

Freed Yank Goes Home for Holiday

SF Examiner

PHOENIXVILLE (Pa.) — (UPI) — Richard Fecteau today began his first Christmas celebration in 19 years.

Fecteau said he would leave Valley Forge Army Hospital, return to his home town of Lynn, Mass., and see his family for the first time in almost two decades.

Fecteau, 44, has been confined to the hospital since his release from a Communist

Chinese prison and return to the United States Dec. 12.

He has undergone a complete medical examination and treatment for a minor eye infection.

Going Home

"Fortunately, I am going home for Christmas," he told newsmen.

He appeared relaxed and in good health, but retained a prisoner's posture, keeping his hands folded and his eyes fixed on the ground.

The last words of his brief statement were:

"I want to wish you a Merry Christmas."

He declined further comment, saying he was afraid "any statement I make may be misinterpreted to the detriment of those (Americans) still in China."

Twin Daughters

Fecteau will be reunited with his parents, his ex-wife and twin 21 year old daughters. He has not seen his children since they were infants.

Fecteau and Mary Ann Harbert, 26, of Palo Alto, Calif., were flown here following their release by the Communists.