

# What's inside

**Midland marksman**  
Frank Powell prepares for seventh trip to Vandalia, Ohio.

SPORTS — 1B



**Not since Peter Piper** picked a peck of pickled ones have peppers been such a hot ingredient in everything from sauces to snacks.

LIFESTYLE — 3C



**Julie Griffith, who worked at the newspaper in a program for gifted students, will study communications.**

LOCAL — 1C

**Progress at nearly fifty Permian Basin wildcat wells is reported today.**

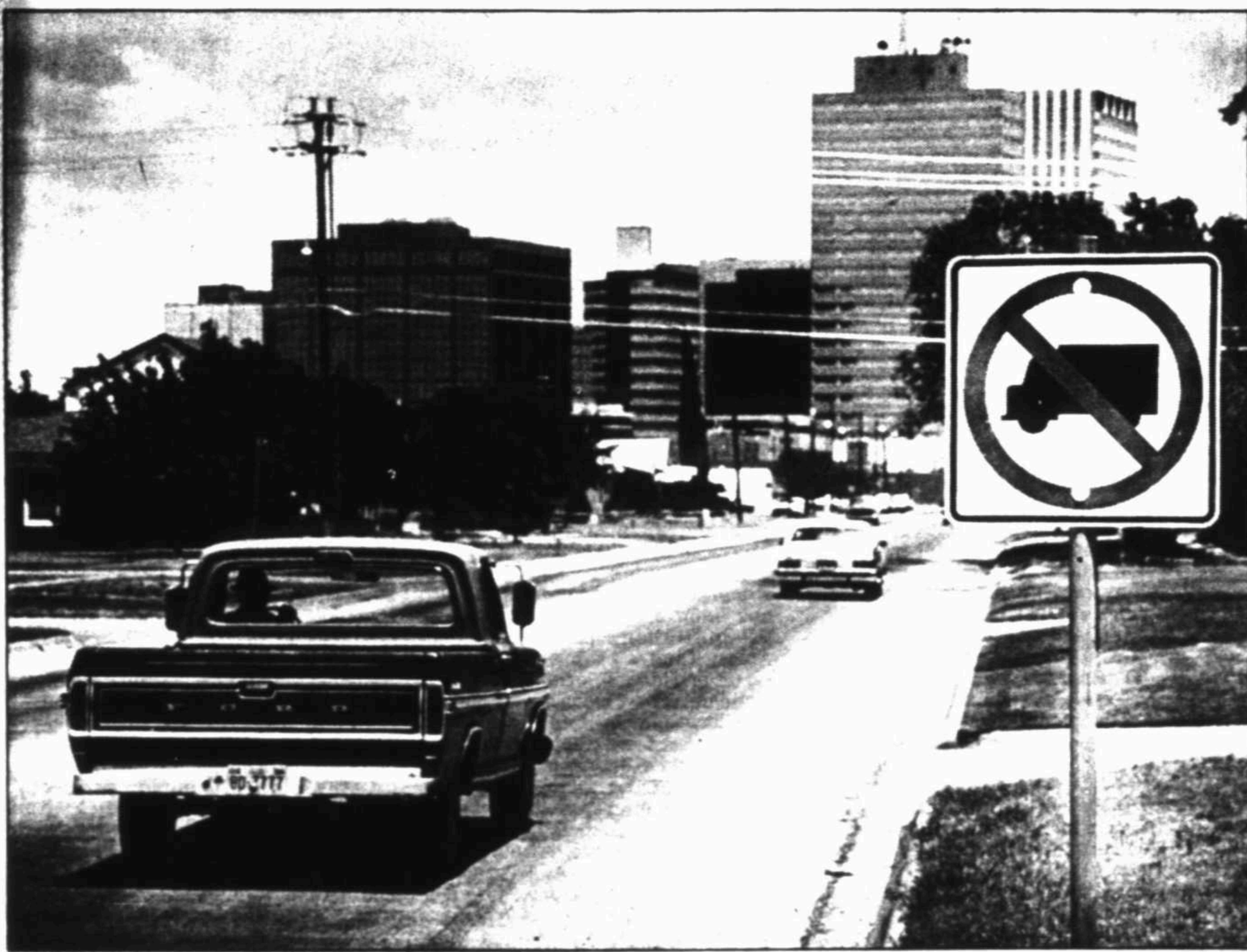
BUSINESS — 7B

# Midland Reporter-Telegram

**METRO EDITION**

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Staff Photo by Ron Jepp

## Sign language

This view of Missouri Avenue near the intersection of G Street shows a truck ban sign that local trucking company employee Buddy Kniffen contends is vague

because it does not specify what type of trucks are prohibited on the street. Kniffen successfully fought a ticket during a jury trial in Municipal Court Tuesday.

## Man acquitted in truck case

By RICHARD ORR  
Staff Writer

A local trucking company employee has been acquitted in a controversial traffic ticket case that involved allegations of impropriety against City Councilman Tom Sloan.

A Municipal Court jury Tuesday found that Buddy Kniffen, terminal manager for Merchants Freight Lines, did not knowingly violate the law when he drove a one-ton company van down a portion of Missouri Avenue where commercial vehicles in excess of a half-ton load capacity were restricted by a 1980 city ordinance.

The ordinance, which also applied to portions of Louisiana Avenue, was revised at a recent city council meeting to

include several other streets and the weight limit has been raised to one-ton.

Kniffen, who acted as his own attorney, told jurors the 23-year-old ordinance had not been enforced in the past, was "vague and obscure, and where Mr. Sloan lives has a lot to do with how it's enforced."

He also maintained the street was not properly posted because no weight limits are shown on signs that merely depict a truck with a slash across it, leading motorists to conclude that the ban referred only to 18-wheelers.

(See TRUCK, Page 2A)

## Sandinistas ready for regional talks

Related stories, Page 2A

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — The leftist Sandinista government says it is willing to engage in regional peace talks with its Central American neighbors as threats of war mount and the United States orders a naval task force to the area.

In the northern city of Leon, Daniel Ortega, head of Nicaragua's three-man junta, on Tuesday told a rally of 100,000 people on the fourth anniversary of the Sandinista revolution that peace talks should be held with his country's neighbors and the foreign ministers of Venezuela, Panama, Mexico and Colombia, known as the Contadora group.

Anthony Quinton, the U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua, called Ortega's proposal a "positive step" and "a recognition by the Nicaraguan government of the serious situation which Central America is passing through."

Up to now, the Sandinistas have insisted on one-on-one talks with its neighbors and the Reagan administration as a way of refuting accusations that Nicaragua's close military ties with Cuba and the Soviet Union were a threat to security in Central America.

In Washington, the Pentagon ordered an eight-ship battle group led by the aircraft carrier Ranger to the Pacific coast of Central America, and President Reagan accused the Soviet Union and Cuba of building "a war machine in Nicaragua... to impose a revolution without frontiers."

"For the first time in memory, we face real dangers on our own borders," Reagan said. "We must not permit dictators to ram communism down the throats of one Central American country

after another."

The Pentagon announcement of the naval presence "to underscore U.S. support for friendly nations in the region" coincided with preparations for U.S. military exercises by 4,000 to 5,000 troops in Honduras, probably early next month, in the Caribbean region.

The House of Representatives met in its third closed session in 130 years, arguing for hours whether to cut off the administration's \$19 million program of secret aid to anti-Sandinista rebels based in Honduras fighting to overthrow the Sandinista junta.

Rebel attacks have sparked more than 200 incidents along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border in the past three years. The two countries have blamed each other and exchanged increasingly bitter war threats.

Reagan also named a 12-member national commission, headed by former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, to develop long-term policy in Central America.

The Reagan administration, along with Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala, accuse the Sandinistas of threatening peace in the region by smuggling weapons to leftist guerrillas fighting for power in El Salvador and building a huge army, equipped with Soviet arms and trained by 2,000 Cuban advisers.

## Sales tax rebates decline

Sales tax rebates for Midland and Odessa are continuing on a decline that started last fall, according to figures released by the State Comptroller's Office.

Midland's payment for May was \$241,687.53, more than a 50 percent drop from last year's \$596,955.64. Payments for the year total \$3,895,614.82, a 29 percent drop from 1982's figure of \$5,501,856.24.

Odessa received a May payment of \$317,912.91. Last year it was \$608,553.65. For the year to date, the city has received \$4,044,572.87, a 33.7 percent drop from last year's \$6,100,316.79.

State Comptroller Bob Bullock noted the payments for the year to date are running about 1 percent behind 1982's. "Texas was slow to enter the national recession and we are still lagging

behind in the recovery. Most major Texas cities are beginning to show higher tax receipts than last year, but the border and oil and gas producing areas are still substantially behind."

Houston received \$6.8 million, bringing this year's total to \$75.8 million, still 9 percent below last year. Dallas' payment was \$4.2 million for a yearly total of \$45.9 million, about 8 percent up from last year. San Antonio's payment was \$2.1 million, putting 1983 receipts at \$22.6 million, or a 9 percent increase.

Austin's total of \$15 million is about 15 percent above last year. But El Paso's yearly total is down about 10 percent.

The July checks were for taxes collected on sales made in May and reported to the comptroller by the end of June.

## FNB chooses Chicago banker as new president

By LESLIE HAINES  
Business-Energy Writer

The First National Bank of Midland has ended a three-month search by naming a Chicago banker its new president and chief executive officer.

Thomas J. Wageman will assume the twin posts within the next 10 days following his resignation from LaSalle National Bank, Chicago, where he was president and chief executive officer. He also served as chairman of the executive committee of that bank's board.

LaSalle is the sixth largest bank in Chicago with assets of \$1.26 billion as of June 30, 1983. It is an affiliate of Algemene Bank Nederland N.V., a Dutch holding company.

First National reported assets of

\$1.8 billion at March 31, 1983. Figures for the quarter ended June 30 have not yet been made public; the bank is expected to issue its statement of condition July 31.

FNB Board Chairman Clarence Scharbauer Jr. said the decision to offer the post to Wageman was made unanimously by the board, which has thrown its full support behind the new president. "Tom has a firm reputation as a professional and conservative banker and as a community leader," Scharbauer said.

Wageman brings 20 years of commercial bank experience to Midland. After joining LaSalle National in 1974, he served for more than five years as executive vice president and manager of the commercial banking department. In 1979 he was

elected president and chairman of the executive committee of the board. He recently assumed additional duties as the bank's chief executive officer.

Before joining LaSalle, he spent 10 years at First National Bank of Chicago in various positions, including loan division manager. He earned his MBA from the University of Chicago, Graduate School of Business, and his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame.

First National's directors chose Wageman to lead the bank after reviewing close to 30 applicants and conducting in-depth interviews with five or six, according to acting chief executive officer Donald L. McCall.

"His (Wageman's) strength lies in the fact he has a lot of credit experience and he has been a CEO of a

bank comparable to ours in size," he said. "We were looking for the best man in the United States to do the job. This wasn't something done lightly."

McCall said he will remain with the bank as an executive vice president. He had been named interim general manager for the bank in April following the sudden resignation of FNB President Charles Fraser.

Wageman comes to First National at a crucial time in the bank's history. After several years of unprecedented growth in the form of skyrocketing deposits and loans, and strong earnings, First National has been recently caught in a squeeze.

The bank broke even in the first quarter of 1983, but in May, officers indicated it will show substantial

loan write-offs and a net loss for the quarter ended June 30.

Deposit withdrawals and a rising tide of bad loans, most of them related to the energy industry, have created a time of what chairman Scharbauer recently called "rebuilding" for the institution.

Wageman said he looks forward to the challenges and opportunities presented by his new position at First National. "Midland is a unique community with a dynamic banking environment. I'm especially looking forward to becoming a participant in a community which has a well-deserved national reputation for a spirit of achievement in both business and community affairs."

(See CHICAGO, Page 2A)



Thomas J. Wageman

## Injunction not against FNB

A news story on this page in Tuesday's edition was headlined "Landman wins injunction against FNB." That headline was an error.

The note in question had been transferred to Texas Commercial Bank of Houston and it was against that bank that Midland oil operator-landman Bill Mathis won a court injunction to preclude foreclosure and sale of his ranch.

The Reporter-Telegram regrets the error.

## Lamesa 'bloused' by new product

Women's wear business boosts town's economy

LAMESA, Texas (AP) — Out here on the windswept South Plains, in the land of oil and agriculture, a most unlikely product is adding substantially to the area's economic well-being.

It's women's wear. Namely, Prophecy, a top line brand found in many of the nation's finest shops.

"Neiman-Marcus, Sanger-Harris, Sakowitz, Casual Corner, even Macy's in New York," says manager Larry Whitman with more than a trace of pride.

"We cater to everything from specialty shops to the city chain stores. Prophecy tries to manufacture every day garments."

The Lamesa enterprise is but one of four under a Dallas-based Prophecy umbrella that covers facilities at nearby Seminole, at San Benito in the Rio Grande Valley and at company headquarters in Carrollton, a

Dallas suburb.

"You might call this our boot camp," said Whitman, 36. "All new trainees in management are sent to Lamesa for a year. If they can make it here, they can make it anywhere."

With 105 employees and a \$1 million annual payroll, Prophecy is Lamesa's largest manufacturing company, Whitman said.

"Lamesa and Prophecy entered into kind of a marriage and there's no divorce in sight or mind," he quipped.

Whitman also rides herd on the smaller facility at Seminole, 40 miles to the west. It employs 65. With a population of 12,000, Lamesa is about twice the size of Seminole, he said.

"I opened up both plants, this one

in 1979 and the one in Seminole in 1981," said Whitman, an Illinois native who came to Texas 13 years ago with another clothing firm that subsequently went out of business.

"If we didn't get dust storms three months out of the year," he grinned, "everybody would want to live in West Texas."

Whitman said Prophecy was doing \$8 million in sales in 1979 when it opened the Lamesa plant, picking up some of the skilled work force abandoned by its predecessor.

"Since then, our sales have gone up to \$42 million a year, which is not bad figuring the recession," he said. "I think the main reason we succeed is the quality of our garments."

Prophecy produces skirts, pants and shorts here and in Seminole,

jackets in Carrollton and blouses and skirts in San Benito.

Why West Texas?

"The first thing that comes to mind is a cheaper work force, but it really isn't," said Whitman, pointing out that 101 of the 105 employees at Lamesa are women. "The scale is basically the same. Maybe our people here are a little more aggressive than those in Dallas."

"The name of the game is to get it in, get it out and get it on the street."

All the cutting is done in Dallas, Whitman said. Twice a week trucks bring in cut goods and take back finished products.

"It takes a lot of teamwork," he said. "When we ship a garment out that back door we want to feel we've done the very best job we could."

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## Weather

Sunny and hot through Thursday, less than 20 percent chance for showers. Details on Page 2A.

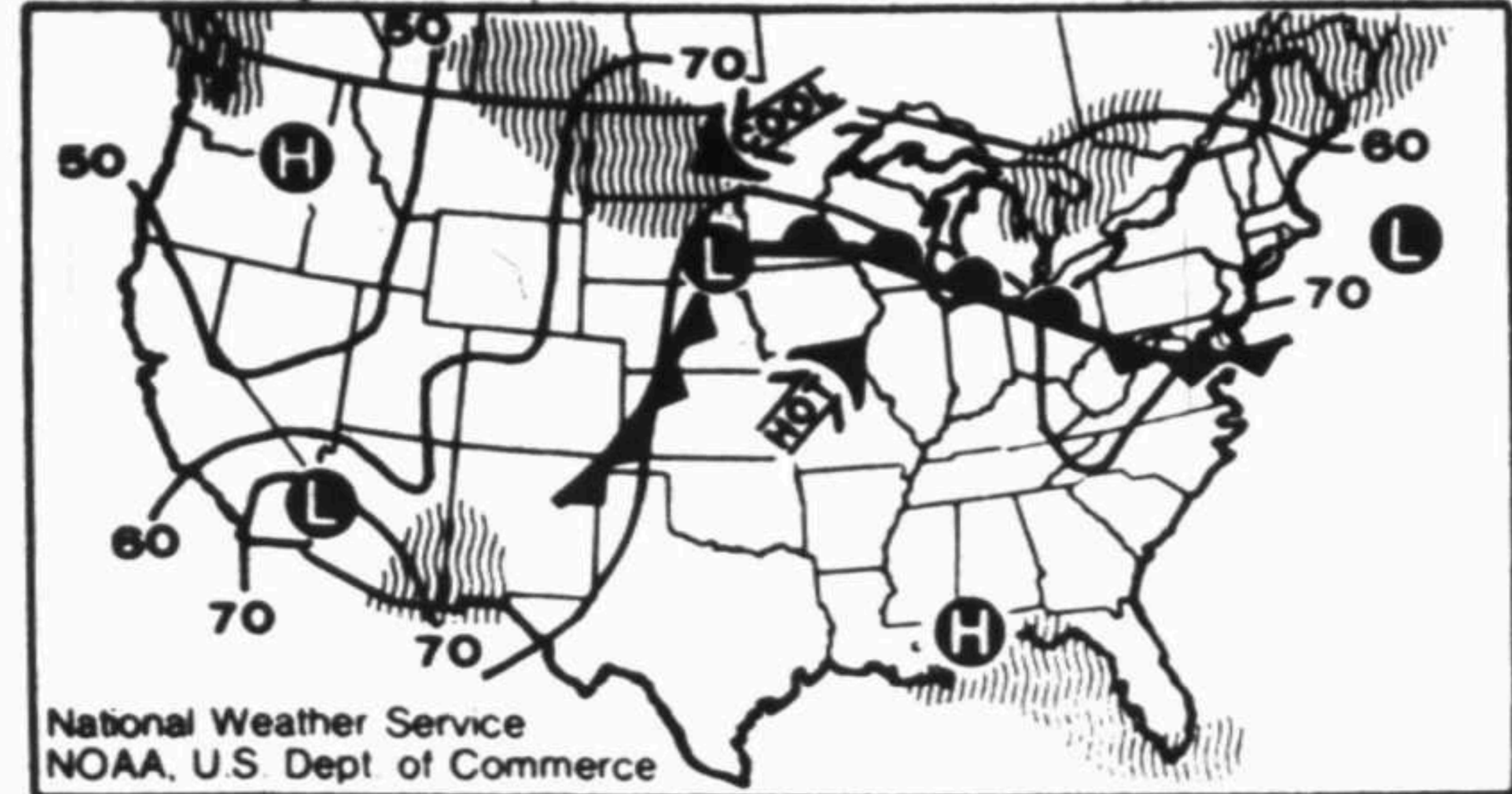
## Service

Delivery	682-5311
Want Ads	682-6222
Other Calls	682-5311

## WEATHER SUMMARY

The Forecast For 8 a.m. EDT  
Thursday, July 21  
Low temperatures

Rain ☁ Snow ❄  
Showers ☁ Flurries ❄



National Weather Service  
NOAA, U.S. Dept. of Commerce

Fronts: Cold ☐ Warm ☐ Occluded ☐ Stationary ☐

Continued hot, humid weather over much of the nation is forecast through Thursday by the National Weather Service. Showers are expected for Arizona, New Mexico, the eastern Gulf, the northern Plains and northern New England.

## Sunny, hot weather continues

While the rest of the country is "sweating out" the heatwave, Midlanders are "fairing well" under their sunny skies. It is expected to continue to be sunny and hot, according to the National Weather Service at Midland Regional Airport. The mercury should skitter up to the mid-90s Thursday after dipping to the upper 60s tonight. The badly needed moisture has less than a 20 percent chance of sprinkling any drops on the Midland area through Thursday, the NWS said. Tuesday's high of 94 was comfortable compared to the 105 record temperature set in 1981, while the overnight low of 67 was 5 degrees warmer than the record low of 62 set in 1959. Southerly winds are expected to breeze through the Tall City 10-20 mph.

## Midland statistics Texas temperatures

FORECAST		Wednesday	
Sunny and hot through Thursday with less than a 20 percent chance for afternoon thundershowers. Low tonight upper 60s. High Thursday mid 90s. South-easterly winds 10-20 mph.			
Highs, lows, precipitation for 24 hours ending 7 a.m.			
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE READINGS			
Yesterday's High	94 degrees	Today's High	94 degrees
Overnight Low	67 degrees	Today's Low	67 degrees
Sunrise today	6:54 a.m.	Sunrise tomorrow	6:57 a.m.
Precipitation	0.00 inches	Precipitation	0.00 inches
Leaf 24 hours	Trace inches	Leaf 24 hours	Trace inches
This month to date	2.38 inches	This month to date	2.38 inches
LOCAL TEMPERATURES			
8 a.m.	70	8 p.m.	90
7 a.m.	69	7 p.m.	89
6 a.m.	72	6 p.m.	80
5 a.m.	76	5 p.m.	84
4 a.m.	79	4 p.m.	81
3 a.m.	82	3 p.m.	77
2 a.m.	85	2 p.m.	74
1 p.m.	88	1 a.m.	72
12 p.m.	90	12 p.m.	71
11 p.m.	91	11 p.m.	70
10 p.m.	92	10 p.m.	69
9 p.m.	92	9 p.m.	69
8 p.m.	92	8 p.m.	69
SOUTHWEST TEMPERATURES			
Abilene	H 70	L 69	
Amarillo	92	70	
El Paso	96	84	
Fort Worth	95	88	
Houston	97	84	
Lubbock	90	71	
Marta	92	86	
Odessa	90	71	
Wichita Falls	97	73	

## Border forecasts

**New Mexico:** Partly cloudy with scattered to isolated thundershowers through Thursday. Highs 75 to 100. Low 90. Mountains with mostly 90s lower elevations. Lows 40s and 50s mountains with 60s to near 70. **Oklahoma:** Clear to partly cloudy through Thursday. Isolated afternoon and early evening thunder showers Panhandle. Highs 95 to 102. Lows in the 70s. **Louisiana:** Fair to partly cloudy through Thursday. Isolated showers and thundershowers Thursday. Highs near 92. Lows 72 to 75. **Arkansas:** Fair to partly cloudy through Thursday. Highs in the 90s. Lows 65 to 76. Highs Thursday 95 to 98.

## Truck driver acquitted in controversial ticket case

(Continued from Page 1A)

Police officer Emmett Roch stopped Kniffen in the 1700 block of Missouri on March 17. While Sloan, who lives at 1801 Missouri, admitted calling for enforcement of the ban last spring, he contended he did so only to save on street repairs in the wake of declining sales tax revenues brought on by the economic slump Midland is experiencing. But Kniffen produced subpoenaed police records showing the crackdown did not include Louisiana Avenue and that all of the 32 tickets issued during a four-day period from March 15 through March 18 were issued within a four-block area of Sloan's house. Roch testified, however, that the proximity of Sloan's house was not a factor with him: "It's just where the most shade trees are." Subpoenaed by Kniffen, Sloan reiterated his earlier public stance that concern about city streets was his sole motive in calling for enforcement of the weight limits and said he couldn't be held responsible for where police decided to enforce the ban. Asked by Kniffen if the public shouldn't have been forewarned of an impending crackdown, Sloan said, "Do we have to remind people of the law against murder?" In closing arguments, Kniffen said: "I'm a terminal manager, not a professional truck driver. I don't drive down Missouri every day. I thought the signs applied only to semis and didn't know I was violating the law. It's hard to believe 32 people knowingly violated the law in a four-day period. The only thing I'm guilty of is driving by Councilman Tom Sloan's house." In his closing arguments, Assistant City Attorney Jack Connors defended the crackdown on grounds it was brought about by concern over street repairs and told the one-man, five-woman jury: "If you believe Mr. Sloan doesn't want trucks in front of his house, then Mr. Kniffen is innocent." The jury deliberated 40 minutes in acquitting Kniffen. But jury foreman B.J. Rice later said, "Speaking for myself and not the other jurors, there was reasonable doubt as to if he knowingly violated the law." Asked if the allegation that Sloan doesn't like truck traffic on his street was a factor in the verdict, Rice said: "We tried to overlook that." Kniffen said he was "relieved" the case is over and added: "I think the police have better things to do than protect Tom Sloan's street." In commenting on the verdict, Sloan said: "The jury gave what they thought was the proper decision. That's the American way. I'm certainly not going to fault it."

## Chicago banker chosen as new FNB president

(Continued from Page 1A)

The new bank president is a past president of the Bankers Club of Chicago, a member of the board of directors for the Chicago Clearinghouse Association, and a member of Robert Morris Associates (a banking organization). He is a lecturer in the post-graduate division of the Graduate School of Business at the University of Wisconsin, and a member of the board of directors for Torco Oil Company. Wageman also has been on the Business Advisory Council of the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is also active in many civic affairs, including the Chicago United Way, Boy Scouts and the Art Institute of Chicago.

## Session strengthens opposition

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional opponents of undercover U.S. aid to Nicaraguan rebels say a four-hour closed session of the House strengthened their view that the Reagan administration is illegally trying to overthrow Nicaragua's leftist government. They concede, however, that the outcome of a vote next week to halt the covert aid by the end of this year remains uncertain. Supporters of the administration say the session bolstered their case that continued aid is needed to prevent a communist takeover of Central America by interdicting leftist arms shipments. But they disagree over whether a compromise is in the offing on the cut-off proposal. Lawmakers commented in news conferences and speeches on the floor after the doors were opened following the House's second closed session on Nicaragua in three years and five months. The House has had only two other closed sessions since 1830. The members were briefed by the House Intelligence Committee, which has recommended on a party-line vote that undercover aid be halted and replaced by \$80 million of open assistance to friendly Central American governments to halt leftist gun-running. Rep. Les AuCoin, D-Ore., one of four administration critics just back from a four-day trip to Nicaragua and El Salvador, said, "We were very surprised to see with how much detail the intelligence committee confirmed the data, the evidence, that we uncovered ourselves this weekend."

Rep. Don Edwards, D-Calif., who also made the trip, told the House, "This war that is going on in Nicaragua today is a big war." And Rep. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, said a report drawn up by U.S. intelligence agencies in June and discussed in the closed session said "there are no good choices down the road." Chief Deputy Democratic Whip Bill Alexander of Arkansas said, "What the president and his party are asking Congress to do is to declare an undeclared war against Nicaragua by using covert action." Rep. C.W. Young, R-Fla., an administration supporter on the Intelligence Committee, said evidence presented in the session showed that there had been no violation of the law passed by Congress last December prohibiting use of U.S. funds to overthrow Central American governments.



Demonstrators display signs as a limousine carrying President Ronald Reagan passes through Hollywood, Fla., en route to a recent meeting with the International Longshoremen's Association.

## Texans on Reagan's panel

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan has named three Texans, including former Governor Bill Clements, to a 11-member commission that will draft recommendations for the nation's long-range policies in Central America. San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros, a Democrat, and former Democratic Party chairman Robert Strauss of Dallas were also picked for the panel, which will be headed by former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, Reagan said Tuesday. The other members of the commission include Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO, and former Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart. Strauss, who directed Jimmy Carter's re-election campaign in 1980, said his first reaction to the idea of the commission was that "it's a real loser." "I am in substantial disagreement with the administration on Central American policy," he said. Cisneros, one of two Hispanics appointed to the commission, also has been a critic of the Reagan administration's policy in Central America and is a supporter of Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale, the former vice president. "I have indicated to the administration that I will approach this task as a person skeptical of the present direction of the U.S. policy in the region and intend to make recommendations to make recommendations, if I see them," Cisneros said. "I am a Democrat. As a Texan and as a Hispanic, I have particular concerns and bring a particular point of view to the table," he said. The mayor, now in his second term, served a White House fellowship during the Nixon administration, working under then-Housing and Welfare Secretary Elliot Richardson. Clements became Texas' first Republican governor since Reconstruction in 1978, but was defeated last year in his race for a second term. Clements, who served this spring on the presidential commission that recommended the MX missile be deployed in existing silos, could not be reached for comment Tuesday. Other panel appointees: former Sen. Nicholas Brady, R-N.J.; Yale University economics professor Carlos F. Diaz-Alejandro; Wilson S. Johnson, president of the National Federation of Independent Business; Richard M. Scammon, a political consultant; John Silber, president of Boston University; and William B. Walsh, president of Project Hope.

## Reagan calls attention to area

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan is stepping up focus on Central America on two fronts by sending an eight-ship battle group to the area's Pacific Coast while putting his commission on long-range policy for the region into action back home. Reagan on Tuesday unveiled the names of the 11 panel members joining chairman Henry A. Kissinger in a search for "a national consensus" on Central America and announced U.N. ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, who has favored increasing aid to El Salvador, would be his personal representative to the panel. For the third consecutive day, the president had a speech on Central America on his schedule — this one to a group of business and Jewish leaders. One White House official said Reagan's talk would be about persecution of Jews in Nicaragua, which the official said was taking place with Palestine Liberation Organization "influence." The group was organized by Faith Ryan Whittlesey, the president's assistant for public liaison, who has invited a number of audiences to the White House for briefings on Central America. On Tuesday, Reagan told a group gathered to mark Captive Nations Week that "there must be no more captive nations in this hemisphere." Reagan's decision to send the battle group, led by the aircraft carrier Ranger, was intended "to underscore U.S. support for friendly countries in the region," a Pentagon announcement said. The deployment precedes U.S. military exercises in Honduras that could involve an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 U.S. troops. Officials said the Ranger, with a complement of 70 warplanes, would remain in international waters during the exercises. While officials, responding to questions, said the exercises were routine, the reference to the move as "a demonstration of U.S. interests in the region" underscored the maneuvers' political nature. The beginning of the week, administration officials have been scrambling to get the bipartisan Central America commission in place. In addition to Kissinger, the commission 11 other members will be William P. Clements, a former governor of Texas; Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO; former Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart; and Robert S. Strauss, who directed Jimmy Carter's re-election campaign in 1980. Also, former Sen. Nicholas Brady, R-N.J.; Mayor Henry G. Cisneros of San Antonio, Texas; Yale University economics professor Carlos F. Diaz-Alejandro; Wilson S. Johnson, president of the National Federation of Independent Business; Richard M. Scammon, a political consultant; John Silber, president of Boston University; and William B. Walsh, president of Project Hope. An administration official, who spoke to reporters on condition that he not be identified by name, said he knew of no efforts to keep the panel potential participants who disagreed with Reagan's Central American policies. Rather, he said "there was an attempt to get star-studded persons" who are "representative, respected Americans." The executive order that Reagan signed creating the commission said the panel would advise the administration and Congress on how the United States can best respond to the region's social, economic, political, and security problems. The commission is also directed to suggest ways to build national support for the president's policy. Reagan, when asked about the criticism of Kissinger, told reporters "you had to have something to talk about." Langhorne A. Motley, the new assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs, said that at a luncheon of Latin American ambassadors, "I heard no disparaging remarks. I heard several good ones." "The general impression is they were pleased," he said. But elsewhere, questions were raised about Kissinger's work in the Nixon administration, when he was national security adviser and then secretary of state. "Certainly the president understands people have strong opinions about the (former) secretary of state (but) everyone accepts him as a leader in the field," said deputy White House press secretary Larry Speakes. Kissinger was part of the Nixon team that supported the overthrow of the Salvador Allende government in Chile in 1973, and the administration official who briefed reporters was asked about the overthrow of Allende, who died in the coup that brought Augusto Pinochet to power. At the briefing for reporters at the White House, the administration official said the commission members, who will work without salary, would not be likely to make spending recommendations that would take effect before fiscal 1985, which begins on Oct. 1, 1984. He said Kissinger's office initially would be in the State Department. The commission chairman was expected to meet with Reagan soon and begin briefings with administration officials next week. As for the commission's budget, the official said: "Knowing Henry, it will probably be large."

## Pentagon diverts carrier battle group

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon's announcement that an eight-ship carrier battle group has been diverted to Pacific waters off Central America followed an assertion by President Reagan that "we must not permit outsiders to threaten the United States." The announcement was made late Tuesday after Reagan told an audience observing "Captive Nations Week" that "we must not permit dictators to ram communism down the throats of one Central America country after another." A tone of urgency was lent to the Pentagon's announcement when it was said that the 60,000-ton carrier Ranger and its accompanying ships had headed for the western Pacific Ocean after leaving their home ports in California last Friday. The exact time the carrier was ordered to change course toward the Pacific of Central America was not disclosed. In response to questions, the Pentagon said the Ranger, a cruiser, three destroyers, a frigate, a tanker and a "fast combat support ship" would operate off Central America. Pentagon officials refused to specify where the battle group will operate, but indicated it would sail up and down the coast in international waters. Although the move was made for political impact, the exercises were described by the Pentagon as a training operation. Reagan has said he has no intention of sending U.S. ground troops into Central America. But the Reagan administration has never ruled out the possibility of some form of blockade to cut off the flow of arms from Cuba, the Soviet Union, and other communist bloc countries to Nicaragua. The administration has accused Nicaragua of supplying leftists trying to overthrow the government of El Salvador. Any blockade would have to be maintained along both the Caribbean and Pacific coasts.

## Airport security tightened

MIAMI (AP) — Stepped-up airport screenings and messages broadcast in Spanish and English warning that hijackings to Cuba lead only to prison mark the latest moves in the federal campaign to deter would-be air pirates. The measures announced Tuesday came after the second hijacking to Cuba in 36 hours and the eighth this year, when a New York-Miami Eastern Airlines flight with 220 people aboard was diverted to Havana by a man claiming to have a bomb. Airline officials and representatives of the Federal Aviation Administration refused to elaborate on all the security measures, but the FAA set a news conference to discuss the topic today. "Security discussed is security destroyed," said Eastern Airlines spokesman Tom Myers. FAA spokesman Jack Barker said screening of passengers at South Florida airports "has been tightened up." "You'll see more people being screened more closely, more carry-on luggage opened and searched, bottles being opened and sniffed," he said. "There are other things that are in the works," he added, but declined to elaborate. Barker said the FAA also has embarked on a media campaign to discourage potential air pirates, emphasizing "every hijacker is going to end up in prison," either in the United States or Cuba. Public service announcements in English and Spanish have been sent to radio and television stations and will be ready for broadcast in a few weeks, he said. The FAA also is preparing print materials. "We're trying to educate the public in English and in Spanish that hijacking is futile," Barker said. Frustrated officials say prosecuting air pirates in American courts would halt the recent surge of hijackings, but there's no sign yet the Cuban government is willing to return them.

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Evenings Only \$48.00 \$24.00 \$4.00	Evening Only \$54.00 \$27.00 \$4.50
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# state



Everything must go, including linens and houseware, from the Lamar Hotel in Houston which closed its historic doors last month. Mike Kabealo (left) and Clem Long of National Content Liquidators stand amid some of the items which go on public sale today.

## Thousands of buyers expected at sale of hotel's furnishings

HOUSTON (AP) — Furnishings from the Lamar Hotel, famed Houston home of some of the wealthiest men in history, go on sale today, with thousands of buyers expected to line up for a chance to buy bits of history at bargain prices.

The hotel's furnishings — from wine glasses for a buck to crystal chandeliers for thousands — are being offered to the public as a step in preparing the hotel for the wrecking ball. The Lamar closed last month and its site eventually will be used for a skyscraper.

For more than 40 years, the Lamar has held a special place in the big money lore of Houston. It was built in 1927 by Jesse H. Jones, a towering figure in Houston's development, and he lived in a 16th floor suite for almost three decades. Other suites were permanently held by major figures in oil, politics and banking.

Decisions that shaped Houston were made in Suite 8F, a group of rooms occupied by George Brown of the Brown and Root Co. The so-called "8F Crowd" included Brown, Jones and a handful of other very wealthy Houston men who met there regularly, said Edward C. Davis, the last general manager of the hotel.

"They were the people who ran Houston," said Davis.

After his retirement from the White House, Lyndon B. Johnson regularly stayed at the Lamar, as did his wife, Lady Bird. Davis said they had a special suite that included arrangements for their Secret Service agents.

H. L. Hunt, the Dallas oil billionaire, stayed at the Lamar when he was in Houston. He was fond of sitting in the lobby in shirtsleeves to read a newspaper.

The hotel did not book conventions and Davis said the Lamar became an elegant retreat for the wealthy. Eighty-eight of the hotel's 350 rooms and suites were sold permanently and rich businessmen enjoyed the hotel's tradition that permitted them to slip in and out anonymously.

"We catered to people who wanted to stay where it was quiet, where there was nobody around," said Davis.

Davis refuses yet to identify some of the patrons, but he said many of them were on Fortune Magazine's list of the nation's wealthiest.

The hotel furnishings were strictly first rate, but there was no fancy French food or haute cuisine, said Davis. The most popular item was an \$8.50 steak charcoal broiled and served any time from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

## Choppy waters force Texans to abandon swim

DOVER, England (AP) — Two Texans found strong winds and choppy waters more than they could handle and abandoned their first bid to swim the English Channel — just four miles short of victory.

Larry Weisse, 35, who runs an industrial cleaning service in Lubbock, and Dr. Oscar Boultinghouse, a 28-year-old physician from Houston, were hauled out of the sea and brought back to

England late Tuesday, said Audrey Scott, secretary of the Channel Swimming Association.

The Texans have not said whether or not they intend to make a second bid to swim the Channel.

The distance across the waterway in a straight line between England and France is 22 miles, but swimmers have to battle strong tides and winds that sweep them off course.

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## Verdict will set standards

ODESSA (AP) — A county attorney says that a jury's verdict in an obscenity trial this week will dictate future pornography prosecution in this West Texas city.

Selection of a six-person jury began Tuesday in the first trial stemming from the April arrests of 14 Odessans accused of selling obscene materials to undercover lawmen.

"Obviously, if we try a few of these cases and the jury doesn't think the material is obscene, then they've pretty much established a community standard," Ector County Attorney Steve Groh said. "If they do feel it's obscene, that indicates it needs to be pursued."

In the first trials, Jimmy Wright, 39, a bookstore owner, and his 19-year-old son are charged with commercial obscenity. Testimony in Wright's trial begins Wednesday, and his son is scheduled to stand trial on Thursday.

Groh said the Wrights sold several obscene magazines to undercover Ector County sheriff's deputies. Commercial obscenity, a Class A misdemeanor, carries a maximum sentence of one year in the county jail and a \$2,000 fine.

Groh said jurors would be asked to look at a magazine, "Swedish Erotica No. 26," and determine "whether this piece of literature, using the term loosely, was obscene," Groh said.

Defense attorney John Cliff said the sales of the magazine is proof that it is not obscene. "Enough people out there are willing to buy it to keep them in business. That's one evidence that the standards of tolerance are at least high enough to encompass the material they claim is obscene," Cliff said.

Cliff added the standards used in court must be of "tolerance, not decency," and that jurors must use "community standards, not their own."

Cliff said his client has no ties to organized crime, doesn't advertise, prevents children from entering his establishment and carries merchandise that depicts "plain sex between consenting adults."

"His (Jimmy Wright's) basic position is that there are people out there who want to buy the material, and if that's the case, he makes the material available," Cliff said.

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# Thousands of Chileans unable to pay debts

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Thousands of Chileans are saddled with debts they can't pay — debts that have grown from such things as loans for major business ventures or for luxuries like cars and television sets.

And their military government has the same kind of problem — with a foreign debt that is projected to reach \$21 billion this year.

Hundreds of businesses have gone bankrupt and 28 suicides have been attributed to an inability to pay money owed.

"Only because I am Catholic, or perhaps out of cowardice, have I not shot myself," said Jose Parera, who stands to lose his home for defaulting on the \$58,000 loan he took to buy a used Mercedes Benz truck imported from West

Germany. "Today nobody feels individually responsible for his debt," said Chilean economist Pablo Piner. "They blame the government, the recession, the economic system. It has become normal not to pay."

So many businessmen and consumers have defaulted that their unpayable debts exceeded the value of all Chilean banks' capital and reserves.

In January, the government was forced to take over 80 percent of the banking system and halt principal payments on the nation's foreign debt.

One of the hits of the theater season here is a play about a banker and an industrialist whose fratricidal tragedy dramatizes the Chileans' obsession with debt and insol-

veny. It's titled, "Renegotiation of a Loan under a Heavy Rain on a Wet Tennis Court" and revolves around two brothers — one the banker, the other the industrialist.

While playing tennis, they argue over a \$2.5 million loan that the industrialist cannot repay.

"We have to eliminate you miserable rats who are prostituting a sound economic system," declares the banker, who insists on foreclosing the loan.

"It's all the fault of you bankers, who lent money at usurious rates," the younger brother shouts back.

As rain falls and the stage goes dark, they fight over a pistol drawn in desperation and manage to shoot each other dead.

## Texas wants to be site of atom smasher

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Science professors at Texas colleges say the state now stands a better chance to convince the federal government to spend \$2 billion on a giant atom-smashing accelerator, which could become the single most costly science project undertaken in U.S. history.

Texas is one of at least four states vying for the device, which would require 100 miles of circular, underground tunnels and sophisticated gear. The contraption, which would be the largest atom-smasher ever built, would provide up to 20 trillion volts to push opposing beams of protons and antiprotons into collision at near the speed of light.

The result, scientists say, is that individual atoms could be dissected in greater detail than ever before, and researchers would be better equipped to find out what welds together atoms, the building blocks of the universe.

Dissecting atoms into their components is "just like peeling an onion, layer by layer," said Peter McIntyre, an associate physics professor at Texas A&M University.

Atoms already have been broken up into protons, neutrons, and one level further, into "quarks," which are the building-blocks of the larger units.

But there are many more mysteries to be uncovered within the atom, McIntyre said.

"There's something else down there. I know it," he said. "At this stage it's what I'd call a smell in the nose of a theoretical physicist."

Scientists around the state were encouraged last week when a federal Department of Energy panel reviewing a New York laboratory decided not to recommend locating the accelerator there.

The Texas group wanting the device built here includes scientists from A&M, the University of Texas, Rice University and the University of Houston.

A&M physics department head Robert Tribble and McIntyre said there is a good chance the accelerator will one day be built in the area.

At A&M, McIntyre is heading the lobbying effort to convince federal officials to locate in the state the giant atom-smasher, which already has been dubbed "Texatron" by hopeful scientists.

McIntyre, working in collaboration with Nobel Prize-winning Harvard physicist Sheldon Glashow, has traveled to Washington to talk to Department of Energy officials to push the project for Texas.

The Texatron concept, if approved by the Department of Energy and Congress, calls for undertaking research somewhere in the Houston-Austin-College Station triangle, or perhaps just across Interstate 45 in East Texas.

At least one politician also is excited about the prospect of hosting the giant atom-smasher.

Gov. Mark White's office told the Houston Chronicle he already has promised the four universities to "help out" in acquiring land to dig the 30-foot underground tunnel ring. McIntyre said the land alone would cost about \$250 million.

Some people say Texas is a good candidate for the accelerator because of its bountiful open land, which is crucial for the atom-smasher site, and because the state government and universities have expressed an interest in the project.

"There seems to be a willingness here in Texas to look closely at making a commitment," said A&M spokesman Lane Stephenson.

DOE would foot at least 90 percent of the bill for the project, said William Wallenmeyer, director of DOE's high-energy physics division.

## Private colleges not hurting for students

DALLAS (AP) — Many private colleges in Texas are reporting record numbers of students applying for admission this fall, while public institutions are battling just to stay even with a year ago, officials say.

Officials at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth said freshman applications for the fall stood at 2,403, up 10.4 percent from the year before.

Freshman applications at Texas Wesleyan College, also in Fort Worth, are up 23 percent from 1982-83.

Austin College of Sherman has received 10 percent more applications for beginning freshman this fall than last year, said Chuck Wharton, director of admissions.

Officials at Southern Methodist University report 6.7 percent more freshman applications have been received than last year.

In Georgetown, a spokesman at Southwestern University said 20 percent more freshman will enter that school this fall.

The number of applications for fall admission at Incarnate Word in San Antonio has increased, officials said, but enrollment applications remained the same at Trinity University, also in San Antonio.

But applications for places in the North Texas State University freshman class this fall are 6 percent lower than the same period in 1982, said Walter Bowen, associate director of admissions.

Application figures for Texas A&M and Texas Tech universities were not computed, officials said.

The number of fall applications at the University of Texas at Austin were holding steady, a spokesman said, compared with a slight increase at the University of Texas at El Paso.

"The private schools have very, very aggressive recruitment programs," said Bowen. "Another consideration, too, is in the area of merit-based, no-need scholarships. Very few of the state-supported schools have that kind of money for students, with the exception of Texas A&M and the University of Texas."

Dr. Ronald Brown, UT-Austin vice president for student affairs, said applications for fall enrollment at the 48,000-student campus is "almost the same as last year, holding on the mark."

## Arson suspected in carriage fire

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A disgruntled former employee threatened to put Alamo Carriage Co. out of business the day before fire destroyed four of the company's antique horse-drawn carriages, arson investigators say.

Some of the carriages, used to ferry tourists around San Antonio, were worth up to \$10,000 and were over 125 years old, investigator Raymond Trevino said.

The fire, started with bales of gasoline-doused hay, first was noticed about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday by a 16-year-old boy riding his bicycle home.

Alamo Carriage co-owner Laszlo Beres said he immediately suspected two employees he recently fired.

Trevino said investigators were following that angle, especially because of the former employee's threat, but also were "checking every possible avenue."

"The employee approached a driver downtown and said, 'You're going to be off the street in three days,'" Trevino said. "That's what the driver told us."

Seven quarterhorses used to pull the carriages were

removed from their stalls at the compound before the fire was set and were not injured, Trevino said. The intruders may have been planning to steal them, he said.

Gasoline-soaked hay was strewn throughout the Alamo Carriage offices, in two pickup trucks and along the ground, Trevino said. The gas had been siphoned from the trucks, he said.

"Someone went to a lot of trouble to set that fire. They had planned to do a number on that compound and they seemed familiar with the operation," he said.

The guard dogs at the carriage compound also did not bark at the intruders, he said.

Beres said the horses wouldn't be able to take to the streets with only the one carriage left.

"These carriages are handmade and extremely hard to repair," he said. "We'll definitely be out of business for awhile."

The arsonists, who gained entrance by cutting a chain-link fence, also left soaked hay atop the fifth carriage, but did not light it, Trevino said.

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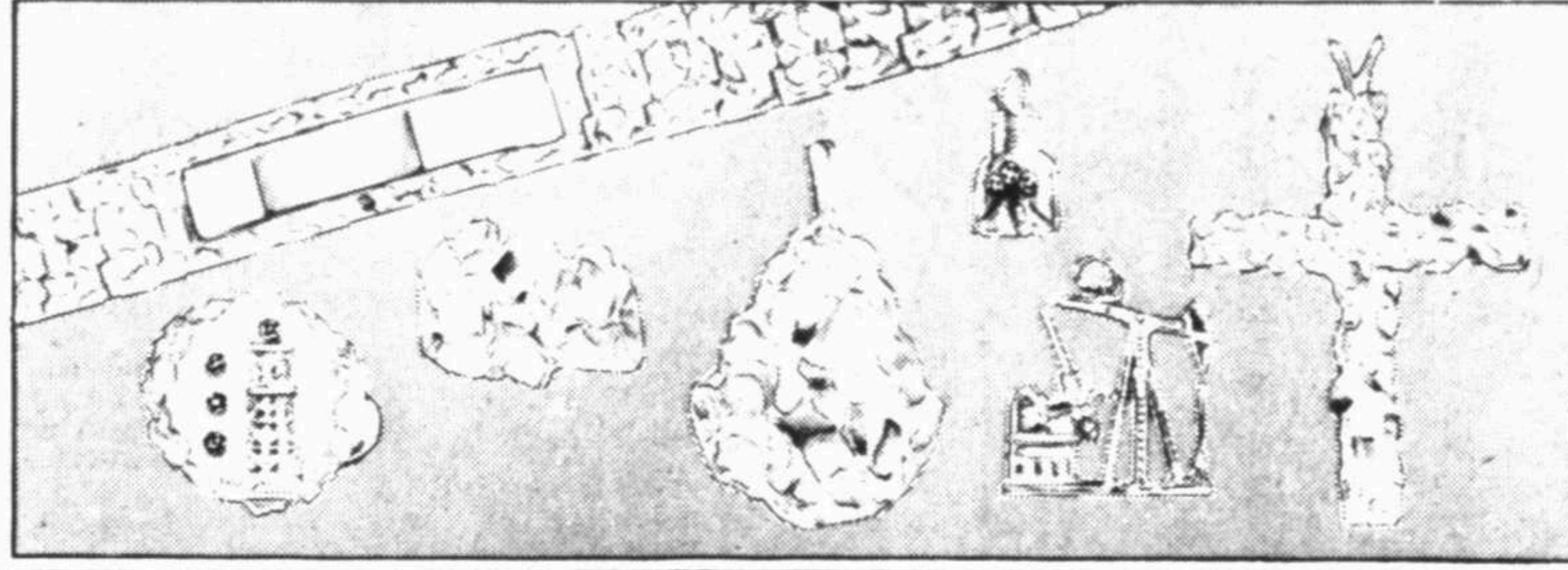
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world

# Five killed in Christian Beirut

By The Associated Press

Druse artillery fire killed at least three people and wounded 10 in Christian east Beirut today, radio reports said, and the Israeli Cabinet voted to pull its troops away from central Lebanon to safer positions.

Israeli Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor refused to disclose details of the partial pullback plan, saying it would be worked out by Prime Minister Menachem Begin and his top aides.

The special Cabinet meeting coincided with renewed violence in Beirut, where the Druse artillery barrage wrecked several cars and ignited fires, Lebanon's state and private radios reported. One shell reportedly exploded near the Lebanese Foreign Ministry building.

The radios also reported shells slammed into east Beirut, killing three and wounding four others. It said one shell struck two taxicabs near a church and another set four cars afire.

Police said unidentified attackers fired a bazooka at the headquarters of leftist opposition leader Walid Jumblatt's Druse Progressive Socialist Party in mostly Moslem west Beirut late Tuesday night. The assailants wounded one Druse sentry at the two-story building and fled by car, police said.

In Jerusalem, Begin called the special Cabinet meeting today while speculation intensified over the reasons for his abrupt cancellation of a meeting with President Reagan in Washington.

Begin telephoned Reagan on Tuesday to cancel the visit scheduled July 27, citing what he called "personal reasons." Comments by Israeli radio stations and newspapers focused on his poor health, his mood, and on the possibility that he might retire upon reaching his 70th birthday Saturday.

The cancellation came as Lebanese President Amin Gemayel arrived in Washington for a five-day visit that includes talks with Reagan on Friday.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz conferred with Gemayel briefly and said the United States and Lebanon want to ensure "appropriate security arrangements so that Lebanon doesn't



AP Laserphoto

A Lebanese man today helps his mother through the rubble of a rocket explosion in East Beirut's Sarasrah quarter, near the foreign ministry.

become a place from which attacks can be launched on any neighbor of Lebanon."

Gemayel is seeking more U.S. military aid and diplomatic pressure aimed at getting 28,000 Israeli troops, 50,000 Syrian soldiers and 12,000 Palestine Liberation Organization guerrillas out of his country.

The Israelis, who invaded Lebanon 13 months ago to destroy PLO guerrilla bases, have agreed to withdraw only if the Syrians and Palestinians do likewise.

In Lebanon's central Chouf mountains overlooking Beirut, Christian and Druse militias fought with artillery and rocket launchers Tuesday, shattering a brief cease-fire and raising more questions about who will police the area when the Israelis pull back.

Israel has said its forces in Lebanon will redeploy in the south because guerrilla ambushers continue to inflict casualties on Israeli troops stationed in the central mountains.

In Jerusalem, an Israeli leader of the Druse, Zeidan Atashi, warned of sectarian carnage if the Israelis withdraw and said the Christian Phalange militiamen should pull out first.

# Israeli cabinet approves pullback

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Menachem Begin's Cabinet today approved a partial pullback of Israeli troops from the central Lebanese mountains to southern Lebanon, Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor announced.

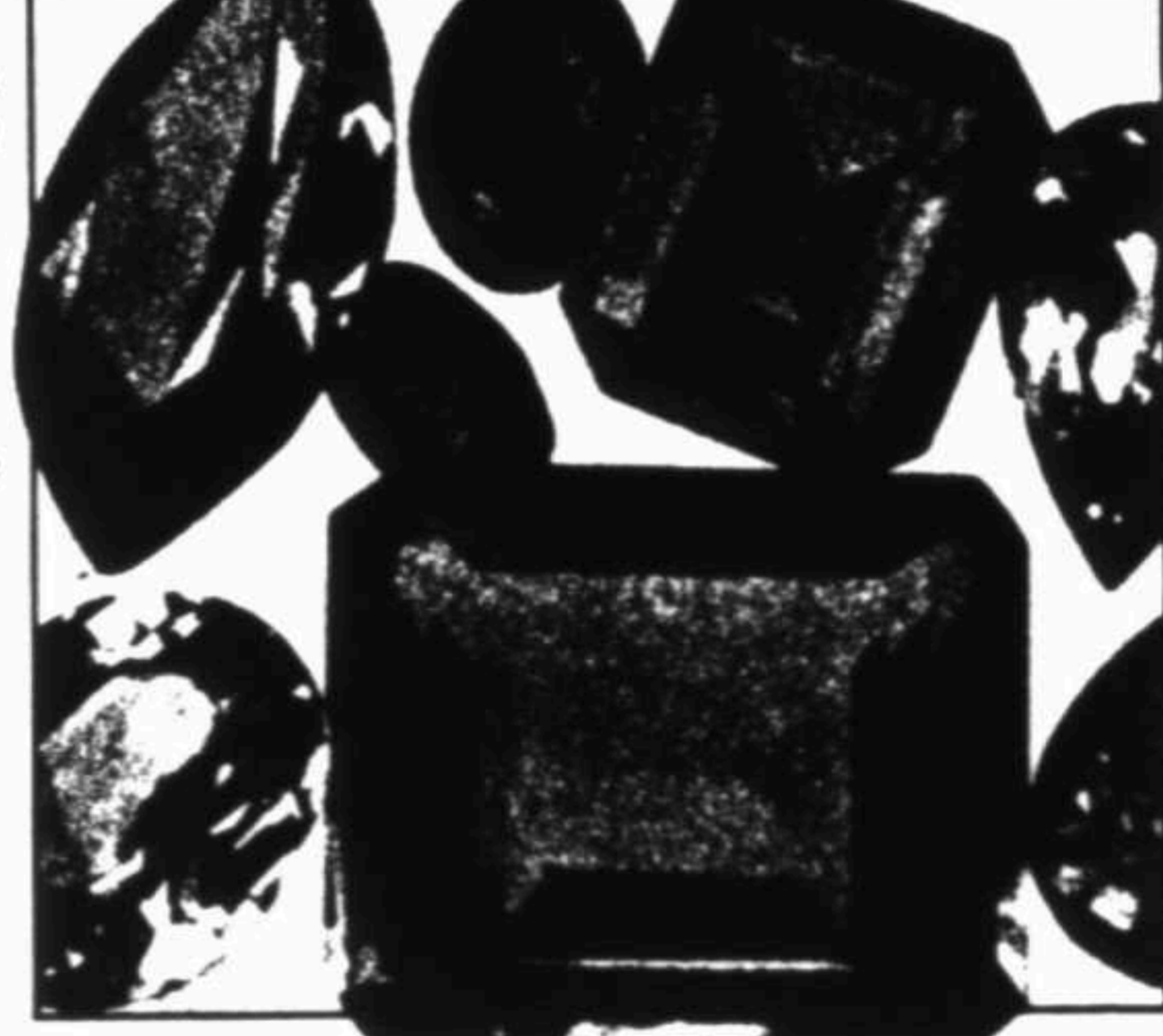
The special Cabinet meeting coincided with intense speculation over the reasons for Begin's postponement of a meeting with President Reagan next week. After the 2½-hour meeting Begin

went to the Knesset, Israel's Parliament. "The government approved the new deployment plan of the Israel Defense Forces in Lebanon as proposed by the general staff," Meridor said. He refused to answer any questions, and the plan only elaboration was that the details of the plan would be worked out by Begin along with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

July 18-23

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## U.S. puzzled by cancellation

By BARRY SCHWEID  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Reagan administration officials, puzzled by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's sudden cancellation of a visit here, are at a loss how to keep the U.S. plan for Palestinian self-rule alive and free Lebanon of foreign forces.

The long-delayed Begin visit offered an opportunity to at least review both intractable problems, with hopes a new approach might emerge. There is a similar lack of game plan for the talks beginning today with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, but there can at least be some practical preparations for an expected partial Israeli troop withdrawal.

The Begin government flatly rejected President Reagan's proposal for a Middle East settlement almost immediately after it was announced last Sept. 1. In nearly a year since, the prime minister has given no indication of softening his opposition to it as a threat to Israel's security.

At the same time, though, the United States has hoped King Hussein of Jordan could be persuaded to enter negotiations with Israel, and that representatives of the Palestinians other than the Palestine Liberation Organization might emerge.

High-level talks with Begin while the United States persisted in its so-far futile search for Arab conciliation might have inspired a new idea or two.

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# business/energy

## Big 16 could profit from freed gas

By The Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service

WASHINGTON — The nation's 16 largest oil companies would collect an extra \$1.8 billion to \$4.2 billion in the first year if federal price controls were lifted entirely from natural gas, according to unreleased figures compiled by the Energy Department.

The figures, compiled by the Energy Information Administration, spell out for the first time how each of the major oil companies would fare if the Reagan administration succeeded in deregulating natural gas, as it has proposed. Gulf Oil Co. would be the biggest winner. Its first-year gain would be \$645 million to \$669 million.

The Senate Energy Committee is expected to send a gas deregulation bill to the floor Wednesday.

The 16 major oil companies own 54 percent of the nation's gas reserves.

Sen. Howard M. Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, who has been battling deregulation in the committee and has vowed to filibuster if necessary to block the bill on the floor, obtained a copy of the Energy Department report and made it available to The Washington Post.

An Energy Information Administration official said Tuesday afternoon that the report, which was completed about a week ago, "should give people a good idea who the players are and what they are playing for."

Tuesday night, however, Erich Evered, EIA administrator, called the Post to ask that the figures not be published, saying that the report's methodology was faulty and

that its conclusions were being revised.

There are basically two kinds of gas under present law, old and new. Old gas comes from wells drilled before 1977, and its price is tightly controlled; new is allowed to drift up toward market price levels. The administration has said that while old gas prices would rise under its proposal, new gas prices would fall, cutting into the gains of producers.

But the new Energy Department statistics show that the major oil companies have much more old gas than new. Thus the major oil companies mostly would be net winners under the administration proposal, while the major independent gas producing companies and several major interstate pipelines that are more dependent on new gas would lose.

Transco Inc., for example, one of

the two pipelines that serves Washington Gas Light Co., would lose between \$3 million and \$45 million in the first year following decontrol on gas produced by its affiliated companies.

That range and all the ranges in the report depend on assumptions about the state of the gas market and general level of energy prices in the first year of decontrol.

Assuming that the price of all gas under total decontrol stabilized in the current average area of \$2.69 — a depressed level that most observers feel will not last — the revenue Gulf Oil obtains for its gas would increase in the first year by 120 percent.

Gulf would receive an extra \$740 million — a 327 percent increase — on sales of its old gas, while receiving \$95 million less on its sales of new gas and high-priced gas.

## Crude stocks down

The American Petroleum Institute told the Reporter-Telegram today



Report

342,858,000 barrels of crude oil were in stock nationwide during the week ending July 15. That's down from the previous week when 346,192,000 were gauged; and down from one year ago when 344,244,000 barrels were stocked.

The API also reports 3,284,000 barrels of crude were imported last week. The previous week's shipments mounted to 3,632,000 barrels. The latest import figures are down significantly from one year ago, when 4,072,000 barrels were delivered.

Product imports have risen. The API said 1,868,000 million barrels of products were imported last week, compared to 1,532,000 the previous week, and 1,321,000 one year ago.

At U.S. refineries last week, the API reported, 12,513,000 million barrels of crude was run through

distillation units, up from the previous week's total of 12,475,000, but less than the 12,836,000 barrels input one year ago.

U.S. refineries have an operable capacity of 16,294,000 million barrels — a newly updated figure — the API said. One year ago, U.S. refineries could have handled 17,382,000 million barrels. U.S. refineries operated last week at 76.8 percent of capacity, up slightly from the previous week's mark of 76.6 percent. One year ago refineries were operating at 73.8 percent of capacity.

The API estimates total U.S. production of crude oil and lease condensate during the month of July will gauge 86,964,000 barrels. Actual production during July, 1982, was 86,561,000.

\*\*\*

The above figures are the latest available, released for publication by the API Tuesday afternoon. The API has agreed to provide the Reporter-Telegram with the figures as soon as they are available. The Reporter-Telegram will endeavor to pass the data along to its readers each Wednesday.

## Decontrol bill expected before full Senate soon

WASHINGTON (AP) — Only a possible challenge to a provision exempting some large industrial users from the expected price increases stood in the way of a final vote today by the Senate Energy Committee on decontrolling natural gas.

Sens. John Heinz, R-Pa., and Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, both opposed to removing federal price ceilings on all natural gas, said Monday they might mount a challenge to

the "first sale for resale" language in the Reagan-administration endorsed bill.

Energy Committee Chairman James McClure, R-Idaho, has promised opponents of total decontrol that 11 votes on the Republican-dominated, 20-member panel would be necessary to send the package to the Senate floor.

Administration officials said Tuesday they have 12 or 13 senators on the committee willing to support

total decontrol but said they don't expect to muster more than the bare 11-vote majority needed to prevail.

The compromise, worked out in four months of wrangling among senators from gas-producing and gas-consuming states, would remove over three years the federal ceilings on so-called "old" gas that Congress six years ago said it wanted regulated forever.

In exchange, the bill would phase down over 12 months the high prices

being paid for new gas discovered since 1977 and allow pipeline companies to cut in half without penalty the volumes they have to take under their current contracts.

The Reagan administration originally wanted all price ceilings removed in 1985, contending that a decontrolled free market will produce overall lower prices for the 45 million American families who heat their homes with natural gas.

## New provision could help Texas gas sellers

By SARAH MCCLENDON Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Senate Energy Committee has agreed on a proposal designed to help the intrastate distributors of natural gas in Texas and their customers, the gas users.

The new provision in the natural gas deregulation bill now before the committee is expected to be announced formally Wednesday.

The key word is "Access," meaning that Texas intrastate dealers who are now short of gas can bring in gas from other states or from the outer continental shelf for sale inside Texas only and not be charged with inter-state operations,

making them fall under regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The gas is needed because Texas "is running out of gas," according to Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Tex., and some other industry leaders. The reason is that so much Texas-produced gas is now being sold in interstate commerce at low prices to consumers in other states under present federal regulations.

Gene Wright, Gilmer, board chairman of the Texas Producers and Royalty Owners Association, headquartered in Austin, who sits in on these hearings at the Senate committee, said "We are not running out of gas in Texas, we just are not drilling any more gas wells at today's

prices, but if this situation keeps up, we will be running out of gas in Texas in about 18 months."

WASHINGTON Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., a key figure taking the part of the producers in Senate Energy Committee's consideration of the Natural Gas Deregulation bill, received good news from surgeons who operated on him here Monday.

Precautionary examinations showed what looked to be a growth on his lung, but it turned out to be scar tissue left from a bout with pneumonia which he suffered last winter.

He will remain in the hospital for

the remainder of this week, then have a week at home to rest.

The gas bill will not be affected by his absence as Domenici had done his fighting for the producers earlier and had expressed strong sentiments against some provisions of the bill.

He still has a number of technical amendments which he had presented earlier and had requested the professional staff to work on.

Agreement on these has been reached and they are expected to be presented to the committee for a vote Wednesday. When the final vote on the bill comes, perhaps as early as Wednesday, Domenici's vote will be cast by proxy. He has a staff person sitting in on all deliberations.

## MGF asks court to dismiss bankruptcy suit

MGF Oil Corporation asked the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in San Antonio Tuesday to dismiss a suit filed by three creditors which may force the struggling oil company out of business.

There is widespread speculation that unless MGF satisfies these disgruntled creditors, the company will seek protection from them by filing a Chapter 11 bankruptcy, amid rumors of a shake up in top level management.

Company president R.O. "Jack" Major was not available for comment Tuesday or this morning.

The creditors, led by Stanford N. Phelps, a securities broker with Prudential-Bache in New York, asked the court in June to order MGF to sell off its assets under Chapter 7 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

Phelps' lawyer said at the time that his clients feel MGF would be better able to pay its debts under the direction of the court.

MGF missed a \$5.4 million interest payment due May 1 to investors such as Phelps, who owns some of the company's 14 1/2 percent senior subordinated debentures. The debentures, issued in 1981, netted MGF \$57.5 million to reduce bank

debt at the time.

The hard-pressed exploration and drilling company was surprised by the Phelps petition, which came as a bombshell after the company had finally restructured \$153 million in debt with its major lenders this spring.

The suit threw MGF into financial limbo, making the company unable to continue negotiating with other trade creditors and lessors. MGF had announced earlier it was trying to get bondholders to swap their 14 1/2 percent debentures for a new offering at 6 percent, with some common stock added.

Negotiations with Phelps have been underway since July 6, when MGF's officers, attorneys and bankers met with Phelps in San Francisco.

MGF said earlier this month it would oppose the Chapter 7 petition vigorously. If the company cannot get the petition dismissed, the court in San Antonio might order it to begin liquidation of its approximately \$314 million in assets.

Selling those assets will not be easy. Much of the company's worth is tied up in 46 drilling rigs — most of them have been stacked due to the decline in drilling work available in the Permian

Basin. Some of them are deep rigs capable of drilling to 16,000. They were purchased in 1981 when the company intended to participate in the deep gas play in the Fletcher field of the Anadarko Basin in Oklahoma.

That field has since broken the backs of many operators who went into debt to buy the expensive deep rigs at a time when the natural gas market changed dramatically.

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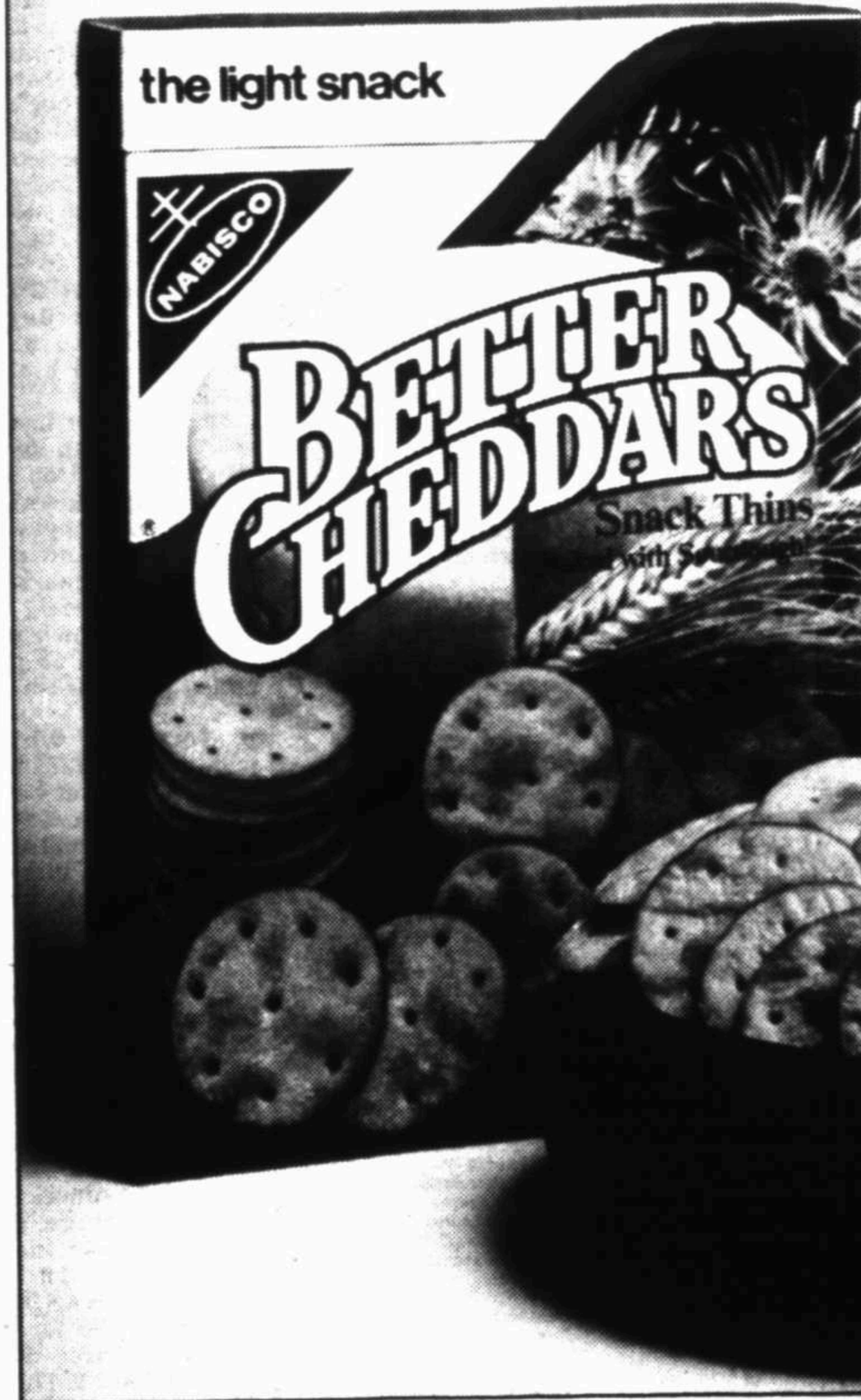


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Photo illustration by Paul Gilbert

# Three sentenced in federal court

By ED TODD  
Staff Writer

A middle-aged California man whose life is "going down hill," a young Midland woman who suffers from chronic depression and an Odessa truck driver who stole his employer's truck were sentenced Tuesday in federal court in Midland.

Michael Edward McNulty, 40, who pleaded guilty to attempting to pass a counterfeit \$20 bill in an Odessa drug store last April 19, was sentenced to five years in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Lucius D. Buntun.

The U.S. Secret Service said McNulty was carrying 21 \$20 bogus bills at the time of his arrest that day.

"I know I did commit a crime," McNulty, a unemployed laminator, told Buntun, "and I know I must be punished."

In reviewing the defendant's background, Buntun noted that his life has been "going down hill."

McNulty explained that after his second divorce, "I lost my home, quit my job out of despair, and I did this foolish crime right afterward."

"He's a man alone," his defense attorney told the judge.

"I want you to know I have sympathy for you," Buntun told McNulty. "I have sympathy for most people who stand before me. I have sympathy for... my brothers, and you're my brother."

Nevertheless, the judge said "Many people have had divorces — far too many." Many others, including people in the Midland-Odessa area, have "had the misfortune" of losing their jobs when their companies went under. "They don't start

going down hill as you have."

A sobbing ex-teller, Sue Ellen Stewart Magee of Midland, who admitted embezzling \$500 from the National Bank of Odessa, was sentenced to five years in prison. However, the judge ordered her to serve six months in a jail-like federal facility, suspended the remainder of her sentence and placed her on probation for five years.

"I know I was in the wrong," Mrs. Magee, 22, told Buntun. "I do have a good job now, and I'm married to a real fine man who loves me, and I love him."

She wept.

"I know you're upset," Buntun said, "emotionally upset."

In seeking a mitigated sentence for his client, defense attorney William "Bill" Clifton said the woman suffered an "unfortunate childhood," was abandoned, had a learning disability in school, and suffers from chronic depression.

"There was no one to approve or disapprove of her actions," Clifton said.

"The most fortunate thing she has done," he said, "she has married a fine man. She likes her job now, and she's with a good man now."

Buntun considered the pleadings and zeroed in on the embezzlement.

"You took advantage of your employer," the judge told the defendant. "You took money that wasn't yours... because it was easy, I assume, (to take it) from a bank. You betrayed a trust."

The judge acknowledged that "Evidently Mr. Magee has been a good thing in your life."

(See JUDGE, Page 2C)

## Unexpected happiness

Unexpected pregnancies can sometimes bring unexpected happiness.

# Women find support at Birthright

By GAIL BURKE  
Staff Writer

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** To protect the identity and avoid any undue embarrassment, the names of the unmarried women in this article are fictitious.

Renee and Maria made choices that will affect their entire lives. Last year, both unmarried women had unexpected pregnancies.

Rejected by the natural fathers, Renee and Maria gave birth to their babies, opting to raise the children themselves.

It wasn't an easy decision. Even today when it's more common for single parents to raise their children or even adopt, Renee and Maria went through painstaking, emotional experiences.

At 17, Renee didn't feel loved. When the high school senior met "this good looking guy," she consented to have intercourse with him. She was a virgin. Then, she found herself pregnant.

"I felt alone and afraid," she said. Because Renee's family was not supportive and she wanted to get away from "all the pressures of being 18 and pregnant," she left Midland and went to an Austin school for pregnant girls.

"I felt like I didn't belong here. I felt like hiding. That's when I thought about having an abortion. I didn't like myself. This was my first experience with sex and I got pregnant."

IN AUSTIN, she received counseling. She earned an equivalent certificate for a high school diploma and started liking herself.

"Keeping the baby will be the hardest thing in the world," she said.



Connie Brooks

"You can do it, if you put your mind to it."

"And you can be somebody too. My GED was important to me. I've got to work hard. It's not playing house, it's the real thing."

When Renee returned from Austin, her boyfriend was gone. That's when she contacted the Midland chapter of Birthright, a pro-life agency.

Maria, a 25-year-old college graduate, had been sexually active at one time. But because of religious beliefs, she practiced celibacy, stopping all contraceptive methods and abstaining from sexual intercourse.

Then Maria said she fell in love. At 26, she became pregnant.

Maria said her condition was embarrassing. She felt as though a woman with her knowledge, a degree and a good job should have

known better.

"I couldn't accept the fact that I was pregnant," Maria said. "I kept getting bigger. I'm sorry I didn't want this baby."

"All the time, at night, I'd think, I want an abortion. I didn't want this baby. I was getting all screwed up in my head."

IN HER fourth month of pregnancy, Maria got sick. She vomited all the time. She was in bed for 12 days.

When she returned to work, the atmosphere had changed. Her desk was moved toward the back of the office. While she was praised for her work some six months before the pregnancy, she was now told she had a poor attitude. Eventually, Maria was laid off.

Then she too, contacted Birthright.

Both women said they received counseling and support at the non-profit organization. They wanted to continue their pregnancies. They said Birthright helped them.

But as Renee and Maria mentioned, there was a time during their pregnancies that they didn't always want their babies.

"It's harder (to accept an unplanned) pregnancy when you're older," Maria said. "You've already been through so much."

"At 18, you're younger and you don't care what people will say about you. I was worried what people would think. I'm so much stonger now."

Renee said abortion "crossed her mind every once in a while," but she thought quickly went away.

"SHOULD I keep it or not? That's the question I asked myself all the time. I don't think I could ever go through an abortion."

"I considered adoption for 78 days. I felt like I was the only one going through this, like I was trash. Now I know I'm not."

While Maria received emotional support from the pro-life agency, Renee was provided a place to live. Maria stayed with a relative and gave birth to her son. Renee lived with a Midland family and gave birth to her daughter.

Both women said this was their choice. This is what they wanted to do. But what they needed — support and acceptance — was received from Birthright.

Connie Brooks, Birthright director, said the organization is geared toward helping the distressed pregnant woman to carry her baby to term. The group offers counseling, shelter and some help with finances. Women can obtain free pregnancy tests, personal counseling, information on medical and legal help, maternity clothes, baby necessities and transportation to and from the doctor's office.

"BUT BIRTHRIGHT'S charter forbids us to give any birth control information out," Ms. Brooks said. "We tell the girl to contact a doctor if that's what she wants."

"(The charter) also forbids us to give any information out about a (pregnant) girl. We're not an adoption agency. I've been with Birthright for 10 years and never have I assisted in a private adoption."

"Also, we do not refer anyone for an abortion," Ms. Brooks added. "Birthright feels a person seeks an abortion because of pressure — a boyfriend, family or past experience. We are here to help, support, to give every mother the right to give birth and every baby the right to be born."

# Lawyer may go to jail unless he defends man

ODESSA (AP) — A judge says a former prosecutor may find himself in jail if he refuses to defend a man accused of beating his mother-in-law and her two sons to death with a baseball bat.

John Green, a former Ector County district attorney, said Tuesday that his feelings against violent crime are so great that he may refuse to defend 29-year-old Kenneth A. Venne.

But Justice of the Peace Virgil Lumpee, who appointed Green to represent the indigent defendant, said moral objection is not a sufficient reason to refuse a case.

"According to the Good Book, we're all supposed to be against murder," Lumpee said. "As far as I'm concerned, John Green is appointed to defend the man unless he has a conflict of interest. He's a criminal defender obligated to defend an appointment unless he has a conflict of interest."

Should Green refuse to accept the case, "I would imagine a district judge would lock him up for contempt of court," Lumpee said.

Representation of indigent clients is the professional obligation of all attorneys, Green said, "but I'm not going to sacrifice my beliefs from some court appointment. If the judge wants to hold me in contempt, he can do that."

Venne was arrested last Thursday, the day after Ruby Kay Fiesler and her sons Paul, 17, and Keith, 13, were found slain at their home. Autopsy reports revealed the three had been beaten to death.

Venne is being held in Ector County Jail in lieu of \$300,000 bond.

"I have strong beliefs against crimes of this nature," Green said. "They're not going to put me through the burden of doing something I don't believe in. I've spent most of my life prosecuting crimes of this nature."

Green was district attorney for 12 years until he was defeated in a re-election bid in 1980 by current District Attorney Mike Holmes.

Green said he would decide whether to reject Venne's defense "in a couple of days."

# Midland girl infected by printer's ink at early age

By LANA CUNNINGHAM  
Staff Writer

"You know, once you've been to a newspaper office, and you have seen the press run, it's like you've got printer's ink in your blood!"

Julie Griffith wrote that in May 1977 as she completed one year in a pilot program for gifted and talented fifth and sixth graders. She was 10 years old then, and looked like a normal fifth grader with gangly arms and legs — nothing seemed to fit together.

Today, at 17, she is a senior at Midland High School. She flashes a charming smile, her arms and legs melding into a graceful shape. And she's planning a major in communications — an idea that was stamped in her head by that indelible printer's ink six years ago.

Julie is one of 20 students who participated in the program and today recalls the impact it made on her life. The same goes for her brother, Dodd, who was one year ahead of her in school. He studied medical pathology; today, he's heading for Dartmouth as a pre-med student.

Ten students from each grade were selected for the program. Each chose a field of study where they would work one day a week on the understanding they would make up their schoolwork.

Julie had been writing since she was a pre-schooler, taking on some traits from her grandmother, Mrs. Leonard A. Sparks, who was a journalism instructor in Oklahoma City.

MRS. SPARKS was 42 when her husband died, leaving her to support



Julie Griffith in 1977

two children — one a son who had just started Princeton, the other her 15-year-old daughter who became Mrs. Verne Griffith.

"She started teaching journalism and speech," said Julie of her grandmother. "When we were in Oklahoma City, she would take me down to her school and let me type on the typewriters."

Her first book at the age of 5 was for her grandmother. "Hardcover, of course," she giggled as she pulled out the cardboard-bound novel.

student how to gather a story and write it.

She got her first typewriter at the age of 8. "It was a big iron thing my parents bought at a sheriff's depart-

ment auction. I think it was the first one ever made," Julie laughed.

She now works on an IBM. And then came the chance at the pilot program. "We had to pick out the field of study and we had to call the people on our own."

Julie chose the Reporter-Telegram and she contacted Luanna Crow, then assistant city editor. She later transferred to the guidance of Linda Hill, a reporter, who took Julie on the rounds with her, showing the

JULIE SAW the inside workings of a newspaper, watching the reporters' varied working styles, following a story from the first letter typed on a computer terminal to its placement on a page and, finally, to the final product rolling off the press. She followed photographers and learned how to process film.

Ms. Hill, now press secretary to U.S. Sen. John Tower, recalled Julie as being a "very charming, very bright kid."

"They gave us total freedom to do the job," said Julie. "It gave us a chance to see whether we would like to go into this field."

When the year ended, Julie and the others presented a program on what they learned, and had to write a paper. Unknown to Julie, hers was printed in the Reporter-Telegram along with her photo. It was in that story she wrote of getting printer's ink in her blood.

The program wasn't renewed the next year, but it didn't stop Julie from writing or taking photographs.

When in ninth grade she submitted a short story to a literary contest at Midland High, where she was taking



Staff Photo by Cody Bell

Julie Griffith, at 17, continues her writing with the age of 10 she spent a year in the school's hopes of going into communications in college. gifted program watching the inner workings at Her goal was cemented with printer's ink when at the Reporter-Telegram.

Latin, and won third place. Last spring, she entered the National Council of Teachers of English writing contest, but won't know the results until October.

HER WRITING also has been influenced by Lucinda Windsor, her honors English teacher at MHS, Julie said.

And Julie has done other things besides write. She sings in the choir and has played the piano 10 years, winning awards in that field.

And Julie has done other things besides write. She sings in the choir and has played the piano 10 years, winning awards in that field.

(See GIRL, Page 2C)

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# Man learns he 'can't give up hope'



Marvin Matherly and his family lean against a 1966 Plymouth, their home under a San Antonio freeway. Soon, however, they will be moving into public housing.

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A San Antonio man living in a 1966 Plymouth with his wife and three young children says he learned that "you can't give up hope" after receiving donations and comforting letters from sympathetic people.

Of his family's plans to move into reduced-rent city public housing, Marvin Matherly says, "It's a miracle."

"You can't give up hope because there are some good people in the world," he said.

The Matherlys soon will trade nights in their Plymouth parked under an expressway for one of the city's two-bedroom apartments.

Matherly, a 32-year-old former soldier, lost his \$12,000-a-year job in January when the company he worked for folded.

He couldn't find permanent employment, he said, and the minimum wages he drew from his sometime job with a local temporary service did little to care for his family.

"Camping out" in the summertime seemed to be a good way to save money, Matherly said Monday. Dozens of people sent money and

wrote letters to the San Antonio Express-News after a story about the Matherly family first appeared last week.

John Sturgis, 57, offered to share his San Antonio home.

"It would have been crowded because I have a wife and two daughters, but we could have done it," Sturgis said. "My door will always be open."

"I know what it means to be zeroed out," said Sturgis, who moved here from Baltimore after retiring as a policeman.

A local pharmacist offered a prayer and a promise of free medication.

And one couple wrote: "Don't give up hope because there are a lot of people who care about you."

Some of the approximately \$340 collected in donations will go for a deposit on the apartment and the first month's rent, Matherly said. The bulk will go to groceries and beds for Aaron, 7, Kevin, 5, and Jacob, 11 months.

The rest, Matherly said, will "definitely be saved for a rainy day."

# Relatives, friends fear for missing couple

EL PASO (AP) — Four weeks ago, Marine Capt. Robert Bravence, stationed at Fort Bliss, and his wife, Cheryl, disappeared while on a camping vacation in Idaho.

Tuesday, relatives and friends expressed their fears for the El Paso couple, whose van was found abandoned in Los Angeles earlier this month. The couple's dog also was found abandoned at a campsite in Idaho.

Bravence's mother said Tuesday she believes her son and daughter-in-law are dead.

"I think someone killed them and stole the truck," said Gilda Howard of Scottsdale, Ariz.

"They had something someone wanted — the truck, the credit cards, anything they could get," Mrs. Howard said her hopes

have dwindled since she last talked with her son on the telephone June 21. Bravence had called his mother from Grangeville, Idaho.

"Of course, you can only hope for so long," she said. "The only thing we know is that they are still searching the Grangeville area, near the South Fork of the Clear Water River."

Bravence, 27, and his wife, 25, left El Paso June 11 on a 2½-week camping vacation to the Nez Perce National Forest in Idaho.

When Bravence called his mother from Grangeville June 21, he told her they would be coming through Scottsdale June 29 or 30 on their way back to El Paso.

When her son didn't arrive, she called the highway patrols in Idaho, Montana and the other states they had driven through.

# Columnist ready to explore world

HOUSTON (AP) — After nearly 30 years of recounting tales of rural and small-town characters in Southeast Texas, Houston Post columnist Leon Hale wants to explore the rest of the world.

Two years ago, Hale might have dealt with a bull that had a nervous breakdown or reported a discovery by Pop Brymer of Caldwell: Whiskey swished around the mouth is good for sore gums but whiskey swallowed is better.

Now the 62-year-old Hale has forsown such subjects, or at least radically reduced his use of them. He said he was driven to find new topics by the fear he had become omniscient about his corner of Southeast Texas, a land of swamps as well as forests and sagebrush which is home to as many lumberjacks as cowboys.

"I got the feeling that every time I stopped to go in a country store or a country gas station that I already knew what everybody was going to say," he said, although he admitted that was not inevitably so.

"They were going to talk about the price of land and how Houston people were moving in and ruining

the country. And how there's nothing for the kids to do here so they have to go to the city."

So Hale, who claims Mark Twain and Damon Runyon as his idols is reading "Anna Karenina" and making plans to visit Europe.

"Just to be frank, I got an awful hankering to see a little more of the world," he said. "I've been threatening for years, every time I got west of San Antonio, just to keep going."

Last year he did, winding up in the redwood forests of California. This month he plans to visit northern Scotland — "go up there in that haunted country where they have those funny things swimming in the lakes and little creepies behind the bushes."

Presumably neither creepies nor lake denizens will want to talk about Houston.

Hale has published four books and has another coming out this fall. Most of his works are compilations of his columns.

Hale said he encountered no opposition from editors when he decided to change the style he adopted when his column began in 1956. Hale returned to the Post, where he was

farm and ranch editor from 1947 until 1952, after a 3½-year stint with Humble Oil Co.

"My masters there at the Post have never really told me what to do," he said. Nowadays, therefore, "I can run around here in Houston and do interviews or just look at the traffic or have ulcers and write about that or whatever I want to."

Kuyk Logan, the Post's managing editor, said he trusts Hale's judgment about his subject matter and adds he has always gotten the best results by leaving the columnist to his own devices.

"We let him call his own shots," Logan said. "I wouldn't begin to suggest anything to Leon to write. I tried it a couple of times and nothing happened."

That understanding has allowed Hale, in recent weeks, to write about why he was sure a panhandler he met in the East had been to the former Sheppard Field, the Texas military base near Wichita Falls where Hale went through basic training.

"He said the right thing about it. 'Ain't that a hellhole?' Guys who had been over in Europe fighting the

war, getting shot at, even they would say that about Sheppard."

He has also concerned himself with his son's car, a patchwork quilt of a vehicle which Hale estimates has 300,000 miles on its remaining original parts, if any. It burned out a clutch east of Houston not long ago.

"I said 'I'd come get him but I'd have to find a rent place open and get a tow bar. He said never mind, he had a tow bar. He carries a tow bar. You see his system."

This new direction may not be his last.

"I'm constantly, to tell you the truth, haunted by the possibility that I might ought to quit the paper and write fiction in the time that I have left," he said.

Not that he's complaining about the way he's spent the last 28 years.

"My gosh, I can do pretty well what I'd do if I didn't have to work. Just running around talking to people. Looking at wildflowers. Watching pretty girls."

And he figures there's one thing that will keep him laboring for the Post.

"I'm afraid I'd just die from missing the column."

# Dallas County sheriff goes on trial for DWI

DALLAS (AP) — A paramedic who attended to Dallas County Sheriff Don Byrd after a car accident three months ago said Byrd had a strong smell of alcohol on his breath and asked him, "Did I kill anyone?"

Byrd was "belligerent and combative" when he and ambulance attendants tried to help him after the sheriff's Lincoln Continental smashed into the concrete base of a traffic light April 17 in the Dallas island suburb of University Park, Larry Schmitz said.

Schmitz was one of five people who testified Tuesday, the first day of Byrd's trial on misdemeanor driving while intoxicated charges, that Byrd appeared drunk the night of the accident.

The other witnesses were two actors at a dinner theater play Byrd attended earlier in the night, a teen-ager who was the first person to arrive at the scene of the accident, and the assistant director of Presbyterian Hospital's emergency room.

Byrd, 55, waived a jury trial and his guilt or innocence will be determined by Dallas County Criminal Court Judge Tom Price. He faces up to

two years in jail and a \$500 fine if convicted.

The sheriff, who rejected a plea bargain and pleaded innocent Monday, has repeatedly denied he was drunk, saying the only alcohol he had all night was part of a pitcher of wine.

Schmitz said he asked Byrd at the accident scene if he had been drinking and that the sheriff replied, "I know where to get it."

Dr. Kenneth Sherman said he suspected that Byrd was drunk when he was brought to Presbyterian Hospital and confirmed the suspicion by reviewing results of a blood-alcohol test.

Over objections of defense attorneys, the prosecution introduced results of the blood test, which showed Byrd had a blood-alcohol content of 0.193, almost twice the legal limit of intoxication. The defense contended the test was conducted improperly and in violation of Byrd's legal rights.

Price said he would rule later, after hearing all the testimony, on the admissibility of the blood-alcohol test.

In response to a question from prosecutors, Sherman said he saw no evidence that Byrd had suffered a stroke, as Byrd suggested in interviews two weeks after the accident.

Two other witnesses Tuesday, actors at a Dallas dinner theater, testified that they concluded Byrd was drunk earlier that evening when he climbed onto a stage, uttered an obscenity and shoved one of them in the chest.

Patrick Dennis, who played a lead role in the play "The Drunkard," said Byrd was a "dominant heckler" in the audience, which was encouraged to participate and take sides as the play progressed.

At one point, Byrd climbed onto the stage and dumped a bag of popcorn on his head, Dennis said.

During the eight weeks he was with the production, Byrd was the only person to climb onto the stage from the audience, Dennis said.

# Greenwood ISD trails Midland, Ector districts in teacher pay

While Midland and Ector County school districts have comparable average salaries, well above state figures, Greenwood trails the two by a considerable margin.

According to statistics released by Comptroller Bob Bullock, the average salary of an elementary school in Texas is \$19,452. In Midland that average is \$22,306 and in Ector County it is slightly less at \$21,789.

Although Greenwood Independent School District is also within Midland County, the average wage paid to its elementary school teachers is \$18,040. Deer Park led the state in pay for such teachers with an average of more than \$27,000, while Newcastle came in last with \$11,848.

Secondary teachers generally fared a little better, except in Sulphur Bluff where the average wage was just under \$11,000. In Midland the salary is \$24,629 and in Ector County it is \$23,720. In Greenwood the average was \$19,848, while the statewide figure stood at over \$20,000. Deer Park again paid the maximum state salaries, averaging just under \$29,000.

According to the Midland Federation of Teachers, upper level administrators are currently third in the nation in terms of salary in Texas,

while teachers are 36th in the nation. If that statement is true, then superintendents in Midland and Ector County districts can consider themselves well paid.

While the average salary of a general superintendent in the state was more than \$41,000, the combined average of superintendents in the MISD was \$67,329 and in Ector County it was \$66,672. Greenwood came in below the average at \$40,810.

The highest paid superintendents received \$96,000 in Houston, and Granfills Gap reports the lowest wage at less than \$24,500. Those figures do not reflect fringe benefits such as automobiles, housing, etc.

Average daily attendance for ECISD was 22,566, while Midland trailed in this area with an ADA of 14,671. Attendance at Greenwood was 1,073. Houston boasted the highest figures, with more than 175,000 students usually present, while Allamore had an ADA of eight students.

All three local school districts reported a 1:7 ratio of administrator to teachers. The state average is 1:6. Two districts in the state, Three Way and Walnut Bend, reported the highest ratio — an administrator for each teacher, and City View had the lowest at 1:17.

# Odessa hospital sets blood drive

ODESSA — Medical Center Hospital Blood Bank will conduct a blood drive at Winwood Mall Saturday. A free diagnostic chemical test will be given to any donor who may donate a pint of blood between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the mall's main entrance.

Each donor will receive a mini-physical which includes blood pressure, temperature and pulse reading and a free SMA-20 chemistry profile which performs chemical analysis on liver, kidney and cardiac functions and blood sugar levels.

To donate blood, a person should be in good health, between the ages of 18 and 65 and weigh at least 110 pounds. They must not have donated within the last eight weeks and must be off certain medications for 12 to 24 hours. Persons with a history of heart trouble, cancer, hepatitis, yellow jaundice, diabetes or rheumatoid arthritis should not donate.

More information may be obtained by contacting the blood bank at 333-7111, extension 180.

# Friends of library book drive continues

The Friends of the Midland County Public Library's book drive continues through Friday at the old U.S. Post Office depot at 203 W. Industrial Ave., according to Mary Mann.

Books, magazines and other library-related materials may be taken there from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. this week, she said.

Books and periodicals from the drive will be sold for benefit of the library in the Friends' 16th annual Book Sale Nov. 4, 5, and 6 in the Midland County Exhibit Building.

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