

SAND 'N SALT

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CHRISTMAS EVE

HERRY CHRISTMAS FROM SAIGON!



Twas the night before Christmas and all through Saigon,
The Buddhists were quiet and so was Johnson.
The flames round the city had been hung with great care
In fear that Uncle Charlie soon would be there.

My rosee in her An Dai and I in my cap
Had just settled down for a short evening's naps
When out on Tu Do there arose such a clatter
That I sprung from the bed to see what was the matter.

There on the street 'midst the trash and the beer
Was a jolly old man and eight tiny reindeer.
He was asking directions, apparently lost
But the cabbies would only argue the cost.

He busied himself and went right to work,
Cleared out the PX, like a Korean, the jerk!
He complete his work in less than a minute,
As the PX rarely has anything in it.

Then he jumped in his sleigh, to his team gave a holler
"Get out of Saigon — It's not worth a dollar!"
But I heard him exclaim as he rode out of sight:
"Would you believe twenty days?"

And to all a "Good Night!"

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CHRISTMAS - ASIAN STYLE:

You can say Merry Christmas in a thousand Asian tongues and dialects.

The Birthday of Christ is celebrated in almost as many different ways in the Orient.

Although virtually none of the Asian nations are Christian, most observe Christmas as an official holiday -- and some celebrate it with an exuberance almost beyond belief.

To the Asian way of thinking Christmas is a happy day, and such occasions should be shared by everyone regardless of their religion.

In the steamy jungles of Burma little children will go caroling through dusty darkened streets in jeeps and buses.

Indonesians away from their homeland will hum a favorite Christmas tune, mentally substituting a few words: "I'm dreaming of a rainy Christmas."

In the green-forested mountains of South Vietnam's Central Highlands, a plane will circle over a tiny U.S. Special Forces camp and its powerful loudspeakers will rear "Jingle Bells" at the dozen lonely Americans on the remotest outpost of Freedom.

In South Korea, the Government will lift the midnight curfew for the only time of the year on Christmas Eve and there will be drinking and dancing and more drinking as an entire nation stays up and celebrates all night long just for the hell of it.

On Tokyo's glittering Ginza, loudspeakers will blare Christmas carols in Japanese and the cafés will do a booming business catering to the holiday mood.

Hong Kong's big department stores will have costumed old gents called "San Yan Lou Yin" bowking children on their knees and listening to their pleas for gifts.

Yes, an Asian Christmas has a flavor and spirit that is distinctly its own!

EDITOR'S CORNER:

Now that we've read how the various countries of Asia celebrate the Christmas season, let's go back and check out that marathon "Wing-Ding" in Korea!!!

Christmas in Korea comes on with a blast like Times Square on New Year's Eve!!!

Christmas Eve is the only night of the year that the Government lifts the midnight to 4AM curfew, and Christians and non-Christians take full advantage of the opportunity to swing.

For the more orthodox, there are traditional evening Church service and then lantern-lit caroling sessions through dark streets and icy weather.

BUT ~~even~~ for the younger set Christmas Eve begins as students pack tea houses to meet their friends in a Go-Go Rock and Roll atmosphere. After some early evening wailing to the strains of the Beatles, the youngsters head for "private parties" featuring all-night dancing and drinking!!!

For the elders, Christmas Eve starts a little later. Dressed in their best, they flock to drinking houses, cabarets and night clubs for the all-night celebration. Every hotel for miles around Seoul is booked solid for Christmas Eve months in advance. In a land that has known little of peace and joy and much of suffering in three decades, Christmas Eve is a night to see bright lights and to dance and drink and play till the sun comes up. The opportunity is as balanced a joy and everyone makes the most of it. It all adds up to a big, gay and very quiet Christmas day.

THON HA, VIETNAM

by Alvin T. Hebb, Jr., UPI, Dec 23

Actually, the village of Thon Ha no longer exists. Charlie X just burned it down. It was his own idea, even if he did have to borrow a light from the Marine Corps. All of which may come as something of a surprise in Hanoi. As far as Communist files are concerned, Thon Ha is a key meeting place for Viet Cong in northernmost South Vietnam, and Charlie X is toiling as a soldier in the North Vietnamese Regular Army.

It just goes to show that strange twists this war can take.

Indeed, Charlie X was a North Vietnamese Regular, one of thousands that have slipped through the Demilitarized Zone to help VC guerrillas in hamlets such as Thon Ha, barely eight miles south of the DMZ separating the warring Vietnams.

But this day, Charlie X was leading two companies of grim-faced American Marines through some of the most treacherous minefields in this part of the country.

I tiptoed alongside them sharing the prayer that the little prisoner with the wide-set eyes was telling the truth. If he was lying I was quite aware the next step, however, gentle, might be my last.

If there was one main reason why we were concerned about Charlie X's veracity, it was that he did not switch allegiances as a "Chieu Hoi" -- that is, a Communist soldier who surrenders voluntarily.

He had to be out and out captured. That is what had happened, about a week ago.

SAIGON -- Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York City, arrived today (Dec 23) to spend his 25th consecutive Christmas with American troops in the field.

Spellman, 77, was greeted by Gen. Wm. C. Westmoreland, Commander of American Forces in Vietnam. He was immediately taken to the 3rd Field Hospital directly across from Tan Son Nhut Airbase for a physical examination.

"This is routine for a man of his age after a flight," an aide explained.

The Archbishop flew to Saigon from Thailand. He had stopped previously in Frankfurt and Istanbul.

Spellman had little to say on his arrival.

"That I have to say I will say publicly (from the pulpit)," was his only comment.

Spellman, dressed in plain black suit, and bareheaded, appeared frail, but in good spirits.

Archbishop Spellman has not been in his home cathedral at Christmas time in 25 years, his aide said. He will make 10 stops in Vietnam, including one of the Seventh Fleet carriers deployed in Vietnamese waters.



You have, what we in the trade call,

... a "leak!"

VIETNAM:

The 48-hour Christmas truce went into effect throughout Vietnam today but failed to stop Communist gunfire, a military spokesman reported. Just hours before the ceasefire began, Viet Cong assassins mocked the birthday of the Prince of Peace by standing over bullet-riddled bodies of two victims and broadcasting a holiday message of good cheer.

The truce, agreed to separately by both the Communist and Allied Forces, went into effect at 7:01 today. Just 45 minutes later, Viet Cong snipers fired 10 rounds at the headquarters of the U.S. Army's First Infantry Division at Di An, about 10 miles northeast of Saigon.

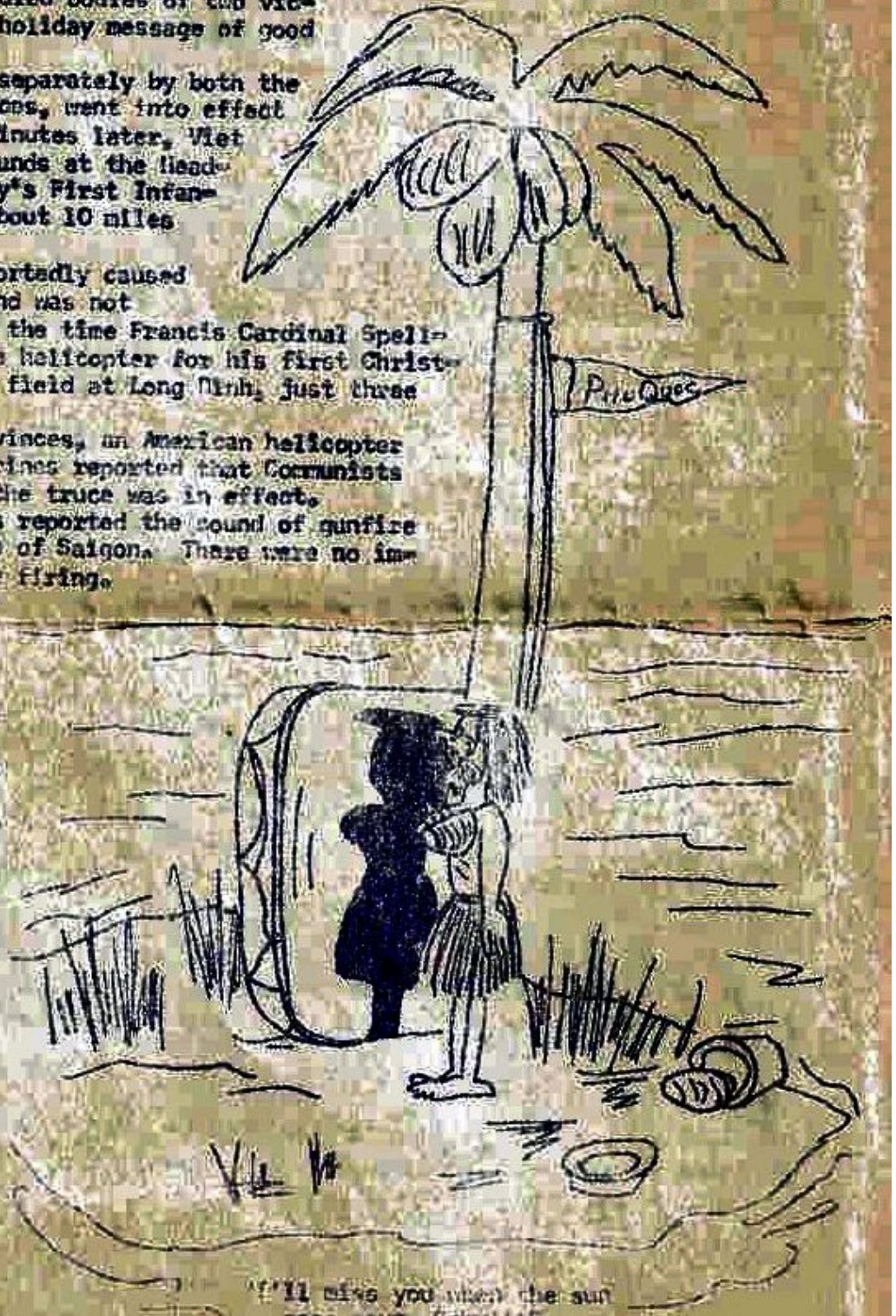
The firing, which reportedly caused no American casualties and was not returned, occurred about the time Francis Cardinal Spellman was climbing aboard a helicopter for his first Christmas with soldiers in the field at Long Binh, just three miles away from Di An.

From the northern provinces, an American helicopter pilot supporting U.S. Marines reported that Communists fired at him well after the truce was in effect.

And Government sources reported the sound of gunfire in Long An Province south of Saigon. There were no immediate details about the firing.

The most serious violence came at 9:30 AM today just six miles northwest of Phu Loc in Thua Thien Province where the ancient imperial capital of Hue is located and where U.S. Marines had been battling an estimated regiment of North Vietnamese for three days.

A Government spokesman said that a Communist force attacked a small hamlet with rifle and machinegun fire killing a Popular Force defender and two civilians. Three other civilians were wounded in the attack, the spokesman said.



"I'll miss you when the sun goes down, baby."

Vietnam

Two questions being asked by United Press International:

1. What is the official view of Communist gunfire? Is it considered officially or unofficially as a violation of the cease-fire?
2. What are the rules of the game of cease-fire? What is the point of no return before U.S. troops fire back -- or are they sitting ducks despite orders to remain alert?

WASHINGTON

The U.S. State Department said it had no comment to make on reports from Saigon that the Viet Cong violated the 48-hour Christmas truce in Vietnam.

A spokesman said the Department intended to withhold comments during the period that the truce is supposed to be in effect.

(In other words, no one is going to complain until we find out how many are going to be killed...../ed/)

SUBJECTS

Retired Admiral Arleigh Burke, former U.S. Chief of Naval Operations, said Wednesday the Christmas truce in Vietnam "is a mistake."

"The other side will take advantage of it and we won't," he said.

Burke spoke to reporters in connection with the publication of "The Reluctant Warriors," a book about the Punic Wars by retired Brig. Gen. Donald Armstrong. Burke wrote the forward to the book.

While criticizing U.S. conduct of the Vietnam War, he said "You can't fight a war gently...we should destroy every military target in North Vietnam."

"You simply don't ever win a war, or win a wife, by partial measures."

Asked whether expanded bombing in North Vietnam might not bring the United States into direct confrontation with Communist China, he said:

"If right. But if we can't win there, we'd better return home and let them have San Francisco."

Burke said the U.S. should not allow North Vietnam -- "a little bit of a country with no industry, no education, no nothing" -- to keep the U.S. "off balance."

John Burke and Armstrong contend there is a parallel between today's East-West Cold war and what happened during the Punic Wars to Carthage, the ruins of which are near what is now the Tunisian capital of Tunis.

Armstrong said Carthage's fall to the Romans shows what can happen in a country in which there is "internal dissension, appeasement, subversion, and unilateral disarmament."

Armstrong was honored at a reception given by Tunisian Ambassador Rachid Driss.



"I'd like an explanation. The returns are all in and I received one -- repeat, ONE -- vote!"

LOS ANGELES:

Rickey Rooney's sixth wife filed for divorce against the chunky little actor Friday.

Margaret Rooney, 45, said since their marriage three months ago, the 44-year-old Rooney subjected her to "great mental and physical suffering."

Her attorney, Ralph Miller, said she will seek temporary support of \$245 a month.

Miller also stated in the suit that Rooney "has followed a practice of hiding and secreting" his assets.

Superior Judge William A. Dammell issued a restraining order, prohibiting Rooney from disposing of any property and set a pre-divorce hearing for January 6.

Rooney's fifth wife, Barbara Ann Thomson, was shot to death last January 29th. Police said she was killed by Yugoslavian actor Mico Mlosevic who then committed suicide.

The first wife of the 5-foot-3-inch Rooney was Ava Gardner. The others in order were: Dotty Jane Ross, Martha Vickers, and Ealine Mahken, all taller than he and all from the entertainment world.

CHICAGO:

Senator-elect Charles Percy, R-Ill., filed a petition in Circuit Court Friday seeking to open the estate of his slain daughter, Valerie.

Mrs. Percy, 21, bludgeoned to death in her bedroom on September 18th, left no will, and the petition would allow disposition of her assets, valued at about \$50,000. The petition said the assets included cash, stocks and bonds.

The petition named as possible heirs all members of the immediate Percy family except Valerie's stepmother, Lorraine. It asked that Herman W. Stein, Jr., of Kenilworth, Illinois, be named executor of the will. He is a former business associate of Percy.

Valerie was survived by Percy; Mrs. Percy; a twin sister, Sharon; a brother, Roger; a half-sister, Gail, and a half-brother, Mark.

No arrests have been made in the murder.

PILADELPHIA:

About 350 persons carrying candles staged a 90 minute demonstration at City Hall Thursday night protesting the war in Vietnam.

The demonstrators, about half of them teenagers and young adults, carried signs saying that "if the war can be stopped for 48 hours it can be stopped indefinitely."

About 10 plainclothes policeman stationed nearby to keep order had nothing to do.

CHICAGO:

Overcoming odds that were 4-1 against him, perhaps the oldest person ever to undergo open-heart surgery has made a complete recovery, doctors at the University of Chicago said Thursday night.

John Kirby, 76, underwent the 3½-hour operation on September 6th. For 30 minutes during his ordeal, a heart-lung machine took over the function of his heart so doctors could repair it. Kirby was given a 20% chance of surviving.

Early this month, the doctors said, Kirby reported for a three-month checkup. Tests showed his condition was good. He was fully recovered from the heart attack that six weeks before his operation had knocked him into a semi-conscious state that lasted until after surgery.

THE YORK:

Thomas Michalak of Philadelphia received a special Christmas gift from behind the Iron Curtain Friday — his 2½-year-old daughter, whom he had never seen.

Michalak, 26-year-old assistant conductor of the Chamber Symphony of Philadelphia, arrived in the United States from his native Poland three years ago; six months later his wife, Eva, an Oratorio soprano, gave birth in Warsaw to their daughter, Carolina.

Mrs. Michalak joined her husband in Philadelphia a year ago, but was unable to bring her daughter. She left the child in the care of her father-in-law, a violinist for the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra.

Bewildered by the difficulty of getting their child to the United States, the Michalaks took their problem to Samuel Flor, Manager of the Philadelphia Chamber Symphony. Flor got in touch with immigration officials in July, and was notified Wednesday that Carolina was on her way.

"This is the biggest Christmas gift any parent could receive," Michalak said as he hugged his daughter.

WASHINGTON:

The American destroyer raked by Communist fire off Vietnam was named after five O'Brien brothers who were involved in the first Naval engagement of the Revolutionary War.

Navy records show that the battle went like this:

An American sloop commanded by Capt. Jeremiah O'Brien sighted a British Man-of-war and chased her into the harbor at Lexington, Massachusetts.

The crew, including Jeremiah's brothers William, John and Joseph, brought the sloop alongside the British vessel and swarmed aboard and captured her, using "pitchforks and other odd weapons."

PHILADELPHIA:

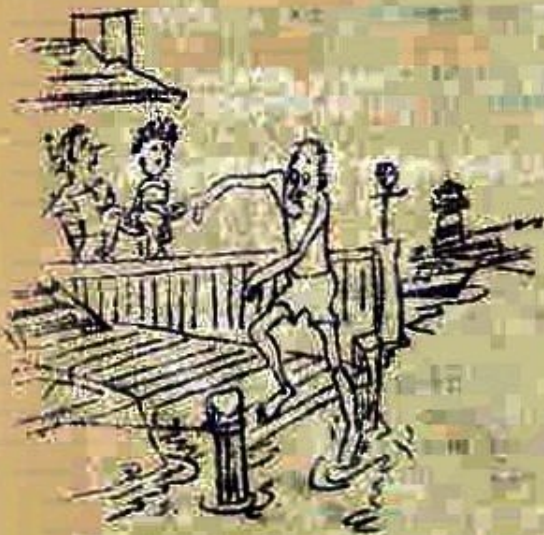
WINTER ISLAND, MICHIGAN — Tommy Donnelly, 7, loved to hear his uncle tell about the exploits of the battleship U.S.S. ALABAMA during World War II. His uncle, Dr. Newton D. Strandberg, is a professor at Sanford University in Birmingham, Alabama. The battleship now stands at Mobile as a memorial to Alabama war dead.

Friends of Strandberg heard of Tommy's interest in the Alabama and arranged to have the boy commissioned as a "Vice Admiral" on the battleship.

They also located the original flag that was flown on the ship and arranged for that to be sent to him. The flag was what Tommy wanted more than anything else for Christmas.

Strandberg arrived with the present Thursday night. But Tommy, his little body ravaged with cancer, had died that morning.

Tommy and his flag will be buried Saturday, Christmas Eve.



"It's the original chicken of the sea!"

SPORTS III

COLLEGE FOOTBALL — SUN BOWL GAME 9 EL PASO, TEXAS — DECEMBER 25 or 26 (Not sure)

FLORIDA STATE (6 - 4)

13	Houston	21
23	Miss (Fla.)	20
19	Florida	22
42	Texas Tech	33
17	Mississippi State	0
21	Virginia Tech	23
32	South Carolina	10
21	Syracuse	37
28	Wake Forest	0
4	Navyland	21
184		187

WYOMING (9-1)

13	Air Force	0
23	Arizona State	6
31	Arizona	6
37	Utah	7
37	New Mexico	7
35	Utah State	10
10	Colorado State	12
55	Wichita State	0
31	Texas Western	7
47	Brigham Young	14
327		97

In the first of the holiday season Bowl Games, the FEARLESS FORECASTER will give the nod to Wyoming by 13 points.

TEXAS

Two Danish freighters are getting into the spirit of the holiday football bowl game. Two freighters tied up stern to stern at City Docks 10 and 11 are named the Alabama and the Nebraska. The Universities of Alabama and Nebraska meet in the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans January 2nd, 1967.

The Green Bay Packers, Western Conference Champions and favorites to win their fourth league title in six years, dominated the 1966 United Press International Annual Football League All-Star Team Thursday placing eight players on the squad selected by sportswriters and broadcasters in NFL cities.

In balloting strangely favoring defensive specialists, Green Bay's Herb Adderley and Larry Wilson of St. Louis were the leading choices of the voters.

Adderley, a main cog in a Packer defense which allowed only 163 points for the season, a new league low, drew 41 votes. Wilson, who attracted one vote less than Adderley, led the NFL in interceptions with 10 as he sparked the Cardinals.

Chicago's Gale Sayers, who this season became the first halfback to lead the league in rushing since Steve Van Duren in 1949 as he rolled up 1,231 yards, was the top offensive choice with 39 votes as he captured one of the running back slots.

Most all positions had clear cut winners. Bob Hayes of Eastern Conference Champions Dallas Cowboys, and Detroit's Pat Studstill were overwhelming picks. Hayes nailed down the split end slot with 35 votes while Studstill won flanker honors with 26 ballots. Baltimore's John Mackey won the tight end position handily, drawing 37 votes and easily outpolling Chicago's Mike Ditka and Philadelphia's Pete Patera.

Philadelphia's Bob Brown and Forrest Gregg of Green Bay were heavy favorites at offensive tackle. Brown with 32 votes, Gregg with 25 and Ralph Beely of Dallas at a distant third with 14 votes.

Defense, however, was a different story with seven players repeating and most by monumental proportions. Ends: Willie Davis, GB (36); Davie Jones, LA (36); Tackles: Bob Lilly, Dal (39); Merlin Olsen, LA (25); Mid-DB: Ray Nitschke, GB (32); LB: Lou Roy Caffey, GB (14), Chuck Howley, Dal (19); Backs: Herb Adderley, GB (41), Erny Wilson, STL (40), Willie Wood, GB and Bobby Boyd of Baltimore.