

CONTENTS

EDITORS' NOTE

Cambodia: The Wreck We Leave Behind	23
U.S. fighting men have gone and Cambodians must cope not only with the Communists but with South Vietnamese and Thais. Meanwhile, the quiet American presence begins to grow. A report by John Saar	
Editorial	32
Vietnam: Enough is finally enough	
Record-breaking China Doll	34
A pretty track whiz from Taiwan has lost only two of her last 121 races	
The Mop Comes Back	36
The renaissance of a hairy 16th Century dog	
The Godfather's Father	41
Author Mario Puzo can afford to live it up at last. Photographed by Bob Peterson	
Special Season of the Young	46
Hot days lure exuberant beauties to California's beaches. Photographed by Co Rentmeester	
Parole Board	54
When convicts plead for early release, three good men with little to guide them must answer "yes" or "no." By Donald Jackson	
An Extra House To Play In	66
The cost of new vacation homes is lower than you'd think	
DEPARTMENTS	
THE PRESIDENCY Flickers of hope in the heat. By Hugh Sidey	4
GALLERY Simon Nathan's alphabet photographs	8
REVIEWS	10-16
Three books on the environment are reviewed by Wallace Stegner: Paul Shepard and David McKinley's <i>The Subversive Science</i> ; <i>The Environmental Handbook</i> , edited by Garrett De Bell; and <i>Ecotactics</i> , the Sierra Club Handbook for Environment Activists	
Albert Goldman reviews the Who's gap-bridging rock concert at the Met	
LETTERS TO THE EDITORS	22A
PARTING SHOTS Where she stops nobody knows	72

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COVER—CO RENTMEESTER 4—AP 8, 9—SIMON NATHAN 10—drawing by WALT KELLY 16—JIM CUMMINS 23, 24, 25—PHILIP J. GRIFFITHS 26, 27—RICHARD L. SWANSON from BLACK STAR exc. t. cen. KYOICHI SAWADA from UPI 28, 29—KYOICHI SAWADA from UPI 30—RICHARD L. SWANSON from BLACK STAR 34, 35—JOHN ZIMMERMAN 36, 37—YALE JOEL exc. rt. painting copied by FRANK LERNER-PALACIO DE LIRIA, MADRID 54 through 65—BOB PETERSON 66, 67, 68, 69—photographs by JOHN DOMINIS; floor plans by ART ROSSER 71—JOHN DOMINIS 72, 73, 74—BURK UZZLE from MAGNUM

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Four photographers go jungle-busting

This issue contains a lead story on Cambodia which includes Correspondent John Saar's report on the chaos there. He cables:

"The submergence of seven million basically peaceful people and a beautiful country by instant war was a tragic story that we urgently wanted to tell. Yet even with four photographers on the road, two in Vietnam and two in Cambodia, it proved maddeningly difficult. Battering deep into Cambodia at speeds Rommel would have admired, the South Vietnamese armored columns were hard to catch. As they surged on from battle to battle, the shadowy ranks of the NVA closed behind them to put important scenes beyond our safe reach. Capture at one of the NVA's lightning roadblocks seemed the likeliest hazard, but when trouble came, it flew from the tube of a Russian-made rocket launcher.

"Photographer Bob Whitaker was riding on a tank. 'Bang,' he says. 'A rocket exploded on the gun turret and blew me to the ground. I was hit although I didn't know it.' Whitaker, a London-based free lance who was once official photographer to the Beatles, was seriously wounded in the chest and thigh. Jungle-busting with the troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment was a quantum leap from Whitaker's usual show biz beat, and after only four weeks in Vietnam he was pale, gaunt and 24 pounds lighter. He was flown home before he could get his pictures [a soldier picked up his camera and took the one shown here].

"Philip Jones Griffiths, another British photographer, raced north to the Fishhook to take over the assignment. A loquacious Welshman with two years' experience of Vietnam, Griffiths is not renowned for his patience. Unable to abide the delays and uncertainties of Vietnamese-flown helicopters, he wedged his six-foot figure into LIFE's blood-red minijep and drove off over the insecure Cambodian roads. Later, when his speeding broke the engine, he 'borrowed' a real Jeep to get back in the action. 'Griffiths,' as the current Saigon joke has it, 'takes pretty good pictures for a car thief.'

"In Phnom Penh, Dick Swanson had an eerie sense of *déjà vu*. He has been covering Vietnam for LIFE since 1965. He went through the Tet assault on Saigon; now he was waiting for a similar attack on another capital. As the threat of a battle for the city receded, Swanson wangled a security pass to Phnom Penh's airfield and covered the first Cambodian army combat assault from Vietnamese helicopters.

"When UPI's Japanese photographer Kyoichi Sawada stopped to take pictures of South Vietnamese looters, he was threatened by angry soldiers who demanded his film. He coolly refused and walked off." The picture appears on pages 26-27.



WOUNDED WHITAKER

Ralph Graves

RALPH GRAVES
Managing Editor

LIFE

REPORT ON CAMBODIA

The tottering wreck
we leave behind

CALIFORNIA
GIRLS
SPANGLER
THE BEACH



Katie O'Pace, 18,
in the surf at Ventura

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