



**NATURE GIRL**

If tree climbing is your sport you can enjoy it all winter at Corpus Christi on the Texas Tropical Coast. Karen White sits astride a tree on the Nueces River to demonstrate. (AP Wirephoto)

## Aggie Grad Abroad Says Home Best

Bryan's Bob Bell, fresh from a three-month tour of Europe, supports the old adage that there's no place like home.

"One of the greatest things I learned in Europe," Bell explained, "was a deeper appreciation of the United States. Here we accept things as ordinary which are luxuries in Europe. It's hard to compare the two ways of life."

Bell, a summer school history Texas A&M graduate, worked 10 weeks as a cost engineer for the Lumas Company in Madrid, Spain, constructing a \$20 million refinery.

Later, he made a whirlwind tour of 18 major European cities, including Paris, London, Rome, Nice, Vienna and Barcelona. His observations about the trip are colorful and wry.

"In Rome, I saw a small child being unruly. His mother brought him under control by spanking him with a large loaf of hard bread.

"Paris would be a beautiful city without the Parisians. The only thing that exceeds a Parisian's nationalism is his uncooperativeness.

"After living in Spain and visiting in Italy and Scotland, I speak Spanish with an Italian accent and a Scottish brogue. As a result, only a broken Univac can

understand me. "In London, the boys wear their hair shoulder length. The girls wear theirs cropped close, I had to be careful who I asked to dance at parties.

"The Spanish people are so courteous, helpful and friendly they make Boy Scouts look like Simon Legree. If you ask a Spaniard where something is, he will take you there personally if he has time.

"The Blue Danube River in Vienna was my biggest disappointment. I had heard about it all my life. It's green, not blue. "I got so used to holding my fork left-handed when eating that I continued to do it at home. My mother looked at me like I had overturned the coffee pot."

Bell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Bell of Houston. He is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin High School in Bryan, and San Marcos Academy.

The 22-year-old former A&M distinguished student was amused about an incident during his 15,000 mile journey.

"Two girls gave me an umbrella before I left Spain by train," he said. "I carried the umbrella all over Europe and it never rained. Ironically, it was pouring rain when my plane landed in Houston."

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# Modern Technology Fails Miserably

By SAUL PETT

NEW YORK (AP) — One fouled up switch. Or a single failure in a wire connection. Or indigestion in a foolproof computer. Or any one of a hundred tiny things gone wrong.

And upward of 30 million people in seven highly developed American states are thrown into black confusion in the year 1965 when men orbit the earth and their spacecraft explore the moon.

Rarely has modern man appeared so vulnerable to his own technical achievements. Rarely has modern society appeared so knotted by its own inter-related complexities.

The thing they told us couldn't happen happened Tuesday night and all the giants of automation and all the electronic brains of the computers were helpless to stop the power failure that spread through the Northeast.

In great and small ways men were stopped, imprisoned, slowed, confused, frightened, exhausted and defeated by machines that failed. A man in a car did better than a man in a big modern jet which circled New York, unable to land. A man on foot got farther than a man in a modern commuter train, which got nowhere.

A single candle in a single window 80 stories up in the Em-

pire State Building supplied more light than the billion-dollar Consolidated Edison Co. could.

One log in one fireplace supplied more heat than all the slick, push-button heating systems could provide in thousands of apartment buildings and private homes dependent on electricity. Many dwellings went without water as pumps failed.

On the ground, below the ground, above the ground men were trapped and stranded by the break in the electrical umbilical cord.

Upward of 800,000 people were caught in stalled subways and 10,

000 were still trapped in subway trains five hours after the blackout began. Thousands of others sat it out in commuter trains that suddenly were going nowhere. And still thousands of others were caught in elevators.

In hundreds of great and tiny ways, modern technology seemed helpless. Many factories closed. Two hundred airplanes had to be diverted from New York. Countless stores were shuttered, their owners gaining no consolation out of their dead burglar alarms.

Television channels in New York went dead — and anyway nobody had power to plug in a set. The New York Times was

the city's only morning paper to publish and that was a 10-page paper without advertising, printed in the plant of the Newark (N.J.) News.

Eight radio stations managed to come back on the air with reduced auxiliary power but only those with transistors could hear them.

The New York Telephone Co. managed to function with emergency power but there was the chilling thought: if somebody or some thing had knocked it out, how would you call your wife, or an ambulance or a doctor or a cop or a general in the Strategic Air Force?

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