

11 Emigres

Stranded In Trailer

ORLANDO, Fla., June 13 (AP)—A new life in America for 11 Vietnamese refugees began with their being stranded in a sweltering two-bedroom mobile home without electricity, running water, or plumbing. It was located in the middle of an isolated orange grove. Among the refugees was a 23-day-old baby.

Their sponsor, Mary Kenny, said she gave the refugees a .22-caliber rifle when they arrived and told them to shoot at intruders. She also said that hardship was part of the American pioneer spirit.

"I Vietnam I was never afraid in the war," said Nguyen Phuc Bao Duc, a former army lieutenant colonel who lost his left arm and leg in the war. "But here I am very afraid all the time."

"I stay here 12 days. Now I want to go back to Eglin (Air Force Base refugee camp). If we know the way, we walk to the airport."

The refugees, members of two families, were moved to an Orlando hotel Thursday night after the Orlando Sentinel Star and the Red Cross learned of their plight.

Mrs. Kenny told the Sentinel she had hoped the refugees, all Saigon urban dwellers, would share-crop hay and oranges on the 20-acre site near Ocoee, about 11 miles

west of Orlando. Their rent would be \$166 a month.

She called the affair "a big mistake" and agreed the refugees should return to Eglin. Mrs. Kenny blamed the problem on volunteer agencies at Eglin and a tenant who refused to move out of a trailer so that one of the refugee families could move in.

But the tenant, J. R. Blatchford, 67, denied he was asked to leave and said he had been hired as a "kind of watchman for the place."

Duc, his wife, 6-year-old daughter and 55-year-old aunt arrived at the trailer May 31. The next night, Nguyen Hong Giap, 48, his wife, their two young children and his 62-year-old mother-in-law, his sister-in-law and her baby, born at Eglin, arrived at the orange grove.

The trailer contained two beds and the children slept on the floor. Because of the 90 degree temperatures dropping to the mid-70s at night, the children became uncomfortable.

Otto Van Schaick, who leases the land to Mrs. Kenny and Mrs. Derry Sampen, who lives a mile away, said they had been delivering milk cartons of water to the trailer.

Of the Spartan facilities in the trailer, Mrs. Kenny said: "If these are the kind of people who are going to do this country any good, they've got to have the pioneer spirit."

Officials said they would try to resettle the family in the Orlando area.