

The Midland Reporter-Telegram

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HOME EDITION

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40 PAGES, 5 SECTIONS

Sadat issues new challenges, invitation

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — President Carter will come to Egypt for the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, President Anwar Sadat said today.

Sadat told the Egyptian parliament, during a speech on the Camp David accords, that he had extended the invitation. He told newsmen after the address that Carter accepted.

No date has been set for the visit, but officials said it will depend on how

fast Egyptian and Israeli negotiators can work out steps to implement the accords, agreed upon earlier this month to end the 30 year conflict in the Middle East.

Sadat and Begin have pledged to conduct talks speedily. They are expected to open in Washington Oct. 12, with a target of a peace treaty by Dec. 17.

Sadat said the accords would not have been possible without Carter

and "without his perseverance."

"President Carter will go down in history as one of the great leaders who changed the face of history from bitterness to love and from wars to peace."

During the speech Sadat attacked Arab critics of the Camp David accords and invited them to join in peace talks with Israel if they think they can do better.

In his first public appearance since

returning from Camp David nine days ago, Sadat blasted leaders of Syria, Libya and the Palestine Liberation Organization, who say Sadat is guilty of treason for signing the agreements with Israel.

He called Col. Moammar Khadafy of Libya "a child."

But Sadat did not criticize King Hussein of Jordan, whose eventual participation in the negotiations is necessary if they are to succeed. Hus-

sein has criticized the accords but refrained from joining the so-called Arab rejectionists who split with Egypt over Sadat's peace initiative.

"I invite King Hussein to assume his responsibilities," Sadat said. "I invite Syrian officials to take part in the talks so as to deal with the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan." He called on PLO leaders to end what he said were their "farfetched" differences.

Sadat maintained the accords, which provide for a total Israeli withdrawal from Sinai within three years, would have the same terms applied to the Golan Heights if the Syrians joined the talks.

"This is what Egypt was able to do at this stage... we do not claim to have reached a comprehensive settlement, but we have prepared the road toward a comprehensive settlement," Sadat said.

Further peace talks set to begin in Washington

By The Associated Press

Negotiations to complete the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, outlined in the Camp David summit accords last month, are reported set to begin in Washington on Oct. 12. And Egyptian President Anwar Sadat said today President Carter will go to Cairo for the signing of the treaty.

Egyptian government sources confirmed reports in Israel and Cairo that Washington had been chosen as the site for the talks rather than the location proposed by Egypt, the Suez Canal city of Ismailia.

The sources said the shift would facilitate participation by American officials in the negotiations to end formally 30 years of hostilities between Egypt and Israel.

The Israeli Parliament removed the last barrier to further peace negotiations last Thursday when it ratified the Camp David accords and agreed to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's demand that Israel withdraw its 4,000 Jewish settlers from 18 outposts it established in the Sinai Desert.

In Cairo, Sadat made the announcement of the Carter trip while addressing his parliament on the Camp David accords.

"President Carter will go down in history as one of the great leaders who changed the face of history from bitterness to love and from wars to peace," Sadat said, adding the talks could not have succeeded without Carter's "perseverance."

He also attacked Arab critics of the agreements and invited them to join in peace talks with Israel if they think they can do better.

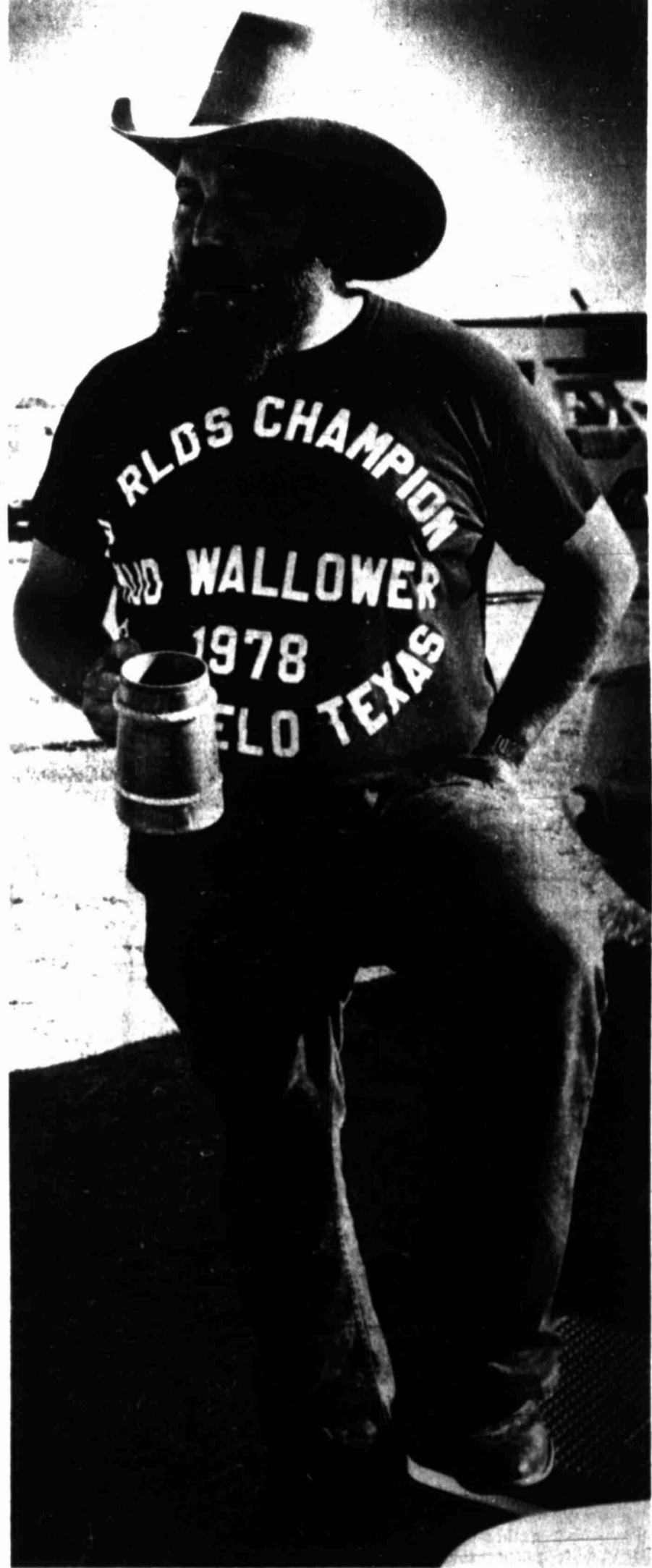
"This is what Egypt was able to do at this stage... We do not claim to have reached a comprehensive settlement, but we have prepared the road toward a comprehensive settlement," Sadat said.

President Carter brought Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin together at Camp David for two weeks of talks that yielded frameworks for Arab-Israeli peace and for a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt to be concluded within three months.

The framework for the Israeli-Egyptian treaty calls for a two-phase withdrawal of Israeli troops from Sinai, the stationing of United Nations forces on the southern Sinai coast to insure Israel's right of passage through the Gulf of Aqaba and the establishment of early warning stations.

The negotiators in Washington will work on demarcation of the zones in Sinai in which Israeli, Egyptian and U.N. troops will be stationed and a timetable for withdrawal of the Israeli forces.

Israel and Egypt also are to negotiate for establishment of an autonomous Palestinian government in the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip. Nearly 100 West Bank Palestinian leaders at a meeting in Jerusalem Sunday rejected the Camp David agreements and called on the West Bank Palestinians to boycott the elections that are to be held to choose an administrative council.



World Champion Mud Wallower Clay Cross of San Angelo "wets his whistle" while describing the technique that won him the title. An avid competitor, he plans to defend his title next year. (Staff photo by Mike Kardos)

Bank deposits reach all-time seasonal high

Midland bank deposits were at an all-time seasonal high of \$740,101,905 at the close of business last Friday, as the third quarter of the year came to a close.

The figure is up \$111,954,805 from the \$628,147,100 reported at the same date last year, and up \$13,717,234 from the \$726,384,671 recorded last June 30. It is down only \$1,341,324 from the all-time record high of \$741,443,229 cited last Dec. 31.

Statements of condition of the city's four banks — Commercial Bank & Trust Co., The First National Bank, The Midland National Bank and Western State Bank — were revealed today in line with the policy requiring reports to be issued automatically at the end of each quarter.

Loans and discounts of the banks

were at a record high at the end of September, totaling \$519,877,604, up \$94,558,593 from the \$425,319,011 shown a year previously, and up \$16,024,410 from the \$503,853,194 reported at midyear 1978. The June 30 figure was a record at that time.

The First National Bank reported deposits totaling \$455,458,023, compared with \$383,364,776 a year ago, and \$450,570,748 last June 30.

The bank's loans and discounts were \$336,565,530, compared with \$266,074,691 at the end of the third quarter last year, and \$315,220,543 three months ago.

The Midland National Bank last weekend had deposits totaling \$211,045,026, compared with \$179,826,259 on Sept. 30, 1977, and \$202,313,056 last June 30.

Its loans and discounts amounted to \$131,990,717, compared with \$109,753,571 a year previously, and \$136,303,892 three months ago.

Commercial Bank reported deposits totaling \$56,695,353, compared with \$50,693,206 at the same date a year ago, and \$57,278,951 last June 30.

The bank's loans and discounts amounted to \$38,129,778, compared with \$37,737,288 last year at this time, and \$40,780,854 three months ago.

Western State Bank revealed deposits totaling \$16,903,503, compared with \$14,282,859 on Sept. 30, 1977, and \$16,221,916 last June 30.

Its loans and discounts totaled \$13,191,579, compared with \$11,753,461 a year ago, and \$11,547,905 three months ago.

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Weather

Partly cloudy through Tuesday. High Tuesday in the low 70s. Details on Page 2A.

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Officials deny threat halted jackrabbit roping

By MARK VOGLER
R-T Staff Writer

ODESSA — Permian Basin Fair and Exposition officials got tangled up in a showdown with investigators from the Humane Society of the U.S. Sunday and decided to cancel the World Championship Jackrabbit Roping Contest.

Marc Paulhus, an investigator from the society's headquarters in Washington, D.C., claimed credit for stopping the event which he considered "inhumane and a clear violation of Texas animal anti-cruelty statutes."

Paulhus and Rick McCracken of the organization's Corpus Christi office had threatened to file criminal complaints against the contest's sponsors, the participants and the rabbit suppliers had the event been staged as planned.

Meanwhile, Bill D. Hicks, a fair director and supervisor of the event, said the roping was cancelled because "enough rabbits couldn't be had and they apparently did not want to be roped this year."

"The Humane Society is not the reason why we cancelled. We went out two nights and just couldn't round up any rabbits. We plan to go ahead with it next year."

Paulhus called Hick's explanation "a poor alibi."

"It seems to me they could have rounded up enough rabbits if they really wanted to go ahead with the event. They could have even purchased the rabbits off one of the local

jackrabbit contractors," the investigator said.

Paulhus was referring to local merchants who make money through mass shipments of jackrabbits from the Midland-Odessa area to as many as 40 states for use as live bait in greyhound race training exercises known as "coursing."

Several federal and state agencies are investigating possible violations involved with "coursing." The Humane Society also has said it regards that activity as cruel and inhumane and is attempting to put a stop to it.

Paulhus regarded the cancellation of Sunday's roping event as "a big victory for the Humane Society."

"I can assure you that the event will not happen again. I strongly believe that the activity is illegal and that local officials were aware of that and knew that we would do everything in our power to see that those involved would be prosecuted if the event took place," Paulhus said Sunday.

"If they try to have it again next year, we'll be back, but with one exception. We'll be quite prepared. We'll know in advance about it, we'll prepare our objection long in advance and we'll be prepared with an attorney general's opinion as to the event's illegality."

"We'll seek an opinion from the attorney general's office soon, although I think it's pretty clear-cut that the event is illegal in Texas."

The agent contends that it is a

(Continued on Page 2A)

Investigators to release crash transcript today

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The jetliner was falling, plunging 2,600 feet after colliding with a small Cessna. But its pilot and copilot still struggled — for "about a half minute's time" — to control the plane, making what investigators say was calm, casual conversation with air traffic controllers.

The transcript of that conversation was to be made public today, said investigators of the nation's worst air tragedy. The transcript covers all comments from ground to air and back before and after the Cessna and a Pacific Southwest Airlines 727 collided over the North Park residential area of San Diego a week ago.

At least 144 persons died, including seven on the ground, said Deputy County Coroner Max Murphy. He said during the weekend that the death figure was revised downward from 150 to 144. He said six persons believed killed on the ground were not in their homes at the time of the crash.

A spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board said in an interview with The Associated Press Sunday that the impact be-

tween the planes may have ruptured the jetliner's hydraulic system; in effect killing its power steering and some braking power.

The spokesman, Rudolph Kapustin, who heads the 100 investigators looking into the cause of the crash, said, "The aileron on the right wing was fully deflected and pointing upward," indicating that despite damage to the wing, the plane's steering mechanism wasn't knocked out entirely.

Ailerons are hinged sections along the trailing edge of the wing that enable the pilot to control the rolling movements of the plane.

Kapustin said the PSA pilot and his first officer appeared to have tried to control the jet from the instant of the collision to the crash on the ground, "about a half minute's time."

"Fire broke out immediately, leaving an indication that the fuel tank was damaged" when the jet's right wing was hit, he said.

Kapustin said further that he was unable to find any truth to published reports that there had been "bantering and joking" before the crash.

ROUSTIN ABOUT with Ed Todd



ODESSA — Clay Cross figures he has earned himself a hallmark.

He's the World's No. 1 mud wallower.

He can snort, roll and flounder, spit and get all dirted up with more gusto better (or, worse) than any rambunctious boar making a haven out of a slush pit.

This stout, bearded fellow who's a former bull rider claims he's the World Champion Mud Wallower. And he's proud to say that he'll be cited in the 1979 edition of the popular "Guinness Book of World Records."

"You can make a world's champion out of anything as long no one has done it," said Cross to the background of "Whiskey River" country music.

He was firmly holding a beer stein of "cowboy cool" beer in his hand.

"We just had a helluva good time," Cross said of the wallowing down at San Angelo in the middle of the summer.

Cross, who describes himself as "just a kid" at 33, said he had nothing but a pair of Levi's blue jeans on when he plunged himself smack-dab in the slop called mud.

"A lot of people got in the mud and tried to do silly things to get the people's attention," said Cross, who outdid the other would-be expert wallowers.

He was determined to muster his wallowing talents and win.

"So, I got in there and did what I did," Cross recalled, as the seven-day Permian Basin Fair and Exposition was drawing to a close Sunday.

He had driven up from San Angelo to Odessa to partake of the fair's frivolities and to enter the chili contest.

Unlike the wallowing venture, he took a backseat with his bowl of red: the iron-stomached judges gave him a third place in chili showmanship.

Now, his thoughts were more on mud wallowing than Texas chili.

"I wallowed," he recalled. "I took a bath...scrubbed myself with (mud) soap." And just as the two-minute contest was nearing its end, he buried himself in the mud like a dirt dauber caught in a rainstorm.

He went under, came up with a mouthful of mud, and, in another stunt to get the people's attention, blew ("spat") mud at judges Tom Griffin and Sam Pendergrast.

His effortless wallowing (within sight of Guinness representatives) must have amused the judges, who awarded him first place.

The distinction, like pig calling, is dubious.

"It's a crazy contest," said Cross. "It's a lot of fun, and Lord, I done it again."

His second wallowing was just for practice and show over at Llano in Texas Hill Country.

Now he's intent on wallowing once more down at Terlingua Nov. 4 at the World's Championship Chili Cook-off. That, too, will be for the fun of it and for a bit of "good press" for the mud-wallow devotees.

He'll be defending his title next year, so stay tuned to Roustin' About for the time and place. You might want to try your own ability at rooting and mud-wallowing.

There's no particular secret to a great wallow, Cross says.

"You've got to get in that mud and wallow... I always take a shower afterward."

Not long after Cross won the coveted wallowing contest, Griffin, who's an ace chili chef, gave him a sterling silver belt buckle, which has "got the head of a pig looking out of the mud," Cross said.

He wasn't wearing it.

"I don't wear it, because I prize it too much. I love it...," he said. "The look on the pig's face is 'What in the hell is going on' or 'What am I doing here,'" said Cross.

Cross hails from Del Rio, where his father ranches. Today, however, Clay Cross makes his home at San Angelo, where he's a bootmaker and salesman. He doesn't ranch much anymore, and he quit bull riding when he was a kid.

This hefty, bearded character takes

(Continued on Page 2A)

Despite price increases, supermarket profits drop

By The Associated Press

Chain store supermarket profits dropped by almost a third in the past year, despite increases in the price of groceries, say two Cornell University analysts who blame much of the decline on rising expenses for retailers.

Wendell Earle, professor of marketing, and Willard Hunt, a research specialist, studied 53 companies operating 8,021 stores. They compared profits for the year ended in April 1978 with those in the preceding 12 months.

Earle and Hunt found net earnings

for food chains dropped during the year from about two-thirds of a cent per dollar of sales to just over half a cent per dollar. In the late 1960s, profits were near a penny per dollar of sales.

In terms of returns on investment, net earnings of the chains studied represented 7.47 percent of net worth in 1977-78 compared with 9.38 percent a year earlier.

The Cornell team said the drop in earnings was due to an increase in debt, decreased returns on investment and higher expenses, particularly for labor. Costs went up most for stores in the Northeast where payroll

expenses rose sharply.

The supermarket industry, meanwhile, has started a campaign to get its view of food prices and inflation across to the public. The Food Marketing Institute, whose 900 members operate 24,000 grocery stores, including chains and individual outlets, is distributing to retailers booklets on ways to save at the supermarket.

According to the institute, the average gross margin for supermarkets — the difference between the price the retailer pays and the price he gets from the customer — is 22 cents on the dollar. Of this, the institute says, the biggest chunk — 14 cents or about two-thirds — goes for labor.

(The average hourly wage paid to grocery store employees went from \$2.26 in 1967 to \$4.94 in 1977, an increase of 118 percent. Food prices in the same period have increased about 90 percent.

Saving money on groceries means spending time to shop carefully. It also means learning where your dollars go and for what.

—How much of your food bill actually is spent on food? Studies show consumers spend up to one-fourth of their grocery budget on non-food items like paper goods, toiletries, etc. Supermarket profits on non-foods are up to twice as high as those on foods

and stores often arrange these items to encourage sales. End-of-aisle displays may be designed to catch your eye and entice you into buying something on impulse. Stop and think before you reach.

—Watch for hidden price rises. You may suddenly notice, for example, that the brand of paper towels you always buy has fewer sheets per roll or each sheet may be smaller. The dollars-and-cents price may be the same, but the real cost is higher. It might pay to switch brands.

—What are you willing to pay for convenience? Individual serving packets, pre-prepared foods and special cooking pouches usually add to the grocery bill. Do you really need those pieces of paper in between the cheese slices, for example? Some so-called convenience foods actually cost less than items made from scratch; others are much more expensive. The only way to tell is to add up all the costs.

—Suit size to need. Larger sizes are usually cheaper per ounce or pound.

but they are not always practical. Use unit price labels to compare products and sizes. These labels tell you not only the cost of the item, but also its price per ounce, etc. Large sizes that are labeled with a name which implies a price advantage — “Economy Pack,” for example — must, by law, cost less per unit than regular sizes. This does not apply, however, to items with names like “Giant Size” which refer to quantity.

—Compare cost per serving. Don't assume, for example, that the meat with the lowest per-pound price is the best value. Figure out how many servings you will get from a pound after the bones and fat are thrown away and the meat is cooked. Then check prices.

—Take advantage of specials, but make sure you really are saving money. Something advertised as a “special” or displayed on a separate counter may not necessarily be cheaper with a “cents-off” sign must be labeled with both the regular and the reduced price.

Marketbasket survey documents price boosts

By The Associated Press

Bargain hunters had a hard time tracking down good buys at the supermarket last month. An Associated Press marketbasket survey showed price increases during September outnumbered decreases by almost two to one.

The AP drew up a random list of 15 commonly purchased food and nonfood items, checked the price at one supermarket in each of 13 cities on March 1, 1973 and has rechecked on or about the start of each succeeding month. One item, chocolate chip cookies, was dropped from the list at the end of November 1977 because the manufacturer discontinued the package size used in the survey.

Among the highlights of the latest survey:

—The marketbasket bill at the checklist store went up in nine cities and down in four last month. On an overall basis, the average marketbasket bill at the start of October was 1.1 percent higher than it was a month earlier. During August, in contrast, the average bill dropped by 1.2 percent.

—A look at the total number of items showed that 49 increased in price while only 27 declined. There were about the same number of increases in September as there were in August, but there were only two-thirds as many decreases. There were no widespread sales like the Labor Day specials that helped lower the Sept. 1 totals.

Government experts are predicting that food prices alone will rise 10 percent this year. They originally had anticipated a 3 to 6 percent boost, but were forced to revise their forecasts because a smaller-than-expected increase in the supply of pork and poultry and heavy rains in California which disrupted planting.

No attempt was made to weight the AP survey results according to population density or in terms of what percent of a family's actual grocery outlay each item represents. The AP did not attempt to compare actual prices from city to city. The only comparisons made were in terms of percentages of increase or decrease.

The items on the AP checklist were: chopped chuck, center cut pork chops, frozen orange juice concentrate, coffee, paper towels, butter, Grade-A medium white eggs, creamy peanut butter, laundry detergent, fabric softener, tomato sauce, milk, frankfurters and granulated sugar. The cities checked were: Albuquerque, N.M., Atlanta, Ga., Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Providence, Salt Lake City and Seattle.

—The boosts hit hardest at staple items. Eggs increased in price at the checklist store in eight cities; frankfurters went up in seven cities; and butter and milk each increased in seven cities.

—The marketbasket bill at the start of October was an average of 6 percent higher than it was at the beginning of 1978, with the total increasing at the checklist store in every city.

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FTC investigating collectors

WASHINGTON (AP) — If you've ever answered a ringing telephone at 2 a.m. only to hear a bill collector threaten: "pay up or we'll sue," the federal government wants to hear from you.

The Federal Trade Commission today launched an investigation into whether bill collectors are following a new law forbidding threats, impersonating police officers and harassing telephone calls.

The FTC, enforcing the law on the books since March 20, asked consumers to report collectors who have violated its long list of prohibitions.

The agency's Lewis Goldfarb said it has received more than a thousand complaints about bill collectors since the law took effect.

He said some of the complaints involve abusive calls and collectors who contacted employers, neighbors and friends — practices the law was designed to stop in the \$5 billion-a-year collection industry.

The FTC is also looking into possible loopholes in the law, which applies only to “third party” collectors, those who collect money owed to someone else.

Congress did not include creditors trying to collect their own debts, thinking businesses would not subject their customers to the “hit-and-run” tactics of some collection agencies.

But the commission said it would examine the collection practices of department stores and other businesses exempt because they collect their own debts.

The FTC originally wanted “direct collectors” included in the bill, but they were exempted in a compromise that resulted in narrow House approval of the measure, regarded as one of the major consumer laws of the 95th Congress.

The FTC said it would investigate whether abusive tactics by “direct collectors” violate other laws forbidding unfair and deceptive trade practices.

Some of the forbidden practices, which carry FTC penalties of up to \$10,000, are:

—Sending simulated telegrams implying imminent legal action although there is no such plan.

—Threats of violence, obscene language and repeated phone calls.

—Calls between 9 p.m. and 8 a.m.

—Calls at work if the employer doesn't allow the borrower to receive them.

—Use of false names by debt collectors.

The law covers personal, family and household debts, such as those for purchase of a car or for charge accounts.

People who think they have been the victims of such illegal collection practices should write the FTC's Division of Credit Practices, 6th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20580.

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Autopsy ordered for slain soldier

BURNET, Texas (AP) — An autopsy has been ordered on the body of a Fort Hood soldier who was shot to death by sheriff's deputies after leading officers on a wild, high-speed chase through two Central Texas counties in a stolen highway patrol car.

Spec. 4 David Samuel Fullington was killed early Sunday when Burnet County deputies opened fire on him as he crashed through a roadblock about 12 miles east of Burnet on Texas 12, according to Sheriff Roy Hilliard.

Officials at nearby Fort Hood said Fullington was from Illinois, but refused to give a hometown until his relatives were notified.

"He had tried to run over two of my deputies and me," said Hilliard. "Then he ran this roadblock. Fullington was deceased by gunfire."

But a Department of Public Safety spokesman said officers opened fire only after Fullington raised a hand holding what officers mistook for a gun.

Hilliard declined to comment on details of the shooting. "It's under investigation," he said.

Three companions with Fullington were arrested and jailed in Burnet on charges of public intoxication. Fullington's body was taken to Austin for an autopsy.

Before Fullington was shot, Hilliard said, he drove a stolen Department of Public Safety patrol car across fences and over pastures, rammed a deputy's car, ran Hilliard off the road and wore the rubber off all four tires.

The incident began shortly after 2 a.m. when DPS

officer Ray Priest of Burnet tried to stop a speeding vehicle on Texas 29, but the driver tried to outrun the officer.

"The officer pursued the car at speeds over 110 mph, called for local assistance and finally pulled the car over," said DPS spokesman Richard Grimm. He said the driver of the car, Fullington, was apparently drunk.

"Priest handcuffed the driver with his hands behind his back and placed him in the right front seat of the patrol car. While Priest was searching three other men in the car. Fullington managed to slip out of the handcuffs. He drove east on Texas 29 in Priest's squad car," Grimm said. He said Fullington drove through a fence, across a pasture, and back onto the road.

"He then ran Sheriff Hilliard off the road and rammed another Burnet County deputy's car," the DPS spokesman said.

Fullington then headed east into Williamson County, but made a quick U-turn when he encountered officers from that county, Grimm said. Shortly after that he was stopped at the roadblock set up near the Williamson-Burnet county line by Hilliard and his deputies.

"He had a hand raised. They saw metal which they thought to be a handgun," and opened fire, Grimm said.

Sheriff Hilliard said the DPS car was heavily damaged, and the tires were worn off. "It was down to the rims," he said "He really banged it around."

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It's a matter of confidence with Calvin Mitchell, 16, Chicago. He's sure enough of himself to remove the front wheel of his bicycle to practice "wheelies." Removing the wheel also takes care of any temptation to lower the front and ride the bike in a more traditional fashion. (AP Laserphoto)

Congress bracing for expected veto

WASHINGTON (AP) — More time for the proposed Equal Rights Amendment and a tax cut for some Americans highlight the Senate agenda for what may be the next to last week of the 95th Congress.

Both issues have already been dealt with in the House, although the tax cut is expected to be back there again after a House-Senate conference committee has arrived at a compromise measure.

Meanwhile both houses are bracing for an expected veto of the \$10.2-billion public works bill they passed despite President Carter's strong objections.

On another issue, Senate Majority Leader Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., said over the weekend that the prospects for Senate passage of the Humphrey-Hawkins jobs bill are "fairly good."

Leaders of both houses say they are aiming at adjourning Oct. 14.

The House voted on Aug. 15 to push the deadline for ratification of the ERA back to June 30, 1982, from the present cutoff of March 22, 1979. On Thursday, Senate opponents said they were abandoning their planned filibuster.

While a final vote is set Friday, what could be the crucial vote will come Wednesday on an amendment to permit state legislatures that have already ratified the ERA to reverse themselves during the extra time period.

Backers of the ERA say this amendment would wipe out the advantage of the extension.

Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, leader of the fight against the extension, said Saturday that 53 senators, three more than needed, had told him they would vote for the amendment. Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., the pro-extension leader, said earlier the vote was "too close to call." Byrd predicted Saturday it would be "very close."

The ERA, which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, needs to be ratified by 38 legislatures to become part of the Constitution. It has been approved by 35, but the legislatures of Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska and Tennessee have rescinded their approval.

Debate on the tax bill will probably begin Thursday, Byrd said, with a vote possible the following Monday. The bill would cut the government's tax take by \$23 billion and would reduce taxes for single people earning about \$15,000 and for families of four or more earning under \$20,000.

The Carter administration, contending the bill is too costly, says it favors the wealthy by making deep cuts in taxes on capital gains, the profits from the sale of assets owned a year or longer.

The House-passed bill would cut taxes \$16.3 billion. Carter favors a cut of about \$20 billion.

Virtually whatever tax cut emerges, about 68 million individuals and couples would pay less taxes next year than would otherwise be the case. Some 1.2 million would pay more.

Most of the 68 million, however, probably would not save enough on their federal tax bill to make up for higher Social Security taxes and the tax effects of inflation.

Carter assailed the public works appropriation bill last week as wasteful "pork barrel" legislation. Byrd, at his Saturday news conference, retorted that "if one has to shovel black mud out of his house or see the lives of his family snuffed out by a sudden flood, that flood-control project is not pork barrel."

Both Byrd and House leaders vowed their best efforts to override a veto.

Byrd said he is seeking an agreement to clear the way for scheduling the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, probably next week. The bill sets a goal of reducing unemployment nationally to 4 per cent by 1983.

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Old Taos building damaged by fire

TAOS, N.M. (AP) — One of the oldest commercial buildings in Taos was extensively damaged by fire, said authorities.

The Taos Inn, an old Fred Harvey Hotel on the Taos Plaza, caught fire at about 3 a.m. Sunday. Hotel guests were evacuated.

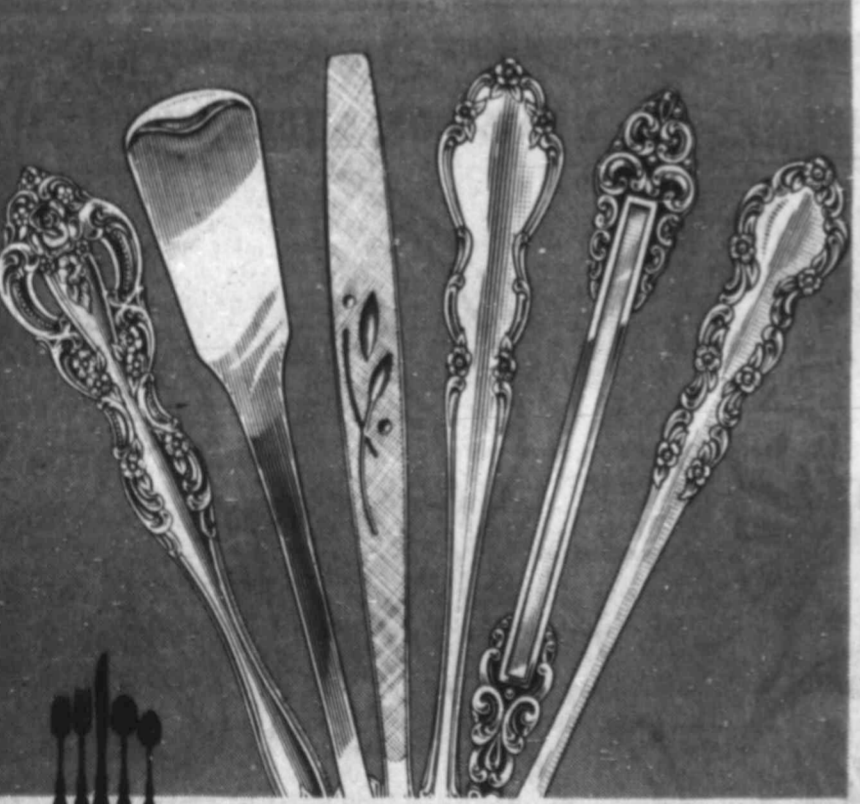
Butch Holmes, Taos fire chief, estimated fire damage in the main building at \$150,000. The fire was centered in the kitchen, dining room and bar but all guest rooms also were damaged, said Holmes.

The investigation was continuing, but officials said the blaze might have been caused by an overheated coffee urn.

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SCRAM-LETS

That Intriguing Word Game with a Chuckle

Edited by CLAY R. POLLAN

1 Rearrange letters of the four scrambled words below to form four simple words.

LED NAT

MY LOD

SIP UO

WAD DEN



I just paid \$19.95 for a hard-cover book on how to raise kids. It is a good investment. When my kids misbehave, I --- them with the book.

2 Complete the chuckle quoted by filling in the missing word you develop from step No. 3 below.

PRINT NUMBERED LETTERS IN THESE SQUARES

UNSCRAMBLE ABOVE LETTERS TO GET ANSWER

SCRAM-LETS ANSWERS

THE BETTER HALF



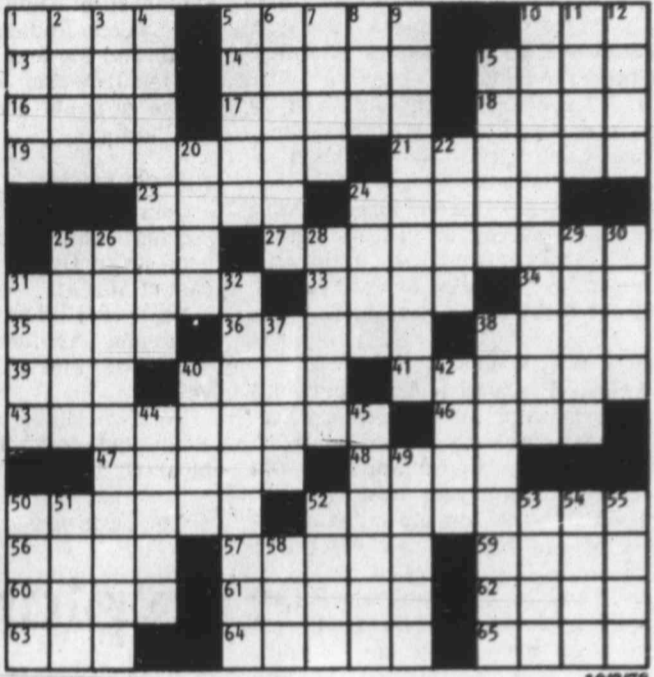
ANDY CAPP



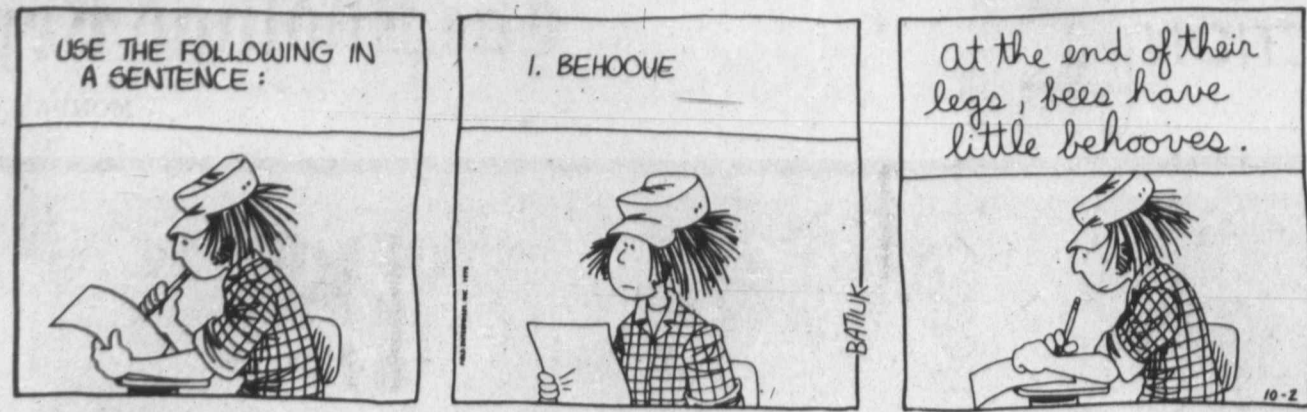
DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Edited by Margaret Farrar and Trude Jaffe

- © 1978 Los Angeles Times Syndicate
- ACROSS**
- 1 Support
 - 5 Goat antelope
 - 13 Hautboy
 - 14 "Thine" —
 - 15 Pleased
 - 16 Wild plum
 - 17 Tag
 - 18 Letter sign-off
 - 19 Partner of a type
 - 21 Pusillanimous
 - 23 Faction
 - 24 Actor Roger
 - 25 Tiff
 - 27 Twinkled
 - 31 Chips
 - 33 Understanding words
 - 34 1st-cent. date: Rom.
 - 35 Mystic symbol
 - 36 Sharpener
 - 38 Athletic group
 - 39 Wood
 - 40 Green, in heraldry
 - 41 Cremonas' cousins, for short
 - 43 Describing some stylish gowns
- DOWN**
- 1 Empty talk
 - 2 Kind of seaman
 - 3 Self-control, current style
 - 4 Token of friendship
 - 5 Side dish
 - 6 Exalts
 - 7 Garment
 - 8 Highest in standing
 - 9 Red-carpet rollers
 - 10 Freeway junction
 - 11 Experience
 - 12 Indian Ocean gulf
 - 15 Angry look
 - 20 Arachnid
 - 22 Historic European city
 - 24 — en scene
 - 25 Wintry word
 - 26 Parts of Texas and Oklahoma
 - 28 Tips
 - 29 Get away from
 - 30 Lowers lights
 - 31 Brothers
 - 32 Provides the dough
 - 37 Mining assets
 - 38 Having three angles
 - 40 Cloak
 - 42 Journey
 - 44 Song of triumph
 - 45 Works of a Dutch painter
 - 49 Long limbed
 - 50 Gulleets
 - 51 Possessive
 - 52 Pelt
 - 53 Stipend
 - 54 Tied
 - 55 Musical term
 - 58 — rule



FUNKY WINKERBEAN



BLONDIE



MARY WORTH



JUDGE PARKER



STEVE ROPER



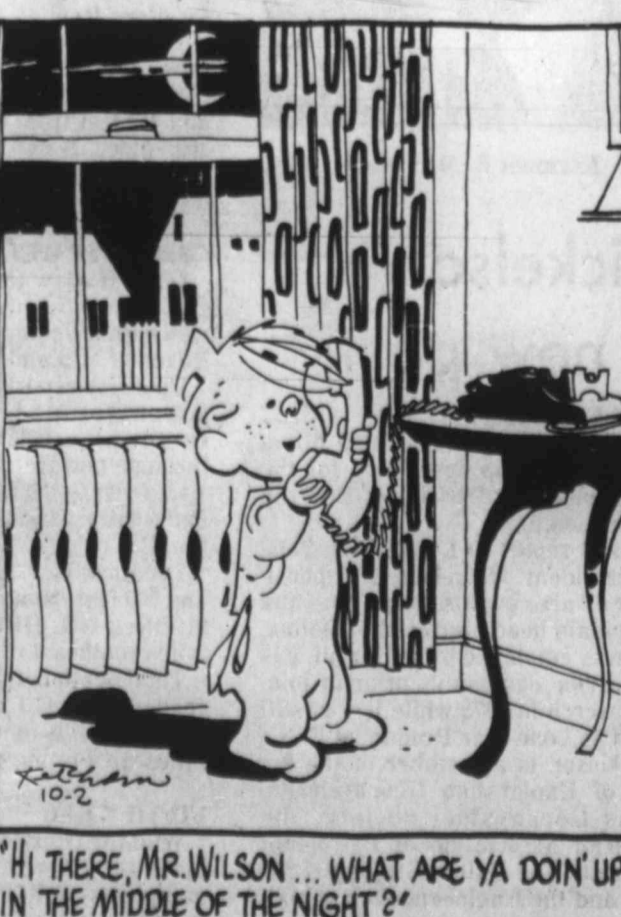
NANCY



STEVE CANYON



DENNIS THE MENACE



MARMADUKE



HEATHCLIFF

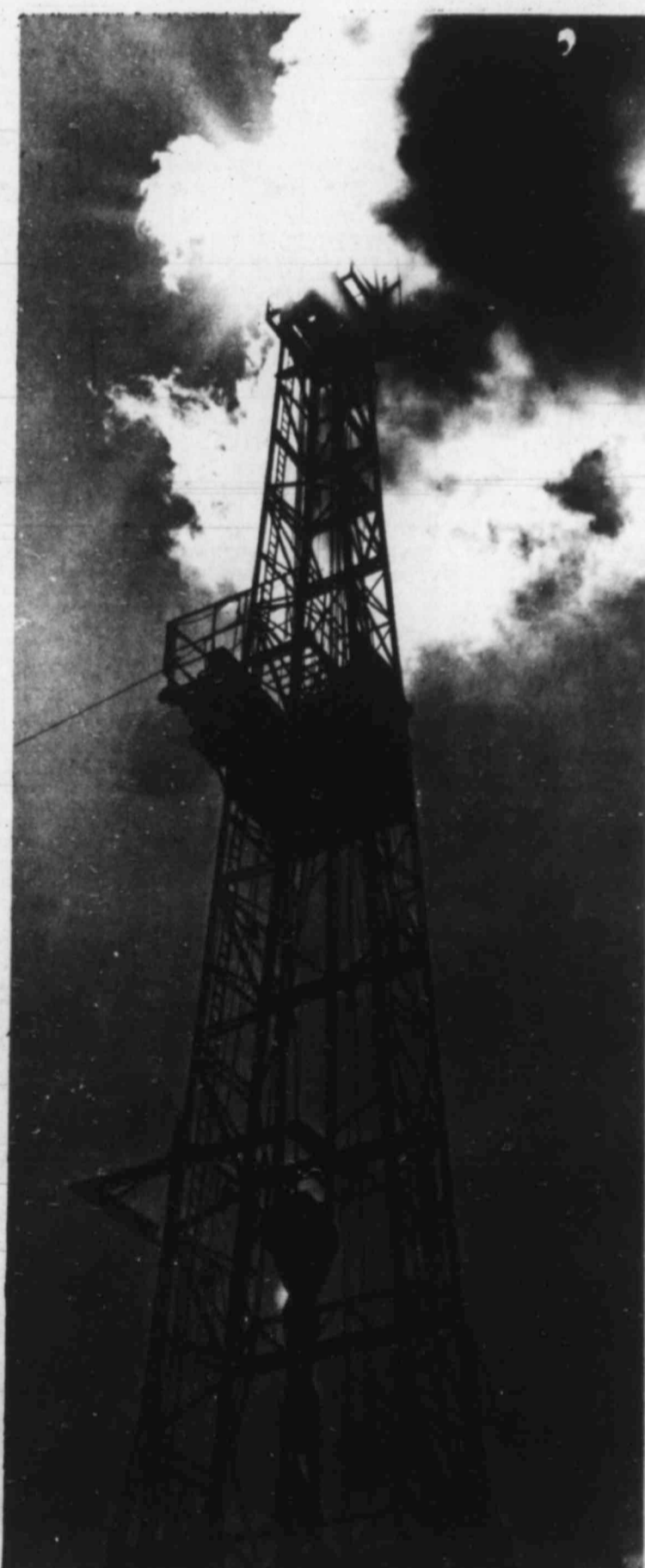


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