

The Pampa News



FRIDAY

December 23, 1977

Vol. 71 - No. 223

16 Pages

The Top O Texas Watchful Newspaper

Daily15¢
Sunday25¢

45 grain silos explode in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Rescuers burrowed through tons of shattered concrete and twisted steel today, looking for 13 men feared crushed in the rubble of a massive grain elevator explosion that may have killed as many as 34 persons.

So far, crews working through the night under eerie, high-intensity spotlights had recovered 21 bodies from the wreckage of 45 silos which blew

up in quick succession Thursday. Ten injured men were taken to local hospitals, where six remained in critical condition today.

The missing were believed trapped under wreckage where the elevator's two-story control building and lunchroom of the Continental Grain Co's elevator complex used to be. The building was flattened by flying chunks of concrete and steel from a weighing station

perched atop the 130-foot silos. Until early today, the total of dead and missing had been set at 25. But sheriff's deputies said they increased the number of possible victims to 34 after receiving late reports of other missing persons who worked for subcontractors doing work at the elevator.

Federal, state and local officials began investigations into why the silos blew up Thursday morning, firing in chain reaction like huge Roman candles.

The initial theory blamed spontaneous combustion of the fine, highly volatile powdered grain dust.

The constant threat of explosion at grain elevators is so great that even telephones are specially sealed to prevent sparks.

Waves of smoke seeped from the shattered silos for hours after the blast. The explosions destroyed 45 of the 73 silos which, along with the office

buildings, made up the elevator complex.

More than 50 men were working at the complex when the explosion came at 9:10 a.m., two hours after the shift had changed and departing workmen had picked up their Christmas turkeys, a traditional gift from the company.

Turkeys for others were stored in a warehouse which was turned into a makeshift morgue. Families of the missing men gathered along the nearby Mis-

issippi River levee, some of them braving the biting wind for much of Thursday night.

"I just hope they find him and he's alive," said one woman whose husband was missing. "First I kind of broke down, but after a while I began to brace and just hope he's alive."

Bulldozers and towering cranes scraped away large hunks of debris. Occasionally, the equipment stopped and a rescuer peered into a dark hole

in the rubble, looking for survivors — or, more likely, bodies. When a body was spotted, the digging continued by hand with chunks of concrete passing along a human chain.

Michael Gavron, a federal grain inspector from Wilmington, Del., was standing on the deck of a ship about 200 yards from the blast.

"I heard an explosion and turned around," he said. "The only thing I saw was big flames

jumping up from the top of the whole elevator.

"All I can say is the structure is tons and tons of reinforced concrete and steel and it was down to the ground in little bits and pieces — little rocks."

The blast could be heard throughout the metropolitan area. Across the river, animals at New Orleans' Audubon Park Zoo cried hysterically. A black cloud of dust and debris towered 500 feet into the air.

Carter warns farmers of consumer backlash

PLAINS, Ga. (AP) — President Carter is warning farmers besieging his hometown with pickup trucks and tractors in a demonstration for higher prices that triggering a consumer backlash will hurt them.

By the score, the farmers were converging on Plains today, asking to see Carter personally about their demands. The president's spokesman, Rex Granum, said Carter hadn't decided whether to meet with the farmers.

"As long as farmers let the consumers know they have got

a problem, that is good," the president said Thursday. "But if they ever turn the consumers against them, they will be worse off than they were before."

The protest by farmers, some of them on strike, resembled a "tractorcade" that paralyzed this little country town Nov. 25. Estimates of the number of tractors in that demonstration ran to 20,000. They brought traffic to a standstill.

State strike leader Leighton Kersey of Unadilla, Ga., called today's demonstration "a

peaceful protest." He told reporters: "We realize these are the holidays, and there'll be a lot of traffic. We don't want anybody to get hurt."

Some of the tractors in town before sunup bore signs saying: "We're through working for nothing" and "Eat today — you may not be as fortunate tomorrow."

They were parked along the road through town near Carter's old peanut warehouse and processing plant.

Most of the demonstrators, however, drove pickup trucks. "It's too cold to drive the tractors," one said. Some of the farmers in the last demonstration reportedly suffered frostbite.

During a stroll down Main Street on Thursday to wish old friends Merry Christmas, the president dropped in on his cousin, state Sen. Hugh Carter, at his antique shop, and got a vivid account of the last protest.

"I knew you were for them," the senator told the president, "but it was hard for me to see they were a little angry. They wanted you down here. They started shouting, you know. 'We want Jimmy. We want Jimmy. Where is Jimmy?'"

The president was at his Camp David retreat in the

mountains of western Maryland at the time.

During a brief exchange with reporters at the end of his walk and prepared statements afterward, the president said:

"He has made 'all the decisions' on the fiscal 1980 federal budget, which he will propose to Congress next month. But he will take one more look at the budget summary when he returns to Washington. He 'absolutely' intends to balance the budget by the end of his first term in 1981.

"He is putting the 'final touches' on an executive order carrying out his reorganization of the nation's intelligence agencies, giving CIA Director Stanfield Turner budget authority over all of them.

"He thinks it is 'regrettable' that Congress adjourned without completing action on his energy program.

News prints early edition

The regular Sunday edition of The Pampa News is being prepared early and will be delivered Saturday morning instead of Sunday morning. It will allow carriers and employees of The News to spend Christmas Eve with their families. Subscribers who have not received a paper Saturday morning can call 609-2525 between 7 and 9:30 a.m. and one will be delivered Merry Christmas.



Christmas at day care center

Approximately 50 children at the Community Day Care Center were treated to a Christmas party Thursday with a surprise visit from Santa. Alisha Withers, daughter of Mrs. Teresa Withers,

inspects the present she received. The Christmas tree was donated by Life Underwriters and parents brought the refreshments. (Photo by John Nooncaster)

Grand jury to hear facts in jail hanging

A grand jury was convened at 10 a.m. today in the Gray County Courthouse "for the purposes of inquiring into the facts and circumstances surrounding the death of Ricky Dale Russell" in the Gray County Jail Thursday, according to District Attorney Harold Comer.

Comer told The News he was convening the grand jury at the request of Gray County Sheriff Rufe Jordan, who told The News Thursday that "I think it's the thing to do. Nothing like this has ever happened in my 27 years as sheriff of Gray County, and I

just feel that all the facts should be publicly presented."

The body of Russell was found hanging in the day room of the jail at about 6 a.m. Thursday, and all indications were that he'd committed suicide.

Russell had been booked into jail on Nov. 8, 1977, after his probation on delivery of controlled substances had been revoked.

Comer said he felt there would be very few witnesses called, and that the grand jury's deliberations would be "short."



Christmas fun and fund raising

Angie Richardson, a junior at Pampa High School, poses with Santa, who spends the rest of the year disguised as John English, PHS counselor. The student council at high school, with the cooperation of costumed counselors, sold Christmas photographs to raise money for their coming projects. (Photo by John Nooncaster)

Lone eagle diverts barge canal

PORT LAVACA, Texas (AP) — A lone bald eagle and bureaucratic red tape have combined to increase the costs of dredging the Victoria Barge Canal.

And King Fisher, the owner of a Port Lavaca dredging firm

doing the work, is upset.

"What do we want to do in this nation — make money for our people or make more eagles?" he said Thursday. "I'm in favor of ecology, but we have got to have more brains than this."

Fisher's immediate problem is a bald eagle whose nest is located about a quarter of a mile from the canal. Officials have told Fisher he can't do any work on a 7,000-foot section until the eagle's eggs hatch and

the baby birds have learned to fly.

According to Fisher, if he does not have the dredging finished on time, he will face a \$25,000 late fee plus a \$61-a-day penalty.

Fisher said the \$1,535,000 project in the 22-mile canal was scheduled for completion in February.

The contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stipulated the firm was to avoid working in a bird's nesting area.

And Fisher said the project specifications called for starting at the end furthest from the disputed area, "otherwise we could have finished this area near the eagle's nest first."

Fisher said although the contract was let a year ago, he was stalled for months in beginning work because the government wanted to know why his lowest bid was more than

the government estimated the work to cost.

Then the government took 146 days to be sure Fisher's figures were accurate.

"We'll finish everything except that 7,000-foot area very shortly," Fisher said. "We'll have to pull our two rigs out and go somewhere else to work, then come back again in March. This is where the \$25,000 comes in."

Fisher isn't only upset about the cost. He says the tugboats in the canal make much more noise than his barges but no one's restricting them.

"We have mufflers on the barges," Fisher said. "The tugboats that run up and down the canal three or four times a day make two to four times more noise than we do."

The bald eagle is on the nation's rare and endangered species list.

Gas pricing deadlocked; energy bill chances slim

WASHINGTON (AP) — The natural gas pricing deadlock which stalled congressional action this year on President Carter's energy program may scuttle his chances of getting a comprehensive energy bill next year.

A number of key congressmen say they doubt whether the natural gas stalemate can ever be broken, at least with the current makeup of Congress, and suggest the dispute may simply be dropped.

"We may not have a gas bill. I'm at wit's end as to where we go from here," said Sen. Bennett Johnston, D-La., whose effort to win support for a last-ditch compromise was rejected 16-2 on Thursday by Senate energy conferees.

After the vote, frustrated members of the House-Senate conference committee recessed for the year. They had stayed in Washington after congressional adjournment because of a personal appeal by President Carter to try to reach agree-

ment before Christmas. Although the committee will meet again in late January, leaders were not hopeful that a breakthrough on the gas-pricing issue would come then, either.

The stalemate is jeopardizing prospects for final congressional action on the plan Carter sent Congress last April to conserve energy through federal regulation and a series of taxes on energy use.

The conference committee, which began the job of reconciling wide House and Senate differences over the energy bill three months ago, has been stalled since it took up the natural gas portion on Dec. 2.

Some key members of the panel have suggested that the gas-pricing legislation be dumped — or at least put aside — and Carter sent the fragments of his plan already tentatively agreed to by conferees.

That would be a blow to hopes by Carter and House leaders of getting a comprehensive national energy bill

next year. But so far, no one in either the administration or Congress has been able to suggest a way to break the gas-pricing deadlock.

Conferees already have approved parts of the plan dealing with energy conservation, industrial conversions from oil and gas to coal, and electric rate-setting.

Although Carter made retention of price controls on natural gas a key part of his plan, Congress has been battling the issue of controls versus deregulation for more than 20 years without reaching agreement.

Both House and Senate are near evenly divided on the issue, with a slight edge in the House in favor of keeping controls and an equally thin margin in the Senate for lifting them.

The House passed Carter's plan to continue controls at somewhat higher levels. But the Senate voted to lift the price ceilings after two years.

Inside today's News

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The forecast for today calls for mild and windy weather with a high today in the low 60's (17 degrees C.) and a low tonight near 40. (4 degrees C.) The high for Saturday will be near 60. (15 degrees C.) Winds will be from the northwest at 20 to 30 m.p.h. this afternoon, becoming 15 to 25 m.p.h. tonight and 25 to 35 m.p.h. on Saturday.

— Will Rogers, 1929



The Pampa News

EVER STRIVING FOR TOP O' TEXAS
TO BE AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Let Peace Begin With Me

This newspaper is dedicated to furnishing information to our readers so that they can better promote and preserve their own freedom and encourage others to see its blessing. For only when man understands freedom and is free to control himself and all he possesses can he develop to his utmost capabilities.

We believe that all men are equally endowed by their Creator, and not by a government, with the right to take moral action to preserve their life and property and secure more freedom and keep it for themselves and others.

To discharge this responsibility, free men, to the best of their ability, must understand and apply to daily living the great moral guide expressed in the Coveting Commandment.

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The Pampa News
Serving the Top 'O' Texas
72 Years
Pampa, Texas 79065
403 W. Atchison
PO Box 2198

Circulation Certified by
ABC Audit

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Subscription rates in Pampa and RTZ by carrier and motor route are \$3.00 per month, \$9.00 per three months, \$18.00 per six months and \$36.00 per year. THE PAMPA NEWS is not responsible for advance payment of two or more months made to the carrier. Please pay directly to the News Office any payment that exceeds the current collection period.
Subscription rates by mail are: RTZ \$9.00 per three months, \$18.00 per six months and \$36.00 per year. Outside of RTZ, \$9.75 per three months, \$19.50 per six months and \$39 per year. Mail subscriptions must be paid in advance. No mail subscriptions are available within the city limits of Pampa. Servicemen and students by mail \$2.00 per month. Single copies are 15 cents daily and 25 cents on Sunday.
Published daily except Saturday by the Pampa News, Atchison and Sonerville Streets, Pampa, Texas 79065. Phone 669-2525 all departments. Entered as second-class matter under the act March 9, 1978.

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QUOTE/UNQUOTE

What people are saying...



Ian Smith

"I want to make it categorically clear that I have no intention of joining any fake so-called internal settlement talks by Smith and his puppets."

— Rhodesian nationalist leader Joshua Nkomo, discussing the talks that Prime Minister Ian D. Smith has started with black leaders inside the country.

"Men's magazines are only a tiny part of my business, but that's not the point. The point is that Henson McAuliffe is messing around with First Amendment rights. He's making us select what our readers can read... or we go to jail."
— Gwenth Mac, president of the Georgia Retail News Dealers' Association, commenting on the anti-obscenity drive in Atlanta led by Henson McAuliffe, the Fulton County Solicitor General.

"Syria believes any political activity, whether in Cairo or Geneva, would serve capitulatory schemes and be a coverup for plots. Syria refuses to participate in these plots at any stage."
— Syrian Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam, discussing the projected Arab-Israeli negotiations.

"I am forced to give a more critical view of the Bible. The problem goes much deeper for me. The Bible was produced by a church that is a sexist church. It portrays women as weak, foolish, property of men. Wickedness of women is worse than wickedness of men."
— Sister Ann Patrick Ware, an executive with the National Council of Christian Churches, discussing sexism in the Bible.

"We were strangled by the trauma. What a nightmare. It was the worst experience of my coaching career. We're all ashamed for our people, our fans, our organization."
— Hank Stram, coach of the NFL team, the New Orleans Saints who were beaten 33-14 by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. For the Buccaneers it was their first win in 27 games.

"We had fewer workers paying in, and we had — as a result of inflation — higher benefits to be paid out. The two do not come together."
— James B. Cardwell, United States Commissioner of Social Security, explaining the problems facing the Social Security system.

"Their programs are having difficulty, and my belief is that the findings... (were) contrary to the wishes of the agencies supporting these programs."
— Dr. Karl Morgan, former director of health physics at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, agreeing with Dr. Irwin Bross's claim that the National Cancer Institute did not renew Bross's research grant because his findings went against official Federal policy on radiation and nuclear energy.

"When you have an evil system like that, there will be deaths, and they are part and parcel of the system. I don't think anybody sat down and made a decision that he should be beaten to death."
— Andrew Young, U.S. representative to the United Nations, commenting on the death of South African dissident Stephen Biko.



Andrew Young

Today in history

By The Associated Press
Today is Friday, Dec. 23, the 357th day of 1977. There are eight days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history: On this date in 1783, George Washington resigned as U.S. Army Commander-in-Chief and retired to his home at Mount Vernon, Virginia.

On this date: In 1788, Maryland voted to cede an area ten miles square for the seat of the national government.

In 1805, the Mormon leader, Joseph Smith, was born in Sharon, Vermont.

In 1941, American forces on Wake Island surrendered to the Japanese during World War II.

In 1948, former Premier Hideki Tojo of Japan and six other Japanese war leaders were executed in Tokyo.

In 1962, the first of more than 1,100 prisoners captured in the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba began arriving in Miami in an airlift that followed payment of ransom.

In 1972, an earthquake that struck Managua, Nicaragua, was reported to have killed up to 10,000 people.

Ten years ago: President Lyndon Johnson, on his way home from a visit to Southeast Asia, held an unprecedented meeting with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican.

Five years ago: North Vietnam reported that 25 members of the country's military staff were killed in continuing U.S. air raids against Hanoi and Haiphong.

One year ago: President-elect Jimmy Carter announced his choices for three top positions — Joseph Califano as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Theodore Sorenson as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and James Schlesinger as a special assistant on energy.

COMMENTARY

Donald F. Graff

Briefly noted . . .

By Don Graff

Turning the public's penchant for gambling to the public's benefit is itself a gamble, it appears.

State-run lotteries have been spreading across the political landscape for years now. More recently Las Vegas-style casino gambling has been coming into vogue in aging resort communities. Atlantic City is committed and Miami Beach is thinking about it.

The usual rationalization is that since people are going to gamble under any circumstances, society might as well recognize the fact and divert the proceeds to its own uses from the shady operators.

But does it really work that way? A federal gambling study suggests not. Reporting on a three-year study of American gambling patterns — why, who and where — the Commission on the Review of the National Policy Toward Gambling finds that illegal activity tends to be even greater in states where some degree of legal gambling exists. The conclusion is that a degree of legal gambling whets the appetite for more and increases the numbers of active gamblers and the rate of illegal as well as legal activity. In short, still more proceeds for more shady operators.

A clear majority of the adult population, 61 percent or some 88 million Americans, gambles to some degree. An even greater number — 80 percent of those responding to a nationwide survey — appears to approve of legalizing gambling to some extent.

Does this suggest that for better or worse, and for public profit or loss, gambling is here to stay? You bet.



If it Fitz

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The three wise guys

By JIM FITZGERALD

For my first Christmas in the newspaper business, not long after the original production in Bethlehem, I decided I should write a modern Christmas story.

You know, one of those time-tear fables where reindeer talk and an unmeltable snowman rescues a Barbie doll from the clutches of the meanest man in the supermarket.

Most newspapers publish such stories during the holiday season, in the same section with the 1,356,788th reprint of that column assuring Virginia, yes, there is a Santa Claus.

I thought I'd write a parody on The Three Wise Men, maybe something called The Three Wise Guys. Instead of kings on camels, I planned hoods on motorcycles.

Instead of following a star, they'd be zoring in on one of those huge spotlights which swish across the sky, magnificently herding the opening of a new shopping center.

The three wise guys wouldn't be bringing gifts to an infant. They would be doing their Christmas shopping.

Trouble comes when a floorwalker spots a protable TV hanging out of a wise guy's black leather jacket. The floorwalker screams for the cops, and the three hoods head for the door. This is where the plot gets fat.

There's a pregnant woman stuck in the revolving door with her husband. There was no room for them in the door. Get it? O.K. So right then I would have the woman's apathy comes into the story. You've heard about that.

A baby is about to be born but no one cares except the parents, Joe and Mary Schultz. People just curse and move on to the next door. At Christmas dinner the next day they'll get laughs with the story about "the fat dame stuck in the revolving door."
But the fleeing wise guys are in too big a hurry to switch doors. They burst right through unplugging Mary and Joe and throwing them into a snowbank.
"Oh, Joe," says Mary.
"Oh, Mary," says Joe.
"Oh-Oh," says one of the three wise guys. "He's Joseph and she's Mary and she's pregnant and this is Christmas Eve. I think this is some kind of a test."
"Let's help 'em," says another wise guy. "It could mean time off for good behavior." Fortunately, in my story there is a plastic Nativity scene set up in the shopping center. The three wise guys quickly evict the statues and move Joe and Mary in. A boy is born, warmed by the breath of 1,000 ogling shoppers.
"I tell ya," says one woman, "it is amazing what they can do with robots these days. This is better than Disneyland."
I tried to come up with a happy ending to this modern Christmas story. Something like the three wise guys becoming better men for their experience and growing up to be Hart, Schaffner & Marx. But it wouldn't ring modern.
Instead I saw the Schultzes suing the shopping center for not providing a doctor in their Nativity scene.
The three wise guys are jailed by the American Medical Association for

practicing without a license. Blue Cross refuses to pay for an outdoor birth. Fungus ruins the Schultzes' marriage and they end up getting divorced on the Johnny Carson show. Their son grows up conceited and drowns while trying to walk to Cleveland on Lake Erie.
That's how my modern story would have been told, 25 years ago, if I had written it. But I didn't. I was afraid readers might think there were four wise guys. I didn't want to become known as a Christmas cynic. I would never get any presents.
So why mention it now? Partly to amuse, I guess, but mainly to see if such kindergarten cynicism could possibly bug anyone in a civilization that hardly blinks at much more outrageous crimes committed against Christmas.
For instance, consider the most outrageous cynicism of all—the Christmas truce. Most wars have them. It was only the other day that the United States was participating in Christmas truces in Vietnam. Thanks to an ever-fat defense budget, the Pentagon is prepared to stack rifles during any future Christmas truce which might become necessary.
Generals order the troops to shoot the enemy on Dec. 24. If he's still wriggling on Dec. 25, shoot him again. But don't kill him on Dec. 25 because that is the birthday of Jesus Christ.
If you want to know whether to love your neighbor or leave her stuck in a revolving door, look at the calendar, calendar.
That's the really modern Christmas story. But don't tell it to your family

Berry's World



"But isn't keeping track of who's naughty and nice like having an enemies list?"



"Why is it nobody ever finds anything wrong with liver and spinach?"

Pity the poor bobcat

The bobcat ordinarily isn't the subject of much sympathy, but it's a different matter when the little predator gets mixed up with the federal government.

It turns out that one agency is trying to protect bobcats and another one wants to wipe them out.

The pro-bobcat fellows work at the Endangered Species Scientific Authority, which banned the export of bobcat pelts, apparently the demand for raw pelts by European fur salons is threatening the bobcat's survival.

But the ban means nothing at the Interior Department, which is continuing to kill bobcats as part of its predator control program. Government trappers killed 2,559 of the critters in 1975 and 1,500 last year.

Just another case of one paw not knowing what the other is doing.

Hope in laughter

One of the nicest things that could have happened to the world in this season was to see the leaders of Israel and Egypt recently talking and laughing — actually laughing — with each other.

There they were — Egypt's Anwar Sadat and Israel's Menahem Begin — cyatting with each other on television and swapping jokes as though they were reliving war experiences at an American Legion convention.

And when Golda Meir, the former prime minister of Israel, sat down with the two and put her arm around Sadat like a mother talking to her son, joy walked on the scene accompanied by wisdom. Marijuana for all couldn't have brought the world a bigger high.

Where all this will end, nobody knows. The graveyard is full of good intentions. But it is much harder to start a war when tension has given way to laughter than it is when even the rattling of a snake can set off the sound of exploding bullets.

One begins to realize just how small the world has shrunk when it becomes clear that there is genuine interest among people all over the world in the outcome of these Mideast negotiations. As Begin and Sadat were talking, they could have

been in Washington or Omaha or at a local school board meeting. And yet, it is difficult for us at this distance to understand the immensity of the chasm that these people are trying to cross.

For them to reach across a table and shake hands, it is the same as asking a bull to lie down on a red blanket. Nothing dies as hard as intolerance, and intolerance for each other — the Arab and the Jew — has been as much a part of their lives as hating red is a part of the bull's.

The days ahead will be crowded with danger. Danger for Sadat. Danger for Begin. Danger for anyone who will step forward and say that the Arab and the Jew should be friends.

But the Lord never promised that life would be easy when he gave it to man. There was a hint, wasn't there, that it might even be hard. And it is. Especially in the arid lands of the Mideast where a mousetrap hides behind every sand dune.

ASTRO-GRAPH

Bernice Bede Osol



Dec. 24, 1977

There's a very valuable market for your knowledge and expertise this coming year. Someone may be looking for just what you have and be willing to pay you well for it. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Compassion and charity are strong in you today. Just make sure that the persons who benefit from your efforts are the ones for whom you intended them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Know when to leave the party today. If you stay too long you may wear out your welcome and not be invited again.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Perhaps you're planning a quiet day with the family. Don't be surprised if guests you've forgotten you invited make the scene.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Be careful. You are in a pucky mood today and others may not be. You may josh the wrong person and find your sense of humor doesn't amuse him.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Choose your gifts wisely as to value and recipient today. You could easily offend by ignoring someone or showing up the gift given you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Be more attentive to your mate today than usual. If you're at a party, don't do the solo bit while he or she sits alone.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A small remembrance for co-workers is in order today. It doesn't have to be much, but they'll be looking forward to a token gesture.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You'll be in a festive mood today, but don't get too much caught up in the spirit of things. Being a mile too flirtatious could damage your image.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Business or career interests should be subordinated at this time. Don't allow them to take you away from home and family today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) There may be a loved one far away who would be disappointed not to hear from you today. If you have such a call to make, don't let it slip your mind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Don't deplete the family budget with last-minute-hasty purchases. Who needs post-holiday headaches?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You'll be more than ready to take the bows for the decorations or the gifts today. Not quite fair if your mate did it all.

FRIDAY

Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Take heed to the path of your feet, then all your ways will be sure. — Proverbs 4:10, 25, 26

"Life is like music; it must be composed by ear, feeling and instinct, not by rule." — Samuel Butler, English novelist.

Crossword puzzle grid with 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' clues. Includes a 'RIDDLED' section with a grid and 'Answer to Previous Puzzle'.

Mexicans holding gas for top dollar

By TOM FENTON
Associated Press Writer
REYNOSA, Mexico (AP) — Officials ranging from President Jose Lopez Portillo to the mayor of this dusty border town are saying Americans will have to pay top dollar for Mexican natural gas or do without it.

The government is even threatening to drop plans for construction of a pipeline through here that would deliver the gas to the United States, if the price isn't met.

Mexico is asking \$2.60 per 1,000 cubic feet — a price linked with the cost of No. 2 heating oil landed in New York.

Six U.S. companies — Texas Eastern Transmission Co., Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Corp., Florida Gas Co., Southern Natural Resources Co., El Paso Natural Gas Co., and Tenecco, Inc. — are seeking to import the gas and tentatively agreed to the \$2.60 price in August. But they have refused to finalize an agreement at that price pending approval by U.S. regulatory authorities, who are awaiting the outcome of congressional debate on President Carter's energy bill.

Carter has proposed a \$1.75 per 1,000 cubic feet ceiling on new natural gas produced in the United States.

A congressional conference has worked out a compromise plan for an annual increase of about 11 percent from next year until 1984, when a 15 percent annual hike could take effect. Estimates are this would put the price of natural gas at

\$3.65 per thousand cubic feet by 1985.

An AP news special

The companies reportedly offered recently to sign a final agreement at \$2.16 per 1,000 cubic feet — the price at which Canadian natural gas is selling in the United States.

Some economists say Mexico is in no position to hold out for its asking price, much less carry out threats to abandon the pipeline.

The government says the original letter of intent signed with the six companies expires Dec. 31, and if no agreement is reached by then, the whole deal may fall through. But a spokesman for Pemex, the government petroleum monopoly, said that if the companies request an extension of the original letter, it may be granted.

Under terms of the tentative agreement, Mexico is to build a 48-inch pipeline from the vast

reform a petroleum fields near Villa Hermosa, 821 miles north to Reynosa where it would cross the border and tie in with a U.S. interstate gas network at

McAllen, Texas. The U.S. firms say they want to import about 2 billion cubic feet a day — about 3 percent of the projected U.S. demand.



Sharing Christmas hugs

The 4- and 5-year-olds from Pampa Day Care Center Wednesday went Christmas caroling. They made two stops: Pampa Nursing Center and Leisure Lodge. The youngsters handed out cards which they made. Jeremy Olsen, 5, gives Jess Ferrell a Christmas hug.

(Pampa News photo)

Young urges "rights" fight

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young urged U.N. delegates heading home from the General Assembly's 32nd session to make the next one a "high point" in the fight for human rights. He also criticized U.N. spending.

The session ended Wednesday with adoption of a record 1978-80 budget of \$985,913,000 — \$197.5 million higher than the 1976-77 budget. The vote was 119-9 with the Soviet Union and close allies opposing and the United States, Cuba, Romania, Israel, France and Italy abstaining.

Young complained the United Nations was spending too much on conferences and pet programs, and called for "financial stringency" in the coming year.

He spoke in one of the closing speeches of the three-month session, in which a resolution accusing Chile of human rights violations was adopted but another similarly accusing

Uganda and a proposal for a high commissioner for human rights were shunted to the Human Rights Commission.

Young noted that next year would mark the 30th anniversary of the assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"While there has been some progress in human rights since then, we still have a long way to go," he said. "There are still far too many abuses."

"As we mark this significant anniversary, let us restore to

high priority this organization's concern for human rights and let us resolve that next year's General Assembly will be a high point for constructive collective action to advance this vital cause."

Assembly President Lazar Mojsov of Yugoslavia, before banging down the final gavel at 6:46 p. m. EST, said records were set by the assembly's 142 general-debate speakers, 131 agenda items, 256 resolutions, and adoption of 161 of them without a vote.

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 Salutes the Customers
 of the day—
 Mr. and Mrs.
 John Hopkins

Sea dumps may go boom

By PETER MATTIACE
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Those mysterious booms high in the sky off the Atlantic Coast could be caused by exploding gas bubbling up from underwater garbage dumps, says one scientist.

That is one theory. Others speculate that they are sonic booms or come from outer space.

New explosions were heard Wednesday night by several residents along the New Jersey coastline.

"My whole house shook," said Ted Weeks, a fisherman at Barnegat Light. "Almost immediately the second report followed, but not near as

loud. It was very distinct. The whole of Long Beach Island, I'm sure, heard it. You had to be dead not to have heard it."

Two similar but stronger blasts startled residents from Connecticut to South Carolina on Dec. 2.

Scientists at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Geophysical Observatory in Palisades, N.Y., said its instruments recorded those booms and five more on Dec. 15.

The equipment did not register Wednesday's reported blasts.

The explosions have been accompanied by reports of lights in the sky, sometimes a luminous glow.

Dr. Edward Chiburif, assistant director of the Weston Observatory of Boston College, said he suspects the sounds are sonic booms.

Dr. William Donn, head of atmospheric sciences at the Lamont-Doherty Observatory, said he was sure they are not sonic booms.

Geen County, N.J., civil defense authorities said they had confidential information the blasts occurred in outer space. Federal officials discounted the outer space theory.

The garbage gas theory comes from Dr. Stanley Klemetson, environmental engineering researcher and associate professor of civil engineering at Colorado State University.

He said it is likely that a build-up of sludge deposits on the ocean bottom from dumping of

treated wastes and garbage has produced anaerobic gases such as hydrogen and methane.

"As these gases accumulate beneath the sludge, sufficient quantity can collect to break through the layer and rise to the surface of the ocean," he said.

If warmer than the surrounding air, the gas will rise into the atmosphere, he said.

"Natural static electricity caused by wind friction is sufficient to set off the explosions," Klemetson said.

Klemetson noted that the blasts have been occurring over the general area where refuse from large coastal cities such as New York is dumped.

Hopes for peace may be too high

ISMAILIA, Egypt (AP) — President Anwar Sadat conceded today that his Christmas day summit with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin could be a failure. But he prayed for peace at a mosque on the banks of the Suez Canal.

Expectations are high in Egypt and Israel that the two leaders can lay the foundation for fast-moving negotiations

that will end the 29-year-old Middle East conflict.

Israeli sources say Begin is bringing a new, still-secret proposal to the summit that should stimulate progress on the Palestinian issue.

"It is a new plan and contains new thinking," the sources said. "We expect to make progress on the Palestinian Arab issue after Sunday.

As Sadat emerged from today's prayers, he was asked if despite the euphoria the summit could fail.

"Maybe, why not," Sadat replied. "Maybe, because there is, you see, a most important fact, this is that we shall be very candid, and we shall be putting everything on the table, at least from my side.

"After that I am responsible to tell my people what had happened," he added.

Sadat declared he hoped the historic meeting with the Israeli prime minister could keep negotiations going. "I would always like to see the peace process in momentum. After the meeting we shall be in a position to tell what the next step in the peace process will be."

Asked whether he expected to see Israel withdraw from the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River, Sadat said: "For sure, the land occupied after 1967, and this is not a concession from the Israeli side at all. It is our land."

Israeli and Egyptian officials at the Cairo conference, which recessed Thursday for the weekend, say the major stumbling block thus far has been the Arab demand for an Arab Palestinian state made up of the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip.

A ranking Egyptian official said Sadat received signs of Israeli flexibility from Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, who met with him Tuesday and Wednesday, and from President Carter after his meeting with Begin in Washington last week.

The official said despite Begin's oft-repeated rejection of an independent Palestinian state, Sadat has information from Carter and Weizman that he and the Israeli leader can agree at least on a basis for further negotiations.



Dolls for dolls

Samantha McPherson's beaming smile tells the whole story of the Salvation Army's yearly distribution of dolls to children in the Pampa area. Samantha's doll was one of 72 dressed by volunteers from among senior citizen groups, the economics club at Pampa High School, and this year a teen-age church group. The volunteers dress the dolls in any way they like, and the Salvation Army then distributes the dolls. Capt. Badell Heath of the Salvation Army is smiling because he got to hold both dolls for the picture.

(Pampa News photo by Ron Ennis)

Names in the news

By The Associated Press
WAVERLY, Minn. (AP) — "I'm not resigning from anything. I may even join something," was Hubert H. Humphrey's response when asked whether he plans to resign from the U.S. Senate because of his inoperable cancer.

The Minnesota Democrat, who arrived home Thursday, said he planned to be back in Washington within 10 days. The four Humphrey children and their 10 children are expected to join Humphrey and his wife, Muriel, at Waverly on Christmas Day.

"We're going to have home movies, give the kids a chance to see their parents when they were kids," he said. He added, chuckling, "These are the movies that used to bore the living daylight out of my friends."

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The tributes to Hubert Humphrey keep on pouring in. And the latest is from former President Richard Nixon: a \$1,000 donation to the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. John Whaley, project director for the institute, said Thursday that so far as he knew, the donation was not solicited by anyone associated with the institute's fund-raising effort. Through a press aide, Humphrey said, "I was most grateful to the former president for his helpfulness and his interest."

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Cornelia Wallace, in the midst of a divorce battle with Gov. George C. Wallace, has been admitted to a Montgomery hospital in satisfactory condition.

The hospital won't provide details, but Mrs. Wallace's lawyer, Ira DeMont, said she was suffering from "mental and physical exhaustion" when she was admitted Thursday.

Mrs. Wallace, 38, is scheduled to give an oral deposition to Wallace's attorneys next Tuesday in connection with the divorce case. Trial in the case is scheduled for Jan. 4.

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — He may be just plain ole down home Billy to his friends, but to the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission Billy Carter is a celebrity, and that's bad news for Billy Beer.

Virginia prohibits the sale of any beer bearing an endorsement from "any prominent living person" on its label. Beer distributors wanting permission to distribute the new brand bearing the name of President Carter's brother, tried to convince the ABC that Billy is not prominent.

MIAMI (AP) — Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt has been married to Georgia schoolteacher Laura E. Martin. It was the second marriage for each.

Hunt, 59, and the bride, in her early 30s, exchanged vows in a brief civil ceremony performed by Dade County Judge Joseph Nesbitt at Hunt's home in northeast Miami.

Only a few close friends and family members attended.

Hunt was paroled from federal prison Feb. 23 after serving 22 months for his part in the

June 1972 break-in at the Democratic Party's national headquarters. He was a lookout in the bungled burglary.

Hunt's first wife, Dorothy, was killed in a 1972 jetliner crash in Chicago. He has four children by that marriage and one grandson.

HOUSTON, Texas (AP) — Trapped for two weeks in a cargo ship's hull, a young Army private from Memphis, Tenn., emerged in poor condition and was hospitalized, ship officials said.

An official for Sea-Land Services Inc., owner of the ship Economy, said Randy Feathers, 17, and Randy Boutain, whose age and address were not known, stowed away in a large cargo container loaded into the hull of the ship, which sailed from Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

"They were on the ship approximately two weeks," Larry Wofford, terminal manager, said Thursday. "They had climbed into an empty container and then held the door shut while it was being loaded."

"When it was put below deck, the door evidently became lodged against another container and they couldn't get out."

Wofford said the ship is more than 900 feet long and can hold 733 containers the size of a large semi-trailer.

"The container was empty and they didn't have anything to eat or drink. One of our dock supervisors heard them pounding on the door last night (Wednesday) and that's when we found them. They were in pretty poor shape."

A Sea-Land employee at the City of Houston Dock 17 said the men told dock workers they had left their Army posts in West Germany "to catch a ride home for Christmas." The employee asked that his name not be used.

Feathers, suffering from dehydration, was in poor condition at Ben Taub Hospital. Boutain apparently was treated at the hospital, but was not kept overnight.

HOUSTON (AP) — The court bailiff who had custody of the so-called Houston "Beer Belly Rapist" when he escaped Dec. 13 has been indefinitely suspended.

Harris County Sheriff Jack Heard said Thursday Deputy Bill Rudolph was suspended for actions in connection with the escape of Terrance O'Donnell from a county courtroom corridor following a hearing.

O'Donnell apparently broke the arm of a chair to which he was handcuffed. Officials said he was placed there instead of in a cell because he was scheduled to meet with an attorney. O'Donnell was charged with 16 rapes. He was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment last October after he pleaded guilty to the June 27 aggravated rape of a 23-year-old secretary.

Cherie Lewis, 25, a secretary, told police Thursday a man she identified as O'Donnell forced her to drive him to the New Orleans International Airport Wednesday before releasing her unharmed. Officials believe he may have boarded a flight there.

Developers fight over SA hotels

By RICK SCOTT
Associated Press Writer
SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AP) — Three developers are battling to build major new hotels in downtown San Antonio, where officials say at least 2,500 new rooms are needed to meet demand for conventions and tourists.

No ground has been broken yet, and at least one of the proposed new hotel developers is expected to drop out of the contest.

There has been much talk in

recent years about building new hotels in downtown San Antonio. Since 1973, more than \$100 million in projects with more than 3,000 hotel rooms have been announced, but none has gotten past the drawing board phase.

The last new downtown hotel was the Hilton Palacio del Rio, built for the 1968 HemisFair.

The city's impressive convention center, its scenic River Walk, historic missions including the Alamo and generally mild weather make it an at-

tractive convention site.

But efforts to bring in major conventions have been stymied by a shortage of quality hotel space downtown.

The major projects vying now for downtown sites: —Omni International Inc. of Atlanta, which announced plans Dec. 9 to build a \$25 million, 500-room hotel as the focal point for a major downtown redevelopment project.

—A Texas joint-venture partnership of Concord Properties and Mariner Interests, which is in the final planning and financing stages for a \$20 million, 500-room Marriott Motor Hotel on property it wants to lease from the city.

—A third downtown hotel project, which hasn't been officially announced yet. It would

be managed by Stouffer Hotels, would contain 700 rooms and cost \$39 million.

The Marriott deal is tied to the city's final approval of a tentative lease agreement that would allow developers to lease, at a favorable rate, city-owned property.

But Omni says it won't build if the city approves the Marriott deal.

"For the record, we will not build the Omni if another hotel starts in 1978," and Omni project spokesman told the City Council this week.

The Omni project also is contingent on the federal government's approval of \$7.5 million in redevelopment grants which the city would use to link its Alamo Plaza with the River Walk.

Pilgrims trek to Israel

JERUSALEM (AP) — Jerusalem's hotels are jammed with Christmas pilgrims, many of them lured to the Holy Land by the blossoming of new hopes for peace.

"This year's Christmas will have a special character and nature," said Micha Gidron of the Israeli Tourism Ministry. The Israeli-Egyptian peace talks "will be felt at Christmas," he added.

Nearly 37,000 foreign Christians, 10 percent more than last year, are expected for Christmas. And since President Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem last month, bookings for next year "have been pouring in like rain," Gidron said.

He predicted a 20 percent increase next year in the 1977 record of a million visitors.

About 15,000 pilgrims will be in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve for the celebrations and services in the town where Christ was born.

The Rev. George Hall, a Greek Orthodox priest at the Church of the Nativity, feels there's a "good atmosphere" this year.

"For the first time in 10

years there are signs of a solution to the problems of our region," he said. "This brings Christians closer to Bethlehem, and encourages Christians from the farthest corners of the earth to make an effort and come here for Christmas." As in the past 10 years of Israeli rule, troops and police will patrol the hilltop town of 40,000 Christians and Moslems south of Jerusalem. Bethlehem will be sealed off to all visitors except those with special passes.

Security may be tighter this year because of the opposition of militant Palestinians to Sadat's solo peace effort.

Nine choirs from the United States and Europe are assembling to sing Christmas Eve in Manger Square, in front of the Church of the Nativity.

The festivities begin at noon Saturday with a colorful religious procession led by Magr. Giacomo Giuseppe Beltritti, the Roman Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem. He will also celebrate the midnight Mass in the crusaders' church built atop the site where tradition says Christ was born.

The 90-minute Mass will be televised live around the world.

On the record

Highland General Hospital

Thursday Admissions
Amy E. Miller, 1900 N. Wells.
Louada M. Claunch, 1694 Fisher.
Mrs. Jacquelyn Green, 2115 N. Nelson.
Mrs. Natividad Rodriguez, 729 S. Ballard.
Baby Girl Rodriguez, 729 S. Ballard.
Charles Stowell, 1952 Evergreen.
Mrs. Marie Reed, 733 S. Barnes.
Dismissals
Mrs. Marjorie Boettner, 1704 Holly.
Baby Girl Boettner, 1704 Holly.
Mrs. Cynthia Hawkins, 1716 Charles.
Baby Boy Hawkins, 1716 Charles.
Darin Skaggs, White Deer.
Mrs. Nell Warren, 1800 W. 22nd.
Mrs. Myrle J. Greeley, Claude.
Frank Caswell, Wheeler.
George Gunter, Pampa.
Gwen Waiser, Canadian.
Baby Girl Grange, White Deer.
Mrs. Lillie Steele, 1807 Dogwood.
Mrs. Emma Bradford, 2237 Dogwood.
Richard Sandefur, 615 Scott.
Mrs. Alice Harris, Canadian.
Michael Minyard, 325 N. Banks.
Births
Mr. and Mrs. Salvador Rodriguez, 729 S. Ballard, a girl at 9:50 p.m., weighing 6 lb. 13 oz.

Mainly about people

Lost in Shopping Center: Ladies Diamond Watch, Saturday. Sentimental value. \$50 Reward. Call collect 323-5222. (Adv.)

New Year's Eve Dance, Optimist Club reservations. Call 665-2040 or 669-9276. (Adv.)

Christmas Eve candlelighting services will be at First United Methodist Church, 201 E. Foster, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Public invited.

The Pampa Independent School District tax and business offices will be closed Monday and Jan. 2 in observance of the holiday season, according to Dwain Walker, director of the district's business services. City offices will be closed through Monday in observance

of Christmas, and through Monday, Jan. 2, in observance of New Year's, according to City Manager Mack Wofford. In addition, the city's landfill will be closed all day today, although the fire and police department personnel will observe regular schedules.

All Gray County offices with the exception of the sheriff's department were to close at noon today and will not re-open until Tuesday morning in observance of Christmas. A similar schedule will be followed for the New Year holiday, except that the Friday, Dec. 30, closing won't occur until 5 p.m. In addition, the Commissioner's Court will convene at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 2, to pay salaries.

Police report

Pampa police responded to 43 calls during the 24 hour period which ended at 7 a.m. today.

Mrs. Gwen McClaren of Canadian reported that while her 1970 Lincoln Continental was parked at the Playboy Lounge someone slashed all four tires.

Wesley Fleming of Pampa reported that his vehicle had been broken into while parked behind the Pampa Motel. Taken were nine boxes of motorcycle magazines, a crescent wrench

and a set of socket wrenches.

Ruby Swanson of 905 E. Scott reported the burglary of her mother's residence by someone forcing the door open.

Gibson's at 900 N. Duncan reported three juveniles took three pairs of cowboy boots. They were valued at \$75.

Two non-injury accidents occurred Thursday afternoon, one at the intersection of Hobart and Somerville and the other in the 300 block of N. Cuyler.

Stock market

The following grain quotations are provided by B. B. Evans of Pampa.
Wheat \$3.66
Soybeans \$3.25 cwt
Corn \$3.75 cwt
Ryebeans \$3.18
Cotton 28 1/2
The following quotations show the range within which these securities could have been traded at the time of compilation.
Franklin Life 20% 19%
Ky. Cent. Life 19% 18%
Southland Financial 15% 14%
So. West Life 15% 14%

quations are furnished by the Pampa office of Schneider Bernst Hictman, Inc.
Bestrice Foods 34%
Cobalt 43%
Celanese 41%
Cities Service 31%
DIA 28%
Getty 17 1/2%
Lorr-McCree 40%
Pennay's 34%
Phillips 29%
PMA 29%
Southwestern Pub. Service 15%
Standard Oil of Indiana 40%
Texas 26%

Texas weather

By The Associated Press
Mild weather returned to all of Texas today.

Early morning temperatures stayed well above freezing, hovering in the 40s to 50s, except for a 29-degree reading at Marfa in the West Texas mountains. At the same hour it was 61 at Galveston on the coast.

Today's warmup lingered in the wake of sharp temperature

climbs the day before, some of them from record lows for the date. At the same time brisk winds stirred dust aloft in parts of Northwest Texas.

Skies were mostly cloudy this morning except for clear weather in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and a spot or two along the coast.

Forecasts promised little change.

National weather

By The Associated Press
The fifth major storm of the season has dropped enough rain on northern California to give key weather stations above normal readings for the date for the first time in three years of drought.

More than a half-inch of rain fell Wednesday and Thursday in Oakland and Sacramento, where the 1977 total stood at 5.84 inches, compared to a normal figure of 5.74 inches. Only 2 inches were recorded in 1976. Oakland's seasonal total rose to 6.15 inches, topping the normal of 6.11 and last year's 2.56.

The showers spread into Southern California and rain was reported throughout the area.

Warm, subtropical air associated with the latest storm caused rain instead of snow to fall on some of the lower slopes of the Sierra ski runs and moved the snow level up to 7,000 feet.

However, state water officials were jubilant because the new rain increases the water content of the snow, which means more run-off to fill reservoirs in the spring.

At least three deaths were attributed directly to winds from the two-day storm. A Humboldt County couple were crushed by a falling Redwood and a 74-year-old man was electrocuted by severed high-voltage lines falling in his front yard.

The state Office of Emergency Services estimated more than 15,000 Humboldt County homes and 150 businesses suffered wind damage and at least 20 barns were destroyed.

The agency's early assessments total about \$15 million in losses to private homes, businesses and agriculture and per-

haps \$2 million in damage to public roads and buildings in the county.

Winds still were reported gusting to 44 miles an hour at Pillar Point and at San Francisco National Airport, but the weather service said high pressure was beginning to take, indicating mostly fair weather for the Christmas weekend.

Meanwhile, cold air moved into the South, where temperatures dipped into the mid-30s in the northwest Florida. Tallahassee had a low of 24 degrees. Fort Myers had a reading of 35 and Miami airport recorded a 43.

Light snow fell during the night in eastern Washington and through Montana, but no precipitation was reported east of the Rockies.

Most of the western rain and snow is being produced by a deep low pressure center off the Oregon coast.

Parts of eastern Colorado continued to have strong winds during the night. Gusts up to 72 miles an hour were recorded at Lafayette, while winds at Boulder were clocked at 70 miles an hour.

The coldest temperatures in the country early today were recorded in northeastern North Dakota and northern Minnesota, where minimums dropped below zero. The coldest spot in the country was International Falls, Minn., with five below. Thursday's highest reading was 74 at Bakerfield, Calif.

Here were some other early morning conditions:

Canada — Montreal 32 cloudy, Toronto 28 partly cloudy.

Advice

Dear Abby
By Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: Why is it that nobody has any respect for children? I am 10 years old and notice it a lot, especially when I go to the market for my mother.

When I try to get in line at the checkout counter, I'm always pushed aside by some adult who cuts right in front of me. My friends say this happens to them, too.

Please print my letter, Abby, so adults will know how we feel. I'm pretty sure you will be on our side.

NEEDS RESPECT

DEAR NEEDS: I AM on your side. Adults should treat children with as much respect as they treat grownups. Besides, in teaching children to respect others, example is the best teacher.

DEAR ABBY: Six months ago I discovered that my husband was having an affair, and we've been separated ever since. I've filed for divorce, but until we are officially divorced, as far as I'm concerned, technically we're still married.

Recently the wife of the president of my husband's firm invited him to a dinner party and told him he could bring a date.

I feel the hostess was out of line to have made that offer. I have no desire to have my husband suffer undue punishment, but it's my feeling that society's ready acceptance of a person's dating while he is technically still married makes a reconciliation more difficult, and in fact encourages extramarital activities.

Please comment.

MIFFED IM MILWAUKEE

DEAR MIFFED: "Separation" means different things to different people. If a divorce is in the works, most people "date," unless their lawyers forbid it.

I can't agree that the hostess was "out of line" for inviting your estranged husband to bring a date.

DEAR ABBY: I used to think that your column was a form of glorified gossip and I turned up my nose at it. But I couldn't resist reading the letters, which span the human condition in such touching personal ways.

Those letters and your spirited, succinct replies remind me that really life is really felt and experienced fully, it isn't really life.

At times I wonder why people's small problems gain such a big audience. Then I realize that these are not "small problems" but signs of individuals struggling to make their lives more livable and meaningful. Through your column I lose my cynicism (which as a journalist I acquire easily). I am moved. I am touched. Thank you.

STEVEN CARTWRIGHT, ORONO, ME.

DEAR STEVEN: The reaction of my readers means a great deal to me. Thanks for writing. Your letter made my day.

CONFIDENTIAL TO YOU: Are you registered to vote? If not, why not? You don't know where to register? Phone either the Republican or Democratic Party headquarters, tell them where you live and ask them where you should register.

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." (Edmund Burke)

Problems? Tell them to Abby. For a personal, unpublished reply, write Abby: Box 69700, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Ask Dr. Lamb

Lawrence E. Lamb, M.D.

By Lawrence Lamb, M.D.

DEAR DR. LAMB — At one time I had cirrhosis and was hospitalized, treated, and released. I was told if I continued drinking I'd never see 45. I'm 51 now, but I still have some questions.

I like beer (no hard liquor) and I eat pretty well. Is there any medication one can take to prevent deterioration of the liver? Since the liver is a regenerative organ, how long does it take to regain a healthy status? Also, I have heard of successful transplants; is that a possibility?

DEAR READER — You have to understand that cirrhosis really means scarring of the liver. The scars will not go away. The liver does regenerate, but not in a perfectly orderly fashion. The scars and change in the regenerated liver will be with you for the rest of your life. Your liver function has obviously improved, but you can never run the risk of adding additional insults to your vital remaining liver cells.

Alcohol is a toxin to the liver cells. There is about as much alcohol in a can of beer as there is in the average mixed cocktail. I can't approve of your using beer in any amount with your history. I can't recommend that you use any alcoholic beverage for that matter at any time.

I am sending you The Health Letter number 7-8, Living With Your Liver, to give you a better idea of how your liver works and what you have. Others who want this issue can send 50 cents with a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope for it to me in care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 1551, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10019.

Liver transplants should be regarded as experimen-

tal. I wouldn't count on them as a solution to your problem. There is no medicine that will really help more than a good well-balanced diet that includes the normal amounts of vitamins and minerals. If you still have evidence of abnormal liver function, you might increase your vitamin intake by using an ordinary all-purpose vitamin tablet or capsule that you can purchase on your own. Don't get fat, and leave the alcohol alone.

DEAR DR. LAMB — My husband is worried about dying before I do. He says bachelors outlive married men because they give up sex all their lives.

He said he didn't want me to tempt him so he can forget sex and live longer. Is this true that men live longer if they give up sex earlier in life?

DEAR READER — Well, it might seem longer. The facts are that married men as a group live longer than single men, although there are individual exceptions. Also, people who are active and involved, and that includes a normal sex life, usually live longer than those who are not.

Finally, how does your husband know that bachelors give up sex? Most people find some manner of sexual expression whether they are married, single, or divorced. His basic premise is wrong.

If your husband persists in wanting to avoid sex, even though it will not decrease his life expectancy or affect his health adversely in any way, then he may need to discuss his responses with a professional counselor. He may be concerned about his continued capacity and not realize it or there could be any number of other reasons for losing interest in sex.

(NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.)

Polly's pointers

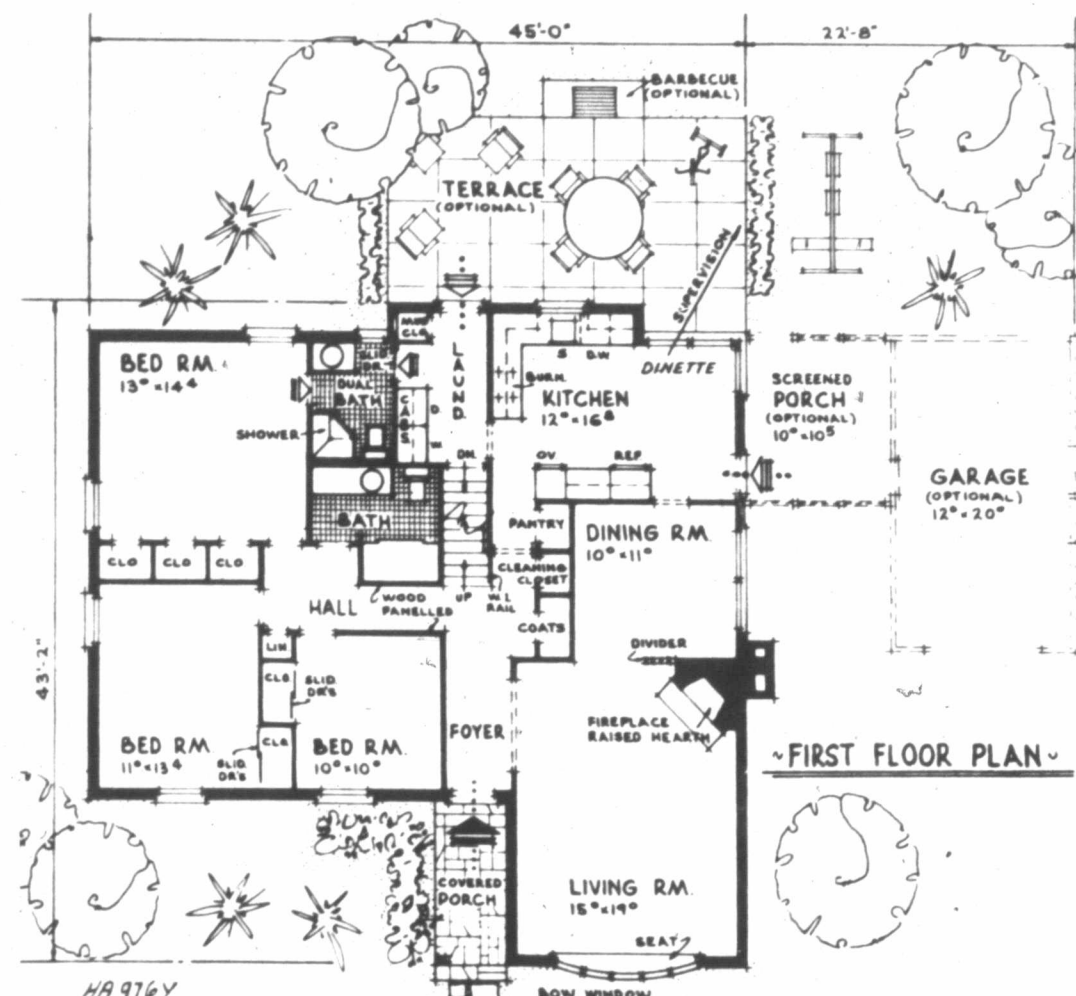
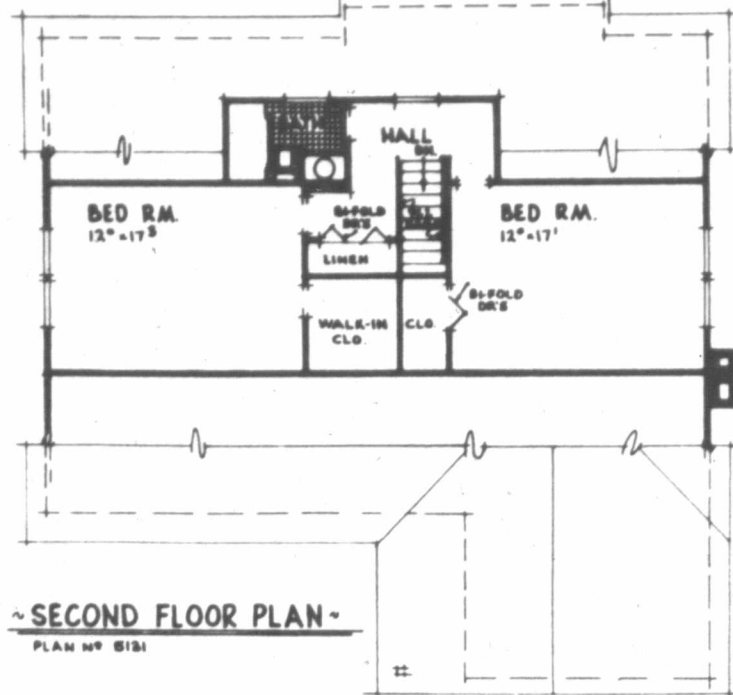
Polly Cramer

POLLY'S PROBLEM

DEAR POLLY — My 100 percent nylon coat has a white oil-base paint stain on the front. I tried to remove it with soap and water, mineral spirits and turpentine but nothing worked. I wonder if you have any suggestions? — MRS.B.R.

DEAR MRS.B.R. — If the turpentine did not work play it safe and take your coat to the dry cleaner. I hope you washed out the turpentine with mild detergent suds and then rinsed. Often paint cans suggest a solvent on the label. — POLLY.

DEAR POLLY — Spread small limbs or leaves from an eucalyptus tree under furniture, behind draperies and so on and leave for several days. When they dry out replace with fresh ones. This does the trick. — MRS.Z.H.



THIS THREE-BEDROOM house has both horizontal and vertical expansion features. An optional screened porch may be enclosed for an extra room. The first floor of Plan HA976Y by Herman H. York has 1,511 square feet. Two bedrooms on the second floor add 670 square feet to the basic first level living area. For further information, write to the architect—enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope—at 90-04 161st St., Jamaica, N.Y. 11432.

Ancient treasure or a piece of junk?

By RICHARD E. BLOOM
Zanesville Times Recorder
ZANESVILLE, Ohio (AP) — Fred Wayble of New Concord, Ohio, has a mystery on his hands — a 10½-pound piece of metal shaped like an ancient face.

Although he has questioned both the Ohio Historical Society and the Smithsonian Institution, its identity remains unestablished.

Was it forged by the hands of prehistoric inhabitants of the lands now within Guernsey County? Is it a discarded calling card of some advanced race from beyond the stars, or simply a hoax? No one knows.

Wayble walked into the newsroom of the Zanesville Times Recorder lugging what appeared to be a cast iron artifact and asked for help in identifying the "face."

Newsroom personnel turned it over in their hands, running fingers over its rough, pocked surface; tapped it with pencils, weighed it and speculated on its age and origin. But skepticism veiled each examination.

Wayble's oval-shaped "mystery" is approximately 9 inches long and 5 inches wide at the eyes. It bears a prominent nose and the faint outline of a mouth, almost as if it had been poured from a death mask.

And while the artifact has been in Wayble's possession for at least 30 years, he says, its age and origin remain the largest gaps in the puzzle.

"One day back in '43 or '44, I think, my dad and I were tearing down this old log house over in Londonderry Township in Guernsey County," Wayble said.

"I happened to be walking under this little tree near the house when I stepped onto something that felt like a stone. I bent down to pick it up and that stone turned out to be the nose," he said, running his finger along its ridge.

Wayble said the metal object was not embedded in the ground, "just covered with some leaves and dirt." He brushed the debris away but that's all he did.

"I left it just like it is, never tried to clean it. I knew if I rubbed it with steel wool or something I might scratch the face."

Although it was an unusual find, neither Wayble nor his father gave it much thought. He said they took it home and used it as a doormat. There it lay until some three years ago when Wayble's curiosity nudged him into his first identity search.

"When I finally became interested in it, I took it to the Historical Society in Columbus. But after looking at it they said I'd probably have to take it to a larger facility. They had checked every reference book

When using buttermilk baking mix, do not pack down in measuring. Spoon the mix into the cup and level off with a knife. These directions are on the package but cooks do not always read them! Measuring correctly may make the difference between success and failure.

Store that bottle of tabasco sauce in the refrigerator if you want to preserve its pretty red color.

on hand and couldn't come up with anything close to it," he said.

Officials of the society doubted that Ohio Indians forged the piece since they were unfamiliar with metals. But they did speculate it could possibly have been deposited by Michigan Indians, more familiar with the craft.

Still determined to seek out an identification, Wayble took his "mystery" to Marietta College. There "a woman said she couldn't begin to tell me what it was or how much it might be worth. But she did say it was priceless."

Disappointed, Wayble returned home, shoved the iron back into the paper sack and placed it on a shelf in the closet. It lay there undisturbed until a friend, Omie Mohler, came across it recently.

So Wayble and Mohler embarked on a second identity search which took them to the Times Recorder newsroom, where Wayble turned it over to one of the employees planning a weekend trip to Washington.

She stopped by the Smithsonian and, unable to meet personally with anyone there, left photographs of the face and requested any help authorities might be able to offer.

A few days later, she re-

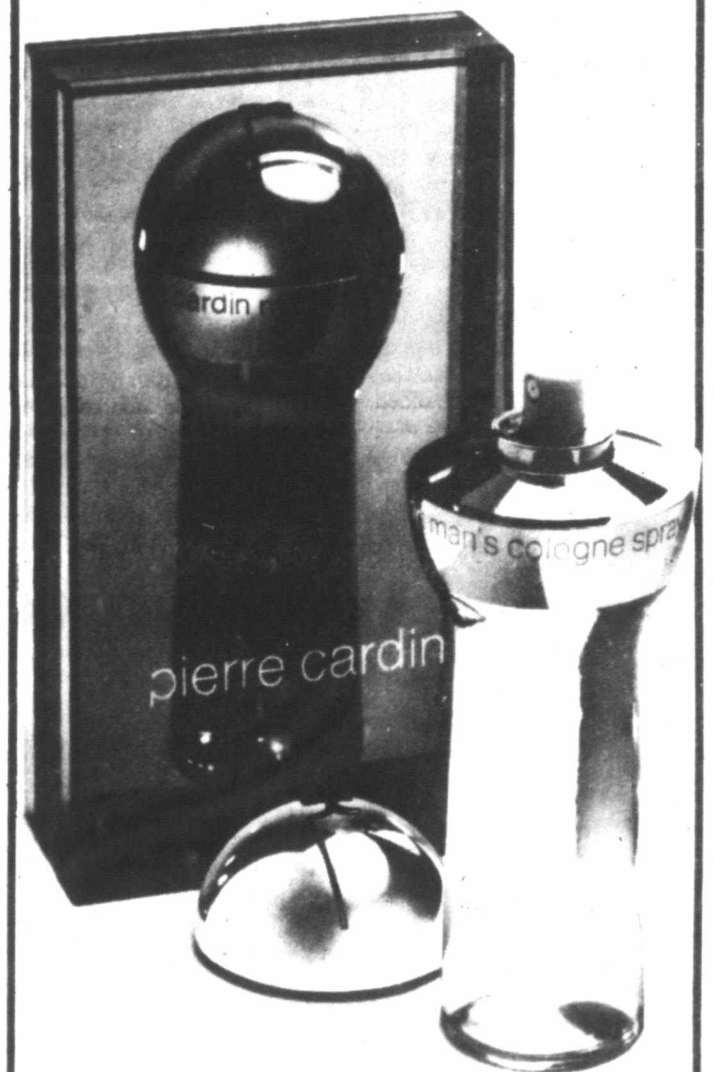
ceived a reply from Robert Elder, Museum specialist in the Department of Anthropology, which read, in part:

"After careful examination by our several curators, we find no adequate basis for identifying it. However it certainly is not of Indian workmanship and therefore must be something done by local white people.

"Our best suggestion is that it may be a death mask. Though originals are made in plaster, from which a sculptor may work, occasionally metal castings have been made from the original molds when a person wanted to be so memorialized."

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BARBERS MAKES SCENTS FOR CHRISTMAS



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Police offer security tips

By VIVIAN BROWN
AP Newfeatures

Communities are trying to solve crime in their own fashion and are looking into new ideas.

Many police stations offer crime prevention tools that may be used to etch a social security or other number on household furnishings, silver and the like; others are taking new approaches — in Albuquerque, N.M., a crime stopper program rewards citizens who assist in solving crime problems.

Concerned citizens and business people contributed \$40,000 to put the Albuquerque plan into action. The committee votes on who is to get a Crime of the Week reward of up to \$1,000.

In one Connecticut town a police unit instructs people in how to protect homes against burglaries. They will send a member of their crime prevention unit to inspect the house and make suggestions about home security.

Detective Lawrence Stoeckle, who heads up the unit for the Wilton police department, has included a number of good tips in a pamphlet the department has sent to all householders.

For example, a secure hinge protects your house against anyone who would lift the door out of the frame. You should pin the door hinges, whether they are inside or outside on any door you wish to secure. He suggests this method:

Put two large screws in the door jamb on the hinge side, one near the top and one near the bottom. Leave the head of each one exposed about one half inch. Then drill holes on the door side for the exposed screw heads to fit into when the door is closed. This will make it impossible for the door to be pulled off, even though the hinge pins may have been removed. Make sure that the screws are long enough and large enough to be sturdy.

The unit recommends a double cylinder lock with a bolt that goes one inch into the door frame, the kind of lock that requires a key for each side. But the key must be kept accessible in event of emergency so that people can get out quickly.

A dead bolt lock which has a key for the dead bolt on the outside is ideal for a security closet which can be set aside to hold silverware, furs and other valuables that are not stored elsewhere.

The hinge should be pinned as suggested for the outside door and a solid door is recommended.

As for windows, any window 20 inches square and within 40 inches of a door lock is a security risk. Stoeckle advises the townspeople. Replace the glass with unbreakable glass or plastic, he suggests.

You could change the door lock to a double cylinder lock but the advantages must be weighed against the quick exit.

For preventing single or double-hung windows from being opened, Stoeckle suggests a method that has become popular with other security officers. When the window is shut drill one or more holes through the sash and frame. Insert a nail in a hole at a point where it will prevent the sash from sliding against the sill (the nail should be removable, the window should not be screwed shut).

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Catholics plan mass at midnight Christmas

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church will celebrate the Feast of the Holy Nativity of Jesus Christ at the annual Christmas midnight mass on Saturday. Celebrant of the mass will be the Rev. Francis J. Hynes, pastor of the church with the Rev. Joseph Gregor, associate pastor assisting. Presiding at the lectern as reader will be John Haesle Sr.

Beginning at 11:30 p.m. the St. Vincent's Adult and Junior Choristers, under the director of Tracy D. Cary, minister of music, will sing a service of well known carols and seasonal music. Soloists will include Eddie Burton, baritone, and Mrs. Wanda Sherman Hickey, soprano.

The processional to the manger will precede the mass. The figure of Jesus will be placed in the crib and the blessing, sprinkling and incensing of the scene will be given by Father Hynes.

Additional masses will be at 5:30 and 8 p.m. Saturday. The 8 p.m. service is a special liturgy to be conducted in Spanish.

Confessions will be heard on Saturday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.; 7:30 to 8 p.m.; and 11 until services for midnight mass begin.

Christmas day masses will be at 9 and 11 a.m.

St. Vincent's school will close for the holidays at 1 p.m. Thursday and reopen on Jan. 3.

Living nativity to be created at Christian

The First Christian Church, 18th and Nelson, will celebrate Christmas eve with a 30-minute candlelighted worship at 7 p.m. Saturday.

High school and grade school classes will lead the service with Dr. Ralph T. Palmer, senior minister.

The program will include scripture readings, scenes creating a living nativity and Christmas carol singing.

Junior High Youth will line the walks with luminaries, a custom from New Mexico.

Candlelight service set

The First Presbyterian Church will have its annual candlelight service at 11:30 p.m. Saturday. The Rev. Joseph L. Turner, pastor, will give the Christmas meditation along with scripture readings. The congregation will share in a candle service symbolizing the outreach of the gospel. Special music will be provided by the Chancel Choir and Don Adams. The public is invited to attend.

The Rev. Joseph L. Turner, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church will give a Christmas morning sermon entitled "Messiah and Manger." Ruling

elder Don Lusher will assist in the pulpit.

Church school for all ages will be at 10 a.m. Worship services begin at 10:45 a.m. Special music will be given by the Chancel Choir. Norman Goad will be guest organist and will participate in the worship service.

The Christian Education Committee meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the West Room and the Diaconate will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the church. The choir will rehearse Wednesday evening in the sanctuary.

Materialistic Christmas?

By GEORGE W. CORNELL, AP Religion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Complaints often are made that Christmas has become too materialistic. But that's basically what it's all about — the highest exaltation of matter, of human flesh.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth," the Gospel of John says.

It declares the world's greatest potentiality in bodily form, in the stuff of earth, in the common clay of organic elements, in breath and birth and the first cry of a new child.

As the late theologian-United Church of Christ leader, the Rev. Dr. Truman Douglass, often stressed, "Christianity is the most materialistic of all religions."

It is the only faith that asserts the incarnation — the manifestation of God's will and way for humanity in a human being, the man Jesus, in the blood and sinews that compose all peoples.

He was "made like his brethren in every respect," says Hebrews 2:17.

While he also is regarded as possessed of the very heart and purposes of God, it is the plain physical nature of Jesus, partaking of the pains, sorrows, struggles and needs of our humankind, that give Christianity its special materialistic focus.

Unlike Oriental faiths that abjure the flesh and physical existence as a corrupting prison and seek release from it into a spirit realm, Christianity regards the world, its material makeup and biological life, as basic components and a springboard to the perfecting of it and consummate fulfilling reality.

But its germination is situated in the human grain, in the texture, processes and decisions of earthly existence, like a "seed" in the soil or "leaven" working in dough, Jesus put it.

This is the materialistic bent that impels Christianity in its worldly works, in its far-flung operations for the poor and homeless, in its running of medical clinics and hospitals, in its maintenance of schools and universities, in its activist efforts for fuller justice, better ways, in its provision of shelter, food and clothing for those in need.

"As you have done it to one of the least of these, my brethren, you have done it to me," Jesus said.

That materialistic quality in Christianity is expressed in its central act of worship — the sharing of bread and wine.

Those consecrated products of earth are considered a representation of Jesus himself, the "bread of life," occupying this domain, this tangible, corporeal frame, enlisting in its agonies and hopes, giving its harshest trials a new confidence and precedent of final triumph.

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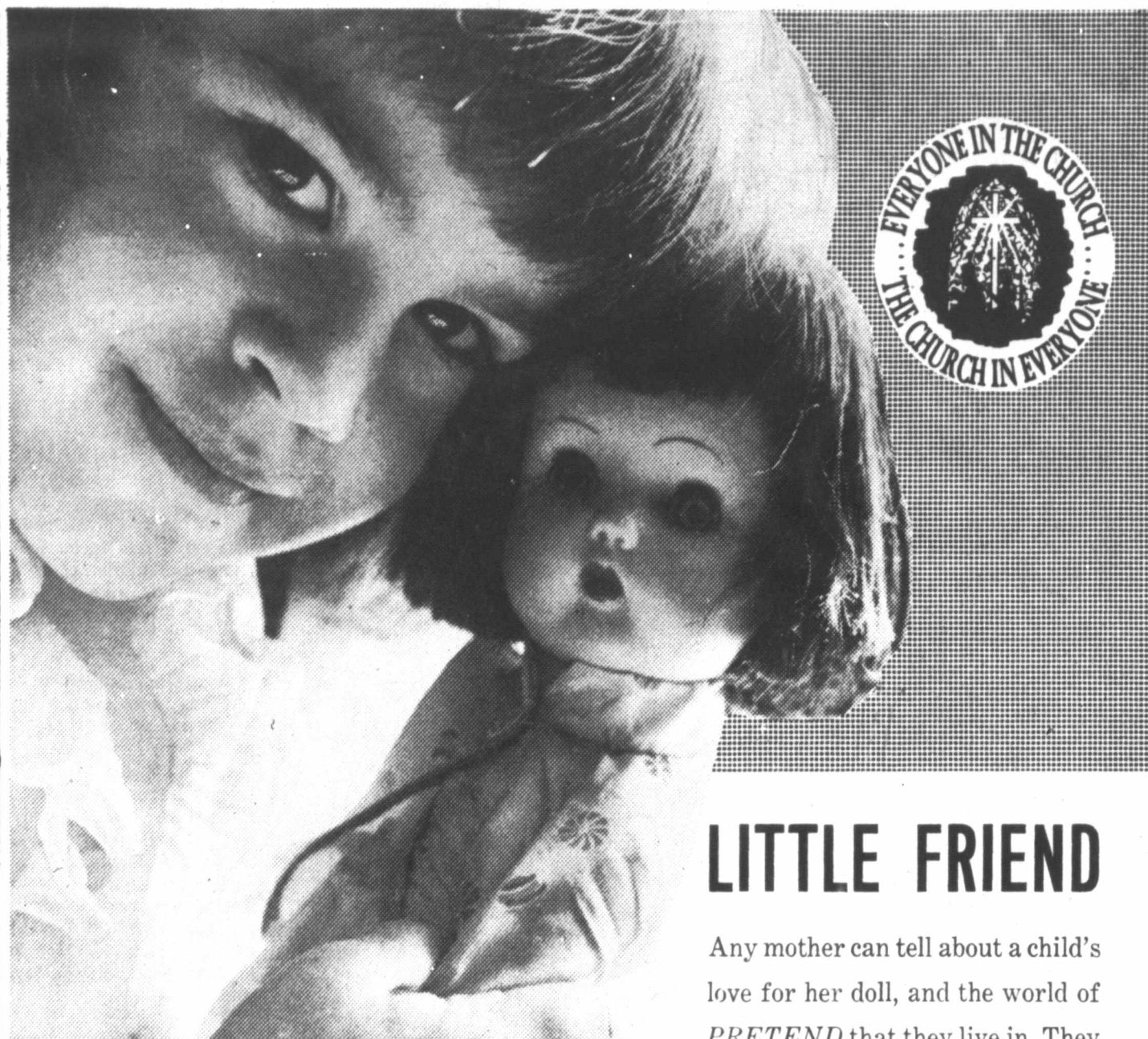
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"A friend loveth at all times."

The Church is God's appointed agency in this world for spreading the knowledge of His love for man and of His demand for man to respond to that love by loving his neighbor. Without this grounding in the love of God, no government or society or way of life will long persevere and the freedoms which we hold so dear will inevitably perish. Therefore, even from a selfish point of view, one should support the Church for the sake of the welfare of himself and his family. Beyond that, however, every person should uphold and participate in the Church because it tells the truth about man's life, death and destiny; the truth which alone will set him free to live as a child of God.

Church Directory

Adventist

Seventh Day Adventist
Franklin E. Horne, Minister425 N. Ward

Apostolic

Pampa Chapel
Rev. Keith Barker, Pastor711 E. Harvester

Assembly of God

Assembly of God ChurchSkellytown
Rev. Rick Jones
Bethel Assembly of God Church
Rev. Paul DeWolfe1541 Hamilton
Calvary Assembly of God
Rev. David Bruehen1030 Love
First Assembly of God
Rev. Sam Brassfield500 S. Cuyler
Lefors Assembly of God Church
Rev. John GallowayLefor

Baptist

Barrett Baptist Church
Rev. Jack M. Greenwood903 Beryl
Calvary Baptist Church
Rev. Ronald A. Harpster824 S. Barnes
Central Baptist Church
Rev. Ted SavageStarkweather & Browning
Fellowship Baptist Church
Rev. Earl Maddux217 N. Warren
First Baptist Church
Rev. Claude Cone203 N. West
First Baptist Church (Lefors)
Rev. Rick Wadley315 E. 4th
First Baptist Church (Skellytown)
Rev. Milton ThompsonSkellytown
First Freewill Baptist
L.C. Lynch, Pastor326 N. Rider
Highland Baptist Church
M.B. Smith, Pastor1301 N. Banks
Hobart Baptist Church
Rev. William R. Lawrence1100 W. Crawford
Pampa Baptist Temple
Rev. John Hulse, Jr.Starkweather & Kingsmill
Bethel Missionary Baptist
Rev. Danny Courtney326 Naida
Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana
Rev. Heliodora Silva1113 Huff Rd.
Progressive Baptist Church
Rev. V.L. Bobb836 S. Gray
New Hope Baptist Church
Rev. J.T. Wilson321 Albert St.
Grace Baptist Church
Pastor Maurice Korsmo1425 Alcock

Bible Church of Pampa

Mike Harris, Interim2401 Alcock

Catholic

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
Father Francis J. Hynes C.M.2300 N. Hobart

Christian

Hi-Land Christian Church
Harold Starbuck, Minister1615 N. Banks

Christian

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Dr. Ralph T. Palmer1633 N. Nelson

Christian Science

A.R. Rober, Reader901 N. Frost

Church of the Brethren

Rev. Bryce Hubbard600 N. Frost

Church of Christ

Central Church of Christ
B.L. Morrison, Minister500 N. Somerville
Church of Christ
Wayne Lemons, MinisterOklahoma Street
Church of Christ (Lefors)
Denny Sneed, MinisterLefors
Church of Christ
John Gay, MinisterMary Ellen & Harvester
Pampa Church of Christ
J.D. Barnard, Minister738 McCullough
Skellytown Church of Christ
Peter M. Cousins, MinisterSkellytown
Westside Church of Christ
Billy T. Jones, Minister1612 W. Kentucky
Wells Street Church of Christ
White Deer Church of Christ
Ross Blasingame, MinisterWhite Deer

Church of God

Rev. Joe Bertinetti1123 Gwendolen

Church of God of Prophecy

Rev. Don W. ChathamCorner of West & Buckler

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Bishop Lavon B. Voyles731 Alton

Church of the Nazarene

Rev. Robert L. Williams510 N. West

Episcopal

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Rev. E. Dennis Smart721 W. Browning

First Christian Church

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
Dr. Ralph T. Palmer1633 N. Nelson

Foursquare Gospel

Rev. Sam Jamison712 Lefors

Full Gospel Assembly

Lamar Full Gospel Assembly
Rev. Gene Allen1200 S. Sumner

Non-Denomination

Christian Center
Rev. Bill W. Hobson801 E. Campbell
The Community Church
Rev. Hugh B. GaganSkellytown
Life Temple
Geraldine Broadbent, Pastor944 S. Dwight

Lutheran

Zion Lutheran Church
Rev. Timothy Koenig1200 Duncan

Methodist

Harrah Methodist Church
Rev. J.W. Rosenberg639 S. Barnes
First Methodist Church
Dr. Lloyd V. Hamilton201 E. Foster
St. Marks Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
V.L. Brown, Jr., Minister406 Elm
St. Paul Methodist Church
Rev. Oland Butler511 N. Hobart

Pentecostal Holiness

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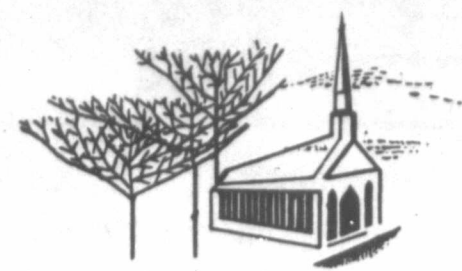
United Pentecostal Church
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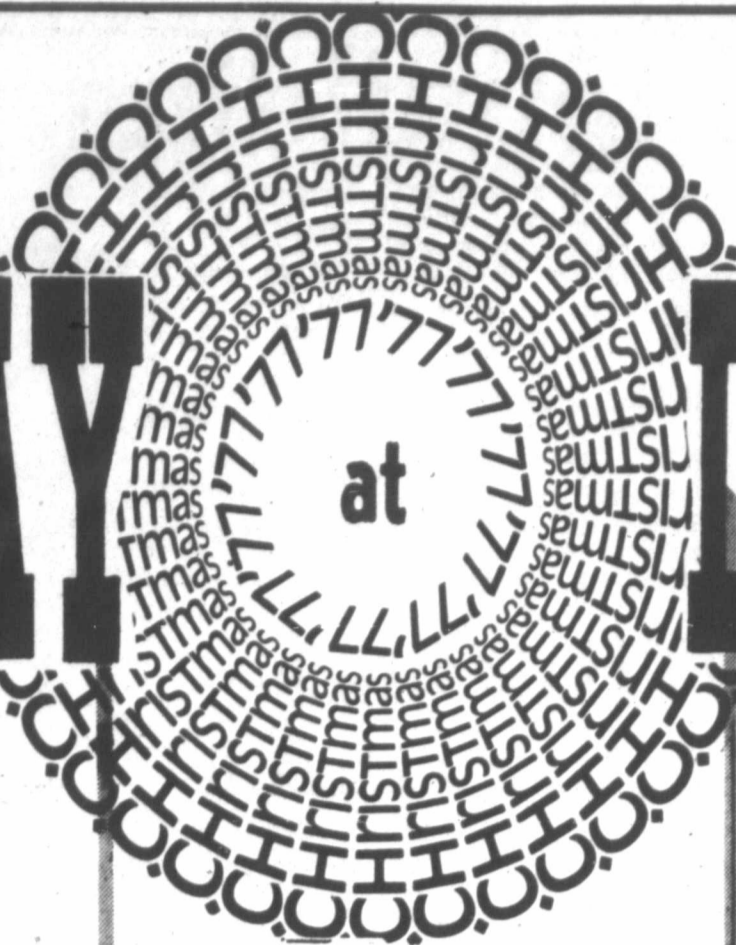


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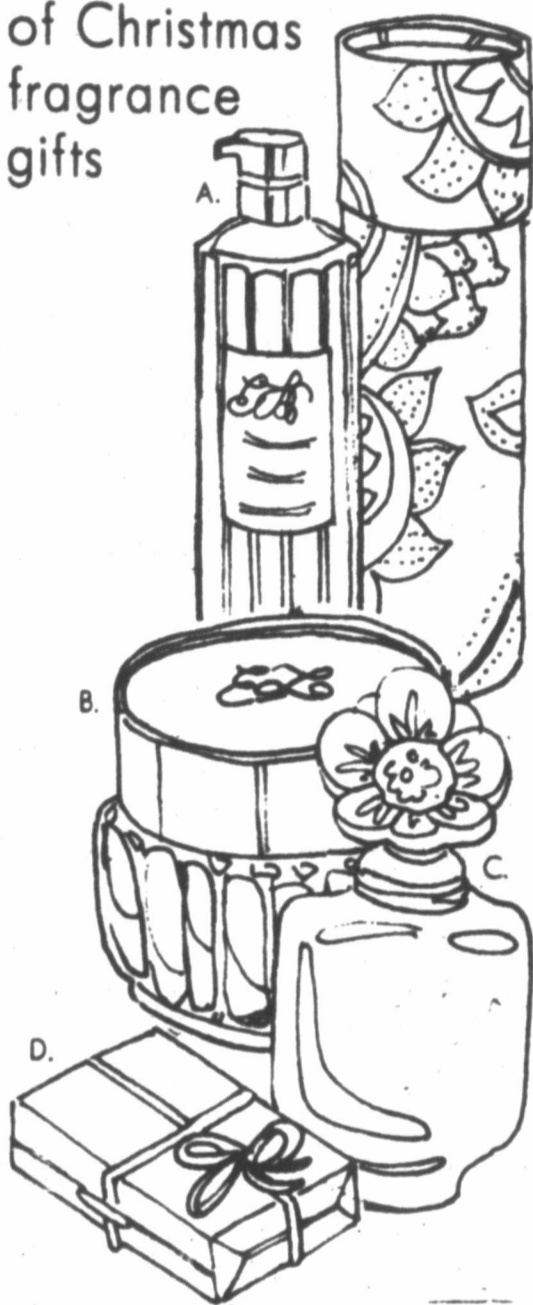
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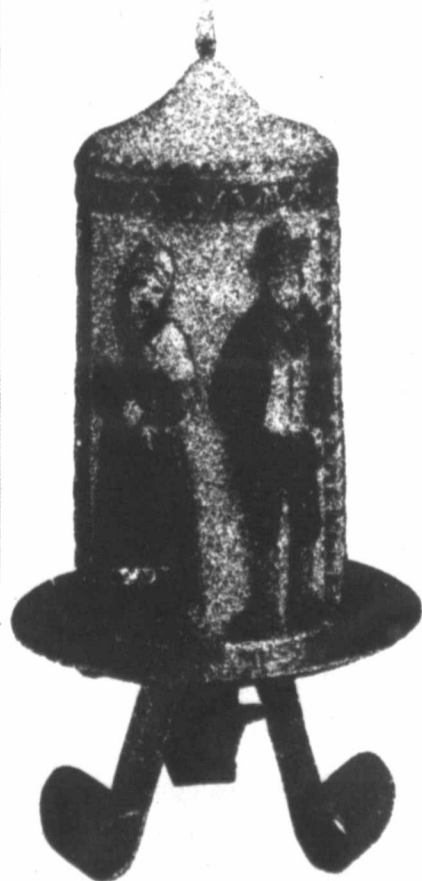
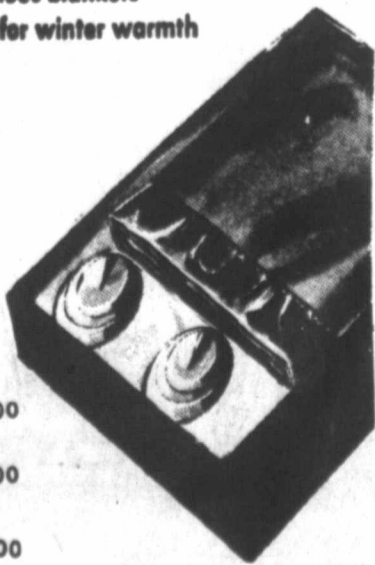
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Carter cuts Navy shipbuilding

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Carter's defense budget proposal for next year will hit a record \$126 billion, but sharply cut the Navy's costly shipbuilding plans.

Pentagon sources said the fiscal 1979 total approved by Carter is about \$9.3 billion more than Congress authorized for the current 1978 fiscal year, but \$9.4 billion below what the Ford administration had projected for the coming year.

Inflation will account for

much of the increase, defense sources said, but the budget will still provide for about 2 percent in what specialists call "real growth" in military assets.

In line with the administration's emphasis on strengthening U.S. conventional forces assigned to Western Europe, the new budget is said to significantly increase funds for the Army to build war reserve stocks of weapons and ammunition and to beef up the anti-

tank and artillery power of forces there.

Carter's decision on the budget followed meetings late last week with Defense Secretary Harold Brown and officials of the White House Office of Management and Budget.

The president roughly split the difference between the somewhat more than \$127 billion recommended by Brown for the year and the \$125 billion which OMB had sought as a ceiling.

During his election campaign, Carter promised a defense spending cut of \$5 billion to \$7 billion. Defense officials contend that, although he will propose a record high budget, Carter is meeting his commitment by slicing substantially below what Ford had publicly projected for fiscal 1979.

The Navy appears to have taken the most severe lumps. Its plans to build new warships and support vessels were

trimmed about 20 percent — from 19 to 15 ships.

A Navy officials contend that this ultimately will mean higher costs because the ships are likely to be included in future budgets.

Army and Air Force officials expressed general satisfaction with the outcome of the budget-shaping process, although the Army appeared to come out better than the Air Force.

NM sends of \$1 million gift

DALLAS (AP) — Christmas gifts like a \$400,000 string of pearls and a \$100,000 Russian sable coat are in a treasure trove flown from Dallas to New Orleans.

They were loaded aboard a waiting jet airplane Thursday and dispatched to an unidentified buyer.

Altogether the gifts cost \$1 million, according to Neiman Marcus, the widely known Dallas specialty store.

Keith Nix, public relations spokesman for the store, said the husband buying them told store personnel they were for his pregnant wife. Beyond that the buyer wanted nothing disclosed — not his name, address or what he does for a living. Thirty-six of the presents were stacked on a loading cart in the shape of a Christmas tree. The floor-length sable coat contained zippers permitting it to be transformed into jacket-or

street-length. Other items ranged from a fur-trimmed cashmere robe and a diamond clasp for a coral necklace to an 18th Century one-of-a-kind handkerchief.

An individual who knows the man's wife was flown here to select the gifts. Store officials refused to identify him also.

Nix said the man refused to be identified was "probably for his own protection — our customers frequently request this." The only hint he would drop was that the big spender is not a Texan.

Owners likewise refused to say who rented the lane carrying the gifts.

David Wolfe, Neiman's fur buyer, went along to make sure their presentation went smoothly.

Someone asked, "Did he charge all that?"

"Oh, of course," replied Wolfe. "We wouldn't know what to do with cash."

O'Hair loses, nativity stands

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Madalyn Murray O'Hair has lost the first round in her fight to get a nativity scene removed from the rotunda of the Texas Capitol.

U. S. District Judge Jack Roberts rejected her suit Thursday. Earlier, she predicted Roberts would do that, forcing her to appeal to the U. S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

Mrs. O'Hair contends the nativity scene violates First Amendment separation of church and state.

The size of the Christmas tree over the nativity scene and the secularization of the holiday were cited by Roberts in denying an injunction to the atheist leader.

Roberts said, "The court must look to the whole of the display in the Capitol rotunda, and not just to the nativity scene itself, which standing alone is unquestionably of a clear religious import."

Roberts observed that the the

nativity scene is "rather small, especially in relationship to the enormous Christmas tree under which it is nestled. Positioned as it is, the nativity scene could hardly be called the focal point of the decorations, and the figurines apparently could not be observed from many points in the rotunda."

He also said he could not "help but take note of the fact that the Christmas season itself, for better or worse, has become largely a secular holiday, celebrated by the whole nation for a variety of purposes

US hopes Arab nations join in Cairo talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States hopes the Cairo talks between Egypt and Israel will produce agreement on basic principles for attracting more participants to the peace discussions, a senior State Department official says.

Once other countries have agreed to participate, the talks would move to Geneva for negotiations on the specific issues outlined in the statement of broad principles, the official said.

It may be possible, the official said, for the Cairo talks to produce the set of principles

within several weeks.

The official said Jordan's King Hussein supports the peace efforts and eventually will join the talks, while Syria's President Hafez Assad "is going to sit on the sidelines and watch and see what happens. He's keeping his options open."

The official, who requested anonymity, also made these points in a background briefing for reporters:

—American and Soviet negotiators are making steady progress in Geneva on strategic arms limitation talks. "The progress is ... not stalled in any way."

—The administration believes the Panama Canal treaty will be approved by the Senate within the first three months of 1978.

On the Middle East, the official cautioned against expectations for major developments from the Christmas Day meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

He said the two leaders will be dealing with political and substantive issues and, inevitably, will have differences. Even

so, he said, "It's very important they do sit down face to face and continue what they started."

The official said Begin views his proposal for Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank as "an interim step — not the end of the road."

Begin won unanimous approval Thursday from his cabinet for his peace plan. He told reporters it is a negotiating position and that he is willing to listen to counterproposals.

Begin reportedly plans to present Sadat with a proposal calling for self-rule for the Palestinian Arabs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but also calling for the continued presence of Israeli troops. Sadat said on Wednesday he would not accept an Israeli military presence on the West Bank.

The senior State Department official indicated that Begin's plan would allow for some Palestinian refugees to settle on the West Bank.

He said Begin's proposal would cover "those who would be there, or, under a worked out immigration scheme would come into the area."

Soldier kills self despite CBER

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A CBER whose handle is "Junkyard Dog" kept a Fort Hood soldier talking for 90 minutes Wednesday night in a vain effort to keep him from shooting himself.

Mickey Caro, a 37-year-old railroad conductor, is credited with getting police to the scene so rapidly that the soldier got immediate medical attention.

The 26-year-old soldier, who reportedly was despondent over a pending divorce, shot himself in the stomach while talking to police through the window of his locked car.

He underwent emergency surgery and was listed in very serious condition today at a local hospital.

Caro said that during their CB conversation, he lied to the soldier so he could lead police to his auto.

He located the soldier's lawyer, as requested, and the lawyer called police.

But it was Caro who tracked down the soldier by asking a series of questions about his location, which turned out to be Ramsey Park in Northwest Austin.

"I bet it wasn't 30 seconds" before police arrived, once the soldier's location was pinned down, Caro said.

The tree is approximately 30 feet tall. The plastic figurines are about two feet high. The figure of infant Jesus is illuminated by a bulb inside the body.

Two colorfully wrapped boxes also are at the base of the tree, and the rotunda walls have Christmas decorations.

A 1973 decision by the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington, D. C., controls this case, Roberts said.

That case, Allen vs. Morton, involved a nativity scene made of life-size figures across the street from the White House. The scene was part of a "Christmas Pageant for Peace."

The appeals court said the pageant had a secular purpose of promoting tourism and manifesting the nation's desire for world peace, and taken as a whole, the pageant did not have a primary effect of advancing religion.

On Christmas make calls from 1-5 p.m.

If you're going to be placing any holiday long distance calls on Christmas day this year, the best time is from 1 to 5 p.m., according to Gary Stevens, Southwestern Bell's Pampa manager.

Stevens said the best way to insure that holiday calls go through "is to dial them direct using One-Plus either before or after the peak calling periods, which will be Christmas Eve after 5 p.m. and all day Christmas."

He also said that because Christmas day fell on Sunday this year, holiday discount rates will apply through Monday.

More than 26 million long distance calls will be placed in Texas this year, and a record 15 million interstate calls are expected nationwide. "In our area of Texas we expect a 10 percent increase over last year's long distance volume," Stevens said, "and to accommodate the anticipated increase the Bell System is adding circuits to its network and assigning additional operators."

Teenage girl danced nude

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The 15-year-old girl should have been spending her days as a high school sophomore and her evenings studying for classes or going on dates.

Instead, she has been earning more than \$500 a month dancing nude at an X-rated night club.

Police took the youngster to the county juvenile home Wednesday, and she faces a preliminary hearing today on whether to keep her in custody of youth authorities.

Youth Services Sgt. C.E. Wood said he was tipped to the girl's "career" by a former

classmate who called police anonymously to say, "She shouldn't be in a place like that."

The club features what it calls the "hottest adult show in town," included X-rated movies.

The girl had moved out of her mother's home and into an apartment in South Austin.

Police reports said a check stub in her purse indicated she had earned \$2,733 since going to work at the club in August.

The club manager told police the girl had stated on her job application that she was 18.

Seadock gains hope

HOUSTON (AP) — The president of Seadock Inc. says one firm is definitely interested in participating in the financially troubled consortium and five or six other companies have shown "modest interest."

The consortium hopes to build a \$700 million crude oil terminal off the Texas coast.

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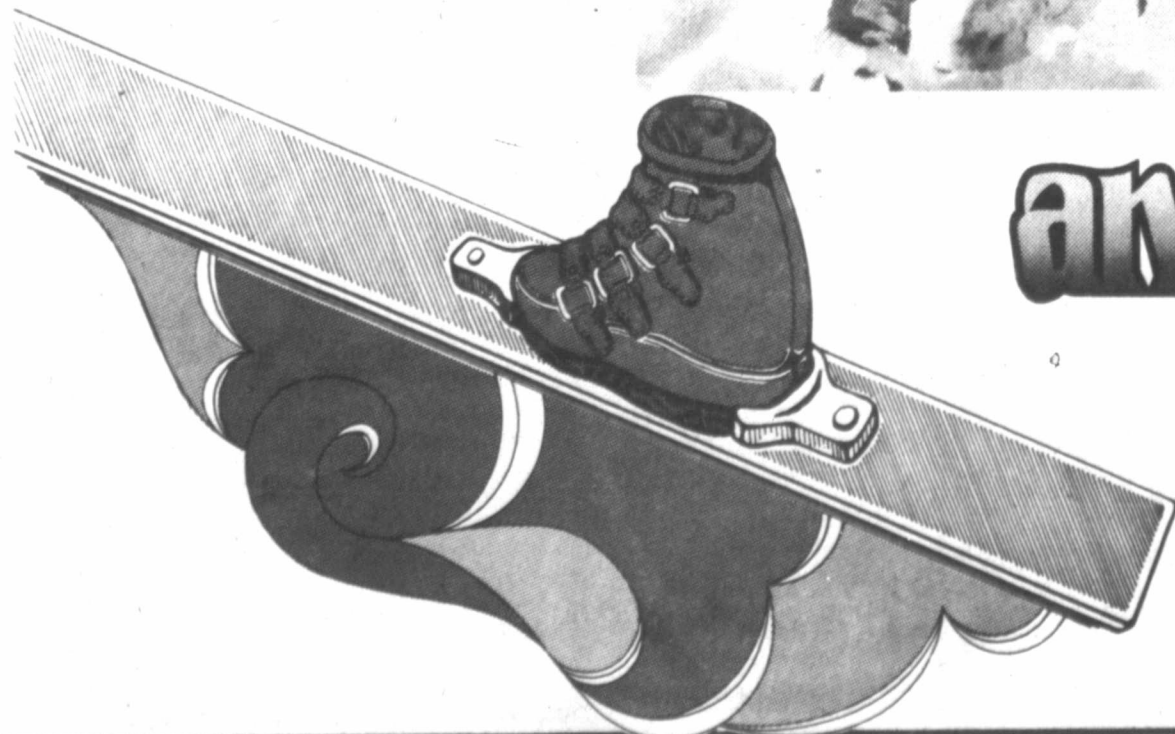
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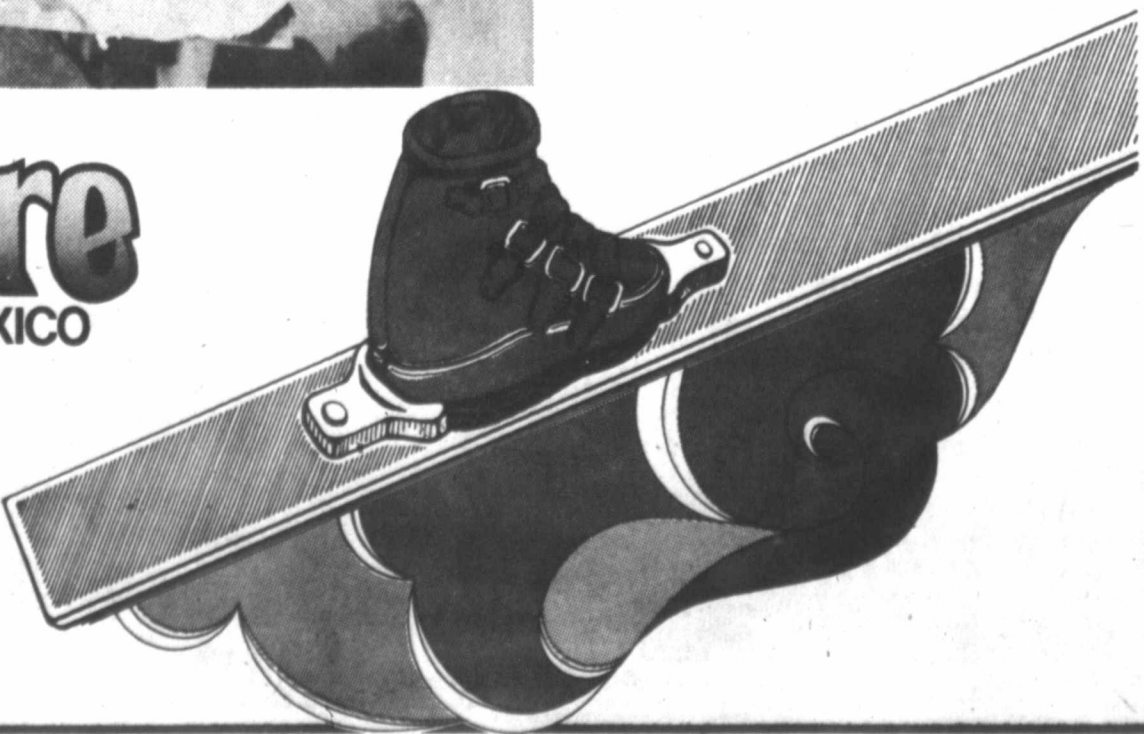


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Earmuff inventor honored

By PETER SLOCUM
Associated Press Writer
FARMINGTON, Maine (AP) — Chester Greenwood's frostbitten ears first felt the snug pleasure of U.S. Patent No. 188292 104 years ago when his grandmother sewed bits of fur onto the wire loop he'd made to fit over his head.

Chester was 15 years old and his ears had been nipped when he was trying out a new pair of ice skates. His invention of the earmuff, patented 100 years ago, eventually led to an ear protector factory here in his home town and to more than 100 other patented inventions.

Today, the first day of winter, has been declared by the Maine Legislature to be Chester Greenwood Day, and the town is putting on a big show for its most famous son. Most inventive son, anyway.

They're having a foot-race from Greenwood Oaks down to the old Greenwood Ear Protector Factory, which is fitting because Chester used to get up at 4 or 5 a.m. and run down to the factory to get the fires going himself.

Greenwood's descendants no longer live in the

Hill Street mansion and there's a laundry in the earmuff plant.

Tonight there'll be an earmuff fashion show at the local branch of the University of Maine, which isn't so fitting because there's no record of Chester ever having gone to school.

Chester "always ran everywhere," according to great-grandson Russell Greenwood, and his mind was always running to new ideas.

He and another man put together a telephone system for Farmington and all of Franklin County. He manufactured all the equipment for the phone company right here, and he machined the parts for his ear protector factory.

He had a bicycle shop, a factory to make the spring tooth rake for farmers, which he invented, and his great-grandson figures "a fourth of the town of Farmington worked for him at one time." Russell brought an exhibit of some of Chester's inventions down to the town hall Tuesday night to get ready for today's festivities.

Farmington, first settled about 100 years before Chester froze his ears skating on the river, is now a town of nearly 6,000. It's about 40 miles northwest of Augusta.

Ten Vietnamese children need not expect gifts

By PETER ARNETT
Associated Press Writer
JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP) — The 10 children of Tran Van Sam are resigned to going without presents again this Christmas.

Against the scornful advice of her teen-age brother, Son, 6-year-old Huong wrote a letter to Santa Claus. She knows Daddy does not believe in Christmas or in presents.

Sam, who came to the United States with thousands of other Vietnamese in 1975, is no Scrooge. He told a visiting reporter that more than half his \$600 monthly wage as a radio assembler went for rent. The remainder, supplemented by food stamps and Social Security for his aged mother, was exhausted on basic necessities. They are just a few dollars away from grinding poverty.

But Sam has other reasons for ignoring Christmas. He is a devout Buddhist, whose most important occasion comes at Tet, or the lunar new year, usually in late January or February.

His one luxury is a room devoted to Buddha. The walls and ceilings are painted bright yellow. Two large statues of Buddha, bought in California, are festooned with colored ribbons.

Buddhist flags fly overhead. It is in this room that Sam retreats to meditate with Viet-

name friends from other New Jersey communities.

He is also a strict parent in the traditional Vietnamese sense. His word is law, befitting a former police captain in the coastal resort of Vung Tau.

And the word is no presents. "We are refugees, and we pay the rent first," he said. "And my children are not spoiled. Vietnamese kids are not like Americans. They understand."

The Sam children have their own style of understanding.

Huong's audacity to go direct to Santa is backed up in spirit by her nine siblings who spill all over the narrow three-story wooden frame house at 46 Cottage Street. Huong asked for the "Baby Burp" doll she saw advertised on TV. Her sister, Hai, 9, wants a knitting set. Baseball-playing Minh, 12, wants a bat and ball.

The Americanization of the Sam children goes beyond Christmas. The five boys aged between 11 and 18 attend Jersey City schools. All have had their share of fistfights and run-ins with other youths testing this lone Vietnamese family in the community.

The family had an unfortunate experience with private enterprise when their first sponsor at Island Pond, Vt., in 1975 worked the parents and the older children in his restaurant from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. six days a week for room, board

Mental illness cases double

DALLAS (AP) — While most Americans are enjoying the Christmas season, the number of mental illness cases handled weekly by Judge Joe Ashmore's county court nearly doubles.

Ashmore cites the "social pressures of Christmas" as the reason.

The judge says many of those who appear in his court during the Christmas holidays are probably alcoholics "with a psychosis because there are more parties and more drinking this time of year."

The breaking point is reached at a variety of "normal Christmas functions," Ashmore said.

"There are family reunions and things like that planned that some people can't cope with. They're being forced to see people they haven't seen in a long time and they're not ready for it," Ashmore said.

Some plunge into depression because they will be alone at Christmas or because someone close to them recently died.

"There's the hustle and bustle of shopping. It's a time when tempers get short and people seem to have less time to help the ones that need their help."

"If a family member was having a problem any other time of the year, they would take the time to deal with it and try to help them. But at Christmas, they don't have the time. People's tolerance level gets low and they simply blow up."

Most of the time, Ashmore's court handles about 30 cases a week.

If a person is having a mental problem and has not committed a crime, his family or a law enforcement agency can place him in the county mental diagnostic center for examination by a psychiatrist. A hearing is then held to determine if the person should be released, placed in an out-patient program or committed to a state institution.

Ashmore said the old practice was to send a good number of these people to the state hospital. But the 1975 legislature passed a law giving judges discretionary power in mental cases.

"The law didn't set any criteria, so we had to come up with our own. My own criteria is that the patient must indicate a willingness to be helped, there must be a program available that can help him and he must have the support of his family or the community," Ashmore said.

He walks States for recreation

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — What is torture to the average person is recreation for Alan Jones.

Jones, 30, a former Marine, swam down the Mississippi River in 1976.

Now he's taking a hike — a 310-mile walk across Iowa in bone-chilling cold, carrying the U.S. and Iowa flags.

"It's a patriotic gesture," Jones said of his walk, which began Monday in South Sioux City, Neb. "I'm always promoting physical fitness, but this

time I thought I'd work in something patriotic — that's why the flags."

Jones hopes to reach Dubuque by Dec. 31 and end his adventure with a dip in the Mississippi — "a great way to end the year."

The physical fitness enthusiast reached the one-third point Wednesday night in Rockwell City.

"The biggest problem is the flag. When the wind grabs it I feel sort of like a sailboat,"

Jones said in a telephone interview. "Yesterday was the worst. It was just about all I could do to hang onto it."

Temperatures Tuesday were in the teens, with winds gusting to 40 mph.

Jones left the Marines last summer after eight years and now lives in Spirit Lake, Iowa.

He said he chose a winter walk because "it's a little more of a challenge this time of year. In summer it would be pretty easy."

Ala. mother selected as NASA fanlist

WASHINGTON (AP) — The mother of a 7-year-old daughter is one of six Americans selected as finalists for a scientific assignment on a joint U.S.-European space mission in 1980, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced Thursday.

There will be seats for two scientists on the seven-person Spacelab 1 crew, one an American and one a European.

The other five crew members will be U.S. astronauts.

The American woman finalist is Ann F. Whitaker of Huntsville, Ala., a physicist at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.

Mrs. Whitaker, 38, said in a telephone interview from Huntsville that she is delighted at her selection.

"I'm very happy, as are my husband and 7-year-old daughter," she said. Her husband, also a physicist, works at the Army's Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville.

She is already working on the Spacelab 1 mission, she said, as principal investigator on an experiment "dealing with the dynamics and lubrication in space of operating journal bearings."

But even if she is selected for the flight, she might not be the first American woman in space. At least three others may have a chance before her.

The other American finalists for the U.S.-European flight are Dr. Craig L. Fischer, 40, of Indian Wells, Calif., a doctor; Dr. Michael L. Lampton, 36, of Berkeley, Calif., a space physicist; Byron K. Lichtenberg, 39, of Natick, Mass., a doctoral candidate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology;

Robert T. Menzies, 34, Pasadena, Calif., a physicist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory; and Dr. Richard J. Terrie, also of Pasadena, a planetary scientist.

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5 Special Notices
PAMPA LODGE No. 966, A.F. & A.M. Thursday December 22, Stated Communications. Merry Christmas to all.
TOP OF Texas Lodge No. 1381, Tuesday the 20th and Tuesday the 27th no meetings. Happy Holidays to all.
FRONTIER LOUNGE Friday 23, 1977. Santa and helper will be at The Frontier. Taking orders for everybody. First drink free and plenty to eat. It'll all start at 7 p.m. and don't be late. Santa-Claus y su ayudante - Esteban Esteban en Le Frontera una servesa gratis comida todo Extra a Las 7:00 no venga tarde.

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Tater Pops cashed in on Tater Tots

HOUSTON (AP) — The judge said Tater Pops will have to quit looking like Tater Tots.

U. S. District Judge Finis E. Cowan granted a preliminary injunction Wednesday ordering Carnation Co. Inc. of Los Angeles, maker of Tater Pops, to cease infringing on the trademark of Tater Tots, produced by Ore-Ida Foods Inc. of Boise, Idaho.

Ore-Ida filed suit Sept. 15 claiming that Carnation had copied the packaging of Tater Tots for its own, similarly nugget-shaped frozen potato product.

Cowan ruled that in adopting the trademark Tater Pops and its style of the Tater Tots packaging, Carnation "intended to trade on the goodwill of the plaintiff."

The judge said confusion in the marketplace would probably result from Carnation's continued use of the Tater Pops trademark and the packaging colors of the Carnation line of frozen potato products.

7000 Viets can come in

NEW YORK (AP) — The Carter administration has decided to allow the State Department to seek emergency admission into the United States of 7,000 Vietnamese refugees, the New York Times said.

The newspaper, in its Thursday edition, quoted administration officials as saying the White House had authorized the State Department to ask the Justice Department to use "parole authority" to admit the refugees, the so-called "boat people" who fled Vietnam by boat and are stranded in Asia.

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