

RARE, ENDANGERED SPECIES

Hundreds of preserved birds, members of rare and endangered species including peregrine falcons, eagles, hawks, owls and songbirds are being stored in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife warehouse in Denver. More than 800 of the various birds were seized by FBI special agents in Aguilar, Colo.

Musicians Cap Ears for Loud Music

PHILADELPHIA (AP) – The audience loved the powerful sound, but the music-makers opted for earplugs.

The Philadelphia Orchestra's string section plugged their ears Thursday evening as a protective measure to dampen a thunderous five-minute slice of George Crumb's cantata "Star Child."

"Any piece of music that I have to wear earplugs to play isn't worth playing," said one second violinist who refused to give his name.

About 10 members of the section wore large ear protectors similar to those worn by airport ground crews. The section's other 30 members wore small earplugs.

LONG APPLAUSE

The response from the Academy of Music audience was sustained applause even though Mason Jones, orchestra personnel manager, had said the selection caused "a pollution problem, and a potential health hazard."

The musicians said they took the unusual step to protect themselves from a thunderous stint by the expanded percussion section and resounding trumpets.

Jones said they were not staging an official protest, but added that the musician's union might eventually ask for protection under federal occupational health and safety regulations.

"This is the first time I've remembered the musicians doing this," orchestra manager Joseph Santarlasci said. "The strings generally sit down front – they're not accustomed to this sort of thing."

OTHER PERFORMANCES

Santarlasci said he expected some of the players would wear the ear protectors during other performances of "Star Child," scheduled for tonight and Saturday.

"We handed them out (earplugs) because some of the strings are sitting right next to the battery (percussion) section. There's a loud period during about four or five minutes of the piece," he said.

"The rest of it, some of it, is rather quiet, but there is...this apocalypse, with the battery section going full blast. They wear the earplugs during that section, when they don't play."

The contemporary piece by Crumb, a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, has required considerable rearranging of the performers on the stage at the Academy of Music.

The strings, about half the orchestra's usual string section, have been moved to the rear of the stage shell. They've been squeezed between the pipes of an organ and a percussion section that includes drums, gongs, large sheets of metal and other noise-makers.

Administration Pushes Health Plan Preparation

WASHINGTON (AP) – President Carter, faced with a rival health insurance plan advanced by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, is pushing for rapid preparation of an administration health proposal that can be presented to Congress.

He conferred at the White House Thursday with Joseph A. Califano Jr., the secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and several aides, but there were no indications any final decisions were reached.

Carter's press secretary, Jody Powell, said as a result of the meeting, the administration was ready to confer with members of Congress. Those meetings could lead to a final proposal.

Powell, making his first comments on Kennedy's plan since it was unveiled Monday, said any such comprehensive effort was doomed to failure in Congress.

TOO COSTLY

The administration says economists view a plan like the one advanced by Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, as too expensive for the nation and that Congress would be reluctant to vote to spend the money.

The Kennedy plan would cost the federal government approximately $30 billion a year, with an additional $10 billion to be paid from private sources.

Califano has said the Carter plan would cost $10 billion to $15 billion a year, but it would be considerably scaled-down in comparison with Kennedy's.

Kennedy's plan would provide government-ordered health coverage for all Americans.

Carter's proposal, according to administration sources, would begin by expanding and improving Medicaid, the system of state-aid for the health needs of the poor.

"We want to move as rapidly as possible," Powell told reporters Thursday at the daily White House briefing.

CARTER DIFFERS

While not mentioning Kennedy by name, Powell said:

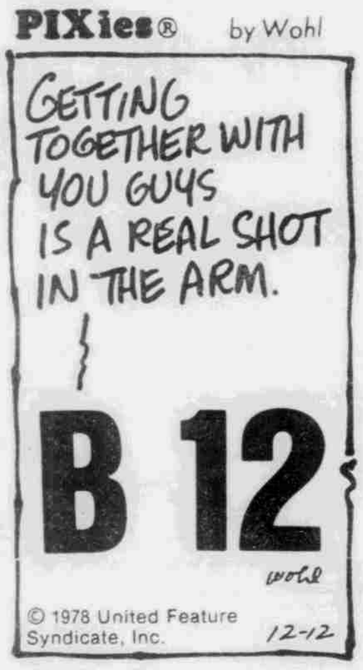
"There are those who feel we shouldn't do anything unless we do everything. The president honestly disagrees with that approach."

He said Carter "could propose some comprehensive plan" that would not win House and Senate approval.

"That would make an ideological point," he said. "But it will have no impact on the people" who most need such assistance.

"He's not interested in proposing a plan for the sake of making a speech," Powell said, emphasizing no one has succeeded in winning congressional approval of a "do-it-all" health insurance plan in at least 30 years of discussions about the issue.

"None has come close to passing and none will this session," he said. On the other hand, he said, the plan Carter is preparing will "have a good chance" of passage.





NEW ENVOY — Sally Shelton, 34, of Monett, Mo., has been confirmed by the Senate as ambassador to the Barbados and eastern Carribean. She is the youngest of 10 women ambassadors now serving.

Mexico Gas Reserve Not That High

LOS ANGELES (AP) – The 40 billion barrels of oil Mexico has claimed to hold in proved reserves is far too high an estimate, the Los Angeles Times reported petroleum experts as saying in today's edition.

Numerous petroleum experts in Mexico City and the United States said Mexico has large quantities of oil, but not nearly as much as Mexican officials have estimated, the paper reported.

One key source said the figure may be half what the Mexican government has estimated.

James W. Watson, senior vice president of DeGolyer and MacNaughton, the U.S. firm hired by Mexico to certify its oil discoveries, said Mexico's proved oil reserves are well below 28 billion barrels.

BEEN IN CHARGE

"We've reminded (the Mexican government) over and over about the danger of losing credibility," Watson said. "We've been trying to hold them back."

Watson, who has been in charge of certifying Mexico's oil and natural gas reserves for Pemex, Mexico's national petroleum company, vowed to "set the record straight" in any future Department of Energy hearings in Washington on the purchase of Mexican natural gas by U.S. companies.

Pemex hired the Dallas firm in 1976, not only to certify its petroleum discoveries, but to get the credibility it desperately needed to borrow funds from international banking concerns.

U.S. Makes Estimate On Orange Harvest

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agriculture Department's latest estimate of the nation's orange harvest is 207.2 million boxes, up 1 million boxes from forecasts a month ago.

The new estimate, based on May 1 indications, is 6 percent less than last season's output of more than 219.6 million boxes, officials said. Grapefruit production, indicated at 66.5 million boxes, was increased from April 1 prospects of 65.3 million but still trailed last year's output of 73.7 million boxes.

Health Officials Fear Amish Spread Polio

REEDSVILLE, Pa. (AP) – State officials are worried that the Amish buggies clip-clopping down the streets of Reedsville may be bringing an invisible polio virus with them.

Polio, now considered rare in the United States, erupted first among the Kishacoquillas Valley's 1,500 Amish, most of whom initially shunned the polio vaccine.

But just this week, a woman in nearby Yeagertown, who had no contact with the Amish, came down with nonparalytic polio.

The 36-year-old unidentified woman became the fourth polio victim this year in central Pennsylvania and only the fifth case nationwide since January.

There were 1,536 cases reported in Pennsylvania in 1954, before the Salk vaccine came into general use. Cases have averaged less than one a year since 1968.

WILL GET SHOTS

Health officials, alarmed that the virus – which can cause paralysis, meningitis or intestinal problems – had spread outside the Amish community, have opened immunization centers in Mifflin County where residents were expected to line up for doses this weekend.

"If we can do away with a large pool of susceptibles, the virus would not be active for long because it would have so much trouble finding susceptibles," said Dr. William Parkin of the state Health Department.

Dr. David Schooley of the Lewiston state health center said officials hope to have 60 percent of the Amish immunized within 10 days. Officials estimate 90 percent of the county's residents are immunized.

"The consensus is everyone thinks they're immunized. But if they're offering a polio vaccine they'll take anything they can get," said regional postmaster Ken Heading. "But I think it's getting blown out of proportion. People outside think it's a disaster area but it's different when you're right there."

MANY CARRIERS

Health officials have described the Amish as a "reservoir of (polio) infection." For every active case of polio, as many as 50 to 100 people could carry the virus and pass it to others. But more and more Amish are taking the bitter vaccine.

The Amish, initially rejected the vaccine not on religious grounds but as an unnecessary intrusion into their lives.

"I didn't like it when Dr. Schooley and his nurse came out here and insisted we take the vaccine," said Sam, a 34-year-old Amishman. "They were strangers. Then Clair DeLong (county agriculture agent) came out and he took ahold of things."

Sam, who like most Amishmen didn't want his name used, said most of the Amish in his church would take the vaccine.

"I guess we're doing it to keep the (non-Amish) people satisfied. I figure if the Lord still wants to give us polio, he will."

Emperor's Letter Sold

ROME (AP) — A hand-written letter by Emperor Charles V, the 16th-century ruler of the Holy Roman Empire, was auctioned for $192.

Written in Brussels on Oct. 20, 1548, the letter gave military instructions to Don Hernando de Gonzaga, the governor of Milan. The letter is in Spanish, completely in the emperor's handwriting and carries the imperial seal.

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Jury Favors Death For Vampire Slayer

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP) – The "vampire killer," who drank the blood of some of his six victims, deserves to die in San Quentin's gas chamber for his crimes, says the jury that convicted him.

But Superior Court Judge John Schatz, who set sentencing for June 8, is not bound to impose the death penalty on Richard Chase, as decided Thursday by the eight-woman, four-man panel. The judge could sentence Chase to life in prison without possibility of parole.

The jury last week found the burly, 28-year-old Chase guilty of the 1978 Sacramento murders and deliberated for 4½ hours in the penalty phase. The trial site was moved because of pretrial publicity.

In the penalty phase, the jury found Chase's crimes fit the definition of the special circumstances provision of state law, which deals with multiple murder. The section permits either a sentence of death, or life imprisonment without a chance for parole.

Earlier this week, the jury found Chase was sane when he did away with his victims, who included a pregnant woman and two children. He had pleaded innocent by reason of insanity.

Psychiatrists testified Chase had a persecution complex and delusions and was driven to drink the blood of some of his victims in the belief he would be "cleansed."

Evidence in the case linked Chase to a grisly string of murders that started with the random shooting of Ambrose Griffin, 51. Shortly afterward, the shot and disembowled body of Teresa Wallin, 22, was found. His other victims were Evelyn Miroth, 36, her 6-year-old son Jason; Mrs. Miroth's friend, Daniel Meredith, 52; and Mrs. Miroth's 22-month-old nephew, David Ferriera, who had been decapitated.

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• Double burner incinerator - Good condition
• 1955 Chev water truck, 2500 Gal. high pressure pump, power take of F. 6 cyc 292 - Fair condition
• 20' flat bed trailer- Fair condition
• One ton of 1¼"-1½" - 2" black pipe - good condition
• 3 600 lb. hog & sheep feeders. Excellent condition
• Birch 6 double row planter or seeder - excel cond.
• 1964 2 ton feeder truck - good condition
• 1968 John Deere 40-20 tractor - Excellent condition
• 2½ Ton turkey truck - poor condition - runs
• Spreader Truck, runs good—good condition.
• John Deere spring tooth harrow — excellent condition
• Big Dutchman 8 ton stor-veg storage bin- Excellent condition
• 1974 Case 1155 swather. Used only 2 seasons - Excellent condition
• 1955 Flatbed 1 ton truck with 2 hydraulic systems good for log splitting comes with 16 h.p. Briggs & Strat. engine
• Oliver 12 foot double disc
• 20 1000 lb. winches • 20 2000 lb. winches
• Wheelbarrows • 12 1" rain birds
• 1961 Grain bed 2 ton dumptruck, 242, 6 cyl. Good condition
• 1964 2 ton Chev turkey truck or flat bed 292, Good condition
• GMC 2 ton 6 cyl. 8 wheel tog axle - Good condition
• Ferguson 30 tractor
• Ferguson 10' Disc with 3 pt. hitch • Ferguson 6' Blade
• Two bottom, two way plow • Chopped hay blower

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