



SORRY, WRONG NUMBER

"Skidoo" the raccoon pet of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Loudon of Dallas, Tex., is adept at many things, including dialing the telephone. In these days of long distance dialing, such fun and games can be costly. Normally a nocturnal mammal, "Skidoo" operates around the clock and is noted for unwatching her pen when she is left alone. (AP Wirephoto)

Lt. Ashburn posthumously honored by South Vietnam



Lt. Jerry Ashburn

The medal of the National Order of Vietnam, 5th Class, has been posthumously awarded to First Lt. Jerry A. Ashburn, son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Ashburn, 1320 21st Ave. S., who was fatally wounded in combat on June 17, 1969.

Presentation of the medal to the parents was made last week by Chief Warrant Officer Virgil T. Akins, post adjutant from Camp McCoy.

The citation accompanying the award from the Republic of Vietnam eulogized Lt. Ashburn as "a serviceman of courage and rare self-sacrifice. With a ready zeal and commendable response, he fought on to the end in every mission and set a brilliant example for his fellow soldiers. He died in the performance of duty. Behind him he leaves the abiding grief of his former comrades-in-arms, Vietnamese as well as American."

Lt. Ashburn had been awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he received in combat on June 9, 1969, just eight days before he died in another engagement with enemy forces. A second Purple Heart medal was awarded posthumously, as was a Bronze Star medal with second Oak Leaf cluster for heroism in combat.

He had been personally presented with an earlier Bronze Star award for distinguishing himself by heroic actions on March 5, 1969, while serving with Company

D, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry. The citation accompanying this award reads as follows:

"While established in their night defensive positions, Company D came under an intense barrage of enemy weaponry. With complete disregard for his own safety, Lt. Ashburn moved from position to position under a hail of hostile fire as he directed devastating fire on the advancing insurgents and distributed much needed ammunition.

"Realizing the critical condition of many of his wounded personnel, Lt. Ashburn repeatedly moved through the bullet swept area to personally assist each man to an area for medical treatment. His valorous actions contributed immeasurably to the defeat of the aggressor force."

A native of Port Edwards and a graduate of John Edwards High School, Jerry Ashburn enlisted in the Army Jan. 5, 1968, and attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Knox, Ky., where he was commissioned a second lieutenant the following October. That same month he was assigned to duty in Vietnam, and was promoted to first lieutenant in February, 1969.

In addition to the Bronze Star and Purple Heart medals, he held the National Defense Service medal, Vietnam Service medal, combat infantryman badge, and the sharpshooter and marksman badges with rifle bars.

Firms hit by pollution can get disaster loans

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Banking and Currency Committee has approved legislation which would make businesses damaged by water pollution eligible for disaster loans.

Sen. John Sparkman, D-Ala., said the bill is of particular importance in Alabama, where mercury pollution has "virtually closed down many fishing and related businesses." Meanwhile, the Interior Department said that it might be willing to permit small discharges of mercury into waterways if it can be proved that they would not be harmful.

Last month, the Justice Department filed suit against ten industrial firms, seeking injunctions to halt immediately the discharge of "any mercury or mercury compounds in any form."

Interior officials said that stand is subject to negotiation and amendment, but they still don't know if there is such a thing as a "harmless" discharge of the poison.

Cities with housing projects get renewal funds priority

WASHINGTON (AP) — Communities providing housing for families of low and moderate income are being given priority in the scramble for federal urban renewal and housing funds, says Housing Secretary George W. Romney.

However, Romney said, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has rejected a presidential task force suggestion that federal

funds be withheld from communities which do not make housing available to lower-income families.

He told the Senate Equal Educational Opportunity Committee Wednesday that screening of applicants may accomplish the goal set by the task force.

"Most HUD grant programs have far more applications for grants than can be accommodated with federal funds," he

said. Selection procedures in effect for some programs and being developed for others take into account local efforts to meet housing needs, he added.

"As an example, applications for new community loan guarantees are evaluated, in part, on the basis of the appropriate balance of housing opportunities for low and moderate-income families and assurance of

nondiscrimination in housing," Romney said.

The Senate panel is probing school integration and such related issues as segregated housing. Some members contend—as does Romney—that housing and school segregation are linked closely.

Romney agreed the federal government, particularly the Federal Housing Administration, is partly responsible for segregated housing patterns

common to most of the nation.

He said the FHA incorporated race-restricting covenants in its loan insurance programs from the start, and this was indefensible.

Nevertheless, Romney said, HUD is taking concrete steps to help furnish millions of new homes, including:

—Encouraging local agencies to choose sites for public housing outside areas

where a minority race already is concentrated.

—Seeking legislation to provide federal suits against communities which exclude otherwise conforming low-and moderate-income housing developments just because they get federal aid.

—And, requiring proof of local efforts to implement fair housing policies, as required in the 1968 Civil Rights Act.

Pollution by toxic metals is 'worse' than pesticides

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pollution by toxic metals presents "a much more serious and insidious problem" than environmental damage from pesticides, weed-killers and nitrogen oxides, an expert has told a Senate subcommittee.

"Those metallic and elemental pollutants we have with us now are here to stay for a long time," Dr. Henry Schroeder said Wednesday in urging senators to make every effort to slow the buildup of elements which are toxic and can cause degenerative diseases.

Schroeder, a physiology professor at Dartmouth Medical School, said there is "little doubt in my mind that cadmium pollution is a major factor in human 'high blood pressure, of which 23 million Americans suffer."

In testimony inserted in the record by the Senate panel's chairman, Philip A. Hart, D-Mich., Schroeder added: "There is little doubt that at the present rate of pollution, diseases due to lead toxicity will emerge within a few years."

"Cadmium in air can be minimized or virtually abolished by abatement of zinc, from which it comes," while lead in air can be wiped out by eliminating alkyl lead additives to gasoline, he said.

Meanwhile, toxic problems of

arsenic, lead and cadmium were reviewed by Carl L. Klein, assistant secretary of the Interior for water quality and research, who reported 4,800 pounds of lead and 98 pounds of arsenic are being discharged daily into the lower Mississippi River.

Louisiana authorities plan to hold hearings to ask offenders the same questions raised in mercury pollution cases, Klein said: "What are you going to do about these heavy metals?" and "When are you going to take action?"

The federal officials also said they will not tolerate after six months any detected amount of man-made mercury pollution. "As long as we can detect it," explained Klein, "we want to eliminate it."

Klein urged passage of President Nixon's proposal for setting precise effluent requirements so state and federal water pollution control agencies can regulate discharges carefully.

But Hart suggested action against polluters now under the 1899 Refuse Act. Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn., contended, however, that this law is not effective in this situation and cannot be relied upon in fighting such pollution in sewers and streams.

Unifying Indians' voice called education need

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Working toward a unified voice among American Indians has surfaced as a top priority among persons concerned with Indian education attending the second annual National Indian Education Conference.

More than 600 persons, about two-thirds of them American Indians, are attending the three days of workshops and discussions which began Wednesday.

LaDonna Harris, president of

the Americans for Indian Opportunity and wife of Sen. Fred Harris, D-Okla., discussed the frustrations of Indians at a news conference.

Mrs. Harris, a Comanche, said unity among Indians is difficult because of the many tribes involved. "I've always thought of myself as a Comanche first and an Indian second."

"The melting pot is a myth," she said. "We don't accept dark-skinned people. We must find ways of accepting plurality with dignity."

Mrs. Harris said one move toward acceptance would be to give Indians a real choice between staying on the reservation or entering the dominant society.

"Although it is not reflected in history," she added, "Indians have made great contributions to American society."

Workshops and meetings during the conference stress particular educational and political problems facing Indians.

"We have been frustrated in trying to place Indian education as a priority in the governmental and educational structure we have to work with," said Will Antell, a Minnesota Chippewa who is chairman of the conference.

This view was reflected in a panel discussion led by Ada Deer, a Menominee from Stevens Point, Wis.

"The existing educational system is a racist structure which does not meet the needs of the community," she said in summarizing her group's discussion. "Teachers lack Indian certification."

Indian students at the meeting also stressed that Indian cultural and religious values must play a major role in their educational systems.

Three released in Chicago cop sniping case

CHICAGO (AP) — Three of four young men charged with conspiracy to commit murder in the sniper slaying of a detective were freed on bond Wednesday.

Charles Edward Bey, 25, and Lee Jackson, 26, were released on \$25,000 bond Tuesday. William E. Troope, 23, is free on \$15,000 bond for the conspiracy charge plus \$10,000 bond for charges stemming from other incidents.

Tony Carter, 17, the fourth defendant, was being held on \$10,000 bond. The detective, James A. Alfano Jr., was fatally wounded Aug. 13 at the outset of several hours of sniper shooting on the South Side.

Police said the men are accused of ordering other black gang members to shoot out street lights in the area to facilitate plans to shoot a policeman.

Police have charged no one with the actual shooting of Alfano.

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