavy rain in New Brunswick Monday doused both major fires in the central part of the province at Salmon River and Bronson. About 200 men had been fighting flames that ate through 6,200 acres.

The rain was heavy enough to allow lifting of the travel ban imposed Friday in the counties of Kent, Westmorland, Albert, St. John, Charlotte, Kings, Queens, Sunbury and York.

SAIGON (AP)—Bloodied Viet Cong guerrillas and government battalions regrouped late Tuesday for fresh fighting in the battle of Duc Co, which is being up as the heaviest single engagement of the summer in the war in South Viet Nam.

U.S. planes pressed attacks in both North and South Viet Nam. A military spokesman announced a U.S. Air Force F-105 Thunderchief was shot down in a raid on a bridge at Vin Tu, 90 miles northwest of Hanoi, North Viet Nam's capital, but the pilot was rescued.

Other operations included a two-hour firing mission by the U.S. destroyer Orleck against suspected Viet Cong concentrations on and near the coast of Thanh Hoa province, 200 miles northeast of Saigon, South Viet Nam's capital. The Orleck's five-inch guns poured 280 shells into the targets. Spotters said the results were excellent.

South Vietnamese and American defenders of a besieged special forces camp at Duc Co and a large government force attempting to lift the siege have killed 219 Viet Cong since Monday, the spokesman announced.

The spokesman said government troops held off against mortar and small arms fire of a guerrilla siege launched June 3.

## Mines Minister Visits Sydney

SYDNEY (CP)—Mines Minister MacNaught arrived here Tuesday to visit Cape Breton coal mines and the Nova Scotia Gaelic Mod.

Mr. MacNaught will attend the 27th annual Nova Scotia Gaelic Mod at St. Ann's today. Thursday he will visit the Dominion Coal Company's No. 26 Colliery at Glace Bay.

Mr. MacNaught said Labor Minister MacEachen had planned to make the trip to Cape Breton, but was delayed in Ottawa because of the Vancouver waterfront dispute.

## Tight Security Lid Clamped On Probe

MIAMI (AP)—A Cuban seaman who longed for his homeland told Tuesday of slaying five of his fellow crew members during a night of terror aboard the banana boat Seven Seas, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

Aboard the Seven Seas he left the bodies of three of the eight crew members and a 17-year-old Honduran seaman, who huddled in terror for 18 hours in a dark, smelly chain locker so small he could not stand erect.

"As I understand it, he admitted doing them all in except the cook," said Cmdr. W. C. Wahl, of the Key West Coast Guard base. "What happened to the cook is the big question."

Ramirez was found drifting in the 14-foot, green-and-white skiff about 60 miles south of Miami by a West German freighter. He was taken aboard, transferred to a Coast Guard patrol boat and taken to Miami Beach.

FBI and U.S. immigration service agents clamped a tight lid of secrecy on the interrogation of Ramirez.

But another Coast Guard spokesman said Ramirez admitted slaying five crew members of the Seven Seas, then fleeing the ship when her engines went dead as she churned through rough seas toward Cuba.

"There is no word on the motive," the spokesman said. The only known survivor of the act of piracy was Elvin Burywise, who covered in the chain locker as the violence flared Saturday night. After the gunfire ended, Burywise said he thought the Seven Seas changed course southward toward Cuba. It had been heading from Miami around the tip of Florida for drydock repairs in Tampa.

About two hours later, Burywise said, the ship's engines went dead. The Coast Guard speculated that whoever was operating the Seven Seas did not know how to switch to auxiliary fuel tanks.

Three bodies were found Monday when the Seven Seas was towed into Key West by a Coast Guard cutter. One was on deck, two in their blood-stained bunks below.

Wahl said Ramirez, who left his wife and three daughters behind when he fled Fidel Castro's Cuba, told interrogators that he left the Seven Seas alone in the skiff.

## IN SOUTH VIET NAM

## Heavy Battle Continues For Duc Co Possession

SAIGON (AP)—Bloodied Viet Cong guerrillas and government battalions regrouped late Tuesday for fresh fighting in the battle of Duc Co, which is being up as the heaviest single engagement of the summer in the war in South Viet Nam.

U.S. planes pressed attacks in both North and South Viet Nam. A military spokesman announced a U.S. Air Force F-105 Thunderchief was shot down in a raid on a bridge at Vin Tu, 90 miles northwest of Hanoi, North Viet Nam's capital, but the pilot was rescued.

Other operations included a two-hour firing mission by the U.S. destroyer Orleck against suspected Viet Cong concentrations on and near the coast of Thanh Hoa province, 200 miles northeast of Saigon, South Viet Nam's capital. The Orleck's five-inch guns poured 280 shells into the targets. Spotters said the results were excellent.

South Vietnamese and American defenders of a besieged special forces camp at Duc Co and a large government force attempting to lift the siege have killed 219 Viet Cong since Monday, the spokesman announced.

The spokesman said government troops held off against mortar and small arms fire of a guerrilla siege launched June 3.

## Okanagan Apple Crop Hard Hit

PENTICTON, B.C. (CP)—Hard-hit Okanagan Valley fruit growers got more bad news Tuesday.

A fruit industry spokesman said the apple crop this year will be lower than the below-normal estimates made earlier this year.

The soft fruit crop from the valley that is one of Canada's major fruit producers was virtually wiped out by severe frosts last winter.

Now the apple crop is expected to be about 5,300,000 boxes. Earlier estimates had put the crop at 5,619,997 boxes compared with last year's total of 7,004,819.

W. O. June, president of the grower-owned British Columbia Tree Fruits Ltd., said an exact assessment of the crop will be worked out by Aug. 15.

## Digby Youth Is Charged

YARMOUTH, N.S. (CP)—Robert Randall Comeau, 20, of Digby, N.S., was charged with capital murder Tuesday in the July 20 slaying death of Thais Marie Hastings, 16, of Halifax.

Magistrate C. Roger Rand remanded Comeau to the Yarmouth County jail for one week and ordered a psychiatric examination.

## Collections Threatened

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP)—Fire swept through the 20th floor of the 27-story University of Texas main building Tuesday, endangering a priceless collection of Houdini and circus memorabilia.

The blaze quickly spread to the 21st floor, where a collection of rare books and historical theatre items is kept.

Fire officials had no immediate report on the cause of the fire. There were no reports of casualties.

The Houdini and Barnum items were displayed along with the Hobbittz Theatre art library, donated by Karl Hobbittz, a wealthy Dallas theatre owner and businessman.

The curator of the collection, Dr. Frederick J. Hunter, said workmen had been converting heating ducts to air conditioning on the 20th floor.

## Family Doctor Suggested Best In Hereditary Field

BAR HARBOR, Me. (AP)—A Toronto specialist said Tuesday family doctors are in the best strategic position to advise parents about the risks of hereditary diseases in future offspring—but she said the average physician is not now educationally equipped to do so.

Dr. Margaret W. Thompson, genetics counselor at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, made the statement after declaring that six per cent of all children born have a hereditary disease or defect, and that 25 per cent of all hospital beds are occupied by such patients.

Hereditary diseases include such maladies as cystic fibrosis; muscular dystrophy; certain types of anemia and of congenital blindness and deafness; and Mongolism, a severe form of mental retardation. Hereditary defects include such deformities as cleft lip and palate.

She urged "a raising of the level of genetics teaching in medical schools," so as to equip the average doctor with sufficient knowledge of the nature of these ills—and of the statistical prospects of a given couple giving birth to an afflicted child.

She said the family doctor, as distinguished from the scarce professional genetics counsellor, is in the best position to make any recommendation in regard to having further children, "because he knows the family personally."

Dr. Thompson made the remarks at a special course in medical genetics for university and other researchers. The course is being conducted by the Jackson Laboratory for genetics research at Bar Harbor and Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and is sponsored by the National Foundation-March of Dimes organization.

She said that family doctors, with proper educational background in genetics, should be able to give some counsel on most of the hereditary diseases and defects. For example, they could furnish statistics that are available for some illnesses as regards recurrence risks, where there already has been a defective child or a history of the defect elsewhere in the family.

(Continued on page 3, col. 2)

## Fire Destroys Chicken Plant

PETITCODIAC, N.B. (CP)—Fire of undetermined origin early Tuesday destroyed a chicken plant operated by Lloyd Colpitts of nearby River Glade. Six hundred chickens were destroyed.

The farm was owned by Marks Brothers of Moncton. There was no estimate of the loss.

## TEA TIME FOR BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

British Prime Minister Harold Wilson pours tea during a picnic Tuesday with his wife, Mary, and son, Giles. They are spending their vacation in the Scilly Isles. This picture was taken on Samson Isle. (AP Wirephoto via cable from London)

# Tragedy Takes Spotlight Off Singer Frank Sinatra

VINEYARD HAVEN, Mass. (AP)—Tragedy momentarily took the spotlight Tuesday from singer Frank Sinatra and a young television actress on their vacation off Martha's Vineyard Island.

A 23-year-old third mate aboard a luxurious 168-foot yacht chartered by Sinatra was drowned before dawn when a dinghy swamped and sank about a half-mile from the island.

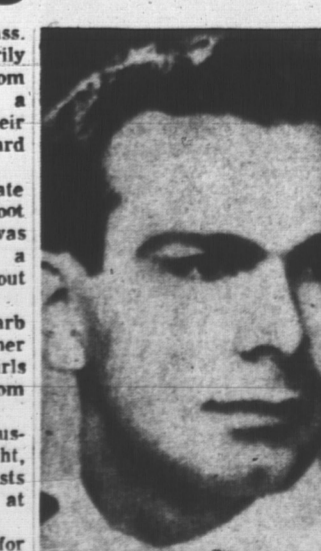
The victim, Robert Goldfarb of New Rochelle, N.Y.; another crew member, and two girls were rowing to the yacht from Vineyard Haven.

Capt. William Cannon of Houston, Tex., skipper of the yacht, said Sinatra and his guests "were shocked and appalled at the tragic event."

"They feel a deep concern for the man's family," Cannon said. "Sinatra was not available for direct comment."

One of the girls, Miss Margaret Whittemore, 21, of Vineyard Haven and Fort Lauderdale, Fla., said: "It was rough and the waves hit us and filled the boat with water. It just sank right under us."

"Jim (the other crew member) could not swim and Bob was helping him. There was one life preserver in the boat and Bob gave it to Jim to hold onto."



ROBERT GOLDFARB

A graduate of the Merchant Marine Academy at King's Point, N.Y., Goldfarb had been a crew member on yachts and tankers. He leaves a wife.

The second crew member was identified as James O. Grimes, a steward. A spokesman for the Southern Breeze said his home was in Ireland.

The two men had spent the evening at a bowling alley and coffee shop at Vineyard Haven where both girls are employed for the summer.

**OFFERED RIDE**

Albert Brickman, operator of the establishment, said the quartet played pool and bowled. When it was time for the men to return to the yacht, the girls offered to row them back in a dinghy.

Since the Southern Breeze appeared off Martha's Vineyard Island a week ago, its passengers have been the object of watching by residents and vacationers.

Most interest was centred on 19-year-old TV-actress Mia Farrow and rumors that she and Sinatra plan to wed despite the 30-year difference in their ages. Miss Farrow portrayed Allison Mackenzie in the TV serial Peyton Place.

Other members of Sinatra's party include actress Claudette Colbert and Rosalind Russell and their husbands.

## FOUGHT TIDE

Miss Whittemore and Cheryl Navin, 21, of Lincoln, Neb., were unable to swim to shore against the wind and outgoing tide.

After about an hour, Miss Whittemore said the girls found themselves about 100 yards from the yacht, the Southern Breeze, anchored several hundred yards from shore outside a breakwater.

"We screamed for help and a launch was sent out to pick us up. And they went to the dinghy and got Jim"

Goldfarb could not be found.