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## 2 Airmen Cleared of Distributing Peace Leaflets

By ANTHONY RIPLEY

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MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, Idaho, Dec. 9—A few of the spectators at a special court-martial exploded with joy, shouting "Wow" and pummeling the back of a young airman today as he was cleared of charges of illegally distributing peace literature at this fighter plane base in southwestern Idaho.

When the military judge, Lieut. Col. Allan C. Smith, restored order, James C. Schaffer, 20 years old, of Hamburg, N. Y., reached quietly for the hand of his civilian lawyer, Mark Lane, and gave him the special handshake of many in the peace movement.

Within a few hours, similar charges of distributing leaflets in enlisted men's barracks without the approval of the commander were dropped against a second defendant, Airman 1st Cl. Thomas A. Spalding, 21, of Evansville, Ind.

It was a case that has had a heavy impact on this remote base of the Tactical Air Command—almost as much as Mr. Lane's presence has had upon the nearby town of Mountain Home.

### Opens Coffee House

Mr. Lane, 44, author of "Rush to Judgment," about the assassination of President Kennedy, is a former one-term New York State Assemblyman from Manhattan. He arrived in Mountain Home in April to take part in a peace demonstration and stayed on, organizing an antiwar coffeehouse called The Covered Wagon.

In a town of 7,000 whose fortunes rise and fall with an air base that has about the same population, the coffeehouse drew immediate notice when it opened. The young people operating it had continuing trouble with vandalism and fistfights.

The coffeehouse, in an abandoned movie theater on North Main Street, was destroyed by a fire Nov. 21 that Police Chief

Nelson H. Olds Jr. called arson. The matter is still under investigation.

Now there is hardly anyone at the air base or in the city who has not heard of The Covered Wagon or Mr. Lane, the bearded New York militant.

"He's here to agitate at the base," said Earl R. Orbin, a retired Air Force man who runs the Chamber of Commerce. "It doesn't bother us and the base can take care of its own problems. Of course, there are a few hot heads."

The Covered Wagon has helped organize a 40-mile march across the sage brush-covered Idaho desert to protest contractors who produce goods for war, has picketed at an "appreciation" dinner held by the Boise Chamber of Commerce for Gen. William C. Westmoreland, the Army Chief of Staff, marched to protest the nuclear weapons testing at Amchitka Island in Alaska,

and brought in such celebrities as Jane Fonda, Donald Sutherland and Dick Gregory to speak.

When film was taken from the camera of Carolyn Mugar and destroyed at a Boise demonstration, Miss Mugar, who works with Mr. Lane, sued and won a judgment of \$10.25 from Sheriff Paul Bright of Ada County. The sheriff failed to pay until Miss Mugar attempted to have the court seize his gun, badge, horse and a razor strap that hangs in his office.

At the base, the effect of The Covered Wagon and its newspaper, Helping Hand, is difficult to gauge. One enlisted man at the base estimated that 35 officers and men of the 3,500 at the base belonged to the antiwar group but that their work was supported by about 10 per cent of the base personnel.