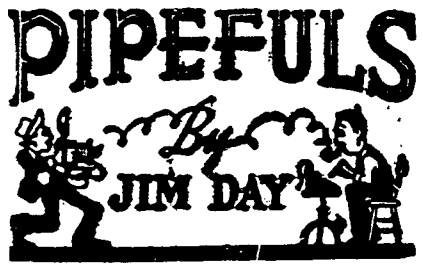


Fellows Trustees Order Quiz of Students



If you want to find out how highway engineers "get that way," according to clever Georgie Starbuck Galbraith, read her witty and ironic verses in "Quips and Quotes," in last Saturday's issue of The Californian's Family Weekly."

Miss Galbraith, who writes her inimitable verse for millions to read in national magazines, lives here in Bakersfield.

Her current offering in the aforementioned magazine traces the career of Ardmore Blintz from a pretzel bender to a state highway engineer—all in fun, of course.

New Officers

Congratulations to Richard Poe and Richard Wilson who have just been made members of the active reserves of the Bakersfield Police Department. These two young men have completed extensive training courses and have served a probationary period with excellent records.

Investigating Officer

Sgt. Charles Kidder is the chief investigating officer for the police reserves. He is also one of the most active officers in the organization and serves as head of the entertainment committee for the reserves and assistant rangemaster.

The rangemaster for the reserve officers, who are well trained with handguns, is Sgt. H. L. Borgwardt, descendant of a famous local sheriff here.

For Communications

A critical duty of the service is under the charge of Sgt. Tom Cook, the communications officer.

I'd like to mention too, that last month the police reserves here furnished the city 1,490 hours of work in the interest of safety and law enforcement—free of charge.

I suspect that an enclosure starting out in this fashion: "Although by typewriter is an old model, it works quitx wld xxcept for onx of thx kxyx. I havx wishxd many tixmx that it workxd pxfictly . . . is from none other than that famous X balloonist who ascxndxd thx wrong xnd up, none other than Chesty Chesmore.

Patrol Emergency

In the United Kingdom they have an emergency number that will get any one in touch with the police establishing almost instant communication. Most Britshers know the number.

Recently the California Highway Patrol has announced a number, easy to remember, ZENith 1-2000, which will put any one in communication with the highway patrol office.

Highway patrol officers caution, however that this is an emergency number and should not be used for routine calls to the patrol. The number is reserved for reporting accidents and other roadway emergencies—just ask the operator for ZENith 1-2000.

Man Suffers Serious Burns in Trailer Blast

Bert Hail, 69, is reported in serious condition at Kern General Hospital from burns suffered Saturday night in a gas explosion at his trailer house at 2336 Berkeley St.

County firemen responding to the 10 p.m. alarm said a faulty valve on the two-burner stove apparently allowed gas to accumulate in the trailer house. They said Hail, who lives alone, got out of bed and was attempting to light one of the burners when the explosion occurred.

Investigators said the gas valve, when in an "off" position, remained partially open and allowed a seepage of gas.

A neighbor heard the explosion and saw a flash of fire. She notified the fire department.

Hospital attendants said the victim suffered third degree burns on the face and head and lesser burns on the hands and arms.



The sheriff's search and rescue detail is shown at the scene of an air crash that snuffed out the lives of four Murphys men of Feb. 25. The wreckage, containing the bodies of

the two physicians, a therapist and a businessman, was found Sunday afternoon in a heavily-wooded slope on Bear Mountain, six miles south of Highway 466,

Lost Plane Wreck Found

Discovery of a crashed plane containing the bodies of two doctors, a physical therapist and a Murphys businessman, has ended the mystery of a flight that began in Calexico, Feb. 25.

Federal investigators arrived in Bakersfield this morning to be taken to the scene of Bear Mountain, 25 miles east of Bakersfield. The missing white and blue Beechcraft Bonanza was found on a hillside, 400 yards from a dirt road and six miles south of Highway 466.

Bodies Recovered

Found dead in the four-passenger plane were the pilot, Dr. John L. Pelgen, 37; and his passengers, Dr. Duane D. Deakins, 39; Albert Moreno, 29; and James McLaggen Mitchell, 38.

Dr. Pelgen had earned the nickname of the "Flying Doc-

tor" for his many flights into lumber camps and other remote areas to treat patients.

At 5 p.m. Feb. 25 Dr. Pelgen radioed he was over Palmdale and flying at 12,500 feet, the Kern County Sheriff's Office reported. His next checkpoint was Meadows Field but no further radio message was heard. Days of searching from the air proved fruitless.

At 3:30 p.m. Sunday Clarence Harsta of the Bear Mountain Ranch was burning brush around a house he occupies at various times of the year. He was dragging brush over the crest of a hill when he spotted the plane in a heavily-wooded area at about 5,000 feet elevation.

Harsta investigated, found the bodies and reported the discovery to Capt. Jack White of the

Keene Fire Station. White notified the sheriff's search and rescue detail.

The detail consisted of Capt. Al Loustalot, Lt. Gene Young, Sgt. Don Hodges, Deputies Ken Terry and Bob Voorhees, identification bureau technician Ed Myers, Deputy Coroner Ross Jones and seven members of the Plute Search and Rescue Unit.

Hidden From Air

Jones reported the plane sheared off branches of trees on the forward slope of the mountain, indicating it had nosed almost straight down. Because of the trees and brush the wreckage could not be seen from the air.

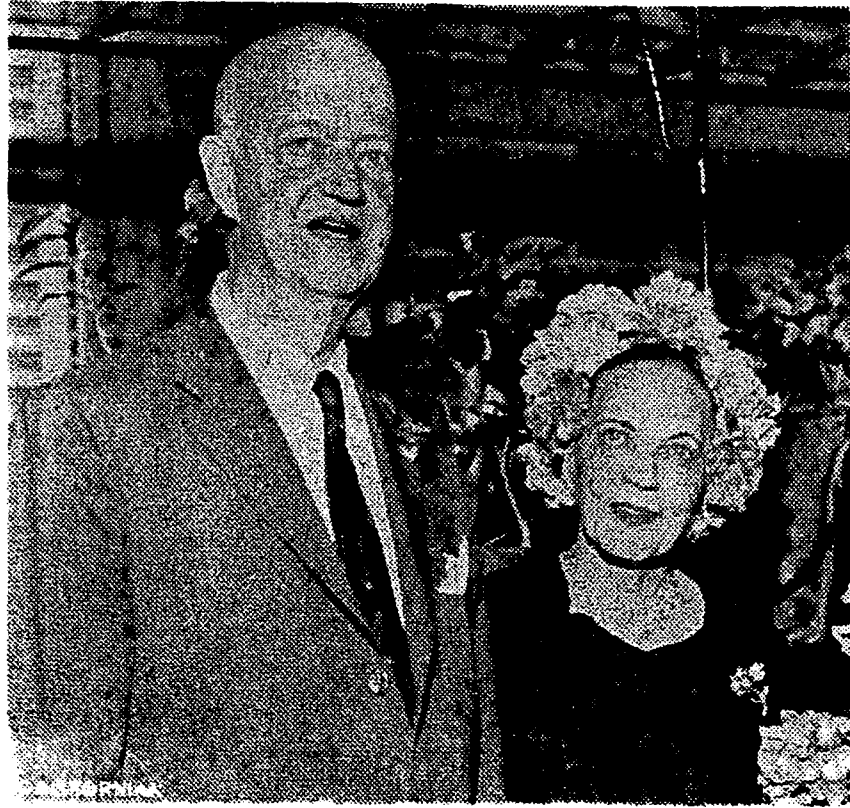
Rescue sleds were used to bring the four bodies to the dirt road from which point they were taken by ambulance to

the H. R. Borgsdorf Mortuary in Arvin. Coroner Stanley A. Newman notified authorities at Bret Harte Hospital at Murphys where three of the victims were employed. Relatives of Mitchell, a Murphys businessman, were also notified. A coroner's hearing is pending.

Federal Officials

At 9 a.m. today Robert Shaw of Inglewood, representing the Civil Aeronautics Board, and Robert Asbury of Fresno, general safety investigator for the Federal Aviation Agency, met at Meadows Field and were driven to the scene of the crash by Sheriff's Sgt. Hodges and Senior Dep. Don Giggy.

The four victims had been in Mexico on a hunting trip and were returning to Murphys by way of Calexico when the tragedy occurred.



Mr. and Mrs. Reg Ragland of Los Angeles show camellias which won sweepstakes prize in the 1962 Kern County Camellia Show. Story on next page.

Father of Eight Killed, 4 Hurt in Desert Crash

MOJAVE — Alvin Johnson, 41, father of eight children, was killed this morning and four other persons were seriously injured in a near-head-on collision on Highway 466, six miles west of Mojave.

In serious condition at Tehachapi Community Hospital are Owen Cardner, 42, and Robert Lopez, 40, both of Mojave.

In serious condition at Edwards Air Force Base hospital are two U.S. Navy enlisted men from China Lake, Billie David Mooney and Richard Putnam. Putnam suffered internal in-

see CRASH—page 18

Board Holds Conference in Secrecy

Californian News Service

FELLOWS — Boys of the fifth and sixth grades at Midway School this morning were to be given a "selected list" of questions about teacher Earl Kesner and his methods of discipline.

Superintendent-Principal Frank Wilby said school trustees this morning handed him the list and told him to put the questions to the boys.

He is not to "deviate in any way" from the questions but is to give them exactly as they are written, he said.

The boys are to be ordered to sign their written answers to the questions and their signatures are to be verified by Vice Principal Fletcher Cline, Wilby said.

The three-man board of trustees met Sunday night in another secret session to develop the question list.

Superintendent Not Informed of Meeting

Trustees Malcolm Johnson and John Tooker met at the Derby Acres home of Joe Moore, The Bakersfield Californian was informed. Superintendent Wilby was not informed of the meeting and whether Vice Principal Cline was there or not could not be learned this morning.

Superintendent Wilby did not divulge the questions he was instructed to ask the boys nor did he say which boys were to be queried. He said only that "a selected list" of boys was to be asked the "selected list" of questions and that he was instructed not to deviate from the list in any way.

Superintendent Wilby said he was "warned" by Vice Principal Cline not to give any more statements for publications. Wilby said Cline told him the board of trustees would make all statements hereafter.

Parents Contact Attorney in Bakersfield

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Tufte, parents of one of the boys Kesner is charged with punishing cruelly with his so-called "swat line," were attempting this morning to get in touch with their Bakersfield attorney, Thomas Underhill. They retained Underhill to represent them after the board said it would hold a secret session last Friday night to "consider the charges made by Mr. and Mrs. Tufte and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ciaramitaro whose son also had to go through the "swat line," even though suffering from a bone disease.

Friday night Underhill told the trustees they had no right to hold a closed hearing in a matter that "affects the welfare of all school children everywhere."

After about 45 minutes delay the board decided not to hold the meeting at all and the members went their separate ways.

Gargano Rules Board Within Rights

County Counsel Roy Gargano this morning said the board of trustees was legally entitled to hold secret meetings in a matter such as this.

"Attorney General Mosk ruled in 1959 that school boards have a perfect right and even duty to hold their investigations into matters like this in private and there is no obligation on their part to notify anybody they are having such a meeting," Gargano said.

"Our advice to this board at Fellows and to all school boards must be the same. They are within their rights."

"However, we will also advise the Fellows board that due to the widespread interest, the widespread ramifications of this type of case, that they hold a public meeting when their investigation is over and announce their findings and submit themselves to questioning by the general public and the parents and teachers concerned."

Parents Charge Cruel, Unusual Punishment

The controversy boiled over last Tuesday night when Mrs. Ciaramitaro and Mrs. Tufte appeared at the regular board meeting and charged that teacher Kesner had subjected their sons to "cruel and unusual punishment."

They described Kesner's methods of discipline as the "swat line" in which the victim is forced to crawl through the legs of a line of boys each of whom whacks him on the bottom as he scrambles through.

Another method, they said, is the "wet-towel circle" in which the naked victim is put in the center of a group of boys and snapped on the bare flesh with the wet end of a towel.

Still another method is the "dog pile," they said, in which the boy to be punished is made to get down on his hands and knees and other boys are told to pile on top of him.

Board Members Split on Opinions

Board members Johnson and Tooker said they thought the punishment was not excessive but board member Moore said it had happened once to his son and he thought it should be stopped.

Vice Principal Cline thought it was "more like fun" and the "boys liked to participate in it."

The board at the Tuesday meeting told the two mothers they would look into the matter at a secret meeting Friday. The Friday meeting was not held but the Sunday meeting apparently took the place of the cancelled Friday meeting.

Superintendent Wilby said Friday he had learned of Kesner's punishment methods only last week. He would express no opinion, saying the matter was in the hands of the board.

Teacher Kesner Denies Punishment Charges

Kesner has charge of the school library and physical education classes for grades four through eight. Friday afternoon he said he had "the best interests of the children at heart." He denied inflicting "cruel or unusual punishment" on children.

Kesner said the incident concerning the Tufte boy and the Ciaramitaro boy was the first time he had used the "swat line" this year.

Today's questions presumably are designed to find out just what the boys themselves think of this one particular incident and of the punishment method as a whole.

Who devised the questions was not made public.



SUPT. FRANK WILBY
... warned not to talk

Pilot, Cadet Injured in Plane Crash

Californian News Service

RIDGECREST — A 44-year-old Ridgecrest civilian pilot is unconscious in a hospital here today while his 14-year-old Civil Air Patrol cadet passenger is under treatment for a fractured leg and other injuries suffered when their plane crashed shortly after take-off at 12:40 p.m. Sunday.

Francis St. Louis, manager of the Drummond Medical Center at Ridgecrest Hospital, was one of two pilots who were taking 14 members of Squadron 84, CAP, on half-hour orientation flights when the crash occurred on a saddleback at the upper end of Indian Wells Canyon. St. Louis was pinned in the wreckage of the Ecoupe, suffering facial lacerations, concussion and possible internal injuries.

Ronald Aaron, his cadet passenger and son of Mr. and Mrs. see PILOT—page 18

Guess What? Little Men Didn't Show

By MARION DEEVER

ROSAMOND—Come out of the hills, boys, everything is under control. The little men from outer space failed to show Friday night at Rosamond, as predicted by Eli Weatherford.

Weatherford, who lives in Rosamond, had declared that he had been seeing 40 foot pillars of fire every Friday night at 9:30 at the intersection of Rosamond Boulevard and 60th Street. Voices had told him that last Friday the voices would predict future events.

About a dozen cars of curious onlookers waited patiently for any manifestations or outer space hanky-panky. Everyone was very cooperative, driving up quietly, turning out their car lights so as not to alarm any spacemen.

No Flames

But the only noise was the humming of power lines overhead, and the only illumination was a faint red light emanating from the Southern California Edison's Rosamond substation at the intersection.

At 9:45, everyone left, and if any space craft landed later, no one was there to answer to, "Take me to your leader."

If Weatherford was present, he didn't tell anyone.

Maybe it was a similar case, which Lt. W. D. Patton, in charge of the Mojave substation, California Highway Patrol, reported. Several years ago, he was assisting controlling traffic near Twenty Nine Palms, where a convention of flying saucer enthusiasts was gathered.

Blames Officer

Suddenly, one of the "believers" rushed up to the lieutenant, shouting, "It's all your fault, it's all your fault." When Lt. Patton asked what was his fault, he was told that the flying saucermen refused to land when they saw the officers, as they were sure they would be issued a citation if they did.

Perhaps the little men Friday at Rosamond believed the crowd might notify the officers, and they would end up in the pokey.



Dr. Cecil H. Eschelman of Sherman Oaks is winner of Kern County Camellia Show's best blossom over 4 1/2 inches.



George Priest, Bakersfield school teacher, displays camellia rated as best blossom under 4 1/2 inches.