



The Goodyear blimp in St. Louis

**Goodyear Blimp Leaving City After Spending Week In Area**

The VP Fair has ended, but the Goodyear blimp lingered on — until today. The blimp came to St. Louis to take part in the three-day festivities of the VP Fair, and was booked to spend a full week in the area, according to fair executive director Charles H. Wallace. It spent much of its time over the riverfront area during the three days of the fair, which ended Wednesday night. Since that time, the blimp has been used to give rides to employees and customers of Goodyear, according to Al Wasilewski, a spokesman for Goodyear. It has not been open to the public. After leaving today for a week at its home base in Houston, the blimp will go to Los Angeles for pre-Olympics activities, Wasilewski said.

**Bond Selects Company To Run Program For Aiding Disabled**

Missouri Developmental Disabilities and Advocacy Services Inc. has been selected by Gov. Christopher S. Bond to administer the state's client assistance program. The program is designed to protect the rights of disabled people. Missouri Developmental Disabilities Protection and Advocacy Services will help people get services available under the 1973 Rehabilitation Act. Both Missouri Developmental Disabilities and Advocacy Services and the Missouri Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped had wanted to administer the program. Most organizations that represent disabled people in the state had favored Missouri Developmental Disabilities and Advocacy Services. James E. Tuscher, program director for Parquad Inc., said he was pleased with Bond's choice. Parquad is a St. Louis-based organization that helps about 1,500 disabled people live independently.

**Play Area At Mark Twain Lake Closed For Grading Of Beach**

The John F. Spalding Recreation Area at the new Mark Twain Lake has been closed temporarily so that grading of the beach can be finished. Grading work began in May, but was interrupted by heavy rains and a rising lake elevation. Park Manager Dennis Foss says a steep drop-off of the beach in shallow water poses a threat to small children and non-swimmers. The Spalding beach area is the only beach that had been open to the public. The picnic facilities, playgrounds and picnic shelters will remain open for public use during the grading work. Mark Twain Lake is near Monroe City, about 100 miles northwest of St. Louis. It was formed by the Clarence Cannon Dam, which was built by the Army Corps of Engineers. This is the first year that the lake has had enough water to be used for recreation.

**Group That Flies Mercy Missions To Be Based At Airport In County**

Wings of Hope Inc., an organization that flies mercy missions throughout the world, has announced plans to build a central base at the Spirit of St. Louis Airport in Chesterfield. Joseph G. Fabick, president of Wings of Hope, said the group planned to build a 6,000-square-foot hangar with offices, shops, meeting rooms and storage areas at the airport, which is owned by the county. The group will lease a 1.4-acre site at the airport for \$5,000 a year, pending approval by the St. Louis County Council. The organization repairs and modifies airplanes to serve remote corners of the world that lack improved airstrips. Wings of Hope was founded in 1962 by a group of St. Louis area residents to provide air transportation and radio communication equipment to needy people throughout the world. The missions involve both medical rescues and disaster evacuations. The group's offices are at 2319 Hampton Avenue.

Construction of the hangar is expected to begin this summer and should be completed by the end of the year, Fabick said. County Executive Gene McNary said Friday that it was "fitting that the citizens of St. Louis County will be assisting indirectly in meeting human needs in distant parts of the world." The construction is part of a general improvement program at the airport, county officials said.

**Bettis Re-elected Head Of Board Of Blue Cross Plan**



Bettis

Zack F. Bettis, assistant vice president for labor relations of Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., has been re-elected chairman of the board of trustees of the St. Louis Blue Cross Plan. He has been a trustee and member of the executive board since 1977.

Other newly elected officers include George K. Conant, first vice chairman; Dr. James N. Heins, second vice chairman; Harold A. Brinner, secretary, and Landoh Y. Jones, chairman of the finance and auditing subcommittee. Also elected to the executive committee were M. Graham Clark, Franklin Ferriss, Robert E. Frank, Lawrence A. Langford, Norman E. McCann and Andrew C. Taylor.

**Lottery Numbers**

**Illinois Lottery Daily Game**  
Friday's winning number ..... 845

**Pick-Four game**  
Friday's winning number ..... 8440

■ The grand prize in this week's Lotto game is estimated at \$3.5 million.

st. louis/saturday

**Businesses Asked To Help Food Drives**

**By Catherine Vespereny**  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A team of volunteers from McDonnell Douglas Corp. hopes to organize businesses in this area to help collect food for the needy "every day of the year."

Luther Bellinger, director of corporate social responsibility at McDonnell, announced Friday that the volunteers would write to scores of local businessmen this month, soliciting their participation in a year-round food drive.

The inspiration for the project came from the success McDonnell has had with its own food collections during the holiday season. The company has sponsored a food drive for seven years.

Last year, Bellinger said, the results were "astronomical."

"McDonnell employees collected more than 14,000 pounds of food," he said. "We expect that total to quadruple this year."

Once the food is collected, he said, it is taken to a central location, where workers from local soup kitchens or other charitable or social service groups "can take what they need," he said. "It looks like a giant supermarket."

Recently, the Interfaith Partnership, a group of religious organizations and individuals who help the needy, asked McDonnell to share its knowledge with other businesses and encourage more such efforts.

"What we hope is that the business community will take a more active role," Bellinger said. "And it does not matter how small a company is, it can still do a food drive."

Last year, for instance, the companies within McDonnell competed with one another in collecting food, he said. When all the cans of food were counted, he said, a company that had fewer than 300 employees had collected one-fourth of the food.

The volunteers from McDonnell plan to write to members of the Regional Commerce & Growth Association and to businesses known to be sympathetic to the cause, Bellinger said.

The letters will describe how the project is conducted, answer questions and offer advice. They will ask each company to commit itself to a specific week, other than during the holiday season, for its drive.

Bellinger said the group hoped to get two or three companies committed for each week of the year.

"We always get food during the holidays. But it's needed after Christmas, too. That's when there's none."

He said the team would follow up on each company's progress during the drives.

Bellinger described the plans at an appreciation breakfast Friday that Operation Food Search Inc., a non-profit food collection and distribution agency, held to thank about 120 supporters. The breakfast was held at the University Club, 1034 South Brentwood Boulevard.

A study conducted earlier this year by Operation Food Search reported that more than 26,000 people had received donated food during a week in February. The survey also reported many cases of people who raided trash cans or stole in order to feed themselves and their families.

**Cable Owners Expect To Sign With City Soon**

**By E. S. Evans**  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The two cable television operators who are supposed to share the franchise in St. Louis say they expect to agree on final terms with city officials early next week.

Larry D. Hudson, who has been awarded the franchise for most of the city, said Friday that he expected to reach an agreement with city officials Monday. William T. Johnson, who has the other 25 percent, said he had completed negotiations and expected the agreement to be approved Monday by the non-profit corporation that was set up to distribute cable TV revenue to charitable organizations.

After meeting separately with the cable operators Friday, attorneys for the city said that substantial progress had been made with Hudson and that both agreements were close.

Hudson said stock certificates had been issued in the name of the non-profit St. Louis Philanthropic Organization Inc., as required by the city's cable franchise ordinance. But, he said, a stockholders' agreement remained to be worked out with the group.

Earlier this week, Hudson had refused to transfer 20 percent of the stock in his company, STL Cablevision Partners Inc., to the philanthropic organization. He had offered stock warrants instead, saying he needed the stock to help cover losses anticipated during the first year of cable operation.

The stockholders' agreement would specify the rights and obligations of each party in stock sales, election of directors and other matters.

"It's not required by the ordinance," Hudson said, "but we want to provide all the protection we can for both us and the city."

He and his attorneys said negotiations with representatives of the non-profit group would continue over the weekend. The group has insisted on the stock transfer.

Johnson said he had agreed earlier Friday with the corporation's attorneys on terms of transferring 20 percent of the stock in his St. Louis City Communications Inc. The written agreement cannot be submitted to the organization's executive board until its meeting Monday evening. He said he expected city officials to sign the papers Tuesday.

Earlier, Johnson had said he could have all the necessary papers signed Friday, but on Friday, he said that some had not been completed by banks or other agencies.

The negotiations have concerned compliance with financing, bonding, insurance and other conditions required of the franchise operators by the ordinance. The franchises cannot be formally granted until compliance has been certified by City Counselor James Wilson.



Odell Mitchell Jr./Post-Dispatch

**Accident Aftermath**

A fireman talks to Bill Goestenkers, left, of Glen Carbon, Ill., while a paramedic checks Steven Duft of Highland, Ill., following a traffic accident Friday evening downtown. The two were passengers in the pickup truck lying on its side in the background. The truck, driven by Duft's father, Gerald R., collided with another truck at Market Street and Memorial Drive. The elder Duft was not hurt.

**Religious, Charity Groups Sell Fine Arts Theater**

**By Pamela Schaeffer**  
Post-Dispatch Religion Writer

A seven-year connection between 10 religious and charitable organizations and the Fine Arts Theater in University City, which at one time featured X-rated films, ended Friday with the sale of theater building to Realtor Mark Coffman.

In a related transaction, the religious groups also disposed of the Airway Twin Drive-In Theatre in St. Ann Friday in a sale to the Charles F. Vatterott and Co., Inc., a construction firm at 10449 St. Charles Rock Road in St. Ann.

Coffman and Gregory B. Vatterott, president of the construction firm, began negotiating several months ago to buy the

theaters. The Post-Dispatch disclosed in January that the theaters were owned by the religious groups. The properties had been willed to the groups, whose leaders acknowledged that they were embarrassed by the holdings.

Coffman owns two firms, Realty Exchange and Apartment Exchange, at 2016 Big Bend Boulevard in Richmond Heights. He said he had begun negotiating to buy the Fine Arts after the disclosure, primarily because he had hoped to get a good deal from the groups trying to unload the property.

"The price was attractive," he said. "It was strictly a business deal."

But Vatterott said Friday that his interest in the Airway drive-in had been motivated in

part by a desire to relieve the plight of the religious and charitable groups, which include the St. Louis Archdiocese.

Although the Airway does not specialize in X-rated films, the drive-in is deteriorating and it sometimes shows X-rated material.

Neither buyer would divulge the selling price of the theaters.

The Vatterott family has been a generous contributor to Catholic charities.

"We have had a very fortuitous year, and we felt we might as well invest our funds this way and help to resolve a nagging problem for the charities," Vatterott said.

From the mid-1970s until a few weeks ago, the Fine Arts Theater had shown X-rated films almost exclusively. But in May, the

theater lease was bought by RKO Warner Theatres Inc. of New York. The new operator has been showing foreign films at the theater. The former operator was Mid-America Theatres chain.

Besides the archdiocese, the groups that owned the theaters included several orders of Catholic nuns, the Missouri Baptist Children's Home and institutions operated by the United Church of Christ. All are vigorous opponents of pornography.

Negotiations on the theaters have been in progress for several months.

The religious groups inherited the theater buildings from the estate of Henry J. Holloway, a theater operator who died in 1974, and his wife, Adele, who died in 1977.

**Petition To Recall Koch Fails To Get Certification**

The St. Louis Election Board failed to certify a recall petition Friday filed by Shaw Neighborhood residents against Alderman John Koch, D-8th Ward.

But the matter is not closed. Later Friday, the group filed more recall petitions containing about 350 signatures.

Election Board Chairman Jerry Wamser said the commission would probably meet again next week to rule on whether the recall petition itself is valid.

At a hearing Friday, Koch's attorney, Thomas A. Connelly, argued that the group had improperly witnessed the signatures on at least two of the petition forms. Those forms had been left at store counters. Election Board rules require that the petitioning group witness each signature.

Connelly, who preceded Koch as 8th Ward Alderman, also claimed the group had failed to follow campaign finance disclosure laws.

The commission tied 1-1 on a motion by Wamser to certify the petition. Commissioner Jeane Green voted against certification. Commissioners Curtis C. Crawford and Rita Krapp abstained.

Election commission staff verified 1,215 signatures from about 1,800 signatures submitted by the Shaw group on June 25. The group needed 1,210 signatures.

**Harmony Reigns Downtown Amid 3,000 Voices**

Getting a few thousand voices to harmonize without benefit of a rehearsal is no small feat.

But obstacles such as that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the more than 3,000 barbershop quartet singers who made Kiener Plaza downtown reverberate in four-part harmony Friday.

The singers were members of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America Inc. That's SPEBSQSA for short. About 10,000 members and their families are meeting here at the Clarion Hotel and Kiel Auditorium for the organization's 46th annual convention.

From a "cherry picker" hoisted about 20 feet above the throng of singers, Joe Liles, director of music and education services for the organization, led the group in such old favorites as "Wait 'Til the Sun Shines, Nellie," "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and, appropriately, two renditions of "Meet Me in St. Louis."

Liles said the mass sing is a regular feature of the annual meeting. And even

though there is no prior practice session, he said, the members know the tunes to be sung in advance.

"We have a list of about 13 songs that the members are supposed to practice back in their chapters," Liles said. "We call them 'polecat' or 'barber pole' songs."

Liles said the organization has about 40,000 members in about 800 chapters in the United States and Canada, with affiliated groups in Great Britain, Sweden and New Zealand.

Barbershop singing was popular in the late 1890s to about the 1930s, Liles said. It almost died out, he said, with the advent of more complex harmonies by songwriters such as Cole Porter and Jerome Kern.

"This is the kind of music people can learn by ear," Liles said. "The kind you whistle along to. Men used to sing it in barbershops. Not a lot of it is being written today and, of course, you know there isn't a lot of singing in barbershops anymore."

While the tonsorial connections may only be historical, a lot of members keep

alive the tradition with well-groomed beards and mustaches.

Sporting a waxed, handlebar mustache, Sonny Whittaker of the Houston chapter, said he loves the singing so much "it gets in the way of work."

Two Brits attending the convention say barbershop quartet singing is thriving in England.

Gary Evans, of Reading, England, became interested a few years ago and sings with a group in a Reading pub. "It's a lot of fun with good blokes and one night away from the wife," he quipped.

At last year's meeting, Evans and Roger Wilkinson, also of Reading, became stuck in an elevator on the 47th floor of a Seattle hotel. In the elevator were two other SPEBSQSA members. A quartet was born.

All you need is the four parts: "lead, bass, baritone and tenor," Wilkinson said. "I think we spent an hour with those blokes singing every tune we knew before the elevator was fixed. I don't think we ever got their names."