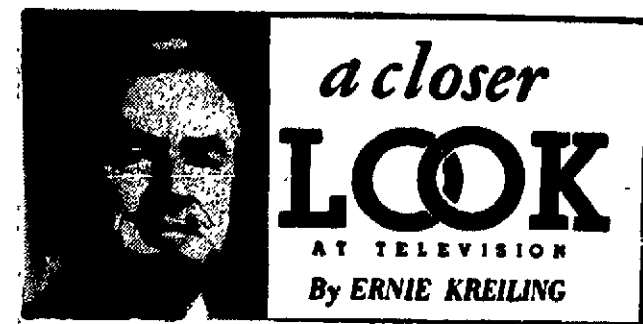




As this was written NBC was expected to almost momentarily announce its new mid-season schedule. Already set for debuts are "Grady" and "The Cop and the Kid" on Dec. 4.

Almost certain additional new programs are "The Dumpings," a sitcom from Norman Lear and a Rich Little variety hour, both programs NBC president Robert T. Howard praised extravagantly when I talked with him last week.

Variety hours are weighing heavily on NBC's planning, with great enthusiasm expressed for a Dick Van Dyke project and one for MacLean Stevenson.

Howard also said he thought NBC would be the leading network in prime time audience by the end of December, although those hopes must have been somewhat dashed when last week's ratings saw that network plummet from first to third position.

NBC, which does the most sophisticated program pre-testing to aid in its decision-making, suffered a number of casualties this season with more to come. I asked Howard if he still believed that such pre-testing (via special cable television hookups into selected homes, telephone followup calls and small panel viewing and discussion in Burbank) is valid in view of the failures, notably of the two sitcoms "Fay" and "The Montefuscos."

Very much so, he replied. "It's far from perfect but it's especially helpful in testing the soundness of a program's concept." The failures, he added, are often the result of the program's execution and due to producers who follow the testing tips.

It's also to be noted that most of NBC's failures this year have been Universal-based productions, a fact he alluded to the point of

NBC's interest in finding and developing more diverse sources of programming.

PUBLIC broadcasting officials around the country are ecstatic over the impressive ratings earned by last week's National Geographic special "The Incredible Machine," it having attracted a 36% share of the television viewing audience in New York, 36% in Pittsburgh, 30% in Boston and 20% in Houston.

In Washington, D.C. where it was seen on a UHF station it earned a 28% share. Here in Los Angeles where it was seen on Channel 28, it's been reported to have set a new Channel 28 record.

IN THOSE major cities it beat out "The Perry Como" special, "The Rookies," half of David Brinkley's "Life" special and half of "Police Story."

It's definitely a record audience for any PBS show and is attributed to several factors: the recognition of the National Geographic name from the series' earlier airing on ABC and CBS in past years; the general poor quality of the current network season; and the fact that Gulf Oil invested a large budget in promoting the program by buying commercial announcements on CBS and NBC, ABC having rejected the business.

None of the three commercial networks was interested in scheduling the National Geographic specials this season (four of them) so they were taken to the Public Broadcasting System. This year they are being produced by WQED in Pittsburgh with the aid of a \$3,720,000 grant from the Gulf Oil company.

Now the question arises as to whether or not CBS and NBC will in the future accept advertising for PBS programs that may diminish the viewing audience for their own programs



LUMBER CITY TO ADD 10TH STORE

Ground is broken for 10th Neiman-Reed's Lumber City outlet in Southern California at corner of Sherman Way and DeCielis Place, West Van Nuys, across from Van Nuys Airport. From left are Gary Nelson, operations manager; Mike Brown, general manager; Bob Nel-

Two Killed In Traffic Accidents

Valley area traffic accidents have taken the lives of two people, authorities reported.

Dead are Thomas Arias 21, of 12439 Correnti St., Pacoima, and David Kim 18, of Los Angeles.

Police said Arias was killed late Thursday night when the motorcycle he was riding on the Roscoe Blvd. overpass of the Golden State Freeway in Sun Valley struck a guard rail, throwing him over an embankment.

His body landed on the shoulder of the southbound freeway lanes.

Kim died Friday afternoon on the Ventura Freeway near Caanan Road, the California Highway Patrol said.

He was riding in a sports car that blew a tire and swerved into the path of a large truck, the CHP said.

The deaths brought to 93 the number of people killed this year in Valley area traffic accidents



FIRST BITE'S HARDEST

Apple bobbing absorbs attention of Sonya and Frank Blanco at Pierce College's Harvest Festival. Other contests were hay bucking, sheep shearing, cow milking and cow pie frisbee.



PLEASED TO MEET YOU

Shy encounter of Melissa Douglas 4 with young goat took place at children's petting zoo, part of Harvest Festival held yesterday at Pierce College in Woodland Hills.

★State★ Oroville Dam Named in Suit

OROVILLE (UPI) — A claim demanding \$150,000,000 in damages has been brought against the state and Butte County, charging that huge Oroville Dam was responsible for a series of earthquakes that recently rocked the region.

The claim, submitted Friday on behalf of more than 20 residents and as a class action for all citizens of the Northern California region, contended government officials acted negligently in allowing the dam to be constructed.

It also charged that the 700-foot-high structure, keystone of the state water project and one of the world's largest earth-filled dams, is a nuisance and has resulted in making the Oroville area an unfit place to live.

★ Nation ★ REA Express Ends Service

NEW YORK (UPI) — REA Express, a 136-year-old company that billed itself as the "largest surface transportation network in the world," has gone out of business, idling 8000 employees who failed in a last minute effort to buy the company through their union.

The company, a descendant of such historic freight companies as Pony Express and American Express, was ordered liquidated after bankruptcy lawyers refused to accept an offer by the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks, representing the employees, to buy the company for \$8,000,000.

Federal Bankruptcy Judge John Gargay ordered REA liquidated late Thursday, after creditors refused the union purchase offer and the company failed to produce a debtors bond of \$1,300,000

★World★ U.N. Unit Vote Won by PLO

ROME (UPI) — Over strong objections by Israel and the United States, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization yesterday admitted the Palestine Liberation Organization as an observer to a 131-nation conference planning world attack on hunger.

Delegates from the Afro-Asian bloc cheered wildly when a four-man PLO delegation was given official observer status to the FAO's 18th biennial governing conference.

The PLO won similar status last year at the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

Nixon to Get Fitness Award

MILLTOWN, N.J. (UPI) — Former President Richard M. Nixon will make a rare public appearance this week to accept an award for his contributions to national physical fitness.

Edward W. Bradley of Milltown, N.J., said the presentation will be made Tuesday at Casa Pacifica, the former presidential compound in San Clemente.

Bradley said he will make the presentation on behalf of the national recipients of the United States Outstanding Physical Fitness Leadership Award, sponsored by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

Bradley, the 1963 award winner, said Mr. Nixon would be honored for fostering youth and adult fitness and sports programs as set forth by the President's council.

New Role Seen for Bangladesh

DACCA, Bangladesh (UPI) — The new president of Bangladesh has reasserted his authority over the military and is expected to expand this country's relations beyond traditional Third World allies to the superpowers, sources close to the new government said yesterday.

The sources said President Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem 58, chief justice of the Bangladesh Supreme Court and a man with no previous political background, was likely to rule under martial law at least temporarily to reestablish order and attempt to stamp out government corruption which has plagued Bangladesh since its birth in 1971.

Sayem, who was sworn into office Thursday after an apparent military takeover forced the resignation of president Khondakar Ahmed, reasserted his authority Friday night.

Captain Held for Oil Spill

PHILADELPHIA (UPI) — The longest search in the Coast Guard's history for an environmental polluter has ended with the arrest of the captain of a Liberian tanker.

Visilous Psarroulis, captain of the 825-foot tanker Garbis, was arrested Friday after authorities said oil specimens "fingerprints" linked his vessel with a massive oil spill off the Florida coast last July.

Hearing Planned for Suspect in Sniping

The man arrested in a shooting incident on the Ventura Freeway last week faces a preliminary hearing on Friday in Municipal Court in Malibu.

Chandler Lee Smith 28, was arraigned on one count of assault with a deadly weapon before Judge John J. Merrick and then sent to the Psychiatric Evaluation Unit of the County Jail.

Smith was driving in Agoura on the Ventura Freeway early Thursday when he allegedly stopped his car, pulled a .30-caliber M-1 rifle from the trunk and began firing at cars.

One of his passengers reportedly wrestled the rifle away from Smith and threw it over a freeway embankment.

Smith then sped away in the car, leaving the man behind, authorities said.

Ventura County sheriff's deputies were notified and the car was stopped in Camarillo.

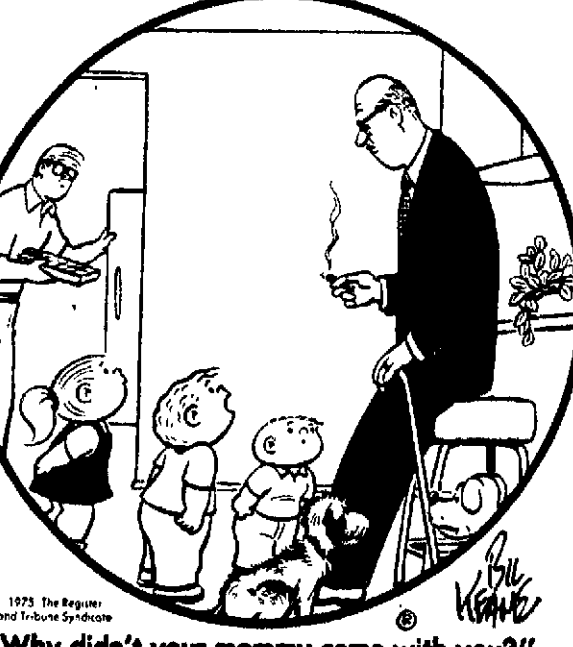
Smith was arrested and taken to the Malibu station where he was booked.

Strong Support

Every plane flown by scheduled U.S. airlines has an average of 23 people on the ground to maintain it, according to the Air Traffic Association.

The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



"Why didn't your mommy come with you?"

During the investigation, Coast Guard port officers boarded 247 ships docked at U.S. ports from Maine to Texas and collected oil samples from about 50.

Navy Trained

Stanley J. Lesniak, seaman recruit USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gene B. Lesniak, Van Nuys, Calif., was graduated from recruit training at the Naval Training Center, San Diego.

THE MIXER

Select words meaning the opposite of the words above the squares, arranging the letters in the two words to form a new word which means:

tending to a lower state or level

REPEL UP

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

The MIXER word is: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Previous Mixer Answer

Opposite words: SOP and DUE

Mixer word: PSEUDO.

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3rd Party Ticket for Reagan Considered

Conservative publisher William Rusher said in Long Beach he would spearhead a third-party Ronald Reagan-for-President movement if the former California Governor doesn't win the Republican nomination.

Speaking with reporters before addressing a symposium at California State University Long Beach on Friday, Rusher said:

"If Gov. Reagan fails to get the Republican nomination, he can confidently expect a phone call or a personal visit from me and as many of my friends and fellow enthusiasts of his as I can bring with me asking him to run on the third line in the November election."

When asked by reporters if he meant he would attempt to run Reagan as a third-party candidate, Rusher replied: "That's exactly what I mean."

Rusher is publisher of the "National Review."

20% Ailing

About 20% of the human race has varicose veins, researchers estimate.

Crossword Puzzler

ACROSS

1 Dim

2 Listens to

3 Calling

4 Gets up

5 Hebrew measure

6 Commonplace

7 A continent (abbr.)

8 Prefix: wrong

9 Buckets

10 Storage compartment

11 Spanish article

12 Gases for breath

13 Tree trunk

14 Deserts

15 More unusual

16 The sweet sop

17 Profit

18 Narrow strips of wood

19 Ridicules lightly

20 Holds in high regard

21 Uninteresting persons

22 Printer's measure

23 Dance step

24 By oneself

25 Greek letter

26 Senior (abbr.)

27 Make amends

28 Heavenly body

29 American inventor

30 Sharp reply

31 Squander

32 Remain erect

DOWN

1 Household

2 War god

3 Comparative ending

4 Compass point

5 Those who shrink duty

6 Drags

7 Periods of time

8 Die III

9 Rupees (abbr.)

10 Pertaining to old age

11 Heavenly body

12 More rational

13 Posing for portrait

14 Sheets of glass

15 He carried

16 Lanes

17 Lures

18 Evaluates

19 Hindu queen

20 Collects

21 Fall into disuse

22 Honors

23 Blessing

24 Hold back

25 Sing

26 Light-haired male

27 Solar disk

28 Short jacket

29 Peer Gynt's mother

30 Music: as written

31 Innings pitched (abbr.)

32 Latin conjunction

VITAL RECORDS

Funeral Notices Funeral Notices

BRANCUCCI, Anna DeMott 85, of Canoga Park, Calif., formerly of Denver, Colo., passed away Nov. 6, 1975. Survived by sons Joseph, Mike and George DeMott; Daniel, James and Steve Brancucci; daughters Rose Gill, Jean Allen, Betty Zaura and Josephine Mazzucca; sister Rose Tito; granddaughters Gladys Baker and Ona Mae Binns and 31 other grandchildren; and 31 great-grandchildren. Rosary will be Monday, Nov. 10, 1975, 7:30 p.m. at J.T. Oswald, Reseda Mortuary. Funeral Mass will be Tuesday, Nov. 11, 1975, 10 a.m. at Our Lady of the Valley in Canoga Park.

GROZESCU, Lucretia of Sherman Oaks, Calif., passed away Nov. 6, 1975. Interment at Rose Hill Cemetery, Chicago, Ill. Praiswater Funeral Home, Van Nuys Directors.

GUTCHER, Eugene Roy of Sepulveda, Calif., passed away Nov. 6, 1975. Survived by his wife Rosemary Gutscher; sons Robert and Ronald Gutscher of Sepulveda, Richard Gutscher of Granada Hills; daughter Carol Palmer of Thousand Oaks; and two grandchildren. Rosary will be Sunday, Nov. 9, 1975, 7:30 p.m. at Utter McKinley, Mission Hills. Mass of Christian Burial on Monday, Nov. 10, 1975, 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Sepulveda. Interment San Fernando Mission Cemetery.

O'DELL, Jerry E. 66, passed away Nov. 6, 1975. Survived by his wife Vietta; son Jerry H.; daughter Mrs. Maureen Weightman, Miss Debora O'Dell; and five grandchildren. He was a member of the San Fernando Masonic Lodge and owned Jerry's Restaurant in No. Hollywood for 20 years. Services will be Monday, Nov. 10, 1975, 2 p.m. at Chapel of the Oaks, Eternal Valley Memorial Park, Newhall, Calif.

OLMSTED, Milton K. 68, of Pacoima, Calif., passed away early Thursday at his home. Survived by his wife Betty H. Olmsted; sons Robert L. Mayer, Houston, Tex., Ted C. Mayer, Roland Heights; sisters Mrs. Melisa Kelley, Manhattan, Kansas and Miss Ann Olmsted; four grandchildren; and brother-in-law Ted Resta, with whom he made his home; and several nieces, nephews and friends. Funeral services will be Monday, Nov. 10, 1975, at 11:30 a.m. at Pierce Bros., Van Nuys Chapel. Interment Los Angeles National Cemetery. Pierce Bros., Van Nuys, Directors.

PECK, Raymond E. of Canoga Park, Calif., passed away Nov. 7, 1975. Survived by his sons Albert, Bill, Frank, Kenneth and Paul; daughter Jessie Scherer; sisters Josephine Knapp and Hazel Merritt; 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Graveside services will be Monday, Nov. 10, 1975, 11 a.m. at Oakwood Memorial Park. Lorenzen Mortuary, Reseda, Directors.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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For Flowers 785-6507

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