

# MR POPHistory

Week of February 15, 1961

In Brussels, A Sabena Airlines 707 jet spins out of control in circling for a landing and crashes in a sunlit farmyard, killing a farmer in addition to 61 passengers and 11 crewmembers. The passengers included 18 young American figure skating stars. The flight originated from New York.

Of the accident, President Kennedy said "This disaster has brought tragedy to many American families and is a painful loss to the international community of sport as well... Our country has sustained a great loss of talent and grace, which as brought pleasure to the people all over the world... Mrs. Kennedy and I extend our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of all the passengers and crew who died in this crash."



Three astronauts are selected as candidates for America's first space flight, expected to be announced soon: Lt. Col. John Glenn Jr., Navy Commander Alan Shepard and Air Force Capt. Virgil Grissom.

Castro militiamen are reported to have suffered heavy losses in bitter fighting with rebel forces in the Escambray Mountains of Cuba.

Congo update – fighting escalates – Katanga Province troops striking north through jungle country clash with pro-Lumumba forces in a spreading wave of fighting and jungle butchery against civilians. A Belgian priest was killed and his body mutilated. A man was beaten to death and another was cut in two by pro-Lumumbists.

I.J. Carter, secretary of the British Interplanetary Society – says the Russians have taken the first step toward orbiting giant reflectors capable of concentrating the sun's cosmic rays on an earthly target and burning man and matter to a crisp. Carter estimated that it would take at least 15 years before such a fearsome space weapon could be perfected. He said the Russians probably would perfect such a weapon "under the guise of weather control – to deflect the course of cyclones, for instance."

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A flight engineer's strike against six of the nation's major airlines by flight engineers strands thousands of passengers. Pan American flight engineers began the strike at New York's Idlewild Airport in a dispute over a reduction of work time. Engineers from other airliners then began to report sick or failed to report to work.

Of six airlines affected by a flight engineers walkout – three (American, Pan-American and TWA) order full shutdowns – with 84,000 employees facing layoffs.

President Kennedy appoints a three-man special commission to investigate the four-day old wildcat strike of flight engineers. He joined in a plea that the men return to their jobs pending completion of the probe.

The United Nations Security Council approve an Afro-Asian resolution authorizing the UN force to use arms, if necessary, to avert civil war in the Congo. Both Russia and France abstained from voting.

Flight engineers of six airlines decide to return to work, ending the nation's airline strike. The announcement came from President Kennedy.

Kennedy Family Privacy - The White House discloses that all its domestic employees have "voluntarily" signed pledged that they would not sell for publication accounts of life in the executive mansion. The move is unprecedented here, but common in Europe, where servants of the British royal family are required to do the same.

A two-engine plane that was suppose to fly Vice President Lyndon Johnson of Texas crashes into a hill, killing two pilots. The accident happened about 7 miles from LBJ's ranch. Rushing to the scene, the Senator said, "I've lost the best pilot in the world and two wonderful friends. If they had been 30 feet higher, they would have missed it."

At the mart - Scott napkins - pkg. of 60 - .29 ... Canned Ham - 5lb - \$3.89 ... Potatoes - 10lb bag - .49 ... Kodak 35MM (B&W) Film - 20 exposure - \$1.48 ... Windex - 6oz bottle - get 2 for 25 cents.

Television news - Betty Furness, who use to open refrigerator doors on Westinghouse television commercials, is signed to do a 90-minute talk show over WNTA-TV, (channel 13) New York. Ms. Furness will host "At Your Beck And Call" in what the station is calling a viewer participation show. Format will have a

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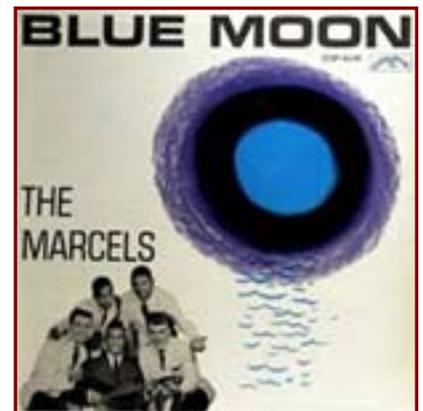
variety of experts on stage, with viewers asked to phone in their queries. Experts will include doctors, lawyers, politicians etc. Ms. Furness said she wanted to be taken more seriously in the business.

Ernie Kovac's "Take A Good Look" is being canceled by ABC-TV. But Ernie will continue being seen in his Thursday night slot, as host-narrator for 23 editions of "Silents Please." That show will feature silent movies.



Music news – Promoter Sid Bernstein announces a spring break rock 'n' roll show at the Brooklyn Paramount Theater. The shows will run from March 31 to April 9. Already signed – Jackie Wilson, but Bernstein believes Johnny Mathis, Bobby Darin, Brenda Lee, the Everly Brothers, Fabian, Frankie Avalon and James Darren will be part of the shows. Emceeding duties will fall to WINS DJ Murray the K (Kaufman) and Clay Cole – host of Record Wagon over WNTA-TV.

Out-of-sight! – That's what Murray the K is saying about a record given to him by someone at Colpix Records. Name of the song is "Blue Moon" by an unknown group called the Marceles. Murray's been playing the record non-stop this week, in some cases, more than 10 times on his 1010 WINS New York show. No one else is playing it – because no one else has it.



Nat King Cole stands his ground over which songs to perform on an upcoming Ed Sullivan Show. Cole is standing his ground and insists he sing a new release – "Illusion." Bob Preecht, producer of the CBS-TV variety show, believes the new song may constitute a free "plug." Says Cole – "When a variety show begins to dictate what songs an artist of recognition and stature can or cannot do, it is time for the artist to call a halt to the proceedings. I can understand the concern over song selections in a show with a them, a special, but I cannot reconcile the desire to force an artist to do only songs to a producer's liking., on a variety program where song selection does not affect the show's continuity." Mr. Preecht wants Cole to perform his standards, but the singer points-out that hits like "Monda Lisa," and "Too Young" were introduced by him as unknown tunes on television.

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Linda Scott, 15-year-old sister of singer Jack Scott, will make her record debut on the Gold Eagle label.

Ann-Margaret, recently a member of the George Burns troupe, which appeared in Las Vegas and other cross-country locations, is signed to RCA Victor Records. Born Ann-Margren Olson in Sweden, the 19-year-old songstress is the subject of an 8-page spread in Life Magazine.

Recently married to Bobby Darin, 18 year-old Sandra Dee takes control of \$25,000 in government bonds impounded for her. Normally, she would've had to wait until she was 21.

Radio news – Crowell Collier, who has an option to buy WMGM, New York (1050), announces that Don French, now programming KDWB, Minneapolis, will program the New York station. Normally such changes are announced after FCC approval of a change in ownership. He'll replace the two-program team of Gene Edwards and Dave Yarnell. Crowell-Collier programs top-40 on KDWB, KFWB-Los Angeles and KEWB, Oakland.

(Interesting – the FCC never approved the sale because of past company practices).

Hollywood news – Lloyd's of London, giving a vote of confidence, suggests that Marilyn Monroe be called in as soon as possible to replace Elizabeth Taylor in the title role of "Cleopatra." Lloyds will continue full insurance coverage on the movie production only if Miss Taylor, who has been ill, is replaced. Lloyd's also suggested three other actresses it would be willing to insure in the role if Miss Monroe is unavailable – Kim Novak, Shirley MacLaine and Rossana Podesta – an Italian actress. Cleopatra, originally budgeted at \$5 million, is now expected to cost a minimum of \$8 million.

Sal Mineo has what he considers, his first major role since "Rebel Without A Cause" in 1955. He considers his role of Dov Landau in "Exodus" a choice one. Mineo was just interviewed on Mike Wallace's interview show over WNTA-TV. "When that film was completed, I went to a party in Rome where 30 or 40 motion picture producers from all over the world were guests. I got about seven offers that night, but I said 'I'd liked to read the script first.' I've read some of the scripts. They're not really good pictures."

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Television news – Dinah Shore and sponsor Chevrolet have parted after 10 years, saying they will no longer sponsor her Sunday night show after June 25. A spokesman says that Chevy came up with a new offer, but only for specials. NBC says that Chevrolet will retain sponsorship of the 9-10pm Sunday night hour and there's a rumor that the western – Bonanza may be moved there from its Saturday night slot.

Jules Berman is signed as ABC's first science editor. He had been a news writer for the network for six years.

**Fascinating TV insight** – In order to pitch WNTA-TV (New York) to prospective sponsors, the station has produced a film, narrated by **Mike Wallace**, that pitches the station, highlighting that WNTA-TV viewers had a higher income level – 44% earning \$10,000 a year or more; 80% of the viewers owned stock and 49% were in the professional, managerial or technical class. Also on the film, Mike Wallace talks about the many awards received by WNTA-TV and the impact of such programs as “The Play of the Week,” David Susskind’s Open End,” and “Mike Wallace Interviews.” The promotional film also contends that the Channel 13 audience “is the most adult one... with 90.1% of its viewers being beyond the juvenile or adolescent stage.”

WNTA Promotional film – continued - Mike Wallace also pokes fun at the competition – “Logically, you’d expect seven different stations to offer a variety of programming appeals. When you turn on your set, though, this is not what you find on the ‘magic box.’ Possibly to get even for their big boo-boo in real estate long ago, the Indians are shooting cowboys. On variety, policemen are shooting robbers. And the robbers, not to be outdone, shoot at the policemen. The private eye is certainly in the public eye on nearly every channel in town ...”

President John F. Kennedy recently requested a color tape of his inauguration from NBC-TV, but the network erased the tape! Fortunately, the NBC station in Chicago – WNBQ-TV had a copy because a local sponsor had purchased the rights to the tape for four years!

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Thursday Night Television –

CBS – CBS News with Douglas Edwards, Ann Southern Show, Angel, Zane Grey Theater, Gunslinger, CBS Reports

NBC – Huntley-Brinkley Report, Outlaws, Bat Masterson, Bachelor Father, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Groucho Marx, The Hidden City

ABC – Man and the Challenge, Guestward Ho, Donna Reed, Real McCoys, My Three Sons, The Untouchables

Ann Southern – Katy discovers an aspiring young actress and learns that she is not only broke but also has run away from school to study drama. Stars Ann Southern, Don Porter, Ann Tyrell.

Guestward Ho – Bill Hooton announces he is a candidate for president of the Chamber of Commerce. Stars Joanne Dru, Mark Miller, J. Carrol Naish.

Donna Reed – Donna pressures Alex into having their leisure time take on a strong touch of togetherness.

Zane Grey Theatre – The story of a circuit-riding preacher forced to fight for his life because his son thinks he is a coward. Stars Art and son Jack Linkletter. Dick Powell hosts.



Bat Masterson – Bat hires on to lead a Texas cattle drive and accidentally discovers oil and becomes a target of a murder.

Real McCoys – The McCoys accept a horse in payment of a debt, but Grandpa is irritated after the family picks a palomino instead of a work animal.

Bachelor Father – Bentley, Kelly and Peter each find themselves in romance while staying in Paris.

My Three Sons – Robbie discovers a strange character is following him.

Tennessee Ernie Ford – Minnie Pearl guests.

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The Untouchables – A gangster defies the code of the underworld and believes he has won immunity from reprisals by promising to eliminate Eliot Ness. Stars Robert Stack, Paul Picerni, Nick Georgiade and Abel Fernandez. Guest cast – Harry Guardino, Bruce Gordon, Dan Seymour.

At the movies -

**The Hunters** - Robert Mitchum, Robert Wagner, Richard Egan

**Savage Innocents** - Anthony Quinn

**The Wackiest Ship In The Army** - Jack Lemmon, Ricky Nelson

**Psycho** - Anthony Perkins, Vera Miles, John Gavin

**The Misfits** - Clark Gable, Marilyn Monroe

**The Grass Is Greener** - Cary Grant, Deborah Kerr, Robert Mitchum, Jean Simmons

**The Man With the Green Carnation** – Peter Finch, Yvonne Mitchell, James Mason, Nigel Patrick

On the charts –

CALCUTTA - Lawrence Welk & Orchestra

WILL YOU LOVE ME TOMORROW - Shirelles

SHOP AROUND - Miracles

EXODUS - Ferrante & Teicher

CALENDAR GIRL - Neil Sedaka

EMOTIONS - Brenda Lee

THERE'S A MOON OUT TONIGHT - Capris

WONDERLAND BY NIGHT - Bert Kaempfert & Orchestra

ANGEL BABY - Rosie & Originals

WHEELS - String-A-Longs

ONCE IN AWHILE - Chimes

WINGS OF A DOVE - Ferlin Husky

I COUNT THE TEARS - Drifters

PONY TIME - Chubby Checker

WHERE THE BOYS ARE - Connie Francis

MY EMPTY ARMS - Jackie Wilson

RUBBER BALL - Bobby Vee

ALL IN MY MIND - Maxine Brown

PEPE - Duane Eddy & Rebels

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THERE SHE GOES - Jerry Wallace  
GOOD TIME BABY - Bobby Rydell  
CORINNA, CORINNA - Ray Peterson  
ARE YOU LONESOME TO-NIGHT? - Elvis Presley  
BABY SITTIN' BOOGIE - Buzz Clifford  
THE STORY OF MY LOVE - Paul Anka  
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN - Al Caiola & Orchestra  
YOU CAN HAVE HER - Roy Hamilton  
(Ghost) RIDERS IN THE SKY - Ramrods  
DANCE BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON -  
Olympics  
JIMMY'S GIRL - Johnny Tillotson  
SPANISH HARLEM - Ben E. King  
C'EST SI BON (It's So Good) - Conway Twitty  
THE HOOCHI COOCHI COO - Hank Ballard &  
Midnighters  
NORTH TO ALASKA - Johnny Horton  
DON'T WORRY - Marty Robbins  
IF I DIDN'T CARE - Platters  
EBONY EYES - Everly Brothers  
A THOUSAND STARS - Kathy Young with  
Innocents  
AT LAST - Etta James  
THE TEAR OF THE YEAR - Jackie Wilson  
LAST DATE - Floyd Cramer

