





# Prisoner Of Japan Has Story Told

By ROBERT E. Ford  
Associated Press Writer

A vigorous redhead of 43, six feet tall, is going about his duties in Fort Worth these days, cheerful and articulate.

From all he went through 30 or so years ago, it is a miracle he isn't snow-haired, bent, crippled and sick.

He is Maj. Gen. Robert Preston Taylor, retired, until seven years ago Air Force chief of chaplains.

Now he is director of development for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, which brings this East Texas man sort of full circle.

He was born in Henderson and grew up in the Longview-Kilgore-Gladewater triangle. From there he went to Baylor University, then the Fort Worth Seminary.

What returns him back into the public eye is a new story, "Days of Anguish, Days of Hope," recounting one of the most terrible times a man can endure.

For, you see, Gen. Taylor was captured in the first days of World War II in the Manila area of the Philippines.

He walked the almost indescribable Bataan Death March, was housed in prison compounds where scores of comrades died daily from lack of medicine, malnutrition, torture and sudden and irrational executions.

The Japanese then placed him on the infamous "hell ships" and carried him to Japan and finally to Manchuria.

The book (Doubleday, \$5.95) is by Bill Keith of Dallas, former public relations director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas who spent several years in church work in Japan.

While there, Keith ran into the story of Gen. Taylor, which in turn sent him on a hunt for answers to this question: Why were the Japanese so cruel to military prisoners and even their own soldiers?

Keith, telling Taylor's story,

relates with considerable restraint the suffering the Americans under went at the hands of their captors. But even a restrained telling is a book of horrors.

One example will suffice. On the hell ships, prisoners were packed into the holds so tightly they only could stand. They had no ventilation, fresh air, food or water for days. Men died by the hundreds, standing up for there was no place for them to fall.

Of the 1,600 who set out with Taylor on his first hell ship, only 400 remained when the final vessel docked in Japan.

The book raises several questions, some old and some new. One is, are the American prisoners of the North Vietnamese being treated as badly?

"It's really hard to tell from what I gather," said Gen. Taylor in an interview. "All I know is what I hear over the radio (originating in North Vietnam), and we don't know whether this is a canned message they are forced to put out."

"As a former prisoner of war, I doubt that it is as good as they (the prisoners) say it is sometimes. We just hope these are the real facts."

Gen. Taylor, who held much lesser rank at the time, received no preferential treatment from the Japanese—in fact, he spent considerable time in the "sweat box" designed to kill or to drive men crazy.

But at times he could circulate among the men, giving them religious consolation. And a great many were converted from either atheism or indifference. Did these conversions stick?

"All the way through these experiences, I was confident the men experienced religious conviction and practiced it, and sincerely—not from fear or necessarily because of the circumstances," said Gen. Taylor.

He added, "Once saved, always saved. We feel that the New Testament teaches that

An individual may wander off...but deep down, his conviction of the relation with God remains."

There were some ups and downs in the amount of cruelty inflicted depending on the prison camp commanders and the guards.

For instance, the most cruel periods, unbelievable to western minds, were on the Bataan Death March and in Taylor's first prison. Then suddenly conditions improved remarkably.

The first commanders and guards were combat troops who captured the Philippines. The second group were not.

The difference is well known to American commanders. The rule is: Get prisoners out of the hands of combatants as soon as possible. Yet this correspondent never saw U.S. combat men or officers mistreat Japanese prisoners.

Back to the question of why were the Japanese so cruel to their prisoners and even their own people?

The book explains clearly to Americans who believe the current psychiatric principle that the personality of a child is determined by the time it is three years old.

Gen. Taylor was talking with the Japanese camp physician in Manchuria. Taylor said he didn't understand the Japanese mental processes.

"Neither do Japanese psychologists understand Japanese psychology," said the doctor.

"How do you mean?"

"Japanese men are bad in the head. All mixed up."

"Could you explain?"

"It starts when little boy. He can do anything—pinch his mother, hit his sister—his father only laughs. But let him get six years old and he goes to school. Then if he does not act right, he is a disgrace to family. So they put thumb on him and make him conform."

"And what does that do?"

"It causes great emotional problem. He grows up in con-

formity after six years of no conformity. Very bad."

"So in times of stress he must find an outlet."

"Yes, and does so by brutality."

The book is beautifully done. It has a strange and unexpected ending. We can't speak of that. It is like revealing the killer in a murder mystery before the reader reaches the end.

## Representative Thinking About Getting Stamps

AUSTIN (AP) — Rep. Senfronia Thompson of Houston said today legislative salaries are so low she might apply for food stamps.

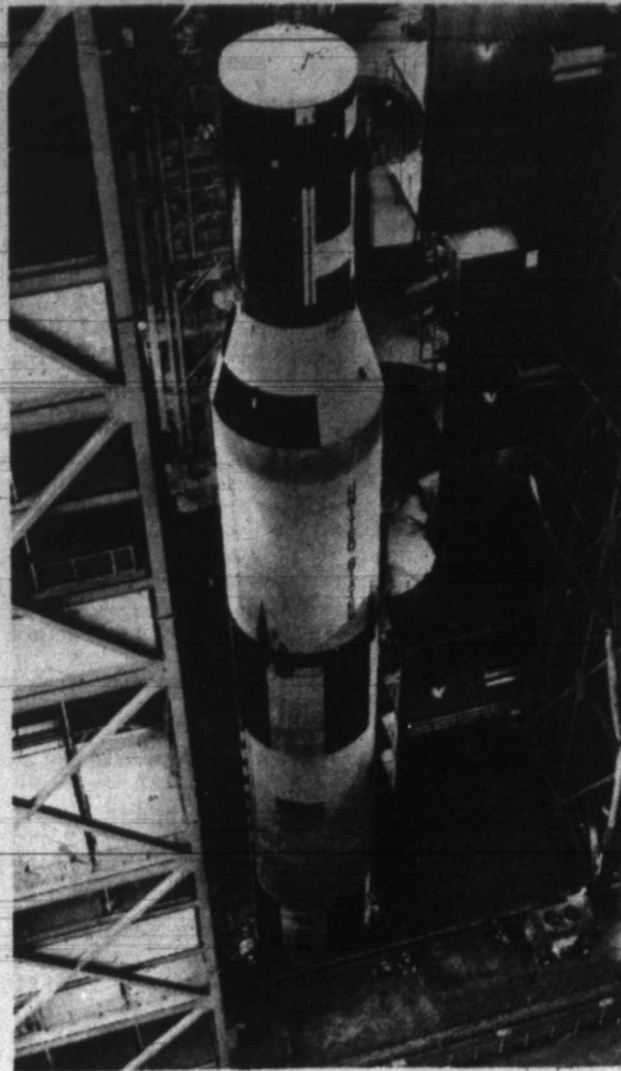
Her take-home pay as a legislator is \$310 a month, Mrs. Thompson said.

"I'm thinking about applying for food stamps," she said in an interview. "It's just a matter of letting the public know they are not paying their officials enough to come up here and do an effective job."

"I think representatives ought to be able to get food stamps or something to help them out here," Mrs. Thompson said.

Legislators' salaries—before taxes—are set by the Texas Constitution at \$4,800 a year. Voters have refused repeatedly to raise this. In 1972, they turned down a proposition to raise the salaries to \$8,400.

Amelia Earhart was the first woman to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross.



SKYLAB ORBITAL WORKSHOP is shown mated to its Saturn V launch vehicle at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, awaiting the 1973 launch into earth orbit. The Skylab objectives include experimental investigations and medical tests.

## FOR INAUGURATION Pat Nixon Paces Trend In Fashion

WASHINGTON (AP) — When President Nixon takes the oath of office Saturday, his wife will be at his side in a double-breasted green coachman coat with sable collar.

At the inaugural balls that night, Mrs. Nixon will wear a turquoise silk gown embroidered with very fine diamonds and pearls traced in silver threads.

Details of Mrs. Nixon's daytime and nighttime inaugural attire were released Wednesday by the White House.

Mrs. Nixon's inaugural ball gown was designed especially for the occasion by Adele Simpson of New York, who has been the first lady's preferred designer for several years. It is princess-style in turquoise blue silk organza over turquoise and silver silk lace.

The dress for Mrs. Nixon's size-9 figure has a v-neckline and long sleeves. In addition to the jeweled embroidery, the neckline, sleeves and hem are outlined with sparkling jewels.

For the inaugural balls, Mrs. Nixon will also wear a white Emba jasmine mink jacket designed by Leo Ritter of Ritter Bros. and Ben Thylan. It is just

above waist length with horizontal bands of mink skimming the body.

Mrs. Nixon's daytime costume will be the all-wool green coachman coat designed by Jeremy Wren of New York. She will wear a light all-wool crepe dress dyed to match the coat. The dress, with a fitted waist and soft gathers, has long sleeves and a soft rolled collar.

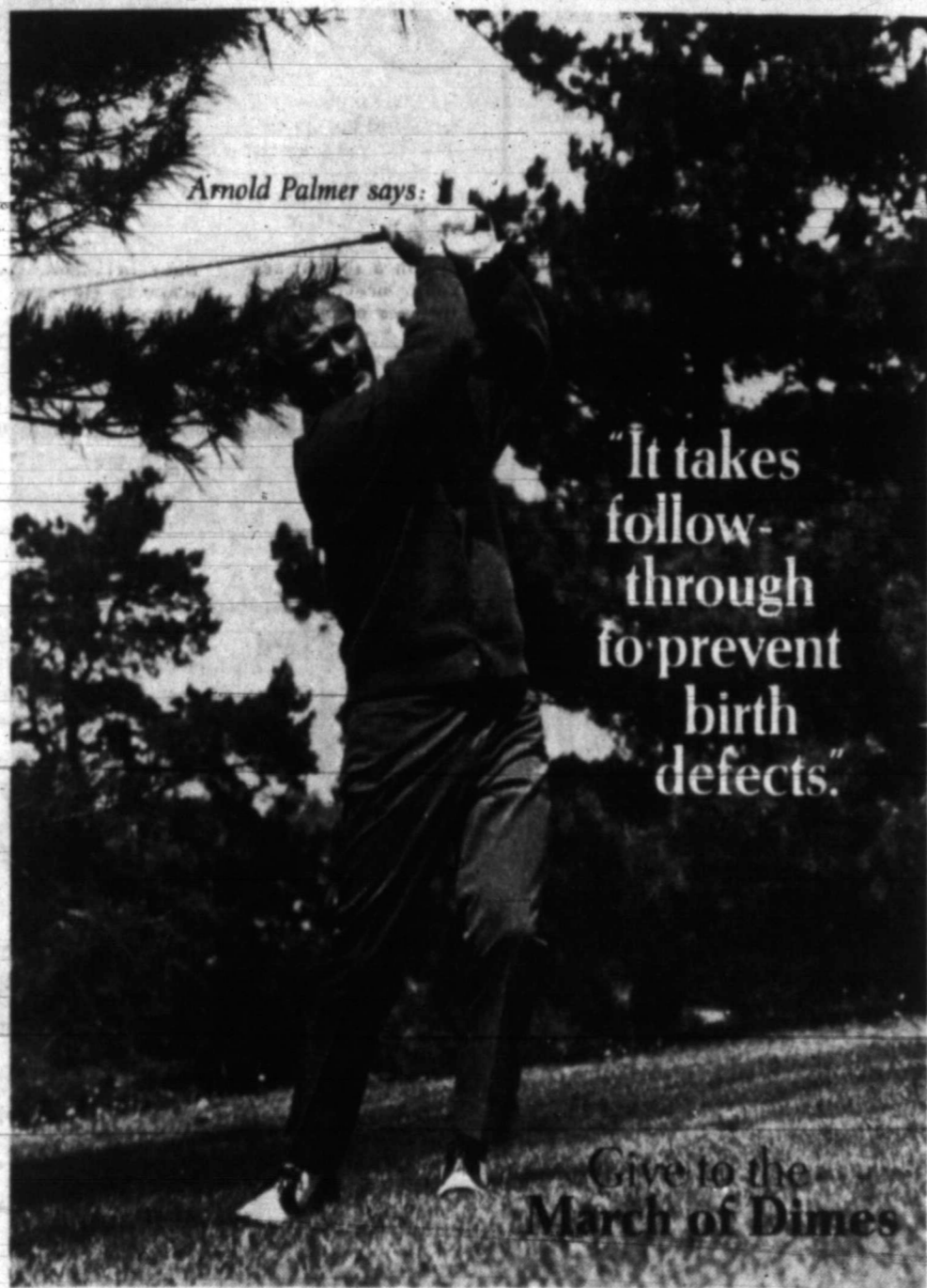
Mrs. Nixon's shoes for the daytime event will be dark brown brushed suede pumps with a flat bow designed by Beth Levine. She also will carry a matching brown suede bag by Morris Moscovitz and will wear dark brown kidskin gloves.

The first lady's shoes for the inaugural balls also were designed by Beth Levine and will match her dress. She will carry a small turquoise peau de soie bag and will wear white kid gloves.

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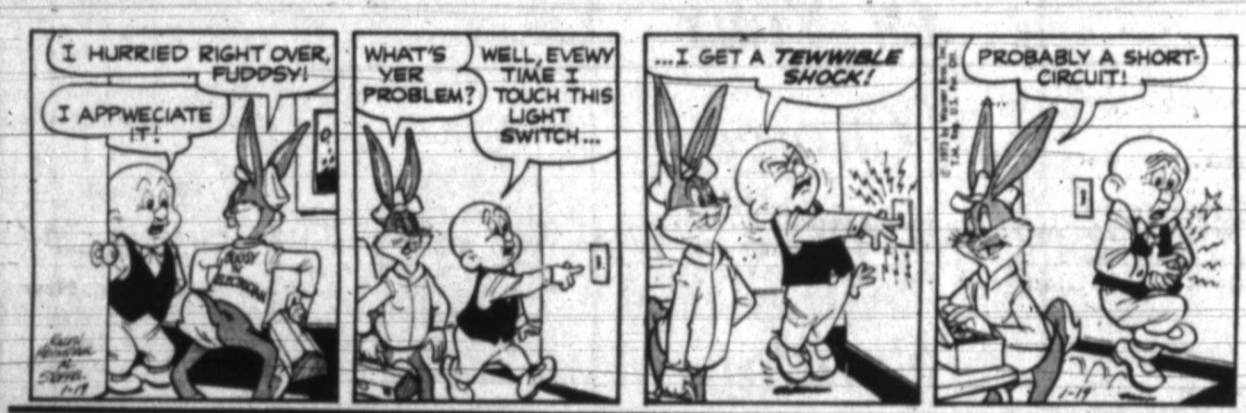
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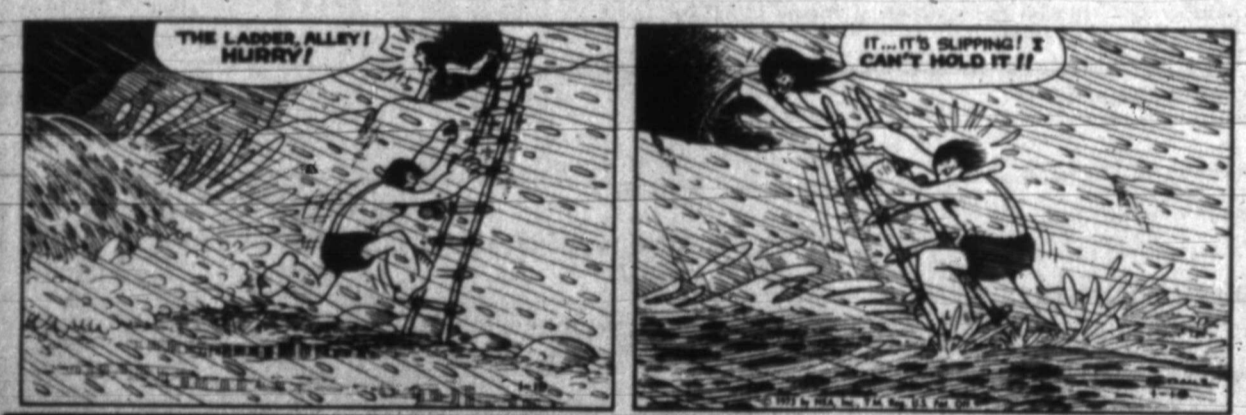
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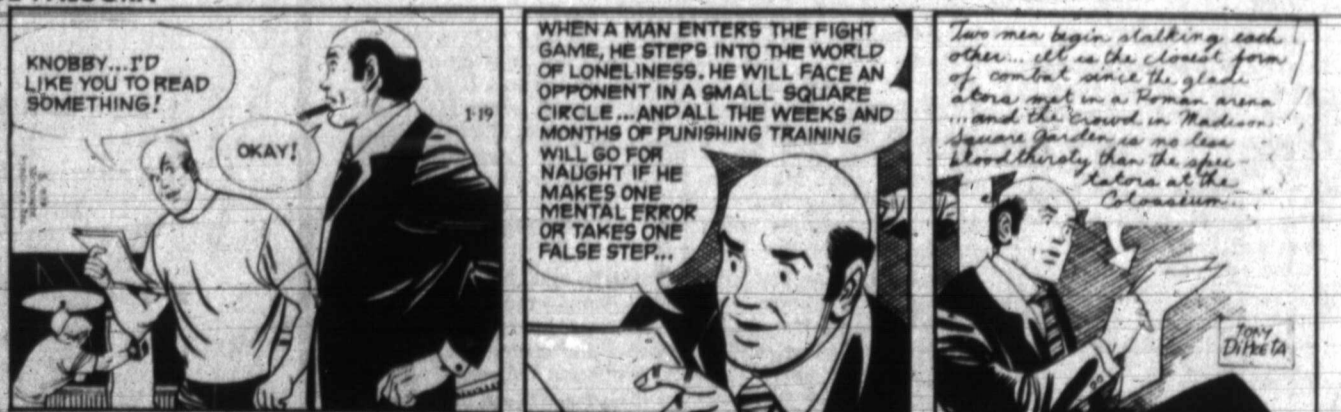
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DEAR OLD PAMPA HIGH SCHOOL—Pampa High School cheerleaders help to keep plenty of school spirit during the Harvester basketball games. Above, they lead the crowd in singing the

school song before the game with Monterey High School of Lubbock. The scoring period went into record overtime, with Pampa winning 48-46. (Photo by John Ebling)

### Texas Group In Inauguration

AUSTIN (AP) — Four Texas bands and drill teams will take part in President Nixon's inauguration parade, state Republican chairman George Willeford said Thursday.

The groups are the Golden Spurs Dance Team of J. W. Nixon High School, Laredo; The Memorial High School Marching Mustang Band and Markettes, Houston; Bryan Adams School Cougar Band, Dallas, and Black Horse Patrol of Hella Shrine, Dallas.

Willeford said the Golden Spurs dance team of 94 girls raised money to make the trip by collecting 10,000 cases of cans for sale to a recycling center.

The Memorial Mustang Band and Markettes, a total of 258 members, are traveling on funds arranged by the Houston school from fund raising programs and private donations.

The Bryan Adams Cougar band and drill unit of 232 members raised \$30,000 themselves in various fund raising affairs to make the trip.

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