CEDAR RAPIDS

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CEDAR RAPIDS Boy 'critical' after accident

A Cedar Rapids first-grader was critically injured when he tried to cross a busy street to catch up with some

friends before school Thursday morning. Matthew Bates, 6, of 1601 Sixth St. NW, was taken by ambulance to St. Luke's Hospital, where he was listed in critical condition last night.

The accident occurred in the 1600 block of Ellis Boulevard NW at 8:26 a.m. According to the police report, a group of children on their way to Harrison Elementary School was standing along the west side of the street waiting for Bates, who was alone on the other side.

Bates ran into the street, where he was hit by the left side of a southbound pickup driven by Armand Fuller, 39, of 2809 Schultz Dr. NW. No one else was injured and no charges were filed against Fuller.

League elects Nielsen

■ Norm Nielsen, president of Kirkwood Community College since 1985, has been elected president of the League for Innovation in the Community College, a non-profit consortium organized to stimulate experimentation and innovation in all areas of community college development.

Membership in the group is by invitation only, and Kirkwood is the only Iowa member. Nielsen was elected at the group's fall board meeting in Saginaw, Mich.

Founded in 1968, the League for Innovation is the only organization of its kind in higher education. As a catalyst, project incubator and experimental lab for community colleges, it manages a number of national projects funded by over \$30 million from foundations and corporations.

Educational theater

"Sex, Drugs & Remote Control," an educational theater performance by University of Iowa theater students, will be presented Tuesday at 7 p.m. in McAuley Auditorium at Mount Mercy College.

The three-sketch performance is being produced in conjunction with National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week.

"Sex, Drugs & Remote Control" features humorous but thought-provoking sketches targeting undergraduates. Scenes examine numerous issues, including alcohol, other drugs and high-risk behavior. A peer-directed discussion follows.

The performance is free and open to the public.

Village hours extended

The season at Ushers Ferry has been extended through the end of October. The re-created turn-of-the-century Iowa small town is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

The season had been scheduled to end this weekend. But now families will be able to picnic and enjoy the "picture postcard beauty" of the village in the fall, said Vickie Hughes, Ushers Ferry director.

A final event of the fall season will be "Safe Halloween for Kids" Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There wil be trick or treating, old-fashioned games and costume contests. Admission will be \$1 per child; adults admitted free.



Gazette photo by John McIvor

LASALLE ROYALTY: Last night Carla Kadera and Jim Jaeger, both 17, were crowned queen and king at LaSalle High School Homecoming before the LaSalle-Regis football game at Kingston Stadium last night. Coincidentally, both were born the same day at the same hospital, on Nov. 13, at Mercy Medical Center 17 years ago. Their parents are Ken and Jane Kadera and Bob and Judy Jaeger, all of -Cedar Rapids

Decision awaits new Wilson offer on Farmstead

By Dick Hogan Gazette courts reporter

A second session on a proposed \$1 million settlement of Wilson Foods' secured claim of more than \$6.8 million in the CedarRapids Meats' bankruptcy has failed to win a decision from U.S. District Bankruptcy Judge Michael Melloy.

Melloy said Thursday he would make no decision but promised a ruling "fairly quickly."

As he did at a similar hearing three weeks ago, Melloy expressed concern over Wilson getting \$1 million of the \$1.2 million left in CedarRapids Meats or Farmstead Foods estate. Melloy also is concerned about who will pay costs of any environmental cleanup of the closed plant.

Near the end of Thursday's hearing, Wilson attorney Dan Childers sweetened the deal. He told Melloy that Wilson would put \$100,000 of the settlement in an escrow account to be earmarked for environmenPlant safety concerns to be addressed

By Dick Hogan

U.S. District Bankruptcy Judge Michael Melloy has authorized action at the closed CedarRapids Meats plant in Cedar Rapids to address city officials' safety concerns.

Melloy instructed bankruptcy trustee Michael Dunbar of Waterloo to proceed with covering holes in the building's walls and floors, and welding shut elevator shafts. Melloy told Dunbar to try to get vendors to reclaim the 55 gallon drums containing various substances that were left in the plant. Some hold hazardous materials. For the barrels left, Melloy told Dunbar to obtain a firm estimate for removing them. Melloy wants a progress report and recommendations filed in 30 days.

James Flitz, assistant city attorney, said

tal cleanup, but said the offer was good only for one day.

"You're telling me if I have to rule one way in the next few hours or the estate suffers a Gazette late Thursday after-\$100,000 loss. Why is 24 hours noon he went back into court any different than four and told Melloy that Wilson hours?" Melloy said to Chilwould extend the \$100,000 offer

the city wants the problems eliminated as soon as possible.

Flitz reported good progress by Dunbar in getting water to the plant site for fire fighting. He said fire officials say there is "adequate water (to the plant) to fight a defensive fire... to keep a fire from spreading to the surrounding neighborhood."

Fire officials were concerned with holes in the building's floors, fearing if a fire broke out, a firefighter might not see the holes in smoke and fire and fall through one. Holes in the walls and unsealed elevator shafts should be plugged to retard the spread of a fire. officials said.

The holes were made by removing various equipment and fixtures from the plant.

Childers said he wasn't giving the court an ultimatum, he in writing. was just relaying his client's offer, adding he might try for an extension. Childers told The

through Oct. 15, and will put it

son for the enhanced offer was business and part was "trying to address the concern the court had expressed about draining all the money out of the estate" and environmental

concerns.

Wilson sold the plant to CedarRapids Meats in 1984 and says its secured claims total \$6.8 million, but will drop its claims for the \$1 million. In return, CedarRapids Meats would withdraw its adversary complaint to have Wilson's claims subordinated.

Melloy has made it clear he's disturbed by Wilson's getting \$1 million of the \$1.2 million left in the estate. But Childers claims it's a good deal. Wilson's is owed much more, he said, adding that litigating the adversary claim would take two or more years and be very costly. Estimates have ranged to \$200,000. Childers also claims Farmstead has little chance of winning such a suit.

Trustee Dunbar is reluctant-Childers said part of the really backing the settlement. He said the court's reservations about the deal has dampened his earlier enthusiasm for it. but he's also concerned about the cost of a suit and perhaps losing it.

Furrier's protege now a cut above

By Tom Fruehling Gazette staff writer

The way Steve Foege figured it 10 years ago, doing odd jobs at a fur store after school beat flipping burgers or pumping gas.

He says he was a skinny little shrimp back then, so small he couldn't even make the 98-pound weight class on the wrestling team, and with no notion of a goal beyond getting a driver's license on his 16th birthday.

The idea of becoming a master craftsman in the dying art of fur coat-making was as foreign to Steve as the heavy Austrian accent of his new boss, longtime Marion furrier Al Berger.

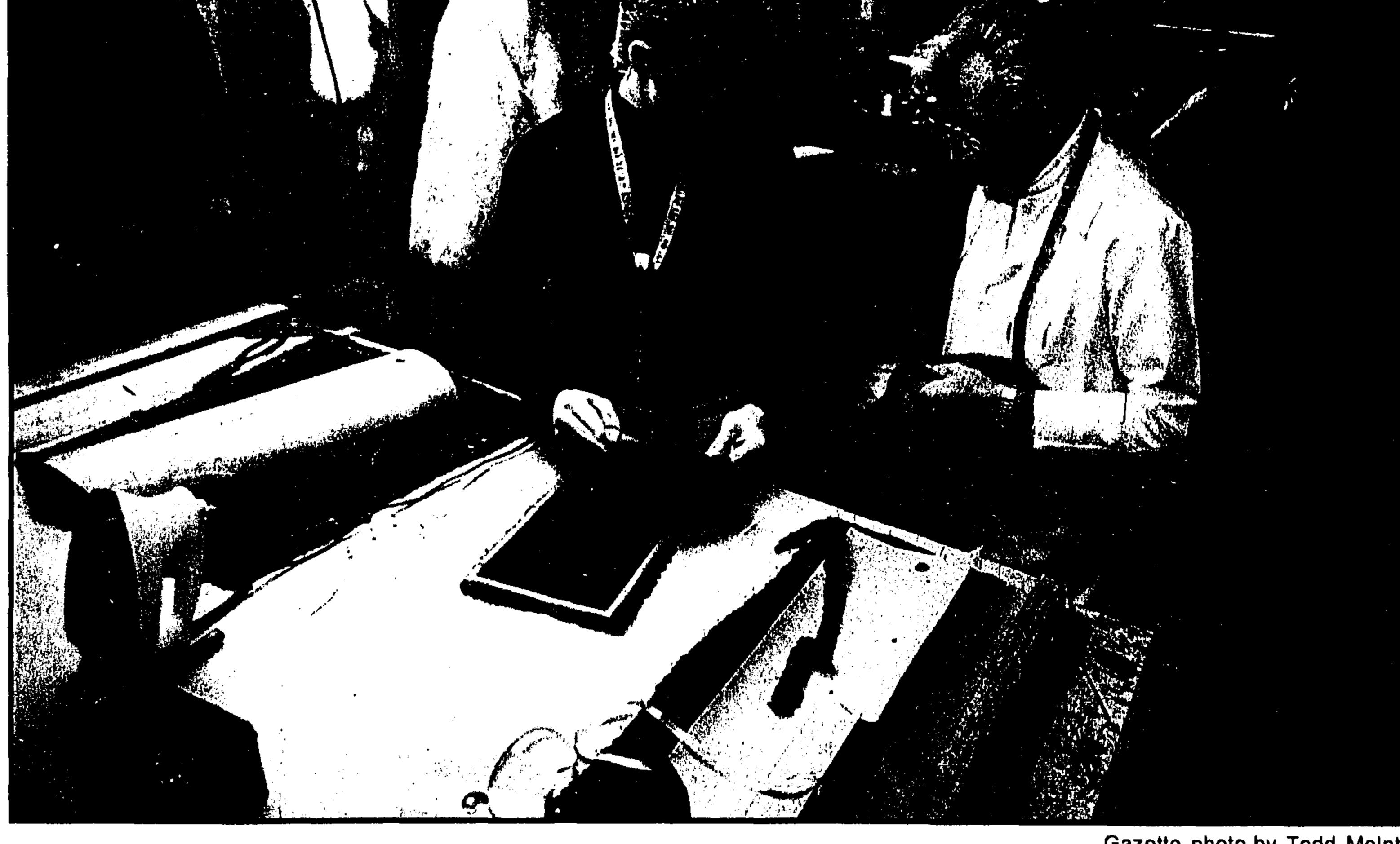
BERGER HAD employed plenty of young fellows since setting up shop on Seventh Avenue in 1945. All of them stayed on awhile, then headed off to college or full-time jobs. In Steve, though, Berger spotted something special.

"He worked very hard," Berger recalls, "and he liked the business and was sincere about learning it. He had the knack, too. To make a beautiful fur coat, you have to have an eye for it. And then you have to learn by experience, from the bottom up. There are no shortcuts."

Berger learned the craft from his father in his native Vienna. Now he's passing along his life's lessons to his 26-year-old protege.

"Somebody has to learn the trade," Berger asserts. "The oldtimers are dying out. So there are more imports. They are not quality."

Steve says he didn't intend to make a career of fashioning expensive coats for rich ladies. But the more he hung around Berger, the more interested he became in the business. He was never much interested in style as a young



Gazette photo by Todd McInturf

Al Berger and Steve Foege (left) talk about the fur business Thursday at Berger Furs in Marion. Foege has worked for Berger since he was in high school. Foege is tracing out a pattern onto the fur to make a fur coat.

man but says he always was sort of handy with craft pro-

"WHEN I GOT the job with Mr. Berger, I had the opportunity to learn from a master craftsman," he notes. "I couldn't ask for anything better. It was like I was getting paid to go to school."

Although his early chores included sweeping and taking out the trash, Steve soon was cleaning coats and picking up the intricacies of sewing fur

so that it fits. After a couple of years, Berger started tutoring his eager pupil in patternmaking and cutting the costly

Steve, who has worked fulltime since graduating from Marion High School in 1983, says he served in sort of an unofficial apprentice status for five years. He's still learning, but his mentor pays him the highest compliment by saying, "I consider Steve a full-fledged furrier."

As one of the only young fur experts anywhere in America, Steve says he's received feelers from a few big outfits out East. But he has no intention to leave.

"Why should I?" he points out. "I can't ask for anything better, learning from a master. And I've still got a lot to learn. I'd like to stay here the rest of my life."

STILL, there's no question he's grown on the job — in

more ways than one. The onetime self-described "shrimp" now stands over 6 foot 3 inches tall. Berger admires him for his "easy way around the ladies," and Steve finds himself able to run rings on the basketball court around high school buddies who used to tromp him.

"After I started here I grew 6 inches in a year," Steve says. "Mr. Berger said it came from 'schlepping' coats around the storage vault."

Davenport men face charges following Cedar County chase

By Dave Gosch Gazette staff writer

Two Davenport men accused of burglarizing three Cedar County residences before leading authorities on a chase Wednesday afternoon made their initial appearances in court Thursday.

Homer McCall Jr., 23, and Harold Thomas Jr., 25, both were charged with carrying a concealed weapon, three counts of second-degree burglary, two counts of seconddegree theft and one count of third-degree theft. McCall was being held in the Cedar County jail in lieu of \$100,000 bond, and Thomas was being held under \$75,000 bond.

McCall drove the van that led law officers on a chase that started just east of Springdale and ended in a cornfield about one-half mile east of the Springdale Exit 259 on Interstate 80. Cedar County Attorney Lee Beine said McCall was traffic offenses related to the the vehicle.

McCall was shot in the lower back after a gun was pointed at West Branch Police Chief Dan Knight, who was in pursuit of the vehicle along with Cedar County Sheriff Keith Whitlatch and Iowa State Patrol Trooper Dave Shinker. McCall was treated at University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City and re-

The suspects' van and Knight's squad car were bumping each other as they traveled down the interstate at a high rate of speed. When one of the men pointed a gun at Knight, he shot into the van and struck McCall in the back.

The two other burglaries Wednesday occurred near Bennett and near Tipton, and a videocassette camera was taken in one of those break-ins.

Authorities became aware of the burglaries when the home of Steve Nash near Springdale also charged with a number of was broken into. Whitlatch said Nash's wife was home at chase and with not having the time, but he is not sure long guns properly encased in whether she scared them , away.

Calls pour in after drawing released of murder suspect

By Donna Lee Olson Gazette staff writer

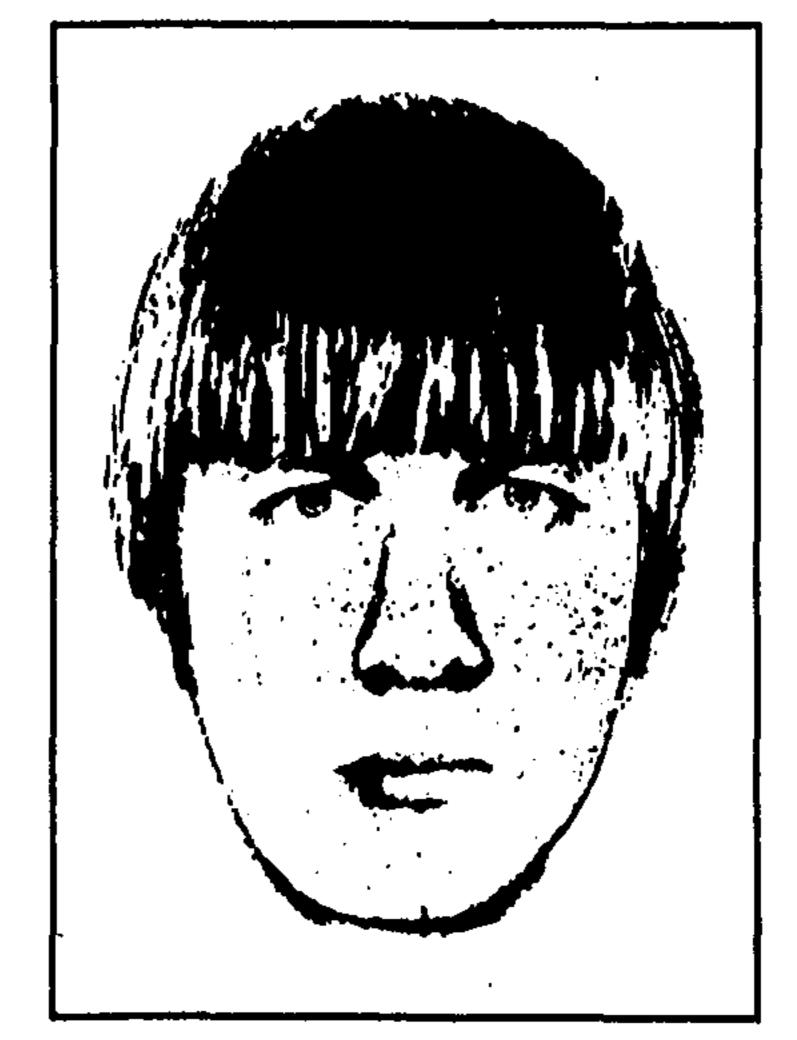
Iowans statewide on Thursday tipped off Cedar County law officials to possible sightings of a murder suspect.

A composite drawing was released late Tuesday of a man believed to have killed Tom Mather during a Sept. 30 raid on his Springdale

Phone calls to the Cedar County Sheriff's Department first began Wednesday and increased Thursday after the picture was shown through media statewide.

"We've been inundated with calls," Sheriff Keith Whitlatch said last night. "I've been on the phone all

AT LEAST ONE person called the Cedar Rapids Police Department about a pos-



Composite drawing of Cedar County murder sus-

sible suspect who resembled the picture, according to a

Whitlatch and an Iowa Division of Criminal Investiga-

police report.

tion agent have begun sifting through the suspect tips, checking those living in the immediate area first. Helping weed out the list

will be specific information

about the suspect that has been withheld from the public, Whitlatch said. Mather was killed by an

unknown man who broke into Mather's rural home, according to authorities. Mather and his wife,

Dawn, were watching television at the time. Dawn escaped from the house and ran to a neighbor, but Mather was shot in the head, Dawn told authorities.

THE ASSAILANT IS described as a white man, about 30 years old, 6 feet tall with a slender to medium build. His hair is straight, bleached blond on top and darker toward the end.