

Big Spring Herald Saturday

'The Crossroads of West Texas'

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Fatal fire



TAKING A BREAK — Fireman Ken Mayhall gives report to Police Officer Jimmy Hensley during a break Friday at a house fire at 1601 Bell. Officer Bobby Armstrong (background) communicates on walkie-talkie.



FIRE FIGHTING — Firemen run hoses through a back door during the early stages of a fire which destroyed the interior of the three-bedroom, tiled-roof house. The fire apparently started in the basement.



CHECKING HOSES — Two Big Spring firemen check hoses leading to the interior of the Bertha Harwell house which was gutted by fire Friday afternoon. Cause of the blaze was initially blamed on a heating unit.

Herald photos by Kim Kirkham

Local woman, 77, dies in house fire

Staff Reports
A 77-year-old Big Spring woman was killed shortly after noon Friday while trying to escape flames which engulfed her three-bedroom house at 1601 Bell near the Canterbury retirement home.
The fire apparently was caused by a basement heating unit, fire department officials said.
Bertha Harwell, a Big Spring native, was pronounced dead at 1:20 p.m. by Justice of the Peace Lewis Heflin. Mrs. Harwell's body was taken to Malone-Hogan Hospital for an autopsy. Cause of death was identified as smoke inhalation, Heflin said.
Heflin said Mrs. Harwell was found in her kitchen by a door leading to the outside. She apparently was trying to escape the flames when she was overcome by smoke before she could unlock the door, he said.
Assistant Fire Marshal Burr Settles said the fire began in the basement in an area where a new heating

unit was recently installed.
"The burns look like (the fire) came from the furnace area," he said. He added that piping to the furnace may have separated accidentally.
The brick and tile roof structure of the home intensified the heat and smoke in the structure, Fire Chief Jim Ryals said. The fire collapsed the floor into the basement and destroyed the rest of the home's interior, he said.
Mrs. Harwell's brother, Roger Miller of Big Spring, said she had lived in the house for 45 years. She was married to the late Mark Harwell, former owner of P&H Electric.
The fire was reported by a neighbor, Rick Dyer, who said another neighborhood resident, Gene Hoffman, drove up and said "The house with red tiles was on fire."
Dyer said he called the fire department and then

went to investigate the fire. He said he checked the door and then kicked out a window to the bedroom.
"I went into the building thinking she might be in there," Dyer said. "Gene went in one bedroom just far enough to look, but it was too smoky."
Settles said the house's doors and windows were locked when firemen arrived.
Dyer said County Engineer Bill Sims stopped by to help before three fire trucks arrived at the scene minutes later.
Ryals said firemen had to punch a hole in the roof of the house to attack the fire. Despite water pressure problems caused by recent breaks in water mains, firemen had no difficulty pumping hydrant water onto the flames, Ryals said.

Settles said Public Works Director Tom Decell diverted water to that area to ensure adequate pressure.
MarLou Dyer, another neighbor, described Mrs. Harwell as a "beautiful, very capable person. I would come by and see her with her tractor out mowing."
According to her brother, Mrs. Harwell owned all the property on the block at the corner of 16th Street and Bell Street.
Funeral arrangements for Mrs. Harwell are pending at the Nalley-Pickle Funeral Home. Other survivors include two sisters of Big Spring, Mrs. M.A. Thomas and Eva Miller; two other brothers, Claude Miller of Big Spring and Cecil Miller of Demming, N.M.; and a son, Mark Harwell Jr. of Lubbock.

Spring board Apathy blamed for hike in DWI cases

board
How's that? Insured

Q. Can insurance companies charge me more money if I have been convicted for driving while intoxicated?

A. The new DWI law permits insurance companies to charge persons convicted of DWI a three-year insurance premium surcharge. The company can charge you another three-year surcharge with every subsequent conviction.

Calendar:
Dance fete

- TODAY**
- The Senior Citizens Club will have a New Year's Eve dance from 8 p.m. to midnight at Air Park Building No. 487.
 - The Howard County Library will be closed for the New Year holiday.
 - The College Baptist Church's "Watch Night" service has been canceled.
- SUNDAY**
- The Heritage Museum will be closed today.
- MONDAY**
- The Heritage Museum will be closed today.
 - The Soil Builders Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. at 807 E. 13th St.

Outside:
Warmer

Today's high should reach into the mid 50s with southerly winds at 5 to 10 miles per hour. By tonight, look for lows in the mid 20s. Sunday should see continued warm weather with highs near 60 and southerly winds 10 to 15 miles per hour.

Harte-Hanks Austin Bureau
AUSTIN — Some Texans become rather angry when politicians talk about a statewide ban.
But the anger has nothing to do with such controversial matters as gun control or competitive sports in junior high — it's reserved for drinking while driving.
"There are just too many people who like to imbibe," Midland City Attorney Joe Nuessle says. "I don't think there are enough people in Texas who care" about the problem of alcohol-related traffic accidents and fatalities.
Otherwise, he says, the state already would have a ban on open containers of alcohol in a motor vehicle.
"There's no reason people can't wait to get to their homes to open

that can of beer — not if they cared anything about other people," he says.
With some legislators and groups such as Mothers Against Drunk Drivers unable to push a statewide ban through the Legislature, Midland is one city that has tried to control drinking while driving by city ordinance — a method that is growing in popularity.
More than 20 cities have passed, or are considering passing, local ordinances banning possession of open alcoholic containers in a motor vehicle, says Sen. Bill Sarpalius, D-Hereford, who sponsored one of the major driving-while-intoxicated (DWI) reform laws that passed during the last legislative session.
Also pushing for more local ordinances is the Southwestern In-

urance Information Service in Austin.
"Texas is one of the few remaining states which permit a driver to openly have beer or wine in a moving vehicle so long as that person is not legally intoxicated," the group's president, Jerry F. Johns, notes.
Though a statewide ban would be much better, he acknowledges, a city by city ban can do some good.
"Say I'm driving from Austin to Corpus Christi and I'm not sure which cities have passed it, I'm going to think twice about drinking and driving. If you put the fear in people that they could be stopped, a prudent driver won't do this," Johns says.
There's one problem, however. "To be truthful, I think it's unconstitutional," says Rep. Tom

Craddick, R-Midland.
Nuessle agrees, noting that the state's Alcoholic Beverage Act seems to pre-empt the right of cities to pass ordinances involving possession of beer, wine and liquor.
At least one request for a ruling on the constitutionality of such ordinances is pending before the Texas Attorney General.
About the only say a city has in controlling alcoholic beverages, Nuessle says, is on consumption and how close a bar can be to a school or church.
For some time now, he says, the Texas Municipal League, a group representing the interests of more than 300 Texas cities, has supported a statewide ban. In lieu of that, the group has urged the Legislature to rewrite the Alcoholic Beverage Act

just enough to allow cities to control possession in a motor vehicle.
The Midland ordinance and many others in the state are based on possession, and that's why Nuessle says they are unlikely to stand up to a court challenge.
A ban based on consumption, he adds, would be hard to enforce because law enforcement officers would have to see a person driving and drinking.
Nuessle says Midland has managed to keep the law on the books for three or four years because the city doesn't enforce it to the point that someone would challenge its constitutionality.
City officials simply pray that the ordinance will be a deterrent.
See DWI laws, page 2-A

Community spirit

Center seeks help for residents

By CAROL BALDWIN
Staff Writer
1983 saw a dream come true for Chestnut and Marianne Brown, directors of the Northside Community Center located on North 8th.
But if more people don't become involved in the center, there could be trouble in 1984, the couple said.
The Browns and the Rev. Israel Cooper founded the Northside Community Center in June. The idea was to open a center which would serve "a lot of different needs in the community," Mrs. Brown said.
Organizers wanted "a neutral place where people can get together for meetings, a place not affiliated with a church or a United Way agency."
The center was located in the city's northside so people with no transportation could get to it easily. The Browns said the center was established to provide educational programs and help for people all over Big Spring, not just one area of

town.
The center operates solely with donations and through the help of volunteers. No one is paid for his time.
The center serves as a go-between for city officials and people in the community. It is also a place "where people can just come down and talk about their problems," Mrs. Brown said.
Mrs. Brown helps with the counseling. She has a degree in psychology from Puget Sound University in Tacoma, Wash., and a degree in sociology from a university in Fort Steilacoom, Wash. She is also a registered nurse.
What is the motivation the Browns have in operating the Northside Community Center? The hours are long and donations hard to come by. But Mrs. Brown admits she has reasons for wanting to work with people who are experiencing



MEMORIES — Marianne Brown and her children, Mario, 9, and Freddy, 16, look over a scrapbook outlining the brief history of the Northside Community

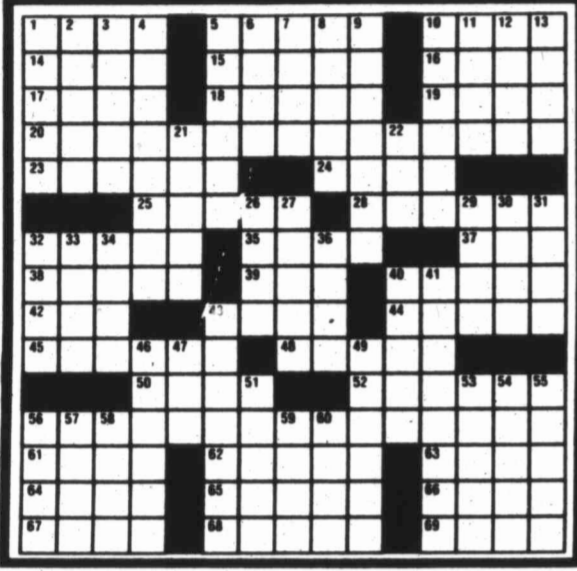
Center. Mrs. Brown said more funding is needed to keep the center afloat.

See Center page 2-A

3
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3
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Go by
 - 5 Speed gauge
 - 10 Broadway hit
 - 14 Landed
 - 15 Roman love
 - 16 Flu symptom
 - 17 Tribunal
 - 18 Throat
 - 19 Musical out.
 - 20 Verbal cogitation
 - 23 Smoothed wood
 - 24 Pinail
 - 25 Norse gods
 - 26 Short trip
 - 28 Rustic
 - 35 Rep. rhyme
 - 37 Loving sound
 - 38 Crowds ending
 - 40 More
 - 41 Ruman love
 - 42 Math sub.
 - 43 Deer
 - 44 Deline
 - 45 Delight
 - 46 Engulf completely
 - 50 More or —
 - 52 Home to be discussed
 - 53 Greek city
 - 54 Begins again
 - 55 After-consideration
 - 56 Protacted
 - 57 Bell sound
 - 58 Greek city
 - 59 Begins again
 - 60 Visitor
 - 61 Exchange premium
 - 62 To — (every one)
 - 63 Bell sound
 - 64 Greek city
 - 65 Begins again
 - 66 Visitor
 - 67 Exchange premium
 - 68 To — (every one)
 - 69 Bell sound
 - 70 Greek city
 - 71 Begins again
 - 72 Visitor
 - 73 Exchange premium
 - 74 To — (every one)
 - 75 Bell sound
 - 76 Greek city
 - 77 Begins again
 - 78 Visitor
 - 79 Exchange premium
 - 80 To — (every one)
- DOWN**
- 1 Components
 - 2 Don Ho's halo
 - 3 Act of protest
 - 4 Criterion
 - 5 Flushing water
 - 6 To — (every one)
 - 7 Bell sound
 - 8 Greek city
 - 9 Begins again
 - 10 Visitor
 - 11 Exchange premium
 - 12 To — (every one)
 - 13 Go to — (deteriorate)
 - 14 — over
 - 15 Calamitous
 - 16 Stopped
 - 26 Netter: prof.
 - 27 Extend a subscription
 - 28 Clits or boric
 - 29 Christmas song
 - 30 Small boat
 - 31 Fellow
 - 32 Unbearable state
 - 34 Impetrate
 - 36 Network
 - 37 From abroad
 - 41 Electronic device
 - 43 Flood
 - 45 Flushing water
 - 46 Vinegar variety
 - 47 Dry, as wine
 - 48 Anesthesia
 - 49 Throat
 - 53 "Kiss out of you"
 - 54 Fascination
 - 55 Throat
 - 56 King of Norway
 - 57 Nuzzle
 - 58 Snek's partner
 - 59 Calamitous
 - 60 Stopped



DENNIS THE MENACE



"IT SOUNDS KINDA LIKE BEIN' ON THE SCHOOL BUS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Now we have to go back to January and start all over again!"

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A very good last day of the year to be very definite in thinking about what you want in the years ahead and to make swift and definite plans for gaining such ambitions and goals.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Plan to see persons of different views to your own or contact those at a distance for a more interesting future.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20): You are suddenly inspired just how to handle your business matters in the future so that you become more successful.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): A heart partner shows you how to make the future brighter, so listen carefully and follow suggestions given you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You can finish work that needs to be done, but take time to show appreciation to fellow workers.

LEO (Jul. 23 to Aug. 23): You may get an unexpected invitation that will bring you new contacts in the future.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 23): You had better carry through with the plans made by family for New Year's Eve and be happy. Home entertainments are best.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23): Being active and making many new contacts is good during the day. Be sure to drive with utmost care.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): A good day to analyze your financial position as the year ends and know just how you do stand. Plan improvements of property.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You can clearly see all the opportunities ahead for the coming year, so be sure to plan wisely. You can become more successful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): This is a good day to see an advisor who can tell you what is best to do in the coming new year. Heed important decisions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Fine day and evening to be gregarious and see as many of your friends as you can, both in business and personal life.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Considering what you have accomplished during this year will give you a better idea of what to do in the New Year. If YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY he or she will never be quiet a moment, so early teach to think before speaking so as not to get into trouble. Give fine education "in" add languages to the curriculum. Accents history and geography since travel is indicated.

"The Stars impel, do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

NANCY



BLONDIE



Especially for young readers

The Mini Page

Member of Distinguished Achievement Awards Winner

By BETTY DEBNAM

Caring for a Rare Pair Keeping the Pandas



Keeper Bingham gives Hsing-Hsing a carrot as he stands in his wire cage. Hsing-Hsing is much easier to manage than the female, Ling-Ling. However, Barbara thinks Ling-Ling would make a wonderful mother.

Barbara Bingham has an important job at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C.

She is the keeper of two living treasures, the giant pandas, female Ling-Ling and male Hsing-Hsing (pronounced "Shing-Shing").

"They are almost too cute to be real," says Barbara, who has looked after the 12-year-olds for the past eight years.

"But they are not the overgrown, stuffed toys they appear to be. They are wild animals with big teeth and strong jaws," Barbara says. "While they appear to enjoy people, it is not safe to go into their cages with them," she added.

Barbara has to be a very careful observer as she guards the health of the most popular animals at the zoo.



Top Keeper Barbara Bingham with a tray for Hsing-Hsing's midday meal. The pandas are fed bamboo, apples, carrots and rice mixed with vitamins. Feeding time is the best time to see them.



The pandas' favorite treat is bamboo, and they eat a lot of it. Their front paws are unusual. They have a thumb that enables them to hold a bamboo stalk much as a human might.



Winter is panda weather. Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing love snow and cold. They can see each other through a moon-shaped, wire-covered fence separating the two outdoor yards.

Panda Schedule

Morning
 7:00 Up and pacing.
 7:30 Bamboo snack time.
 9:30 Placed together several times a week, usually in Ling-Ling's outside yard. They usually ignore each other, but sometimes they play.
 11:00 Feeding takes place in outside yards (if the weather is right). The pandas are always fed separately.

Afternoon
 12:30 Sleep in indoor display room.
 3:00 Fed in indoor display room.
 4:30 Back to sleep. They nap for a little while and then get up and pace around. Then it's back for another snooze.

ALPHA BETTY'S

from The Mini Page by Betty Debnam © 1984 Universal Press Syndicate

HA! HA! HO! HO! HO!

WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD?

JO

In Alpha Betty's spare time, she likes to race horses. It's a fun job. How many other words beginning with JO can you find?

Answers: jockey, joint, joust, jog, joke.

ROCKIE COOKIES RECIPES

Speckled Lime Pie

You'll need:

- 1 large container whipped topping
- 1 small can limeade concentrate
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 2 chocolate or plain graham cracker pie crusts

What to do:

- Mix topping, thawed limeade, milk, lemon juice and chocolate chips.
- Pour into pie shells and freeze for 3 hours.
- Take pie out of freezer about 15 minutes before you want to serve it.

MIGHTY FUNNY'S MINI JOKES

To find the punch line, use the symbols as a code to fill in the missing letters.

from The Mini Page by Betty Debnam © 1984 Universal Press Syndicate

WHAT DO YOU CALL A COW THAT SITS ON THE GRASS?

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Maybe 1984 Will Be the Year of the Panda Baby

There are about 50 giant pandas in zoos around the world, and only 1,000 or so in the wild in China where they are from.

One of Barbara Bingham's important jobs is managing this rare pair so they might be able to breed.

Last summer, Ling-Ling gave birth to a cub, but it lived for only a few hours.

The zoo people were sad, but also happy to know that she and Hsing-Hsing could become parents.

The pandas are put together for a few hours several times a week. As the breeding season gets nearer and nearer this spring, the plans are to put them together more often.

If they do mate, and all goes well, a cub might be born three to five months later.

We can't tell if a female panda is expecting a baby by looking at her. She gets no bigger because her baby is so tiny (weighing only about 4 pounds).

As the time the cub is supposed to be due gets nearer and nearer, zoo volunteers watch Ling-Ling 24 hours a day on closed-circuit TV.

A panda baby at the National Zoo would make 1984 a very happy year for all panda lovers everywhere.

Above is a map of the panda quarters. Ling-Ling has a special room, called a "cubbing den," where she gave birth to her cub last summer.

The pandas attract thousands of visitors to the National Zoo. Panda souvenirs also sell well. A restaurant is on the second floor, above the display area.

Here is how you would write Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing in Chinese.

玲玲 LING LING 兴兴 HING HING

Would you like to write from 1 to 10 in Chinese?

一	五	八
二	六	九
三	七	十
四		

MINI SPY...

"This is the giant panda," says Mini Spy. "He looks like a bear." See if you can find:

• butter churn	• pear	• baseball bat	• key
• word MINI	• briefcase	• carrot	• lollipop
• ladder	• flyswatter	• horseshoe	• caterpillar

'Trip-wire' Vietnam vets hiding in wilderness



LOST IN THE WOODS — Marvin, an ex-Marine who did not want his last name published, tracks a mountain lion on a forest trail near Forks, Wash., recently, without the benefit of a shirt or shoes to ward off the

cold. Marvin is one of several Vietnam vets living in the wilderness and using the skills they learned in the jungle to live.

FORKS, Wash. (AP) — Hiding out in Washington's wilderness, "trip-wire" veterans are almost never seen. But a few are there, shunning society and living by the skills they learned in the Vietnam jungle, the state veterans' affairs director says.

"Trip wire" was the phrase U.S. servicemen used for the unseen, deadly traps the Viet Cong laid along trails to snare and maim GIs on patrol. It also applied to certain soldiers who developed a knack for finding those traps and dismantling them.

Now state officials are using the phrase to describe a very small percentage of veterans who, unable to cope with the stress of their war memories and the disapproval they faced upon returning home, disappeared into the woods to live the only way they felt comfortable.

"Out there in the woods are wonderful, loving people who just want to be left alone, who are saying, 'I don't want a world where I am going to be spit on and have tomatoes thrown in my face,'" said Bruce Webster, a Port Angeles psychologist who works with veterans.

About 85 trip-wire vets have re-entered society since the state Veterans Affairs Department began an outreach program, said department director Randy Fisher. He said he did not know how many more there might be.

With a \$100,000 grant from the state, Fisher and Mike McWatters, a private consultant and veteran who says he himself hid for two years in New York's Adirondacks, began the counseling service in August.

Last summer McWatters did a survey to determine how many of the state's 100,000 Vietnam-era veterans needed counseling but lacked programs. He found about 1,000, and a number of them were vets whose existence resembled that of 19th-century mountain men.

Marvin, a 33-year-old ex-Marine who did not want his last name published, says he lived as a woodland shadow off and on for 10 years, tracking and trapping

animals; wearing buckskin clothes, living in caves and hollow tree stumps.

He was one of several trip-wire vets interviewed by the Tacoma News Tribune for a series of stories this week.

"There's a lot the public don't know — and probably will never know — about what happened in 'Nam,'" he said. "The only job skills I have are those that might be useful to a hit man for the Mafia."

Marvin said he spent four years in Vietnam as a Special Forces Scout before being wounded in 1971. When he returned to the United States he headed for the woods, holing up in Colorado, Wyoming and Montana and ending up in Washington. He avoided all human contact, he said, because "I couldn't stand to be touched."

He said he suffered from paranoia and nightmares. Since he sought counseling a year ago, Webster diagnosed him as a victim of post-traumatic stress disorder — a psychological illness in which symptoms show themselves years after the event that caused them.

Bill Maier, 35, says he was another trip-wire vet. An ex-Marine who saw heavy combat during his Vietnam stint, Maier said he sought refuge in the woods from his recurring nightmares.

But his sanctuary became his torment, for the isolation became too much. "I became afraid of everything," he said. "I had to get out. Everything was closing in on me."

Maier sought help from Webster, his former high school track coach, and now says, "I feel I'm getting well again." He spends much of his time going back to the woods to find other trip-wire vets and urge them to seek counseling.

Trip-wire vets are not "loonies," Fisher said. They are troubled and confused men who cannot come to terms with their post-traumatic stress disorder.

One paper sues another for libel

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A Florida appeal court Friday cleared the way for one newspaper to sue another for libel.

In a 2-1 ruling, the 1st District Court of Appeal said newspaper writers can be sued for libel if they mix unattributed malicious claims with "pure expression."

The majority opinion said Kenneth and Elizabeth Smith, principals in a company that publishes The Taco Times, should be able to sue The Perry News-Herald for an unflattering column printed Dec. 24, 1980.

District Judge Ford L. Thompson issued a strongly worded dissent, suggesting that newspaper publishers should be able take criticism as well as give it.

"If a newspaper can publish almost anything about a public figure with immunity, then surely at least the same immunity should attach to a statement made about the editor

and publisher of a newspaper," Thompson said in his dissent.

"Perhaps the appellant (Kenneth Smith) has chosen the wrong profession. If one cannot stand the heat, he should not go into the kitchen, and more particularly, should not try to be chef."

The Smith lawsuit, filed in circuit court, alleged libel in three items published in The Perry News-Herald during December 1980: a letter to the editor, a news article about a fight and a column.

Circuit Judge John A. Rudd dismissed the complaint, ruling that none of the published items was libelous.

The appeal court agreed there was no cause for legal action in regard to the letter or news article.

But the appeal court reversed the trial court on the column, which dealt with an alleged

confrontation between Smith of The Taco Times and Buddy Sadler, husband of an employee at The News-Herald.

The News-Herald column, written by Doris Morgan, was titled: "Barbs We Ignore, But Physical Violence Is Something Entirely Different."

The columnist described Smith as a violent man and protested that, "Such conduct is appalling in a profession dedicated to the precept that the pen is mightier than the sword."

The appeal court said "pure expression of opinion" is constitutionally protected from libel actions, but mixed expression is not.

"In addition to reporting the incident pertaining to Sadler, the writer made certain factual assertions about an earlier incident without citing the source of the information," the court said.

Houston pressure returning

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston area water pressure was "amazingly good" Friday as the city appeared to be finding a way of coping with record low temperatures which officials estimated had damaged some 100,000 homes due to broken water pipes.

"People have got the idea to not flow their pipes," Dan Jones, a city public works department spokesman said.

One method of keeping pipes from freezing, residents believe, is to keep a trickle of water running. However, when so many homes do that, and combined with pipes already broken and flowing, water pressure is difficult to keep.

City officials have been recommending that people should turn off their

water and drain the pipes.

Carl Lee, of the Texas Insurance Information Institute in Austin, said he believed half of the 100,000 victims would be unable to file insurance claims because damage was less than deductible under their homeowners' insurance.

Meanwhile, reports of price-gouging continued to pour in to the state attorney general's office in Houston. Nearly 150 had been received by Friday.

"The phone's just been ringing off the wall," attorney general's office spokesman Edward Wesley said. "And as more people become aware of this through the media, I'm sure that the calls will increase."



STEAMING HOT — Two San Angelo firefighters are enveloped in steam created after they had hosed each other down in the inferno that broke out early

Friday morning. Firemen fought the blaze for five hours before it was brought under control. No one was injured in the fire that destroyed a freight warehouse.

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Lady

SAN A to a tall cats whi San A Big Spr their ta more th The B Bradley San A never t halftim But th gamely Monette Midw narrow would g Big S contest rebound and Br ups the

Paul points 1-1 in d

Big Spring San Angelo

Big Spr 6: Monette 1: Janna M San Angelo 12: Shan S 3:11 total Halftime

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VICTOR a ride Semine 28-3.

Seattle set to test Dolphins

MIAMI (AP) — The more Don Shula looks at the Seattle Seahawks, the more he thinks he's looking at the Buffalo Bills.

In fact, Shula pulled out old films from Chuck Knox's five-year reign in Buffalo to ready his Miami Dolphins for Saturday's 12:30 p.m. EST National Football League playoff game against the Seahawks.

While the Dolphins and Seahawks are almost strangers — Miami has won both previous meetings, in 1977 and 1979 — Shula and Knox have often stared across the field at each other, mainly when Knox was head man with the Bills. They also met once when Knox coached the Los Angeles Rams.

"When you think of Seattle, you can't help but think of Buffalo and comparisons with past Chuck Knox teams," Shula said, recalling the divisional rivalry.

In his first season at Seattle, Knox directed the Seahawks, 9-7, into the playoffs for the first time in the franchise's eight-year history. And the Seahawks' 31-7 victory over the Denver Broncos last week made Knox the first NFL coach to win a playoff game with three different teams.

Knox brought about similar turnarounds in his first years with the Rams and Bills.

"When you play a Chuck Knox team, you know you are in for a highly competitive game," said

Shula, whose Dolphins are 10-4 and champions of the American Conference East. "You want to know what Knox's trademark is? Look at how they played (last) Saturday. They didn't make any mistakes."

"We took out the old Buffalo films because when you think of Knox, you think of Buffalo. You can insert (rookie running back Curt) Warner for Joe Cribbs. Knox is doing many of the same things he did in Buffalo."

Shula has won eight of their meetings, but none of the victories came easy — the biggest margin was 10 points, and four of the games were decided by three points or less.

Knox also revamped his defense, switching from a 4-3 alignment to a three-man front, and signed offensive guard Reggie McKenzie, who played for Buffalo, and fullback Cullen Bryant, a Los Angeles pupil, for leadership.

Saturday's game features the AFC's top two quarterbacks, Miami's Dan Marino and Seattle's Dave Krieg. Both took over from more established starters at midseason, Marino passing for 2,210 yards and 20 touchdowns and Krieg for 2,139 yards and 18 TDs.

Krieg, a fourth-year pro, was almost perfect against the Broncos, completing 12 of 13 passes for 200 yards and three touchdowns.



COACHES MEET— Seattle Seahawks coach Chuck Knox (L) talks with Miami Dolphins coach Don Shula between back-to-back press conferences Friday prior to the AFC semi-final playoff game Saturday in

Miami. The Seahawks entered the playoffs following their wild card victory last week over the Denver Broncos.

Lady Steers fall to Bobcats

SAN ANGELO— The Big Spring Lady Steers ran into a tall, good rebounding team in the San Angelo Bobcats which resulted in a 64-52 loss for the Lady Steers.

San Angelo's tough inside game proved too much for Big Spring as the host team worked the ball inside to their taller front line which averaged three inches more than Big Spring.

The Bobcats' Val Schult, Bonnie Smith and Monica Bradley proved too tough for BSHS. San Angelo opened up a 22-12 first quarter lead and never trailed. The lead was opened up to 42-28 at halftime thanks to a pesky Bobcat press.

But the Lady Steers were down but not out as they gamely fought back thanks to the scoring of forward Monette Wise who ripped the nets for 19 points.

Midway through the third quarter the Lady Steers narrowed the lead to 46-40 but that is as close as they would get.

Big Spring was outbounded badly throughout the contest as Schult led a balanced Bobcat scoring and rebounding attack with 9 rebounds and 11 points. Smith and Bradley added 12 points each as San Angelo ups their district slate to 2-0.

Paula Spears and guard Debra Rubio added 10 points each for the Lady Steers whose record falls to 1-1 in district play.



BOSTON DRIVER— Boston Celtics Gerald Henderson (43) drives the lane against Dallas Mavericks guard Brad Davis (15) in the first quarter Friday night in Dallas' Reunion Arena. Henderson did not make the basket but he was fouled on the play making both free throws.

Three interceptions hurt Iowa

Florida downs Hawkeyes, 14-6

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Neal Anderson's one-yard touchdown run capped an 87-yard drive in the first quarter and Doug Drew recovered a fumbled snap by Iowa's punter for a second-period score as No. 11 Florida held on to defeat the 10th-ranked Hawkeyes 14-6 in a chilly Gator Bowl Friday night.

The victory enabled Florida to equal the school record of nine victories in a season, accomplished four times previously. The Gators' 9-2-1 mark is their best since 1969 and may have assured Florida the first Top Ten finish in its football history.

The Hawkeyes, who were bidding to become the first Iowa team to win 10 games, wound up 9-3.

Iowa's Chuck Long, the NCAA's No. 2-ranked passer and ringleader of the nation's third best offense, was intercepted four times after throwing only eight interceptions in 236 passes all season.

The Gators turned the first interception, one of two thefts by free safety Tony Lilly, into their 87-yard touchdown drive. Anderson started it with a 47-yard burst and finished it by taking a pitchout for the final yard and a 7-0 lead at 14:20 of the opening period.

An interception by Florida linebacker Mark Korff at his 23-yard line stalled an Iowa drive on the Hawkeyes' next possession. But Tom Nichol's 32-yard field goal after an 88-yard march made it 7-3 with 5:45 remaining in the first half.

Nichol soon went from field goal to touchdown — but the touchdown was Florida's. Nichol, back to punt from his end zone, bobbled Joel Hilgenberg's slightly high but catchable snap. It hit the ground and rolled between the legs of Iowa's Norm Granger before Drew, a reserve linebacker, pounced on it with 1:08 left in the half. Bobby Raymond's conversion made it 14-3.

Nichol added a 31-yard field goal four minutes into the third period, six plays after cornerback Devon Mitchell intercepted a pass by Florida's Wayne Peace at the Gators' 48 and returned it to the 29.

But he missed a 40-yard attempt late in the quarter and the game ended as the lowest scoring Gator Bowl since Maryland defeated Florida 13-0 eight years ago.

A record Gator Bowl crowd of 81,293 turned out in 35-degree weather to see Florida boost its bowl record to 7-8. Iowa lost for only the second time in five bowl games.

Lions, 49ers ready to do battle

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Seven weeks ago, Billy Sims was disgusted and raging during a Detroit Lions' loss to the lowly Houston Oilers.

A week later in the National Football League season, the San Francisco 49ers were a team in shock, beaten at the final game when the Atlanta Falcons' Billy "White Shoes" Johnson scored on a crazy and controversial 47-yard touchdown pass.

But strong finishes by both teams brought them division titles, and they meet Saturday in a National Conference semifinal playoff game at sold-out Candlestick Park. The Lions won the NFC Central race with a 9-7 record, while the 49ers went 10-6 to win the NFC West. Sims is a running back on a roll. But the Lions' No. 1 quarterback, Eric Hipple, was injured in the final regular season game, and Gary Danielson will be handling the passing Saturday.

"Danielson has the experience that can make a difference in these kind of games," says 49ers Coach Bill Walsh whose own quarterback, Joe Montana, has the experience of winning in the Super Bowl.

"I'm not surprised we're here, especially because of the way we played late in the season," says Sims. "We made a lot of improvements and stuck together when our backs were against the wall."

Coach Monte Clark's team was 1-4 at one point and 5-6 after losing 27-17 to the Oilers, who were winless going into the Nov. 13 game.

Sims stormed along the sidelines in Houston, knocking things over, in a display of anger captured by several cameras. He worked off a lot of the frustration a week later by rushing for a career-high 189 yards in an overtime victory over Green Bay, and the Lions demolished the Pittsburgh Steelers 45-3 in their next game.

Wills may have charges dropped

COMPTON, Calif. (AP) — Former Los Angeles Dodgers shortstop Maury Wills might be eligible for a drug diversion program through which cocaine possession charges against him could be dropped, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County district attorney's office says.

Al Bergette, the office's public information officer, says Wills, who briefly managed the Seattle Mariners, could have the felony charge dismissed if he has no prior drug offenses and proves he had no intention of selling the cocaine. He would also have to complete a drug counseling program.

Wills, 51, is scheduled to be arraigned Jan. 6 in Compton Municipal Court. He was arrested early Tuesday while allegedly driving a stolen car, and police found a vial allegedly containing a .06 of a gram of the substance in the car. "If a small amount is found, and it is for personal use and not intended to be sold, such persons are usually eligible for a drug diversion program,"

Albergette said. "But it's up to the judge to decide."

Wills, who is free on \$1,500 bond, would have to undergo six months to a year of sessions supervised by a doctor, psychologist or drug counselor, Albergette said.

According to Dodger officials, Wills had undergone treatment for drug dependency last summer, but left the rehabilitation center before completing the program.

When he was arrested, Wills was driving an automobile that had been reported stolen, but Robert J. Gore, a spokesman for the district attorney's office, said no charges were filed. Police Captain John Sparkenbach said Judy Aldrich, the car's owner, said she is a former girlfriend of Wills and did not realize he had the vehicle.

She told authorities that Wills had taken the car keys from her during an argument after they ended their relationship in 1981. She said the car was taken from her driveway last April, and she reported it stolen.

Aldrich said she had spoken with Wills on the telephone since then, but still was unaware that he had the car, a 1981 Audi.

Wills was arrested after two police officers pulled him over on an area freeway when they spotted a broken window on the passenger side, Sparkenbach said.

Sparkenbach said the officers found the white substance and a water pipe in the car.

Wills told the officers he was self-employed and resided in Playa del Rey, a suburban beach community.

Don Newcombe, the Dodgers coordinator of drug and alcohol counseling efforts, said he had driven Wills to a drug treatment center in Orange, Calif., earlier this year, but Wills did not complete the treatment.

Wills, who gained fame as a baserunner and set a since-eclipsed single season record of 104 stolen bases in 1962, retired as a player in 1972. He was named manager of the Seattle Mariners before the 1980 season, but was fired May 6, 1981.



VICTORY RIDE— Florida State's Bobby Bowden gets a ride off the field of the Peach Bowl Friday after his Seminoles defeated the Tar Heels of North Carolina 28-3.

FSU shocks Tar Heels

ATLANTA (AP) — Florida State sophomore Eric Thomas, making his first collegiate start, shocked North Carolina with two first-quarter touchdown passes to Weegie Thompson to pace the Seminoles to a 28-3 victory over the Tar Heels Friday in the 16th annual Peach Bowl.

Thomas hit Thompson on an 18-yard toss in the end zone to cap a 69-yard drive in nine plays following the opening kickoff. He then connected with Thompson on a 15-yard score less than four minutes later.

Florida State, making up somewhat for its 53-14 embarrassment to Florida in its season finale, made it 21-0 at the half when Roosevelt Snipes dove into the end zone from the 1-yard line following a fumbled punt that was recovered by the Seminoles on the North Carolina 16. North Carolina's only scoring came on

a 36-yard field goal by Brooks Barwick early in the fourth quarter after the Tar Heels marched 71 yards to Florida State's 20 before stalling.

Thomas closed out the scoring by sneaking over from the 1 with only 31 seconds remaining in the game.

The Tar Heels of the Atlantic Coast Conference managed only 85 yards in offense in the opening 30 minutes of the nationally televised contest played under sunny skies and temperatures in the low 20s before a crowd of only 25,648. Florida State, an independent, had finished its season 7-5.

North Carolina, 8-4, penetrated beyond the 50-yard line only once in the opening half. But the 40-yard drive fizzled at Florida State's 28 and a 42-yard field goal attempt by Barwick failed wide to the left.



FEELING GOOD— University of Texas All-American linebacker Jeff Leiding is all smiles as he poses before the skyline of downtown Dallas before UT's upcoming clash with

Georgia in the Cotton Bowl. The All-American suffered a gash in the head when he was hit by a beer bottle in a night club Tuesday night.

A ghost story

Christmas credit debts haunt Americans

By LOUISE COOK
Associated Press Writer

The ghost of Christmas past will haunt many American households for months to come in the shape of holiday bills, but the spirit doesn't have to be scary if you know how to manage money.

Many of those bills will reflect credit purchases, and the start of the new year is a good time to review spending to make sure you're not overdoing it when you buy now and pay later.

Statistics show the use of revolving credit traditionally is higher during December than any other month and 1983 is expected to be no exception. The figures aren't in yet, but pre-holiday crowds led retailers to predict record sales, and the economic recovery has prompted consumers to start spending again for big-ticket items like appliances that frequently are bought on credit.

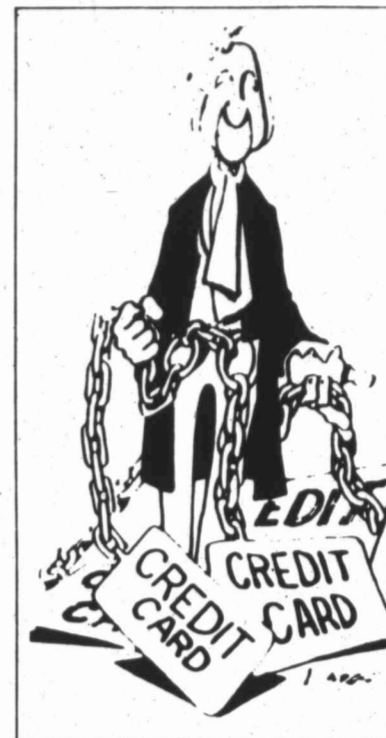
Government figures also show a credit comeback.

During October, for example, the latest month for which all the numbers are available, the Federal Reserve Board says the amount of outstanding revolving credit increased at an annual rate of 20 percent. That compared with an annual growth rate of 8.5 percent in September and 5.6 percent in August.

There was almost \$70 billion outstanding in revolving credit at the end of October, representing nearly one-fifth of all non-mortgage installment debt.

Consumer use of credit may help keep the recovery on track. But your individual spending may lead you off the track. It's not hard to tell if you're heading for trouble. Here's how:

Add up the minimum payments due each month on all outstanding bills, including bank cards, personal or auto loans and retail charge accounts. Do not count your mortgage payment. Compare the total to your monthly take-home



are healthy. Credit counselors say people who are in debt over their heads tend to pay bills later and later each month, barely meeting the deadline. Another sign of trouble: Paying the absolute minimum every month.

Keep a tally of the number of cards you use. The payments on each card may not seem like much, but they can add up. Lots of small bills coming in each month also can camouflage your total spending. And many lenders have recently raised minimum-payment requirements; you could owe more than you expect.

Before you use any type of credit, you should shop around for the best deal. The Federal Reserve Board says the average annual interest rate for a bank-issued credit card during November was 18.75 percent, but rates vary depending on where you live and how much competition there is for customers in your area. Nearly 20 states have eliminated or raised ceilings on interest rates for consumer credit in recent years.

If the ghost of Christmas debt does turn into more than you can handle, contact your creditors or consider seeking help from a counselor.

There are non-profit counseling centers in most parts of the country, often backed by local merchants.

The counselors will help you work out a strict budget — you may have to give up credit completely, at least temporarily. They also will total your debts and figure out how much you can afford to pay each month. Then they'll try to work out an agreement with your creditors allowing you to pay off your bills, a little at a time. Check your telephone book under "credit" for the counselor nearest you, or contact the National Foundation for Consumer Credit, 8701 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, Md., 20910.

pay, after taxes. If your debts are more than 15 percent to 20 percent of your income, consider cutting back. Pay off existing bills and make no new purchases until the ratio of debt to income is under control.

Look at how you're spending as well as how much. Are you making small purchases of \$10 or \$15, putting them on a credit card for convenience and paying the price by adding them to a revolving account on which you pay interest? Are you charging necessities like groceries on a credit card? Are you using credit to buy things, on impulse, you really can't afford? When you feel "down" do you take your card and go on a spending spree? If you answered "yes," you may be in danger.

Make sure your payment habits



Associated Press photo

HEAR ANY NEWS FROM MARS? — Little people from outer space appear to be out for a stroll at Germany's Rhine-Main Air Base fire department, but it's

nothing that exotic — just two asbestos suits standing by, ready for use in case the firemen hear the alarm bell ringing.

Town seeks to honor drifter who saved girl from assault

LEVITTOWN, Pa. (AP) — A drifter who was shot in the neck while saving a teen-age girl from her attacker could receive a medal and money for his heroism — if someone could find him.

Tullytown Borough police credit Joseph Patrick Mahoney, 26, with the Sept. 29 rescue of a 13-year-old girl from an assault by an armed man in a wooded area where Mahoney lived.

The Carnegie Commission of Pittsburgh, which presents medals and \$2,500 grants each year to about 100 people who have risked their lives to save others, heard about the incident.

The commission last week contacted Tullytown Police Chief Gaspar Favoroso seeking details. He mailed his report Monday, but said he had no idea where Mahoney was.

"I call him a hero. ... If Mahoney had not been there, there's no question there could have been a tragedy," Favoroso said.

Mahoney, a tall, thin, bearded man described by acquaintances as deeply religious and well educated, told police he saw schoolbooks scattered along a path in the woods and had started to pick them up when he heard a scream.

He ran to a clearing, where he found the man lying on top of the girl.

The assailant, a heavysset man who was carrying a small-caliber pistol, struggled with Mahoney while the girl fled.

He grabbed Mahoney by the throat, shot him in the neck and fled on a dark green bicycle.

Mahoney staggered to a tavern in a nearby shopping

center and collapsed. The girl, a parochial school student who had been taking a shortcut home, went to a pizza shop, where someone called police.

The girl, whose name was not released, was treated for cuts and bruises at Delaware Valley Medical Center in nearby Bristol. Mahoney was taken to the medical center, but was transferred that night to Albert Einstein Medical Center's North Division in Philadelphia.

Mahoney was released from the hospital, and the last time anyone reported seeing him was about two weeks ago, when a Levittown crossing guard spotted him near an elementary school.

The bullet that lodged in Mahoney's neck is still there because doctors decided it would be too dangerous to remove it, according to Lois Tanzola of Levittown, a clerk at a department store near the woods where Mahoney lived.

Favoroso said Mahoney "confronted the assailant, who had a loaded weapon. Some people might have run and screamed, but to go forward at a guy with a gun ... he could have been killed instantly."

Mrs. Tanzola said Mahoney, who came into her store occasionally, told her "he just didn't feel like a hero. He said he didn't do anything anyone else wouldn't have done."

She said that after Mahoney left the hospital, he spent a couple of weeks in a motel before \$300 collected by workers at her shopping center ran out.

"He had been in the woods for quite a while, but I never heard him beg for money," she said. "He scavenged garbage cans."

Man returns to society after 31 years

CHICAGO (AP) — After living three decades in mental hospitals, apparently because of a language barrier, a Chinese immigrant is free but will never be "the person he could have been," his lawyer says.

In need of constant care, David Tom, 54, spent his first day of freedom Thursday in a community center he now calls home.

He was joined for lunch by his attorney, Pat Murphy, who successfully fought a four-year legal battle seeking financial compensation for the 31½ years Tom languished in institutions.

"He seemed to be as content ... as someone in that situation can be," Murphy said. "I think he's going to make it."

But the task of regaining what Tom lost may not be as hopeful.

"David is irrevocably harmed," Murphy said. "There is no money you can sink into him that will undo that.... He's never going to be the person he could have been."

Tom will live at a drop-in center for Indochinese refugees and be cared for by the couple running the facility.

Duo compiles 'worst of' record album

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It wasn't easy, but Harold Bronson and Richard Foss — also known as the Rhino Brothers — say they have assembled an album of the world's worst records.

"The Rhino Brothers Present the World's Worst Records," is out on Bronson and Foss' tiny Rhino Records label. It comes complete with the kind of bag airlines tuck into seat pockets for sick passengers.



Associated Press photo

FIRST DAY OF FREEDOM — David Tom relaxes Thursday at the North Side Community Center in Chicago that he will call home after spending 31½ years in mental hospitals apparently because of a language barrier.

Murphy, who is also Cook County public guardian, won a suit alleging Tom's rights were violated because he was institutionalized for decades without the care of anyone who spoke his native Chinese dialect.

Tom came to the United States around 1949 and was shipped to a mental institution in 1952 after he began acting strangely during treatment at a tuberculosis hospital. His lawyers contended he was victimized by bureaucrats who let him

languish in asylums while he lost his mind. Illinois officials argued that Tom was institutionalized because he was psychotic and that all his needs were met.

A jury awarded Tom \$400,000 in May.

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Reagan okays Grenada for U.S. aid

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP) — President Reagan added Grenada and eight other islands or Caribbean nations Friday to the list of countries eligible for special economic assistance under his Caribbean Basin Initiative program of economic development.

The president's designation will make certain products from nations newly added to the list eligible for duty-free treatment in the United States from Jan. 1 through Sept. 30, 1985.

In a letter to House and Senate leaders, Reagan said the designation was "an important step for these countries in their battle to revitalize and rebuild their weakened economies."

He said it also showed the "constructive cooperation between the United States and the peoples and governments of the Caribbean Basin."

In addition to Grenada, where U.S. troops helped oust a leftist regime in October, Reagan added the following nations and islands to the 11 previously designated as eligible for the program: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, the British Virgin Islands, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras and Montserrat.

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'Trip-wire' Vietnam vets hiding in wilderness



LOST IN THE WOODS — Marvin, an ex-Marine who did not want his last name published, tracks a mountain lion on a forest trail near Forks, Wash., recently, without the benefit of a shirt or shoes to ward off the

cold. Marvin is one of several Vietnam vets living in the wilderness and using the skills they learned in the jungle to live.

FORKS, Wash. (AP) — Hiding out in Washington's wilderness, "trip-wire" veterans are almost never seen. But a few are there, shunning society and living by the skills they learned in the Vietnam jungle, the state veterans' affairs director says.

"Trip wire" was the phrase U.S. servicemen used for the unseen, deadly traps the Viet Cong laid along trails to snare and maim GIs on patrol. It also applied to certain soldiers who developed a knack for finding those traps and dismantling them.

Now state officials are using the phrase to describe a very small percentage of veterans who, unable to cope with the stress of their war memories and the disapproval they faced upon returning home, disappeared into the woods to live the only way they felt comfortable.

"Out there in the woods are wonderful, loving people who just want to be left alone, who are saying, 'I don't want a world where I am going to be spit on and have tomatoes thrown in my face,'" said Bruce Webster, a Port Angeles psychologist who works with veterans.

About 85 trip-wire vets have re-entered society since the state Veterans Affairs Department began an outreach program, said department director Randy Fisher. He said he did not know how many more there might be.

With a \$100,000 grant from the state, Fisher and Mike McWatters, a private consultant and veteran who says he himself hid for two years in New York's Adirondacks, began the counseling service in August.

Last summer McWatters did a survey to determine how many of the state's 100,000 Vietnam-era veterans needed counseling but lacked programs. He found about 1,000, and a number of them were vets whose existence resembled that of 19th-century mountain men.

Marvin, a 33-year-old ex-Marine who did not want his last name published, says he lived as a woodland shadow off and on for 10 years, tracking and trapping

animals, wearing buckskin clothes, living in caves and hollow tree stumps.

He was one of several trip-wire vets interviewed by the Tacoma News Tribune for a series of stories this week.

"There's a lot the public don't know — and probably will never know — about what happened in 'Nam," he said. "The only job skills I have are those that might be useful to a hit man for the Mafia."

Marvin said he spent four years in Vietnam as a Special Forces Scout before being wounded in 1971. When he returned to the United States he headed for the woods, hiding up in Colorado, Wyoming and Montana and ending up in Washington. He avoided all human contact, he said, because "I couldn't stand to be touched."

He said he suffered from paranoia and nightmares. Since he sought counseling a year ago, Webster diagnosed him as a victim of post-traumatic stress disorder — a psychological illness in which symptoms show themselves years after the event that caused them.

Bill Maier, 35, says he was another trip-wire vet. An ex-Marine who saw heavy combat during his Vietnam stint, Maier said he sought refuge in the woods from his recurring nightmares.

But his sanctuary became his torment, for the isolation became too much. "I became afraid of everything," he said. "I had to get out. Everything was closing in on me."

Maier sought help from Webster, his former high school track coach, and now says, "I feel I'm getting well again." He spends much of his time going back to the woods to find other trip-wire vets and urge them to seek counseling.

Trip-wire vets are not "loonies," Fisher said. They are troubled and confused men who cannot come to terms with their post-traumatic stress disorder.

One paper sues another for libel

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A Florida appeal court Friday cleared the way for one newspaper to sue another for libel.

In a 2-1 ruling, the 1st District Court of Appeal said newspaper writers can be sued for libel if they mix unattributed malicious claims with "pure expression."

The majority opinion said Kenneth and Elizabeth Smith, principals in a company that publishes The Taco Times, should be able to sue The Perry News-Herald for an unflattering column printed Dec. 24, 1980.

District Judge Ford L. Thompson issued a strongly worded dissent, suggesting that newspaper publishers should be able to take criticism as well as give it.

"If a newspaper can publish almost anything about a public figure with immunity, then surely at least the same immunity should attach to a statement made about the editor

and publisher of a newspaper," Thompson said in his dissent.

"Perhaps the appellant (Kenneth Smith) has chosen the wrong profession. If one cannot stand the heat, he should not go into the kitchen, and more particularly, should not try to be chef."

The Smith lawsuit, filed in circuit court, alleged libel in three items published in The Perry News-Herald during December 1980: a letter to the editor, a news article about a fight and a column.

Circuit Judge John A. Rudd dismissed the complaint, ruling that none of the published items was libelous.

The appeal court agreed there was no cause for legal action in regard to the letter or news article.

But the appeal court reversed the trial court on the column, which dealt with an alleged

confrontation between Smith of The Taco Times and Buddy Sadler, husband of an employee at The News-Herald.

The News-Herald column, written by Doris Morgan, was titled: "Barbs We Ignore, But Physical Violence Is Something Entirely Different."

The columnist described Smith as a violent man and protested that, "Such conduct is appalling in a profession dedicated to the precept that the pen is mightier than the sword."

The appeal court said "pure expression of opinion" is constitutionally protected from libel actions, but mixed expression is not.

"In addition to reporting the incident pertaining to Sadler, the writer made certain factual assertions about an earlier incident without citing the source of the information," the court said.

Houston pressure returning

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston area water pressure was "amazingly good" Friday as the city appeared to be finding a way of coping with record low temperatures which officials estimated had damaged some 100,000 homes due to broken water pipes.

"People have got the idea to not flow their pipes," Dan Jones, a city public works department spokesman said.

One method of keeping pipes from freezing, residents believe, is to keep a trickle of water running. However, when so many homes do that, and combined with pipes already broken and flowing, water pressure is difficult to keep.

City officials have been recommending that people should turn off their

water and drain the pipes.

Carl Lee, of the Texas Insurance Information Institute in Austin, said he believed half of the 100,000 victims would be unable to file insurance claims because damage was less than deductible under their homeowners' insurance.

Meanwhile, reports of price-gouging continued to pour in to the state attorney general's office in Houston. Nearly 150 had been received by Friday.

"The phone's just been ringing off the wall," attorney general's office spokesman Edward Wesley said. "And as more people become aware of this through the media, I'm sure that the calls will increase."



STEAMING HOT — Two San Angelo firefighters are enveloped in steam created after they had hosed each other down in the inferno that broke out early Friday morning. Firemen fought the blaze for five hours before it was brought under control. No one was injured in the fire that destroyed a freight warehouse.



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