

THE LINCOLN STAR

LINCOLN, NEB. TUESDAY MORNING, DEC. 20, 1983 28 PAGES © 1983 JOURNAL-STAR PTG. CO. DELIVERED DAILY 17¢, AT NEWS STANDS 25¢

GIs complain uniform too hot

Army plans to buy more anyway

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army is going ahead with the purchase of more than \$400 million worth of new camouflage battle-dress uniforms despite widespread complaints, particularly from the Grenada invasion force, that the garments are too hot and heavy.

The Army said Monday that because of the objections, a logistics task force has developed plans for a light-weight version of the battle dress to be tested in the field next year. Army officials said the lighter uniform could be used as a supplement, for use in warmer climates.

Army officials acknowledged they had received complaints about the new battle dress from some of the troops sent to tropical Grenada in October. But the Army said that the heat problem was under study by its logistics command even before the Grenada invasion.

Although the Army made no mention of it in official replies to questions, it is known that a survey of units in the United States earlier this year produced bad reports from soldiers who had been wearing the battle dress, first introduced two years ago.

A message circulated to major Army commands last month disclosed that "responses from the field were universally unfavorable."

"The most significant problems identified were poor appearance and heat stress," said the message, based on reports made in August. "The field overwhelmingly recommended that a lighter year-round weight garment be adopted."

"The uniform does not 'breathe' and retains heat," the message said.

"When wet, it takes an extremely long time to dry. These are not optimum characteristics for a field uniform where strenuous physical activities are required," it said.

As for appearance, the report said the battle dress received "very low acceptance from the troops because of its 'sloppy appearance'."

The new uniforms, in a four-color "woodland pattern," are made from a 360-nylon and cotton blend, the Army has said.

So far, the Army has bought 6.4 million sets of the new camouflage battle dress at a total cost of nearly \$50 million.

The objective is to outfit all of the more than 770,000 regular Army soldiers and 670,000 national guardmen and reservists with at least four sets of uniforms.

Under current plans, which Army officials said will be carried out, it plans to buy 13.4 million sets for about \$40 million, including some for the Marines.

Army officials provided no explanation Monday on why they were proceeding with the purchases in the face of such opposition to the new garments.



New Cornhusker Hotel opens its doors today
Manager David Green welcomes the public to the lobby of the new Cornhusker Hotel as it opens Tuesday. The staff worked hard to finish up last minute details Monday. As for bookings, well, Jeanne Harms, convention sales manager, said they were having a hard time keeping up. Last week she booked 1,300,000 worth of business in 10 minutes. See stories, Page 19.

If you're gonna pop the question, pop it good and loud



If that didn't say it all for Cortland farmer Steve Sestoff, Connie Buckles' answer certainly did.

By Mary Kay Roth
The Lincoln Star

His proposal wasn't exactly heart-warming, but Steve Sestoff sure knows how to pop the question in a big way.

He spent all day Monday outdoors in sub-zero degree temperatures, painstakingly planning "Will you marry me?" to the side of his family's 36-by-46-foot barn.

But the cold doesn't matter anymore, because he's got his love to keep him warm.

His girl said yes.

(And that's a good thing, too. Sestoff was ready with black letters that spelled out, V-E-S, but had no letters for N-O.)

"When a person has a drive to do something, it just doesn't matter," the young Cortland man said. "When you care about someone so much, well, it's outdoors even if there was a blizzard."

The 25-year-old man started his project at 7:30 a.m. Monday, when it was still about 15 degrees below zero, working on the south side of the barn just south of Cortland on Highway 77. He

wore insulated coveralls and kept climbing up and down the ladder to keep warm.

"Yeah, it was really cold out there, especially when the sun was under," the prospective groom admitted. "My mistake from I suppose most people wondered why I would ever do something like that in cold weather."

"But when I get something in my mind, I do it. I knew I wanted to do something special for her, something out of the ordinary."

And Connie Buckles agreed.

"He drove the car down the highway, turned around and drove back so I could see it," the Lincoln housewife said. "I'm excited and real happy."

And, she added, there was no question in her mind about saying yes to holy matrimony.

"I just told her to come over today, that I had a message," Sestoff said. "I knew she'd be embarrassed if I told her why. She's kind of shy."

He has been planning his endeavor for some time now, measuring and plotting how the 4-foot-high letters would fit

on the barn.

Much of the past month he's spent down in the basement, cutting out letters and making sure they were just the right size. The letters were made out of black roofing paper, so they were weather-proof, and hung from wire he had strung along the side of the barn.

"But they're still a bit fragile," he added. "It's a good thing there weren't heavy winds."

He said the two have been dating for almost a year now and had talked a little about marriage but never sealed the agreement.

"This is a formal announcement," Sestoff explained. "This is a way to get the message out. There are a lot of people who travel along Highway 77."

However, after Monday's impromptu proposal, he and his future wife have had enough of cold weather.

They believe in short engagements and already have set the date. They'll be the knot in June, right smack dab in the middle of a nice, warm summer.

Union ends Greyhound strike

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP) — Greyhound strikers voted 74 percent in favor of a proposed three-year contract with the nation's largest intercity bus carrier, ending a seven-week strike marred by sporadic violence, the union president said Monday.

President Harry Rosenbaum said he was asking all union members to halt strike activities and arrange for an immediate return to work.

The vote was 74M in favor of the contract and 2,296 against it, Rosenbaum said.

Earlier, Greyhound spokeswoman Leslie White had promised a return to full service on Wednesday if the pact was approved.

"If there is a favorable union vote on the contract, we will resume full service at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, by that, I mean the service will be identical with that before the strike," she said.

The tentative pact was approved Dec. 19 in Washington by the 18-member governing council of the Amalgamated Transit Union's Greyhound locals. Calling for wage cuts of 7.5 percent and a 4 percent employee contribution to the pension plan, it was described as an improvement over a company offer the membership rejected last month by a 84.4 percent "no" vote.

Greyhound resumed limited service in 27 states two weeks after the strike began, using non-striker and new hires. The service resumption was marked

Inside

He'll be waiting for them

Chile, which claims nearly 500,000 square miles of Antarctica, will colonize that frozen continent with "ordinary families," including children, next year.

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Weather

Lincoln: Cloudy, windy Tuesday with chance of light snow. High around zero. East winds at 15 to 25 mph. Cloudy, 50 percent chance of snow Tuesday night. Low 5 to 12 below. Continued chance of snow Wednesday. High zero to 5 above. (Weather digest, Page 18)

Today's Corn

The Office Wit says you don't know what makes most people tick until they begin to unravel.

Send your stories, puns and jokes about Nebraska to the Nebraska Office Wit, P.O. Box 980, Lincoln 68508. If we publish yours, we'll give you credit.

Our Numbers

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State braces for more cold

From The Associated Press

After a weekend of record-breaking low temperatures, Nebraska braces for even more sub-zero weather in the coming, bitter-cold days of winter.

"We don't want to give people any false hope," Chuck Stevens, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Grand Island, said Monday. "It's going to be severely cold the next five to 10 days."

The weather service expected low temperatures ranging from 8 below to 15 below Monday night, with highs topping out at best at 7 above Tuesday. Forecasters said there was a good chance of snow through Tuesday night, with lows from 3 below to 12 below.

Highs for Wednesday were expected to range from 3 below to 10 above.

Several Nebraska points reported record low temperatures Monday morning, among them Grand Island at 15 below. The old record of 14 below was set in 1960 and tied in 1981.

Norfolk's 18 below bettered the 1913 mark of 18 below and Omaha's 18 below smashed the 11 below record set in 1901. Lincoln also tied its record low of 18 below set in 1945.

The lowest temperature in the state Monday morning was a chilling 23 below at Broken Bow.

The stinging cold was combined with winds ranging from 5 to 30 mph, which dropped the wind chill index overnight to 45 below in Alliance, 41 below at McCook and 41 below at Imperial.

The AAA Cornhusker Motor Club received roughly one call about car problems each minute Monday morning, spokesman Steve Carlson said. Twenty-two service vehicles

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President Reagan holds press conference tonight

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan will hold his 11st formal White House news conference Tuesday evening, spokesman Larry Speakes announced Monday. The three major commercial television networks will carry it live.

The session with reporters will be held at 7 p.m. in an auditorium in the Old Executive Office Building next door to the White House. Extensive Christmas decorations in the East Room, customarily used for news conferences, made that location infeasible.

City picks annexation compromise

By Mike Butler
The Lincoln Star

The Lincoln City Council on a 4-3 vote Monday declined an opportunity to collect additional property taxes by annexing only a 3-acre peninsula northeast of the city limits, where a \$27 million alcohol plant will be built.

The action came after Planning Director Garner Shiff's recommendation to annex a 3-acre tract that he said created a more logical boundary.

But the council, which was prepared to exclude other affected property owners and not cause undue delays for the alcohol plant, decided to adopt a compromise.

Under the compromise, portions of the Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way, North Cotter Boulevard and Highway 6 have to be acquired so that annexation of the alcohol plant's 3-acre site at 88th Fitcher Ave. is somewhat.

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contiguous to the city limits, (see map, Page 2)

Fifty-acre acres lying between 88th Fitcher and the city limits — owned by the Baldwin Puma, Hope Lumber and Dobson Brothers Construction companies — were excluded.

The extra property taxes the annexation of those three businesses would have brought to the city amounted to about \$4,000 a year.

The majority voting to create the peninsula was comprised of Dick Johnson, Lou Shadashoff, Bill Hoffman and Donna Gayley.

Councilman Bill Dasher — siding with Joe Hampton and Marguerite Abich — voted against the compromise — called it "a silly way to do annexation."

Dasher and an orderly policy to annex contiguous, compact areas is one reason Lincoln hasn't experienced the sprawl of a city like Omaha.

Councilman Johnson argued that the tradeoff — at benefit of city services such as police, fire, sewer and water in the affected land area — is dubious in this case.

When the council approved the plant brought about many of the conditions by expressing fears over potential odors and whether the plant would burden the city's Northwest Sewage Treatment Plant.

Some northeast Lincolnans raised those environmental fears again last week but council members stuck to the annexation issue.

The plant, which will be one of the largest in the nation, is designed to convert grain into high-grade alcohol that would be blended with gasoline.

More council news, Page 22