

Home Is Surprising

Wives Tell Of POWs First Words

The wife of an ex-POW, emerging from a happy reunion, reported yesterday that her husband was surprised by high prices and short skirts, and somewhat distressed by anti-war activities.

Helen Brunstrom of Tacoma, Wash., said the only sad part of her reunion Wednesday with her husband, Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Alan Brunstrom, was finding a shabby pair of sandals he had worn in the prison camp and a tiny tin cup and spoon that was "all he ate with for seven years."

When she pulled them from his duffle bag, she said, her husband told her, "Put those things away and don't ever touch them again."

SETTING

Mrs. Brunstrom described her reunion at a Travis Air Force Base news conference with the wives of Air Force Lieutenant William Arcuri

of Yuba City and Air Force Captain Terry Geloneck of Beale AFB.

Geloneck and Arcuri were co-pilots of a B-52 bomber shot down last December over North Vietnam.

Mrs. Brunstrom said her husband thought the December bombings helped win his release and added that he

had told her the POWs had been unhappy with anti-war activities in the United States.

"Over-all, the husbands didn't appreciate the anti-war activities of their relatives. The men weren't too proud of that," Mrs. Brunstrom said. She did not elaborate.



UPI Telephoto

POW wives Andrea Arcuri, Jane Geloneck and Helen Brunstrom at the Travis news conference.

BUOY

The wives said their husbands repeatedly told them that patriotism had buoyed their spirits in prison. All three plan to continue their military careers, they said.

Asked about her husband's reaction to changes in the U.S. since his capture 82 months ago on April 22, 1966, Mrs. Brunstrom, 39, replied:

"He was amazed at how short all the skirts are. Yes, I did get a little jealous about that."

She described her husband's reaction to the discovery that his daughter, Katherine, who was only 4 when he last saw her, now is 12 and wears a bra.

"He said, 'Are those two straps what I think they are?'" and I said, 'Yes.' And he said, "Oh, my God.'"

PRICES

Mrs. Brunstrom said her husband was most surprised at the prices when they shopped for clothing at the base store Wednesday night.

She said he already had clipped advertisements showing a new car and an airplane he wants to buy.

"But he was so amazed at how much they will cost," she said.

Mrs. Arcuri and Mrs. Brunstrom said they slipped gold wedding bands on their husbands' fingers after their first embraces when the men stepped off the plane.

Both said their husbands appeared to be in good physical condition. Mrs. Arcuri said her main concern was that her husband has a dislocated knee.

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