

NEW WAVE



Vicksburg traffic department employees Ralph Hanes, left, and Mac McAdam carry away the old traffic signal from the intersection of Bowmar Avenue and Washington Street.

City Four-Way Lights Giving Way To More Modern, One-Way Kind

By CHRISTA CLARK
Staff Writer

Vicksburg's four-way traffic signals, considered by many to be a piece of history, are disappearing in favor of more modern fare.

Only three four-way traffic signals remain of the about 25 which once directed traffic flow in downtown Vicksburg.

The four-way signal at Washington Street and Bowmar Avenue is being replaced with one-way signals which need only to be unwrapped. The other two lights — at South and Walnut streets and Clay and Walnut

streets — are due to be replaced soon, city traffic coordinator Jimmy Brooks said.

"We won't get to those for a while because we are upgrading in the priority areas," he said.

The lights were originally put up in the 1950s, but the city is replacing them because of new Uniform Traffic Control Manual standards and because of liability.

With the increase of traffic after 1960, traffic engineers widened roads. According to an article in the June/July issue of Mississippi Municipalities, "the resulting multi-lane intersections were often too

complex to be controlled by simple four-way signals."

At that time, cities began to use one-way signals instead of the smaller four-way signals. City traffic engineers also began to use two lights at each intersection to lessen the possibility of accidents because of bulb failure in one of the lights.

Barry Williams, president of the American Streetscape Society, said he has worked with several historic cities which are upgrading to the new standards but still keeping their old lights. Some of those cities are Natchez, Key West, Fla., Savannah, Please see LIGHTS, Page A8.

U.S. Troops Enter Haiti To Enforce New Accord

Cedras Agrees In Carter Talks To Step Aside

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The first U.S. forces landed this morning at Haiti's international airport, beginning their mission to restore the country's elected leadership.

Two waves of helicopter attack gunships set down today without resistance, the vanguard of thousands of troops who will enforce a last-minute agreement that averted an invasion of this impoverished Caribbean nation.

Maj. Gen. David Meade told reporters on arrival, "We haven't seen any resistance and we haven't expected any."

Earlier in the morning, two U.S. warships and a Coast Guard cutter glided into port.

In the distance, another U.S. ship could be seen steaming toward port. A C-130 warplane approached the international airport, where Gen. Henry Shelton, field commander of the Haiti operation, was to arrive later.

Helmeted soldiers from the first wave of helicopters dropped down on the tarmac at Port-au-Prince's international airport for a minute. They then got up when Haitian commanders walked onto the airstrip to meet them.

A second wave of copters carrying 10 or more troops each landed minutes later.

The accord reached Sunday night calls for Haiti's military leaders to step down and exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to return.

Haitians in the port went about their morning business, women carrying baskets of fruit and buckets of water on their heads and men pulling wooden carts. But there were many fewer people in the streets. Thousands fled the capital out of fear of a U.S.-led invasion or retaliation by army supporters.

But along a mile-long stretch of shoreline in Carrefour, five miles west of the capital, hundreds of people stared out from the shore or their homes at the ships and the helicopters overhead.

"We are very happy," said Levy Cadet, 45, listening to his transistor radio. "I hope that the military this time will respect the accord they've signed to give Haiti a chance to live. ... We didn't want the country to be stepped on by foreign troops, but times have changed and we must follow."

Please see HAITI, Page A8.



Vicksburg Post/AP

A U.S. soldier paints his face at Pope Air Force Base near Fayetteville, N.C., Sunday before boarding a plane to Haiti. The troops were called back after flying half way.

A Question For Clinton: When Is Job Complete?

By DAVID BEARD
Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — It was just over a year ago when Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras promised U.S. and U.N. diplomats he would step down by Oct. 15, 1993.

That day came and went.

The pledge Sunday by the Haitian military coup leader to quit by Oct. 15 this year carries greater weight because of the thousands of American soldiers arriving here to persuade him to follow through.

But troops alone won't change the deep-rooted problems of the Americas' poorest nation. The immediate lifting of a worldwide trade embargo won't put Haiti's economy back where it was before the 1991 coup. And President Clinton will want to get out of Haiti one day — perhaps the reason why at least some of the corrupt Haitian military will be allowed to survive.

For Cedras and company, the agreement offered plenty of goodies. It stipulated a general amnesty, if approved by Parliament, that could absolve the soldiers from persecution for the killings, kidnappings, rapes and extortion of supporters of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The pact doesn't state that Cedras

ANALYSIS

has to leave the country. And he can again get access to bank accounts and other assets frozen by Washington.

During two days of intense negotiations with U.S. peacemakers, Cedras also got his wish to preserve some military institutions, although the particularly violent police division is to be retooled under civilian command.

In an ironic turn, the American troops will have to coordinate their activities with Cedras and other Haitian officers they were planning just hours ago to crush militarily.

It's unclear how Aristide supporters could support such an agreement. It doesn't even mention the name of their exiled leader nor give a date for him to return to Haiti.

This time, Clinton appears to have learned the art of using force to nail down Haitian agreements. The American troops were en route to war Sunday when Cedras agreed to deal with Washington.

So now they come as peacekeepers to a polarized society. And Clinton must face a new question: When will he consider the job done?

Off-Broadway Play Focuses On City Woman

By LIBBY GASAWAY
Staff Writer

Elaine Farris Hughes is starring in the off-Broadway musical, "Two Hearts Over Easy," even though she is home in Vicksburg.

The play's characters are based on Hughes and two other women who were friends of author Bob Cabell's. He dedicated the play to these "brunch buddies," whose lives and personalities he says were his inspiration.

"We lived in the same apartment building in New York, and we became great friends," Hughes said.

"Bob is so talented ... he's a song machine," she said. "All his plays are musicals. He does the words and music, but he doesn't know music. He sings them, and has somebody tape them."

Cabell has had two major off-Broadway musicals in the past four years, "Two Hearts Over Easy," and "Pretty Faces," both in New York.

"Two Hearts Over Easy" is about

Please see PLAY, Page A8.



Elaine Hughes

Vicksburg Post/Mike Doyle

Gutsy New Miss America Calls Shots From Start

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — With three hours of sleep behind her and a roomful of reporters in front of her, Heather Whitestone demonstrated again the poise and determination that helped her become the first deaf Miss America.

She made people repeat their questions. She told photographers to stop shooting because their flashes prevented her from reading lips.

And when a persistent reporter looked puzzled at one answer, she turned the tables. "Let me know what you don't understand," she said.

And so it went Sunday as Whitestone, 21, of Birmingham, Ala., began her yearlong reign as Miss America.

She received a new red convertible, romped on the Atlantic City beach and serenely stood for photograph after photograph on the Boardwalk, where the pageant started 74 years ago.

"The most handicapped (person) in the world is a negative thinker."

Whitestone, a junior at Jacksonville State University, lost almost all her hearing at age 1½ after a reaction to a shot. She reads lips, uses a

hearing aid and knows sign language.

She needed six years of speech therapy to learn how to say her last name.

Her platform is telling young people — not only those with disabilities — that anything is possible.

She quoted Helen Keller — "Know your problems but don't let them master you" — and recalled how her mother told her that the last four letters of "American" spell "I can."

Sunday's news conference was just the first of many for Whitestone. Miss America usually travels about 20,000 miles a month for speaking engagements, presentations and other appearances.

Jayne Bray, chairwoman of the Miss America Pageant board, said it won't be easy for Whitestone.

"Maybe she won't be able to give a speech as long as a normal Miss America might give," Bray said.

Whatever obstacles she may face, Whitestone will have plenty of support from fans like Samantha Braid, a 6-year-old deaf ballerina who carried a "Miss Alabama" sign at Saturday's pageant. The sign showed a



Heather Whitestone

man using sign language to say "Deaf Like Me."