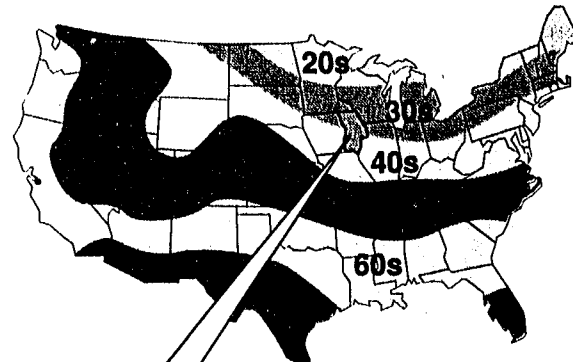


FRIDAY March 20, 1992

IOWA TODAY, FINAL EDITION  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA  
VOL. 110 NO. 71 50 CENTS

# The Gazette

A regional newspaper serving Eastern Iowa



FORECAST: Becoming partly sunny today.  
Highs 38-43; lows 19-23. Today's daylight:  
12 hrs., 8 min. See 14C.



## WEEKEND!

Win tickets to the  
Van Halen concert

Page 3W

## SPORTS

Iowa cagers  
topple Texas

Page 1C

## BRIEFLY

### Budget reforms

State Senate passes bill

A package of budget reforms and spending limitations won overwhelming approval in the Iowa Senate on Thursday after an attempt to exempt school aid from the controls was defeated. Details on page 4B.

### Warm wishes

Spring arrives today

The grass isn't quite as green as it should be, but today — the first day of spring — promises to be pleasant, and people are excited about the arrival of the new season. Details on page 1B.

### Royal revenge

Regis romps to final

The Regis Royals avenged last year's state title-game loss to Hull Western Christian by routing the Indians, 68-43, in a Class 2A semifinal at the boys' state basketball tournament in Des Moines last night. Details on page 1C.

### Out of sight

Bird hunt a challenge

Hunting birds on a pay-as-you-hunt is more of a challenge than it might seem, as a trip to the Safari Iowa Hunting Resort near Parnell this week proved. Details on page 8C.

### In a flash

X-rays in 10 seconds

TOKYO (AP) — A new X-ray machine developed by Toshiba Corp. can produce images in about 10 seconds with low X-ray doses and doesn't need film, the company announced Thursday.

The equipment is the first in the world that prints X-ray images on plain paper in a process similar to photocopy machines, a Toshiba spokesman said. The X-ray dose can be reduced to less than one-tenth the normal amount. Testing is needed before the product can be approved for medical use, and that is expected to take two to three years.

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### TODAY'S CHUCKLE

Back in the mountains, when they talk about liquid assets, they're referring to moonshine.

## TOMORROW

### Trilogy concludes

'Broadway Bound' to TV

A Neil Simon play completes the autobiographical trilogy that began with "Brighton Beach Memoirs" and "Biloxi Blues." TV Vision in Saturday's Gazette.

## New C.R. firm pledges 192 jobs at \$11 an hour

By George C. Ford

Gazette associate financial editor

A new Cedar Rapids telecommunications company will receive a \$315,000 state loan to help it create 192 jobs at an average wage of \$11.15.

The Iowa Economic Development Board on Thursday approved a five-year loan from the state's Community Economic Betterment Account to LinkUSA Corp., a company formed by former Telecom\*USA employees. LinkUSA pledged to retain 20 jobs and create the 192 additional positions within 24 months. The company, currently located in the Granby

Building at Third Avenue and Third Street SE, plans to provide wholesale specialized call-handling services to third-tier long distance telephone companies. LinkUSA will offer operator services, calling cards and customer-routed 800 numbers to industry clients.

There are about 320 third-tier long distance companies in the United States. They currently are unable to purchase such services from major competitors such as AT&T, MCI Communications and U.S. Sprint.

Al Beach, LinkUSA vice president of marketing, said the \$315,000 loan would leverage about \$7.6 million in additional start-up capital. LinkUSA will re-

ceive an initial \$157,000 installment within a few weeks and the remainder when 106 new jobs have been created.

The interest-free CEBA loan will not require any repayment for the first 24 months.

LinkUSA President Steve Hogan told The Gazette the company would use the initial loan funds to purchase computer equipment and other machinery needed to bring LinkUSA on-line.

Although the company originally applied for a forgivable loan, Hogan said repayment would allow the state to help another start-up company.

## Tsongas exit makes Clinton clear favorite

BOSTON (AP) — A frustrated, debt-laden Paul Tsongas pulled out of the Democratic presidential race Thursday, narrowing the field to two and leaving Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton as the clear favorite to capture the nomination.

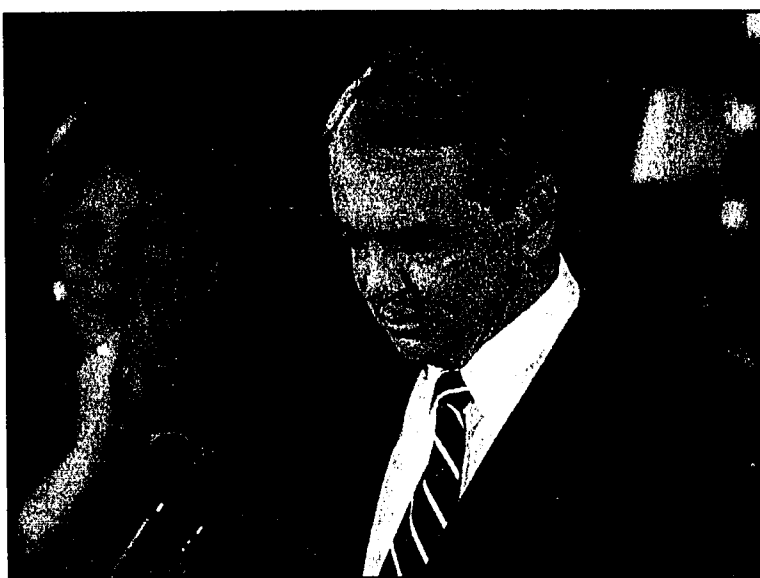
The unexpected announcement sent shock waves through party circles and stunned Clinton, who said he

■ Iowa Democrat says "Clinton can take a punch," 10A

thought the three-way race "would be going on much longer."

Clinton's sole remaining opponent is former California Gov. Jerry Brown, who is running an outsider's campaign against the corrupting influence of special interest money on politics. Brown promised a head-to-head battle with Clinton "for the soul of the Democratic Party."

Tsongas blamed his campaign's downfall on a shortage of cash for expensive primaries coming up in New York and elsewhere and said he did not want to remain in the race in the "role of spoiler."



AP photo

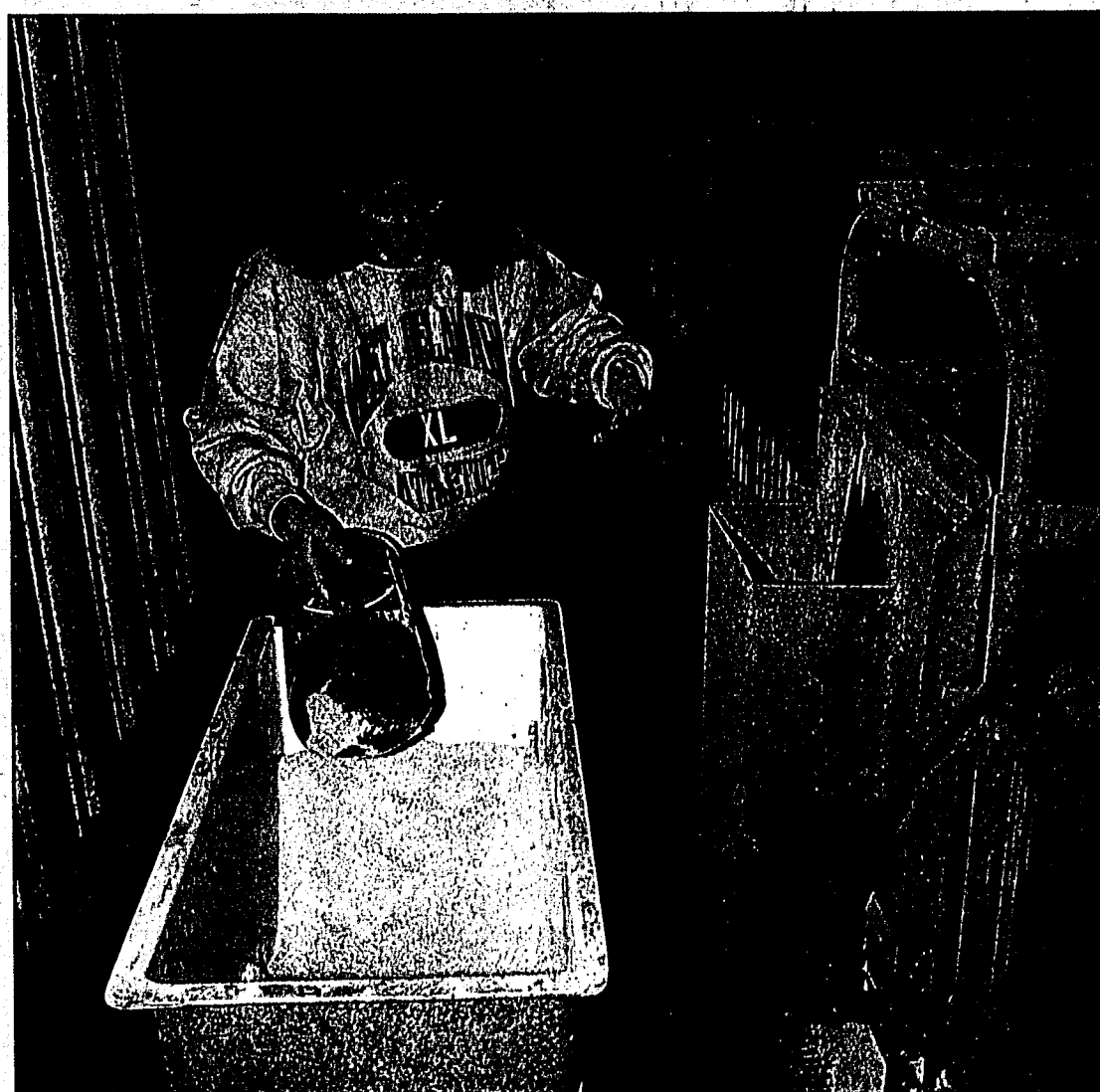
Paul Tsongas tells a news conference Thursday in Boston that he is withdrawing from the Democratic presidential campaign. Tsongas' wife, Niki, is at left.

"That is not what I'm about; that is not worthy," said Tsongas, a cancer survivor. "I did not survive my ordeals in order to be the agent of the re-election of George Bush."

Party Chairman Ronald Brown said that with Tsongas'

departure, "there are a lot of people making the case that Bill Clinton has an insurmountable lead. The question is if Governor Brown reaches that same conclusion, does he

■ Turn to page 10A: Tsongas



Gazette photo by Val Swinton

Becky Swanson, director of the Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce, scoops out hog feed Thursday during the first farmer/businessperson exchange.

## Farmers, city folk trade jobs

By Val Swinton

Gazette Northeast Iowa Bureau

MANCHESTER — Not every farmer can convince his banker to shovel hog manure for him.

But there was Joe Wiewel, president of First State Bank, pushing manure out of a farrowing house on Steve Ries' farm near Earlville. And beside him was a scowling Becky Swanson, director of the Chamber of Commerce.

What were they doing on a mild sunny afternoon in this sinus-clearing, eye-watering hog house? About 12 Delaware County residents switched work roles Thursday in the first farmer-businessperson exchange, spon-

sored by the chamber.

Wiewel, a second-generation banker, handled his chores like a pro, shoveling manure and clipping eye teeth on baby pigs with a serene expression and no complaints.

"It's just like running a calculator," he said as he firmly cradled a squealing baby pig. "You can't feel sorry for 'em or you won't do it."

Swanson, on the other hand, acted . . . well . . . disgusted.

"It doesn't come off the shovel," she said, pushing another load of manure out the building.

■ Turn to page 10A: Switch

## MURDERED MISSING UNSOLVED



Victim: Johnny Gosch, 12 when disappeared

Hometown: West Des Moines

Classification of case: Missing

Date of disappearance: Sept. 5, 1982

Place of disappearance: Corner of 42nd and Marcourt Ave.

Do you have information?  
Contact Gary Scott of West Des Moines Police Dept.  
(515)223-3211



Victim: Guy Heckle, 11 when disappeared

Hometown: Cedar Rapids

Classification of case: Missing

Date of disappearance: Feb. 3, 1973

Place of disappearance: Campground northwest of Toddville

Do you have information?  
Contact Dennis Fiser of the Linn County Sheriff's Dept.  
(319)398-3521

## 2 Iowa boys gone but not forgotten

Decade later, Gosches think case solved

By Jeff Burnham  
Gazette staff writer

WEST DES MOINES — Any kid who is abducted should have a mom like Noreen Gosch.

Her son has been missing for nearly a decade, but his name and face are probably better known than some of the people running for president.

She hasn't won any popularity contests. She has been in the news so often and belittled so many detectives that she knows some people are tired of her.

Love her or hate her, she has almost single-handedly made Johnny Gosch a sort of poster child for Iowa's unsolved mysteries. "You know why Johnny's case is the biggest? I wouldn't shut up," she says.

Johnny was 12 when he disappeared on a West Des Moines street on Sept. 5, 1982, while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register. Like most Sundays, he left home around 6 a.m. to start his route, which usually took 30 minutes. He never returned.

Noreen and John Gosch didn't know there was a problem because they were still asleep. The first hint of trouble came around 7:45 a.m., when one of Johnny's customers called to see why his newspaper had not been delivered.

They became frantic as they drove through the up-

■ Turn to page 8A: Gosch

All clues point to drowning in Toddville case

By Jeff Burnham

It would be next to impossible for someone to disappear with less of a trace than that left by Guy Heckle.

The 11-year-old Cedar Rapids boy vanished on Feb. 3, 1973, during a Boy Scout outing near Toddville.

Rarely has the search for a missing person drawn so many people. Hundreds of volunteers searched the area for several days. They were helped by a search and rescue team from California, a bloodhound from Washington state — even a team of psychics from St. Louis.

For all the effort, one piece of evidence was found: Guy's coat, hooked on a log on the east bank of the Cedar River, about one mile from the campsite.

The discovery led most to conclude that Guy had gotten lost in the dark and fallen into the water. But extensive dragging operations failed to find him.

"We did everything humanly possible to find the boy," says Capt. Dennis Fiser of the Linn County Sheriff's Department. "The public response was overwhelming. Though he's officially listed as a missing person, unfortunately, we think Guy probably drowned."

Guy's parents, Howard and Nancy, agree. But without a body, they won't rule

■ Turn to page 8A: Heckle

## Gosch: Noreen told 'You are Johnny's press agent now'

■ From page 1A



Gazette photo by Chris Stewart  
Noreen Gosch reflects on her decadelong crusade to find her son, Johnny (pictured in background). The Gosches believe he was kidnapped and later sold to a pedophile.

per-middle-income neighborhood. All they found was their son's wagon, full of papers, near the beginning of the route.

They reported him missing around 8:30 a.m. Detectives later learned that Johnny Gosch was last seen talking to a man in a blue car around 6 a.m. The man's identity remains a mystery.

In the first few days, police were reluctant to say Gosch was kidnapped, even with no trace of him.

But from the beginning, the Gosches believed he had been kidnapped and said they would pay any ransom. After two weeks, police said they had to put the case on the "back burner," Noreen says. "And I said, 'No, no, no, people will be reading about this for years.'"

Then she got what she considers her biggest break. She met Kenneth Wooden, an ABC-TV reporter who had done some investigative reporting about pedophiles — men who have a sexual desire for boys. Wooden convinced the Gosches that their son had been the victim of a ring of pedophiles who abducted boys and sold them to men for sex or child pornography.

WOODEN SAID the only way to solve the case would be to keep it in the media. "He told me, 'You are Johnny's press

agent now,'" Noreen says.

With Wooden's help, the Gosches appeared on several national talk shows and learned to write news releases.

"Instead of getting angry, a lot of parents get very quietly depressed when their case begins to fade from the press," Noreen says. "But the reason it fades is because new news has to keep surfacing."

Just before Christmas 1982, the Gosches issued a news release saying a private investigator had identified a suspect. The story was carried by most of the state's media. A few weeks later, another story said police had cleared the suspect because he passed a lie detector test.

Those developments probably never would have gone public if it had been any other family. But for Noreen, it was one more chance to keep the spotlight on her son.

That spotlight has often been fueled by attacks on police. At one point, the Gosches publicly asked the FBI to stop its investigation. "They have bungled it so badly we feel it has jeopardized Johnny's life more than a dozen times," Noreen said at the time.

The lack of solid evidence has taken its toll on her. She says she had an overwhelming feeling in late 1990 that her son was dead. "I just couldn't take it anymore. I completely shut down on

the case for six or seven months."

About the same time, her husband took a call from an attorney in Omaha, Neb., who had a client in prison who claimed he abducted the boy. John Gosch was skeptical and didn't tell his wife. But he hired Roy Stephens, an Omaha private investigator, to meet Paul Bonacci, 24.

JOHN LATER met Bonacci and came away convinced he was telling the truth. John told his wife about Bonacci in March 1991.

To test Bonacci's credibility, the Gosches gave the private investigator a photo of the Des Moines man they believed was in on the abduction. "I didn't tell him the man's name and there was nothing on the photo to identify the man," Noreen says.

Bonacci was shown a dozen photos, including the one from the Gosches. As Noreen recalls, Stephens said Bonacci "picked up this one of the Des Moines man, said the guy's name, said this guy helped him kidnap Johnny, this is what his part was, and he came to the motel the night before the kidnapping with a photo of Johnny and said, 'This is the kid we want you to take tomorrow.'"

Noreen met Bonacci just before Thanksgiving. She says he told her things he could know

only from talking with her son.

Bonacci says Johnny was sold to a pedophile in Colorado. He says he was "on the road" with Johnny and others for about seven years and last saw him in Colorado in 1989. He claims Gosch was later shipped to a country "in the area of the Netherlands, where this type of activity is legal," Noreen says.

Bonacci says Johnny was named Mark, has black hair and is 6-foot-4.

Bonacci, in prison for sexually assaulting three boys, is scheduled to be released in October. The Gosches took a transcript of his statement to the police, hoping the other men would be arrested and the case would be solved.

No one has been arrested, and West Des Moines police haven't even interviewed Bonacci.

Noreen is baffled. "We have prayed for this for so long, and now that we've got it, they're just going to sit on it."

Detectives say there is a good reason for their caution: Bonacci has multiple personalities and only one claims to have abducted the boy.

Noreen says she was skeptical at first about Bonacci's multiple personalities, but psychiatrists have told her that people with multiple personalities typically don't lie.

However, just as many psychi-

atrists would disagree, says West Des Moines detective Gary Scott, who has worked on the case for 2½ years. Because of that, he says Bonacci would make a poor witness.

He also says Bonacci accused several prominent Omaha residents in 1989 of being involved in a child sexual-abuse scandal. He was charged with perjury and eventually recanted. Prosecutors dropped the perjury charge because Bonacci was in prison.

"We already know what he is saying," Scott says. "I have a good relationship with the family. I'm not going to get into an arguing match with her, but we have reservations as to what we're hearing from Bonacci."

THE GOSCHES pledge that they'll keep trying to convince police that the case is solved. "I always thought it would be solved, even when I thought Johnny was dead," Noreen says. "But in reality, the little 12-year-old boy that I knew is dead."

"He's alive physically, but he isn't Johnny. It isn't my Johnny that would come back if he's alive."

## Heckle: Parents, authorities believe calls were pranks, not clues

■ From page 1A

out that Guy was abducted.

Guy Heckle grew up at 1505 48th St. NE, where his parents still live. The fifth grader at Eisenhower Elementary was a member of Troop 101 and eagerly awaited his first Scouting trip: camping at a Kiwanis reserve between Toddville and the Cedar River.

Early that evening, troop members started playing a war game called "Capture the Flag." Around 8, the group realized that Guy was missing.

When an initial search failed to find him, troop leaders phoned his parents. Howard Heckle drove out and joined the search. Around 9:30, they called the Linn County Sheriff's Department.

All available deputies joined in.

The search continued until early Sunday and started again at 7:30 a.m. The search party — about 500 people, a plane and helicopter — combed a 2½-mile stretch along the river and went east about one mile. Covering every square inch, they continued until 6:30 that night. About 250 people resumed the search Monday morning.

In the days after Guy disappeared, his parents received a

phone call from a man who said he had seen Guy hitchhiking on a highway. But the man wanted money before giving specific information. He said he would call back; he didn't.

The Heckles reported it to authorities, who traced the call to a pay phone in Cedar Rapids. The couple suspect it was a prank.

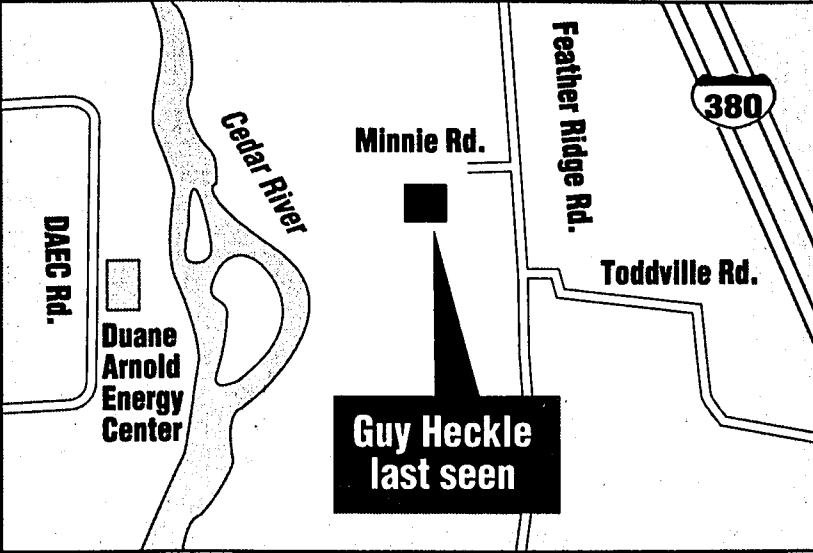
They also received a call from a boy who asked for Guy. When told that Guy was not home, the boy said he knew where Guy was. Pressed further, he said: "That's for me to know and for you to find out."

The Heckles received two similar calls in the next few years around the anniversary date of the disappearance. They suspect those also were pranks.

From the beginning, authorities suspected the boy had fallen in the river or in one of the many backwaters flowing there from melting snow. Divers searched the water but found nothing. Because of the dangers of river ice, authorities were forced to delay dragging operations.

Authorities discounted theories that Guy may have met with foul play or run away.

"There were no problems at home," Nancy Heckle says.



Gazette map

In the first week, however, there were indications that the boy may have run away. A waitress and a service station attendant in the southern Illinois town of Carlock reported seeing a boy matching Guy's description.

The boy had told the two that he had run away from home in Iowa. The boy could not be persuaded to go back and was bound for Terre Haute, Ind.

But any hopes that he was

Guy Heckle were shattered that Thursday. The waitress and service station attendant were shown Guy's picture. Both said he was not the boy they had met.

Back near Toddville, the search was continuing. Thirteen members of the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Squad, flown in from California by the Air Force, were directing operations. But after another day with no

results, the formal search was called off.

The search was resumed for one day the next week, when six members of a "psychic rescue squad" arrived from St. Louis. That search centered on caves after the psychics indicated that Guy may have been in a cave. They found no trace of the boy.

The first and only real clue was found a few days later. A Palo man found Guy's jacket near the river's east bank, snagged on a log that had just come into view as the river receded.

Some wondered how a jacket, still zipped at the bottom, could come off an 11-year-old boy. But investigators said the swift current could have easily pulled it off.

Investigators continued to do surface checks of the river.

Fiser of the Sheriff's Department says the failure to find the body doesn't discount the likelihood that Guy drowned. "The body may have gotten caught under a log. By now, it would probably be covered up by silt."

"There's always the possibility that Guy was abducted. But we have absolutely no leads to go on

in that direction."

The Heckles put up a \$5,000 reward in 1974 for information leading to the discovery of their son. There were no takers.

There were no other leads until 1978, when the Heckles heard about John Wayne Gacy, who told Chicago police he had killed 32 male youths and buried most of the bodies under his house.

When the Heckles learned that Gacy had lived in Waterloo, they began to wonder if he was connected to their son's disappearance. They sent Guy's dental records to Chicago for police to match with those of Gacy's victims.

The answer came back within a month: Guy Heckle could not have been one of Gacy's victims.

The Heckles believe their son probably drowned, but will not rule out the possibility of abduction.

"We can't rule that out because we never found his body in the river," Nancy Heckle says. "But no matter what happened, I think at this point, Guy is no longer living."

# PROOF: Not Promises

Chuck Melby, Owner  
Happy Chef

"I advertised a 'coupon clipper' ad in the new position on the weather page in December. Response was very steady throughout the entire promotion period as over one hundred groups came into each Happy Chef location. I am extremely pleased with the results I received with The Gazette."

### FACT:

Of those Linn County adults shopping for goods or services, 71% always or sometimes use money saving coupons. In fact, 87% of that group receive their money savings coupons from either the regular pages of the newspaper or from circulars in the paper.

\*Source: 1991 Consumer Market Study, MOR

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We deliver customers.

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# Cataracts:

# Small incision surgery now available!

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