

Policies may cost more yet

AUSTIN (AP) — Insurance companies are expected to ask the State Insurance board Oct. 1 for another increase in what they can charge for automobile policies.

Oct. 1 was tentatively set by the board as the date for its annual automobile insurance hearing.

"I haven't seen any figures yet, but I am pretty sure we are probably looking at some kind of increase. I have been told informally that the figures indicate some improvement in accident frequency but none in average loss cost, which continues to go up," said David Irons of Dallas, spokesman for the Texas Automobile Insurance Service Office.

Last year, the board raised auto insurance rates an average of 8.8 per cent, effective Jan. 16. This was less than half what the insurance industry had said was justified by its losses.

Clint Dare, Texas spokesman for the Insurance Information Institute, said Wednesday that loss statistics have not been completely assembled but the hearing "probably will involve a request for some kind of increase."

"Physical damage collision and comprehensive coverage look particularly bad. It's another case of inflation as much as anything else," Dare said.

The tentative setting of the hearing date gives the board the privilege of a postponement if the industry cannot get all its statistical data in on time.

Rates are based on actuarial interpretations of past losses and projected trends in accident costs.

The hearing and the board decisions afterward will pose another challenge to board chairman Joe Christie, whose stance on all insurance matters has been to seek ways of holding down costs to consumers.

Christie received a new six-year term this year, but many think he will run for statewide elective office before he completes that term.

drive trends

Nurse tells of nightmare

SUPAI VILLAGE, Ariz. (AP) — "If you had told me one day that I would survive for three weeks here, I would have said, 'No way,'" says a woman lost for 20 days in the Grand Canyon.

Linda Forney of Pittsburgh was found Wednesday by searchers. She was taken to a Flagstaff, Ariz., hospital, where doctors said she was in good condition.

A nightmare of blazing hot days and bone-chilling nights for the 25-year-old nurse began Aug. 1, when she started hiking down to this remote Indian village at the bottom of the canyon.

"I never got to the village," she

said. "I left my pack with food along the trail. It just started getting very dark. I laid down to go to sleep, but I was too scared to sleep."

Ranger Dick McClaren said Miss Forney made a wrong turn and went south instead of going into the village. She was found about 15 miles away in a side canyon.

"The only thing I had to eat were buds of cactus plants," she said. "They were pretty good."

Her water supply consisted of a trickle from a crack in the rocks.

Miss Forney, dressed only in blue jeans, a halter top and crepe-soled shoes, said she became very cold at night, when temperatures

dipped to the 50s. She said she had to seek shade during the day, when the temperatures topped 100 degrees.

Relatives reported her missing Monday and told the Coconino County sheriff's office her parents had received a postcard from her dated July 31 saying she was going to hike into the canyon.

Park officials found her car parked at the canyon rim.

Hardy Jones, a Supai Indian, and several other searchers located the woman after Jones said he found tracks in an area "where nobody should be."

Vanished oldtimer located

PIKE, Tex. (AP) — Puffing and panting through August heat, coated with thorns and cockle burrs, sheriff's deputies found oldtimer Charles L. Fry early last week.

Fry, 82, was dozing beneath a sapling near this North Texas community.

"He was in better shape than anybody out there," said Sheriff Jerry Burton. "I don't know how he did it."

Highway patrolmen and Collin County deputies mounted a horse, helicopter, bloodhound and jeep search Monday afternoon when Fry vanished. He had been herding cattle with his son when he wandered away from near a creek bank.

Some 200 officers searched all night long and throughout the day Tuesday with no results.

Fry was found six miles from where he was last seen.

Hungry, tired, and sleepy deputies said Fry's only complaint was of a sunburned leg.

Stagecoach races through Manhattan theater district

NEW YORK (AP) — The scene was one that folks in these parts aren't used to. But night-time strollers proved pretty adept at hot-footing it out of the way of a horseman chasing a wildly careening stagecoach through the manmade canyons of Manhattan's theater district.

After the stagecoach sideswiped two cars on West 45th Street Tuesday night, mounted police officer Leexerme Wilson galloped after it. Surprised and bewildered

pedestrians in the after-theater crowd jumped aside as Wilson chased the coach, pulled by two teams of horses down 45th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues.

He finally stopped the coach at Broadway and 45th, in the heart of Times Square, and arrested the driver, Bernard Szymanski.

We don't know whether a stagecoach is a vehicle under the law," Wilson said. "We're looking

that up now." While they were checking, police charged Szymanski with public intoxication and reckless endangerment.

A spokesman for the steakhouse which uses the stagecoach for advertising said that Szymanski was employed by the stables where the coach is kept. The stage carries the restaurant's patrons to the theatre and on tours of the area, but there were no riders in it during the chase.

Gift check buys truck

FORT WORTH, Tex. (AP) — An unexpected donation check for \$92,000 was deposited in Fort Worth this week.

City Secretary Roy Bateman said the money is earmarked for a new fire truck.

The check, written by Mrs. R. L. Slaughter, was an unexpected bonus as fire officials dedicated a new \$191,623 fire station.

It all happened when Mrs. Slaughter, who was attending the dedication ceremony, noticed that there were only two fire trucks in the three-bay station.

Mrs. Slaughter asked, "Do they need another truck?"

"Sure thing," was the reply.

When she found out how much a truck would cost, Mrs. Slaughter signed the check and let a city official fill in the amount — \$92,000.

Loan refusal rate higher among blacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Blacks are refused home loans more than twice as often as whites and their applications are rejected at a higher rate than those of any other racial or ethnic group, according to a new federal study.

The Federal Home Loan Bank Board, which regulates savings and loan institutions that lend most of the nation's mortgage money, studied lending practices in five cities in its survey, released Monday.

The board included all types of home-loan institutions and covered 53,705 loan applications in Buffalo, N.Y.; Chicago; San Antonio, Tex.; San Diego; and Washington.

Over-all, 84 per cent of the applications were approved and 9 per cent turned down. The rest were either withdrawn or not acted upon.

Of all the applicants, whites had the highest acceptance rate, 85 per

cent, and the lowest rejection rate, 8 per cent. For Asians, the proportions were 83 per cent accepted and 1 per cent rejected. For American Indians, the proportions were 83 per cent and 13 per cent. For Spanish-speaking applicants, 81 per cent and 12 per cent.

But blacks were accepted in only 77 per cent of the cases and rejected in 18 per cent.

The survey also showed that the acceptance rate for male applicants of all races was 84 per cent, while that for women was 81 per cent. The rejection rates were 9 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively.

The study was the last of three conducted by the federal agencies that regulate commercial and savings banks. They were made as a prelude to drafting forms to be used in enforcing federal restrictions on bias.

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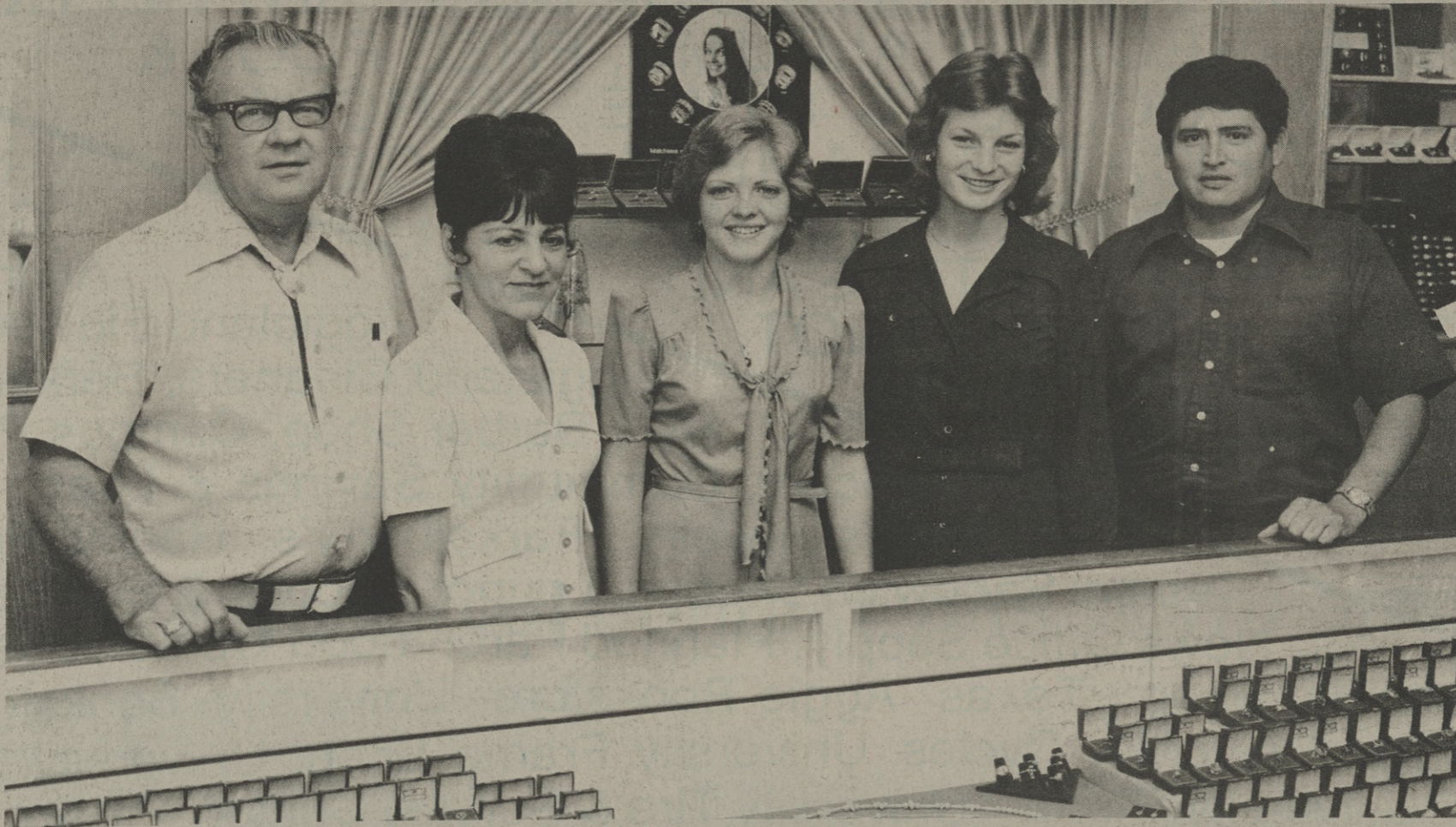


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