



# TIC TOC

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## FIRST VIETNAM IMPRESSIONS COVER WIDE RANGE FROM SOLDIER INTERVIEWS TO CUSTOMS ADVENTURES By Paul G. Kuntz

**TAN SON NHUT AIR FORCE BASE, SOUTH VIETNAM--**The American fighting men we have met here in South Vietnam are mad, good and mad, about the demonstrations in the United States over our involvement in the war out here in Southeast Asia.

Photographer Bob Dwyer and I have only been here for four days at this point, but just about every GI we have met has voiced strong opposition to the demonstrations. Each of the men seems to have a fierce personal sense of pride in the job he is doing, the job of protecting the South Vietnamese people from the Viet Cong, and helping them build for the future.

We have already had long chats with at least a half dozen Connecticut fighting men, and in different words and ways they all express the same idea. The Vietnamese are rugged, sincere people, give them a little bit of help and they will be able to make their own way in this communist-threatened world of ours.

Connecticut families of the men out here can be justifiably proud of their GI's, they are of the highest calibre that our democratic society can produce.

Our trip to the Orient, by jetliner, was a more than enjoyable experience, with one exception. The trip from Hartford to San Francisco took about five hours flying time. After our overnight stay on the West Coast we hopped to Anchorage, Alaska, in about 4½ hours for a refueling stop. It was 31 degrees at Anchorage when we landed, with ice and light snow on the runway. Our first look at snow for the year.

The next hop was the longest--eight hours from Anchorage to Tokyo. Again, the trip was easy, but even with the first class service on the jetliner, sitting for that long was to say the least boring. After an hour or so of looking down on the top-side of the cloud cover, Bob and I decided even the cloud formations out there are somehow different, forming billowy, white mountain ranges that can be almost anything your imagination will allow.

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## PHONE, AIR USED TO TELL RELATIVES OF INTERVIEWS WITH SERVICEMEN

One of the more enjoyable tasks at WTIC in recent days has been informing the parents and wives of Connecticut servicemen that an interview with someone important to them has been scheduled for the next day.

Since we won't send a telegram to someone with a relative in Vietnam, we've been contacting them by telephone--or on the air. When it's been impossible to reach the serviceman's relative by phone, the scheduled interview has been announced on the air.

Relatives of two servicemen, whose interviews with Paul Kuntz were scheduled for the "Afternoon Edition," were informed when Bob Nelson mentioned the interviews early in the afternoon and asked friends or neighbors to contact the men's relatives.

Mrs. Carl Selavka, the wife of a major stationed near Saigon, telephoned the station to let us know "just about every neighbor I've had called to tell me about the interview and we've made arrangements to tape it."

The father-in-law of Airman William Morrissey of Southington was driving when he heard his son-in-law would be interviewed later that day.

"I stopped the car to call the station," he said. "I had to stop anyway because of the tears in my eyes when I heard you mention the boy's name."

All those interviewed so far are men whose relatives contacted Kuntz and Dwyer before they left for Vietnam.

### HAL KOLB RECOVERING AFTER OPERATION

Hal Kolb is in Hartford Hospital after undergoing surgery on Oct. 21.

And although he won't be able to have visitors for a while, the hospital has provided the very welcome news that Hal went through a long operation very satisfactorily.

We all wish him a speedy recovery and return to Broadcast House.

### SCHERESCHEWSKY STRICKEN DURING WHAT IN THE WORLD

John F. Schereschewsky is recovering from a heart attack he suffered Oct. 13 while appearing on the "What in the World" program.

Schereschewsky was stricken after answering the first question directed to him by moderator John Bando. The cameras had moved to another panelist and the home audience did not see him helped from the studio.

When receptionist Florence Ferguson saw Schereschewsky being helped to the dressing room, she quickly called Hartford Hospital for an ambulance. Dr. Stewart Hamilton, Hartford Hospital administrator, happened to be in the studio audience. He examined Schereschewsky briefly and ordered an ambulance--which was already en route, thanks to Mrs. Ferguson.

### DINNER DANCE PHOTOS TO BE ON EXHIBIT

Photographs taken at the staff dinner-dance will be displayed in the third floor cafeteria this week.

An order form will also be available so that staff members may order prints from the photographer at 75 cents a print.

### ROBERT PATRICELLI TO WORK WITH SECRETARY OF STATE

Robert Patricelli, selected as one of 15 White House Fellows last summer, has been assigned to work with Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

His appointment to the Secretary of State's staff was announced early this month. He will work with Mr. Rusk for a year. More than 3,000 young men and women applied for the 15 fellowships.

The fellowships were initiated by President Johnson and financed by the Carnegie Corporation to give younger people, who appear to be on the way up in their professions, a first hand insight into government operations and increase their sense of participation as citizens in its affairs.

### Lowell-Haber

Film editor Gerald R. Haber and Miss Olivia Young Lowell of Providence will be married on Sunday, November 7, at Temple Beth Israel, West Hartford.

After a trip to Bermuda, they will reside in East Hartford.

About 60 staff members and other friends honored Haber at a bachelor party in West Hartford Oct. 17.

### COLOR FILM IN GREAT DEMAND, SHORT SUPPLY, ABERT FINDS

Supplying the Vietnam-bound reporter and photographer was complicated a bit by a shortage of color motion picture film.

Paul Abert, the man responsible for seeing to it that Bob Dwyer has enough film for the assignment, discovered it wasn't too easy to find a healthy supply.

No one anticipated the great demand for color film in the television industry this year and Eastman Kodak had to comb the country thoroughly to fill the WTIC-TV order, according to Abert.

Some was found in New York and shipped by bus to Hartford and 50 rolls of film, located in Los Angeles, was shipped directly to the San Francisco motel where Kuntz and Dwyer stayed on the first leg of their trip.

### GRANDCHILD FOR KENFIELDS

The Larry Kenfields welcomed grandchild number four on Oct. 16 when their oldest daughter, Carol, Mrs. Jens Jensen, gave birth to a nine-pound daughter at Middlesex Memorial Hospital, Middletown.

## FIRST VIETNAM IMPRESSIONS

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We were impressed with Tokyo, but it seems to be experiencing some of the same redevelopment and rebuilding problems Hartford is experiencing.

The last leg of our trip was scheduled from Tokyo to Saigon, but we ended up that night in Bangkok, Thailand, instead. As the jetliner began the approach to Saigon, we hit some really rough weather. Then, while we bounced around waiting for permission to land, a military jet ran off the runway at Tan Son Nhut Airfield outside Saigon, the field was closed now temporarily, and our pilot headed for Bangkok.

It was at this point that we really began to feel the heat. Since we had no visa for Thailand we were considered, and treated as aliens. They picked up our passports and watched our every move throughout our overnight stay.

The next morning we were put aboard an Air Vietnam DC-6 and headed for Saigon. Enroute we made a landing in Cambodia, and since Cambodia is far from our closest ally in the Orient, there was a considerable amount of tension among the Americans aboard the plane.

Saigon, we have since learned, has a thunder and lightning and rain storm somewhere between 4 and 6 PM most days, and since this is when we arrived, we got another bouncy look at Saigon from the air as we landed late on the afternoon of October 12th, Tuesday.

The heat here is more than oppressive. The Americans we have met say it takes at least two weeks to become accustomed to it, but after just about one week, Bob and I see little sign of improvement.

Our first interview was with Airman Robert Meny, whose mother lives at 157 Sisson Avenue, Hartford. Bob is a communications technician at a receiver base located at the very edge of the Tan Son Nhut airbase outside Saigon. After just about an hour out in the sun and heat we returned to our hotel and fell asleep almost immediately. Bob keeps punching new notches in his belt, but so far I don't think I have lost any weight.

Our hotel room, thank heavens, is air conditioned, but even this we have found to be a problem. After a couple of hours out in the hot sun you walk into the room and it feels like an ice-box. And, our first night in the room we nearly froze to death, and couldn't figure out how to cut down on the centrally controlled air conditioning system.

Our credentials were ready in a relatively short time, but the gimmick in all matters out here is that we are here with the permission of the Vietnamese government. Therefore, protocol requires Vietnamese permission first, on everything we do. And, making yourself understood with the Vietnamese is a matter of hand signals, broken English, and fractured French.

Getting things through Vietnamese customs is an experience in itself. Our first re-supply of film was sent out of Hartford on the day we left. We got it yesterday, eight days later. It took about three days for the trip from Hartford, and five days to get it out of the Vietnamese customs office.

To get the film released, we first had to go to the airport to get the packing slip. This must be taken to Saigon three miles away to be stamped by a customs official, and some other reel whose status is still not clear to me. Then you head back to the airport where their first reaction is, you must be out of your mind, who ever heard of Hartford? If you persist you are sent down a long line of desks...at each desk they scribble on the packing slip, graciously accept one of your American cigarettes, write something in a log book, smile and send you to the next desk.

## GLENN ROWELL OF WTIC'S "GENE AND GLENN" DIES

Glenn Rowell, the Glenn of the WTIC comedy team, "Gene and Glenn," in the 1940s, died Oct. 9 in Rapid City, South Dakota, at the age of 65.

Rowell and his partner, Gene Carroll, performed on large radio stations and the NBC network between 1929 and 1943. Their comedy sketches with "Jake and Lena," characters portrayed by Carroll, were radio favorites in the 1930s and '40s.

Gene and Glenn are also remembered in Connecticut for their contribution to the WTIC-Hartford Courant Mile O'Dimes, which raised more than \$1 million to combat polio from 1941 to 1957.

They were the composers of "Help the Kid Around the Corner," the Mile O'Dimes theme song. The lyric, "help the kid around the corner/help that kid to walk again," was sung by Gene and Glenn and others during hundreds of broadcasts from the glass-enclosed Mile O'Dimes campaign booth, directly across Main Street from the Old State House in downtown Hartford. After Carroll left WTIC, George Bowe did the campaign broadcasts with Rowell for many years.

Rowell began his show business career as a pianist and song plugger in St. Louis and Chicago some 45 years ago. He was the first performer to record Gus Kahn's "I'll See You in My Dreams" and he wrote the lyrics for an equally popular standard, "I Get the Blues When It Rains."

He entered radio in 1924 at Station WLS in Chicago, where he and his first partner, Ford Rush, organized the famous "National Barn Dance" program 40 years ago.

In later years, Rowell performed on stations in many parts of the country. He and Carroll came to WTIC in 1940 and Rowell remained in Hartford until 1952 when he began yet another career as the host of children's television programs in New York and Cleveland.

His last partner was honky-tonk pianist Johnny Maddox, with whom he recorded a twin piano album in 1963.

Rowell's survivors include his wife, a son and a daughter.

## COMMUNITY LEADERS SEE CLOSED CIRCUIT

Thirty-five civic leaders from the Greater Hartford area viewed a special closed circuit television program on the school dropout problem at Broadcast House on Oct. 14.

The program featured Vice President Hubert Humphrey and Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare John Gardner, who told what has been done to cope with the dropout problem and noted other steps that can be taken by local communities.

Produced by the CBS Television Network, the program is being shown to community leaders throughout the country at studios of stations affiliated with CBS.

Members of the Hartford City Council, the Board of Education, Human Relations Commission, Committee for Hartford, presidents of service clubs and other community leaders had been invited to view the program by President Morency. The program also featured actor Douglas Fairbanks Jr. and former WTIC personality Allen Ludden.

## BACK FROM CALIFORNIA

Frank Atwood is just back from a three-week vacation in California and points west.

The Atwoods flew to the west coast and rented a car for side trips to the State of Washington and parts of California.

## MISS KOLB CONTINUING MUSICAL CAREER IN N.Y.

Barbara Anne Kolb, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hal Kolb and a very talented musician, is pursuing her musical career in New York City.

A former member of the Hartt College of Music, Miss Kolb, a clarinetist, hopes to present a concert soon at Carnegie Hall.

### SAIGON'S PHONE SYSTEM PUTS THE NUMBER FIRST

When you want to call someone in Saigon, you simply look up his number.

Unfortunately, you can't look up his number by looking for his name in the telephone book.

The numbers, according to Dwyer and Kuntz, are there, but they come first. There is no list of names in alphabetic order.

### "CAT SKINNER" ARRANGES POST-MIDNIGHT GAME

Bob Steele called it the "there's more than one way to skin a cat department" when he described how Vice President and General Manager Patricelli managed to get around a nationwide ban on professional night football games to enable Channel 3 to carry the Giants-Viking game on Oct. 9.

He did it by getting the Oct. 9 game on the air in the first minute of Oct. 10.

There is a contractual agreement between the National Football League and the Network that telecasts of Friday and Saturday night games during the high school and college football season are prohibited.

But when hundreds of viewers expressed a desire to see the game, Mr. Patricelli went to the Giants and Commissioner Pete Rozelle with his cat-skinning plan.

"Was there anything illegal about taping the game and starting it at 12:01 a.m. Sunday?"

There wasn't, said the commissioner.

So, WTIC-TV viewers saw a game fans in other cities would have missed--cities that lack stations with cat-skinning general managers.

### TICKETS AVAILABLE TO STAFF FOR HARTFORD SYMPHONY CONCERTS

Tickets for the use of staff members will be available on a first come, first served basis for the remaining seven concerts in the current season.

The first concert was held on Wednesday, Oct. 20. The others, also scheduled on Wednesday evenings at 8:15 at the Bushnell Memorial Hall, will be on Nov. 17, Dec. 8, Jan. 26, Feb. 16, March 9, March 30 and April 30.

The tickets have been purchased by the Corporation to support the Symphony and are available for a staff member and guest. In a memorandum to the staff, President Morency suggested that anyone interested in a specific concert call Miss Burbank to reserve tickets well in advance.

### TURNOUT AT LIBRARY SHOWING INDICATES FILM SOCIETY INTEREST

WTIC-TV's Jerry Haber hopes to have a Greater Hartford Film Society by the end of the year.

About 150 persons attended the showing of the Ruby Keeler-Dick Powell musical "Footlight Parade" at the Hartford Public Library Oct. 21 and Haber believes the number indicates a real interest in silent and early sound pictures.

An exhibit of photographs and other memorabilia of Hollywood in the 1930s from Haber's personal collection will continue at the library through the end of October.

The owner of an impressive film collection, Haber has been interested in starting a film society in this area for some time.

### ROOMS ARE RATHER SCARCE IN SAIGON HOTELS FOR ALL

Headquarters for the WTIC reporter-photographer team in Saigon has been a storeroom in the CBS suite at the Caravelle Hotel.

It's virtually impossible to get a room of your own but, according to a tape sent back by Paul Kuntz, he and Dwyer are trying and getting little encouragement.

The store room is 'perfectly comfortable, perfectly fine but I feel we're imposing in a way, so we're pushing as much as possible the hotel people downstairs.

"Last night we were down there asking and the desk clerk said, 'well, I had to refuse Senator Kennedy.'"