'Maybe we are wasting our time and maybe nobody is really listening to us. But we've still got to try.'

Wives Seek Action on 'Missing in Action'

By TOM TIEDE
NEA Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON—(NEA)—On Nov 11, 1966, Air Force Maj Arthur S Mearns was shot down while flying a bombing mission over North Vietnam

Since that time, more than two and a half years, his wife Pat and his three children have not known whether he survived or not The Hanoi government has never said The U S government lists him only "missing in action"

Every day the major's family hopes Every night it prays Every week it sends him a couple pages of cheerful and optimistic correspondence

Still, no clue

Says Mrs Mearns It's so bad not knowing And every day it's the same—we worry The telephone rings or the doorbell sounds and we jump It could be good news or bad news—but it's always just no news at all"

Sadly, Pat Mearns and children are not the only ones so suffering in the United States today. Most of the families of the nation's nearly 1,400 missing Vietnam troops are in a similar fix There is some indication, usually from propaganda photographs, that about 350 of these men are alive. But for the rest—more than 900 of them—there is no indication at all.

The situation has been the same for many of these families for years—in one case, five years, the time since the first American (Lt Everett Alvarez Jr) was captured in the Southeast Asian war

For most of this time the families have remained silent and anonymous, fearing, perhaps, Hanoi retaliation for anything public they might say or do

But lately, some of the wives and parents of the missing men are reaching out in the open for any help they can get

Pat Mearns is one of the latter. She's from California, the state with the greatest number of missing soldiers (350) and she has recently been making the rounds of congressional offices, trying to solicit top-level sympathy

"I'm trying not to be a pest," she says "I'm not buttonholing the senators, or hiding behind their doors like a kook I'm just a housewife; I'm not a lobbyist I've got a problem and I'm trying to get it solved"

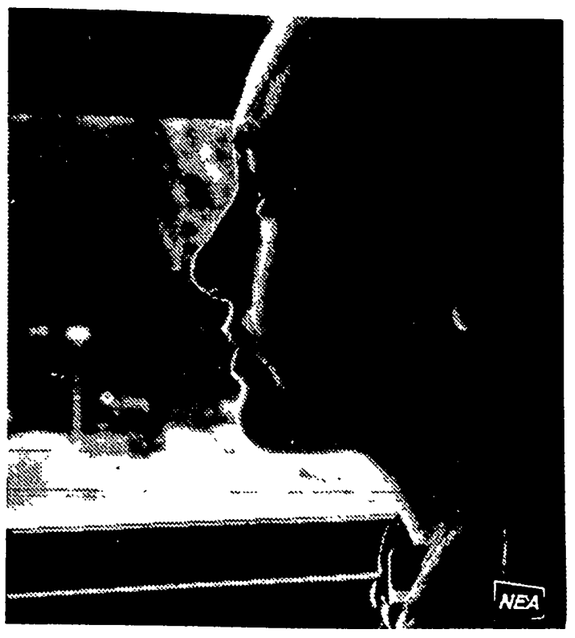
How, on Capitol Hill?

"I've talked this over with many other women in my situation We've decided that the American public just doesn't really know about our prisoners of war. We don't think they realize that Hanoi will not publish a list of prisoner names to relieve families here of uncertainty We don't think they realize that Hanoi seldom allows prisoners to send letters home

"So what I've been trying to do in Washington is get senators and congressmen to put the facts before the public—and keep them there I've been asking them to stand on the floor of Congress, publicly demand humane treatment of the POWs—and tell about the refusal of the North Vietnamese to abide by any of the articles of the Geneva Convention. That's all I just want them to stand up to let people know."

Before they recessed for summer holidays, only about 70 had responded to the major's wife—some favorably, but others with an "after all, madam, what can I do?" attitude

Still, Mrs. Mearns feels she has made progress. Recently, a group of 40 bipartisan lawmakers issued a joint appeal to world opinion for better treatment of prisoners in North Vietnam. Others have included this plea in letters (to constituents) or in news conferences.



EVERY DAY she hopes, every night she prays. Pat Mearns is the wife of one of the 1,400 U S servicemen in Vietnam listed simply as "missing in action"

Also, Mrs Mearns' efforts seem to be prodding similar efforts by the wives of missing men across the nation Mrs James Stockdale, wife of a pilot downed in 1965, and mother of four boys, has formed the "National League of Families of American Prisoners" in Coronado, Calif Other groups have formed in southeast, midwest and northeastern states

Says Pat Mearns "It's at least a start

"Don't get the idea we are a bunch of militants or something We're not that way at all We aren't criticizing anybody We are just getting together to try as best we can to help our men

"Maybe we are wasting our time and maybe nobody is really listening to us But we've still got to try And I for one am going to keep trying in every way I can—until I see my husband walking back into our home"

(Newspaper Enterprise Assn)

The buck Ends here . . . .

By Ivan D.E. Beaumont

The tragic death of Rocky Marciano is a great loss to sports fans.

The former heavyweight boxing champion was killed in a plane crash along with the pilot and another passenger. He was en route home for a 46th birthday party.

Rocky was never my favorite boxer — fighter and mauler, yes, but not boxer. He was nicknamed the "mauler" on several occasions and his powerful shoulders backed up his burly stature in the ring.

I remember well the Billy Conn-Joe Louis fight when we sat next to the Atwaterkent and listened and cheered as the Brown Bomber put Conn away.

But I couldn't cheer when Marciano ended Louis' career and or when he ended the ring action for Jersey Joe Walcott. He didn't do it with any class, we agreed at the time . . . . not like Sugar Ray Robinson whose in-and-out punches and jabs gave him many years possession of the middleweight crown. Sugar Ray later turned his fancy footwork into dancing jobs.

I've lost all interest in fights since the loose-tongued Cassius Clay quit the ring. He said and did things that disturbed many. But he was pretty foxy in the ring, fight fans had to admit.

The first time I saw a television program was in 1950 at a fair. And guess what the program was —wrestling.

It is still a popular sport for many. Wonder if E.A. Ernst still keeps his late evening hours watching the matches.

Remember "Gorgeous George?" He was the wrestler with the long blond curls and the gold hairpins. George was packing-'em-in in the San Diego auditorium when a group of us attended a match there one night in 1952.

Aside from the general confusion in most households now that school has started, there is one fine aftermath — dad gets his choice of the evening TV programs 'cause the youngsters are hitting the books.

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OTOE

Mrs Harry Kastens

Mrs Thomas Klein of Boulder, Colo., has returned to her home after visiting her parents, Mr and Mrs Harry Vollerston, for a few days.

Mr and Mrs Fritz Prang, of Eaton, Ohio visited several days with Mr and Mrs Henry Leefers.

Mr and Mrs David Kuenning and children of Ogallala were weekend guests of Mr and Mrs John Buchholz. They attended the wedding of their nephew, Lawrence Lutjemeyer, and Vicki Fecht, which took place Sunday evening at First Lutheran church near Avoca.

Mr and Mrs Jack Allen and children went to Beatrice where they picked up Danny Pool, and went to the Warren Pools where they were overnight guests. They spent the Labor Day weekend with Mrs Fern Pool at Phillipsburg, Sherri Pool accompanied them on their trip.

Romana and Alvood Pernicek of Lincoln have returned from spending several weeks with Mr and Mrs Calvin Schutz. Mrs Schutz took them home and stayed for several days. Mrs Pernicek is recuperating from surgery.

Dan Whipp of College Springs, Iowa, and Gayland Swanson and Mike Vardarman of Clarinda, Iowa, were recent overnight guests of Mr and Mrs Huey Andrews. The boys were attending the Nebraska State Fair.

Mrs Gene Hall and children have moved to Lincoln.

Mr and Mrs Richard Koch and family of Omaha, Mr and Mrs Calvin Kastens and Rusty of Papillion, Mr and Mrs Harold Kastens and children and Mr and Mrs Richard Kastens and children and Susan Lehnherr were Sunday dinner guests of Mr and Mrs Harry Kastens.

Mr and Mrs Robert Young attended their card club Saturday night at the Adolph Reuter home in Dunbar.

Mr and Mrs Karl Poppe have returned home after spending two weeks in Omaha at the home of their son, Alvin Poppe and family.

Mr and Mrs George Vokum and family of Hallam, Mr and Mrs Harold Ehmke and sons of Avoca were Sunday evening dinner guests of Mr and Mrs Harry Ehmke.

Mr and Mrs Kenneth Werner and family of Syracuse were Friday night callers at the John Buchholz home, to visit with their sister and family, the David Kuennings of Ogallala.

Mrs Harold Hillman spent the weekend at the Larry Panko home at Millard. Mrs Panko and baby daughter returned home Saturday from a Lincoln hospital.

Mrs Anna Siemers celebrated a birthday Sunday. Guests were Mr and Mrs Lorenz Meyer and Dave of Lincoln.

Mr and Mrs Jack Philpot and Scott have returned to Air Force Academy, Colo., after spending a few days with Mrs Freda Freudenberg.

Mrs Henry Kirchoff is in Bryan Memorial hospital with a broken ankle, he received recently in an automobile accident.

Mr and Mrs Paul Ottens and Arlene and Bobby of Burwell, Mr and Mrs Clarence Fleschman of Elmwood, Mr and Mrs George Kirchoff of Weeping Water, Mr and Mrs Glen Ottens, of Dunbar were recent callers of Mrs Anna Ottens. The Paul Ottens family spent the weekend in Otoe and attended the State Fair.

Pan-American Highway

The Pan American highway system is a network of around 30,000 miles of paved and all weather roads, including various alternate routes It extends from four major points along the U S - Mexican border through Central America and, after skipping the "Darien Gap" between the Panama Canal and Colombia, links all the capitals of South America with one another

UNADILLA

Mrs Don Stilwell

Mr and Mrs Ray Callaway and Mr and Mrs Wilbur Edgar spent the Labor Day weekend camping and fishing in the western Nebraska.

The Rev. and Mrs Herman Travernicht are on vacation. He is pastor of the Christian church. They are visiting their son at Albuquerque, New Mexico at an army camp.

Mr and Mrs Harvey Stoner Sr., and Judy and Perry, and Mr and Mrs Harvey Stoner Jr and Allison spent the Labor Day holiday at the family's cabin at North Bend.

Recent guests Sunday of Mr and Mrs Gayle Lorenson at Humboldt, were Mr and Mrs Gene West and Tim and Mike Mrs Dessie West, Mr and Mrs Dan Crownover, Mrs Gary Remington and Scott, Nola Mohlman, Syracuse.

Mr and Mrs Gene West have sold their Unadilla property to Mr and Mrs Joe Pebley of Palmyra who will move in this week.

Mr and Mrs Paul Sibley of Omaha were recent visitors of the George Stilwells.

The Rev. Richard H. Staple of Nebraska Crop field director will be guest speaker at the United Methodist church Sunday.

Time change will be in effect on September 7. Sunday worship service, 9:45 a.m., Church school, 10:45 a.m.

Mr and Mrs Frank Schulze entertained guests at a cook-out at their home Friday evening. Present were Mr and Mrs Edwin McCartney, Nebraska City, Mr and Mrs Merlin Lang and family, Palmyra; and Mr and Mrs Ed McCartney and Mitchell of Loup City. The Ed McCartneys were en route home from Purdue University where they attended summer school.

Recent guests at the Frank Schulze home were Mr and Mrs Lonnie Disterhaupt and family of Bellevue and Mr and Mrs Herman Disterhaupt and Ann of Glenwood, Iowa. Mrs Disterhaupt is teaching home economics and Mr Disterhaupt teaches art in the Glenwood school system.

Promotion Sunday was held at the United Methodist church Sunday. Mrs Ralph Lipken, church school superintendent presented awards and silver bars to 14 students. Four members having perfect attendance for the year were David and Linda Boettcher, Kay Stilwell and John Lipken.

Mr and Mrs Lyle Kooiker and Lance were visitors over the Labor Day weekend at Rock Rapids, Iowa, at the home of his parents, Mr and Mrs Art Kooiker and family.

Mrs Neva Copes of Lincoln was a recent visitor of Mr and Mrs Don Stilwell. Mrs Copes left Thursday for northern Michigan and Canada where she will join her brother and wife, Mr and Mrs Frank Sandly of Detroit, Mich., for a vacation.

Mr and Mrs William Brandt and Karen and Jane were weekend guests of Mr and Mrs Elvin Adamson and family at their ranch in the sand hills.

Carl Freeman of Lincoln was a Saturday visitor of Belva Butler and Mrs Ellen Segler.

Mrs Sarah Kruger is in St. Elizabeth's hospital, Lincoln.

First year students who will attend college this fall from Unadilla include Clark Gartner, son of Mr and Mrs Alton Gartner; Shirley Wallen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Glen Wallen; Marcia Conradi, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alfert Conradi; Deann Fentiman, daughter of Mr and Mrs Glen Fentiman; Tim West, son of Mr and Mrs Gene West; University of Nebraska.

Emma Snyder, daughter of Mrs Elsie Snyder, and Linda Pickerill, daughter of Mr and Mrs Vern Pickerill, will attend Kearney State Teacher's college.

Claudia Ray, daughter of Mr and Mrs Calvin Ray will attend Bryan Memorial hospital school where she will train for laboratory technician.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

GAMES PARTY

Will Be Held

SATURDAY NIGHT
September 6

Memorial Building

7:30 p.m.

JACKPOT $150

Plus Other Big Cash Prizes

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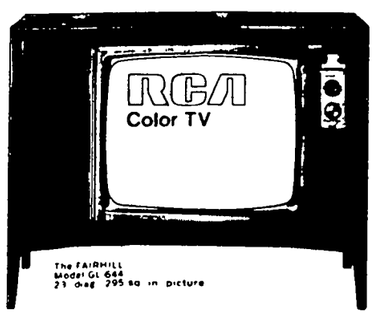
Giant-screen upright Color—value price!

Famous New Vista® picture quality with locked in color purity Automatic chroma control keeps color intensity the way you want it 25,000 volt chassis



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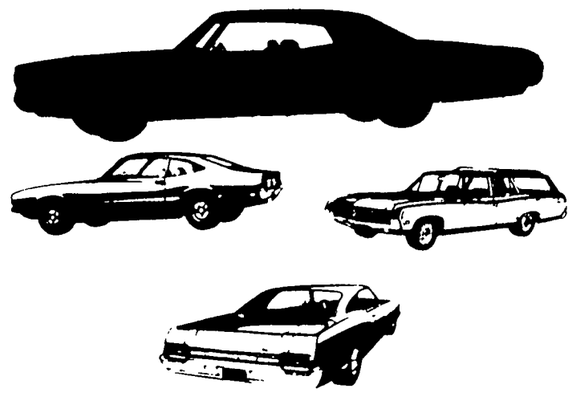
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The CUSTOMER has always been told just what his auto loan will cost.



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