







# The Midland Reporter-Telegram

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## Don't waste a day

There will be those who undoubtedly will breathe "good riddance" when today is over and 1980 steps aside to let 1981 ease in.

It's true; 1980 wasn't a year most Americans will want to keep in the forefront of their memories. The bad news far outweighed the good. Interest rates in the United States neared the 20 percent mark earlier in the year, eased for a short while and then bounded right back up to their lofty heights. Prices for literally everything went up, in some cases drastically, catching nearly all Americans in an inflation vise that hurts and isn't showing any signs of easing up. To say the least, the economy dominated U.S. news in 1980.

Worldwide, troubles also were numerous. We all know what they are. There's no use in rehashing them here.

It all adds up to somewhat of a gloomy start for 1981.

Changes can be made, though, that will bring about a resurgence of optimism like this nation has never seen before. Sure there are a lot of problems in America and the world, but there also is a lot of talent to overcome those problems.

In the United States, for example, the administration of Ronald Reagan faces a tremendous challenge to bring the economy under control and to lead the nation back to its rightful role as leader of the free world.

That won't be an easy task or one that can be accomplished quickly. But that is the challenge and we hope that Mr. Reagan and the other government officials in this country are capable of and willing to give us the leadership Americans have demanded and deserve.

The challenge facing the world in 1981 is even more ominous. Can the nations of the world get through the next 365 days without being engulfed in the maelstrom of war? Can the nations of the world act to bring about an end to terrorism, prejudice, hatred? Can the nations of the world learn to live in harmony and peace?

Needless to say, that's a pretty large order. But we have to hope that such goals eventually can be attained.

The world is just beginning the new year. Not a day should be wasted in attempting to meet those goals.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 31, the 366th day of the year. This is the last day of 1980.

Today's highlight in history: On Dec. 31, 1946, the end of World War II was officially proclaimed by President Harry Truman.

On this date: In 1879, Thomas Edison first demonstrated the electric incandescent light at Menlo Park, N.J.

In 1890, Ellis Island in New York Harbor was opened as a center to receive immigrants.

In 1943, there was a near-riot of bobby-soxers in New York's Times Square as Frank Sinatra opened a singing engagement at the Paramount Theatre.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford proposed statehood for Puerto Rico.

Ten years ago: The Soviet Union commuted the death sentence of two Jews convicted of trying to hijack an airliner to Israel.

One year ago: Diplomats reported that the Soviet Union had moved another 20,000 troops across the Afghanistan border — bringing to 100,000 the estimated number of Soviet troops helping the Afghan government put down Moslem rebels.

Today's birthdays: Fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg is 31. Singer John Denver is 37. Singer Donna Summer is 32.

Thought for Today: Conceit can puff a man up, but can never prop him — English writer John Ruskin (1819-1900).

## BIBLE VERSE

Return ye, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from all your transgressions wherein ye have transgressed; and make you a new spirit.

## NICK THIMMESCH

# Ronald Reagan taking new hope for '80s into White House

WASHINGTON — This time of year, those billions of souls living in the Northern Hemisphere — by far the largest portion of world population — are given to reflecting on the passage of time and the condition of mankind. The short, often darkened, days, the winter solstice, the Christmas season and the approaching New Year inevitably bring on such review.

Many of us, especially in the media trade, see the world in dismal shape indeed. Though living standards have improved dramatically, there is constant fretting about "the economy," as it is called in capitalist and socialist nations alike. Life expectancy increases, but so does publicized concern over disease and privation.

Engineering marvels abound, entire new cities sprout from nowhere, and, simultaneously, the tropics are spoiled by development, and the battle between environmentalists and producers rages everywhere.

There is no single act of global violence like World War II taking 50 million lives, but Iraqis, Iranians, Israelis, Palestinians and Irish revolutionaries and loyalists fight and kill each other.

Authentic world leaders are as scarce as, say, an Anwar Sadat or a Pope John Paul II. We in Western civilization have prospered as never before, and war has not ravaged the battle-scarred face of Europe or the occasionally touched U.S., and yet there is worry about how the great powers — the U.S. and the Soviet Union — will confront each other in the '80s.

The U.S. has had bad luck with its leaders in the past 20 years. A president was assassinated. His successor got bogged down in Vietnam. Richard Nixon struggled, and was forced to

leave office. A man named Ford had a brief try at binding wounds, and James Earl Carter Jr. stayed only a little while. Meanwhile, the world wondered what was going on in this great republic of promise, the home of the free and the brave, the nation millions voted for by coming here.

I happen to believe that the way America goes has a lot to do with how much of the rest of the world goes. We are not the absolute influence, but we are a large one. And we have confused and exasperated the rest of the world in the past two decades. There are some people who would even write us off.

So now we prepare to inaugurate Ronald Wilson Reagan, an Irish-American whom middle-aged Americans became acquainted with in two installments — during his entertainment career, and as a national politician. His political opponents always underrated him. "The American people will never elect a right-wing 70-year-old ex-actor," Hamilton Jordan reassured me about a year ago.

But Reagan is earnest, pleasant and pragmatic, a man who obviously believes with the ancient, "Moderation in all things." He paces himself, does not get flustered, and can communicate who he is and what he believes like few in the political game. As president, he can bring back the



Nick Thimmesch



## WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

# Language barrier defeated Soviet defector

WASHINGTON — When Pvt. Aleksandr Kruglov, a member of the Soviet forces that invaded Afghanistan a year ago, stroled into the American Embassy in Kabul with the apparent intention of defecting, he made headlines around the world.

He also touched off a tragicomic series of events that revealed how ill-equipped the United States is to deal with Russian citizens seeking political asylum.

The comic part of the episode became all too obvious. Though the Soviets had been occupying Kabul for months by the time Kruglov showed up at the embassy — and, indeed, the Russians had dominated Afghanistan for years — there was not a single Russian-speaking Foreign Service employee on the staff of our embassy in Kabul.

So until a Russian-speaking diplomat could be flown in from the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, poor Kruglov had to communicate with the Americans in pidgin German.

The tragic part, of course, is what may have happened to Kruglov when he decided — after less than a week in our embassy — to give up his claim of political asylum and return home with Soviet diplomats.

The Russians said Kruglov "willingly agreed" to leave his sanctuary, and under the circumstances, U.S. diplomats could not reasonably argue that he had been coerced. It is at least possible that Kruglov simply got tired of trying to communicate in Katzenjammer German.

What hasn't been disclosed to the American public is that the United States, without either a clearcut policy or an on-the-spot capability of dealing with a potential Soviet defec-



Jack Anderson

tor, had called on the United Nations for help in the delicate matter.

Acting on the assumption that Kruglov would eventually have to be escorted out of Afghanistan, the State Department turned to the Geneva-based U.N. High Commission on Refugees. Using the United Nations as an intermediary would avoid possible accusations that the United States had coerced the Russian soldier into defecting. So far, so good.

But as it turned out, the United Nations was just as ill-prepared as the U.S. Embassy to handle possible defections in Afghanistan. The U.N. refugee commission had no office in Kabul.

The nearest U.N. refugee office was in neighboring Pakistan, to which thousands of Afghans had fled since the Russian invasion. But instead of flying in a refugee official from Pakistan, the U.N. authorities decided to turn Kruglov's case over to the international office that was on the scene in Kabul: the U.N. Development Program.

What the U.N. officials overlooked, however, was that the head of the development program in Kabul was a Bulgarian. Although he would presumably be able to make himself

## ART BUCHWALD

# All that 'plastic money' can give creditors ulcers

"Is this Mr. Erik Gerende?"  
"Speaking."  
"This is Mr. Barkle of the Visa card company."  
"Happy New Year."  
"That is not what I'm calling about. We notice that you have \$2,340 in charges and we haven't heard from you."  
"I didn't know I was supposed to call."  
"You weren't supposed to call. You were supposed to send us a check."  
"I would have, but it would only bounce and then you people would have gotten mad at me."  
"You mean you don't have \$2,340?"  
"Who does, except the Hunt brothers?"  
"I'm not in a joking mood. Mr. Gerende. We need the \$2,340."  
"Well, you better call somebody else because I don't have it."  
"Why did you use our Visa card if you didn't have the funds?"  
"I didn't intend to. But every time I went into a store before Christmas, the person behind the counter said, 'We'll take either Visa, MasterCard or American Express.' I figured you people needed the business so I gave everyone my Visa card."  
"We sent you that Visa card on the understanding that you would pay us back for the things you charged on it."



Art Buchwald

"Well, if that's the way you feel about it, I'll send the card back to you. I don't want to do business with any company where I'm not welcome."  
"You don't have to do that. We've canceled your Visa card already. If you pay us back the \$2,340 we will be happy to reinstate you."  
"For \$2,340 I could join the Burning Tree Country Club. Look, if I had the money I'd send it to you. But I'm a little strapped now, what with Christmas and everything."  
"What did you buy with the card?"  
"A lot of stuff for the kids and two airline tickets for my parents to visit us over the holidays."  
"Have they used the tickets both ways?"  
"Yeah, they went home last night. They had a great time."  
"Mr. Gerende, this is going to look very bad to the computer. The computer gets very angry when one of our members fails to pay his bills."  
"What does it do?"  
"It tells other computers all over America that you refused to pay your Visa obligations."  
"That's a rotten thing to do."  
"Do you know what you are now, Mr. Gerende, in the memory of every computer in this country?"  
"No, what am I?"  
"A deadbeat."  
"Nobody's perfect."  
"We want our money, Mr. Gerende, and we want it now."  
"Okay, if you feel that way about it. Do you people take American Express credit cards?"

## MARK RUSSELL SAYS

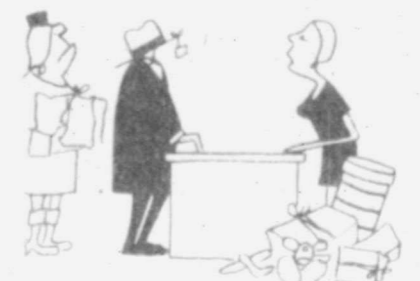
Guess whose books are too much for highly religious Salt Lake City? Irma Bombeck. She never should have admitted to having a filthy lint trap.

It seems that Irma's work on behalf of the ERA makes her an unfit author. It will be difficult finding her next book. "How To Come at the PTA Meeting When They Burn You at the Stake in an Hour."

Before the Mormons and the Moral Majority are finished, the funniest book in the library will be "Mein Kampf."

What goes on here? Exactly how many happy families are plunged into divorce, drugs, depravity, lust, filth and perdition because they went to the library and checked out "The Grass Is Always Greener Over the Septic Tank"?

## BEN WICKS



"What seems to be the trouble?"

## Column opinions not always ours

Writers whose columns appear on this page are selected on the basis of their reputations, their philosophies and their writing skill. But opinions expressed in their columns are not necessarily shared by The Reporter-Telegram.

On the contrary, the editorial opinion of the newspaper and positions taken by columnists often differ greatly.

Opinions of The Reporter-Telegram are restricted to our own editorials which appear daily on the left side of the page. Readers whose views differ from our own editorials or those columnists whose writings appear on this page are invited to express their opinions in our "Letters to the Editor" column which appears Sundays.

## The Country Parson



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12-31

Beckwith

**DR. NEIL SOLOMON**

**Skin discoloration may mean many things**

Dear Dr. Solomon: My daughter usually does things to extremes, and when she diets, she really diets. For the past several months, she has lived mostly on raw vegetables. Whenever she feels hungry, she nibbles on raw carrot sticks. Lately her hands have turned an orange-ish color, which I attribute to all the vegetables she's been eating. Is this a possibility? — Mrs. V.P.

Dear Mrs. P: Individuals who consume a substantial quantity of red or yellow vegetables, such as carrots and sweet potatoes, can indeed acquire a yellowish or orange tinge. Such persons may develop

carotenemia (an excess of carotene in the blood) which, in turn, can produce carotenoderma, which means that the skin turns yellow.

The carotenes contained in vegetables are important to health since they are converted to vitamin A. But the body is limited in its ability to use carotenes. The pigment also is found in leafy green vegetables, and in milk fat and egg yolk.

One word of caution: An excessive intake of carotene-containing foods is not the only reason for the kind of skin discoloration you describe. I have seen patients with a variety of illnesses, including low

thyroid output and diabetes, that may produce the same effect.

Why not have your daughter check with your physician so that these other diseases may be ruled out? Once they are, a change in her eating habits should cause the skin discoloration to disappear.

Dear Dr. Solomon: I'd like to start using honey instead of sugar, and would appreciate some information about it. I'm not a food faddist, and I don't consider honey to be a miracle food, but I do like to try different things. Can you provide some basic facts? — Ms. L.S.

Dear Ms. S.: Honey, which has been used in

foods for medical purposes, and in religious rituals, is the oldest sweetener known. There are four kinds available at the retail level: Comb honey is the type found in the cells of the comb, just the way bees store it; liquid honey is extracted or separated from the comb; granulated honey is partially or completely solidified or sugared; and chunk honey is a combination of the liquid honey and pieces of a comb.

Honey mixes well and can be used in hot or cold drinks. In addition, it blends well with the ingredients used for desserts or other baked goods. It is absorbed directly from the diges-

tive tract and therefore is used by some people as an energy food.

The sweetening power of honey is roughly equal to that of sugar. It should be stored at room temperature and kept tightly covered to protect its flavor and aroma.

Dear Dr. Solomon: I would like to know how protein, carbohydrate, and fat compare in terms of calories. Would you provide this information? — Susie

Dear Susie: One ounce of fat contains 255 calories; one ounce of protein or carbohydrate contains only 113 calories.

**Dangerfield performance may be canceled**

NEW YORK (AP) — No disrespect intended to his fans in Florida, but Rodney Dangerfield's New Year's Eve performance may be canceled.

The comedian, whose routine is that he doesn't get any respect, suffered a dislocated shoulder in an auto accident in Florida, an employee of his Manhattan club said Monday.

The spokesman for Dangerfield's said the injury

occurred when the comedian's car skidded on wet pavement on Christmas at Fort Lauderdale, where he was filling an engagement at the Sunrise Theater.

The spokesman said Dangerfield's New Year's Eve engagement there might have to be canceled.

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Jean Hilliard is flanked by her parents, Bernice and Lester Hilliard, as she rests in a Fosston, Minn., hospital after surviving six hours in 22-below-zero temperatures when she left her snowbound car. The 19-

year-old was found huddled in the snow, her body stiff and her eyes frozen. Her skin was frozen so solid doctors could not start intravenous feedings for several hours. (AP Laserphoto)

## Teen 'frozen stiff,' making recovery

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Jean Hilliard was literally frozen stiff — "like a piece of meat out of a deep freeze" — when a friend found her in the snow after a night of 22-below-zero temperatures. But the 19-year-old blonde has made a miraculous recovery.

"At worst, I might lose a couple of toes," she says. "I can't explain why she's alive. She was frozen stiff, literally," Dr. George Sather, who helped treat the teen-ager, said Tuesday. "It's a miracle."

Miss Hilliard was frozen after a midnight car accident in rural northwestern Minnesota.

When she arrived at the Fosston, Minn., hospital, her skin was too hard to pierce with a hypodermic needle or to reveal a pulse. Her temperature was too low to register on a thermometer. Her face was ashen and her eyes were solid and didn't respond to light.

"The reaction didn't appear until two or three hours after she started thawing out. The body was cold, completely solid, just like a piece of meat out of a deep freeze," Sather said.

Her bizarre ordeal began late Dec. 20 as she was returning to her parents' home near Lengby, Minn. The family car skidded off the road on the edge of the White Earth Indian Reservation and stalled in the windy, frigid weather.

Clad in western boots, a coat and mittens, she began walking to Wally Nelson's home some two miles away and collapsed only 15 feet from his door.

Nelson found her as walked out the door at 7 next morning. "Her face was ghost-like. I figured she was dead," he said.

"You could see where she had crawled the last few feet before collapsing," he said. "You could also see where she had fallen three or four times from the mailbox, one-eighth of a mile down the road."

Her body was so stiff that Nelson loaded her "diagonally" in the back seat of his car and headed for the hospital.

Wrapped in "water-type heating bags," Miss Hilliard received oxygen and hospital staff heard "little whimpers, probably air coming out of her lungs," Sather said.

She took breaths only two or three times a minute, about one-fifth the normal rate.

Doctors were unable to give her intravenous feedings because "she was frozen too solid to penetrate the skin," said Sather's brother, Dr. Edgar Sather.

Her pulse, hardly registering through her frozen skin, was about 12 beats per minute. And her temperature was too low for a thermometer, with a low reading of 88 degrees, 10 degrees below normal.

But in several hours, wrapped in an electric heating pad, she began to revive.

"By noon, she spoke a little. By evening she was lucid," Sanger said. Tests reveal her heart, kidneys, blood chemistry "are all OK."

She has patches of gray on her legs and her toes are blistered, but there is no talk of major amputation.

"When I woke up, all I wanted was a glass of water," Miss Hilliard said by telephone. "Here was my whole family. Everybody's eyes were just big. They were saying, 'She's alive.'"

"It's more or less like I dreamed about it," said Miss Hilliard, who wants to study heavy equipment operation and maintenance. "It's really eerie when you think about it."

## Salt use should be restricted, food additive panel advises

WASHINGTON (AP) — A scientific panel has classified salt as a food additive that the Food and Drug Administration should restrict more tightly.

The scientific review panel found that most of the 415 food additives that have been used by processors for years are safe, the FDA said Tuesday. The panel studied food ingredients on the agency's GRAS list, ingredients the agency has classified as generally recognized as safe.

The review panel said reducing the use of salt in processed foods would help between 10 percent and 30 percent of the population with a genetic tendency to high blood pressure. The reduction might even lower the incidence of the condition, the panel said.

Caffeine, a stimulant found in coffee, tea and cola beverages, was put in a category of substances for which additional scientific studies were recommend-

ed. Such substances generally are allowed to remain available while the studies are conducted.

The FDA previously has proposed removing caffeine from the GRAS list but allowing continued use of the ingredient pending further study. The agency also is prepared to change the definition of "cola" so that caffeine need no longer be a required ingredient. Tests have shown a link between caffeine and birth defects in test animals, the FDA says.

FDA Commissioner Jere Goyan said the overall results of the review panel's evaluation should be "generally reassuring to the American consumer."

Of the 415 additives reviewed, 305 were put in Class 1, a category given substances considered safe at current and future anticipated levels of use.

Sixty-eight substances were put in Class 2, for ingredients considered safe at current levels of use but in need of more research to determine whether prolonged use might pose a health hazard. That category included alginates, which are seaweed derivatives used in beverages, ice cream and baked goods; and iron and iron salts, used as a nutritional supplement in bread.

Nineteen additives, including caffeine, were put in Class 3. Items in that category are recommended for further study. The ingredients include BHA and BHT, two preservatives used in oils, shortenings, chewing gum, dry breakfast cereals, nut products and beverages.

Eighteen substances, including some other iron salts, were placed in Class 5 because of insufficient information with which to make an evaluation.

## Possible carcinogen found at hospital

GLEN ELLEN, Calif. (AP) — Separate tests have confirmed the presence of suspected carcinogen PCB on the grounds of Sonoma State Hospital and at an Alameda County jail, according to authorities.

The Environmental Protection Agency said Tuesday that leaking transformers, disposed of about 10 years ago, were discovered at the hospital by an employee last month.

Bill McNeice, EPA spokesman in San Francisco, said further tests would be made by the state to determine whether PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, had leaked into the water supply.

"They don't think it has," he said. He said the levels found around the transformers ranged from 200 parts per million to 3,500 parts per million, "all on the very high end of the scale." The current maximum allowable concentration is 50 parts per million, and that is being revised downward, McNeice said.

The chemical, used as an electrical coolant before it was banned, has been linked to cancer in laboratory animals and to skin and other disorders in humans.

McNeice said the state Department of Health Services was in the process of scraping up the contaminated soil and shipping it, along with empty transformers, to an approved dumpsite in Southern California. The transformers which are still leaking will be stored in a specially constructed building on the mental hospital's grounds, he said.

Meanwhile, state and Alameda County officials reported some 40 gallons of the chemical apparently were spilled behind the main building of the Santa Rita Rehabilitation Center at Pleasanton when a junk dealer hauled off two discarded transformers.

They said the 25-by-40-foot area had been cordoned off and that PCB-laden soil would be removed. Tests by a Hayward chemist showed the concentration of the chemical was low, sheriff's department officials said.

The contaminated transformer hulls were carted off by the Oakland trash contractor who dumped the fluid. Two other transformers, possibly filled with PCB, remain in the jail's salvage area, officials said.

## Teratoma removed

BONNERS FERRY, Idaho (AP) — For all of his 21 years, Nick Hill may have carried in his skull a mass of tissue that may have been part of an undeveloped twin, say doctors who removed the growth during brain surgery.

"It's really weird, boy. Really weird. That's all I can say," Hill said Tuesday in a telephone interview from Bonners Ferry in northern Idaho.

Hill, who has five brothers and sisters, underwent brain surgery earlier this year.

During the surgery, doctors removed a tumor called a teratoma. While most tumors are composed of one type of body tissue, a teratoma is composed of several, said Dr. John Grollmus, who lead the surgical team which operated on Hill at Deaconess Hospital.

Hill's tumor included cartilage, hair and fat, and doctors theorize it was a "twin-like substance," Grollmus said. "Some feel it is an analogue of a twin because it has all three types of tissue in it," he said.

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**4300 W. Wall 697-3181**

Join us at Holiday Inn/Country Villa

**GALA NEW YEAR'S PARTY** IN OUR GRAND BALLROOM!  
4300 W. Wall

The Holidome will feature  
**DANCING! PARTY FAVORS! FUN!**  
9 p.m. 'til???

**Champagne Toast at Midnight**  
**DELICIOUS BREAKFAST BUFFET**  
SERVED AT 1:30 A.M.

Scrambled eggs Sausage Patties  
Biscuits & Gravy Hash Browns  
Blackeye Peas

all for **\$15.** per couple **\$8.** single  
only

Make your reservations now  
**697-3181**  
Great way to start 1981!