Epidemic of flu may hit any time

ATLANTA (UPI) — A Russian influenza epidemic, initially expected to hit the United States next fall, may be just a few weeks away, a federal health official said Saturday.

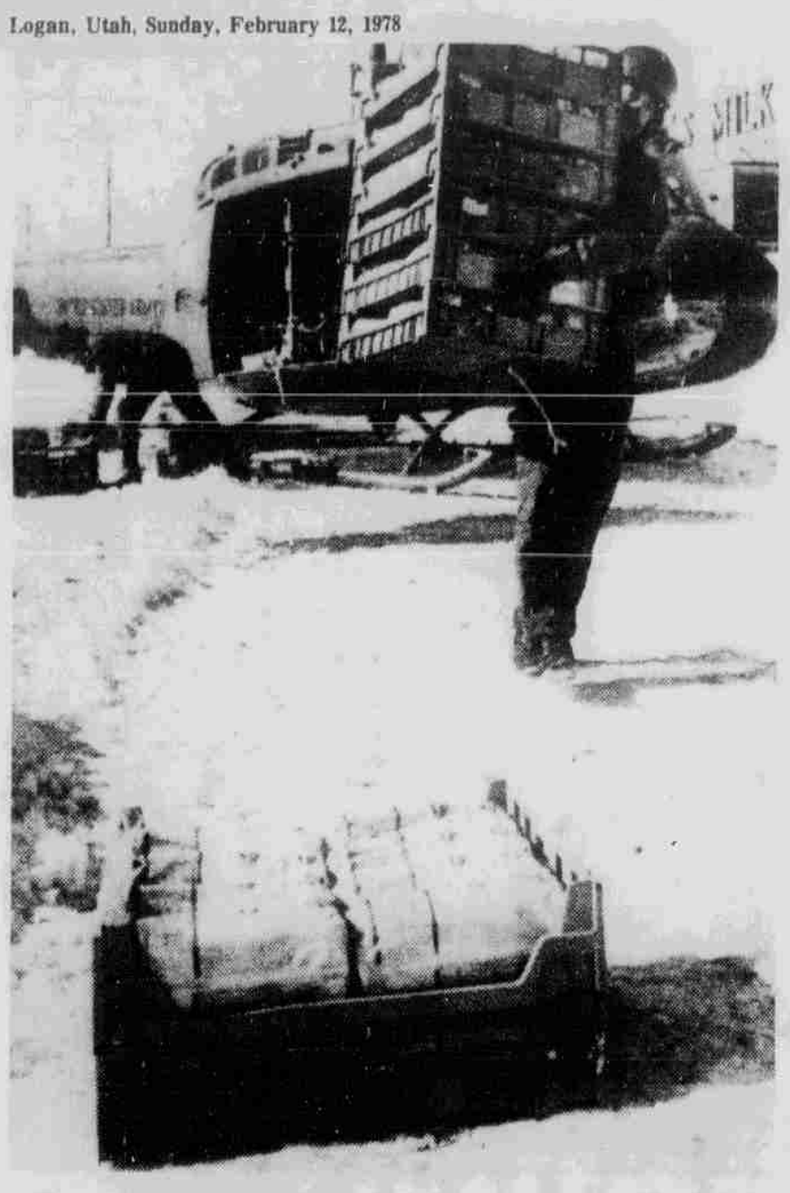
"We can only judge by what happened in the Soviet Union," said Dr. Walter Dowdle, an influenza virology researcher at the national Center for Disease Control.

"In a short period of time, it occurred throughout the country. There is still plenty of time (this winter) for it to happen in this country," Dowdle said.

Respiratory illnesses have claimed 4,049 lives in the United States during the first five weeks of this year, health officials report. Of this total, the A-Texas and A-Victoria strains of influenza have been blamed for 1,500 of them.

The epidemic in the Soviet Union began on that nation's Pacific coast in the first week of December 1977 and spread throughout the country in five weeks.

The Russian flu virus is a strain that has been dormant for 20 years.



Bread for blizzard zone

ARMY HELICOPTER pilots unload 40 crates of bread Friday airlifted from Central Falls, R.I. into blizzard-paralyzed Providence. A loaf of bread cost up to $1 in some stores, despite a broadcast warning from Gov. J. Joseph Garrahy that price gougers would be dealt with severely. More than 500 army troops of "Operation Snow Blow" are working in the state in the aftermath of the crippling storm. (UPI Telephoto)

Indians begin protest march

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (UPI) — Indians demonstrating against congressional legislation rallied Saturday before starting "the longest walk" — a 3,000-mile, six-month irotest trek to Washington, D.C.

"We are forced to walk for survival," American Indian Movement leader Dennis Banks told a crowd of several hundred across the street from the state Capitol. The rally and march were to protest bills in Congress that Banks and his supporters contend are anti-Indian. Twenty-four Indians plan to make the 3,000-mile trip, but they will be joined by supporters along the way.

Banks, who is wanted in South Dakota, said he could march only as far as the California-Nevada border, about 100 miles. Otherwise, he risks arrest and return to South Dakota.

"Some of us can only walk so far," he said.

Earlier in San Francisco, the Indians held a peace pipe ceremony on Alcatraz — the former prison island they once claimed for their own. They then traveled by car and bus the 90 miles to Sacramento.

Making brief appearances at the Sacramento rally were Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally and activist Tom Hayden. Hayden's wife, Jane Fonda, did not show up as scheduled.

All Hayden said was: "I just want to say godspeed to Dennis and the other marchers. Good luck to you." In the crowd there were some grumbles that the former anti-war activist did not give a speech filled with fiery rhetoric.

Banks is wanted in South Dakota for sentencing on his conviction for assault with a deadly weapon during the 1973 Custer County Courthouse riot.

Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. so far has refused to honor South Dakota's request for Banks' extradition and the case is currently before the state Supreme Court.

The Indian's march is designed to draw attention to legislation in Congress they contend will hurt their cause. One of the bills, termed the "Native American Equal Opportunity Act," is authored by Rep. Jack Cunningham, R-Wash.

The Indians say the bill would nullify federal treaties with the Indians and subject them to certain local, state and federal laws from which they are now exempt.

Lands held in trust by Indians would be alloted to individual tribe members or put in tribal corporations. The protestors say the bill would eliminate their hunting and fishing rights.

Strangler vows he'll strike

WICHITA, Kan. (UPI) — Authorities urged residents to remain calm Saturday despite a written threat by the socalled "BTK Strangler" that he would soon strike again.

The strangler, whose initials stand for "Bind, Torture and Kill," is believed to have slain at least seven persons in the area since 1974, including four members of one family.

"I know it is difficult to ask people to remain calm but we are asking this," Police Chief Richard LaMunyon said. "When a person of this type is at large in our community, it requires special precautions and special awareness by everyone."

In a letter received by a Wichita television station Friday, the author claimed he was responsible for the murder of the Joseph Otero family in 1974 and three other slayings, the most recent in December.

"How many people do I have to kill before I get in the news, national attention," he wrote.

The man claimed a "factor x" was responsible for the killings and compared himself with the Son of Sam, Jack the Ripper and the Hillside Strangler.

LaMunyon said he had received three similar communications from the killer, all through the news media. He said the latest letter contained a threat of future slayings.

"We have no reason but to believe the individual has the capacity to kill again," LaMunyon said.

A letter obtained by the Wichita Eagle and Beacon in 1974 indicated his victims were Joseph Otero, 38, his wife Julie, 34, and children Josephine, 11, and Joseph II, 9.

A letter received by television station KAKE Friday indentified victims Shirley Vian, 36, and Nancy Fox, 25. All six victims named were strangled in their homes.

Authorities Saturday searched through their files of unsolved murders to determine the identity of a seventh victim the strangler was now claiming.

The week in Washington

McKay comments on new Utah judgeship

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives has approved a bill by a 319 to 80 vote creating a third permanent federal judgeship for the State of Utah.

Rep. Gunn McKay, D-Utah, said he figures it will be sometime in the Fall when Utah will get the third judge on the bench.

"Utah deserves a permanent third judgeship on the basis of the 389 cases filed last year," McKay said. "The vote all but guarantees we'll have a third judge to handle the huge caseload. Yes, Federal Judge Willis Ritter's record helped focus our arguments for a third judge, but he's only incidental to a situation that's needed correction for a long time."

Watershed protection

McKay also applauded the House passage of the Endangered American Wilderness Area in Utah it includes language he drafted to protect motorized access to watersheds.

The conference report, he said, passed 333 to 44, and preserves guarantees he wrote into the House bill that warrant five Utah municipalities' rights to safeguard the quality of the Lone Peak area watershed.

Self-composting toilet, he said, are not right for an area like Lone Peak because it's right next door to a major metropolitan area providing drinking water for thousands of people.

Wage increase harmful

Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, said that a 35 cent-per-hour increase in the minimum wage accepted at the first of the year has begun to force the price of goods and services upward.

Tuition tax break

Hatch also said that a presidential student aid plan would increase government power at the expense of education.

"The administration has replaced a plan to give an across-the-board tax break to every American with a selective, possibly discriminatory proposal which is limited to only part of this nation's citizens."

Hatch has introduced a competitive bill which he said would allow taxpayers to subtract directly from their taxable income, one-half the tuition they pay for education. The maximum credit, however, would be $500 per student.

Hatch accuses the president's plan of expanding the federal bureaucracy and offering less freedom of choice than his own plan.

Marriott comments

"Most of Washington is not aware of our problems here in Utah," Rep. Dan Marriott, R-Utah, said while speaking in the Washington County Courthouse in St. George.

"Russia is overtaking the United States in missile strength. We need to move forward with the cruise missile," he said, adding that he favors this weapon along with the B1 bombers.

He said he was against the proposed Panama Canal treaty, but he could vote for it with modifications.

Carter may give in on gas pricing

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Carter has indicated he may be willing to accept a plan to deregulate natural gas prices in the 1980s if that is what it takes to win passage of his energy bill.

Carter's comments, in an interview transcript released Saturday, marked the first time he has publicly indicated willingness to accept any sort of deregulation plan since he sent Congress his energy package in April.

Discussing the issue with a group of visiting editors Friday, Carter expressed deep disappointment the energy package has been stalled so long in House-Senate conference, and noted the major obstacle "is the pricing of natural gas."

Saying that Chairman Henry Jackson of the Senate Energy Committee has been working "day and night since Christmas" to work out a compromise offer among senators who favor deregulation, Carter added:

"They have now agreed in principle on deregulation, with an initial ... increase in natural gas (prices) a certain percentage per year, with complete deregulation to exist some years in the future."

He said the senators' deregulation compromise was still "vague" in form.

"It is very hard for a member of Congress to vote five times in a row for deregulation instantly and then decide that he will wait eight years before it is deregulated, or five years, and so forth," Carter said.

The House essentially endorsed his proposals. The Senate wanted gas prices deregulated as an incentive for increased production.

About Cache

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARSE) will hold its regular monthly meeting Monday at 2 p.m. at the Senior Citizen's Center. J. Arbon Christensen will present an interesting variety program. All interested retirees and members are urged to attend.

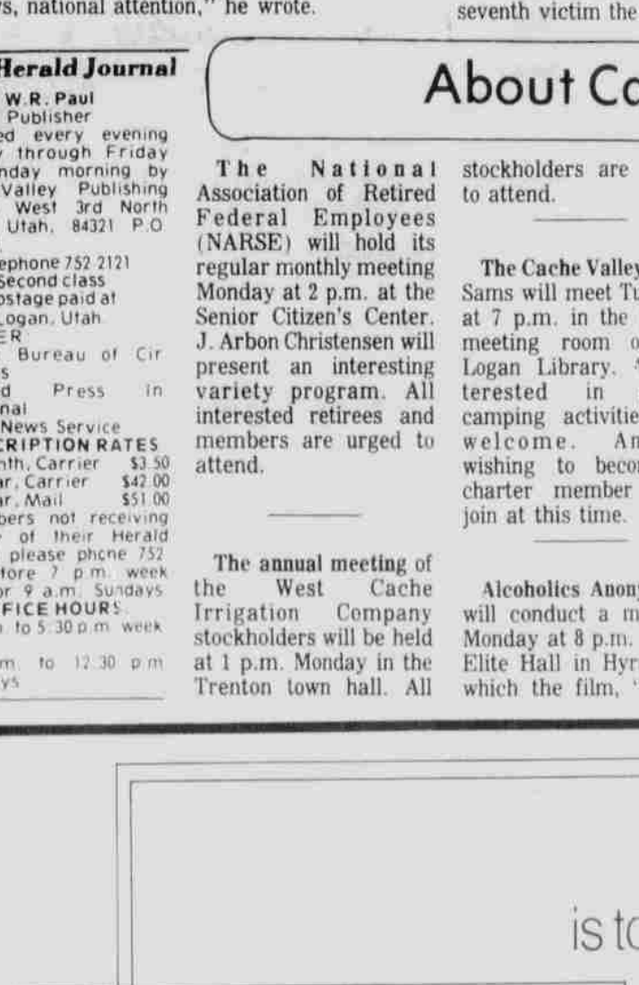
The annual meeting of the West Cache Irrigation Company stockholders will be held at 1 p.m. Monday in the Trenton town hall. All stockholders are urged to attend.

The Cache Valley Good Sams will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the public meeting room of the Logan Library. All interested in group camping activities are welcome. Anyone wishing to become a charter member must join at this time.

Alcoholics Anonymous will conduct a meeting Monday at 8 p.m. at the Elite Hall in Hyrum at which the film, "Chalk Talk" will be presented. The film is an educational one dealing with the problems of alcoholism. The public is invited to attend.

A senior citizens group has been organized to play Party Bridge at the Cache County Senior Citizen Center, 236 North 1st East, on the first and third Monday of each month. Anyone 60 years of age or older who is interested in a friendly game of bridge is asked to join the group. Play will be between 1 and 4 p.m.

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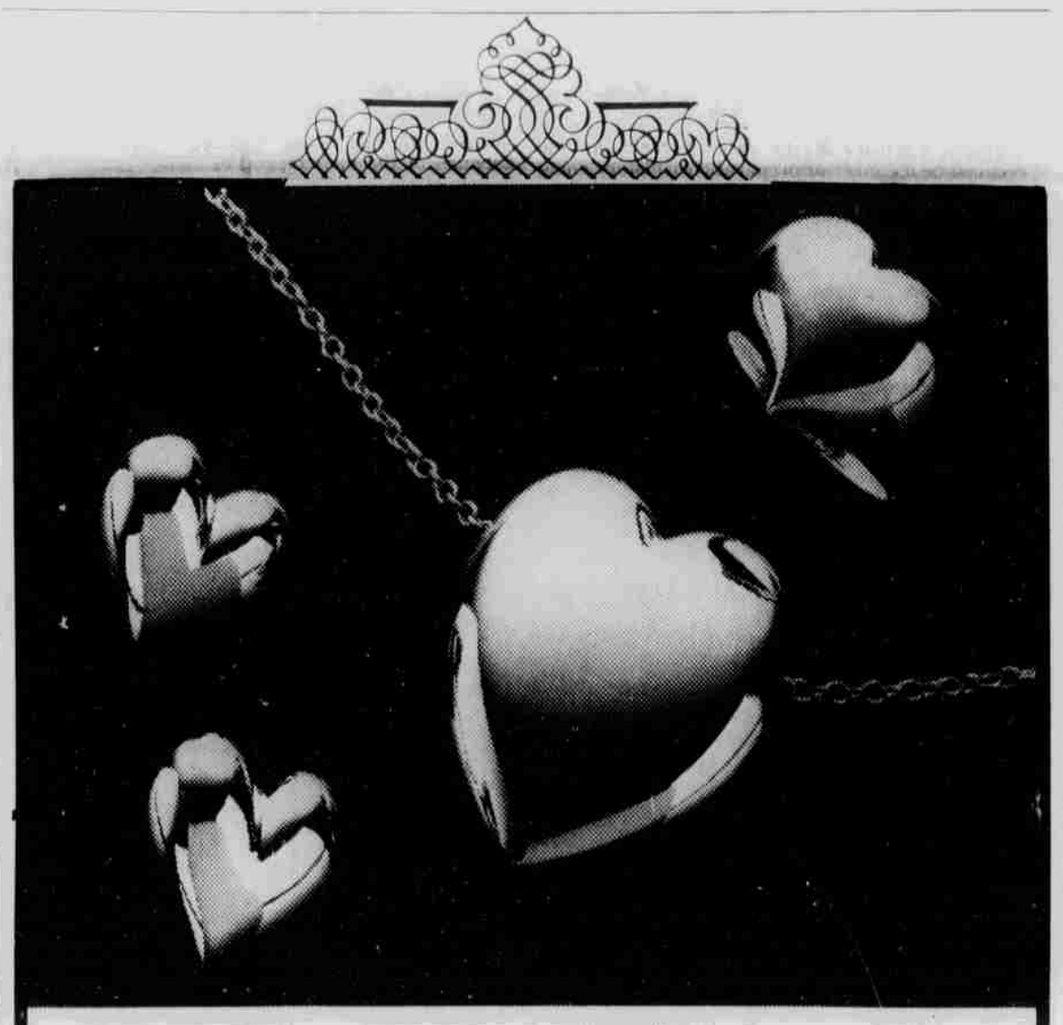
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