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Donations sought for Ebert family

Persons wishing to donate clothing, housing supplies or money to the Harold Eberts, who lost their home in a fire Nov. 5, can leave them with Helen Schaitel at the Pheasant Inn, Briggsville.

The Evert family is staying at the Pheasant Inn until they can find a home to rent.

Family sizes are, for Harold Ebert, 46 slacks, 17½ shirt; Mrs. Ebert, 18 dress. Larry, 15½ long sleeve shirt; Mrs. Darlene Mohr, a daughter who was staying with the family, 16 dress. Mrs. Mohr's son, Jeff, 7, lost his toys, but Mrs. Mohr managed to save his clothes.

The family also is looking for a bed, mattress and stove.

FRUGAL VOTER

COLUMBUS (UPI)—The Ohio Education Association says this election was "the most disastrous in Ohio school history."

The OEA said only 68 of 243 proposals for new tax levies were passed and only 14 or 61 school bond issues were passed in Ohio.

Pre-shooting story told

FRESNO, Calif. (UPI) — Louise Thoresen, on trial for killing her husband with a pistol from his own bags weapons collection, described him Monday as an insane monster who hired a man to murder his brother, then killed the triggerman with a hammer and pistol.

The attractive widow of William E. Thoresen III said she shot him in self-defense after he made her write six "suicide" notes, tried to force her to take a lethal dose of pills, beat and sexually abused her.

Mrs. Thoresen was to be cross-examined today by the prosecution.

Thoresen, 32, the mysterious California gun czar who spent much of his inheritance amassing a huge collection of weapons and explosives, was shot five times in the back while lying nude in his bed June 10.

Self Defense Claimed

His widow said she picked up a .38 caliber pistol from the dresser top and shot her husband in self-defense after he said, "I know you'll try to leave now and I can't have that ... You know about my brother ... I really can't let you out of this house."

After he said that, Mrs. Thoresen testified, her husband started to roll over in the bed in her direction.

"I knew once he hit the floor he would come after me," she said.

"I reached for that gun and I fired it until I couldn't fire it any more. Then I ran from the house. I ran to the McDermotts because I wanted him to be alive."

Mrs. Thoresen testified that her husband, son of a wealthy Chicago steel magnate, told her just hours before his own death about arranging the murder of his brother Richard.

Victim Tells of Slayings

The defendant testified Thoresen told her he hired Dale Stoddard of San Jose, Calif., to kill Richard and later fatally beat and shot Stoddard in Thoresen's San Francisco home. Stoddard disappeared in 1966.

"He said Dale came to our place to ask for more money and then he beat Stoddard with a hammer," Mrs. Thoresen testified. She said Thoresen told her he used a gun "to put him out of his misery."

Mrs. Thoresen — who said her husband beat her frequently, sometimes using boxing gloves or a riding crop — testified that on the morning before his death he beat her with the flat side of a long-bladed knife and "began to lunge at my private parts" with the blade.

She said shortly before she shot Thoresen he forced her to perform oral sex. Prosecution witnesses earlier testified Thoresen was under the combined influence of LSD and barbiturates at the time.

Invalid license costs $20

Paul R. Hardesty, Poynette, was fined $20 and costs by Columbia County Judge James M. Daley on a Columbia County Patrol complaint of driving without a valid license in proceedings yesterday.

Pleading no contest to a charge of failure to have his vehicle under control, Steven Krakow, Fall River, was fined $40 and costs.

Maurice D. Kuhn, Cambria, was granted a 30-day stay of sentence on a fine of $30 and costs or seven days for night speeding.

On a similar charge, Roy L. Wolfgram, Poynette, drew a fine of $60 or 30 days and had his drivers license suspended for 15 days.

Charged with inattentive driving and driving without a license, Howard L. Schutz, Merrimac, drew fines of $25 and $20 and costs, or 11 days. Judge Daley granted a 15 fay stay of sentence.

Forfeitures on county complaints included Gary A. Schwandt, Markesan, inattentive driving, $32; Gerald L. Lynch, Portage, inattentive driving, $32; Lester A. Jacobson, Rio, failure to yield from stop sign, $37; Joan M. Hunter, Montello, speeding, $32; John R. Curtis, Portage, speeding, $27; Steven Staudenmayer, Portage, non-registration, $17.

A Portage juvenile, pleading guilty to a Portage police complaint of unsafe backing, was ordered to traffic school. Thomas A. Kurtz, Poynette, forfeited $37 on a speeding charge.

Forfeitures on state patrol complaints included William H. Barron Sr., Montello, projecting load, $19; Bruno Figueroa, Endeavor, no valid license, $29; Lloyd G. Fisk, Lodi, no stop lamp on trailer, $19; Joseph S. Mayfield, Lodi, speeding, $39, and operating over center line, $30; Ruth E. Roe, Endeavor, unlawful U-turn, $29.

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Individual wins fight over charge account

MADISON (UPI) — Some may view David F. Horner in the role of David slaying Goliath, but he thinks of his battle more a matter of principle than merely toppling a giant.

It all started when Horner, a Madison insurance agent, stopped paying on his Sears, Roebuck and Co. revolving charge account and sued to get back all the money he had paid under an illegal 18 per cent a year interest rate.

Last week Horner was victorious — if not financially, then at least on the matter of principle.

He received a check from Sears for $886.28 in what was probably the first such successful action on usurious charge accounts by an individual citizen.

"I was able to prove that the little person can obtain a remedy under the law if he's willing to take the time and expense and, believe me, it takes a lot of both," Horner said.

Horner, 38, started his action in Dane County small claims court last December, a few weeks after a circuit court ruling that the J.C. Penney Co. was violating state law by charging 1½ per cent a month—18 per cent a year—on its revolving charge accounts, the same rate charged by Sears.

Last month, the Wisconsin Supreme Court upheld that decision and ordered Penney's to stop charging illegal interest.

Penney's, Sears and other retail firms quickly dropped their interest rates to 12 per cent.

The high court ruling set the stage for legal action by individual customers to get back the money they paid under the illegal rates—the purchase price of products they bought as well as the interest.

Horner said actions were being filed by Milwaukee area citizens against Penney's and Sears and he knew of five such actions here.

But while he won his case, he still ended up in the red.

The $886.28 check he got from Sears won't be enough to cover his legal expenses. He didn't say how much there were.

"It is expensive," he said. "You're not going to make any money doing it. It was just based on my belief and my conviction — I just felt it was wrong."

"Completely Irritated"

Horner said there probably are many other persons who could get back money they have paid under the illegal interest rates, but each day that passes will reduce the amount. He said the statute of limitations in such actions is two years.

"Probably the simplist and least expensive method would be a class action," he said. "A bunch of people joining together in a lawsuit."

Horner, who said he was "completely irritated" after listening to his clients' accounts of how charge accounts kept them in debt, refused last year to pay any more on his charge account, which had a $276.34 balance.

The charges on that account included items such as a pair of shoes, a lawn edger, a slide projector and two radios and Horner got back the purchase prices in his settlement, plus the interest he was charged.

He said Sears took no action so he decided to go to court himself and sue Sears for the $370 in interest and principal he had paid. He said the reason Sears didn't take him to court was because merchants, aware of a state challenge of the 18 per cent interest rates, were "afraid of adverse publicity."

Horner said merchants would try usually to settle out of court, forgiving the debts and letting the customer keep the merchandise, to avoid any publicity that might spark lawsuits over the interest rate.

Horner said Sears tried to delay his case on procedural moves while the Penney case was pending.

Last Friday, a month after the high court's J.C. Penney ruling, Horner's case was settled.

Alternative to violence

The shape of nonlethal weapons

By FRANK MACOMBER
By COPLEY NEWS SERVICE
Second of Two

Many Americans have had enough of campus dissidence, political rioting and bombing. But most aren't quite ready to see police start using electric cattle prods to subdue even the revolutionaries.

This is the view of most police officials and the international Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.

Consequently, many police departments are plugging instead for more humane, non-lethal yet effective weapons to control rioters and other criminals who thrive on violence.

These are suggested as possible successors or back-ups to Mace and the other disabling agents used by police today. They are described by police riot control experts in terms which make them sound like something Dick Tracy and Buck Rogers might have teamed up to conceive. Most of them still are a long way down the road.

Already available, however, but used sparingly so far in this country, is the "knee knocker," a canister filled with wooden dowels and fired by a police riot gun.

The bullet-shaped dowels are fired into the street in front of a crowd. They bounce up and hit rioters in the knees or the lower part of the body. They can be extremely painful and disabling but would be lethal only if fired improperly.

Police in Hong Kong used the "knee knocker" first to put down rioting and found it highly successful when combined with other mob control agents.

In this country Berkley, Calif., police employed the "knee knocker" for the first time last July 4 when more than 500 rioters gathered around an auto agency office, shattered windows and attempted to start fires.

Three blasts from the "knee knocker" broke up the mob at a time when Berkeley police could rush only 16 officers to the riot scene.

"The 'knee knocker' saved the day for us," recalls Berkeley police press officer Richard Bergen. "It was most successful in that situation. It really got that crowd's attention."

A down-the-road weapon, in the view of Assistant San Diego Police Chief Robert Jauregui, is a liquid but quick-drying plastic which would be sprayed on a suspect violently resisting arrest.

"It would dry and harden almost as soon as it hit the suspect's arm, shoulders or legs," explains Jauregui, a riot control expert. He and his boss, Police Chief O.J. Rood, have nicknamed the process, appropriately, "instant net," a sort of plastic straitjacket.

"It would be like throwing a rope over the suspect and pinning his arms or legs," Jauregui said in an interview. "'Instant net' would in no way physically harm the suspect, only incapacitate him so he could not harm others as he was taken into custody."

If especially would be valuable to quiet people whose violence is induced by mental inbalance, he points out.

"Most police departments," Jauregui says, "are looking for tools they can use without hurting people. We're not out to injure or punish suspects, just to arrest them. We have no business shooting except to defend ourselves."

Another possibility, Jauregui adds, is a plastic bullet which would knock suspects down and stun them without serious injury.

A valuable police tool, in the opinion of most Law enforcement experts, would be an electronic remote control device, based on the principle of radar or laser, to cut off the ignition of speeding autos being chased by police.

Electronics experts, Jauregui says, have indicated they could develop such a device for installation in police cars.

"High-speed chases are always dangerous," he said, "Innocent people often get hurt during these incidents. The means don't always justify the end. A device to halt fleeing cars by switching off the ignition indeed would be a priceless tool for law enforcement everywhere."

Unfortunately, no serious research is being conducted in these various fields, though some chemical and electronic firms have made their own private studies.

"We need to get the American public to thinking about these possible new weapons and tools for better control of riots and improve law enforcement," Jauregui said. To a great extent he reflects the position of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.

Some advanced riot control weapons are on the market but only a few police departments have begun to use them. Still in most common use are Mace, the irritant tear gasses CS and CN, a pepper fogger and a squealer. The pepper fogger pumps tear gas into a room. The squealer emits a high-pitched screech to drown out public speakers seeking to whip up the emotions of a crowd police have declared has assembled unlawfully. It can be used also as a public address system.

The next move, if a new generation of riot control weapons is to be developed, is a flow of federal, state or local dollars to finance additional research.

Some states and communities are paying for police training in the use of existing riot control weapons. In California, all police officers must take an eight-hour course in the use of non-lethal chemical weapons by next Jan. 1 under state Tear Gas Act of 1969.

As for the financing of new riot control weapons, it appears to be a role only the federal government may accept, on any large scale. Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., has introduced amendments to the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act that would authorize $5 million to speed research and testing of new non-lethal police weapons and protective equipment.

Recently the President's Commission on Campus Unrest urged in its report that the government "actively continue its research to develop non-lethal control devices for use in campus and civil disorders."

Cranston says that after the preelection day congressional recess he will ask for a supplemental appropriation so the $5 million may be spent on research before the end of the current fiscal year next June 30.

"By this time next year," the senator predicts, "industry should be able to have fully tested riot control equipment and provided Congress with a list of specifications on how it can be improved and what new devices need to be developed."

The Defense Department's Land Warfare Laboratory has completed a $200,000 year-long study in this field, its report and recommendations have been submitted to the Law Enforcement Assistant Administration (LEAA), a Justice Department agency. They have not been made public.

Cranston says he sought the $5 million for riot control weapons research on the basis of estimates by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, private contractors who conducted the studies for the Land Warfare Laboratory, Pentagon officials and the LEAA. The LEAA has earmarked $150,000 toward the research project.

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