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The authors. For Far Eastern correspondent Stanley Karnow, the story of the Vietcong guerrillas is his third major article on Vietnam to appear in The Post within the past year. . . . While covering the elimination races for the America's Cup, contributing writer Lewis H. Lapham got soaked to the skin the first day, suffered a mild case of sunstroke the second and became seasick the third, but now he counts himself a seasoned sailor. . . . Richard Armstrong spent a month traveling 2,500 miles through tragic Appalachia to get a closer look at how poverty has taken over a once great industrial area of the country. . . . Frank X. Tolbert, who reports on the fate of the widow of slain policeman J. D. Tippit, is a columnist for the Dallas News and has had several

books published, among them Day of San Jacinto and An Informal History of Texas. . . . Seeing his political dreams evaporate after he lost the Republican presidential nomination (see The Post, July 11-18), writer Marvin Kitman has decided to try his hand at becoming a big-time capitalist. . . . On a visit to the set of Good-bye, Charlie, Debbie Reynolds' latest film, contributing writer Richard Warren Lewis was mistaken for an extra in a party scene and had to talk his way out of a minor role in the movie.

The cover. The aerial photograph of American Eagle, one of the 12-meter yachts competing for the chance to defend the coveted America's Cup for the United States, was taken by John Zimmerman.

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TRAGEDY OF APPALACHIA