

How Mt. Angel Met the Orphans

Mt. Angel, Ore.

A group of 148 South Vietnamese orphans and refugees arrived here yesterday after a day of feverish preparations by the 2500 residents of Mt. Angel.

Retired Army Colonel Harry Lambert had arranged to care for 30 handicapped Vietnamese orphans in his home. One day before they were due, he found out more than 100 children and other refugees were coming.

The children stepped or were carried off buses in Mt. Angel less than two hours after they disembarked from a World Airways DC-8 in Portland yesterday afternoon.

"They're very tired," said a volunteer who rode on one

of the buses from Portland. "I think they're scared to death."

The refugees were taken to the town's Oktoberfest beer hall where cots had been set up by nuns and volunteers. Workers said almost everyone in Mt. Angel had pitched in to prepare for the refugees.

About 130 of the group are children. Seventy-six of them are orphans aged 3 to 18. Most of the other children were accompanied by their mothers. Many of the orphans wore leg braces or leaned on crutches.

Lambert said the departure from Saigon was done "very cleverly and we don't want to say how because someone else might want to do it."

Lambert had arranged to bring 30 Vietnamese children to his home with the aid of the Rev. Robert Crawford, who operated a polio center in Saigon and counseled at several orphanages. Father Crawford accompanied the refugees here.

"Most of the children are handicapped," said Lambert's wife, who met the plane. She said they would have been killed by Communists because they are unacceptable in a Communist society.

Father Crawford said the flight from Saigon was paid for by Edward Daly, president of World Airways, who has been active in bringing orphans out of the war-torn country.

Associated Press