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The Des Moines Register

The Newspaper Iowa Depends Upon

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SENATE REJECTS WAR CUTOFF

HOUSE VOTES \$5,000 BOOST IN RAY'S PAY

Governor Says He Doesn't Want It

By Richard Doak
The Iowa House Wednesday approved a bill granting Gov. Robert Ray a salary increase from \$30,000 to \$35,000 a year — a raise the governor says he doesn't want.

The governor's is one of 56 salaries of state officials set in the bill, which passed 85 to 7 and was sent to the Senate.

The House soundly rejected a \$2,000 raise for Atty. Gen. Richard Turner, providing instead a \$500 boost.

And, in what was described as a vote for women's rights, the House also refused to raise the salary of the director of the state traveling library because the job is now held by a man instead of a woman.

Around \$500

The bill generally provides raises of around \$500 a year for state officials and keeps them at the same level for two years. It does not include employees of State Board of Regents institutions.

The House spent several hours on the bill as numerous attempts were made to raise the salaries of various officials favored by certain legislators. Most proposed increases were rejected.

The House refused, 57 to 29, to consider raising legislators' salaries from the current \$5,500 a year to \$11,000.

The raise for Republican Governor Ray was backed largely by Democrats. Representative Michael Kennedy (Dem., New Hampton) said the governor is opposing the raise for political purposes. Kennedy said it is "an absolute disgrace" that the governor of Iowa is paid less than many

SALARIES —
Please turn to Page Seven

Closing Today of Legislature Seen

Leaders of the Iowa Legislature predicted Wednesday that today will be the final day of the 1971 legislative session.

"We may have to leave something until next year," said House Speaker William Harbor (Rep., Henderson), "but I think we can make it today."

The major roadblock to adjournment was broken last week when the Legislature settled on a tax increase bill. This week the lawmakers have been putting the finishing touches on reapportionment and appropriations.

Wednesday was the 156th day of the session, the second-longest in the state's history. The same legislators will return in January, 1972, for a second session.

Falls in Tangled Chutes, She's 'Glad to Be Alive'

By Nick Lamberto
(Register Staff Writer)

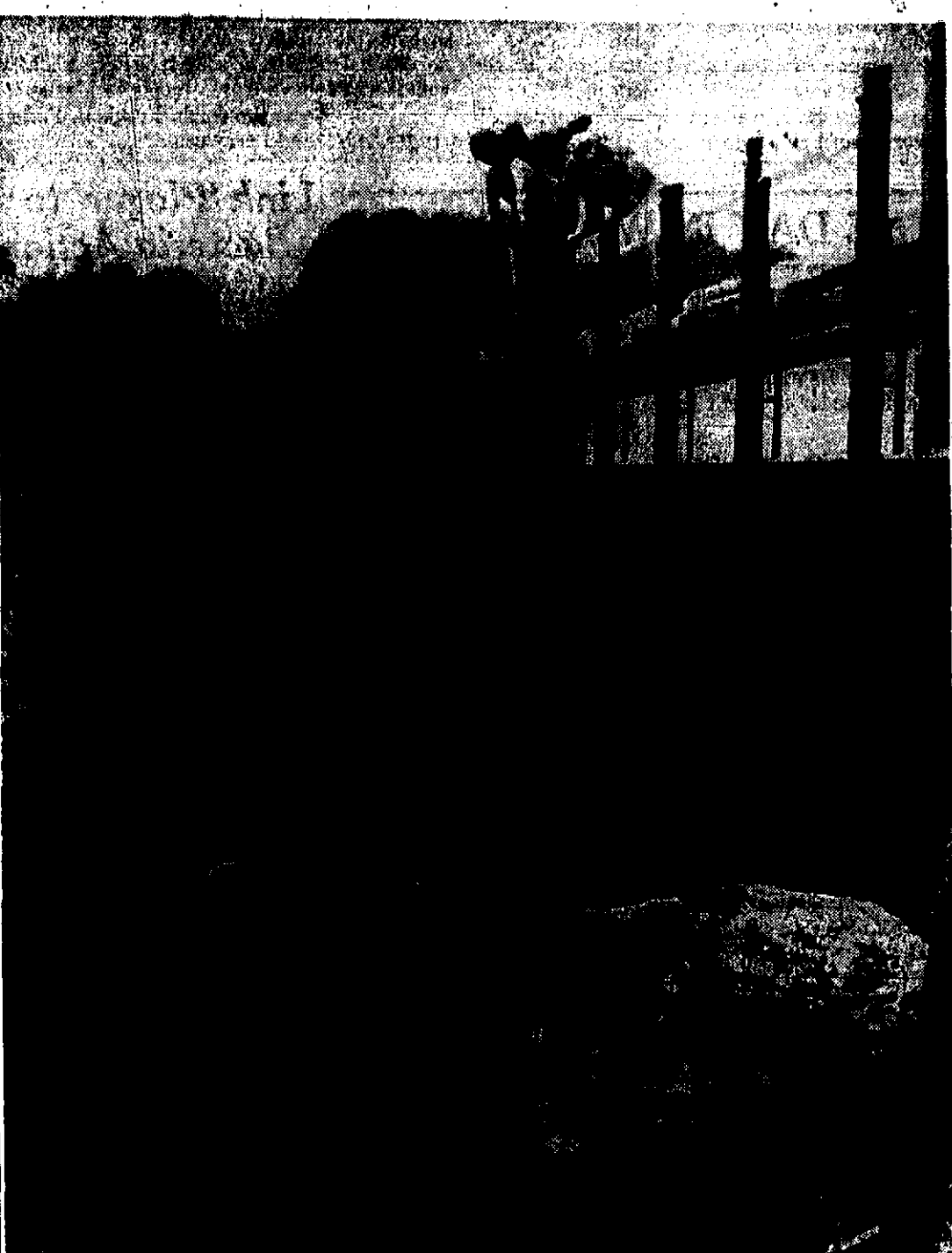
MOUNT PLEASANT, IA. — A 25-year-old secretary who fell 2,800 feet to an extremely hard landing near here when both of her parachutes failed to open properly said Wednesday, "I'm glad to be alive."

"I really thought I was going to die," said Sherry Ozburn of Burlington in a telephone interview from her bed at University Hospitals in Iowa City.

Mrs. Ozburn landed feet first with a "streamer," a chute that fails to open completely, in a farm field near here Tuesday night.

"It hurt terrible when I hit, but my legs are okay," she said. "It's just my back. I have a crushed vertebra and the doctors tell me I'll be in the hospital two or three weeks."

"I haven't decided if I'll



Where Girl's Body Was Found

Four passing youths point to the spot along a Bremer County gravel road near an unnamed creek about three miles west of Denver where the nearly nude body of Valerie Klossowsky, 14, of Waverly, was found Tuesday morning. An autopsy indicated that the girl was strangled late Sunday or early Monday. ANOTHER PICTURE: Page 4.

Agree to Discuss Curfew; Greenwood Protest Cools

By James Healey
About 500 young curfew protesters in and near Greenwood Park went home late Wednesday night after being guaranteed a chance to air their grievances before city officials.

Police Chief Wendell Nichols promised to arrange a meeting at 10 a.m. today in his office between six representatives of the protesters, park board members and some city councilmen.

Speaking with a bullhorn to large groups and personally with individuals, Nichols said it was up to city officials to change the 10:30 p.m. park curfew.

No arrests were reported, and there were no serious incidents.

About 300 young people gathered at Forty-fifth Street and Grand Avenue near the park entrance Wednesday night to protest the curfew, police handling of a park protest Tuesday night in which at least 15 per-

D.M. Has More Steamy Weather

Des Moines' steamy weather continued Wednesday as south winds pumped moist air into Iowa and sunshine blazed down through mostly clear skies.

The high here was 87 and the heat got to the Iowa Legislature where, in the House, some bright lights were turned down to combat the heat. The House Patronage Committee also re-

lent on its rule that girl pages must wear pant suits and allowed skirts Wednesday afternoon.

High temperatures elsewhere in Iowa ranged from 82 at Council Bluffs to 86 at Burlington, Waterloo, Dubuque, Ottumwa and Lamoni.

Nixon Statement on Drug Plan Today
WASHINGTON, D.C. (REUTERS) — President Nixon will make a personal statement today to dramatize the launching of a massive federal effort against narcotics addiction. Under consideration, officials said, was a personal presidential plea on radio and television from Mr. Nixon's White House office, asking Congress for \$125 million to fight drug abuse.

CHURCH —
Please turn to Page Four

PICNIC, STROLL -- THEN DEATH

By Jack Hovelson
(Register Staff Writer)

WAVERLY, IA. — Valerie Klossowsky and LuAnn Hicks

picnicked together in a Waverly park last Sunday noon, then spent the next few hours strolling around the town, talking about things that interest 14-year-old girls.

They separated late that afternoon. Sometime after 8 p.m., Valerie appeared at LuAnn's house, intending to ask her friend to accompany her the remainder of the evening.

But LuAnn wasn't home. Valerie spoke briefly with an older Hicks girl, then walked away.

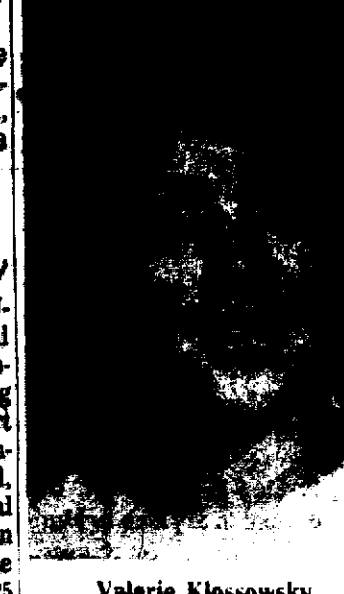
It was one of the last times Valerie was seen alive here.

Her nearly nude body was found Tuesday morning on the bank of a small creek three miles west of Denver and about 10 miles southeast of Waverly.

An autopsy indicated she was strangled late Sunday night or early Monday morning.

Although law enforcement officers refused to disclose details of the girl's injuries, they were proceeding with their in-

SLAYING —
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Valerie Klossowsky
Last Seen Sunday

VOTE TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS TO BUY WOODS

Conservation Unit To Offer \$850,000

By Charles Harpster

The Polk County Conservation Board voted Wednesday night to open negotiations on the purchase of a 570-acre wooded area south of West Des Moines.

The board accepted without opposition a motion by Board Member George A. Wilson to present to the owners an offer of \$850,000, the appraisal value of the tract, known as Brown's Woods.

The owners — the heirs of Louis P. Brown — have asked \$1.4 million for the land.

The board has been interested in obtaining control of the woods so it could be saved from sale to developers and from abuse.

The woods has become a popular riding spot among motorcycleists and its floor of wildflowers is interlaced with paths. Conservationists also have complained that the cycles are frightening away wild animals.

"Climax Forest"

The woods, which is just west of Sixty-third Street and south of the Racoon River, is one of very few "climax forests" in Iowa. Such a forest has reached a stage of development so that it is self-sustaining, with huge trees growing to maturity and dying while other trees replace them.

Wilson's motion also included acceptance of an offer by the owners for the county to lease the property at \$1 a year.

He said the leasing arrangement could give the owners "time to consider the offer based on our appraisal price."

By obtaining the lease during negotiations, he said, "we could deter some people from thinking about development now."

The board twice has rejected the leasing arrangement after deciding that the plan wouldn't benefit the public.

Wymore Plan

The two defeats came in April and May after the conservation director at that time, John Wymore, suggested that if the woods were leased, the general public should be barred, except for those persons authorized by a park ranger to enter.

WOODS —
Please turn to Page Ten

Senate Raises State Beer Tax

The Iowa Senate passed a bill Wednesday to increase the state beer tax by two cents a gallon — a boost of a bit more than a penny on a six-pack of 12-ounce bottles or cans.

The bill, approved 29 to 14 and sent to the House, is expected to raise about \$1 million a year in new revenue.

The beer tax will be levied against distributors, but it probably will end up being passed on to the consumer. The increase will raise the tax on a 31-gallon barrel to \$4.34 from the present \$3.72.

Potomac Fever
Rep. U. S. Pol. Cl.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The office cynic bets a dollar that now that the Indians have been booted off Alcatraz we'll turn it into a reservation.

The SEC wants to eliminate stock certificates and use computers, so when you want to buy you get somebody else's department store bill and a hate letter.

The FTC said it will make advertisers submit evidence to support their claims. Does that include the Army's TV commercials? Or Radio Free Europe?

Nixon asked for more leasing of federal land to the oil people to prevent a power shortage, but it sounds like the oilmen still have plenty of power.

— Bob Williams

'Employment Crisis' At Polk Jail

Transfer of Alcoholics Deprives Facility of Work Crews

By James O'Shea
Copyright, 1971, Des Moines Register and Tribune Company

A jailer who normally spends his day guarding suspected felons in the county jail spent much of Wednesday helping an inmate cook slice biscuits and rolls.

That is one result of the "employment crisis" created at the county jail when officials transferred 20 hard-core alcoholics to the new rehabilitation center at Fort Des Moines.

Because many of the alcoholics spent much of their time in jail working for no pay, the transfer dwindled the jail's trusty work force and created these specific problems Wednesday:

The cook, who used to have seven helpers, had no one to help him Wednesday morning and threatened to quit.

Guards had to be used to serve prisoners' food.

Many menial tasks normally performed by inmates went undone.

The jailer could only

"scrape up" a work force of five prisoners.

And jail officials spent the day fruitlessly trying to get some help from an unsympathetic majority of three on the Polk County Board of Supervisors.

The extent to which the jail relied on the alcoholics' help became apparent Wednesday.

For example, one of the alcoholics was, in effect, the assistant cook, who often was complimented on his culinary skills by fellow inmates, said one prisoner.

Also, jail officials said, many of the alcoholic prisoners spent so much time in jail they knew what jobs had to

JAIL —
Please turn to Page Ten

IT'S A HABIT: BOY SAVES 4

By Charles Bullard
(Register Staff Writer)

CLARION, IA. — David Hugh Johnson saved a 3-year-old boy from drowning in Lake Cornelia Apr. 24. And Tuesday, David, his two brothers and a friend rescued four persons from the same lake.

"I don't know why I dived in," the 15-year-old said. "It's like an instinct, I just had to do it."

"Anyone else would have done the same thing if they had been there."

David, his two brothers, Lee, 14, and John, 10, and a friend, Tim Stark, 14, rescued John O. Chapman, sr., a 77-year-old Eagle Grove businessman, and three of his grandsons, Mike Chapman, 13, Pat Chapman, 11, and David Chapman, 10, after their boat overturned Tuesday afternoon.

"We had been in the water for about four or five minutes," Chapman recalled Wednesday. "About one minute more and I wouldn't have made it."

Kept Slipping

Chapman said he tried to hang on to a vinyl-covered seat cushion but it kept slipping away. "After a while, the work shoes I was wearing began to feel like five pounds of lead and I knew I wouldn't last much longer," he said.

His three grandsons were able to grab flotation cushions and hold on. Their small aluminum fishing boat didn't have flotation chambers and was only sticking out of the water a few inches, Chapman said.

"I tried to swim to the boat but it kept drifting away," Chapman said, "and I couldn't swim fast enough with those clothes on to catch up."

The four boys spotted the overturned fishing boat while

RESCUE —
Please turn to Page Four

NIXON WINS A VICTORY ON VIET DEADLINE

McGovern-Hatfield Plan Defeated

By James Risser
(Of The Register's Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Senate once again refused to set a deadline for ending the Vietnam war, by rejecting the controversial McGovern-Hatfield amendment Wednesday afternoon.

The plan, which would have cut off funds for deployment of U.S. troops in Indochina after the end of this year, was turned down 55 to 42.

It was a victory for President Nixon and his Vietnamization policy.

Iowans Split

Senator Harold Hughes (Dem., Ia.) voted for the amendment. Senator Jack Miller (Rep., Ia.) voted against it.

Defeat of the measure was signaled earlier in the lackluster debate when the senators voted down, 52 to 44, a compromise plan extending the deadline to June 1, 1972.

The compromise was offered by Senator Lawton Chiles (Dem., Fla.) and was accepted, in a last-minute attempt to pick up some votes, by Senators George McGovern (Dem., S.D.) and Mark Hatfield (Rep., Ore.).

McGovern said the Chiles amendment was nearly as strong as his own, and said he was agreeing to it because he had lived so long with the "aching pain" of the war that he would do anything to end it.

It would have, however, automatically suspended the troop withdrawal deadline if North Vietnam refused to release U.S. prisoners of war by then.

Republican Senators Robert Packwood of Oregon and Ted Stevens of Alaska voted for the Chiles compromise but against the McGovern-Hatfield amendment.

Military Coffins

Earlier, McGovern charged that the Nixon administration's gradual withdrawal program means that "we can expect a minimum of 7,400 more young Americans to return from Indochina in silence, in plastic body bags encased in military coffins."

Hatfield said Congress should "respond to the will of the people," who he said want out of the war, rather than "submit to the will of the President." The war, he said, is not worth the price of any more American deaths nor "the price of

SENATE —
Please turn to Page Six

Worthington to Preferred Risk

(Special Dispatch to The Register)

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Iowa State Insurance Commissioner Lorne R. Worthington will join Preferred Risk Mutual Insurance Co. of West Des Moines July 1, company president Bernard Mercer announced here Wednesday.

Worthington, insurance commissioner since 1967, previously was state auditor and a state legislator. Mercer said Worthington will be vice-president for planning and development at Preferred Risk. Worthington, a Democrat whose term as insurance commissioner expires the end of this month, will be succeeded by William Huff III, a Des Moines Republican.

Mercer and Worthington are attending a meeting of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners here. Worthington is president of the association.

INSIDE THE REGISTER

Signs Liquor Revamp Bill

GOV. RAY signs bill to reorganize Liquor Commission, and Senate passes bill to reorganize departments into one agency. Page 3

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT reports U.S. personal income and homebuilding increases in May. Page 7

Friend Took Swimsuit to Her Home

SLAYING...
Continued from Page One

vestigation on the assumption the girl had been slain.
The Waverly Police Department Wednesday sent out 14 members of its auxiliary force to interview farm families in the area where the girl's body was found.

"I wish I had been home when Val came here Sunday night. If I had been, this would not have happened," LuAnn Hicks told The Register Wednesday.

Getting Into Cars

"Val was always getting into cars with unknown people. I would have stopped her — I've done it many times before."

"She was a very daring girl — but mixed up. We've been best friends since last summer. We even called each other 'sister.'"

"This was really bad — hard to believe, but I figured it could have happened to her," LuAnn said.

She said that a friend has told of seeing Valerie getting on a motorcycle with a stranger later Sunday night in Waverly. Waverly girl's death continued to maintain strict silence late Wednesday. At least five state Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) agents were aiding Waverly police and Bremer County Sheriff's deputies.

Sheriff James Leemon said that no arrests were imminent.

Law men investigating the Accounts of Valerie's last hours were pieced together from interviews with friends and relatives.

Valerie lived with her father, Harold R. Klossowsky, her sisters, Denise, 16, and Michele, 12; and her paternal widowed grandmother, Mrs. Clarence Klossowsky, in a neatly kept, two-story white frame home in a quiet, well-trimmed neighborhood three blocks east of the Wartburg College campus in Waverly.

Her father and mother had



REGISTER PHOTO

Slain Girl's Home in Waverly

This is where Valerie Klossowsky, 14, lived with her father, two sisters and her grandmother near the Wartburg College campus in Waverly. Her mother is divorced and has remarried.

been married and divorced from each other three times. The mother, now Mrs. Larry Wedemeyer, lives with her second husband on a farm near Horton, a tiny community northeast of Waverly.

Klossowsky, an employee of the Koehring Company's Schild-Bantam division plant here, was out of town Wednesday arranging private funeral services for his daughter at 10 a.m. today at the Conway-Perry Funeral Home in New Hampton.

The grandmother and sister Denise were at the family home.

"Valerie was a tall — probably five-foot, six inch — muscular girl, and she was really very strong," her grandmother said.

"Whoever did this terrible thing to her would have had to be awfully strong or she would have fought him off."

"Valerie was very active — always on the go, and athletic. But, her main interest in life was music."

"She was a wonderful guitar-

ist, pianist and singer. She had what I would call a 'musical temperament.' She wrote some songs herself and she even wrote some poems. Some of them were about peace and love in the world," said the grandmother.

Before moving to Waverly five years ago, the girls lived briefly in Sioux City, before that in New Hampton and Charles City, sometimes with their mother during periods of the parents' estrangements, Denise said.

The grandmother moved from New Hampton to be with the family in Waverly about a year ago "after my son's last divorce from his wife."

Dated 3 Boys

Denise said her sister had dated at least three boys. One of them was Danny Odom, 14, an eighth-grade classmate of Valerie's the past year at Waverly Junior High School.

"We would play guitars together and just talk, mostly," Danny said.

"All of us who were her friends feel the same way —

we just want to find the killer and kill him ourselves," the boy blurted out.

James McGrew, principal of Waverly Junior High School, described Valerie as "a quiet, attractive girl who was an average student."

"She probably didn't have a lot of friends," McGrew said.

The girl's grandmother said that one of her friends, Cindy Newgren of rural Waverly, came to their home early last Sunday evening and the two headed for the Waverly swimming pool, about a half-mile away.

Returned With Suit

"Cindy came back here alone later with Valerie's swimming suit and towel," Mrs. Klossowsky recounted.

"She told me that Valerie had stopped to talk to some people outside the swimming pool and told Cindy to go on in — that she would be in shortly."

"Cindy said that Valerie never came inside the pool area. When she (Cindy) came outside later, she found Valerie's swimming suit and towel nearby, but Valerie was gone," the grandmother said.

Valerie's trip to the Hicks residence apparently followed that incident. The last known sighting of the girl was on a street corner about 8:30 p.m. Sunday.

Mrs. Klossowsky said that Valerie had been told to come home by 9 p.m. Sunday. Her father filed a missing person report with Waverly police sometime later that night.

Two young boys stumbled onto the girl's body Tuesday morning as they were walking near a small unnamed creek near Denver. The body was on the creek bank, near the water, and under a gravel road bridge that has a three-foot-high railing.

The creek is in sight of a scenic and heavily wooded area known as the "big woods," some three miles south of Boy Scout Camp Ingawanas.

Only the girl's "upper garments" were on her body.

Investigators say they don't know whether she was slain near the creek or if it was done elsewhere and the body carried from the road down to the creek bank or dropped from the bridge, a fall of about 12 feet.

They also said that it hasn't been positively determined if the girl had been sexually molested.

Lawyer Gets 6 Months on Tax Evasion

Former Story County Attorney Frank H. Lounsberry was sentenced to six months in prison and fined the maximum \$20,000 Wednesday by U.S. District Judge Roy L. Stephenson on two counts of federal income tax evasion.

In pronouncing sentence, Stephenson said "I think that lawyers particularly are sad when a lawyer is found in such a situation. Law is an honored profession and people must obey it, but especially lawyers."

"I know this is a difficult moment for you," Stephenson told Lounsberry, who was mayor of Nevada from 1960 to 1966 and Story County Attorney from 1934 to 1944, "but I find no exceptional circumstances that would cause me not to incarcerate you."

Lounsberry's only statement was "I'm just really sorry."

Stephenson gave Lounsberry until Aug. 1 to clear up his business affairs and begin serving the prison term. He remains free on \$5,000 bond set earlier.

Stephenson also gave the 65-year-old Lounsberry an additional 18 months probation which begins when the six-month jail term ends. A condition of the probation is that Lounsberry has to pay the \$20,000 fine within a year from when he is released from jail.

Last month, Lounsberry pleaded no contest to two counts of federal income tax evasion after Stephenson informed him that, for criminal purposes, a no contest plea was the same as pleading guilty.

The attorney was indicted by a federal grand jury last February for claiming income of \$11,910 in 1964, when his actual income was \$29,507; of claiming \$5,231 in 1965, when his actual income was \$10,268; and claiming income of \$5,174 in 1966, when his actual income was \$15,676.

Lounsberry's no contest plea was accepted by Stephenson on the 1964 and 1965 charges.

Asst. U.S. Attorney John B. Grier read a statement in court saying that Lounsberry also faces civil court proceedings for the years 1961 through 1967 when his total income was reported as \$37,000, but his actual income was \$137,000.

Chutist Thought She Would Die

CHUTIST...
Continued from Page One

should have after she left the plane.

She left the plane, piloted by Richard Craig Long of Burlington, at 2,500 feet and finally succeeded in getting her emergency chute partly open at 500 feet above the ground.

Mrs. Ozburn came down in an oat field on a farm field just off the edge of the northeast runway at the airport here.

Her impact was lessened somewhat by the soft ground and the partial unfurling of the two chutes, which were described as being about one-third as effective as if they had been fully opened.

Without the slowing effect of

the partly-opened chute and the soft ground, Mrs. Ozburn would probably have been killed officials said.

"When my main chute failed to open I was terrified, but I concentrated on getting my emergency chute open and did pull the ring — but it tangled in the main chute," she said.

"That's when I thought I was going to die. I thought about my husband and wondered if he were going to jump, too. He had been in the same plane with me."

Her husband, Steve, 25, an employee of J. I. Case Co. in Burlington successfully jumped from the Piper Cherokee Six plane that had carried them aloft from the Mount Pleasant airport.

A third chutist, Dr. Arnold A. Sperlslage, a Burlington den-

tist, did not jump after Mrs. Ozburn's mishap but landed in the plane at the Mount Pleasant airport 3 miles southeast of here and hurried to the spot where Mrs. Ozburn landed.

Dr. Sperlslage, a former resident of rural Mount Pleasant, is jumpmaster for the Mississippi Valley Sky Hawks parachute jumping club.

Mrs. Ozburn lives in Burlington and works as a secretary for the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant at Middletown, about 11 miles west of Burlington. She has been a parachutist for "the past year," she said.

Mrs. Ozburn, the former Sherryll Brink, met her husband while they were both high school students at Cedar Rapids. They have been married six years.

FIGHT ARREST FOR ABORTION

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA. (AP) — Joseph Abodeely, who has pleaded guilty to charges of aiding and abetting an attempt to produce an abortion, is continuing his attempt to remain out of prison.

Abodeely filed an application in the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis Wednesday, requesting a temporary injunction to prevent his arrest by the Linn County sheriff.

The application also asks the court to grant jurisdiction of the case back to the federal district court for the northern district of Iowa in Cedar Rapids.

Federal Judge Edward McManus Tuesday turned down Abodeely's request for a temporary injunction, saying his court had no jurisdiction in the matter.

Abodeely has been sought since last Wednesday by local authorities to begin serving a five-year sentence at Fort Madison on the abortion charges, to which he pleaded guilty in 1969.

Abodeely has continued to challenge Iowa's abortion laws and has contended that his guilty plea was involuntary.

Reports Tuesday had indicated that Abodeely told his family he would surrender as soon as he got back to Cedar Rapids.

Youths Refuse Reward For Rescuing 4 in Lake

RESCUE...
Continued from Page One

water skiing on Lake Cornelia which is near Clarion in Wright County.

Jumped In

David guided the boat over to the scene and jumped in and Tim, who was on water skis, swam over to pull Chapman into their boat.

"He was sort of whitish and looked like he was going down," David said. "We were scared that we might not get there fast enough."

Chapman's three grandsons were able to swim over to the boat and climb aboard.

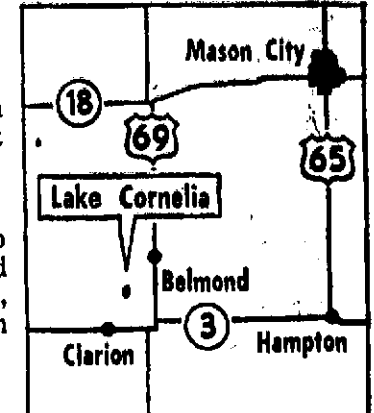
Chapman tried to give the boys a couple of \$20 bills but they wouldn't accept them, Chapman said. Finally he persuaded them to take \$20 but they returned the money Wednesday.

Became Scared

"We just couldn't see taking money to save people's lives," Tim said. "Who wouldn't help someone having trouble?"

After everyone was safely on shore, David's 3-year-old brother, James, waded into a hole, became scared and started to slip out of his life jacket. David jumped in and pulled him to shore.

In April, David found Rodney Rodenbeck, 3, of Shell Rock floating face down in Lake Cornelia, brought him to shore and carried him to the Rodenbeck's lakefront cabin. The boy's mother, Mrs.



Ed Rodenbeck, credited David with saving her son's life. David, Lee, James and John are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie O. Johnson. The Johnsons formerly lived at 1704 Twenty-fourth St. in Des Moines but are moving permanently to Lake Cornelia. Tim is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Baker who live on Lake Cornelia. Mike and Pat Chapman are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Chapman of Eagle Grove and David Chapman is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Chapman, also of Eagle Grove.

Remember Dad
June 20th

Tell Dad He's
Loved!
Key Chain
\$5

12k Gold or
Sterling
Silver

HELBURG
523 WALNUT
CORNER OF 6th & WALNUT

Thief Tells Senators of Easy \$100 Million Airport Thefts

By Clark Mollenhoff
(The Register's Washington Bureau Chief)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A man billed as "the biggest thief in the world" told the Senate permanent investigations subcommittee Tuesday that he and his gang were forced to sell more than \$100 million in stolen property through a Cosa Nostra "fence."

Robert F. Cudak, 29, a handsome young confidence man and thief, testified that he was able to steal \$100 million in jewels, furs, and securities from airports as a result of lax security measures.

Secret Documents

Secret government documents also were stolen but were not used, he said.

Subcommittee Chairman John L. McClellan (Dem., Ark.) said Cudak, who is currently serving seven years for grand larceny and burglary, is being granted immunity to testify. He is the first witness to testify under the new immunity law.

Staff investigators of the subcommittee said they had corroborated much of Cudak's testimony. They said the actual value of the loot stolen by Cudak's gang and a rival ring might be accurately valued at \$300 million.

Four guards accompanied Cudak to the hearing room, where he named those he dealt with, including Anthony (Tony Boy) Bolardo, identified as a leader of the New Jersey Mafia, Albert DeAngelis and Anthony Capucci, both allegedly of the New York mob.

Cudak said his own gang of thieves included William D. Ricchiuti. It was Ricchiuti who had the "very good connections with the principal mob people in New York and New Jersey, and through him I met most of the principal fences," said Cudak.

In accordance with Cudak's request, McClellan ordered that there be no television or still pictures taken of Cudak because "this man has a problem of safety for his life."

Treasures of Diamonds

Cudak told of selling suitcases full of securities and treasures of diamonds to underworld fences for a fraction of their worth, as little as 15 cents on the dollar.

Cudak said his loot also included top secret documents from the Defense Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and the FBI. He said he never tried to sell these, however, because "I was afraid of them." He and his accomplices usually burned the documents or threw them away, he said.

"My share of the loot my partners and I stole in a four-year period came to approx-

mately \$1 million," Cudak told the subcommittee. "I am penniless today. I gambled most of the money away as soon as I received my share from the fence."

Cudak said that when he first started stealing at airports in 1966 it was relatively easy to put on a pair of coveralls and a plastic helmet or ear muffs and move around any airport without being questioned. He also said anyone could "hop in and drive a vehicle around the airport because trucks and tractors are left unguarded with keys in the ignition."

Cudak said the job of a thief at an airport was made much easier in the earlier period because the mail pouches in the airport were generally left unguarded.

Cudak said that from September, 1966, to September, 1970, when he finally went to prison, he and his partners carried out 125 separate mail robberies in airports across the country and stole bags of valuable goods from Railway Express and Air Freight about 50 times.

Cudak said he was hired by Northwest Airlines as a "ramp man" without a check on his background, and in that manner became acquainted with all of the security weaknesses at airports across the country.

He said the \$100 million stolen by him and his partners does not include amounts taken by another major group of thieves headed by Anthony Capucci. "I understand that they are still operating," he said.

Up to 90 per cent of the stolen valuables were private and government securities, Cudak

said. At first fences refused to handle them, he said, but later they learned they could be used as collateral for bank loans, sold overseas or used in other manipulations.

Cudak said uniformed policemen from Rosemont, Ill., a Chicago suburb just adjacent to O'Hare field, stuffed their pockets with diamonds and cash when they arrested him in a Rosemont motel on Nov. 23, 1968.

Responding to questions from Senator Charles H. Percy (Rep., Ill.), Cudak said of the Rosemont police: "They kept saying a lot of the loot was missing and there may have been a third man involved." Actually, he said, "they took the missing loot themselves."

Police Chief Richard Drehab of Rosemont denied Cudak's charges when interviewed, saying he is "confident that the allegations are untrue. 'I don't know why this guy is saying this.'"

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