

Winds rip through California

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Howling winds up to 80 mph tore across California from the Mexican to Oregon borders for a second day today, leaving hundreds of thousands of residents without power, fanning brushfires, and contributing to at least seven deaths.

In the far north, winds clocked at 80 mph blew the roofs off the grandstand at the Humboldt County fairgrounds and a grocery store and sent a tree crashing down onto a truck on Highway 36, killing two persons inside, officials said.

An estimated 90,000 residents were left without electric power when lines were blown over, and Pacific Gas & Electric Co. could not estimate when it would be restored.

All major roads in the area were reported blocked by fallen trees and other debris. A fishing boat capsized at Humboldt Bay Bar but its small crew was pulled from the water when a Coast Guard vessel reached the scene.

U.S. 101, "The Redwood Highway," was closed from

San Francisco to the Oregon border because of fallen trees blocking the road.

A fire was burning in the Alms Ridge area of the Los Padres National Forest near Big Sur, but it was not clear if the weather caused the blaze.

An estimated 75,000 homes and businesses from the Santa Clara Valley to the northern San Francisco Peninsula lost power early today when winds downed trees and voltage lines, the utility reported.

On Tuesday, the violent winds blew down barns and airplane hangars, toppled heavy trucks, tossed chunks of brick and roofing through the windows of homes and businesses and whipped fires out of control.

Hundreds of travelers were marooned in cities throughout the Central Valley and the Mojave Desert, jamming hotels, cafes and emergency evacuation centers set up in churches and schools.

San Diego Bay was put on gale alert.

The wind conditions were

caused by an extreme low pressure system 500 miles west of San Francisco sucking air at tremendous speed from a high pressure area situated over Nevada, weather forecasters said.

An estimated 30,000 homes, offices and industries from Bakersfield south lost their power, and thick clouds of dust were reported as far away as Stockton, about 200 miles to the north.

"It's the worst I've ever seen," said California Highway Patrol Officer Jim Hill of Bakersfield. "I've been at this kind of work for 15 years, and I thought I'd seen it all ... but nothing like this."

Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. said he would probably declare

disaster areas in at least two central California towns — Bakersfield and Arvin.

Almost all activity in Bakersfield, the largest city in the Central Valley, had come to a standstill by midday Tuesday, the second day it had been battered by the winds.

Power had been cut off to much of the city as the winds tore down power lines, shattered windows and tossed trees across cars, houses and streets. Visibility was cut to zero by a thick, mustard-colored grit covering the city.

Some looting was reported.

In Arvin, a farm community of 7,000 people 20 miles south of Bakersfield along Highway 99, police said almost every home

suffered damage.

A wind gauge atop the Arvin police station registered gusts of up to 101 mph before the gauge blew apart.

The California National Guard in Bakersfield was called into active duty and rescued 35 people huddled under a bridge on Route 58 near Arvin to escape the blinding dust storm.

The winds contributed to many brush fires, the largest one on sprawling Vandenberg Air Force Base about 50 miles northwest of Santa Barbara. At least three people, including the base commander, and possibly a fourth, were killed. Scores were reported injured.

Carters plan quiet Christmas in Plains

By RICHARD E. MEYER
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Carter and his family flew from Washington today for a down-home Christmas in Georgia.

In keeping with a Carter family tradition, the president, his wife Rosalynn, daughter Amy, son Jeff and daughter-in-law Annette are planning to spend a quiet holiday in Plains.

"We plan no newsmaking activities," Press Secretary Jody Powell told reporters.

The trip means escape from Washington's foul weather and the prospect of Georgia days when the temperature climbs above freezing and the sun peeks through the clouds.

It also means an opportunity for the president and his family to see old friends again. They haven't been home since August.

And it means a chance to do some quail hunting. It's quail season in Georgia, and the president likes to hunt.

But the Carter visit also means renewed public focus on the rift among Baptists in Plains.

They have split over longstanding family conflicts, political differences and the Plains Baptist Church's refusal to let blacks be members. Opponents of that policy have formed the Maranatha Baptist Church outside of town.

Carter, a longtime opponent of the policy, nonetheless attended both churches last time he visited Plains. He went to Bible class at Plains Baptist Church and to services at Maranatha.

He prayed publicly for reconciliation.

The president is likely to visit both churches again this time for Christmas, although he has said he feels more affinity for members of the breakaway church.

"I feel more compatible with that group," he said.

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Actress caught in coke bust

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — More than 30 persons, including actress Linda Blair and two children of a state senator, have been arrested by authorities who claim to have smashed a nationwide cocaine ring.

On one of dozens of arrest warrants issued here, federal agents and local police Tuesday apprehended Miss Blair, the 18-year-old star of "The Exorcist" in Wilton, Conn., two Houston men and 32 persons in Jacksonville including the son and daughter of Sen. Dan Scarborough, D-Jacksonville.

Drug Enforcement Administration spokesman Ted Swift said in Miami that perhaps 18 more arrests were expected across the country as lawmen clean up a cocaine ring that sold \$1 million worth of the illegal drug over the last eight months.

Miss Blair was released after posting a \$2,500 bond in Stamford Common Pleas Court on a fugitive-from-justice warrant. She pleaded innocent to the Jacksonville charge of conspiracy to buy or sell cocaine.

She was arrested at her rented home in the fashionable

Fairfield County town. Police Chief Robert Northcott said a small amount of "speed" was found in her possession when she was detained and that local drug charges were also lodged against her.

A Jacksonville vice squad officer said Miss Blair was associated with several people arrested in the drug bust Tuesday. He also said drugs were delivered by a Jacksonville resident to the teen-age film star last October in New York.

Capt. John McCormick added that Miss Blair also made contact that month while attending the private funeral for members of the Lynyrd Skynyrd rock group who were killed in a plane crash in Mississippi.

"We know she came to the Lynyrd Skynyrd funeral in October and she was associated with a lot of people arrested in the investigation at that time," he said. "We know one local man made a delivery to her in New York within the past three months. We can't say if she was buying or selling. All we can say is she has associated with the group."

Late in the day, local officials asked for Miss Blair's extradition.

Among those arrested in Jacksonville were John Scarborough, 24, and his sister, Lynn, 20. They were charged with conspiracy to sell or distribute cocaine.

"If my kids are guilty, they will have to take their punishment," said Scarborough, a member of the Scarboroughs, a propriations committee. "If they are not, somebody else will pay for it."

A. J. Inglet and Garland Atkinson, both of Houston, were arrested and charged with selling three pounds of cocaine to agents in Jacksonville. Houston police reportedly found another three pounds of the illegal white powder in an apartment of one of the two men.

The investigation that led to the bust began three months ago when an undercover investigator for Duval County Sheriff Dale G. Carson penetrated the ring, officials said. The DEA was called in when the investigation spread outside Florida.

The Jacksonville connection was the focal point for passing cocaine to other points in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, New York and Connecticut, said authorities.

Quake victims number 519

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Earthquake casualties mounted today to at least 519 dead and 671 injured in 16 villages in Iran's coal basin, the nation's relief agency said. Many of the dead were said to be children trapped by collapsing mud-brick walls.

Thousands of miners and their families were homeless in subfreezing temperatures. Mining operations came to a halt, and it was feared steel production would be halted at the nation's big mill at Isfahan.

The new toll — up from 343 Tuesday — was given by Ismail Gilanpour, spokesman for the Red Lion and Sun, Iran's Red Cross.

The only foreigners reported killed were seven Afghan workers on a construction site near Zarand. Several hundred Americans are helping develop Iran's first copper mine at Sar-cheshmeh, but it is 155 miles from the quake zone.

The quake struck an area 430 miles south of Tehran before dawn Tuesday, devastating the villages of Sar-Asiyab, Gisk

and Bab-Tangol, and damaging at least 13 other villages. The damage in some of them did not become known until reconnaissance helicopters flew over them this morning.

"Oh God! You took away my only son!" cried Mohammed Hussein as he beat his forehead and searched through the ruins of his former home. Hundreds of others wailed as they searched for missing children, parents, wives or husbands.

The survivors sobbed and beat themselves in anguish inside tents set up by the Red Lion and Sun while food prepared for them by relief workers was left to be eaten by stray dogs.

Two C-130 Hercules transport planes were ferrying tents, blankets, clothing, food and medical supplies from Tehran to the stricken area.

Judge denies Torres dismissal

HOUSTON (AP) — Defense motions for dismissal and severance have been denied by a federal judge in the civil rights cases of four former Houston police officers accused in the death of Joe Campos Torres.

The body of Torres was recovered last May from Houston's Buffalo Bayou, three days after he had been arrested by police in a disturbance in a bar.

U. S. District Judge Ross N. Sterling denied a motion Tuesday to sever Joseph James Janish and Louis Glenn Kinney from the trial of Terry Wayne Denson and Stephen Orlando.

Denson and Orlando, who were indicted on a charge of murder in the May 5 drowning death of Torres, were convicted of negligent homicide in a state district court trial at Huntsville Oct. 6 and assessed one year probation sentences. Kinney testified under immunity during the trial.

All four defendants were named in a four-count federal grand jury indictment two weeks later. It charged them with violating Torres' rights in the incident which led to his drowning in the bayou.

Attorneys for Janish and Kinney argued that the state court convictions of Denson and Orlando would prejudice their clients' cases.

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Your money's worth Cracking down on student loan defaulters

Sylvia Porter

The U.S. Office of Education is cracking down on former students who have defaulted on their federally guaranteed student loans — and a key reason is that federal law prohibits the government from bringing suit against debtors whose loans are six years old or older.

Right now, almost 27,000 defaulters owing \$34.6 million of loans already are or soon will be in the six-year or over category — thus, perhaps beyond the point where the government can take legal action to try to collect.

At stake altogether are debts totaling about a half-billion dollars to the U.S., with a huge 344,000 borrowers — or 12.2 per cent of those receiving loans — in default.

How troublesome could the cut-off date turn out to be? "The statute of limitations is a fuzzy mess," admits Carolyn Betts, acting head of the Office of Education's operation division. "We've no precedent within the Guaranteed Student Loan Program, so we don't know for sure when the six years begins to run. Does it start when a borrower misses a payment or when the government takes over the loan from the original lender?"

Legal counsel for the Office of Education, Sheldon Repp, points out to my Washington associate, Brooke Shearer, that while it would be to the government's advantage to have the six-year period kick in as late as possible, he believes it would begin when a borrower first defaults. He adds, though, that the time period would start all over again if a borrower makes another payment or even acknowledges the debt. He says, too, that the statute of limitations, under federal rules, is an "affirmative defense" — it could be ignored unless the borrower raises it on his own behalf.

Still, the ticking clock is a major incentive for the OE to track down defaulters and refer older cases to local U.S. attorneys for collection action.

The referral program is well underway and is producing results. Many regions are reporting the highest collection

rates in their history and while most of the payments have been voluntary, officials believe publicity about the referral program and possible legal action have spurred defaulters to pay.

Default judgments have been obtained on many cases that reached the courts. The OE turned over one claim for \$6,200 owed, it turned out, by an employe of the district attorney, earning more than \$12,000 and about to sell his house at a profit. The U.S. attorney filed a lien on the debtor's escrow account for the sale of the house. Within two weeks, he had collected the entire amount owed.

In another case, the OE was unable to collect \$3,500, plus interest, owed by a defaulter who was a professional basketball player, earning about \$65,000 a year. The case was given to a regional U.S. attorney who took legal steps to attach the man's wages. Repayments began last February.

Other aspects of OE's crackdown on defaulters include:

Sending letters, which are, in effect, overdue notices, to individuals whose defaults are four years old or older.

Setting up a computerized billing system to process the rising number of defaulters. The system should be fully in operation by spring 1978.

Hiring a private collection agency to augment OE's own stepped-up collection effort. Bids for this job already have been submitted and the contract will be awarded before yearend.

Running a computerized search, called "Operation Cross-Check," to locate Guaranteed Student Loan defaulters among the Department of Health, Education & Welfare's own employes. This search procedure may be expanded to other federal agencies.

Requiring lenders, who actually make the student loans which the government insures, to use a pre-claims assistance firm to try to locate defaulters before the lenders turn over the claim to OE. Previously, lenders had the option to use this firm's services. Now it is mandatory. When optional and now, when mandatory, the locating fee is paid by the U.S. government.

DUNLAPS

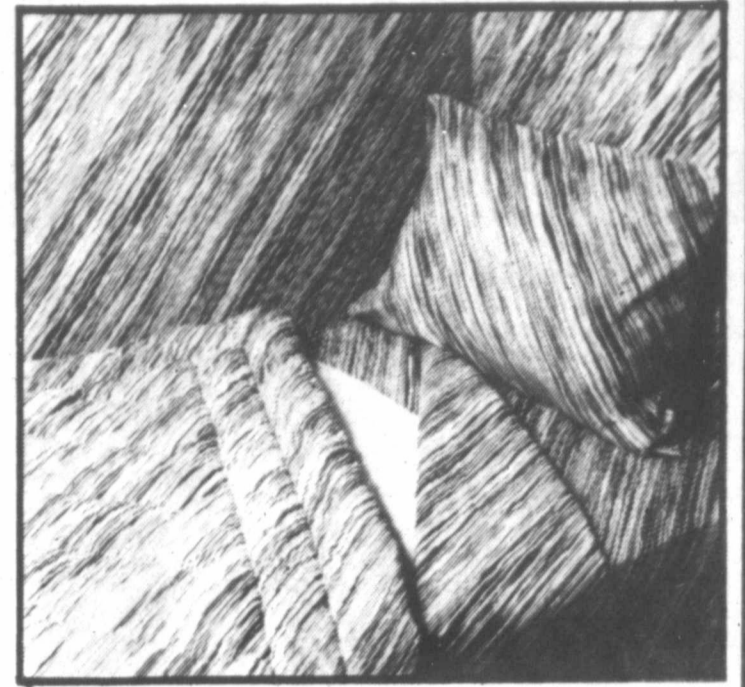
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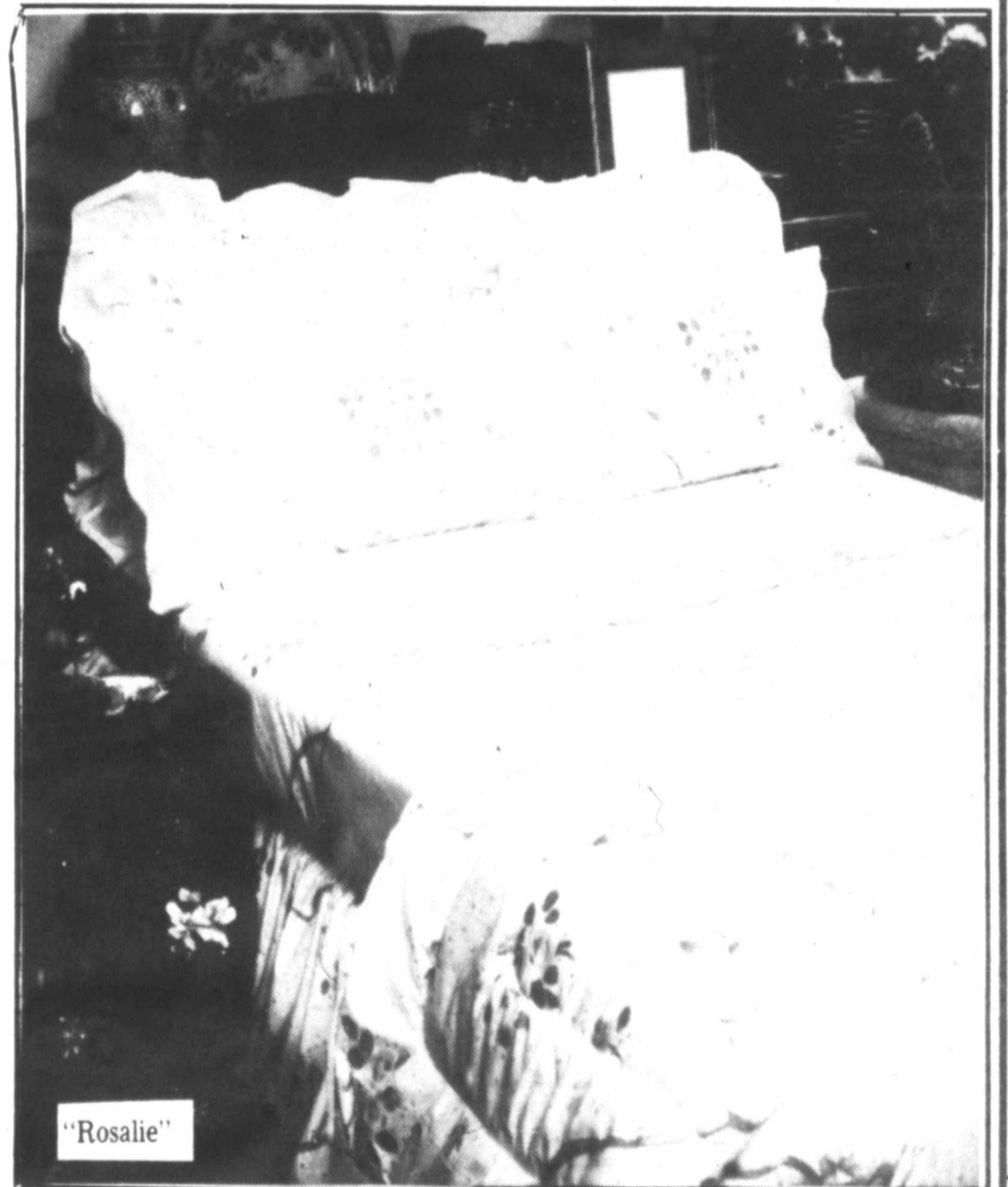
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Pawn broker asked for help by voice above

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston pawn shop manager says he heard someone calling for help from the attic of his shop.

"Please help me. I want to turn myself into the police. I'm hungry. I'm thirsty. I'm hurting," the voice from the attic said.

Stan Moore, manager of Triangle Pawn Shop, said Monday a man then came down from the attic and said he had been there about four days following a burglary of the shop last Thursday.

Police arrived and arrested Orlando Vasquez, 32. Police quoted the 5-foot-3 inch 105-pounder as saying he had been in the 18-inch high attic since three other men were arrested while breaking into the building. Vasquez was charged with burglary and jailed in lieu of \$5,000 bond.

Moore said the burglars entered the shop through a hole in the roof. He said he had the roof repaired last Friday.

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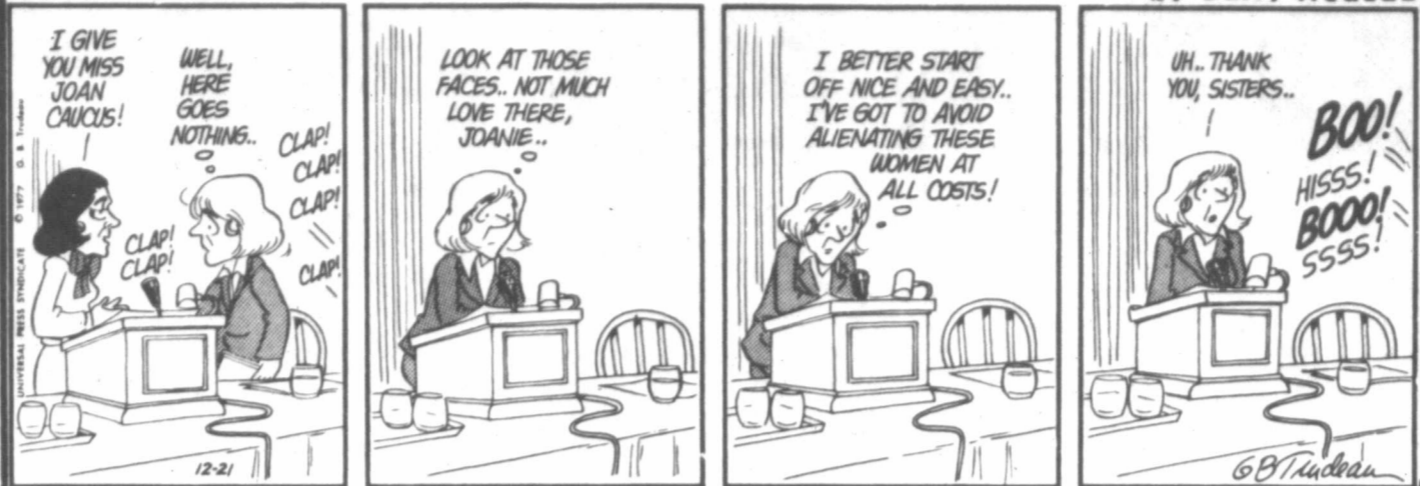
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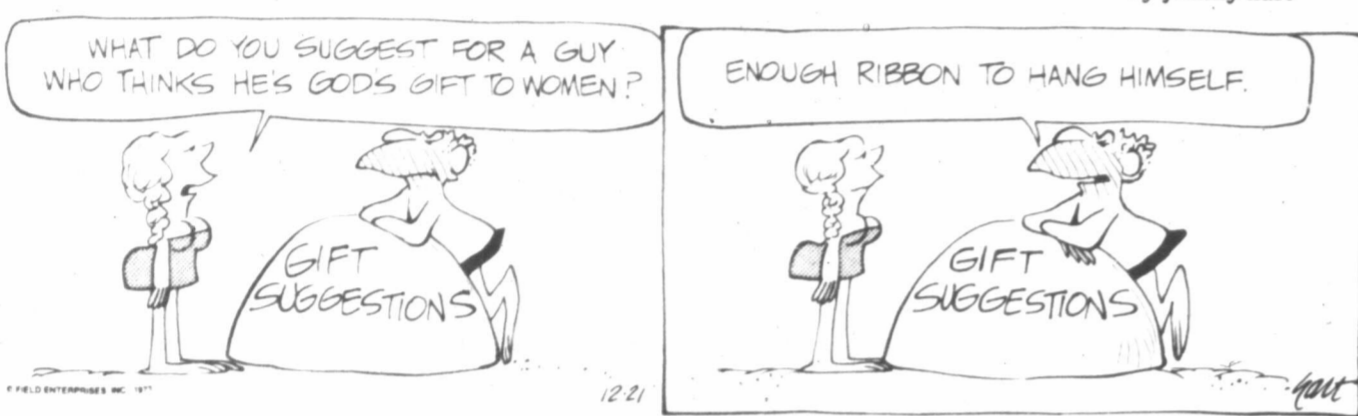
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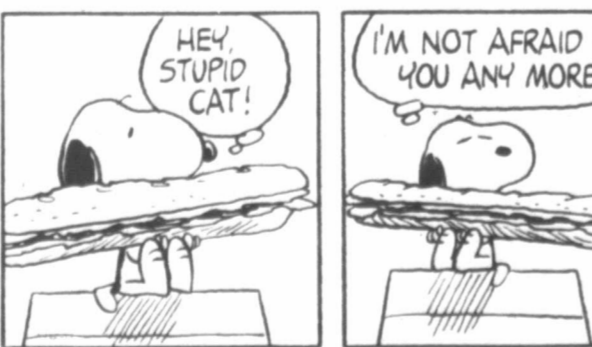
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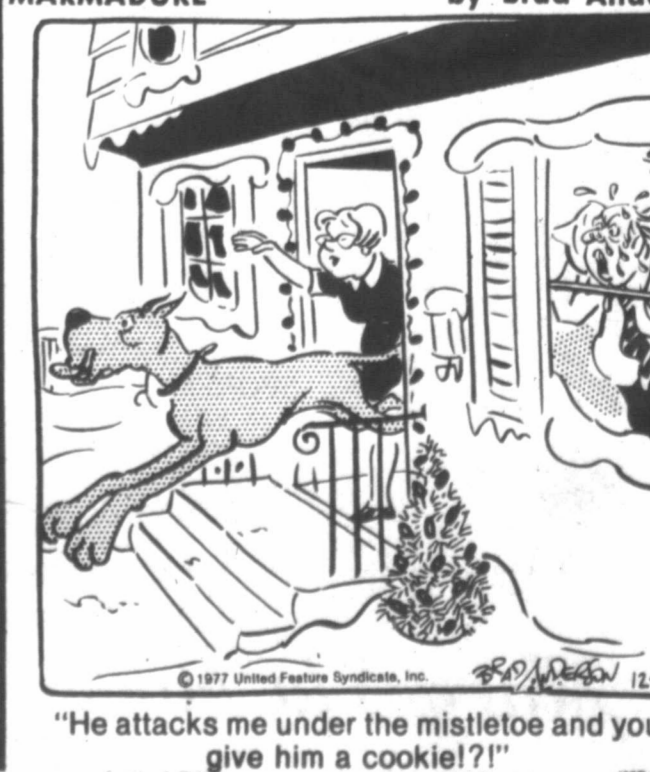
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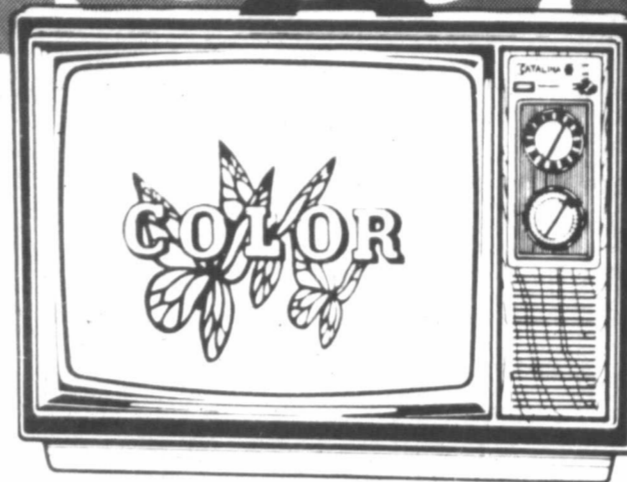
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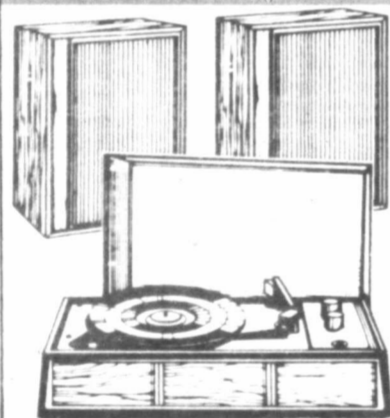
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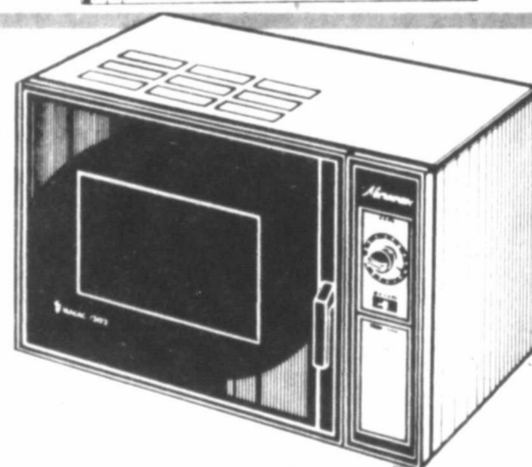
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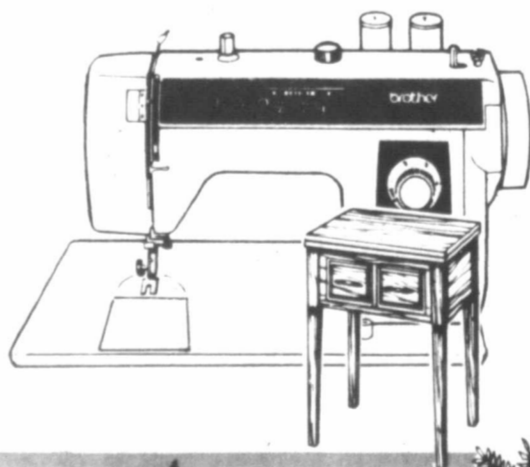
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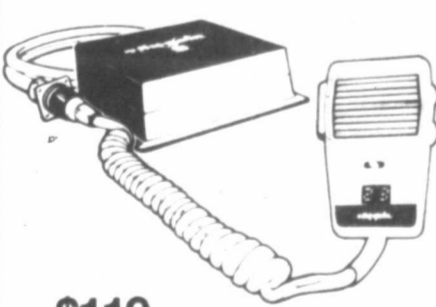
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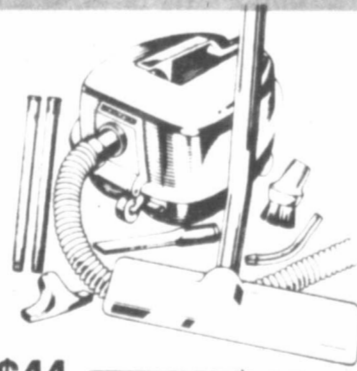
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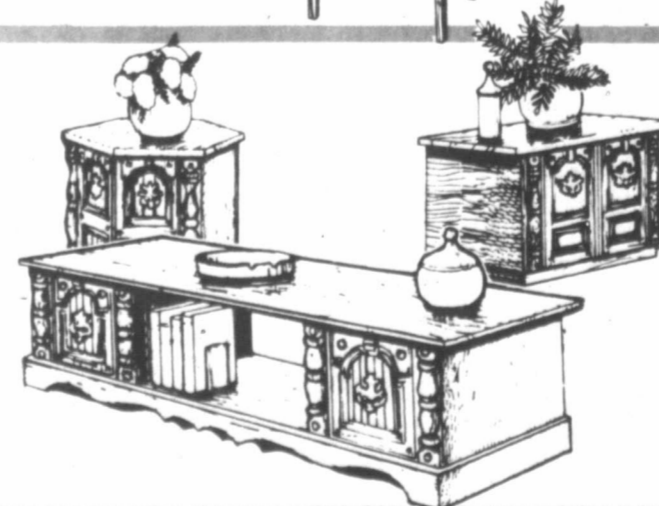
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