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Permanent Gassing Ban Under Study

By James Johnson

McALESTER — State Corrections Department workers Friday were told to check Army chemical warfare experts and other sources in determine whether the ban by Gov. David Hall on use of one kind of tear gas at the Oklahoma Penitentiary should be made permanent.

Ed Hardy, the governor's press secretary, said Hall had directed that the prison cease using chloroacetophenone (CN) tear gas following the death of one inmate in an area which was gassed Monday.

Cause Undetermined

Meantime, Dr. A. Jay Chapman, state medical examiner, said no determination has been reached on what caused the death of inmate Robert Henry Forsythe, 31, serving 10 years from Oklahoma County for robbery.

Forsythe was an inmate of the maximum security area at the penitentiary known as "The Rock" where inmates were gassed during a disturbance Monday as guards attempted to enforce new punishment rules.

Howard Inglish, Corrections Department public relations aide, said the prisoner had no background of serious medical problems and that it was felt he died from natural causes.

Ruling Tuesday?

Inglish said it would be two weeks before a determination as to the cause of death would be forthcoming. However, Dr. Chapman said the final ruling is expected on Tuesday.

Hardy said Hall acted to ban the gas out of concern that it might have more serious effects as it is used against prison inmates than had been believed.

He said the order didn't affect a gas known as CS which is sprayed by a fog dispensing machine.

On Monday, 67 inmates of "The Rock" were gassed by guards during a disturbance in which one inmate and one guard suffered serious lacerations.

On Wednesday, 29 inmates of the West Cellhouse were gassed while returning from the shower room after prison officials said they threatened to seize guards' shotguns.

A few minutes later, Forsythe was found dead in his punishment cell on "the Rock."

Prison doctors had treated five other inmates from "the Rock" after the disturbance Monday for chemical burns they suffered when they were struck by the gas while it still was in its liquid state.

Forsythe wasn't among the inmates who were treated.

Burglars Take Small Arsenal

Forty-six handguns, including nine high-powered 357-magnum revolvers, were taken in a burglary of the TIGAY store at 4135 S. Western early Friday, police said.

Officers said other weapons stolen included several 38-caliber revolvers and some 3-millimeter weapons.

Police were summoned to the store about 3:30 a.m. by a silent alarm system and found the front window broken out.

Garage Sale Nets Y $143

A garage sale conducted by the Westside YMCA netted $143.14 toward purchase of buying equipment for the Y's women's activities, spokesman Janice Baker said.

Mrs. Baker said the sale, held Thursday and Friday at the YMCA, 3400 Mueller, was sponsored by the Women's Program committee.

Ford Stands In

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Gerald R. Ford will represent President Nixon at Memorial Day observances Monday at Arlington National Cemetery.

Mrs. Rita Tingler with her two sons, Billy, left, and Bruce. (Staff Photo by Joe Miller)

City's Paper Pickup Slips

Fewer pounds of newspapers were collected during the third week of Oklahoma City's newspaper reclamation program than in the program's first two weeks, according to Pat Lay, assistant public works director.

The city crew collecting the newspapers gathered 11,720 pounds this past week as opposed to 12,080 pounds during the second week of the program and 12,775 pounds during the program's first week.

"It's still too early to reach a conclusion" about the program, it's going to take at least two more weeks to reach a good, solid conclusion on the thing," Lay said.

Newspapers were picked up from a total 317 homes during the third week, Lay said.

City officials have said that the program must average at least 50,000 pounds of newspapers every week in order to work.

Last week Lay said he believed the small amounts of paper collected were the result of lack of public knowledge about the program.

As a result, notices were sent home with school children about the program and special fliers were handed out. The program is scheduled to continue until early August.

City Council Sets Agenda For Tuesday

The City Council is scheduled to consider a resolution which would execute an agreement between the city and the state Highway department for construction on S Meridian Tuesday.

Construction on S Meridian from SW 44 to 400 feet north of SW 29 will be authorized if the council approves the resolution.

Council members will also consider a resolution authorizing Mayor Patience Latting to file an amended statement in the antitrust price-fixing case which the city has entered.

The suit charges 12 oil companies with price fixing in their sales of asphalt from 1948 to 1968. The city entered the case earlier this year.

An amendment to a city ordinance providing a credit for property owners who dedicate easements and rights-of-way for proposed sanitary sewer mains and sub-mains will also be on the council's agenda.

Council members will also consider approval of the design, construction and placement of litter containers as developed for Oklahoma City Beautiful, Inc.

Youngsters Enjoy Visit to Country, Farm Livestock

Nearly 60 preschool students at Kerr's School of Creative Play, 4604 N MacArthur, have a better understanding of rural life and farm animals after "bruding for the country" Thursday and Friday.

"It's a sensory experience for the children," said school director Mrs. Betty Kerr, who for the past 20 years has taken her classes of 3 and 4-year-olds to the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Stinchcomb, northwest of Oklahoma City.

The family grows wheat and barley on 800 acres of land, and raises four horses, 15 varieties of hamsters, 40 sheep, 20 lambs, geese and hens "kind of as a hobby," Mrs. Stinchcomb said. "Most of the children who come out here really get a kick out of it. Most of them have never been in a farm and only see farm animals from the road."

She said either she or her husband catch one of each type of animal and allow the children to cuddle up individually and pet the animals. "We tell them about each of the animals and explain to them that animals tend to their young just as humans do," she added.

Mrs. Kerr said sometimes the children are apprehensive about touching the animals, especially the larger sheep and horses, but soon become fascinated with them. "These children usually don't have this type of experience at home."

"Where's the farmer and the farmer's wife?" is a typical question from the children, Mrs. Stinchcomb said. "I guess they don't realize farm people are people just as everyone else," she laughed.

But Mrs. Kerr said this is one of the purposes of the one-day-a-week class trip. "I think it's important that children learn to relate to the farmer and his wife as people of the community, mothers and fathers just like their own parents," she said.

In addition, she said, the children are told some of the history of the land itself, which Mrs. Kerr said has been owned by the Stinchcomb family since the Run of 1889.

Dinah Moves To CBS Show

Chicago Tribune

CBS-TV Friday signed up Dinah Shore to host a daily 90-minute talk-variety show for the CBS-owned stations and a syndicated network.

Miss Shore's new program will originate in Hollywood and is earmarked for an October premiere. Dinah, 56, has been looking for a new gig since her morning program was unceremoniously cancelled last week by NBC.

Woman Questions Hospital's Actions

By Gail Abney

A Del City woman who admitted her two small sons to Midwest City Memorial Hospital May 2 for tonsillectomies said Friday she was forced to "do everything" for the children, including feeding them, changing their linens and taking urine specimens.

Mrs. Rita Tingler, 4228 SE 22, met with hospital administrator William Mulinix Thursday and said "they didn't deny anything, they were just apologetic."

Contacted at the hospital, Mulinix said he didn't know whether or not Mrs. Tingler's charges were true, but said he was "appalled" that she had contacted The Oklahoman about her problem.

Mrs. Tingler said her sons, ages 3½ and 2½, were admitted to the hospital May 2 and placed in a semi-private room with four beds in it.

"Of 18 hospitals in the Oklahoma City area I contacted, every one of them, including Midwest City Memorial, said semi-private rooms had two beds in them," Mrs. Tingler said. "When our hospital bill came in, I expected a ward rate, but we were charged the semi-private rate — $18 per child per day."

Mulinix said according to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans, anything less than five beds is considered semi-private.

"This is the only room we have with four beds in it," he said.

Mrs. Tingler said when she took the boys to their room, she found sheets on the cribs and had to make up the beds before she could put the boys in the cribs. She said she had to go get additional linens and none of the nurses offered to help.

Another complaint Mrs. Tingler leveled at the hospital was the lack of time nurses spent with her boys.

"Once I was in the visiting area lounge and one of the nurses came to tell me one of my children had to go to the bathroom," she said. "And when their dinner trays were delivered, the meat was not cut. The orange was unpeeled and their milk carton was not open. These small children are just not able to do this for themselves."

Mulinix said children always receive more attention than adult patients, mainly for safety's sake. He said a child has never been injured at his hospital.

"If a parent is in the room with a child, this may lead to into complacency," said Mulinix. "It leads us to believe that the parent wishes to do those things for their child."

Mrs. Tingler complained the nursing staff did not attempt to inform her of any "policy" concerning parents staying with their children, but said "it would be too bad if a working mother could not be with her children all the time."

"I don't see the difference in a young patient and a 80-year-old patient," Mrs. Tingler said. "They both need care and need to be watched over."

"Our only problem is that we did not ask Mrs. Tingler if she wanted help with the children," Mulinix admitted. "As far as having a policy, we do not have one, but we try to indoctrinate our employees to brief the parents on hospital operations."

Mulinix said as far as "other frills or extras are concerned, we feel they are secondary to importance."

"A hospital is not a motel," Mrs. Tingler quoted Mulinix as saying.

The hospital administrator said in his 13 years at the hospital, this is the first time he has had a person complaint about an incident such as this.

"I told her I appreciated her coming to discuss the problem," he said. "But now my opinion on her situation has changed completely. I don't feel like we have to justify anything we do."

FAULTY PLUMBING CITED

HUD Target of Suit

A Midwest City couple who claim they had to buy a portable toilet a year ago and personally dispose of the waste sued the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a local home builder and a realty company Friday to get repairs made on their home.

Mr. and Mrs. John Norman White, 1829 St. Peter, filed the suit in Oklahoma City federal court against HUD; James P. Lynn, HUD secretary; Robert Brenden, Oklahoma district director; Charles Queen Home Builders and Bizzell Realty Co.

The couple asked the court for $15,384 in actual damages, $10,000 in punitive damages and a court order forcing the department or the contractor to repair the home.

The lawsuit was filed by attorney James H. Hiatt and Mrs. Arthur Lory Hackstrow, executive director of the Oklahoma City Legal Aid Society.

The couple listed 18 specific complaints in the lawsuit but the lawsuit centered mainly on the sump pump and the plumbing.

The lawsuit claimed large amounts of rainfall short out the switch to the sump pump and cause sewage to overflow into the house and garage.

The lawsuit also claimed the toilets have not worked and that they were forced to buy a $3.98 portable toilet.

The lawsuit said the couple for about one year has been forced to carry out "the human waste" and either bury it in the yard or dispose of it some other way.

The lawsuit said the couple demanded that HUD or the contractor make repairs but both have refused to do so.

The lawsuit claimed that the realty company sold the home to the couple under "false representations."

The lawsuit said the realtor told them the home was "sound and well built" when they bought the home under a Federal Housing Administration loan on Feb. 12, 1972.

Charges Bandied in COTPA Parking Employees Dispute

By Keith White

Disagreement over the Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority's role in current labor negotiations with its parking employees has apparently arisen with labor negotiators claiming COTPA is "stalling" and COTPA Director Toby Akkola denying the charge.

Bill Joplin, business agent for the employees attempting to unionize, said they were "very unsatisfied" with the negotiations and think COTPA is "stalling. It's been three weeks since their last negotiating meeting."

"We're not stalling," Akkola said Friday night. "We're computing the costs of their latest demands and must get to the board of trustees," before any action can be taken.

Akkola said labor disputes are usually handled "directly instead of indirectly, through the media, and in that context, I'm absolutely bitter."

Akkola said he was not aware of any problems in the negotiations until a reporter called him about it. Akkola said the reporter said he had received anonymous phone call suggesting the negotiations had broken down.

Union representative Troy Bartlett said the employees' greatest concern was getting COTPA to meet with them. He said negotiations have "made no real progress in the two meetings held."

Bartlett said the employees' concerns were with wages and working conditions but declined to mention specifics because "it would be tantamount to naming names."

He did say some disagreement had been raised over the requirement that employees sign up for COTPA's pension plan as a condition of employment.

Akkola confirmed the pension plan is a condition of employment.

Bartlett said he felt there was nothing that couldn't be worked out between the two groups if they could get to the negotiating table.

Akkola said neither Joplin nor Bartlett had called him to complain about stalling negotiations.

Flying Doctors May Hit Ground

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — East Africa's flying doctors may be grounded unless the medical organization solves its money crisis. An official of the Flying Doctor Service said donations in 1973 were running only 70 per cent of normal. Most contributions come from the United States and Europe.

Lake in Italy Yields Artifacts

ROME (AP) — Bronze objects brought to the surface of Lake Mezzana are as much as 3,300 years old, the Italian office of antiquities announced. Archeologists said the artifacts reveal the lake covers the site of a Bronze Age village near the modern town of Vitorbo, 65 miles northwest of the Italian capital.

Mrs. Betty Kerr holds a young lamb for her preschool students to get during a class field trip to the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Stinchcomb, northwest of Oklahoma City. (Staff Photo by J. Pat Carter)

Sooner Cyclists Plan Long Ride

By Dave Seldon

A hardy contingent of about 20 bike riding enthusiasts from the Oklahoma Bicycle Society will depart from Oklahoma City's Stars and Stripes Park June 1 bound for Enid on the first leg of a planned nine-day 325-mile tour.

Frans Eold the cyclists will pedal their way across Oklahoma to Ponca City, Stillwater, Tulsa, Muskogee, McAlester, Ada, Shawnee and back to their starting point in Oklahoma City. Gov. David Hall has declared June 9 Oklahoma Bicycle Day in a special proclamation honoring the long distance riders.

Oklahoma Bicycle Society President E. L. "Red" Calloway, who says he's been "training on pin and ice cream" for the big event, has vowed to go the distance.

The "hardcore" riders who have pledged to stay with the group for the duration of the trip are mostly doctors, teachers, business men and the like, Calloway said. An Oklahoma City optometrist, Allen Maynard, has also indicated he plans to go along for the full ride. The middle-aged Maynard recently recovered from open heart surgery performed last year.

The grand tour is expected to attract riders declared June 9 Oklahoma Bicycle Day in a special proclamation honoring the long distance riders.

"By the time we head for home we hope to have about 200 riders with us," Calloway said.

The cyclists are scheduled to half and split their way into Stars and Stripes Park around 4 p.m. June 9.

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